

Three great events for friends of Sutton House

Beating the Bounds Sunday 26th October 1.30pm

Up until the 1860s it was a regular practice in the ancient parish of Hackney, as elsewhere, to beat the bounds. The Rector, churchwardens, choir boys and other parishioners would walk around the perimeter of the parish checking on the condition of the boundary posts and impressing on the young boys the parochial limits by the administration of a gentle beating with willow branches. Most of the boundary posts have now disappeared though some remain, particularly in Victoria Park, a third of which was formerly in Hackney parish.

In 1992, on the initiative of the Sutton House Society, a new boundary post was put up in the Middlesex Filter Beds and made from part of an old oak beam from Sutton House. It was blessed by the then Rector of St. John-at-Hackney, the late Rev. Bill Hurdman

The plaque commemorating the event was a temporary one which has faded away but on Sunday 26th October the post, with a new metal plaque, will be blessed again by the present Rector, Rev. John Pridmore, in memory of Bill who was a long-serving member of the Sutton House Local Committee. We hope to have a good attendance from Sutton House Society members and friends. We will meet at the Princess of Wales on Lea Bridge Road at 1.30pm or in the filter beds nature reserve nearby at 2.00pm (turn left at the gates). Afterwards, those that wish will walk the eastern boundary of the parish along the River Lea and back to Sutton House for tea (about 1½ hours).

We are grateful to Lea Valley Park Authority for their cooperation in this event

'A Hackney Anthology'

'Wiv a ladder and some glasses you could see to Hackney Marshes- if it wasn't for the 'ouses in between'

Friday 7th November at 7.30pm

The **Sutton House Society Annual Lecture** this year takes the form, of a performance in prose and poetry.

The programme consists of readings from writers such as

William Shakespeare, Edward De Vere, Samuel Pepys, 'the Matchless Orinda', Daniel Defoe, Joseph Priestley, Mary Wollstonecraft, Isaac Watts, Edgar Allen Poe, Mary Howitt, Charles Dickens, John Betjeman, Peter Ackroyd, Barbara Vine, Harold Pinter and Will Self.

The writers are all either associated in some way with Hackney or have written about Hackney, in fact or fiction. Local historian Mike Gray will provide the historical links with readings by members of **Clio's Company**.

Tickets £5 to SHS members and £6 non-members, available in advance by calling Sutton House on **020 8525 9054 (or 9055)**

The ticket price includes a glass of wine and snacks.

(Advance booking is strongly recommended, as seats in the Great Chamber are limited.)

Christmas Social Saturday 13th December 6.00 pm

In the Old Tower, St Augustine's, Hackney Churchyard, The Narrow Way.

Refreshments and mulled wine

Local bell ringer, Steve Jakeman will give a short talk on the art of campanology

Carols with the Homerton Consort

All are welcome.

Tickets cost £5.00 (accompanied children free) but must be booked in advance on **020 8252 9054 (or 9054)**

Dear Society Member

Do not forget!!

Annual General Meeting (Sutton House Society)

Thursday 20th November at 7.30pm in the Wenlock Barn. This is your chance to vote for the committee, receive the annual report and accounts and discuss the activities of the Society. If you wish to make any nominations to the committee please ensure that the secretary receives them at least 2 weeks before the meeting.

The Secretary
Sutton House Society
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