

•Sutton House Society

SUTTON HOUSE LOCAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 17 March 1993 at Bpia

The Sutton House Local Committee has management responsibility for all aspects of the Community Scheme. The Committee will present its Annual Report for 1992 on Wednesday, 17 March 1993 in Wenlock Barn. The evening will also provide an opportunity to find out about our plans for the development of Sutton House as an educational resource for schools, colleges and individuals.

STAN PIESSE

It is very sad to report that Stan Piesse died on Thursday 11 February. This space can not do justice to Stan's life and work or give a satisfactory account of his involvement with Sutton House which stretches back to the 1930s when the "old house on the corner" was St. John's Church Institute. From the days of his youth when he attended the Institute, through the difficult years of the mid-1980s when the house's future was in the balance, to recent months when he has been a regular visitor for meetings, socials and a quiet cup of tea and toasted teacake, his watchful eye has been vital. The next issue of the newsletter will give a fuller account of his life and will draw on a recorded interview made a year ago as part of the Trust's oral history project. He will surely be missed.

FIRE AT SUTTON HOUSE

As you may know, fire broke out at Sutton House during the evening of Thursday 11 February in the East Wing which is currently being restored. Fortunately, the damage was contained to one of the first floor rooms. Although some 18th century softwood panelling, and ceiling and floor joists will need to be replaced, nothing of great architectural value has been lost. This set-back may delay the overall programme, although it is too early to say. Insurance will cover the losses.

We are indebted to the action of one of our neighbours, Neville Jarrett, in alerting the Fire Brigade and to the fire-fighters for their sensitive handling of the situation. We are still waiting for the Fire Investigation Team's report on the incident.

THE MYSTERIES OF NICHOLAS DE STE CROIX

Of all the occupants of Sutton House in the 18th century the only family for which, so far, we have much in the way of biographical details, is that of Nicholas de St Croix. That information has come to us from papers lent to us by descendants of the family/ who also have in their possession articles of clothing worn by Nicholas and his

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wife, Sarah in the last decade of the 18th Century. Issue No. 1 of the Newsletter contained an article based on extracts from the family papers, but nothing there indicated what Nicholas did for a living.

This mystery was perpetuated in his "Gentleman*s Magazine" obituary in 1816 which again omitted his occupation but included the information that he had come to this country from Jersey on the death of his parents, at the age of 8, had been active in the parish and that he was a member of the Church of England with "*a piety free from moroseness and ostentation*" and then goes on, intriguingly, to say "*more would have been said had not the writer of this paragraph feared to injure the memory of a friend he highly esteemed*".

We now know from a letter, found recently in the Manuscript Collection at the British Library, that he was in fact for thirty years Deputy Comptroller of the Excise Office, a very important Civil Service post. Why is it not mentioned in his obituary? **Could** there possibly have been some financial scandal?

The letter, addressed to the Earl of Liverpool at Hertford Street, here reproduced in full, accompanies a printed sheet proposing the launching of a scheme to build mills specifically for the grinding of wheat and calling for financial support for various Noblemen and Gentry, something of a begging letter!

Hackney, 4 November 1800

My Lord,

Not having the honour of being known to your Lordship I feel that disadvantage under which I labour, but conscious of the rectitude of my intention, and suffering under the pressure of the times, I am compeli'd to adopt measures for the support of myself and numerous family (12 children, the eldest not 16 years old). My Lord, I have been for thirty years a very efficient servant of the public as Deputy Comptroller of the Cash at the Excise Office, the whole amount of that revenue passing thro' the hands of the Deputy Receiver and mine the last year was more than twelve million sterling my salary was £170 p. annum the whole emolument of these two places £500 p. annum. With a trust that is incredible to those not acquainted with the detail of public business - with such a moderate income and a small private fortune, now by circumstances of the times reduc'd I find myself in a situation to seek support - the principal officers of the above revenue the Receiver General Comptroller of cash offer me every testimonial.

Your Lordship's discernment prevent my obtruding further upon your time which I know is fully occupied and devoted to the public.

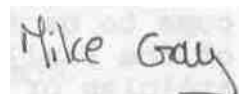
I am with profound respect,

My Lord, Your Lordships most Humble and devoted servant

N. de STE CROIX

PS Recently I commanded as Captain the respectable volunteer corps of this parish but the calls of my family occassioned me to resign.

Next step the Customs and Excise Archives!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



E V E N T S A T S U T T O N H O U S E

Barbican Arts Group
5 March - 14 April

An exhibition of oils, sculptures, etchings and water colours by this group of artists, working in Hackney - many inspired by their community and educational work

Mark Levy
Toutes les Matins du Monde
Friday 12 March
7.30pm. Tickets £5 (£3 concession)

A concert featuring the viol and harpsichord music of this recent acclaimed film.

Harpsichord Recital - Katrina Brown
Sunday 14 March, 28 March & 18 April
Admission to house and recital £1 (50p children)

A series of 3 recitals by this outstanding young harpsichordist in Wenlock Barn.

Young Artists' Recital
Glen Inanga, piano;
Lys Appleby, flute
Sunday 21 March, 4.30pm.
Tickets £7 (£5 concession)



GLEN INANGA

The programme includes pieces by **Mussorgsky, Schubert and Dutilleux** performed by these two young musicians who are currently studying at Cambridge University

Virelai
The Age of Experiment: Music of the Italian Renaissance
Wednesday 24 March, 3pm
Wenlock Barn, admission to house and recital £1 (50p Children)

This renaissance group featuring viols, recorder, lute and soprano give a recital in Wenlock Barn.

The English Fantasy
Consort Music from Byrd to Purcell
Friday 2 April, 8pm. Tickets £5 (£3 concession)

With Jessica Gordon, lute and Rachel Platt, soprano.

Guided Walk - Hackney: Stone-Age Settlement to Victorian Suburb
Saturday 24 April, 10.30am
Tickets £4 including coffee

Concert
Pro Arte Trio with Penelope Roskell
Sunday 25 April, 4.30pm.
Tickets £7 (£5 concession)

This group of violin, viola, cello and piano perform a programme which includes pieces by Beethoven, Dohnanyi and Mozart.

String Day
Saturday 1 May, 10.30am - 5.30pm
Participation £5

An all-day workshop on traditional fiddle music and early music for strings. Open to violin, viola, cello and bass players of all standards and ages.

Informal Singing Evening
May Day Madrigals
Friday 7 May, 7.30pm, Tickets £5 (£3)

A group singing evening celebrating May Day.

Song Recital
Henry Herford, baritone; Robin Bowman, piano
Sunday 9 May, 4.30pm. Tickets £7 (£5 concessions)

"Songs of Childhood": a programme including works by Schubert, Faure, Britten, Tippett and Ives.

Free Entry Day
Wednesday 12 May, 11.30am~5.30pm

An opportunity to visit Sutton House free of charge as part of the National Trust's Annual Free Entry Day.

***** Advanced Booking necessary or recommended**
TO BOOK RING 081 986 0221, Wed - Sun

Don't forget Grumbolds cafe-bar is open Wednesday through to Sunday 11.30 - 5.00pm for coffee, lunch and tea.

Gifts and cards are on sale in the Sutton House shop which is open Wednesdays through to Sundays 11.30am - 5.30pm and stocks a range of National Trust goods and history publications.

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