

## SUTTON HOUSE

## NEWS

*-Sutton House Society*

### SUMMER FUNDRAISING SUCCESSES

Over the summer months the Sutton House Society made a direct appeal to members to boost the funds being raised to meet their target of £7,500 to pay for the hand-printed carpet and hanging paintings on the east staircase. £853 was raised in this way and we all want to use this newsletter to thank members for their generosity. A further £270 was collected through the sponsorship of supporters walking the historic parish boundary on one of the hottest Saturdays of the year.

### AUTUMN OPPORTUNITIES

The enclosed leaflet lists the programme for the next few months and we hope you will want to attend many of the events. We would draw particular attention to the Society's Annual Lecture on 30 September which will be given by Dr. Richard Luckett about *'Pepys and Hackney'* and would also like you to note the Study Day on Saturday 22 October organised in association with Birkbeck College, when we will have a notable panel of speakers talking about *'Poverty & Philanthropy in East London'*. Edna Healey will talk about Baroness Burdett-Coutts (she has just written a biography of this remarkable woman) and John Burrows, formerly Senior Staff Tutor in Sociology, will contribute a session on the role of the Missions and Settlements.

Mike Gray starts his 94/95 programme of guided walks on Saturday 17 September when he will be setting off at 10 am from **Tottenham Hale Station** walking south along the Lea Valley via Markfield beam engine and the Middlesex Filter Beds nature reserve. The walk lasts around 3 hours and finishes at Sutton House.

For those wanting a more leisurely stroll, Mike will be giving a shorter Hackney Village Walk on Sunday 18 September starting at 2pm at Sutton House and including a visit to St. John-at-Hackney Church. Phone 081-986 2264 for more information.

### THE SPORT OF KINGS !

The ancient sport of hawking and falconry will be on display on Saturday 1 October when members of the London Hawking and Owl club will bring their birds to Sutton House. Although flying displays will be limited by the size of the central courtyard, you will be able to hear about how the birds are trained and from the exhibition learn about this most ancient of sports.

***Reminder..... Last Visitor Day for 1994 Sunday 27 November  
There will also be a free recital at 3pm when  
Michael Broadway will play the PIANOLA !***

**SEPTEMBER  
1994 No 15**

## MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Sutton House is managed for the National Trust by a local committee whose members either live, work or have lively connections with Hackney. The Sutton House Society nominates six members and the Trust nominates an equal number. The quarterly meetings are held on Wednesday evenings at Sutton House. One third of the membership retires each year and the National Trust would like to invite nominations for this important but not onerous task.

You may nominate yourself or others but in either case please let us have brief biographical details. Potential members will be invited to attend the next meeting of the committee on 14 December after which their names will go forward to the Regional Committee of the National Trust and new members invited to join the committee from March 1995. Nominations should be addressed to the Chairperson, Sutton House Local Committee c/o Sutton House.

The Sutton House Society, which nominates half the membership of the management committee will be holding its A.G.M. 23 November at 8pm and after that event will be invited to nominate to the Local Committee. The present committee comprises:

Anne Blackburn (Chair) Shirley Stewart (Vice Chair) Lissa Chapman (Secretary)  
Ken Jacobs (Treasurer)\* Peter Mudge (Membership) Grace Bryan Brown, Mary Horwood,  
Jean Jacobs\*, Julie Lafferty, Audrey Seabrook, Jane Straker, Mike Gray, Alan Hayday,  
Richard Moss, Martin Kaufman\*

All committee members and officers stand down annually but are eligible for re-election (\* indicates that they are not seeking re-election) and nominations should be sent to the Secretary c/o Sutton House.

## **SUTTON HOUSE SOCIETY, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 8.00PM**

### **WORKING PARTIES**

The Society will again be having a stall at the Craft Fair selling merchandise based on themes and ephemera found in the house. Willing workers are needed, however, to paste, fold and label a number of items and the Secretary, Lissa Chapman, would be delighted to receive offers of such help for the working parties organised for 19 October and 9 November at 8pm in Sutton House.

### **SECONDHAND BOOKS**

Another steady source of income is the sale of secondhand books. Visitors enjoy browsing through the box but we are at present reduced to a few romantic novels and an introduction to fly fishing! If you have overflowing shelves, why not take advantage of our invitation.

### **GARDENERS TAKE ROOTS !**

Keeping Sutton House in bloom would be helped enormously if green-fingered volunteers would take cuttings this Autumn so that our windowills can be decorated next Spring.

## EDUCATION NEWS

Although our publicity indicates that we are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, that does not give a true picture since those days are reserved for school group visits and for most of the year those days are bustling with activity.

