

The Friends of Twickenham Museum

Our March Newsletter coincided with the splendid reception hosted by the Mayor, in York House. Following this we manned a stall at the Twickenham Green Fair on May 29th. On June 10th we held an Open Day at 25 The Embankment. In August we were delighted to receive a donation of £10,000 from the D'Oyly Carte Trust.

These are the highlights: throughout this time we have also been concerned with fund-raising and obtaining further statutory consents for the restoration and conversion of the house. Much progress has been made: building work will start in the New Year. We expect to be able to open the museum in 2001. In the meantime a further Open Day is planned for Saturday December 9th: please see details below.

The Mayor's Reception We are extremely grateful to Councillor Michael Jones, then Mayor, for hosting a reception at York House on March 23rd. Supportive of the project though the Council has always been, this was the first public demonstration of the regard in which they hold us. We had long hoped to hold a party for those who have helped us so far, and this was the ideal occasion.

The Fairs At the Twickenham Green May Fair a fine banner made and given to us by the RFU announced the presence of the museum, our first appearance at this enjoyable function. We even won 1st Prize for 'Quality and Interest of Goods'! This event brought us £510. A further £157 was raised at the St Margaret's Fair in July, former Councillor Mike Rowlands kindly paying the fee for our stall.

Statutory Consents You will recall that we obtained Planning Permission for the change of use of 25 The Embankment in January. This enables the creation of the museum on ground and first floors and a custodian's apartment on the second floor. On September 28th we obtained Listed Building Consent to the proposed building work, subject to the approval of detailed drawings. A further Planning Application has been required for an inconspicuous roof alteration and we hope to receive permission for this before the end of the year. Drawings will also shortly be submitted for approval in accordance with the Building Regulations.

The Building Work Serious building work will start early in the New Year. The weather will have a bearing on how this can best be organised: a new roof has to be provided, so construction will proceed in stages. We ourselves have been working hard inside the house, preparing internal surfaces, stripping the accretions of years and revealing fascinating and unsuspected details of the original building. When all is done a visitor will be able not only to enjoy the museum's exhibits but gain a good idea of the historical evolution of the house in which they are displayed.

Fund-raising We are fundraising both for the building works (including fitting-out) and an Endowment Fund. Our target for the latter is £120,000 and income from this will meet running expenses and help us acquire further artefacts. We are deeply grateful to an anonymous local donor who has promised £21,000, thus laying the foundation of the Endowment Fund.

We have received a magnificent gift of £10,000 in response to an appeal to the D'Oyly Carte Trust, and we await the result of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund which, if successful, will underwrite much of the cost of the building work. The position is that should we be fortunate enough to succeed, some of the money raised towards the building work will be transferred into the Endowment Fund, which will result in our being about a third of the way towards our £120,000 target.

The Mayor's Reception brought 26 donations totalling over £9,000 including the valuable tax refund. A single anonymous donor gave £5000. If this notable act of generosity could be matched by others we should indeed begin to feel really secure financially. Some give money; some give effort, which saves money. Some give both and are doubly blest!. We are grateful to all those who have contributed so far, some more than once.

We are asking that everyone who still has an interest in the project should contribute £3 to defray costs of printing and circulation for another year. However, to be candid, we need more of our supporters to make additional donations where possible. Trevor Sutton (our Treasurer) is anxious that everybody should

understand that any amount, however small, attracts a tax rebate of 28% (provided the donor is a taxpayer) and will be warmly welcomed. Please do not feel that sums of only a few pounds are not worth giving. A slip is attached.

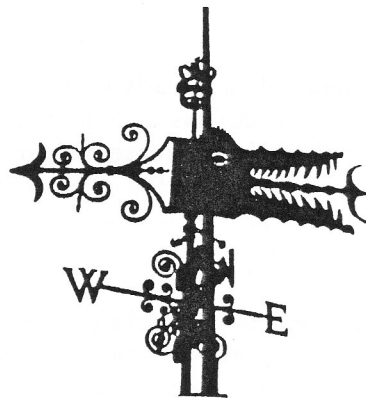
Pope's Grotto Visitors to the grotto and a talk at Orleans House Gallery have contributed £287 to museum funds this year. Proceeds of the sale of Tony Beckles Willson's handbook, published jointly by us and The Garden History Society (available from the author at 44 Pope's Avenue, Twickenham, TW2 5TL, price £5) now amount to £1450. This is a valuable increasing resource, earmarked for future publications.

Open Days On June 10th, the day of St Mary's Parish Church Garden Party, an Open Day was held at 25 The Embankment. This was successful beyond all expectations, several hundred people pouring through the door to see the house and view a small but intriguing exhibition put together by Dick Cashmore and Mandy Burroughs. Most negotiated the winding staircase successfully including, to our alarm and subsequent relief, a number of infirm visitors. This augurs well for the future. A contribution box was afterwards found to contain £122, mostly in small change.

There will be another Open Day this year. On Saturday 9 December at 25 The Embankment the Museum will host the launch of a new book: a History of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, written by the Honorary Archivist. There will also be a small exhibition to see, focused on St Mary's itself. Please visit, buy the book, view the exhibition and see the house before building work starts.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin

TWICKENHAM



*A History of the Old Church
before 1713, and the New Church
from 1714*

*This new book will be launched on Saturday 9 December 2000
between 11.00am and 3.00pm at The Twickenham Museum,
25 The Embankment, Twickenham.*

Price £6.00

Please make cheques payable to St Mary's Church.

A Tea Party On January 21st 'The Informer' published an attractive colour photograph of the house and an interesting accompanying article by one of its journalists, Nick Harding. This was spotted by an elderly lady, one Eileen Matthews née Hammerton, who recognised the house in which her father, Robert Hammerton (1900-1962) had been born and lived. She remembered coming to the house when a child.

The outcome was a tea party on April 29th. The house was made as warm, cosy and welcoming as possible under the somewhat dusty circumstances (a portion of the ground floor ceiling having just fallen in) and tea, sandwiches, homebaked buns and cakes served to not only Mrs Matthews, her husband and daughter but three old gentlemen of local provenance known to Maureen Payan: Reginald Stickley, born at 14 The Embankment on May 4th 1910, Peter Knapp of Bell Lane, born February 7th 1912 and Frederick Annett, born at 13 The Embankment on February 26th 1913.

There followed an animated and delightful exchange of reminiscences of Embankment life in the early part of the century. All were aware that 13 children, including the above Robert, had been brought up at no.25 by Mrs Matthews' grandmother, who appeared in a photograph produced by Mr Annett. Dick Cashmore sat at the end of the table and gleaned what he could of local history from the joyous flow.

Trustees This year three of the Museum's founding trustees have resigned; Camilla Panufnik, Pat Schooling and Andrew Gillespie. We thank them for their important contributions over many years, and know they will continue to take an interest in our activities and help in whatever ways they can.

Thanks We thank all who have helped us in any way, and in particular our auditor Maurice Parry-Wingfield, Dick Cashmore our invaluable historian and exhibition arranger, Michael Lee who co-ordinates our fundraising efforts, and Mike Rowlands and Robert Hancock who smooth our paths in many ways.

To: **Mr Trevor Sutton, Hon Treasurer, 36 Gothic Road, Twickenham, TW2 5EH** tel: 020 8241 9011

I wish to remain on the mailing list and enclose a cheque for £3 or £.....

Name.....Title.....(Mr/Mrs/other)

Address.....

Postcode.....

I am a taxpayer and would like The Twickenham Museum to reclaim tax on this donation and on any donations I may make in the future. (Please sign if appropriate)

Signature.....date.....