



*Sutton House Society*

**SUTTON HOUSE LOCAL COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

**Wednesday 26 February 1992 at 8.15 pm**

New members may be interested to know how Sutton House and the Community Project is managed. The Sutton House Local Committee was formed in November 1989 by the Thames & Chilterns Region of the National Trust and has management responsibility for all aspects of the Community Scheme. The Committee is required to prepare an Annual Report on its work and the Report for 1991 will be presented at the Annual Public Meeting. It is an opportunity for everyone to come along and discuss the project.

Fiona Reynolds (Chair)  
Victor Belcher  
Mike Gray  
Ken Jacobs  
Kate Moore  
Gayne Wells

Anne Blackburn (Vice Chair)  
Erica Davis  
Rev. William Hurdman  
Roger Lansdown  
Stan Piesse  
Margaret Willes

The Local Committee meets every six weeks with sub-committees meeting more often, covering furnishings/fittings, education and public relations. The Community Scheme is supported by the Sutton House Society and the Society has the constitutional right to nominate 6 of the 12 members of the Local Committee.

**Sutton House Society Committee**

Mike Gray (Chair)  
Julie Lafferty (Secretary)  
Grace Bryan Brown (M/ship Sec.)  
Maria Essing  
Richard Huggett  
Anne Logie  
Stan Piesse  
Shirley Stewart

Anne Blackburn (Vice Chair)  
Ken Jacobs (Treasurer)  
Lissa Chapman  
Mary Horwood  
Jean Jacobs  
Peter Mudge  
Ian Row  
Jane Straker

The full SHS Committee currently meets in a six-weekly cycle. Meetings precede those of the National Trust Local Committee thus giving an opportunity to discuss forthcoming decisions with the committee members who also sit on the Local Committee (Mike Gray, Ken Jacobs and Anne Blackburn).

In addition to the full committee, there are two sub-committees - one for fundraising and another planning events.

## **NEWS FROM SKJTTOISI HOUSE SOCIETY**

### **FU1STORAI S11STG**

I think that the Society should be very proud of its contribution to the overall Sutton House Appeal. The Society's target of £10,000 (towards an overall figure of £700,000) is already over the half way mark. We have around £4,000 more to raise before December 1993, but we will be pleased to raise more than that!

Much of the money raised has been the result of years of activity since 1987, so that raising £4,000 in under two years won't be easy. We do hope, however, that it can be fun!

The direct Appeal to Society members past and present has brought in, so far, a staggering £2,180 (from 72 donations). If anyone would still like to contribute to this. Ken Jacobs would be delighted to hear from you (cheques payable to "Sutton House Society Appeal" and sent to Sutton House). Thank you once again for the generous donations.

The fundraising committee is currently formulating a strategy for raising the additional money. We are looking at one-off events, a large raffle, merchandise, a fundraising month (in which all Society members will take part) and approaches to local companies. As a committee we are grateful for the unfailing help and advice of Martin Kaufman, the National Trust's fundraiser.

Future Newsletters will be asking for more concrete help, but in the meantime if you have any fundraising ideas for the Society, drop me a line at Sutton House. Martin Kaufman would also be pleased to hear of any contact that you may have with Charitable Trusts or companies with a policy of giving to organisations such as the Sutton House Appeal.

The current members of the Sutton House Society Fundraising Sub-Committee are Lissa Chapman, Ken Jacobs and myself.

**Anne Blackburn**

|                  |                     |     |                |
|------------------|---------------------|-----|----------------|
| <b>1st Prize</b> | Handsfree telephone | 227 | Mrs Bush       |
| <b>2nd Prize</b> | Bottle of Sherry    | 9   | Penny Roskell  |
| <b>3rd Prize</b> | Bottle of Whisky    | 240 | Bill Hurdman   |
| <b>4th Prize</b> | Large Teddy Bear    | 80  | Graham         |
| <b>5th Prize</b> | Gift Voucher        | 257 | Mrs Gray       |
| <b>6th Prize</b> | Bottle of Wine      | 233 | Ms Kularewios  |
| <b>7th Prize</b> | Bottle of Wine      | 264 | Mary Horwood   |
| <b>8th Prize</b> | Pottery Jug         | 128 | Clare Matheson |

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Many of you renewed your membership very promptly and have also taken out Deeds of Covenant. Thank you. There was an error in the form we circulated for the Standing Order mandate and so, for those who have not yet renewed, a new form is enclosed and we would ask you to please renew your subscription now.

