

FRIENDS OF HORNSEY CHURCH TOWER

NEWSLETTER Number 34: Spring 2003

DATES FOR 2003

Sunday March 9 Gardening Day with BTCV (see below)

Tuesday March 11 Churchyard work BTCV team
There will be further gardening days throughout the year – dates to be announced

Saturday April 26 Towers and Turrets tour. Booking form enclosed

Sunday May 18 CHURCHYARD FESTIVAL

This event will be different from our previous open days. As the major repairs will be under way, we will not unfortunately be able to have access to the tower. But we are planning a number of enjoyable activities focusing on the churchyard. If you can help in any way or have any ideas for special events, please get in touch. Although we have funding to cover the major tower repairs, we still badly need funding for work in the churchyard. Our open days have always been an important source of funds so it is important that we do not lose out this year.

Lime day – to be arranged in the summer. This will be a practical demonstration of working with traditional lime-based mortar. Contact Peter Sanders for further details.

October - to be announced. Grand reopening. We hope that the repair work will be completed by this time and that the reopening of the tower will coincide with our Harvest Festival.

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

In order to simplify our membership arrangements, all FOHCT subscriptions will in future run from April 1. The cost remains £5 per year. Anyone who has joined in 2003 or existing members who have already paid their 2003 subscription will be counted as having paid their subscriptions up to April 2004. If you have not, it would help us enormously if you could fill in the attached form and send it with a cheque to the treasurer, William Arthurs. For those applying for the Towers and Turrets tour the membership form can be sent to Bridget Cherry together with your tour booking form.

Membership subs form a vital part of our income, enabling us to carry on our work. Please encourage your friends to join.

Contacts: Peter Sanders (chairman): 0208 340 1879
Bridget Cherry (secretary) 0207 272 0578
Nick Allaway (publicity) 0208 340 9280

Churchyard notes

Our objectives for the churchyard fall under several heads: ensuring regular maintenance, recovering and enhancing the formal character of the memorial garden, emphasising the contrasting 'country churchyard' character of the surrounding area, and improving the paths and lighting.

Although February 9 was a very wet Sunday, a stalwart group of supporters, including a helper from Haringey Council, turned out to do some useful litter picking and general tidying of the crypt – many thanks to all. It was too wet to do any effective gardening but we had the benefit of expert advice from Sheila West who, despite the rain, kindly toured the **memorial garden** with us, identifying shrubs and advising on pruning. The range of shrubs is fairly limited, principally cotoneaster, cornus, senecio, mahonia, holly, viburnum, laurel, buddleia, spiraea. Many have responded well to the hard cutting back they have been given over the last year, but they now need more skilful pruning at the right times (i.e. after flowering), and cutting out selected old branches to improve their shape and encourage new growth. A few would be better removed or transplanted, especially the smaller self-seeded shrubs, eg numerous small hollies. Sheila advised that we should dig out most of the ivy around the shrubs, dig over the ground and dig in organic manure, plus a mulch of leaf mould. Does anyone know a cheap source of organic manure?

We plan to construct a compost enclosure where we can collect leaves to rot down (there are plenty available!). The raised area in front of the vestry door has low walls with troughs which can be planted. We plan to remove the existing unsuitable shrubs from these and replace them, possibly with box.

Trees. At present there are a number of dead trees, especially in the western border. We have consulted the borough arboriculturalist on these and are negotiating for funding to have them removed. We have the offer of some oak and chestnut saplings from the Haringey Tree Trust, and plan to plant these along the western boundary.

Hedge. March 9 is the first day booked for the team from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), when they will come to take out the privet hedge on the High Street boundary. This will be replaced by a more rural-looking hedge of mixed native species; it will be protected by a fence until the plants are larger.

There will be plenty for everyone to do on the next **Gardening day: SUNDAY MARCH 9** - from 10.30 - not only removing hedges – your help will be welcome with pruning, collecting leaves, making a compost enclosure, weeding and tidying! If you can offer help in any particular way, or want further information, please contact Nick Allaway or Bridget Cherry.

Improvements to **paths and lighting**, as well as the possibility of creating a ramp for disabled access to the vestry, will be among the subjects discussed by the Urban Parks subcommittee set up in January, with a view to obtaining Lottery funding for such works. The first meeting is on Monday 7 April, 8.p.m. at St George's Cranleigh Gardens. Contact Peter Sanders for further information.