

SUTTON
HOUSE

NEWS

-Sutton House Society

Unparalleled Attraction

MAGIC LANTERN

The WONDERS of the MAGIC LANTERN will be seen under splendid conditions. Pictures of various and local subjects will be shewn upon the screen
LARGER THAN LIFE!

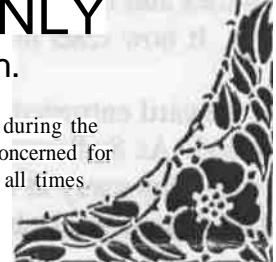
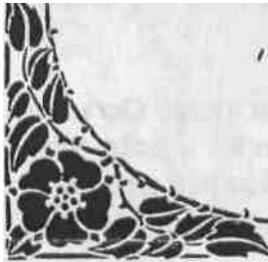
**INSTRUCTIONAL
UNIQUE
ARTISTIC AND ENTERTAINING**

Monochromatic & Polychromatic slides produced by photography, Lithography and by the hand of artists will be displayed in a pleasing manner. Several pictures will appear to move before your eyes!

ONE NIGHT ONLY

Friday October 29th.

N.B. Although the lights are extinguished during the exhibition, ladies of breeding need not be concerned for their reputation. Modesty is preserved at all times



Professor Alexander - Renowned Punch & Judy Man, Member of the Magic Circle and Magic Lantemist Extraordinaire - will present a programme of rare Victorian lantern slides in the Wenlock Barn, including a selection of views of Hackney never previously seen! (See below details of Professor Alexander's Children's Christmas Show)

Members and their guests who are dining are invited for 7pm and once again need to pre-book using the enclosed form (numbers are limited to 30). Members wanting to attend the lantern show only need to take their seats by 7.15pm (£1 & £1.50 non-members). The bar will be open after the show or an impromptu meal could be enjoyed as Grumbold's is now open on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

HOW SAFE ARE OUR HOUSES!

"The Conservation of Buildings in London Past, Present & Future"

Friday 19 November 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Supper will be followed by a talk from Victor Belcher, who until his recent retirement, was Head of the Survey Branch of English Heritage London Division. Victor will talk about how London's historic buildings have been preserved - first through the era of the GLC and now English Heritage.

How safe will they be if proposals to transfer responsibility to **local** authorities are put **into** practice?

A STEWARD FOR SUTTON HOUSE NO CRAFTY FELLOWS NEED APPLY!

Sutton House is soon to appoint a house steward whose duties include security, cleaning, maintenance and setting up rooms. This is a key appointment and marks the end of the three year repair programme and the beginning of the most exciting time of all when we will have access to the whole house and can, we hope, realise the expectations discussed and planned back in 1988. Perhaps, therefore, it is appropriate here to relate a little story concerning the very first steward....

GERVAISE CAWOOD **Steward to Sir Ralph Sadleir**

Sir Ralph Sadleir, we know, built "the bryk place" (Sutton House) in 1535 but by 1540 he had come into possession of much more property in Hackney and at Stratford and Walthamstow. Some of this had been granted to him as a result of the treason and execution of Sir Giles Heron, the son-in-law of Sir Thomas More. Heron owned land between Sutton House and the churchyard and the Manor House at Shacklewell. In 1540 Sadleir had his steward draw up an account book of all his property, recording what rents were due to him in houses and land. The book 20 or so pages long was written in Latin and bound in a vellum cover. It now rests in the manuscript section of the British Library.

The steward entrusted with the task of writing the account book was a man named Gervaise Cawood. As Sadleir's steward, Cawood spent more time in Hackney than his master, who was so often away at court or on diplomatic missions. Perhaps Cawood even had a room in Sutton House where he kept his accounts to present to his master on his return.

Gervaise Cawood, it seems, is something of an enigma. He was first mentioned in State Papers in 1536 as a supporter of Robert Aske in the Northern rebellion known as 'The Pilgrimage of Grace'. He was described as a captain of Marshland, the Isle and Howden in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Aske led the insurrection which sought, among other objectives, to reverse the process of the dissolution of monasteries in the North of England. After Aske was arrested and executed in July 1537, Gervaise Cawood, who had been receiver or collector of rents to the Bishop of Durham, was dismissed from 'all the offices he held of the Bishop' a man called Cuthbert Tunstall, who, like Sadleir, was a member of Henry's Privy Chamber or 'cabinet'.

On April 7 1538, Tunstall wrote to Thomas Cromwell saying that he had heard that Cawood intends to complain to the King about his treatment. Tunstall, in defence of his actions, claims that Cawood was one of the chief stirrers (of the Pilgrimage of Grace) and was chief secretary to Aske. Not only that, but that he has 'spoiled 50 fat oxen' belonging to the Bishop and was £94 in debt. 'Such a weed is meet to be put out of a garden where good fruit in peace should grow' he continued.

It seems somewhat surprising, therefore, that within a couple of years Cawood has become Sadleir's steward and receiver! Clearly Cawood had been successful in pleading his own case. During the rebellion had he acted as informer? Was he a secret agent all along? The State Papers do not say but there can be no question that Sadleir knew of Cawood's past.

Maybe some clue to his character comes on the front page of the Account Book he drew up. At the bottom left there is a doodle of a rook sitting in a tree within a wood. In its beak is a pennant bearing the name Gervaise Cawood. Clearly a pun on his own name and no doubt drawn by his own hand. A hundred years later a book was printed (now in the British Library) called

"The Pleasant History of Cawood the Rooke.

