

SUTTON HOUSE is finished!

SUTTON HOUSE

NEWS

After a three year programme, the restoration of Sutton House is complete. The oldest house in East London will be opening all its doors to the public for the first time on Wednesday **February 2** 1994. To mark this special occasion, there will be musical entertainment and tours of the house throughout the day. There will also be a display of artwork by schoolchildren who have visited Sutton House over the past year.

Sutton House is open to visitors on Wednesdays. Sundays. & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11.30 - 5.30. Entrance admission is now £1.50 adults, 50p children under 17

-Sutton House Society

The final phase of work has included rehangng the panelling in the Great Chamber and recarving the lost fleur de lys panels; Restoration of the Georgian Parlour, probably the finest Georgian interior in the Hackney area has also involved displaying features of that room from the Tudor period. The Tudor kitchen is presented archaeologically and will double as a craft workshop. A Victorian Study, Edwardian Chapel and permanent exhibition complete the presentation. Again, the rooms are furnished with gifts bequeathed to the National Trust, some of which will be in place for the opening.

VOLUNTEERS - we still need you!

Those of you who are contemplating volunteering but are not attracted to Sutton House because of the terrors of the till or the clattering of the cutlery in the Cafe-Bar might enjoy more traditional (and sedentary) stewarding roles in the newly restored East Wing. With extra rooms and items on display, we need to monitor these rooms on visitor days for both security reasons and visitor information. We are lucky enough to have a great deal of volunteer help - in 1993 alone we made use of 2744 **and a quarter hours** of your time. THANK YOU ALL - WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

FACTS & FIGURES 1993

Before tackling the challenges 1994 brings to Sutton House in its latest phase as a fully restored and fully operational house, it may be worth looking at the record of use to date. In 1993 **15,314** people used the house (and that's not counting casual users of the Cafe-Bar and shop), 3,106 of these were paying visitors, 2,499 National Trust members. The largest category of use was for performance with 38 concerts, 4 auditions, 20 rehearsals, 2 lectures, 3 drama performances and 8 theatre-in-education productions taking place throughout the year. Business use formed a major part of activity in the house (1,576 users) and private functions were very popular with countless dinners, lunches, parties and even four wedding receptions being held. Food and drink certainly figured largely in the first full year of operation!

JANUARY
1994

SUTTON HOUSE SOCIETY NEWS

The AGM in November saw the election of a new committee.

After six years as respectively Chair and Secretary, Mike Gray and Julie Lafferty decided to step down. They have obviously given tremendously of time, effort and enthusiasm in that time and they are not actually being allowed to bow out. Mike has a new position as Honorary President of the Society and Julie will take up one of the Society's places on the Local Management Committee.

Thank you very much Mike and Julie... for the contributions to come as well as those already given.

The new SHS committee is now: Anne Blackburn, **Chair**; Lissa Chapman, **Secretary**; Ken Jacobs, **Treasurer**; Shirley Stewart, **Vice-Chair**; Grace Bryan-Brown; Alan Hayday; Mary Horwood; Jean Jacobs; Martin Kaufman; Richard Moss; Peter Mudge; Audrey Seabrook; Jane Straker.

The committee is currently working out a programme of fundraising and social events for 1994. We found it useful, as part of this process, to re-state our aims and objectives:

7. *As the originators of the Community Scheme, to continue to advise the National Trust on its implementation, including making a significant input into the running of the house through its nominations to the Local Management Committee.*
2. *To fundraise for the completion of the Appeal and Community Scheme.*
3. *To be a conduit for the recruitment of volunteers.*
4. *To continue to support, encourage and implement historical research.*
5. *To organise social activities.*
6. *To give members of the Society a special insight into, and knowledge of, Sutton House through exclusive social and educational events.*

Subscriptions

1994 subscriptions are now due from those who pay manually rather than by standing order. Please send your renewals to Ken Jacobs/Grace Bryan Brown at Sutton House. Cheques should be made payable to the SUTTON HOUSE SOCIETY.

Annual subscriptions are: INDIVIDUALS £5; UNWAGED £2.50; FAMILY £7.50 (2 people and their children under 18 years).

