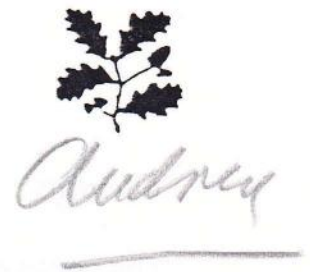




The Friends of Osterley Park



A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 18

Summer 1995

Centenary Summer

Ian Conacher

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Outings

The series of excursions, organised by Jim Tickle, has been very well supported. The August visit to Stourhead is now fully booked, but there are still a few seats available for the outings to Charlecote Park on 11th September, and to Snowhill Manor and Hailes Abbey on 9th October. Contact Jim for further details on 0181 894-4174.

Annual General Meeting

The formal notice of the A.G.M. is enclosed. This will be held on Monday, 10th October, 1995, at 7 pm in the Servant's Hall of the House. Once the business had been completed, we hope that Members will stay to enjoy a glass of wine. There will be a chance to see the Exhibition of Photographs in the galleries.

A Lost Treasure(r)

Early in March, we learnt from our Hon. Treasurer, David Bothwell, that he had at last sold his house in Jersey Road, and was preparing to move to Dorset. This was not altogether unexpected, as his house had been up for sale for some time, but due to the state of the market there had been little interest.

His departure was hastened by the desire of his purchaser for early completion, with the result that your Chairman, with the approval of the Committee, took over the books, the role of Acting Treasurer, and the job of preparing the Accounts for the end of the financial year!

It is only by doing a job oneself that one learns how much effort goes into it. In this case, my experience has brought home to me how much the 'Friends' owe to David for the work he has done over the past two years, since taking over from Andy Anderson in 1993.

We wish David well in his new location, close to his grandchildren in Poole.

Approaches are being made to certain members who might agree to be co-opted to this important job for the 'Friends'. We hope that this appointment will be endorsed by the A.G.M. in October.

An Unsung Treasure

"Full many a rose is born to blush unseen...". and it was with some twinges of conscience that I realised after publication of our last issue that no acknowledgement had been given to the key figure in the presentation of these Newsletters, Margaret Friday.

Margaret copes with the pressures of a demanding job, and still finds time for many hours as a Room Steward at the House and for voluntary work for other organisations. In recent weeks, she has been very much taken up with the arrangements for her daughter's wedding.

In spite of all this, she has still found time for the compilation of an attractive magazine, with a very professional presentation.

Recently, Margaret has exercised her skills in preparing the new 'Friends' leaflet for printing. We have had a number of favourable comments on the presentation of this, and we hope it will result in an influx of new members.

News from the House

Osterley House, being the Thames & Chiltern Regional showpiece for Centenary Year, had been filled with activity in the past three months. The Director-General, Sir Angus Stirling spent a day at the property in early April, to celebrate the opening of the galleries on the ground floor. During his visit, he met a number of volunteers and friends.

During May and June, these galleries were filled with an exhibition of contemporary art, on show to visitors to the House. The kitchen and other basement rooms were also on display.

In June, the "Sculpture Trail" in the Pleasure Grounds was set up. A selection of sculptures are now set alongside the newly planted beds in front of the Adam Garden House. The beds themselves are flourishing, reproducing the planting schemes of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Cattle are now well-established in the Great Meadow, and succeed not only in cropping the grass, but also in establishing a distinctive "browse line" on the trees, marking the height to which the cattle can stretch to eat the lower leaves.

After the winter rains, the lakes appear well filled, and attract a variety of water-fowl - including the ubiquitous and raucous Canada Geese. Clutches of Mallard ducklings have been seen on the Garden Lake, and a very tame heron patrols the pathway, close to the toddlers feeding bread to the ducks.

The stillness of a stalking heron can cause confusion. Barry tells us that one visitor objected to the "plastic" bird on top of the pagoda!

Events at the House

The major National Trust event this summer is the return of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, on Saturday 5th August, at 7.30 pm.

The car park opens at 5 pm. and guests may picnic on the lawn before and during the concert. The evening will conclude with a firework display. Tickets, price £12 Adult; £6 child, may be obtained from the Information Point in the Stable yard during house opening hours, or from the Regional Box-Office at Hughenden - Telephone 02494-522234. This event is usually a sell-out so hurry to book now!

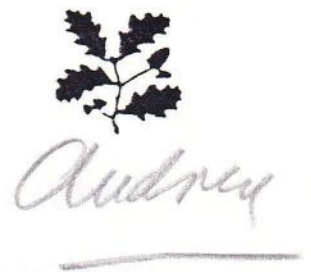
From 14th July to the end of September, an Exhibition of Archive Photographs from the National Trust Library will be displayed in the House, together with "Images of the National Trust" - an exhibition of work by contemporary photographers.

An exhibition of the work of the finalists in the Trust's Centenary Photographic Competition will follow - dates to be announced.

Free Entry Day will be Wednesday, 13th September - a chance for non-members to visit the House without charge (except for car parking).



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