



FRIENDS OF  
CARSHALTON  
WATER TOWER

## Chairman's Report 2021 -2022

### Dear Friend

Our provisional dates for last year's AGM unfortunately had to be abandoned and we resorted once again to postal voting. We did have a very good response from our Friends and thank everyone who returned their Voting Form. However, on an extremely sad note, we report the death of the very supportive and long standing Friends, Graham Berridge and Stella Wilks, and a very enthusiastic new member, Joan Whateley.

In July, after more than a year and a half of lockdown, we were at long last able to meet and greet in person and welcome back the general public. To celebrate this Derek Yeo, our Chair of Trustees, unveiled our new information board at the Hermitage. This had been made during lockdown and had been funded from a legacy left to us by one of our faithful Stewards, the late Meg Woodford.

Although August was comparatively quiet this was amply made up for in September. We opened free of charge to the general public in support of Open House, the National Heritage openings and the Wandle Fortnight. We had the added attraction of the local artist, Neil Vaughan, charcoal drawing by the Hermitage. The Hermitage information board certainly came into its own as visitors, who did not wish take the Garden Tour, could get information about the Hermitage. These September Openings were extremely successful.

Amanda Hill very kindly rescheduled her annual Quiz for us which also took place in September. Victory was denied our team, but it was a very pleasant evening. In October we had a film programme with a difference. John Freeman delved into his archive to show us footage from two terrible fires that of Windsor Castle and Uppark, with the different approaches taken to the restoration of these buildings. Clandon Park's fire was also discussed. We were very happy to be able to hold our Christmas Soiree again and had another extremely pleasant evening of entertainment devised by Simone with seasonal readings also given by Anne Dodwell and John Thornton. John Freeman gave them technical support and floodlit the Water Tower again over the festive season.

Your Committee had already started to work on a special programme of events for our 30th Anniversary year. John Freeman devised our Orangery Display, *The Way We Were*, showing early photographs of the Water Tower when the Friends first formed and our subsequent refurbishment. We opened the season in Spring with another of Amanda's very successful quizzes, and perhaps as to be expected, it had a regal related theme. The winners were the Friends of the Oaks Park, a new team to join us for this extremely pleasant annual event.

Also in April we celebrated the unveiling of the cross sectional model of the Pump Chamber and Tower. The model cause quite a stir with Friends testing the wheel. This is activated once plied with money. This model, which is a collection box, had been made during lockdown and funded from a legacy left to us by Bob Steel, a Steward with many attributes and Co author of the *River Wandle Companion*.

It was with great joy in May that we heard music again in Water Tower. The Purcell Players delighted us with their skills for an evening's entertainment of superb Baroque chamber music. Liz Andrews, who devised the programme, played cello, Siu Peasgood played flute and David Brooker played violin and viola. These were all period instruments and their timbre suited the Water Tower so well.

But we still have many more events to come, Ian Betts will give us a talk, after our AGM, about Georgian baths and bathing in London; We will have the costumed Regency dance display and tea; John will show us gems from his past programmes and we will complete the 2022 festivities with our Christmas Soiree and floodlighting the Water Tower.

We have been extremely fortunate to have the generosity of our Friends and acquaintances. Not only did the Purcell Players give their skill free of charge, but the late Bob Steel's Co author, Derek Coleman has very generously donated copies their book for us to sell. Julia Staggs is producing a beautiful range of cards and is designing a garden quiz for our young visitors. Doris Freeman, who bakes those delicious cakes for our teas on the Heritage Open days has also continued to organizes our raffles, donating several prizes, as do many of our Friends.

We received a very generous gif of £450 towards new chairs from the Carshalton Lodge of Freemasons. These we hope will be obtained in time for our AGM. So far from the Tree Fund, the three trees planted during lockdown are growing well and in April we planted two more, a Sweet Chestnut, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a Weeping .Willow. The Alder and the Mulberry tree, which we chose to plant next, will be available in the autumn. We have also been given a tree by Leo Wenker and thank her very much. Our thanks also goes to Jeff Gertz who keeps our two areas of grass very well cut.

The Committee and I also would like to thank all our Key Holders and Sunday Stewards, Clive, Tony and Derek, Anne, Leo, Vironica Feller Morgan, John Greig who give their time for the Water Tower and do so much to make our visitors feel very welcome. And all those extremely generous Friends who help clear, wash and dry up after our events.

I wish to thank: Paul Freeman, our website designer and manager, very much indeed for all the work he has carried out to give us such an excellent website and presence on Facebook. And your Committee, for their amazing input, John our Treasurer who also edits your Newsletter and Hannah who so ably produces it for us; Simone, our Committee Minutes Secretary, and John for all their events and support, and Robert. Last, but certainly not least, Julia, who deals with our administration, hires and so many other things, so well.

We sincerely hope that you support and enjoy your Friends' events during this our 30th Year, and continue to help us preserve the Water Tower. **Thank you.** Jean Knight.

[www.cashaltonwatertower.co.uk](http://www.cashaltonwatertower.co.uk)

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