

OJPEW AT LAST !

**SUTTON
HOUSE**

Five and a half years after the launching of the 'Save Sutton House Campaign', the first phase of the programme of rehabilitation and restoration of East London's oldest house is complete and the house opens on Wednesday 16 September.

Sutton House is open to visitors on Sundays and Wednesdays 11.30 - 5.30 Admission £1.00

NEWS

'Sutton House Society

The work has included refitting the beautiful *Linenfold Parlour*, one of only three rooms of its type in the London area. The Jericho Parlour in Westminster Abbey and Wolsey's Closet at Hampton Court are the other examples. So, Sutton House stands with very prestigious company!

The panelling has been restored by the National Trust's own craftsmen at their workshops in West Wycombe where some missing panels have been carved from scratch. Only the expert eye will be able to tell them from the original early 16th Century panels, over 190 of which survive, in a great variety of shapes and patterns.



Trust Staff working on the linenfold panelling in readiness for the opening of Sutton House.

As soon as the building work was completed, a team of painting conservators, led by Hackney resident Lucy Medhurst, packed into the west stairwell and started to uncover extensive new areas of the Jacobean trompe l'oeil strapwork decoration not seen for 300 years. Mythical animals and musical motifs feature in the new discoveries; the latter pleasing our tenants The Early Music **Centre** who moved into the newly refurbished office suite in the west wing during August.

The **EMC** promotes nationally the study, performance and appreciation of renaissance and baroque music and instruments. They will be presenting a number of concerts and workshops this Autumn in the magnificently refitted **Wenlock Barn**

The Early Music Centre can be contacted on 081 533 2921

Our other tenants, the **Young National Trust Theatre**, have also taken up residence and moved in the vast collection of costumes and props which they use in their "education through art" programme.

Each year an historic topic is chosen (in 1993 it will be the Restoration) and school drama workshops are held in Trust houses throughout the country where the theme is developed into performance. Next summer they will produce a special programme for Hackney and Tower Hamlets schools under the direction of **Liz Rothschild** who is a descendant of one of Sutton House's 18th century residents, Nicholas de Ste. Croix.

The Young National Trust Theatre can be contacted on 061 986 0242

WHAT'S WHAT AND WHO'S WHO ?

After years of describing our rooms and amenities in bald terras - shop, cafe-bar, G4, F5 etc., the time has come to give our house and ourselves proper identities.

When you enter the restored west wing through the old oak front door and modern screen door, the first room on the left is the **Hall**. Here will be the information desk and shop selling London history publications. National Trust goods and local craftwork. The room has been so named since it is located in the heart of the old Tudor Great Hall.

Audrey Seabrook will be working here on Wednesdays and Thursdays dealing with bookings for events and keeping the shop stock in order. Audrey will be known to many of you as a regular volunteer and, a graphic artist by profession, she designed the Sutton House Society logo featured on your membership cards and this newsletter.

*The Hall shop will be open Wednesday - Sundays 11.30 - 5.30
For booking events or general enquiries. Telephone 081 985 0221*

The **Linenfold Parlour** is on the right as you pass from the west corridor to the lobby. This room is our finest and the furnishings have been chosen to create a sense of the 16th and 17th centuries. The **West Cellar** is down the flight of oak stairs and will store our wine and ale.

As you move across the west lobby (passing the Gents), seeking either 'a nice cuppa', coffee, chilled wine or beer and thinking you might not be able to resist a mouth-watering cake or snack, you will enter the **Dining Room and Conservatory** which make up GRUMBOLDS EATING ROOMS. The medieval Manor of Grumbolds stretched from the present-day Narroway to Homerton High Street and included part of "the bryk place" (Sutton House) estate.

You are now in the domain of Glen Sillett our Enterprises Manager. Glen will be planning, cooking and managing the catering for both visitors to Grumbolds and for functions which are held in Sutton House. Previously running his own business, he trained in Canterbury and now lives in Tottenham.

Glen is looking for a part-time cook and kitchen assistant and would like to hear from anyone interested in working with him.

Grumbolds Eating Rooms (and Bar) will be open Wednesday - Sunday 11.30 - 5.30

For booking a table or any enquiry about catering at Sutton House Telephone 081 985 2425

When you mount the west staircase, admiring the painted decoration as you ascend, on your left on the first floor you will be entering the **Little Chamber** with its restored panelling, new mullioned window, painted fireplace and furnishings. Straight ahead is the **Great Chamber**, awaiting restoration during Phase 2 but until then displaying a temporary exhibition on the social and structural history of the house.



Geese over Sutton House by local Hackney artist Martin Shortis

And, to the right you will find the **Gallery** (and the Ladies!). Our first exhibition will be of drawings by **Martin Shortis**, several featuring work in progress at Sutton House over the past 15 months. The drawings include London sights and other National Trust properties. This exhibition has been organised by the Trust's **Foundation for Art** which commissions and purchases works of art by contemporary

artists that have been inspired by Trust properties and the personalities and events associated with them. Martin Shortis lives in Shoreditch and trained at the RA Schools and later at Goldsmith's College.

