



# The Friends of Osterley Park



*A Supporters Group for the National Trust*

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

Spring 1993

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Ian Conacher

#### Making contact - I

The Spring issue of the National Trust's Thames & Chilterns Region Newsletter gives front page prominence to Osterley Park. The need to inform local residents of the Trust's role and their proposals for change is stressed. To further help achieving this objective, a leaflet has been prepared and distributed to 20,000 homes in the district around the Park. A copy of it is enclosed for members of the "Friends".

The leaflet announces the setting-up of an "Information Point" in the Stable Yard on Sunday afternoons between 12 noon and 4pm. Barry Williams hopes that many "Friends" and users of the Park will stop by for a chat.

#### Making contact - II

Barry has also arranged a series of "Exclusive Guided Tours" for Friends on Wednesday 31st March - further details enclosed with reply form.

#### Making contact - III

Following a review of the Friends' activities, it was felt that more contact should be made with the volunteer stewards at the House, and that consideration should be given to having joint events.

One field worth investigating is that of visits and outings, where a larger number of potential participants could make it possible to fill a larger coach. We have asked Jim Tickle to join us on the Committee and to take on the job of "Outings Organiser". His proposal for a trip in Wiltshire in May is given on page 3. Plans for the late Summer will appear in our June issue.

#### Making contact - IV

One further area of concern is that of recruitment for the Friends. We hope to visit this year a number of local fairs and similar events with a recruiting stall, but the real recruiting effort must come from our ability in providing an interesting programme of events for members so that our reputation spreads by word of mouth and you, the Members, are encouraged to persuade your friends and relations to join.

We would be glad to hear from Members who have suggestions to make as to how we can improve our programme and increase our membership.

#### Switching contacts

I am sorry to have to report that Andy Anderson, our Hon. Treasurer since the formation of the Friends in 1990, has for family reasons decided to resign from this post. We shall miss his wealth of experience in working with the Trust.

We are however fortunate in that David Bothwell has agreed to take on these duties from 1st April. David lives in Jersey Road, near the gates of the Park - and can therefore truly be described as a "close Friend"!

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions for 1993-1994 are now due. A renewal form is enclosed with this letter.



## CAROLS AT SUNSET

The performance by the Hanwell Festival Choir in the Stable Yard on Saturday 19th December was unfortunately cut short by the weather. Heavy clouds obscured the sunset, and what began as "Scotch mist" deteriorated into a steady drizzle which somewhat damped the spirits - and more particularly the music - of the choir. Our thanks are due to them for a brave effort under difficult conditions.

The gloom was somewhat relieved by the mulled wine dispensed - free of charge - to the choir, to the Friends and to casual visitors to the Park who joined in the singing. It had been hoped to sell this wine in aid of the Stair Climber Appeal, but belatedly it was realised that this would conflict with the Licensing Laws. Thus the bold decision was made to give it away - a decision justified by the collection of £140, all of which was paid into the Stair Climber Appeal Fund.

Our thanks are due to Committee members John Robertson for liaising with the Choir, Dudley Foy for his services as Sound Engineer, and Christina Scherer and Olivier Vorms for the preparation of the mulled wine, and also to the House staff for permission to use the Tea-room and Courtyard for the event.

## PROJECTING NEW IMAGES

The Friends Winter Lectures season is proving very successful. We have had audiences of about fifty for each of the first three speakers.

Ted Fawcett demonstrated his skills as a dowser and discussed how these were being applied to the restoration of the Pleasure Gardens at Osterley.

Angus Wainwright showed slides illustrating archaeological features of sites in the Thames & Chilterns Region, and photographs depicting the changes of use of parts of the Tudor Stables at Osterley. He also produced a fragment of Tudor tile recently discovered at Osterley showing the "Grasshopper" used by Thomas Gresham as his "Trade Mark".

Andrea Cameron described the changing fortunes - and loyalties - of residents in the principal houses in the present London Borough of Hounslow during the 17th Century. Evidently, the famous vicar of Bray was not the only one to change his allegiances as the tide swung between King and Parliament.

The final lecture in the series will be given by Jean Martin on **10th March**, after we have closed for press.

All the speakers will have made use of the new slide projector purchased by the Friends at the cost of just under £500, for joint use at the House and by the Friends.

## UPLIFTING NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and organisations, over £4,000 has been raised for the purchase of a "Scala-Mobil" Stair Climber. The machine will lift disabled visitors, either in their own wheelchair or in one of the chairs already available at the House, up the twenty steps of the Portico to the principal floor level.

Our thanks are due in particular to Barnet National Trust Association, who included a sum for this Appeal as part of a large donation made to the Regional Office at Hughenden, and also to Heston Rotary Club for a generous contribution to this project.

These donations brought the total raised by the Appeal to within £1,000 of the cost of this machine, and the balance will be covered by the grant offered by the London Borough of Hounslow Disabled Access Fund.

The machine has already been delivered so that operators can be trained during this month. As announced in the 1993 Members Handbook, this facility will be available to visitors from April 1st.

### WANTED

A Minute Secretary for the Committee, with typing or word processing skills!  
Please apply to Ian Conacher, on (081) 560 8523.



## **SONGS FOR SPRINGTIME - CANTANTI CAMERATI**

Cantanti Camerati are a well known choral group based in Richmond who have previously given concerts at Osterley Park House. We have been fortunate to secure their talents for a concert of springtime music in the Long Gallery on **Saturday 15th May, at 8:00pm.**

The soloist will be Alison Renvoize, mezzo-soprano, who will be accompanied on the harpsichord by the Choir's conductor Geoffrey Bowyer, M.Mus.

