

SUTTON HOUSE

NEWS

Sutton House Society



Martin Kautsan, the Sutton BOOBS Appeal Fundraiser, with Jean Jacob, co-itsa and rounder —bar of tea Sutton Souse Society at the Great Feast of Greensleaves. photos Kia William*

THE GREAT FEAST OF GREENSLEEVEES

Truly great, and a feast, with everyone responding well to the request for guests to wear green and white. Quite miraculously (given that our facilities are less than standard even for the 16th century) our Serjeantes of ye Pantrie and Yeomen of ye Mouthe, Skullerie and Seller were able to produce a stunning selection of authentic Tudor dishes. The Grande Clerke of Design transformed the Great Chamber and ye Master of the Musicke arranged a delightful medley of seasonal songs.

The other serious business of the evening was the presentation, in Groates, of £3,000 by the Sutton House Society to the National Trust Sutton House Appeal. Graciously given and received as the photograph above testifies!

If you were one of the merry band enjoying themselves that night, you may have been captured on celluloid! Contact the office if you want to view (with a view to buying).

VIEWING WORK IN PROGRESS

We were pleased to open the doors to over 200 people in late July when we organised two special viewing days to see the repair and restoration work undertaken so far. Members and Officers of the London Borough of Hackney and English Heritage visited Sutton House on Friday 26 July and on Saturday 27 July 175 people (National Trust and Sutton House Society members among them) enjoyed talks, tours and an opportunity to watch the craftsmen at work and to talk to them about technical problems and their solutions.

Two further special viewing days are planned before the end of the Phase I contract, scheduled for Spring and Summer 1992. **Watch the newsletter for advance notice of the dates.**

SEPTEMBER 1991

Number 4

IS THIS THE FACE OF SIR RALPH SADLEIR ?



unknown Man
Hindtor Cattle, Royal Library

Hans Holbein, the younger, one of the greatest portrait painters of all time, drew or painted many of the key people associated with the Tudor Court of Henry VIII, but he never painted Sir Ralph Sadleir - or did he?

Born in Augsburg, Bavaria in 1497, Holbein spent some of his most productive years in London, initially three years from 1526 and later between 1532 and his death from the plague in 1543. During the first period he probably lived with Sir Thomas More and was principally occupied in painting a large group portrait of the More family. More's youngest daughter Cecily, who featured in the group, had recently married a Hackney man, Giles Heron, who owned the 'tanhouse' which stood adjacent to the land on which Sutton House was to be built in 1535. At this time the 'tanhouse' was probably rented by Henry Sadleir, Ralph's father.

During Holbein's second period in London he had a house and possibly a studio in the parish of St. Andrew Undershaft in the City. In 1534 he received the important commission to paint a portrait of Thomas Cromwell, Henry's Chancellor of the Exchequer later to be indicted for treason and beheaded.

Cromwell was also the patron of Ralph Sadleir and responsible for his promotion to important state duties under Henry. By 1540 Ralph was in possession of Sutton House, then known as Bryk Place, and may possibly have been its builder. Ralph's close association with Cromwell and the Court makes it reasonable to assume that he must have met Holbein, who through Cromwell's influence became employed as Court painter. It further seems likely that Ralph would have had at least a drawing made of him by Holbein like so many other eminent courtiers. But no such portrait is known to exist. Interestingly, Sadleir was later to be in possession of the Cromwell portrait which hung in the long gallery of his house at Standon in Hertfordshire.

Recently, however, it has been suggested (by Richard Bond one of the English Heritage historic buildings' surveyors who are working on Sutton House) that a drawing by Holbein now entitled 'Unknown Man' might in fact be Sadleir! The identity of the sitter is unknown but apparently the date of the portrait and the age of the sitter is 1535 and 28 respectively, precisely Ralph's age at the time. The only other portrait of Ralph which we have seen is an 18th century engraving of a contemporary oil painting by Marcus Gheerhaerts, the elder, showing Ralph with a hawk on his wrist. The two portraits do on the 'face' of it seem compatible. Other portraits apparently exist which may help us to decide one way or the other. In the meantime the suggestion is to be put to the foremost Holbein authority in the country at the British Museum so watch this frame for developments.

