



FRIENDS OF
CARSHALTON
WATER TOWER

Chairman's Report 2020 -2021

Dear Friends

We were extremely pleased with the number of returns we received for our AGM postal voting, which took place in early June 2020 instead of our AGM in the Water Tower, and thank you very much indeed for your response.

The Committee has been in touch regularly, during this awful pandemic, by email, telephone and face-to-face meetings as lockdown has allowed and I thank them very much indeed for their tenacity and support in face of all the problems. We made the decision, because we could not open the Water Tower for you or hold any events during the year that we will extend your membership until next April 2022. But we would, if possible, like to have donations.

Amidst the lockdown, the Committee has been working hard, apart from frequently revising your Programme of Events, to no avail. But one truly successful outcome has been the work of our Website Manager, Paul Freeman. He has given us an excellent completely new-look website, which has been extremely well received. If you have not so far seen it, please persuade a friend with a computer and internet connection, to show you. You certainly will not be disappointed!

We have had a considerable amount of building works carried out. If last year's work was about the Trustees' external refurbishment of the Lodge under the management of our Friend, Jeff Gertz, then this year the concentration has been on the Water Tower. The roof terrace started to leak in the autumn. But we are very pleased to report that the whole surface has been renewed. The Trustees have paid for this work and the water damage which had unfortunately spoilt our newly painted Saloon. This has now been made good. And we have also had the Orangery ceiling, walls and woodwork repainted. However the decorating has not stopped there. All the external woodwork is in the process of being repainted, after some needed restoration of the window transoms and rails, and our two benches, on the south side of the Water Tower, are being refurbished, ready again for our visitors.

The Lake area has also been very much on our minds and the Trustees are trying to step up a programme to replace lost trees from the Lake banks. In the choice of species they want to enrich the variety of trees to create added interest to our visitors' experience on the Garden Tours. We planted three trees, in the spring, on the west side of the lake for the Trustees. And we are launching an appeal to help fund the purchase of more trees for the Trust.

We were also very pleased to have the lake rising again this winter. It was wonderful to see how rapidly it was colonized, with a variety of ducks and geese, including a pair of beautiful Egyptian geese, and at least four herons were spotted at a time in the lake.

Sadly the water has now evaporated but we plan to have our AGM at the end of June in the Water Tower when the government has scheduled a complete abolition of all stages of lockdown, providing there are no setbacks, and to open the Water Tower for the first time to the general public on the last Sunday in June.

We are looking forward to welcoming back, not only the public, but also our very loyal Stewards whom we have not seen for such a long time, for a somewhat short Open Season this year. However, next year will be our 30th Birthday and we are really hoping to make it an exceptionally celebratory year!

Jean Knight.

www.carshaltonwatertower.co.uk

*The Friends of Carshalton Water Tower, the working Committee of the Carshalton Water Tower and
Historic Garden Trust, Registered Charity no. 1086243*