



# The Friends of Osterley Park



*A Supporters Group for the National Trust*

Issue 25

NEWSLETTER

April 1997

## *Chairman's Notes*

*Ian Conacher*

March 31st marked the end of another year for the "Friends" - a year of quiet progress and consolidation. Financially, I believe it has been a good year; we have been able to make a number of significant donations to the Trust for specific projects. Principal among these is funding the construction of bases for the Chinese jars in the Long Gallery, delivery of which has now begun.

Socially too, it has been a good year. We were able to hold two events for Members at the Property - the Private View of the Enterprise Neptune paintings of Charles Neal, and the social and talk combined with the A.G.M.

Our notable successes were once again the excursions organised by Jim Tickle, and the Winter Lecture season. Both of these have earned modest profits for the "Friends" and ultimately the Trust, but more importantly have brought Members together socially.

Jim's visits were again superbly organised - how does he always arrange for fine weather? Their reputation is such that most of this year's trips are already sold out!

The winter lectures were to my mind particularly worthwhile this year. The average attendance was up, and the buzz of conversation as members exchanged news and views before and after the talks was livelier than ever.

We were fortunate with our speakers. Anthea Palmer's twin-screen presentation of her talk on developments at Osterley over the last few years shed new light on many areas; Chris Howkins gave an interesting talk on the mysteries of charcoal burning, which will particularly be remembered for the explanation of the function of a one-legged stool, and Andrea Cameron's talk on Boston Manor House and its links with Osterley will hopefully inspire many of us to visit in the coming summer.

Particular thanks are due to Pamela Wright, who stood in at short notice when the booked speaker was obliged to cancel. Her talk on the development of the English Country House was much appreciated. We hope to have another talk from her in the near future.

Thanks are also due to all those members who helped out on these occasions - the ladies preparing and serving coffee, and those who assisted by setting out the chairs and clearing them away at the end of the evening. Thanks are also due to Lewis Orton who performed most efficiently at the ticket desk.

Looking ahead to the new season, your Committee have a number of events in preparation, both "public" and for the "Friends". Details of these will be found on the following pages.

## *News from The House*

The House re-opened on 26th March for the new season, allowing a few days "running-in" before the Easter Holiday weekend. Prior to this, Training Sessions were held for Volunteers - informal gatherings at which Barry gave us an update on various aspects of our duties, and also information about staffing and plans for events during the coming season.

Sally Rogers, who has been appointed as "Custodian", attended these sessions, and will take up her post early in April. Following "arm twisting" by the Chairman, she has written the account of her travels and experiences so far - these appear on other pages in this Newsletter.

Sally will be assisted in the House by Jenny Dadd, the House Steward, and by Sian Evans, who will also be the Co-ordinator for Volunteers. Keren Manley, who was at the House on a temporary basis last year, will now act as admin and visitor services assistant.

Rebecca Burton, from the Public Affairs department at Hughenden, will be spending half of her time at Osterley, where she will be dealing with "Events" and promoting the use of the property for filming.

Graham Rogers, Sally's husband, will be a mobile recruiter, based in a LandRover in the Car Park.

House tickets will now be sold in the Entrance Hall rather than in the Information Point in the Stable Yard. One new concession is that the cost of Carparking - now £2 will be refunded to non-members of the Trust visiting the House.

This strengthened team should help things to run smoothly during what promises to be a very busy Season at Osterley.


## *Excursions 1997*

Jim Tickle has been the victim of his own success, in that following publication of the programme for this season's excursions in our last issue, he was inundated with ticket applications, as a result, many trips are now fully booked and there are only a few seats left on others. Members who have not yet booked should ring Jim on 0181-894-4174 to check on availability before sending any money.

## *Membership Subscription 1997-8*

Annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st April. Since it was necessary to issue our last Newsletter in February, it was not thought advisable to ask for the payment at that time!

Some members took advantage of a chance to renew at the Winter Lectures - thus saving postage! For the rest, a renewal form is included with this issue.




*Spring Reception for Members.*

*To be held in the Servant's Hall of Osterley Park House on Thursday, 22nd May, commencing at 7pm. Wine will be served, and there will be a private view of the exhibition "A Day in the Life of Osterley", introduced by Barry Williams.*

*Space is limited so please return the acceptance slip found with the subscription renewal form in this Newsletter.*

*RSVP to: Audrey Ebison at 341, Jersey Road, Osterley, TW7 5PJ  
Tickets will not be issued*



*News of Members.*

We were sorry to learn of the death of Roy Hine, of 22 College Road, on 6th March. Our sympathies go to his family and friends.

