

Sutton House Society

"SAVING HISTORIC HACKNEY"

This public exhibition, organised by English Heritage in conjunction with The Hackney Society, The National Trust and the Heritage of London Trust, attracted over 1500 people during the two weeks it was on display in Clissold House, Stoke Newington. The exhibition was organised in the wake of an English Heritage survey showing over 100 historic buildings at risk in Hackney.



Lord Montagu with Mayor Shuja Shaikh at the launch of the "Save Historic Hackney" Exhibition.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Chairman of English Heritage, launched the exhibition and in his address praised The National Trust's restoration of Sutton House.

The exhibition, which includes information about Sutton House and its history, is now on show in Homerton Library, Homerton High Street.

TUDOR HACKNEY

Sunday 12 May was a busy day in and around Sutton House when over 30 people enjoyed an illustrated talk and guided walk given by Mike Gray on **Sutton House and Tudor Hackney**. As well as hearing about the Sadleir and Machell families and the building of Sutton House, other Tudor connections such as Thomas Cromwell and Brooke House were given a full hearing and the famous monuments of Lady Lucy Latimer and Christopher Urswick in St. John at Hackney Church were visited. The high spot of the event, however, must have been the rare view of Hackney from the top of the old church tower. A leaflet specially produced for this event is available at 50p.



Contemplating Crime and Punishment in Tudor Hackney beside the whipping post in the church yard

CONCERTS

A number of those enjoying the Tudor walk stayed on for the concert given by The Galliard Trio, the second of our Spring concerts, the series having started with a lute, flute and violin trio playing baroque sonatas. Our final concert is this coming Sunday, 9 June, when The London North Four string quartet will play music by Mozart and Moeran.

We are very grateful to all the performers for helping us to keep music alive in Sutton House whilst waiting for the Wenlock Barn to re-open.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The winners of Sutton House Society's recent raffle are:

1st Prize Jane Dawson (Ticket 162)
Dinner for Two at The Mayflower, Rotherhithe
2nd Prize Grace Bryan Brown
Bottle of Champagne
3rd Prize Mary Horwood
Cuddly Duck !

LEAVING THEIR MARK FOR THE FUTURE

Children from the neighbouring schools of Horaerton House and Hackney Free & Parochial Junior completed their history project with the placing of a time capsule on 24 April in the foundations for the new cafe bar/conservatory. Future archaeologists (or their children) will be pondering over the capsule's contents which included a crisp packet, football stickers, autobiographies written by the children, a prayer shirt, travel and phone cards, tape-recorded messages and copies of the local papers.

School visits to Sutton House are playing an increasingly important part of the programme. After discussions with Hackney Education Service we will produce a series of study packs based on the history of the house, the building techniques used in its



construction and its place in the social history of the area. These study packs will provide schools with all they need to take full advantage of Sutton House as an exciting education resource.

Photo: Hackney Echo

SUTTON HOUSE LINKS WITH THE PAST

Reminiscences of "the tute"

After appealing in Church Times for memories of "the tute", we were delighted to hear from Mrs Barbara Cardale in Warehoro, Dorset who wrote

"My late father, the Rev. Frances Dent vaisey, was curate at St. John's from 1914 until October 1919. His Vicar at that time was Henry Mosley (later Bishop of Southwell in Nottinghamshire) and a fellow curate was Mr. Redman.

During his years as curate he lived in the Institute helping with all the activities that went on there. He was away from the parish for about 18 months - 2 years serving in France as a Chaplain with the YMCA and then returning to the parish at the end of the War.

At the beginning of 1917 he married my mother and lived in the Institute so it was their first married home - my elder sister, Ann, was born there in October 1917 and they were always very proud of the fact that she was a true Cockney.

The Cross and the candlesticks shown in photographs of the Chapel were returned to my mother when it ceased to be used for this purpose and she gave them in memory of my father to the School Chapel that my sister and I were attending at the time, Benenden School in Kent, where they are still in use today.

I also have in my possession a mahogany couch-bed from Heal's in Tottenham Court Road - on the back of this is a silver plate engraved as follows -

Presented to the Revd. F.D.Vaisey by
Members of the St. John at Hackney Church Institute
in token of their affection and gratitude. October 1919.

Looking at the Parish Magazine for July 1914, lent to us by Stan Piesse, there is the following description of the Chapel which had been dedicated on 30 May by the Bishop of Stepney.

The Institute Chapel.

THE Chapel which has been evolved for the St. John-at-Hackney Institute is the outcome of knocking two small cellais into one, and of excavating for a staircase. From these unpromising materials a Chapel has been formed which is beautiful and in which the spirit of mystery and harmony dwell together.

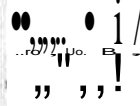
Plain whitewashed walls give simplicity to the whole, while the Sanctuary is set apart by hangings of grey silk and black velvet, ananged in deep folds. The Reiedos is of blue, purple and gold brocade, parted from the side hangings by

grey and black. The frontal is of the same material. There is a beautiful black and silver cross on which hangs a silver figure of Christ, behind Who's head a nimbus of green mother-of-pearl gives the effect of ever present light. The cross is also set with moon-stones to typify the water of baptism and amethysts for the vine. Two black and silver candlesticks stand on either side of the Cross, these are ornamenied in the same way. The vine has also been employed in the decorations of the beams over the Sanctuary. Two low silver bowls stand on either side of the middle posts, holding sweet smelling flowers.

100 CANDLE POWER.



1 1/2" Q.A.S.
Burner Mantle,
Opal Milk and
FICLproof Lchimney



Corner of Clarence Road
Clapton

CORDON BELL.

Advertisements from
the Parish Magazine

W. Williams,

Chiropractor,

6, MEDIAN ROAD,
CLAPTON.

Chiropractor to the Clapton
Orient Football Club
Children's Hair carefully cut

Furniture Pictures
Old China
BOUGHT SOLD OR EXCHANGED
33, 35, lower Clapton Rd., London, N.I.

The same Parish Magazine reports on Mr L T Penwil's "Songs and Sketches" performed on April 23 1915 which "drew a crowded audience and much merriment" and advertises as a forthcoming event an "Al fresco Concert in the Institute Courtyard (to be held in Wenlock Barn if the weather is wet) Ladies invited".

Shortly after our last newsletter was produced, which featured an article on "the tute" by Mr John Dyter, we were sad to learn from his wife that he had died a few months earlier. But we like to think that in recording these memories we are linking up with a time when Button House was buzzing with life and activity in the way that it does now and will do more so when the restoration work is completed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, 22 JUNE 7pm for 7.30pm "The Great Feast of Green Sleeves" - see separate details (and don't forget to book early and, on the night, to wear something green or white).

SATURDAY, 27 JULY 10am - 5pm Special Viewing Day to see Work in Progress. A chance to see how the contractors are progressing with the Phase I building works, to meet the craftsmen and the architect and discuss our plans for crafts commissions for furnishings and fittings. Admission £1.50

SUNDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER Day Visit to Ightham Mote, Kent
Ightham Mote is a beautiful medieval moated manor house with important later additions. Its main features include an old chapel and crypt c1340; Tudor chapel with painted ceiling c1520 and Jacobean fireplace and frieze. Owned by the National Trust since 1985, it is undergoing major repairs.

The Sutton House Society will arrange a coach trip if sufficient members indicate their interest in going. **Please phone Ken Jacobs 081 806 6039 if you want to reserve a seat(s).**

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