



# Gainsborough House Newsletter

There will be a meeting of Patrons, Directors & Members of the Association on Thursday 4th of November @ 7.00pm



SAG on 7 Sept @ 2.00pm

The Action Committee, which is spearheading changes at Gainsborough House, meets on Thursday 17th of September @ 7.00pm

## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY OF GH

Gainsborough House has undergone Phase 2 of the refurbishment of its commercial Kitchen to bring it up to standard. Phase 1 was done last year.

The Kitchen has had the following improvements;

- New flooring under Health & Safety
- White tiles replaced with stainless steel cladding under Food & Hygiene.
- Re wiring to make safe & the plumbing overhauled
- Re decorated in blue contrasting against the stainless steel walls.
- Annual Deep Clean
- Linked to the Fire Alarm under Health & Safety & Fire Regulations
- The rear has been re modelled after the garage door was highlighted under Food & Hygiene.
- The emergency lighting & security system improved.

The end product is a spanking 'state of the art' kitchen 'to die for'!

The bulk of work was contracted out, however there had been a terrific input from volunteers & Zena Top Nosh.

If GH had not updated its Kitchen then this commercial entity would have been closed down. This cannot be allowed to happen. It is some 30 years since it was revamped.

GH is investing in the future in order to secure long term sustainability, thereby enabling this resource to continue delivering a first class Community service. The work has been protracted & sincere apologies for any inconvenience to patrons & volunteers.

## WLDC CIVIC RECEPTION SALUTES 45 YEARS SERVICE

WLDC, which holds Gainsborough House in trust, is to hold a Civic Reception on Friday 10th of September to honour 45 years service of Gainsborough House Community Association, which was established on the 1st of October 1965, in the Public Library. Its formation coincided with a building vacated by the YEB, which had just come on the market & the Urban District Council, under its Clerk, Mr William McIntyre, purchased it for the association. With financial input from the Whitton family & several others, the building was reconfigured & opened officially in 1978. It is

'Gainsborough's Village Hall', ideally placed for access within the town centre & situated Conservation Area flanking both the Old Hall & the Parish Church.

## THE NERVE CENTRE OF GH OPERATIONS GOES 'WEST'

The Office, which has been positioned along the corridor leading to Ping Hall, has been relocated for three reasons;

**Security** — keep a better eye on people entering the complex.

To **better facilitate** visitors on entry into GH from Parnell Street. Despite notices, the public do find it difficult accessing the office & this move may be an improvement.

**Open it up** to greater accessibility, its former position did not help that.

The office was too 'hidden' within the building. The move was considered last year however we ran out of time with the summer re opening in 2009. The office has a **brand new computer** to replace the second hand one, which has been fully appreciated, however it had come to the end of its working days.

In order to run any concern, today you require a computer. It is a vital tool & resource which GH depends upon to manage its administration.



Angie, 'Thank you for raising, with Friends from Heapham, £100 for Gainsborough House in a recent Car Boot Sale'

## MARY'S PIE & PEA SUPPER WITH BINGO - 24 SEPT @ 6.30PM

Tickets [ priced @ £4 each] are now available for Pie & Pea Supper held traditionally on the last Friday evening in September. The fare will be home cooked by Zena Top Nosh.



GH is grateful to all those, who have so far put their names down, to help on the night.

GH needs at least 23k a year, [that is about £443 per week] to be sustainable & every effort to raise funding is greatly appreciated. See you on the night!

Have you noticed that the dingy unwelcoming porches into GH have received a lick of white emulsion to brighten them up.

First impressions count & GH wants to be welcoming!

GH has also experienced a de cluttering of notices!

Tim's & Charlotte's Parachute Jump for GH is due August 26 at Hibaldstow.

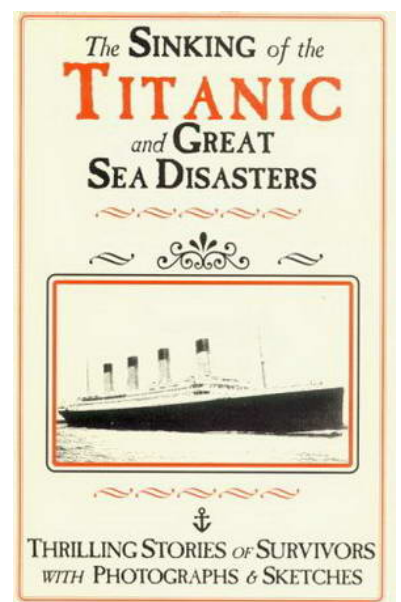


We wish them Well.

GH is planing several events for 2010/11.

One is a talk, the date to be confirmed, by our Ecumenical chaplain, the Rev Philip Wain who has agreed to share his life time interest in the 'Sinking of the Titanic'.

Watch this Space!