John Robertson has broken his hip as the result of a heavy fall, and his mobility will be restricted for some time ahead. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Clive Robertson advises that he has set up a web site describing Osterley Park House and listing forthcoming events on:-

<http://www.hypatia.demon.co.uk/Osterley/>

For more information e-mail Clive on [cliver@hypatia.demon.co.uk](mailto:cliver@hypatia.demon.co.uk)

## Major Events at Osterley - Summer 1997

The major events at Osterley this season are listed in the Regional Events Programme, sent to National Trust members in March, and in the enclosed leaflet, published at Osterley. This includes a Booking Form. Bookings may be made by post or by telephone through the Trust's Regional Box Office at Hughenden.

**Saturday, July 5th**



**7 pm. Gates open 6 pm.**

**SHERIDAN'S *THE RIVALS*.** An open-air production by the ReCREATION Theatre Company, in the Pleasure Grounds. A highly energetic interpretation, with mime, song, and dance, in 18th Century costumes. Bring a picnic and seating!  
Tickets: Adult £8, Child £4, Family £20

**Wednesday, July 16th**

**6 pm. Gates open 5.30 pm.**

**BARRIE'S *PETER PAN*.** The Illyria Theatre Company present an open-air production of this childrens' classic.  
Tickets: Adult £7, Child £5, Family £22

**Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th July.**



**7 pm. Gates open 5 pm.**

**SHAKESPEARE IN THE STABLE YARD - *THE TEMPEST*.** The Illyria Theatre Company, well known in other Trust Regions, make their first Shakespearean appearance at Osterley with this classic fantasy. Raked seating provided (not numbered or reserved).  
Picnic in the Park before the show.  
Advance tickets: Adult £10, Child £5, At gate on day - £12

**Saturday, 9th August**

**7.30 pm. Gates open 5.30 pm.**

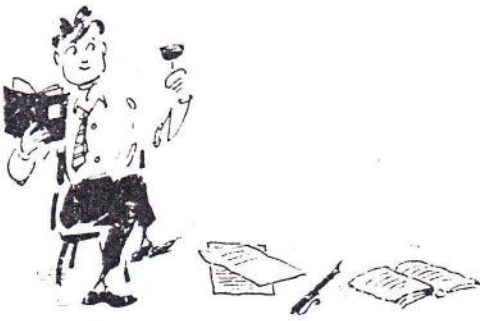
**GLENN MILLER BAND CONCERT.** Dance and picnic to the Big Band Sound of the Forties. Grand firework finale.  
Tickets: Adult £12.50, Child £6, Family £28



*Spring Plant Fair - Sunday 18th May, 11am - 4 pm.*

This is a Nation-wide event, being celebrated at Osterley and at many Trust properties across the country. Stalls are being stocked by several groups, including the "Friends". There will be tours of the Gardens, gardening advice, and a raffle!

There has been a limited response so far to the invitation in our last issue for members to offer plants for sale on the "Friends" stall on this day. If you are able to make any contribution, please contact Ian Conacher on 0181 560-8523.



### *Community Week Events.*

The week starts with *Community Fun Day* on Saturday, July 12th, with displays, demonstrations, and side-shows - including the "Friends" Bric-a-Brac Stall - donations welcome!

The week continues with exhibitions and events, listed on the enclosed leaflet. These include, on Tuesday 15th, at 2.30 pm. a talk entitled *Round and about Osterley* by Andrea Cameron, well known to "Friends" as a regular speaker at our Winter Lectures. Tickets: £5, with afternoon tea and cake.

Also on Tuesday, 15th July, THE COVENT GARDEN MINUET DANCERS make a welcome return visit to Osterley for a performance at 7.30 pm. in the courtyard of the House, with 18th Century dance and costume in an authentic setting.

Their last visit in 1992 was much enjoyed - seating is limited so early booking is essential!

Tickets: £5, to include a glass of wine in the interval.

The Poet, Matthew Sweeney, will be running poetry workshops throughout the week; he will be giving readings to children on Tuesday, 15th, at 4 pm - no charge, but please book your ticket in advance.

On Thursday, 17th, at 7 pm, he will be hosting a Poetry Evening. Tickets for this are £6, with a glass of wine.

On Friday, 18th July, at 7 pm in the stableyard, Tony Underwood will be presenting the West London Opera Company in excerpts from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Raked seating provided. Picnic in the Park before the show!

Tickets: Adult £3, Child £1

For all the Ticket events above, bookings can be made through the Hughenden Box Office, by telephone or using the form on the leaflet.