Or the assembly of Birds with the several speeches which the Birds made to the Eagle in hope to have the Government in his absence;

and lastly how the Rooke was banished; with the reason why Crafty Fellows are called Rookes"



Mike Gray

Gervaise Cawood certainly appears to have been a crafty fellow but anyone of good character who is interested in becoming a resident House Steward at Sutton House should contact Carole Mills, the Project Manager (even if their name is Cawood).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Thursday 11 November 1993 7.45pm

The Sutton House Society will hold its A.G.M. at Sutton House on Thursday 11 November at 8pm. The formal business of the meeting will be to elect officers and committee members for the coming year, approve the accounts for the past year and agree a programme of activities for the forthcoming months. After the meeting, members will have an opportunity to view the east wing which, by then, will be only a month away from completion.

The present committee comprises:

Mike Gray (Chair), Anne Blackburn (Vice **Chair**), Julie Lafferty (Secretary), Ken Jacobs (Treasurer): Grace Bryan-Brown, Lissa Chapman, Alan Hayday, Mary Horwood, Jean Jacobs, Anne Logie, Peter Mudge, Audrey Seabrook, Shirley Stewart, Jane Straker.

Nominations for officers and committee may be made in advance to the Secretary c/o Sutton House or at the meeting.

CRAFTS AT SUTTON HOUSE - Saturday 27 November 1993, 11.30am - 5pm

This popular event will feature work by many regular exhibitors of jewellery, ceramics, hats, designer clothes, wooden bowls and tea! New items include children's clothes; aprons; silk waistcoats; hand painted cushions and bookings are still coming in. *Crafts at Sutton House* is an ideal opportunity for buying Christmas gifts - see the house dressed for the season and enjoy seasonal entertainment and seasonal fayre! Admission £1 for adults (free for accompanied children up to 14 years)

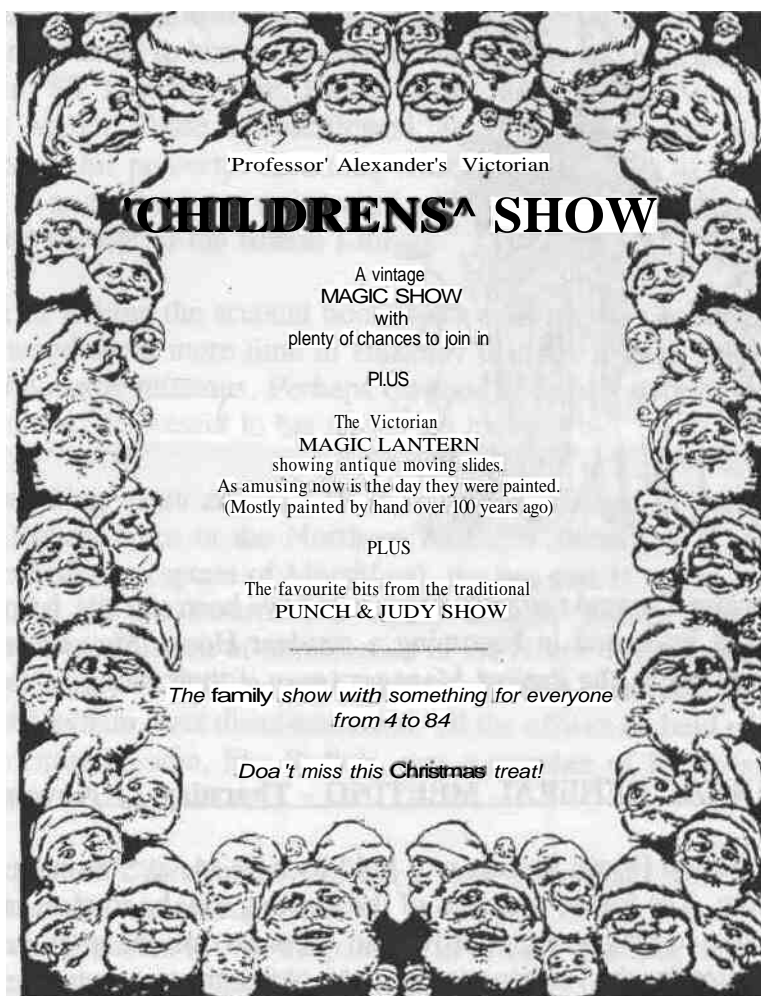
HANDS ON

As part of its fundraising programme, **Sutton House** Society will have a stall at the Craft Fair selling handmade greetings cards and, therefore, needs some hands to make the cards! Working parties are being held at Sutton House on Wednesday evenings 10th and 16th November from 7pm. **Good** bric-a-brac and second-hand books are also needed - deliver to Sutton House during that week.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
30/31 DECEMBER
2.30pm- 4.15pm

Tickets £3 or
Two seats for £5.50
Three for £8.00
Four for £10

Tickets available from
Sutton House or Arcady
Bookshop. 59 Wilton Way. E8
Credit Card bookings taken.



SUTTON HOUSE APPEALS TO FAMILIES

The 'appealing' brochure enclosed has recently been sent out by Helen Stride, to 6,500 NT Family Group members in London area. With 3 months to go before the completion of Phase Two, this mailing is both a fundrasing and awareness building exercise. Volunteers are needed to deliver an additional 2,500 in the Hackney area and if you are willing to help in this way, please contact Helen at Sutton House.

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