Annual subscriptions are mostly spent on the administrative costs of sending our mailings and have not been raised. Should members wish to make an additional donation towards the Society Appeal (£7,000 for 1994) we would be very grateful.

Anne Blackburn

SUTTON HOUSE SOCIETY SUPPER CLUB

Forthcoming dates:

Friday 4 February 1994

- book early for this event using the enclosed form. It is bound to be popular.

Friday 4 March 1994

- Mike Gray talks about Hackney two centuries ago in "1794 or (hereabouts)".

SUTTON HOUSE LOCAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 30 March 1994 at 7.45pm

The Sutton House Local Committee has management responsibility for all aspects of the Community Scheme. The Committee will present its Annual Report for 1993 on Wednesday 30 March 1994 in the Great Chamber. Jerry White, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hackney has agreed to address the meeting on the subject of "Local Democracy and its Enemies, 1894- 1994".

COMPETITION!!!

Entries are invited from designers to create for us a striking image suitable for printing on T-shirts, sweatshirts (and perhaps other forms of merchandise). The design, which may incorporate words and pictures should be suitable for children and adults alike. Entries to be received by February 28. The designer of the image chosen for reproduction will be invited to enjoy free dinner for two (including a bottle of wine) in Grumbolds Cafe-Bar, plus of course acknowledgement of design.

SPRING BOOK AND PLANT SALE

Saturday 19 March, 11-5

Admission £1.50, children free

For this seasonal sale of books, plants and crafts, we need donations of good quality books and bric-a-brac. We are also keen to have any contributions with a gardening theme - gardening books, equipment, window boxes, watering cans no garden dwarfs! Please deliver them to Sutton House within the week prior to the sale. THANK YOU!

FALSTAFF IN HACKNEY

Characters from Verdi's *Falstaff* and Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* will be at large in Sutton House during February and March. The English National Opera's Baylis Programme will be holding workshops for school children from Hackney and Westminster involving these costumed characters who will sing, improvise, act and generally illustrate Elizabethan life. The setting will be the panelled rooms of Sutton House and the workshop will follow the characters around from room to room. The project includes two adult workshops on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 February, from approximately 1pm - 2pm. Tickets cost £17.50 per person and include access to Sutton House, the events of the day and a ticket for the performance of *Falstaff* at the Coliseum on Saturday 19 February at 7.30pm.

Spring "What's On" - see next page ...

FEBRUARY

Saturday 12, 8pm

Piano Concert - Imogen Cooper

A unique opportunity to hear Britain's foremost woman pianist play in the Wenlock Barn.
Tickets £7, £5 (concessions)

Saturday 19, 10am - 5pm

Birkbeck College Study Day - Sutton House and Housing in East London

Lectures and workshops led by Michael Hunter looking at the history and the development of housing in Hackney.

Course fee £18 (£9 concessions)

MARCH

Thursday 3, 8pm

Hackney Arts and Entertainments present

'Council House Music' - a series of World Music Concerts

First in a series of traditional acoustic music concerts from a wide range of cultures and countries, taking place every Thursday evening up to and including 7 April.

Shikisha is a South African acoustic group.

Ticket price to be confirmed

Saturday 5, 8pm

Early Music Centre presents

Piano Recital - Susan Alexander-Max

Recital of Mozart, Haydn and Mozart performed by Susan Alexander-Max on a copy of a forte piano built in 1775.

Tickets £5, £3 (concession) from 081 533 2921

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Sunday 6, 10.00am

'Green Link Walks to Sutton House' - Liverpool Street to Sutton

House

First in a series of long walks to Sutton House, duration 3 and half hours. Meet at Liverpool Street Underground Station.

Tickets £4 walk only; £10 including lunch and tour of Sutton House

Next Walk: Sunday 3 April. Bromley-by-Bow to Sutton House

Wednesday 9 March - Sunday 10 April,

Wednesday - Sunday, 11.30 - 5.30

Christopher Hamer

Exhibition of drawings and paintings with an emphasis on colour, shape, pattern and geometry.

Admission Free.

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

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