

OSTERLEY DAY

SUNDAY, 14TH JULY

11 am - 4 pm

Pictures in the Park, children's open-air theatre,
displays, music, painting and activities.

Free admission to Car Park & House.
(House open 1.00-4.30 pm)

PLUS -

**"FRIENDS" BRIC-A-BRAC
AND TOMBOLA STALLS**

**DONATIONS WANTED FOR
SALE ON THESE!**

China and Glassware, Costume Jewellery, Ornaments,
Hardback Books, Unwanted Gifts, etc.

Ring Audrey Conacher on (020) 8560 8523 with offers.
Collection can be arranged!



The Friends of Osterley Park



A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER 45

*Border decorations by David Coster in 'A Garden Alphabet'
compiled by John Harris for the V & A Garden Exhibition in 1979
Based on Batty Langley's 'Pomona' published in 1729.*



*Highlights of the A.G.M.**Ian Conacher*

The Minutes of this meeting, held on May 15th, will be distributed in a future issue. Unfortunately, our distinguished guest speaker, Carol Reeves, the National Trust's newly appointed Director for the London Area, was unable to be present. This led to a change in the programme for the evening; after members had enjoyed a glass of wine, we moved out into the Pleasure Grounds, where Barry Williams showed us the work being undertaken by the Trust's gardeners in restoring this area to its eighteenth century condition. We then moved to the walled garden, and saw the beds in which Lesley Orton and her team of volunteer gardeners were growing flowers, to provide a succession of blooms from March to October. These would be cut and arranged as displays in the House by a further team of volunteers, led by Jean Grieves.

After a pleasant stroll in the evening sunshine, we returned to the Old Brewhouse for the formal business of the A.G.M.

Reports from the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer were approved unanimously. Attention was drawn to the recent donations by the "Friends" to Osterley. The circular bench around the large willow tree by the lake was now in position, and the "Friends" had undertaken to meet the volunteer gardeners' yearly expenditure on plants and seeds for the displays in the House. The "Friends" would also be paying the cost of the repairs to the roof of the Courtesy Bus - which have now been completed.

The existing Officers and Committee were re-elected "en bloc", as was our Honorary Examiner of the Accounts, Harold Rogers.

The evening concluded with the "100 Club" draw, under the management of Ron Piper. A list of winners is given on another page.

ULTIMATUM!**IAN CONACHER**

Those members who were present at the A.G.M. on 15th May will be aware of the difficult situation in which I find myself. With increasing age and, recently, with some minor health problems, my wife and I are finding it more and more difficult to devote to Osterley the same amount of time and energy we have been able to give in past years, both as volunteers and in support of the "Friends".

By hindsight, this time was given freely but at the cost of work in our own home and garden and even of time for "rest and relaxation" and holiday breaks. No wonder that our family are now telling us to "Get a Life"!

It is therefore my hope that within the next few months I can hand over to other members some of the tasks - in addition to the Chairmanship - which I have assumed for the "Friends" almost since their formation. If this can be done, then I shall be happy to carry on as Chairman for a few more years. If, however, members do not come forward to take up a large part of the load, then I shall be forced to table my resignation at the 2003 A.G.M. I have no wish to continue indefinitely as Chairman and "Lord High Everything Else", with a work load which is becoming ever more difficult to handle in the time available for it!

A list of the jobs which I feel should be created is given on another page. I would ask members who have time to spare to come forward and take up these assignments. Training will be given!

Situations Vacant

To ease the workload on the Chairman and Committee, we need to find members willing to undertake certain specific tasks. Please contact the Chairman or any member of the Committee if you are able to offer help with these duties.

SPEAKER SECRETARY To suggest to the Committee suitable speakers for our Winter Lecture Programme. To confirm bookings and agree fees, etc.

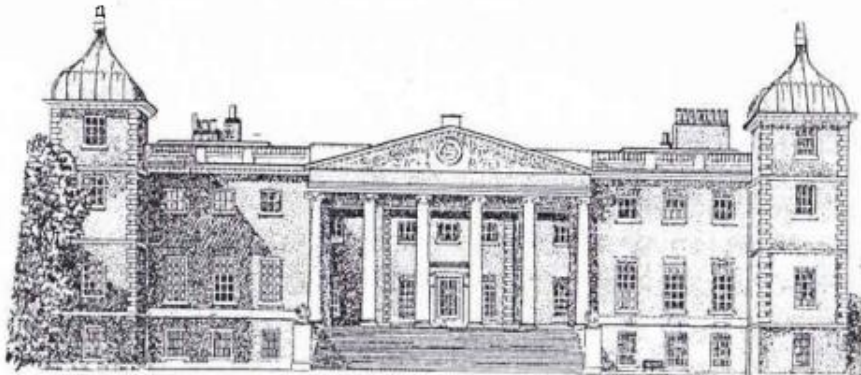
EXHIBITION & PUBLICITY MANAGER To arrange for the preparation of display boards to publicise the work and achievements of the "Friends" at events at the Property. To arrange for these to be displayed with an Information and Recruiting stall at local community fairs etc.

