

# Ham House: Celebrating 400 Years

## Sing Loud, Sing Proud.

It's not everyday that you celebrate a 400<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Unsurprisingly, there were a multitude of problems facing the National Trust and St Mary's University College in doing the momentous occasion justice.

The decision to have local choirs soundtrack the festivities, however, was an easy one to reach. With choirs spread across the vast gardens, our vision is of a warm summer evening, where the sound of harmonious singing fills the air. The atmosphere will be contagious and those in attendance will join in, wishing Ham House a very happy Birthday.

Choosing the songs to sing has been more difficult. Two decisions have been made so far. Choirs will be singing *Take That's' Never Forget* and Madness's contemporary classic *Our House*.

We are still searching for one final song to sing, and this is where we need your help. We are looking for a song relevant to Ham House, its history and its position within the local community. Most importantly, we are looking for a song that is accessible; if the attendees would like to sing along then we need to make this possible.

If you have any suggestions for the third song, please contact St Mary's using the information provided below.



Working in partnership with the National Trust, St Mary's University College is proud to be involved in the creation of a momentous event.

The residents of Ham & Petersham and its surrounding areas will parade through the village in a celebration of the community's diversity and its rich cultural history. Confirmed participants in the parade include local bell ringers, Morris dancers, schools, law enforcement, social groups and businesses.

The spectacle will continue into Ham House gardens, (pictured above) where the spectators of the parade will begin to participate. Scattered among the crowds in each corner of the immense gardens, over twenty choirs will unite the gathering masses in song using their harmonic platform to encourage vocal participation. The residents of Ham and the surrounding areas have plenty to sing about. As well as a well documented regal history, the area benefits from a village mentality that enables it to function differently to many other parts of London – with a large community influence. The National Trust and St Mary's are inviting you to help create the festivities and make the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 a Birthday the spectators and participants will, 'Never Forget.'

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