

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

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019



Two Chairmen

The Heritage Trust

Restored East Elevation

Events

Members Information

From the Chairman

Seven years ago the Friends' Committee met for the first time in March 2012. This followed a year of inaugural events in 2011 including a performance by Edward Fox of "Trollope in Bassetshire" and a dinner in December, masterminded by Gerald Libby, which confirmed that there was an appetite to take the embryonic Friends' organisation forward.

Our aims were, and remain, simple:

- To promote awareness and support for the heritage buildings, archives and art works
- To campaign for the sustainability of the heritage buildings
- To support those responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the buildings.

We embarked on a programme to support those aims, including an annual dinner, continuation of the Archive Lecture, a newsletter and other related events. However, by the end of 2012 it became clear that there was a major threat to the future viability of the North Wing from the Maggie's Centre which was supported by the Hospital Trust.

As has been fully reported in previous Newsletters the Friends became the sole champion of the heritage buildings and the clear sense of purpose which underpinned our campaign ensured that our efforts in resisting hostile planning proposals resulted in major

functional benefits which are pictured inside and already in use:

- lift access to the Great Hall and other floors
- an internal "bustle" which shows the restored Gibbs east elevation with entrances to the North Wing
- disabled access from The Square remains to be completed (see p.3).
- additional new toilet facilities in the basement for the exclusive use of the Great Hall

Importantly, a key success was the establishment of a heritage trust – **St. Bartholomew's Heritage**, which is now up and running (see p.2). Personally, I shall never forget that it was the Friends' passion and support for the Great Hall *and Archive* that pushed the start button for the Heritage Trust.

It is timely for me to step down now and devote more time to the Heritage Trust. I am enormously grateful to and proud of the committee members who have given their time freely and generously to so many challenging tasks. Not once did they question whether we should continue. We have been sustained by the enthusiastic support of our members, as well as lawyers, architects, SAVE Britain's Heritage, and numerous others.

A big thank you to all.

Marcus Setchell

Get Involved

If you would like to help The Friends by joining the committee or becoming a member, please get in touch using the contact details on Page 4.

Future Events

Lunch: Saturday, 19 October 2019

Archive Lecture: March 2020 (tbc)



Dr Robert Treharne Jones, incoming Chairman, with Sir Marcus Setchell, outgoing Chairman on the Hogarth Stairs.

New Chairman

Robert Treharne Jones came up to Bart's in October 1970, and during his student career became Captain of the Boat Club, and Editor of the Bart's Journal (when he interviewed a new consultant named Marcus Setchell), before publishing the last edition of 'Round the Fountain' in 1977.

Robert went on to pursue a career in general practice in the West Country before his longstanding interest in IT caused him to start a medical software company, and he left his practice to pursue his interests in health informatics and rowing commentary. Robert is still clinical director of LumiraDx Care Solutions Ltd, and has commented on rowing events all over the world, including the Olympic Games in Beijing, London and Rio.

"I can still remember the first time I walked into the Great Hall all those years ago and, for me, the 'wow' factor remains just as strong every time I walk up the Hogarth Stairs" he said.

"The Friends have done sterling work to preserve the integrity of these buildings, despite formidable obstacles which have been thrown their way, and the support of our Members has been crucial in helping maintain the momentum."

"Visitors to the Great Hall never fail to be impressed by what is still one of the hidden gems of the City of London, and I look forward to the day when we can help restore the entire Barts Heritage site to its former glory, and allow even more people to enjoy these historic assets" he added.

The Heritage Trust

HERITAGE TRUST

St. Bartholomew's Heritage was set up in April 2016 although the target date of the agreement between The Friends and Barts NHS Trust had been December 2015.

MEMBERS

Michael Smith. Chairman. Former Chairman of Barts Charity;

Sir Marcus Setchell. Vice-Chairman; Chairman of Friends of the Great Hall 2012-2019.

Prof. Charles Knight. Chief Executive, Bart's Hospital Site, Consultant Cardiologist.

Mark Pemberton. Former Director National Collections, English Heritage 2001-15.

Brendan Finucane QC. Positions on Arts bodies: Royal Academy; City and Guilds.

Robert Treharne Jones. Chairman, Friends of the Great Hall 2019- (see above).