STAGE MANAGER - EVENTS To arrange for the setting up of equipment for events - projector etc for lectures, stalls for open air events in the Park, etc.

LOCAL VISITS MANAGER To arrange trips by public transport (or Members cars) to locations of interest to Members within the Greater London area. To collect bookings and payments for these.

NEWSLETTER REPORTER(S) To write reports on events and activities at the Property, Programmes for Friends and Trust Events, News from the House and Trust, Wildlife in the Park, etc.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS We already have a small and devoted team of members who assist in reducing our postage costs by distributing Newsletters in their neighbourhoods. Our thanks are due to them - but we would like to extend this network. We need volunteers in the Thornbury Road/Osterley Road areas and in Heston.



Our New Look!



For many years, our Newsletter has been typed on A4 pages, the standard size for Office Stationery etc. It is printed on double sized sheets (A3) which have to be folded. However, our printers are unable to collate and fold these sheets by machine; this work has been done manually - largely by the Chairman and his Lady!

Many other groups produce their magazines in the smaller A5 format, printed on A4 sheets and folded. These can be collated, folded, and even stapled mechanically at small extra cost. After brief discussion with members of the Committee immediately before the A.G.M., we put to the meeting the proposal that we should adopt the smaller size, in order to make the task of sending out the 300 copies less labour intensive. This proposal was accepted without any dissenting voices.

Therefore, you see before you the new style of the "Friends" Newsletter. We have endeavoured to maintain the same size of typeface so as not to cause any problems of legibility, and hope that this will be acceptable to all the readership.

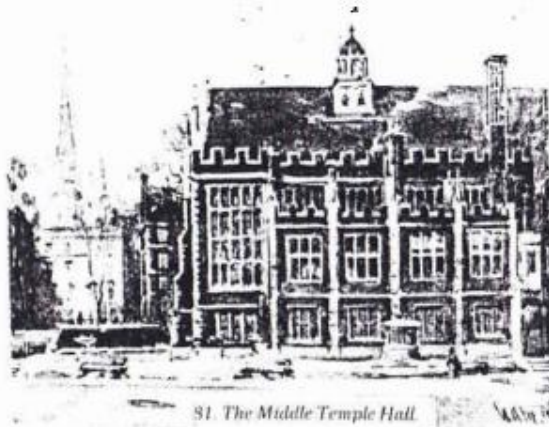
Membership News

We were very sorry to hear from Felicity of the death of her husband, CLIVE BERNSTEIN. Clive was very active in the Tennis world, involved with the organisation each year of the Stella Artois Tournament at the Queen's Club. Although not often seen at Osterley, he gave a great deal of support to Felicity, notably with the setting up of her Tombola stall which has been so successful during the past few years.

GWEN FOY visited Osterley last month with her family, to plant a tree in memory of Dudley, whose death was recorded in our last issue. The first issue of "ACTIVE", the new Trust magazine for

Volunteers, contains an account of Dudley's contribution to the Trust, not only at Osterley but also, after his move to Essex, as National Coordinator of the Battery Car service at Trust properties.

Audrey and I welcomed the arrival of our fifth grandchild in early April - Nicholas Conacher, the second son of Paul and Sarah. Yet another reason for reducing our workload at Osterley, and, in the famous phrase, "spending more time with our family"!



Spring Half Day Trips

Two outings were organised for Members during the Spring. These were inspired by a suggestion from Doris Sherwood, a "Blue Badge" guide to the City of London, who led the first of these on 23rd April. With Doris as leader, we enjoyed a gentle stroll around the lawns of the Temple and were able to spend time in the magnificent Church and the historic Middle Temple Hall.

On 14th May, as a follow-up to Anna Chalcraft's talk in February, we visited Strawberry Hill, the Gothic creation of Horace Walpole. Anna joined the party for a guided tour of the building, which now forms part of St. Mary's College, Teddington. It was most interesting to see how the small cottage, which Walpole had originally rented, was extended and embellished by this remarkable individual. I was particularly impressed by the use of antique stained glass in the windows, and by the Long Gallery.



