

Friends of THE TWICKENHAM MUSEUM

December 2012 Newsletter



FIT FOR A QUEEN

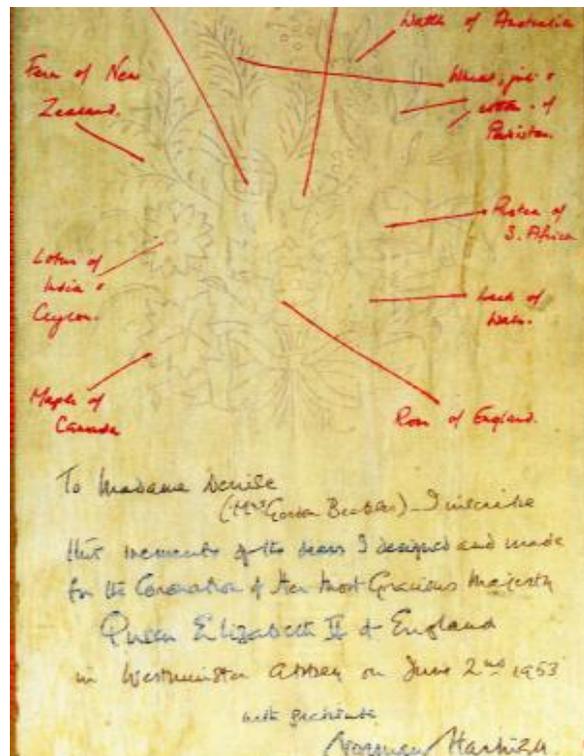
In addition to more street parties than any other area of London; the unveiling of the new Jubilee Gardens on Twickenham riverside and the large Jubilee celebration event in Richmond Park, The Twickenham Museum added to the tributes paid to The Queen's six decades on the throne with a very special exhibit - a framed facsimile piece of Her Majesty's coronation dress.



On the letter pasted to the back of the frame, Norman Hartnell, The Queen's principal dressmaker at the time, writes: 'I inscribe this memento of the dress I designed and made for the Coronation of her most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England in Westminster Abbey on June 2nd 1953'.

Below is his hand-drawn sketch of the elements that constitute the design woven into the fabric featuring the Thistle of Scotland; Shamrock of Ireland; Fern of New Zealand; Wattle of Australia; Wheat, Jute and Cotton of Pakistan; Lotus of India & Ceylon; Protea of South Africa; Leek of Wales; Maple of Canada and Rose of England.

In a true expression of egalitarianism, this precious artefact was joined by a more modest photograph of a former shop in Lion Road decorated with the same bunting put up there to celebrate the royal wedding in 1953 as was used to adorn The Museum throughout the Jubilee celebrations of 2012.



25 The Embankment, Twickenham, TW1 3DU Reg. charity No. 1028984

NEW EXHIBITION: PUBS ACROSS THE BOROUGH

The Public Houses of Twickenham, Whitton, Teddington & the Hamptons, to give it its full title, is the subject of this year's main exhibition focusing on the history of just some of the public houses, beer houses, hotels and inns past and present strewn across the old Borough.

The many historic images on display will be accompanied by an illustrated guide, as well as a whole range of pub related paraphernalia and memorabilia. On display is a half gallon tankard inscribed *Island Hotel, Eel Pie Island* dating to c1830; a very rare Staffordshire blue printed earthenware plate of the same period stamped *Red Lion Hampton*, and part of the original door from the mysterious *Statue*, Whitton's oldest domestic dwelling dating to the 16th century, which may or may not have been a coaching Inn in the past.



This year's supplementary exhibition coincides with that of Local Studies' *The Building of a Borough: Buildings Designs* exhibition, which explores the built heritage of the towns and villages of Richmond upon Thames from the 1880s to the 1960s, currently running at Orleans House Gallery until February 2013.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

Despite the very welcome addition to the ranks of Ken Howe, Christopher Thompson, Emma Tinniswood, Norma Davies and Tom Henshaw, the urgent need for volunteers remains. Each month, Alex Skinner valiantly provides the 44 people required to allow the museum to function – but only just. So, if you know of anybody who might have two hours a month to spare then please ask them to contact Alex on 0208 941 0669. Our Volunteer force is the most valuable asset we have and without them The Museum would cease to function.

For the second year, Wendy Verrall led the Summer Holiday Workshops for children held at The Museum on the four Tuesdays in August. Based on the current exhibition, the participants answered a quiz and then made a key-ring fob enclosing a small picture they found and drew of an item in the Museum. A new activity organised by Susan Youngs for the under 7's is a colouring sheet of objects throughout the Museum to find and colour. Such activities help enormously to raise awareness of the Museum and local history to children and their parents.

As well as becoming a volunteer, Ken Howe has answered the call posted on the Newsboard for the post of Annual Lecture Co-ordinator. Ken's wealth of experience as Talks co-ordinator for the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society will ensure that one of the Museum's most high profile events runs smoothly from start to finish. Plans are already underway for next year's Lecture. Details to be announced.

