

FRIENDS OF THE GREAT HALL AND ARCHIVE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016



Message
From the
Chairman

The
North Wing

The
"Heritage
Trust"

News
and Events

Members
Information

From the Chairman

Our last Newsletter outlined the timetable for the Maggie's Centre, which should by now be almost complete, and progress in setting up a Heritage Trust well advanced. Nothing could be further from the truth. The following pages describe what has happened. In short, for most of the time it has felt as if we were treading water with long delays to the Maggie's project and no senior staff with whom to engage at the Barts NHS Trust, itself now in special measures.

All that changed in January when Maggie's submitted revised plans, without appropriate consultation, which seriously affected the long-term viability of the Great Hall and Archive and also jeopardised the development of a Heritage Trust. Your Committee has spent the last 3 months battling with further threats to our aims to conserve and restore the Great Hall and the North Wing.

We had no option but to oppose Maggie's amended planning application to the City in January 2016. After a difficult time, and exchange of solicitors' letters, meetings were held, and then, suddenly Maggie's found that they could, after all, revert to the agreed plans. Much time and not a little money has been spent to regain ground; but we remain vigilant.

But there are plenty of good things to report, such as the successful and enjoyable Archive Lecture by Professor Mark Caulfield on "William Harvey and St. Bartholomew's Hospital" (see back page).

Our Dinner in May 2015 was a very happy occasion and many of our supporters came: Gordon Bourne at the age of 90+ brought 10 members of his family. Marcus Binney, President of SAVE urged us to keep up the pressure to conserve Britain's heritage. SAVE has recently prevented the wanton destruction of a disused part of Smithfield Market, and its replacement by an undistinguished office block. Plans are well advanced for the Museum of London to move there, so creating a major visitor attraction in Smithfield, a worthy partner for the Bar's Heritage site. The Friends were delighted to join SAVE to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in October at a jolly party at nearby St. Sepulchre's.

A special event in October 2015 celebrated the life and legacy of Prof. Gordon Hamilton-Fairley, 40 years after his tragic early death. I was privileged to help his family organise this, and they generously allowed donations in Gordon's memory to be shared between The Friends of The Great Hall and Fairley House School, each charity benefitting by about £4000.

Whenever possible I have attended reunions of Barts alumni and have been heartened by their commitment (see below). Also, during the year we renewed our membership drive and are delighted to welcome new (and lapsed) members.

Your continuing support for The Great Hall, its treasures and all they stand for is so appreciated, and remains vital for their heritage to flourish in the future.

Sir Marcus Setchell

Future Events

Annual Dinner

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Visit to Hogarth's House and
Chiswick House; Tuesday, 12 July 2016
Contact Dr. Julian Axe for details
julian.axe@btinternet.com



35th Anniversary Reunion

The North Wing and Great Hall – What Next?

The March 2015 Newsletter outlined the timetable for the construction of the Maggie's Cancer Centre. By now, the building should have been constructed with interior fitting out and external landscaping complete by June 2016 with the centre open for business this summer.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

FEBRUARY 2015 – Amended plans agreed by City of London Planning Committee, Barts NHS Trust, Maggie's and The Friends of the Great Hall approved by the City Planning Committee (see below). The Project Board met on January 28 in anticipation of approval. The Chairman as agreed, is a member of the Board. Hoardings are erected; existing, but inadequate, toilets renovated for temporary use for Great Hall events.

JUNE 10 2015 – Ceremonial “ground breaking” function with champagne reception and jazz accompaniment followed by lunch in the Great Hall funded by Maggie's.

JULY 23 – AUGUST 19 – Finance Block demolished.

SEPTEMBER 16 – Archaeological surveys and excavation; underground cabling and services located. Project Board meets less frequently because of these delays.

DECEMBER 16 2015 – It becomes known that the cabling and archaeological surveys involve cost overruns that are not acceptable to Maggie's; cost cutbacks impact largely on the basement facilities for the Great Hall. There is no formal consultation with the Friends but the Chairman is informed the City of London approve these changes but require a ‘s.73 Application’.

JANUARY 20 2016 – Friends' Committee meets the same day as Maggie's Project Board where it is announced that revised plans have been submitted to the City of London Planning Department. The Friends' Committee is seriously

concerned about the significantly scaled down plans and seeks professional advice on their impact on the Great Hall's viability.

