



# The Robert Anderson Research Charitable Trust

*Helping the brightest and best to succeed*

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**Newsletter • June 2019**

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Dear friends,

Welcome to the first issue of what we hope will become a regular newsletter for supporters of the Robert Anderson Trust - for Robert's friends and those who have come to know the work of his Trust more recently. At the time of writing, the first of this year's visiting students and scholars have arrived, and we are looking forward to another busy year ahead.

This year we will receive more visitors at our Kensington and Highgate houses than ever before. An ambitious programme of renovations at the houses will be put on hold while our guests are here but will resume in the winter. The rationalizing of the Trust's portfolio of properties has now reached an important juncture with the sale of a property in Mayfield, Sussex, bought by Dr Anderson's father, releasing funds which for many years to come will allow us to continue to invite the finest students and scholars to London and to provide them with a comfortable and stimulating environment. In order to realize the Trust's full potential, however, we are going to need your help. This newsletter is intended to keep you informed of recent goings on at the Trust, what is planned for the coming year, and how, in future, you might be able to contribute.

From all of us at the Trust, thanks for reading and thanks for your support.

## Visiting Students and Scholars

In 2017 the Trust launched its first website, an online 'shop-front' to tell the world about the Founder, the legacy he left in the Trust, and its current work. One of our priorities in this was to reach as many students and scholars who might be interested in applying to visit London with the Trust's support as possible. In autumn that year we created a dedicated page inviting applications for visits in 2018. We received 154 applications - almost eight times as many as in the previous year - from fifteen countries, including several that were entirely new to the Trust.



*Above: Nine of the twenty-two students who were offered places to study in London with the Trust's support during 2018*

Of course, the number of applicants greatly exceeded the number the Trust could accommodate in the year, creating a fierce competition for awards. After a rigorous selection process, places were awarded to twenty-two students, from Australia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Italy, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain and the USA. All proved to be excellent guests both in terms of their academic work and contribution to the households in Kensington and Highgate. The programme of visits in Kensington was deliberately delayed until June in order to ensure that renovations taking place over the winter (see below) could be completed before any visitors arrived, but the improvements to the house also allowed the extension of the programme to later in the year - the end of November - than had been the case in previous years.

All our visitors were invited to provide short reports on their time with us, with photographs, and these have been posted to the Trust's website where they serve not only to help promote the Trust's work but, we hope, to encourage further applications in future.

#### **In 2019**

The application process was slightly modified for 2019, making the sifting of application forms much easier, but again the number of applications was very high at 92 leading, again, to a difficult selection process but also to another highly promising group of visitors.



*Ali Hassan Hassan Eid at the British Museum*

The first visitors of the year both in Kensington and Highgate had both been with us before - a testament both to the appeal of what the Trust has to offer, and to the impression each made during

their first visit. Dr Pavlos Antonatos, Curator with the Greek Ministry of Culture (Highgate) undertook a study of Coptic (Egyptian) textiles in the British, Petrie and V&A Museums during April 2019. Danielle Smith of Macquarie University, Sydney, who came to London in 2018 to undertake research for her Master's degree in Egyptology, returned in April to take up an internship in the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan at the British Museum and stayed with us in Kensington for her first month back in London. In May the Kensington house also hosted Ali Hassan Hassan Eid, an Egyptian student of Egyptology at the Freieuniversität, Berlin for a month of study towards his doctorate at the British Museum and Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

#### **Resident Music Scholar**

'Jack' (Hotung) Wong was first invited to live at 54 Hornton Street by Dr Anderson in 2013 at the beginning of his degree at the Royal Academy of Music.



*(L-R): Jack, Dr Anderson and Jack's mother Suet Fan at Harrow School in 2013*

In 2017 the Trustees invited him to become the inaugural Resident Music Scholar, for the duration of his Master's degree in Performance (Repetiteur) at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (2017-19). We are sure that Dr Anderson would be thrilled, but perhaps not surprised, by everything Jack has achieved up to now. During the summer of 2018 Jack spent a very productive month at the Verbier Festival, having been awarded a place on the first Conducting Mentorship Programme, assisting and collaborating with internationally renowned conductors. He has been extremely active throughout his current scholarship in arranging performances of the Hornton Chamber Orchestra (HCO) of which he is founder, musical director, conductor and occasional pianist and violinist.

A particular highlight was their performance of Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Op. 22 at Cadogan Hall on 27 May 2018. Jack has also continued to work with amateur group Opera Integra, and as Director of Music at St Anselm's Church, North Lambeth.