100 Club

Ron Piper

Numbers have increased slightly since my last report and I have been pleased to welcome some new members to the Club as well as some who have increased their holding which leaves the membership standing at 162.

Renewal invitations are enclosed with this newsletter for those members who have share subscriptions due on 1st July, 2002 and I shall look forward to receiving those cheques next month.

Two draws have taken place since the last newsletter - at the winter lecture on 20th March and at the A.G.M. on 15th May.

Congratulations to the prize winners who were:

£100	69	Mr & Mrs G. Daniel	72	Mr & Mrs Higgs
£50	95	Mrs. U. Francis	43	Mr. J. Stacey
£40	63	Mr. P. Ratcliffe	35	Mr. H. W. Rogers
£20	79	Miss C. Dilwell	137	Mrs. A. Birch
£10	74	Mrs. M. Longhorn	4	Mrs. J. Brookland

The next draw will take place at the Friends Autumn reception - date to be published in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile any "Friend" who is not a member of the 100 Club and would like to join, please telephone me on 020 8864 1092 and I will send you an application form. The Good luck could be yours in the next draw!



Doris Sherwood has kindly offered to lead parties of "Friends" on three short walks in London during the summer months. These will be quite informal - advance booking is not required - just turn up and go! A fee of £3.00 will be collected on the day from those attending. The programme is:-

THURSDAY, 18TH JULY ROYAL PALACES
A walk around St James, passing Marlborough House, Clarence House, and finishing outside Buckingham Palace. From there, Members can if they wish visit the exhibition in the Queens Gallery.

Meet in the Booking Hall of Green Park Station at 2.00 pm.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH WESTMINSTER
A walk around the historic buildings of the City of Westminster. Members may, if they wish, finish by visiting the Cabinet War Rooms or the Banqueting House in Whitehall.

Meet in the Booking Hall of St James' Park Station at 2.00 pm.

TUESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER LINCOLN'S INN & GREY'S INN

A walk around these historic Inns of Court. Members may finish by visiting the Sir John Soane Museum, which contains some of Robert Adam's original drawings.

Meet in the Booking Hall of Chancery Lane Station at 2.00 pm.

Never Believe The Press!

Our attention was caught, back in March, by a report in the "Daily Telegraph", implying that the National Trust were engaged in a bidding war with various millionaires, including Kylie Minogue, to

acquire Tyntesfield House in Somerset. Few details of the property were given and one was left with the impression that the Trust were acting somewhat irresponsibly.

Fortunately, this impression was corrected by a lengthy illustrated article in the Telegraph's weekend magazine some days later, which described the history and contents of the House and gave credence to the Trust's wish to preserve these for the nation.

A massive fund-raising campaign has been launched by the Trust to assist in making this acquisition, and we now note that this is being supported by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. We wish this campaign well, but hope that it will not lead to any dilution of support for existing Properties.

Also in the "Telegraph" last month, one of their columnists suggested that the Trust had acted unwisely in purchasing John Lennon's childhood home in Liverpool. Wrong again! This property was in fact donated by John's widow, Yoko Ono, and with Paul McCartney's former home will add to the "Beatles Experience" which will surely remain an attraction for years to come!

News From The Park



Our resident swans have had problems this year with raising their cygnets. Seven were hatched, but only two are now surviving, due to predation by foxes, and possibly pike and heron. This is in spite of valiant efforts by the cob, chasing away Canada Geese and even an immature swan, possibly of last year's brood, who trespassed on the Lake.

The circular seat, donated by the "Friends", is being much used by visitors, as are the picnic tables which we provided in earlier years. We were glad to find that the roof for the Courtesy Bus, which had been away for repair for many weeks, was fitted in time

for the Jubilee weekend. This carries the "destination boards", which saves the volunteer drivers the somewhat embarrassing task of having to solicit custom from Visitors!

The Rare & Traditional Plant Fair on 26th May was well attended; it was noted that business was brisk during the morning, when enthusiasts came to select their specimens, but tailed off during the afternoon when casual visitors arrived. During the day, Audrey Conacher sold tickets for the "Property Raffle", to the value of £140. Double the sum raised at each Property is donated to the Property management, to be spent on unbudgeted improvements.