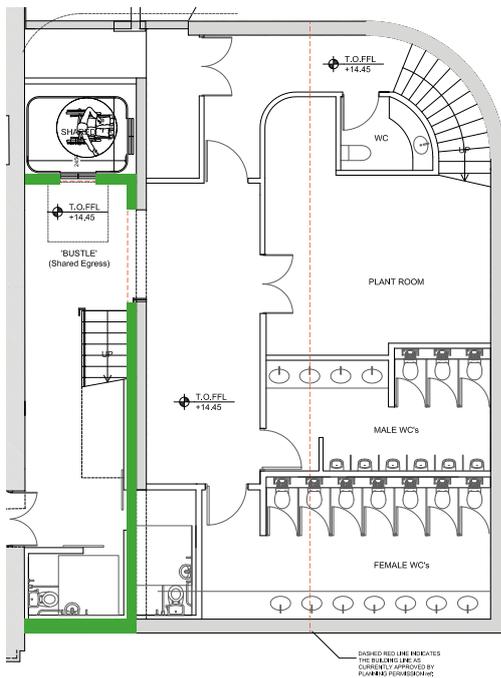
FEBRUARY 2016 – The report from Hopkins Architects comments in detail on the revised plans and their adverse effect on the viability of the Great Hall. It concludes :

“.....it is the Great Hall that has the greater need for the facilities of escape, disabled access and WC provision. Unless they are provided the Great Hall cannot hope to operate as a place for large scale events for the hospital or other purposes. The long-term sustainability of the Great Hall is at stake and will be further prejudiced if it cannot become a self-sustaining venue for want of adequate facilities.”

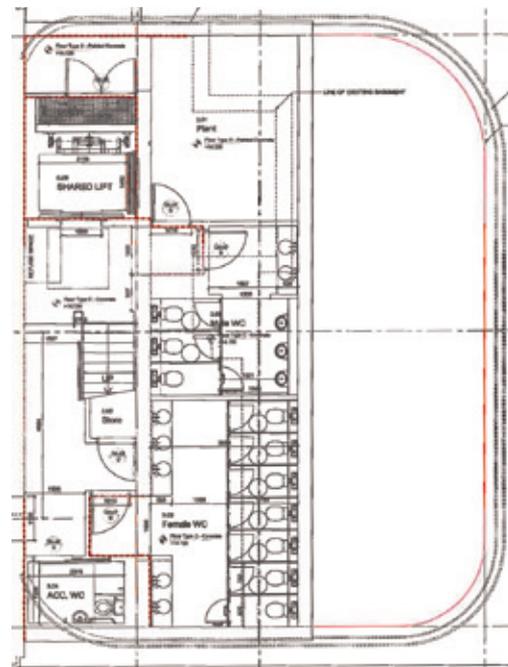
The Friends, Hopkins Architects, SAVE Britain's Heritage and others oppose the revised plans.

Following this report The Friends' lawyers write to the other parties (Maggie's, Barts NHS Trust and the City of London) stating that the planning application (16/00030/FULL) for a “minor material amendment” amends the scheme approved in February 2015 and that the proposed amendments are not minor but go to the heart of the viability of the Great Hall.

MARCH 2016 – Maggie's request a meeting with the Friends. Maggie's accepts their revised plan will require a variation of the settlement agreement and state that there has been a “misunderstanding” regarding consultation. They ask for help in mitigating the extra costs either, by our accepting the revised plans with much reduced facilities for the Great Hall or, by providing financial assistance. Within 48 hours further modified plans are offered to the Friends. After due consideration and consultation, the Friends Committee meets on 31 March and unanimously agrees the latest plans are unacceptable. On 4 April this is communicated to Maggie's and within hours Maggie's confirm that they will implement the agreed (February 2015) plans (see below).



Basement plan agreed February 2015



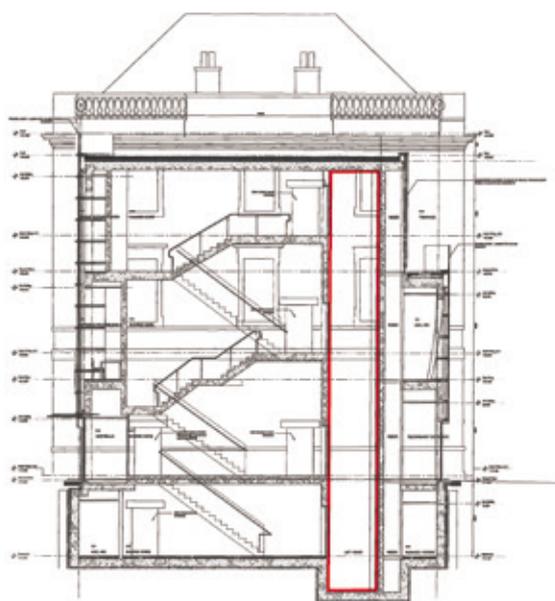
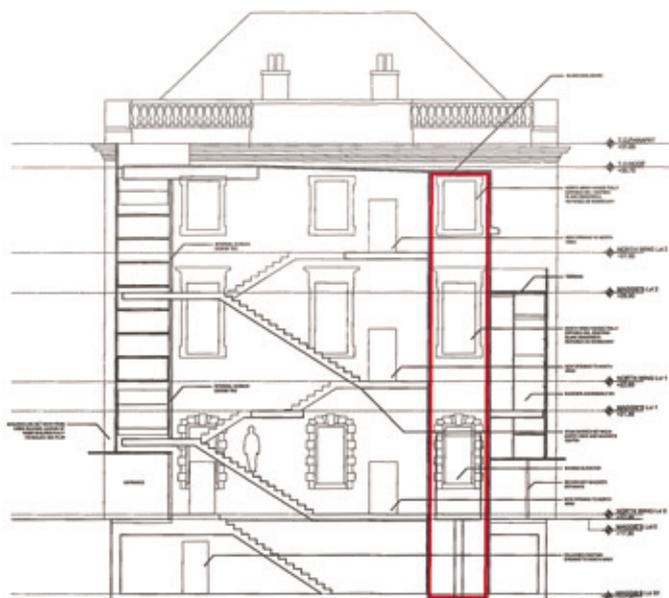
Proposed 2016 plan rejected by The Friends

EAST ELEVATION

Top section: In the plans agreed in February 2015, the lift shaft, outlined in red, shows the lift aligned with the blind windows. The agreed plan was to ensure that the internal “bustle” is seen as belonging to the restored James Gibbs east elevation.