Mike Gray

DATING SUTTON HOUSE

A report on the tree ring analysis undertaken by the Museum of London proposes a date of c1535 for the main structural timbers of Sutton House, supporting other archival research undertaken by Mike Gray and the English Heritage survey. Similar analysis of the panelling indicates that the linenfold panels are broadly contemporary with the construction of the house.

Tree-dating employs an aspect of the biological processes of tree growth to provide true calendar dates for the periods that trees were alive. The main structural beams and joists of Sutton House are derived from oak timbers from south-east England but the dated panelling is constructed from wood imported from the Baltic area.

The final archaeological report is expected quite soon and together these researches will help us interpret the site and the building of Sutton House. We hope that Dr. Chris Philpotts and Dr. Ian Tyers of the Museum of London will give a presentation on their findings during the Autumn.

GETTING KNOWN

The next few months will bring a number of group visits including members of NT Centres and Associations across the Home Counties. These are "supporters groups" run locally and exclusively for NT members providing crucial and varied support in many ways including voluntary work and fund-raising. During the winter months, when most NT properties are closed, they organise visits, lectures and socials. It will give us great pleasure to introduce friends from further afield to Sutton House and Hackney and whet their appetite for a return visit once we are "restored".

Carole and Martin will also be travelling around to NT Centres and Associations giving talks about Sutton House and hoping to enlist their support for our Appeal.

SOTTOM HOOSB SHOP

We will be introducing some National Trust goods in the shop from October onwards. This development will let us offer visitors a wider choice in the shop and give us an opportunity to research what our visitors and locals would like to see stocked for the future. We hope to have a good selection of NT goods on sale at the Craft Fair.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Coach outing to IGHTHAM MOTE in Kent - Sunday 22 September

A separate leaflet giving all the details is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have not already done so, please complete the slip and send with your money to Ken Jacobs, Hon. Treasurer 90 Narford Road, London E5. There are still some vacant seats so don't worry if you haven't already put your name down.

"A Pleasant Paradize" A History of Gardening in Hackney

Saturday/Sunday 28-29 September 2 - 4 pm
Saturday 5 October 2 - 4 pm
Sunday 6 October 2 - 5.30 pm (Open Day)

This exhibition, created by Hackney Archives Department from original sources, traces the history of gardens, nurseries and nurserymen in Hackney. Hackney has a distinguished place in the history of gardening, having had important gardens of its own and been home to nurserymen whose techniques and plant introductions influenced the whole of British gardening. We are grateful to David Mander, the Borough Archivist, for enabling us to make our contribution to The National Trust's Gardens Year 1991. Please note the additional opening times. There is no charge for entry and our shop will be open.

Craft Fair - 7 December 1991, 10 - 5

With limited space available in the house, this year's Craft Fair will be held in St. John-at-Hackney Church with Sutton House supporting the event serving refreshments and displaying exhibitions. With the amount of space available at the church, we shall be able to gather together a wide selection of craft **and** art work for you to view and buy.

TOAKK YOU

We cannot thank our helpers enough for the hours they put in to making these events so successful. Despite the difficulties we experience operating on a building site, everything runs efficiently and effectively. It gives constant encouragement to everyone and is a source of wonder to our many visitors, who number over 1000 so far this year.

Sutton House, 2/4 Hornet-ton High Street, London, E9 6JQ
Telephone: 081-986 2264



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2-4 Homerton High Street, London E9 6JQ