### *Newsletter Deliveries.*

We have a small team of Members who have volunteered to assist with delivery of the *Newsletter* in the Osterley and Isleworth areas. This has made an appreciable difference to our postage bill, and our sincere - if rather belated - thanks are due to them.

It seems likely that there are other areas where similar arrangements could be made; in particular, there are a number of members in Heston and Norwood Green. Any offers of help should be made to Mrs Audrey Ebison on 0181 560-6313.

I grew up in Kent and worked in the Civil Service in London for a few years before marrying. My husband was in the Royal Navy and we lived in Malta for a couple of years prior to the end of his 12 year service. He then joined the Foreign Office and so began our journeys.

We lived in Ventiane, Laos from 1967-1969, during the Vietnam War. We have many happy memories of that time. Our next posting was to Ankara, Turkey but this time as a family with our elder daughter Gemma from 1969-1972. A very interesting country with so much to offer including wonderful food. A short home posting and then we were off to Dacca, Bangladesh, with a new baby, our younger daughter Suzy. We were one of the first families allowed back into the country after the Civil War; it was a very busy time and often alarming as we experienced three coup d'états and always had a suitcase ready packed in case we had to be air-lifted out. Happily the girls do not remember this part of what was otherwise a delightful time in our lives. I worked in the Immigration Department of the British Consulate during these years.

We had a home posting for a while, which was good to settle the girls and live in our home in Northamptonshire. Then Gemma went off to boarding school and we went off to Moscow. This was at the height of the Cold War, so life was often strange and sometimes unnerving, but with Suzy going to the Anglo-American school; where I also worked, we managed to keep things as normal as we could. With Gemma's much welcome visits, we all have good memories of Russia and its people. I was fortunate in that I helped with visiting British Council book fairs from the UK and was also able to travel to a couple of areas not usually accessible to foreigners. I managed to visit Samarkand in Tashkent and travelled to Ashkhabad with a girlfriend, which was quite an adventure.

1981 saw us in London for a brief spell before an 18 month posting to Zagreb, in what was then Yugoslavia. Suzy had joined Gemma in boarding school so Zagreb was not too far for the girls to come for their school holidays. We had the chance to make some good friends and experience all the different things the Yugoslavs enjoyed sharing with us. Again I was able to work in the American School, which taught many nationalities and many subjects.

Graham was posted to Bangkok in Thailand from 1983-1986 which was a magical time for us all - Graham loved his work as vice-consul. I enjoyed my time at the International School and when the girls came for the holidays they were of an age to appreciate this delightful country. We all came back to England with a great love of Thai food.

During Graham's London posting we read an article about an administrator's life in the National Trust, we thought it sounded very interesting and, as they say, the rest is history.

Graham was the Administrator at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, from 1987 which is how I became bitten with the NT bug!!!!!! I helped him as a volunteer cleaning books, selling Christmas trees at the Park entrance, and with all the amazing/amusing things that can occur when caring for an NT property. I also managed the shop at Attingham Park.

In 1991, Graham was offered the opportunity to run the Automobile Association Training School as its General Manager, so we moved to Leicestershire, but I missed the life of the National Trust and went back to Shropshire to manage the NT shop at Carding Mill Valley, set in great walking country. During this time I applied for a couple of House Steward vacancies and was offered a position at Croft Castle in Herefordshire. I have enjoyed being part of the team entrusted with sharing this lovely property with visitors. I have been able to apply all the conservation skills required by the Trust when caring for the priceless contents given by the Croft family who still live in three areas of the Castle.

I am so looking forward to joining Barry and his team at Osterley Park. The role of Custodian will be very challenging - I have much to learn which I find very exciting.

My interests (when I have time) are reading, walking, food/cooking and entertaining our friends. Gardening is a new joy, so I am pleased to know that we shall have a garden at Osterley.

Graham has taken early retirement and will start work (before me) as Recruiter/Information source in the Park at Osterley.

### *Lost and Found!*

Picture the scene - mother with three children, accompanied by Grandma and Granddad and the dog, walking along the north bank of the Middle Lake in late March. Number One grandson has football, and is told not to play with it because of the risk of losing it in the lake.

Moving up onto level ground near the island, boy kicks ball to Granddad. His return is sliced, and hits a tree, bouncing off and rolling rapidly past him, down the slope and into the water. Strong West wind carries ball inexorably away from shore. Granddad loses all credibility!

Taking careful sight on the line of travel of the ball, Granddad realises that it will come to shore at the Osterley Lane end of the lake. Quick dash along the north shore, through the "Fishermans Gate", and along the lane brings us to the East bank. Ball retrieved with long stick. Credibility at least partially restored!