During the 1993/94 school year there were 63 visits involving 44 schools and 1,250 children. Now there is a permanent education base where displays and resources for schools can be kept and this has enabled the educational work to develop and expand. Liz Eccleshare, Edna and Ian McGregor, comprise the voluntary team and, working with the teachers of the visiting schools, they have developed a programme which introduces children to life in a Tudor house. The kitchen handling collection and period costumes stimulate observation and questions although the house itself is still the greatest resource.

During the long Summer holidays six children's activity days were held on 16th & 17th century themes. This was a new departure for us and proved to be very successful with children and carers/parents alike. Our regular education team was on holiday but we were fortunate to have the team of teachers to lead sessions on Tudor cookery and the making of pomanders and herb bags.



There was dancing and costume making, portraiture and writing with the quill pens specially prepared for us by Enid Banks one of our regular volunteers following advice given by The Worshipful Company of Scriveners!

With the arrival of Autumn, bookings are again being taken for school group visits and the education team are looking forward to presenting their revised programme and introducing additional costumes into the collection.

Planning has also started on a new education project which will be launched in 1995 to mark the National Trust's centenary. The project, which is being developed with the Hackney Archives Department will link modern technology with a study of late 19th century developments in education, health and the role of the churches. The immediate locality of central Hackney and Homerton provides a good case study with churches, chapels, workhouses and a fever hospital. This is another core subject in the National Curriculum for primary school teaching, but the project will also provide opportunities for all age groups to benefit whether it be a student at GCSE level or 6th Form College or a group of adults wanting to join a local studies course. All we need now are the funds!

**Please note that Hackney College are promoting a programme of lectures, walks and visits that illustrate the history of the Borough and its relation to the development of London. This term the base for this programme will be Sutton House on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 - 3.30 although alternate weeks will be spent walking the Borough. if you are interested in joining the group please telephone us.**

### THREE AGES OF SUTTON HOUSE

This is the title given by the artist, Linda Sutton, to the painting which formed the centre piece of her recent exhibition in the gallery, arranged in association with the Lamont Gallery. Bethnal Green. The painting depicts three girls from different times, the central figure representing the 16th century flanked by another from the days of the Victorian school and a contemporary figure peering somewhat nervously at her 'sisters'. Around the girls are numerous images taken of and from the house and its collection of ephemera, but Linda's imagination has also brought a large British Cream cat, gilded cherubs and an entirely unrealistic missile! The Trust's Foundation for Art scheme has generously provided the majority of the funds for the purchase of the picture for permanent display in Sutton House.

Linda Sutton studied at the Royal College of Art where her teachers included Carel Weight and Peter Blake. Since 1971 she has exhibited each year at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition as well as contributing to numerous group shows and having several solo exhibitions. Her paintings are very dreamlike and colourful and **Three Ages of Sutton House** certainly strikes a contemporary note in the dark interior of the building.

### HACKNEY - HOW THE ARTIST SEES IT

A group of amateur artists have given this title to the exhibition they will be presenting here during November. The Shepperton-Group was set up in 1992 by artists who knew each other well and decided to work together and who, from time to time, agree to a common subject of which Hackney is one. This project amounts to a visual survey of Hackney today - a snapshot of how it looks to them in 1994. The Hackney Empire, Abney Park Cemetery and Albion Square are to be expected as likely subjects for this theme but Homerton Hospital and the Kingshold Estate are among the surprises. The exhibition opens on Wednesday 2 November.

### CHRISTMAS AT SUTTON HOUSE

Yes, Autumn newsletters must make mention of Christmas! Grumbolds will again be serving traditional Christmas meals from Wednesday 7 December and taking party bookings for lunches and dinners or buffet receptions. If you would like to make a booking, please contact Glen Sillett on 081-985 2425

**The annual CRAFT FAIR** this year will be held on **Sunday 4 December** and should be noted in your diary. Crafts of many different types will be on show and for sale and the event makes Christmas shopping a pleasant experience rather than a stressful chore.

### 'T' SHIRTS

Have you got yours yet?

Good quality white cotton

'T' shirts with this emblem

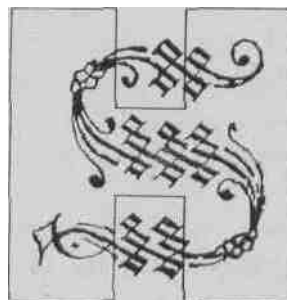
printed on in mid-blue and

deep red are available from

the shop or by post

*Childs £6.95, Med & Large £8.95*

**X-Large £9.75 Add 65p P & P**



s.l.i T T o N H o u s e

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