

FRIENDS OF HORNSEY CHURCH TOWER

NEWSLETTER No. 47 AUTUMN 2007

Dates for your diary

**15 Sept Sat. Gardening and workshop
10.30-1.0**

**16 Sept Sunday Open House Day
2.0 - 5.30**

**20 Oct Sat. Gardening and workshop
10.30-1.0**

**30 Oct Tues. AGM and committee
meeting, at the Tower 7.30 for 8.0**

11 Nov Sunday Remembrance Day

**17 Nov Sat. Gardening and workshop
10.30-1.0**

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Don't miss Open House Day on Sunday afternoon 16 September - your chance of a FREE visit up the tower. The views are fantastic (even if the setting is not quite as rural as in this 18th century Hornsey scene showing the church tower).



Recent events

The Summer Open Day on June 16, despite the uncertain weather, including a thunderstorm which delayed the start by 10 minutes, was a very successful and enjoyable occasion. Many people enjoyed a visit up the tower (via a new exhibition on its history in the ringing chamber). There were excellent refreshments, and attractions included Tim and Shelia's bric a brac, Tom's plants, Alan's pots and a stall with Hornsey Historical Society material. Teddy Abseiling from the top of the tower was once again a great success with the children. A special feature in the chapel was an exhibition on slavery (commemorating the 200 year anniversary of abolition), prepared by Nick, which drew attention to the 'slave tomb', one of the points of interest of the 'tomb trail' around the churchyard.

Our second summer event was an innovation, a concert on July 21, generously provided by two talented musicians, Caroline Soresby and Bryan Fairfax of 'Red Baroque', who introduced us to an interesting programme of music for harpsichord and baroque violin. The acoustics worked well for chamber music and demonstrated how the chapel space could be used effectively for small events of this kind. With two performers, seating for 25-30 people was possible. Tickets together with some larger donations, also from people who did not attend, raised over £600. We already have the offer of a madrigal concert for next year. If you have other suggestions for fundraising events please get in touch.

Wildlife in the churchyard

Following the recommendations from the People's Trust for Endangered Species, two specially prepared buckets have been buried at a secret location to encourage stag beetles. Although Greater London is listed as a 'hot spot' for this remarkable insect, so far they appear to be thin on the ground in Haringey. Perhaps we can make a difference.

If you google Hornsey Church Tower, you will find under London Wildweb a note that kestrels have nested at the tower. Sadly, we think this is no longer the case, but please let us know if you spot any interesting birds or other wildlife. London wildweb also draws attention to the Hornbeams in the churchyard, reminders that these trees were frequent in the forest that once covered North London.



Hornbeam in flower

Our website

www.communigate.co.uk/london/fohct

(or just google Hornsey Church Tower) Our site is receiving an increasing number of hits. Visit it to keep up to date with our latest news and events.

Future plans

We continue to discuss the future management of the churchyard with Haringey Council, with the prospect of maintenance being transferred from Streetscene to the Parks Department, with which we already have a good working relationship. To achieve this, funds need to be found to put the paths in good order. Encouragingly we have been successful in obtaining a grant under Haringey's 'Making a difference' scheme, for new seats and for the replanting of part of the Memorial Garden as a scented walk. More news about this soon.

Do you enjoy DIY?

Nick Allaway will be organising some minor repair work on the tower on our workshop mornings. Help welcome!

Or gardening?

Should you want some healthy outdoor activity your help will also be welcome at the autumn gardening sessions, Dates are on p.1.

Towers and Turrets tours: what are they?

Our annual excursions started in 1995 to help our understanding of Hornsey tower by visiting and if possible climbing other church towers. The late medieval battlemented tower with taller corner turret is characteristic of the London area and some of the Home Counties and we found them in many places. We started with NW London (climbing four towers between Edgware and Pinner), continued with North London (Tottenham, Edmonton, Enfield), moved east across the Lea in 1997, to Walthamstow, East and West Ham, further west in 1998 (Harlington, Harmondsworth). We found much else of interest – monuments, sculpture, stained glass – as well as instructive examples of how churchyards were being cared for. From 1999 we have traveled further a field – to Essex, Suffolk, the Thames Valley, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, to enjoy the immensely rich heritage of England's historic churches .

The 2008 tour will be on **Sat April 19**. Where? Look out for news! Bridget Cherry



Dorchester Abbey, Oxon, visited 2007

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