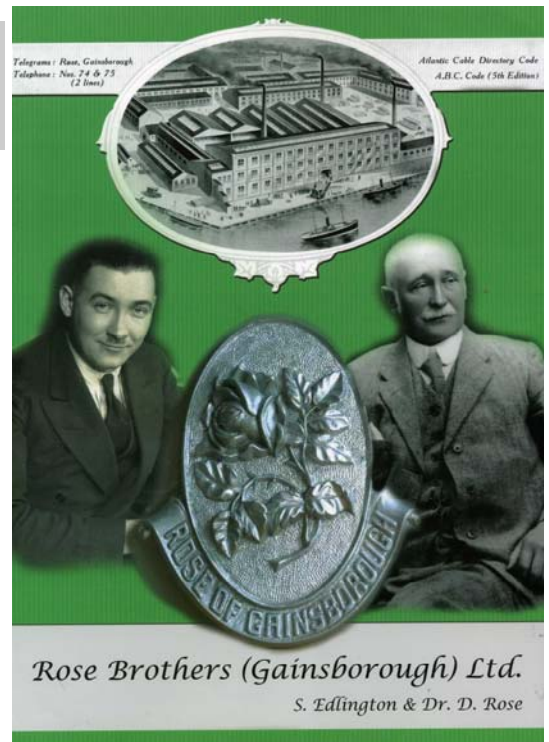


## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Gainsborough & District Heritage Society is staging its exhibition on Roses Bros the weekend of Nov 27/28 which coincides with the Old Hall Christmas Craft Fayre & the Sunday Xmas Charity Market. Over 300 people came to see the first exhibition, which was staged in Gainsborough House, many of whom had never stepped foot into the building!

Books & other literature will be on sale. Ticket admission includes light refreshment from Zena Top Nosh, our resident catering service provider.

A leaflet on the history of GH is in preparation to help visitors learn about this delightful building both of its past & of its current roles within the Community.



## NO MORE TREADING THE BOARDS AT GH!

The stage in the Ping Hall, the focus of many social activities in the past, which has not been used for the past 10 years or more, has finally been removed. It had become a dumping area for all & everything & an unsightly space. It was removed with the help of volun-

teers. It would have cost £500 on one estimate & nearly £1,000 on another, undaunted, they removed it for free! It's removal has opened up Ping Hall on the west side allowing more natural light into the Hall. The drapes & door curtains have also been removed to allow a greater

openness & sense of space that has not been enjoyed for years. The stage went up thirty five years ago in 1975.

A large Xmas tree will be gifted once more & shall occupy the far corner of this newly revealed space from early December!

{ Have you seen the New time piece in Ping Hall — now you can see the clock face & read the time clearly from the west end ! }

## GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

GH has commissioned greetings cards in a pack of 3 for sale at the Office. Each pack costs £1.80p { @ 60p each } and come with a quality envelopes in a protective cover. The card is blank inside! Two are scenes of the River Trent, whilst the third is of Gainsborough Old Hall **see to the right** > Proceeds after costs, go to GH. Appreciation goes to langhanprint for undertaking the printing & the design of the poster.





**What's in a Picture — what was there before GH.**



Have you ever wondered what the area was like before Gainsborough House was built on virgin soil, The drawing to the left gives us a clue. It is dated 18c, can you spy the balustrades of the Parish Church to the bottom left! the Old Hall is the focus and the buildings to the right were demolished c 1878. The grounds to the Manor House are extensive & incorporate the area of Gainsborough House. But can you also spy to the top left, a row of houses with a timber framed gable, these were demolished in the 19c for the building of Bright St, one included the William IV pub abutting upto the Hickman Arms on Lord St which is now a solicitor's practice. By the end of the 19c, Parnell St & Gladstone St had been built. In 1905, the Gainsborough General Dispensary was built. Can you spot the sail mast !



'Gainsborough House' nearly became known by two other contenders; 'Churchill House', Sir Winston Spencer Churchill had died earlier in January 1965, [ he had visited Gainsborough in the 1905 general election & had stayed at Thonock Hall]

However, it nearly became known as 'Kennedy House', after John F Kennedy, the 35th President of the USA, who had been assassinated in November 1963, in Dallas.



**NEW GOLD LOUNGE**

The Gold Lounge has moved to where the Office was located. It is now much nearer services such as the Kitchenette & toilets. It can still accommodate the same number of people. The room has a panic alarm just in case of problems. Contemporary seating is being looked into to attract a younger generation to hire. A new name for the lounge is also under consideration.

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**Did you know?** that **Dame Sybil Thorndyke** once visited

**DISTINGUISHED VISITORS**



in October 1968. She was born at the vicarage, then located where the John Robinson Memorial Church was built & where her father lived as resident curate. **HRH Princess Anne** also visited Gainsborough House, when she opened the traveller's site in September 1984 on Summargang Lane.

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**A HISTORY OF GH**

A brief history of Gainsborough House is in preparation & will be available at the Civic Reception. It is hoped to have a small exhibition for guests to appreciate the

**STOP PRESS**

Mrs Jane Rasburn is to retire from her post as Administrative Assistant from the 1st of January 2011 for family reasons.

*Jane says that she "will miss the dedicated team of volunteers, who are the backbone of GH."*