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Heritage Trust meets monthly and to date:

- has taken over responsibility from The Friends for the development of the west end which will provide enlarged and enhanced catering facilities for the North Wing. This is a direct result of the success of The Friends

in securing the agreement of Barts NHS Trust to this space: without this the North Wing would not have had a sustainable future.

- has commissioned conservation architects Donald Insall Associates to produce a Master Plan with associated structural, services and quantity survey costings.
- is preparing a Business Case, as is the Barts Health Trust, so that a long lease can be agreed which will transfer the heritage assets and their management to the Heritage Trust.
- has raised funds for start-up costs, set up financial and accounting support and appointed lawyers.
- is in the process of appointing full-time executive staff for fund-raising and project management .
- is re-submitting an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- is developing a website which includes The Friends of the Great Hall and Archive: www.bartsheritage.org.uk (see below).
- is working to facilitate the transfer of The Friends' data and funds from the Barts Charity.

The overall aim is for a major restoration in time for the 900th Anniversary of Barts in 2023.

The screenshot shows the Barts Heritage website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Museum & History, Buildings, Venue Hire, News, Friends, and Donate. The main content area features a large image of the Great Hall with the text "Renovating our Grade I Listed Buildings" overlaid. Below this, there are three smaller images with captions: "Visit the Museum", "The Great Hall", and "The Hogarth Stair".

Visit the Museum
The hospital's long history is brought to life through a permanent exhibition of archives, objects and works of art.

The Great Hall
The Great Hall is the central jewel in the crown of this magnificent if yet unrecognised Heritage Site.

The Hogarth Stair
The Great Hall is approached by way of the Hogarth Stair, the walls of which were decorated by William Hogarth (1697-1764)

SUMMER LUNCH May 2017

On a glorious Saturday in May, almost 100 guests enjoyed a buffet lunch in the Great Hall. We were entertained to a beautiful and moving *a capella* recital by Evoke, offered as a taster for an event in November. About 100 guests were joined by fourteen members of the 14th Decennial Group of Bart's Graduates (1946-1955 vintage) and after lunch, Professor Sir Brian Jarman spoke, nearly 25 years on, about the Tomlinson Report on the reorganisation of London's medicine and its proposal to close Bart's. However, Bart's survived and guests including some from overseas toured the new world-class cardiac centre which has arisen phoenix-like from the threatened closure of Bart's.



WINE AND SONG Nov 2017



Once again, we were treated to some sublime music from the chamber choir Evoke with an intriguing and innovative offering of wine pairing with music rather than food. The themes explored Life and Land, Romantic Germany and Italian Fire. We were encouraged to link the wines with the music, and to try to identify where the wines came from – Tenerife was something of a challenge! The event attracted a new audience to the Great Hall and an opportunity for the Friends to increase awareness of what one new face described as “a hidden gem”.

A Nine Century Panoply of Treasures 9th Archive Lecture, 10 October, 2017

The lecture was given by Jonathan Evans, Medical Archivist, historian and Barts NHS Trust Archivist from 1991 to 2017. He highlighted the unique holdings in the Bart's archive, from the founding by Rahere in 1123, through Henry VIII's grant of Letters Patent in 1547 which established a system of governance, largely unchanged until the advent of the NHS in 1948. More recent items included the campaign material to “Save Bart's” in the early nineties.



R: Grant from Rahere to the Clerk, 1137

The Roman City of London 10th Archive Lecture, 13 November, 2018

Francis Grew, Senior Curator of Archaeology at The Museum of London, gave an illustrated talk on the Roman origins of London. Founded nearly 2000 years ago, Londinium was a Roman City for four centuries. We were given an illustrated tour of the main sites: the harbour, amphitheatre, Temple of Mithras and houses with mosaic pavements. He also described archaeological discoveries in the grounds of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, including the grave of a young woman, buried with her favourite bracelets.

Both lectures were well attended and followed by a buffet supper giving guests opportunities to meet old and new friends.

Friends' Committee

Dr Julian Axe, (Hon. Treasurer), Dr Heather Hackett, Dr Mike Kellett, Alison Knapp, Prof. Gerald Libby (2012-19), Mary Morgan (Convenor), Dr Edward Rowland, Sir Marcus Setchell (Chairman 2012-2019), Dr Robert Treharne Jones (Chairman 2019-), Dr Judy Webb (Membership Secretary).

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