## DIO RALPH SADLEIR WRITE THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE?

Maybe not, but it is just possible that they may have met.

Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland informs us that Ralph Sadleir had a brother 'John who commanded a company at the seige of Boulogne' (where the English captured the town). 'He was ancestor of the Sadlers of Stratford-on-Avon, one of whom, Hamnet, was the friend of Shakespeare.'



Hamnet, or Hamlet as it is sometimes spelt, was in fact Godfather to Shakespeare's twins, Hamnet and Judith, born in 1584. He was also witness to Shakespeare's Will and benefitted from it. Hamnet Sadler's father was John Sadler who owned the mills on the Avon just south of Stratford Church. He was also landlord of the "Bear" in Bridge Street and served as bailiff of the borough in 1570. He died in 1583. If, as seems possible, this John was 'John of Boulogne' then clearly Ralph was Hamnet's uncle. (Hamnet Sadler himself had a nephew Ralph indicating that it might be family name.)

The Sadleir family of Hackney had many links with the County of Warwickshire despite the fact that Ralph's 19th century biographer, Sir Walter Scott, claimed that the Sadleir family 'had some time been settled in Hackney'.

American historian and Tudor specialist, Arthur Slavin, has shown convincingly that Ralph and John's father, Henry, came originally from Warwickshire. He served as clerk to an important landowner there. Sir Edward Belknapp, whose estates included several within a few miles of Stratford. When Belknapp died in 1521, Henry came to Hackney where he bought a house, probably the old tanhouse just to the west of 'the bryk place' (Sutton House).

Ralph Sadleir himself came into possession of many manors in Warwickshire, including that of Haselor close to Stratford. This manor Ralph sold to Sir Fulke Greville, father of the Elizabethan poet and dramatist of the same name, who later bought Brooke House in Hackney.

However tenuous Ralph Sadleir's links are with Shakespeare and Fulke Greville, one Elizabethan dramatist was very well known to him. George Chapman (1560 - 1634) translator of Homer and author of such works as "The Old Joiner of Aldgate", lived and served for some years prior to 1583 in Sadleir's great household at Standon. His play "The Gentleman Usher" is believed to be based on his experiences there. The story concerns the exploits of a young man beloved, as he imagines, by the mistress of the house!

Mike Gray

## **LINKS WITH THE EAST**

He that alters an old house is tied as a translatour to the originally and is confined to the phancie of the first builder. Such a man were unwise to pluck down good old building, to erect (perchance) worse new. But those that raise a new house from the ground are blame-worthy if they make it not handsome, seeing to them Method and Confusion are both at a rate. In building we must respect Situation, Contrivance, Receipt, Strength and Beauty of Situation.

A fair entrance with an easie ascent gives a great grace to a building : where the Ball is a preferment out of the Court, the Parlour out of the Hall; not (as in some old buildings) where the doores are so low Pygmies must stoop, and the rooms so high that Giants may stand upright. But sow we are come to Contrivance.

Let not thy common rooms be severall, nor thy severall rooms be common. The Hall (which is a Pandocheum) ought to lie open, and so ought Passages and Stairs (provided that the whole house be not spent in paths). Chambers and Closets are to be private and retired.

Let not the Front look asquint on a stranger, but accost him right at his entrance. Uniformity also much pleaseth the eye; and 'tis observed that free-stone, like a fair complexion, soonest waxeth old, whilst brick keeps her beauty longest.

To conclude, in Building rather believe any man then an Artificer in his own art for matter of charges, not that they cannot but will not be faithfull. Should they tell thee all the cost at the first, it would blast a. young Builder in the budding, and therefore they sooth thee up till it hath cost thee something to confute them. The spirit of Building first possessed people after the floud, which then caused the confusion of languages, and since of the estate of many a man.

THE HOLY STATE, 1648, BY THOMAS FULLER  
BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION BY MARTIN SHORTIS, \*ARTIST IN RESIDENCE\*

### **SPECIAL VIEWING OAY**

**Saturday 7 March 1992 10.00 am -> 4.00 pm**

A chance to see work in progress on the new gallery in the Wenlock Barn, the repair and restoration of the 16th and 18th century panelling, and the reconstructed west cellar.

You can also meet the craftsmen on site and hear talks on the structural history of the house and recent discoveries.

**Refreshments      Bookshop      Exhibition**

Admission £1.50 (accompanied children under 14 - 50p)

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