Tickets for this concert will cost £5.00, which will include a glass of wine in the interval. Numbers are limited, so early application is advised! A booking form has been included with this Newsletter.

## **VISIT TO HEDDINGTON, LACOCK & AVEBURY**

A coach outing to Wiltshire has been arranged for **Monday 24th May.** Leaving Osterley at 9am, we will travel to Heddington, home of the Child family whose son Francis was the founder of Child's bank and grandfather of Francis and Robert Child, who financed the remodelling of Osterley House by Robert Adam.

We will then travel on for a few miles to the village of Lacock, owned by the National Trust. Here we shall be able to visit Lacock Abbey and the Fox-Talbot Museum of Photography. Lunch can be obtained in the village. On the return journey, we shall call at Avebury with time to inspect the stone circle and visit the museum, returning to Osterley at about 7pm.

The cost of this trip will be £7.50, plus admission charges to the properties for non-members of the National Trust. A booking slip is included with this Newsletter. Volunteers at the House are also being invited to join this trip. Further coach outings are under consideration for later on this year. Possible venues include a trip to Hampstead to visit Fenton House (NT) and Kenwood with its Robert Adam interiors. Other possibilities are Hatchlands Park in Sussex, again with Robert Adam's work, combined with Clandon Park, and Nymans Gardens and Standen House - also in Sussex.

We are also considering arranging local visits by car or by public transport. One possibility is a guided tour of Syon House - again with Robert Adam features.

Ideas for visits will be welcomed. Please contact Jim Tickle on (081) 894 4174.

## **OTHER EVENTS AT OSTERLEY**

On **Saturday 21st March** Kevin Mills, Assistant Head Gardener, will lead a guided walk round the Park. Party to assemble at the Stable Yard at 2.30pm. There will be a small charge.

In April, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will lead two walks around the estate. The first will be at 10am on **Sunday 11th April.** The second - "Breakfast with the Birds" - will start at 4.45am on **Sunday 25th** and will be followed by breakfast in the Tea Room. For details of charges and reservations, please contact the House (081 - 560 3918).

Also on **25th April**, the Humber Post-Vintage Car Club holds its Spring meeting at Osterley. 8am to 5pm.

**Wednesday 12th May** is the National Trust's "Free Entrance Day", when Osterley House - along with many other properties - will be open to the public without charge from 1pm to 5pm.

The **Ealing National Trust Association** are holding a Gala Concert at the House on **Saturday 19th June**, featuring a performance by the Paganini Ensemble, with leader Jean-Jacques Kantorow. Tickets at £25 (including wine and buffet supper) can be obtained from Ken Goff 41, Gloucester Road, Ealing, London W5 4AJ.

On **Sunday 25th July**, the Herts & Middlesex Bat Group have arranged an illustrated talk and estate walk at 7.30pm. Details can be obtained from the House.

On **Saturday 31st July**, Osterley plays host to the qualifying heats for the British Petanque Association Championship. 9.30am to 5pm.

## **WALKS & TALKS**

In addition to the walks shown above, guided walks and talks about various aspects of Osterley will take place in the park on most Sundays during the Spring and Summer. These will be advertised on the park noticeboard, by the lake.



## OSTERLEY-IN-WONDERLAND !

The Queen of Hearts Gardeners in "Alice" had to paint the white roses red. Almost as strange were the actions of an advertising agency shooting a TV commercial at Osterley recently when, in order to give the illusion of Springtime, they had the trees "in shot" decked with artificial leaves!

"WYKE GREEN" will - hopefully - resume his "Pottering in the Park" in time for our next issue.

### *Osterley Park - Opening Hours 1993*

<b>HOUSE</b>	1st April - End October	Wednesday to Saturday Sundays & Bank Holidays Closed Good Friday	1pm-5pm 11am-5pm
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Last admission: 4.30pm

Admission Fees:	Adults	£3.50
	Children	£1.75
	Family	£9.00
	Free to N.T. Members	

**PARK** Open all year round, every day, until 7.30pm or sunset if earlier

**CAR PARK** Open all year round, same hours as Park

Admission Charge: £1 per car (free to N.T. Members)

<b>TEA ROOM</b>	1st April - End October	Wednesday to Sunday (also Bank Holiday Monday) Open Good Friday	11.30am - 5pm
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Tea and light lunches, served in Tudor Stables

#### **"BATRICARS"**

The Batricar Service re-opens on Sunday 2nd May and thereafter on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays between 2pm and 5pm.

### *Friends of Osterley Park - Committee Members*

Ian Conacher	Chairman	(081) 560 8523
David Bothwell	Hon. Treasurer	(081) 568 7373
Audrey Ebison	Membership Secretary	(081) 560 6313
Dudley Foy	Batricar Organiser	(081) 570 8900
Olive Marke	E.N.T.A. representative	(081) 998 8104
Christina Scherer	Newsletter Editor	(081) 992 3946
Olivier Vorms	Administration	(081) 560 2754
John Robertson		(081) 892 6753
Jim Tickle	Outings Organiser	(081) 894 4174

#### **VOLUNTERS NEEDED AT THE HOUSE**

Volunteers play an important role in the day-to-day running of the House. A list of opportunities is enclosed. If you feel that you may contribute, Christine Williams would like to hear from you on (081) 560 3918.