*Jack conducting the HCO at Cadogan Hall in May 2018.  
Photo by Liz Isles*

### **A New Resident Scholar for 2019**

Jack's residential scholarship will come to an end when he finishes his Master's degree in summer 2019. During 2018 the Trust entered into discussions with representatives of the Royal College of Music (RCM) with a view to offering the next scholarship to a student of theirs. Three deserving candidates were met by the Trustees in May 2019. All were excellent. However, the Trust could only support one and we are delighted to announce that the Trust's next Resident Music Scholar will be David Hedley, an oboist who will be with us for the duration of his Master's degree at the RCM from September 2019.

Jack will be giving a farewell performance as Resident Music Student at the Trust's summer concert in June 2019. We will be sad to see him leave the house after so many years in residence but excited to watch his career develop in future - and of course we very much look forward to welcoming David to the house at the start of the new academic year in September.

### **Equipping Our Houses for the Future**

Dr Anderson left two houses in London to the Trust. Both are listed buildings, in historic and desirable neighbourhoods. In 2018 the Trust embarked on an ambitious programme of renovations beginning with 54 Hornton Street, the larger of the two houses and Dr Anderson's home until his death in 2015. The house sits at the end of a fine terrace of houses built in 1905, all of

which are now listed (grade 2\*). Many of the original features are still in place and beautifully complemented by Dr Anderson's collections of furniture, architectural drawings and other artworks, souvenirs from his travels around the world, and substantial collection of books.



*Kasia Kapiiec, one of the Trust's 2018 visitors, outside no. 54 Hornton Street*

Until recently, however, the house had no heating system, the hot water system was ineffective, the bathrooms and kitchen were in urgent need of refurbishment and modernization, and most parts of the house were in need of redecoration.

In spring 2018 a new hot water system was installed, and the bathrooms renovated. In June 2018 energy-efficient electric radiators were installed throughout the building. In February 2019 the kitchen was comprehensively refurbished, providing much more storage and workspace for residents, and new energy-efficient appliances. In addition, the old curtains were removed, revealing the original wood panelling which had been hidden behind them, and a disused electric heater was removed from the fireplace revealing the original features, including the original tiling which was also restored. Lastly in April 2019 several sections of the wallpaper and plaster work in the halls and stairways which had been damaged by water and general decay were repaired, and all areas were comprehensively repainted.



*The fireplace in Dr Anderson's kitchen at Hornton Street, restored in 2019*

The house has now largely been returned to its former glory and is much more comfortable and equipped to accommodate a greater number of residents, in particular at colder times of year when previously the intermittent supply of hot water and absence of a heating system made accommodating visitors hard to sustain. This has increased the Trust's capacity to carry out its work, and to generate revenue through informal lets to lodgers. Overall, much fuller use of the house can be made now, with three rooms given over for the reception of our full-time Music Scholar and short-term Trust visitors.

### **Hawkins Bequest & Plans for the Future**

The much-needed refurbishment work at Hornton Street could not have been undertaken without the funds provided by a generous bequest from the late Mrs Joan Hawkins, a friend of the Founder and supporter of the Trust's work. The remainder of the bequest, and the sale of a third property in Mayfield, Sussex, will enable the Trust to proceed with the next stage of its plans for the houses: our focus now turns to the second London property in Highgate where a new kitchen, heating system and other refurbishments are urgently required.

Once this work is completed the two houses will be ready to host twenty to thirty students every year. However, it is clear that the maintenance of these properties, the Trust's main material assets, will require significant investment on an ongoing basis.

### **Support our work**

The London houses are essential to the Trust's work. They are important and historic properties

in their own right, the more so for their connection to the Founder, Dr Anderson. The Trustees are committed to an ongoing programme of modernisation, maintenance and repair that will ensure that we can provide a safe and comfortable environment in which our scholars can work, relax, take the opportunity to mix with other scholars and enjoy everything London has to offer. The Trust is also determined to ensure that the houses continue to convey something of the spirit of the founder and his interests, and of the Trust's underlying values - devotion to scholarship, a broad range of specialisms, and a commitment to excellence of all kinds - through all the books, musical instruments, artworks and furniture that Robert collected over many years and which meant so much to him.

The Trust, which we aim to make a fitting tribute to Robert's life, achievements and values, would not exist without the generous legacy he left. The current programme of maintenance and repairs could not have been undertaken without the aid of bequests received in recent years. Future work will depend on our attracting further help from our network of supporters.

Those of us who have been entrusted with maintaining and extending Robert's legacy feel the great privilege of doing so but also a great responsibility. We are determined to make the Trust as useful as it can be, and to help as many of the best students as we can, as Robert would have wished. With more support we will be able to extend this mission in the years to come.

If you would like to speak to the Trust's representatives about how you can support our work, please contact:

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 020 7937 5146.

**Thank you!**