### *Nature Notes*

The drought conditions commented on in our last issue have continued through the spring, and the Garden Lake is at a very low level. A spell of heavy rain is desperately needed, both in the Park and in our own gardens. The condition of the Lake is not improved by those visitors who dump into it large quantities of stale bread - more than the ducks and fish can ever eat - which causes pollution of the water.

There was a great show of daffodils early in April, which have, as always faded away too soon. These will be succeeded shortly by the display of bluebells in the woodland area.

Jays continue to do well; in my own garden, a flight of three birds were seen, apparently on a reconnaissance mission! Further away, green parakeets have formed

a colony on Isleworth Ait, and are frequently to be seen flying around the district; their raucous in-flight screams make them readily identifiable. One of the first of these "escapees" was to be seen in the Park in the late sixties.

### *Fresh Woods and Pastures New.*

In our last issue, Barry Williams reported that the Trust had acquired a further 62 acres of farmland bordering their original parkland holding at Osterley, in addition to the 153 acres purchased in 1996. The map printed below shows the extent of the Trust's holding.

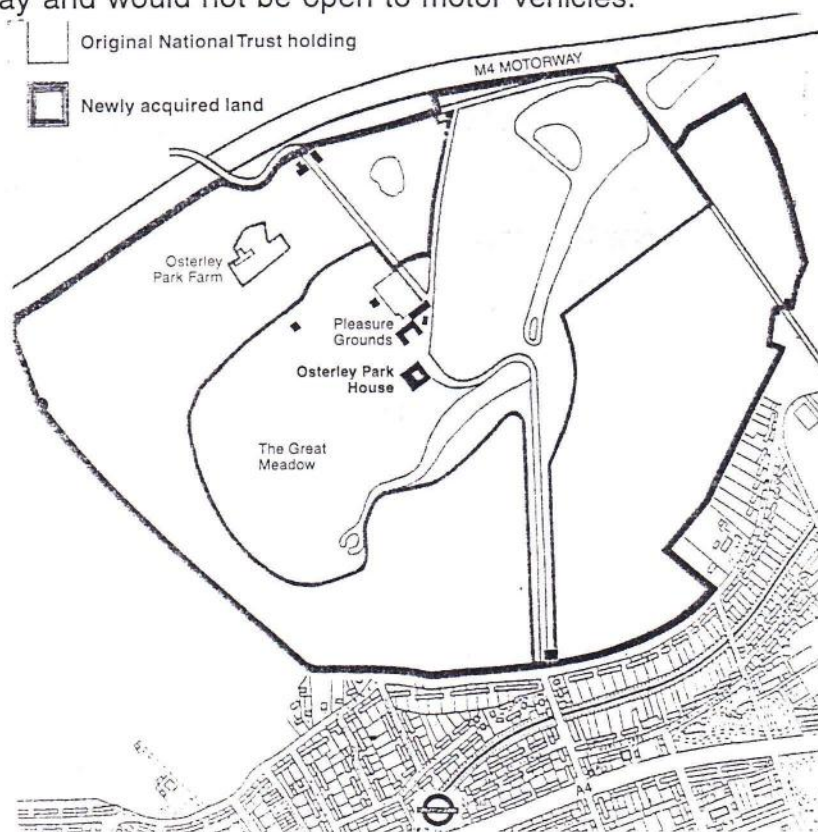
Restoration plans for the newly acquired land have been prepared, and are currently on show in an Exhibition mounted in the Information Point in the Stableyard.

Principal features of the plan include the reinstatement as meadowland of the old, tarmac surfaced Car Park area, and the removal of hedges to open up a parkland vista across the lake from the House.

A screen of trees will be planted to the east of the new Car Park area; trees will also be planted inside the Park walls along Jersey Road, along the fence in Windmill Lane, and along the boundary with the M4.

The chain-link fence along the southern boundary of the Trust's original land south of the Middle Lake has been removed, and a new footpath has been formed linking the new Car Park with Osterley Lane. Scrub clearance will give views of the lake from the path.

In the longer term, improvements at the Osterley Lane entrance are proposed, with the provision of a small Car Park in this area although the lane itself would remain a public bridleway and would not be open to motor vehicles.





## *Deer Hunting on National Trust Land.*

Members' Resolutions on this subject have been discussed at successive General Meetings of the Trust since the early 80's. A resolution calling on the Trust to set up a Working Party to examine the issues of cruelty and animal welfare was carried by a substantial majority at an Extraordinary General Meeting in 1994.