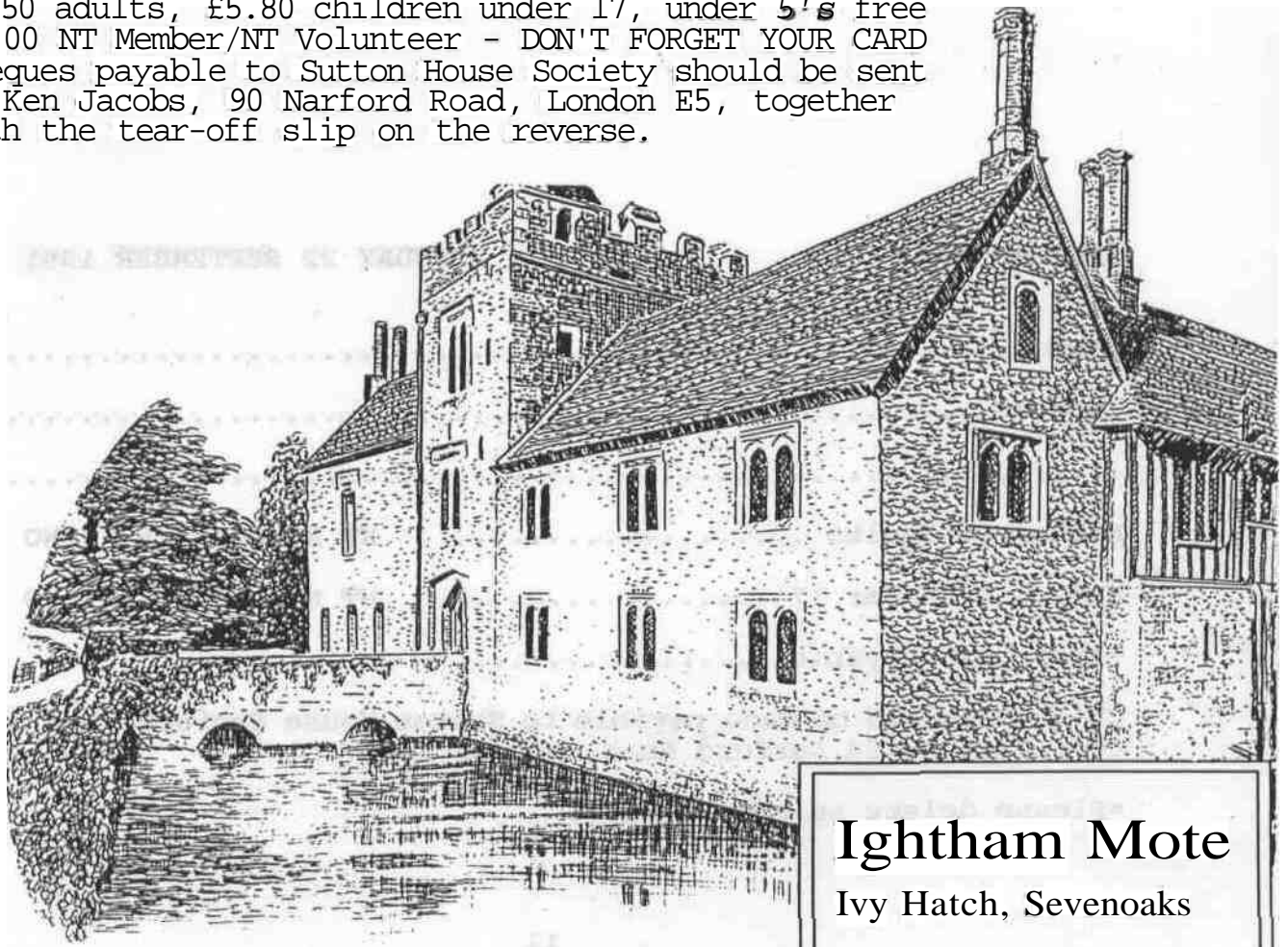
Telephone: 081-986 2264

VISIT TO IGHTHAM MOTE

Sunday 22nd September 1991

- 09.45** **Meet** outside Hackney Baths, Lower Clapton Road
- 11.00 Arrive Ightham Mote
- Lunch Either at cafeteria at Ightham Mote, or bring a packed lunch.
- Tea Weather permitting, on the lawns at Fir Cottage, near Heathfield
- 18.30 Arrive back in Hackney.

£7.50 adults, £5.80 children under 17, under 5's free
£4.00 NT Member/NT Volunteer - DON'T FORGET YOUR CARD
Cheques payable to Sutton House Society should be sent to Ken Jacobs, 90 Narford Road, London E5, together with the tear-off slip on the reverse.



Ightham Mote

Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks

A beautiful medieval moated manor-house with important later additions. Features include: the Great Hall; Old Chapel and crypt c. 1340; Tudor chapel with painted ceiling c. 1520; draifing; room with Jacobean fireplace and frieze; and an eighteenth-century Palladian window.

IGHTHAM MOTE

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1991

Name

Address

Number of Adults NT Member YES / NO *

Number of Under 17 NT Member YES / NO *

Total Cost Payable

Cheques should be made payable to Sutton House Society, and sent to K Jacobs, 90 Narford Road, London E5.

***Please delete as appropriate.**