Bottom section : In the revised plan (January 2016, to meet cost reductions for Maggie's), the smaller lift cuts through the blind windows which is visually ugly while the lift is pushed further into the bustle. This significantly reduces the space available for circulation and alters the staircase proportions. In addition the plans proposed changes to the glazed roof of the bustle.

These proposed changes were rejected by The Friends.



*The east elevation of the North Wing
seen for the first time for 100 years*

A “HERITAGE TRUST”

The aim of the Friends is to help secure a sustainable future for the North Wing and its Great Hall, the adjacent historic buildings including the Gatehouse, and the priceless Barts’ archives. A “heritage trust” to manage these assets is commonly agreed as the way forward. In December 2014, the Barts NHS Trust agreed to the formation of such a heritage trust with a target date of 1 December 2015.

During 2015 almost all the top management at the Barts NHS Trust (the Chairman, CEO, Finance Director and others) “stepped down”, and the Trust was placed in special measures.

At the initiative of Sir Marcus Setchell, he and the new Trust Chairman John Bacon met in September for a briefing on the situation. In November, Michael Smith, Chairman of the Barts Charity, convened a meeting of the Friends, the Charity and the NHS Trust to take forward the establishment of a heritage trust. The Charity commissioned a study of

the prospects for viability of a heritage trust. The report by Gryphon Properties (February 2016) updated the Hopkins Architects 2009 Options Study commissioned by the then Barts and the London NHS Trust. The 2016 report outlines the possibilities for greater use and income generation of the Great Hall, provided facilities are upgraded and estimates the cost of restoration and improvement at about £11m.

By November 2015 there was no evidence of any progress by the NHS Trust towards setting up a heritage trust by the December 1st target date, The Friends had no option but to remind the Trust of its obligation but it claimed the lack of action was because of the absence of senior management for most of the year. There was no attempt to inform or to apologise for the inaction.

The Friends Committee generously agreed to an extension to 31 March 2016, and it is understood that the legal framework for such a Trust has been prepared.

Dinner, 14 May 2015

Marcus Binney CBE President of SAVE Britain's Heritage gave a rousing and encouraging after-dinner speech pledging the support of SAVE for the Friends' fight to preserve the Great Hall. He recounted many of SAVE's campaigns which had seemed impossible but through dogged determination had been successful. Edward Fox recited John Betjeman's "The Town Clerk's Views" an amusing and appropriately waspish poem about bureaucracy and planning.



Marcus Binney

Many attending said it was one of the best meals and most enjoyable Great Hall evenings they had ever had.

Visit to Bletchley Park

A group of Friends enjoyed a fascinating educational tour of Bletchley Park in June. For Tim Clement-Jones it was particularly poignant as he visited the huts where his parents met during their wartime work. Thanks to the Bletchley Park Trust many of the huts are being restored and are well worth a visit.



Lord Clement-Jones

Keeping in Touch

- If you move house, change jobs or e-mail address, please send your up-to-date details to the email or the postal address below.
- Please ensure your membership and standing order are up to date.

8th Archive Lecture



Prof. Mark Caulfield

"William Harvey and St. Bartholomew's Hospital."

Professor Mark Caulfield, Director of the William Harvey Research Centre delivered the 8th Archive lecture on 9 February, 2016. His illustrated lecture covered the life and work of the revolutionary C17th physician who discovered how blood is pumped around our bodies, his education at Cambridge and Padua, his work in London and in Europe. His association with Barts is celebrated by the annual "William Harvey Day Scientific Meeting" and the eponymous Research Centre. Prof. Caulfield concluded by citing as part of Harvey's legacy, current cardiac research including the value of beetroot juice in preventing arterial disease, the Genomics England project and the opening in 2015 of the Bart's Heart Centre, the largest cardiac unit in Europe.

New sound system for Great Hall

The lack of an effective sound system, no longer provided by the Barts NHS Trust, has meant expensive, but unsatisfactory, hiring of equipment for events. Thanks to a generous grant from the Barts Guild, a new, improved and unobtrusive sound system has just been installed after approval by relevant heritage and planning bodies.

Friends' Committee

Sir Marcus Setchell (Chairman)
Dr Julian Axe (Hon.Treasurer) Dr Julius Bourke,
Dr Heather Hackett, Alison Knapp, Prof. Gerald Libby,
Mary Morgan (Convenor).

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