The Gallery is open Wednesdays - Sundays 11.30 - 5.30 and admission is free.

STAFF CHANGES

The National Trust office is now located on the second floor in the west wing where the exposed roof timbers are a feature in an otherwise busy modern office. We are saying farewell and thank you to **Christine Chaffin** who, for the past year, has worked for both **Martin Kaufman** and **Carole Mills** but now wants to develop her career. And on 7 September we welcome **Fiona Curtis**, currently working for National Gallery Publications, she will be joining us to work exclusively on the Appeal with Martin.

Deborah Pascoe has joined the staff working as Carole's Assistant on Mondays and Tuesdays. Deborah worked at the National Trust's headquarters for two years before taking a Diploma course

in Heritage Interpretation at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill. As part of that course she spent her six-week placement at Sutton House which she must have enjoyed since the rest of the week she is at Sutton House working for the Early Music Centre!!

Greta Fox will be starting a four month contract as Education Development Officer on 14 September planning educational programmes and material for schools and colleges. Greta has been working at St. Mary's Centre, Chester.

(To complete the staffing, two cleaners are needed. One general cleaner to cover the offices, Grumbolds, Wenlock Barn, lavatories and a conservation cleaner for the historic rooms for which training will be given. Contact Carole on 081 986 2264 if you are interested.)

SUTTON HOUSE SOCIETY FUNDRAISING MONTH

We are almost certain to have raised at least £1000 in July, (we're still counting the odd fivepenny bit and fiver).

Many congratulations - and thanks - to those who volunteered their talents and efforts. And thanks to their friends for supporting them and Sutton House.

Monies have so far been counted for Faberge eggs and teaching (Grace Bryan Brown); a guided tour of historic Mile End (Isobel Watson); ironing shirts and sheets (an heroic undertaking by Carole Mills); lunch and supper parties (Audrey Seabrook and Anne Blackburn). Poor Lissa Chapman is, even now, still sewing away in a darkened garret. And Ken Jacob's copies of old photos will land on the doormat any day now. A special thanks to the boys in the History Club at Homerton House School for the proceeds from their Qutz.

Toby Stiles's splendid run of 29 rather than 25 miles - due to a detour round an unploughed field - was a great moneyspinner. Thanks are not only due to him and Mike Gray for organising (and cycling) it but also to those who put their sponsorship forms around.

There was a good response to the request for second hand books and bric-a-brac. A very special thanks to Richard Moss for donating the most comprehensive collection of cookery books that I've ever seen and to Audrey Brodhurst for donating a virtually complete collection of P G Wodehouse paperbacks.



Toby Stiles* (left) and Mike Gray, chuffed the Sunon
Hooosday.

Please do not despair if your offer was not taken up this time. It might get the right response another time. I think that there could be another time if other Society members were willing.....
Again, many thanks to everyone. I really enjoyed my part of the month although I suspect all my friends will now be charging me when I eat at their houses.

Anne Blackburn

There will be a courtyard sale of books and other items on Sunday 6 September at 2.00 in place of our regular Open Day which cannot be held due to preparations for opening on 16 September.

OUT AND ABOUT

Anna hits the nail on the head

THE ANCIENT ceremony of beating the bound went straight to eight year-old Anna Winfield's head when she was used as « human mallet by the Rector of Hackney on Sunday

A piece of oak over 450 years old which came from Suoon House in Homenoa - Hackney's oldest building — was refashioned into a new boundary poll to mark the limit of the borough

It was erected in the Middlesex River Beds Nature Reserve on Hackney Marshes, and Anna and other children were turned upside down and used to symbolically beat the bounds. As well as marking the boundary, the ceremony is also to get rid of "evil pints".

The Rector of Hackney, the Rev William Hurdman, and the vicar of St John at Hackney Church, the Rev Sally Theakston, earned out the ceremony which also coincided with a guided walk along the banks of the River Lea by the Sutton Halls Society

Photograph: Hackney Society



As this is a bumper edition of the newsletter we can report on the Beating the Bounds walk held in May and our successful attendance at the Hackney Show in partnership with the Geffrye Museum and Hackney Museum. At the Show we held a competition "How well do you know Hackney?" which over 150 people entered. The winner, John Aldenton, won a copy of Isobel Watson's book **Hackney and Stoke Newington Past** and four runners-up received the Historic Hackney map produced by Hackney Archives Department.

VOLUNTEERS

We were delighted that so many volunteers attended the three workshops organised in late June. Further workshops will be organised over the next month.

If you have already volunteered to help, a rota form is enclosed with this letter which it would be most helpful if you completed and returned by 7 September. Anyone who has not yet become involved and would like to do so should contact Carole Mills at Sutton House. Your commitment need not be too onerous - a couple of hours a month can make all the difference - but it does need to be regular.