We print below a press release regarding the response of the Council of the Trust to the report of this Working Party:-

11 April 1997

### **END TO DEER HUNTING ON NATIONAL TRUST LAND**

The National Trust Council has agreed unanimously to end deer hunting with hounds on Trust land. This decision was made following a two-year scientific study of suffering caused to red deer by different methods of culling.

In 1995, the Council commissioned Professor Patrick Bateson, Professor of Ethology (Animal Behaviour) and Provost of Kings College, Cambridge, to undertake the study.

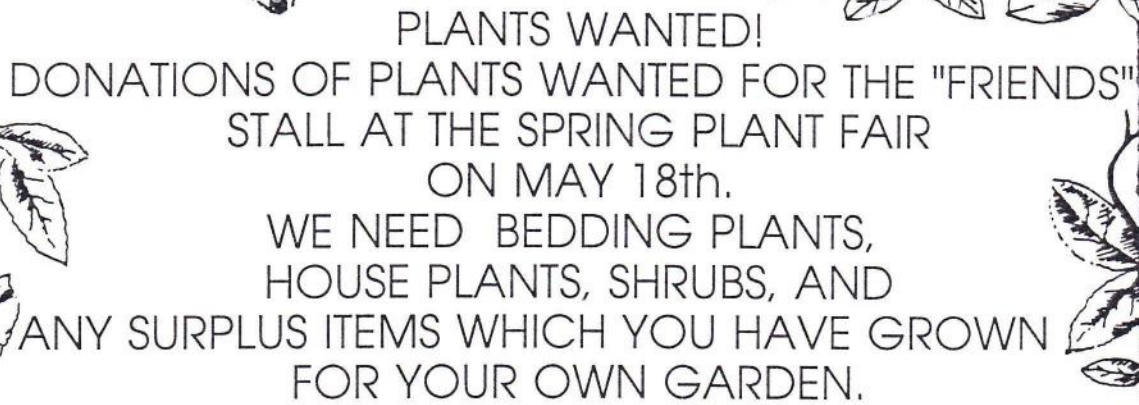
The study found that hunting deer with hounds causes red deer great suffering. The exertion of the chase results in severe stress which is on a par with that produced by severe injuries eg. from road accidents. Such severe effects arise because red deer are highly sedentary animals which have evolved to escape their natural predators by brief sprints. The prolonged exercise imposed on red deer when hunted with hounds is not, in any sense, natural.

The Council accepted Professor Bateson's report and its conclusions which demonstrate that hunting deer with hounds can no longer be justified on welfare grounds, and that shooting deer produces much lower levels of suffering

Licences for hunting red deer on Trust land on Exmore and the Quantocks will run for the remainder of the current season to the 30th April, and will not be renewed for future seasons. The licence to the New Forest Buckhounds, which hunt fallow deer, which expired on 1 April 1997, will not be renewed for future seasons. The Trust is concerned that the non-renewal of hunting licences may have a wider impact on the conservation of deer, and will continue to work with other organisations and local people to ensure the long-term survival of the red deer herds in the West Country.

The Council believes that it would be timely for the Government to set up an expert committee to review the wider issue on suffering in wild animals in the light of the new evidence provided by the Bateson Report. The Trust would co-operate in any such review.


This decision only applies to the hunting of deer with hounds on National Trust land.



PLANTS WANTED!  
DONATIONS OF PLANTS WANTED FOR THE "FRIENDS"  
STALL AT THE SPRING PLANT FAIR  
ON MAY 18th.  
WE NEED BEDDING PLANTS,  
HOUSE PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND  
ANY SURPLUS ITEMS WHICH YOU HAVE GROWN  
FOR YOUR OWN GARDEN.

Space will be available in the poly tunnel in the walled garden for storing these prior to the day, and you may, if you wish, do your potting on.

Please use proper pots - not old yoghurt tubs!  
Please advise Ian Conacher on 560-8523 if you have any contributions.



*Community Day - 12th July 1997*


*"Friends" Bric-a-Brac Stall*

*Donations of good quality items are requested for this -  
Costume Jewellery, unwanted gifts, vases and ornaments  
China and Glass in mint condition  
Good, clean, hardback books*

*Offers to Audrey Conacher on 0181 560-8523.*

*Local collection can be arranged.*

*All proceeds in aid of the National Trust.*



PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS NOT A JUMBLE SALE -  
NO CRACKED CUPS, SAUCEPANS, OLD CLOTHES, BROKEN GRAMOPHONES  
OR SIMILAR JUNK!