The specimen trees at Osterley contribute much to the enjoyment of the Park. I particularly appreciate the Lucombe Oak, opposite the Kiosk by the lake. This is a cross between a Turkey Oak and a Cork Oak, and the bark shows some of the characteristics of the latter. Not only a fine tree, but also a very welcome shelter from the rain for the Courtesy Bus and its driver!

Unfortunately, even specimen trees have a finite life span. The Hungarian Oak in the East Meadow, on the left hand side of the prospect looking from the drive, has died. Kevin tells me that it will be stripped of all hazardous branches, and left standing to provide a habitat for various beetles, fungi and other wildlife.



Lucombe Oak, at Kew

Volunteers Wanted

The Trust's "Peripatetic Gardener", Ron Pilcher, divides his time between Osterley and other London properties such as Fenton House and Sutton House, Recently he has added visits to the Isle of Wight to his job list.

Not surprisingly, therefore, he is seeking additional help, and would be glad to hear from any green-fingered "Friend" who would like to assist him in the presentation of the formal gardens in the Pleasure Grounds to the public. If you wish to have further details, contact Ron on 020 8574 5679.



Art Exhibition in the Study Base

Jacqui Kay

The Heston Art Group is holding an exhibition once again in Osterley Park during Osterley Week. For the first time they will be showing a collection of watercolours, oils and pastels in the Study Base which will be open on July 14th and 17th to 23rd from 11am til 5pm on days when the house is open. Some of the works will be for sale!



Jeeps at Osterley

Margaret Friday

One of the memorable features of the summer big band concerts at Osterley has been the presence of Johnny and his Jeeps. All genuine American WWII vehicles lovingly restored by F.J.C. Wright and his wife Margaret. Johnny first became interested in Jeeps when he was a little boy. His neighbour came back from the Army in a Jeep. Johnny was fascinated and vowed that one day he would drive one too. When he was 40 he saw a Jeep advertised in the local paper and decided to buy it. Since founding the Gerrards Cross Military Group he has purchased several Jeeps and a U.S. Army truck. Original accessories like towing gear are essential for these vehicles are veterans and do break down.

Johnny and his wife and pals also sport U.S. Army uniforms so that they really look the part when they appear in public, in films, re-enactments or on special occasions like the Osterley Big Band Concert. Although Osterley is entertaining with a showing of the cult American film "Grease" on Saturday 24th August this year (followed by fireworks) it is hoped that Johnny and his Jeeps will join us again. The Jeeps with Johnny and his friends in uniform have become a special part of our summer celebrations in Osterley Park.

Although there were some empty seats on the first trip of the season to Wimpole, booking for the remainder are coming in well. If you have any enquiries please phone me (Jim) on 8 894 4174. We now have a reserve waiting list for the 5 day holiday in Norwich. Members hoping to join us on the Norwich Holiday may contact me to be added to the reserve list.



KEDLESTON HALL



Oops!

It is not perhaps surprising to find the odd glitch resulting from the changes in the Trust's Regional structure and boundaries. Many "Friends" and volunteers were surprised to find the South East Newsletter, covering Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, enclosed with the Summer issue of the Trust's Magazine, in place of that for the new "Thames & Solent" Region.

If you require a copy of the latter, ring the Membership Department on 0870 458 4000.



Covent Garden Minuet Dancers performing at Osterley under the Colonnade.

They will be dancing again this year on Saturday 29th June, at the invitation of The Friends of Osterley Park. Gates open 7pm. Tickets £6 including a glass of wine.

OSTERLEY EVENTS

BOLLYWOOD BRASS IN THE PARK

Saturday, 22nd June - 7.30 pm. (E48)*
Adult £12 Child £8 Gates open 6.30 pm

COVENT GARDEN MINUET DANCERS

Saturday 29th June 7.30 pm (E49)
Adult £6 Child £3 Gates open 7.00 pm.

AN EVENING OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Saturday, 20 July 8 pm (E51)
Cushion Concert in the Entrance Hall
Adult £10.00 Child £6.00 Doors Open.30 pm

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

Friday 2nd August 7.30 pm (E52)*
Children's Open-Air Theatre
Adults £9.00 Child £6.00 (3-10) Family £32.00

GREASE

Saturday 24th August 8.30 pm-Gates Open 6.30 pm
Adult £10.00 Child £6.00 (E54)*
FOLLOWED BY FIREWORK FINALE!

BOOKINGS:- By telephone to Regional Box Office - 10494 755572, quoting Reference No (e.g. E54). All Major Credit Cards accepted. Tickets for events starred (*) on sale at Osterley-cash or cheque only