

## Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust

### The Trustees of BHBT

**Sir Ian Mills** (Chairman) lives in Lewisham in retirement after a career with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. He is Chairman of the Borough of Lewisham's Independent Remuneration Advisory panel and a past Chairman of the NHS Executive in London, St Christopher's Hospice and the St Margaret, Lee Restoration Fund.

**Tim Barnes** (Trustee) lives in Greenwich and is a practising QC. He is Chairman of the Greenwich Society and on the Board of the Greenwich & Bexley Cottage Hospice.

**Charles Batchelor** (Trustee) lives in Lee and is a journalist with the Financial Times. He is chairman of the Lee Manor Society.

**Sir Geoffrey Chipperfield** (Trustee) was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Energy and Permanent Secretary and Chief Executive of the Property Services Agency. He has recently retired as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Kent. He lives in Blackheath.

**Penny Jonas** (Trustee) lived for many years in Blackheath and was a Director and then Chairman of the Board of Blackheath Halls during the restoration of the Great Hall. She is a fundraising consultant, working in music and education and is on the Board of the London Sinfonietta and Endymion Ensemble.

**Julia Maynard** (Trustee) lives in Blackheath. Before retirement she was a solicitor at Linklaters. She is a Director of the Blackheath Preservation Trust Limited.

**Sir David Nicholas** (Trustee) has lived in Blackheath for 50 years. He is the former Chairman and Editor of Independent Television News.

### Further information

Specifications, drawings, and Quantity Surveyors assessments are available from Sir Ian Mills BHBT, 60 Belmont Hill, London SE13 5DN tel/fax 020 8852 2457, email [ianmills@mysector.co.uk](mailto:ianmills@mysector.co.uk).

## Boones Chapel Appeal



Boones Chapel is one of only two Grade 1 Listed Buildings in the London Borough of Lewisham. The other is St Pauls Church, Deptford. It is a unique survival of a small chapel built initially for the Boones Almshouses, and is described in Pevsner as 'a delightful little brick rectangle with stone trimmings.'

The Chapel was constructed in 1682. The architect is unknown. Although the quality of design has led many to conclude that it is the work of Sir Christopher Wren, it is more likely to be by one of his close colleagues such as Robert Hook.

The Chapel has been semi-derelict since 1945 and is at the top of the English Heritage's Buildings At Risk Register. It is steadily deteriorating.

The lease of the Chapel is now held by the Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust, (BHBT), a charity whose trustees have strong local connections.

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## Restoration Plan



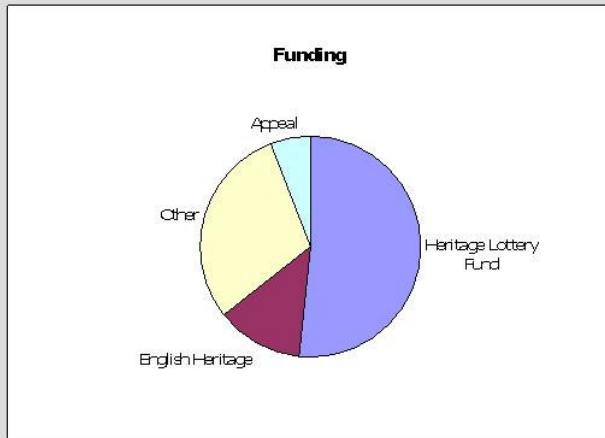
A comprehensive restoration plan has been drawn up for the Chapel by BHBT together with Research Design, a local firm of architects. This has been approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and English Heritage as well as the London Borough of Lewisham which has granted planning permission for the works.

The cost of the restoration works will be £507,000. Of this sum, £262,000 has been committed by the Heritage Lottery Fund and £65,000 by English Heritage. Research Design is committed to investing £125,000 in the cost of the works.

The appeal is for £30,000 to provide the final balance of the building works and enable the project to proceed with a minimum of delay.

When restored, the Chapel will be used as an architects' studio. However, it will also be used to stage regular public exhibitions on architectural, design and heritage themes and become a valuable community asset.

The Trustees are personally committed to the successful restoration of the Chapel after 60 years of neglect. They have organised ground clearing and gardening work around the chapel and are contributing to the cost of the project.



## Boones Chapel and its Locality



Boones Chapel fronts directly on to Lee High Road and is on the edge of the Merchant Taylors Almshouses site. This part of South East London is deficient in historic and high quality buildings, and the restoration of the Chapel, together ideally with the opening to the public of the gardens to the almshouses would comprise a significant improvement in urban space. Its restoration in place of the graffiti daubed, overgrown and semi-derelict building presently there, would greatly enhance the local landscape.

### How the space will work.

The Chapel is a single room with a high ceiling. Historic panelling has to be repaired and retained. The original stone floor will be exposed and cleaned. A small service building with catering and disabled toilet facilities will be constructed in the garden immediately to the north of the chapel. During office hours the architects' practice will work on a central table with all documentation and typical office support equipment in a moveable storage unit. The public exhibitions will be mounted around the internal walls, result in the building being open to the public for a minimum of 30 days a year and add to the educational, cultural and training facilities of the Borough.



### Local interest

The project is welcomed and supported by the London Borough of Lewisham and by local amenity societies such as the Blackheath and Lee Manor Societies. Indeed the involvement of the local community is integral to the successful completion of the project. At the recent Open House week-end, 620 local people visited the Chapel, (a variety of ages, cultures and interests), and they all supported the efforts to re-open it and use it as a focus for public events.