Opening times: Tuesdays and Saturdays 11.am to 3.00pm; Sundays 2.00pm to 4.00pm

THE ANNUAL LECTURE

Garden archaeology is an indispensable part of researching the development of historic gardens. In this, Brian Dix, our guest speaker for 2012, is internationally renowned and able to share with us the techniques, judgments and solutions that allow for the rediscovery of the original form of historic gardens as well as the essential information for accurate repair and reconstruction.

In identifying areas of potential sensitivity and importance there is a tension between preservation, renewal, and enhancement. Some gardens have been accurately restored while others are partial or complete re-creations which attempt to evoke an original spirit rather than to be a faithful reconstruction.

At Hampton Court Palace, King William III's Privy Garden has been reconstructed following the original layout revealed by excavation.

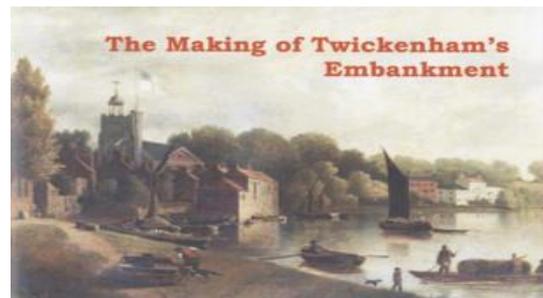


The grounds of Chiswick House (above), recently restored, also serve to guide the future repair and reconstruction of garden features while at the same time permitting a better understanding of the history and sociology of garden design.

25 THE EMBANKMENT

What with the cost of redecoration and book sales down, finances are a little less buoyant than previous years, although the new series of postcards depicting local scenes from the past are proving to be very popular buys.

Among the best selection of local history publications available anywhere is an excellent revision of the Turner's House pamphlet; a catalogue of all the streets in Hampton Hill; a tour of Whitton Brook and *The Making of Twickenham's Embankment*, the latest Museum publication.



It is time to purchase a new Museum computer, one equipped for the 21st century offering on-site internet access and email address that will enhance the perception of The Museum on-line.

Twitter is reckoned to be an effective means of informing certain types of people, especially the young. There is now a Museum Twitter account as there is for Strawberry Hill House, the Hampton Hill Association, the Hampton Society, Teddington Town and Orleans House. Almost all museums Tweet, a notable exception being the Museum of Richmond. Whether it will result in increased visitor numbers or website accesses is unknown, but it doesn't cost anything, except time. @Twickmuseum is the address.

ENID BUGBY

Peter Payan, Chairman of The Twickenham Museum Trustees, writes:

In the early days of the museum a prize for the best volunteer couple would certainly have been won by either Derek and Enid Bugby or Barry and Alex Skinner. Both couples showed exemplary reliability, punctuality, housekeeping skills and warmth of welcome to visitors.

Enid died in the spring aged 84 from a recurrence of cancer and is much missed at the Museum. She showed the kindness, efficiency, common sense and practicality of the trained nurse of yesteryear, and it is not surprising to learn that Matron of the West Middlesex in the 1960s, about to undergo surgery, asked that she be nursed by Enid.

A Portsmouth girl, she met Derek in 1946, became engaged when he was on leave from service in India and married him in 1951. In 1958 they bought the Whitton house he still occupies. In the 1970s Enid became an industrial nurse to several companies and had two children, girl and boy. One granddaughter is a nurse, the other a physiotherapist. The boy Graham has often contributed to Museum jollities with his penny-farthing bicycle and his impersonations of Father Christmas.

Derek and Enid reached their diamond jubilee last year. They'd shared common pleasures in folk-dancing (for which Enid would make clothes) and upholstery. They loved to holiday in Hungary and neighbouring countries.

The Princess Alice Hospice received £1600 in memory of Enid. Of this £100 came from the Twickenham Museum.



Alexander Pope continues to top the league of the 20 most visited People & Places on The Museum website with over 36,000 visits since March 2007.

ACCESSIONS

In looking ahead to the centenary years of the First World War (2014 – 2018), we are collecting information and artefacts about the old borough's contributions throughout that grim endeavour. If you can assist, please contact us.

Meanwhile, one of the more curious items now forming part of The Museum's collection is a hair brush purportedly used to smooth the emerging locks of novelist Henry Rider Haggard.

Its provenance comes by way of Haggard's niece, Ella F Western. Aged 83 and living at 5 Percy Cottages, Cuckfold, West Sussex in 1961, she gave the brush to Mrs F Squire of Hampton, telling her that 'it was used 'to brush uncle Rider's hair when he was a baby'.



Haggard (1856-1925) was not a Twickenham man; but ancestors of his, Riders as well as Haggards, had been. Thus there is a Haggard Road in Twickenham. We live and we learn.

Newsletter Comments and suggestions Ed Harris: e.harris510@btinternet.com