SUTTOM HOUSE MUSIC SOCIETY

You will have already received a brochure publicising the first season of concerts organised by the Music Society and a number of you have already taken advantage of the subscription ticket discount. Subscribers automatically become members of the Music Society *and*, if they wish, can involve themselves in supporting this and subsequent concert seasons. If you are not taking out a subscription ticket but would like to join please write to Peter Mudge, Membership Secretary, Sutton House Music Society, c/o Sutton House.

ADMISSION CHARGES

Admission fees are an important source of income for Sutton House. National Trust members pay £23 annually for a membership which provides free entry to Trust properties and part of this fee goes to each property visited. Sutton House Society members have enjoyed free admission for monthly open days over the past two years but changes have to be made for the future. The Trust has agreed to accept a block fee being paid by the Society on behalf of its members which will provide for free entry on two occasions until the end of the current membership year and they are enclosed with this newsletter. Please present them at the admission desk when you visit.

PHASE 2 BUILDING WORK

Preparations have begun for the final phase of work to complete the restoration of Sutton House. Archaeologists from the Museum of London are on site working with the contractors as they dig drainage trenches in the front courtyard and will continue their investigations in the east entrance hall and old Tudor kitchen.

Interesting pottery, glass and ceramic finds from the Museum's earlier excavations will be **on** display in **the** temporary exhibition in the Great Chamber.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A wide variety of events have been planned to mark the opening of Sutton House and we feel sure you will find several you will want to attend. Keep the programme somewhere handy!

Some events are likely to sell out and, therefore, can be booked in advance. **From 16 September onwards**, tickets can be booked through the Hall Shop, Wednesday - Sunday 11.30 - 5.30pm either in person, by post or telephone - 081 985 0221.

SPECIAL PREVIEW FOR MEMBERS

We are pleased to invite Sutton House Society members (**only**) to a special free preview on Tuesday 15 September from 7 - 9 pm. As this phase of the Sutton House story draws to a close there is a long list of people to thank, particularly Society members who have been giving continuing support and encouragement for so **long**. We hope you will be able to join us on this special occasion but if not, please come and visit us soon.

EVENTS AT SUTTON HOUSE

There is a full **season of** events taking place to mark the opening of Sutton House.

National Trust Foundation for Art Exhibition
Martin Shortis, Drawn from Life
18 September - 1 November, Wednesday - Sunday, 11.30am-5.00pm
Admission Free

An exhibition **of** drawings and etchings by a Hackney artist, depicting the restoration of Sutton House, Great Storm of 1987, and scenes at other National Trust properties. There are a number of drawings for sale.

Family Day
Saturday 26 September, 11am-4pm
£2.50 Family Group

A day for the whole family to explore a newly refurbished Sutton House. There will be plenty of activities for children to take part in and lots of opportunities to find out about the past.

***** Lecture on Tudor Society by David Starkey**
Wednesday 30 September, 8pm
£2.50 (£1.50 Concessions)

David Starkey is a lecturer in International History and was consultant on the Henry VIII exhibition at the National Maritime Museum.

Autumn Fair
Saturday 3rd October, 11am-4pm

Seasonal entertainment, and a chance to browse amongst a wide selection of stalls for information about local groups and sales of produce, plants etc.

***** Guided Walk around Historic Hackney**
Saturday 10 October, 11am-3.30pm
£3.50 including coffee

Led by Mike Gray, local expert in the history of Hackney, (limited numbers - application must be made in advance)

Pensioner's Day
Wednesday 21 October
11.30am-5.30pm

A special free entry day reserved for pensioners in the area to visit and enjoy Sutton House.

**' Piano Recital
Stephen Bishop-Kovacevic
Saturday 31 October, 7.30pm
£7 (£5 Concessions)**

This internationally distinguished pianist, will perform pieces by Beethoven, Brahms and Schuman to celebrate the opening of the Wenlock Barn as a concert hall.

**Early Music Centre Celebrations
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 November**

The Early Music Centre will host this weekend of celebration through performance, concerts, exhibition, demonstration and master classes & workshops featuring a variety of early music, including Baroque and Renaissance. There will be a chance for adults and children alike to participate in a Singing Day and Musical Jamboree.

**Concert
Delfosse Trio
Sunday 22 November, 4.30pm
£7 (£5 Concessions)**

This distinguished trio featuring clarinet, violin and piano will perform a jazz-influenced programme in the Wenlock Barn.

**Craft Fair
Saturday 28 November, 11am-4pm
Admission £1.50**

A chance to browse and buy from a wide selection of stalls selling top quality local crafts.

**St Andrew's Night Party
Saturday 5 December**

Traditional Scottish dancing and music to celebrate this special day. More details will be given with the next newsletter.

**Early Music Celebrations
Saturday 12 December & Sunday 13 December**

A further weekend of musical festivities

**Concert
The Hackney Singers
Sunday 20 December, 4pm
£7 (£5 Concessions)**

Our local choir present a musical entertainment specially for the festive season.

**Advance Booking Necessary or Recommended
Telephone 081- 985 0221**

Sutton House, 2 - 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, London E9.

Telephone: 081-986 2264