



Christmas Carols
in the Stableyard
at Osterley

Sunday 8 December
and
Sunday 15 December
at 2.30pm



Carols will be led by
Howard Stephens
and the St Mary's Singers

A collection will be taken which will go
towards the Battery Vehicle
maintenance costs.



The Friends of Osterley Park

A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER 46

SEPTEMBER 2002



"Friends" Autumn Reception

**Wednesday, 16th October, 7 pm to 9 pm,
in the Jersey Galleries at Osterley House.**

A chance to view the Exhibition by **Chandos Arts and Crafts**

*This Group are making a return visit to Osterley,
and will be showing landscapes, portraits, and
local subjects in oils, pastel, watercolour and acrylic.*

Plus pottery, wood, and various other crafts.

**Barry Williams will give a short talk, and introduce
Clare Carlin, the Trust's newly appointed
Community Education Officer at Osterley**

*Wine will be served in the wine cellar,
and there will be a chance to view some of the rooms on
the lower floor of the House, including the Strongroom!*

**THE "100 CLUB" PRIZE DRAW WILL
TAKE PLACE DURING THE EVENING!**

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Since May, the personal problems to which I referred in the last Newsletter have multiplied. My wife, Audrey, has been in poor health all summer, culminating in a fortnight's stay in the West Middlesex Hospital for tests. Her condition was stabilised to the point where she was discharged at the end of last month, but further investigations are still proceeding in order to determine the root cause of her problems.

Inevitably, this has meant that I have not been able to devote a great deal of time or thought to the business of the "Friends". I am very grateful for all the practical support given to me by the Committee during the programme of Summer Events, and for all the good wishes to Audrey expressed by Committee Members, "Friends", volunteers, and staff at Osterley.

This situation underlines the need to find more members to come forward to serve on the Committee and take up some of the load which has been borne for far too long by your Chairman. I am receiving ongoing support from existing Committee Members, which is most welcome. However, two members have tendered their resignations; Anne Drakeford has resigned due to personal problems, and Meera Khambadkone is unable to continue due to pressure of work. This leaves us with only seven members against an establishment of ten!

The appeals in the last issue have not produced any response; I hope that in this crisis situation some offers of help will be forthcoming. A particular need is for someone with literary skills, to write articles for the Newsletter and also to keep the local Press informed of our activities and achievements.

On the credit side, the "Friends" are continuing to flourish. The cumulative total of donations to the Trust at Osterley is now well over £30,000. Details of our more recent gifts are given on another page. It is my hope that with continuing support from the membership we can continue to build on this success in the future.

IAN CONACHER

SUMMER EVENTS

The Summer of 2002 saw records for quantity and intensity of rainfall equalled or beaten in many parts of the country, causing much anxiety, if not despair, for the organisers of Open Air events. Fortunately, at Osterley, we have escaped the worst disruption.

The **GREAT WESTERN PRESERVATION JAZZ BAND**, from their Southall Centre, gave a **GOLDEN JUBILEE CONCERT** in the Pleasure Grounds



behind the Walled Garden, on the Jubilee Bank Holiday, 4th June. This free concert - sponsored by the "Friends" - was attended by a capacity crowd, so that latecomers were asked to wait for spaces vacated by those leaving early! Again, we were lucky with the weather.

One added attraction on the day was the array of rhododendron bushes in flower around the arena - slightly past their best, but still very colourful. The "Friends" have arranged a return visit from this Group for the afternoon of next year's Late Spring Bank Holiday, Monday, 26th May. A small admission charge will be made - but the rhododendrons should be at their best!

Also in the Pleasure Grounds, **BOLLYWOOD BRASS** gave a lively and energetic performance on 22nd June, which was well attended. Many visitors arrived late, and would have wished the show to go on longer! Again, the rain held off, and the audience were able to enjoy picnicking on the grass.

The **COVENT GARDEN MINUET DANCERS** made a welcome return to Osterley on June 29th, with the ladies in 18th Century ball gowns and the men in velvet breeches, performing in the courtyard of the House. With good weather again, the audience was larger than anticipated, and extra chairs had to be brought in. As usual, there were opportunities for "audience participation", which were enthusiastically taken up by the visitors. This event was again sponsored by the "Friends", and we anticipate a useful profit!

July 14th dawned bright and fair for **OSTERLEY DAY**; from 9 o'clock onwards the front lawn and Stable Yard were thronged with exhibitors setting up their stalls. Artists were hanging their works on the railings, from the causeway to the stable block, and various groups were setting up displays and stalls.



The "Friends" had their usual "Tombole" and "Bric-a-Brac" stalls, supplemented by a children's "Treasure Hunt", and a separate stall for books, a large number of which had been donated to the Bric-a-Brac appeal.

Committee members and their families, and members of the "Friends" rallied round to assist the setting up and manning of these stalls, as neither Felicity Bernstein nor Audrey were able to devote as much time and energy to these as in past years.

The stallholders were kept very busy: the "Tombola" was so popular that it sold out before the end of the day. The attraction of "A Prize Every Time" for each £1.00 ticket was enhanced by the weather, which caused punters to enter in the hope of winning a can of soft drink! By the end of the day, the stalls had taken over £700, a very substantial contribution to the "Friends" funds. All of this will in due course be spent on projects for the Trust at Osterley.

The "Friends" provided stewards for many of the summer events, including the **EVENING OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC**, held in the Entrance Hall of the House on July 20th. This was well attended, as was the children's Open Air Theatre production of **THE RELUCTANT DRAGON** on 2nd August, which was again blessed with fine weather.

The big Open Air Event of the season was the showing of the film **GREASE** on August 24th. Good fortune continued on the day, as, although a number of neighbouring areas had torrential rainstorms, these missed Osterley!

LONDON WALKS

The walk planned for 18th July had to be cancelled due to strike action on the Underground. However, a small party of members joined Doris Sherwood on 8th August for a walk around Whitehall.

The next walk is scheduled for Tuesday, 24th September, meeting in the booking hall of Chancery Lane Station at 2.00 pm, for a walk around Lincoln's Inn and Grey's Inn. Fee £3.00 - pay on the day!

Contact Ian Conacher on (020) 8560 8523 if there are any doubts about weather or Industrial Action!

ERENDS AUTUMN & WINTER EVENTS

The **AUTUMN RECEPTION** for Members will be held on Wednesday, 16th October, in the Jersey Galleries. Doors open at 7 pm; full details are given in the Display Advertisement on Page 2.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS will be sung in the Stable Yard from 2.30 to 3.30 on Sundays, December 8th and 15th, by the St Mary's Singers, conducted by Howard Stephens. Collections will be taken towards the annual costs of maintaining the Self-Drive Battery Vehicles for the use of less-mobile visitors.

During the afternoon, the Tea Room will be selling Mulled Punch and Mince Pies.

Our programme of **WINTER LECTURES** will take place in 2003 in a new venue, as our former home in St Mary's Parish Hall is being rebuilt. We are hoping to arrange bookings for alternate Wednesdays in February and March. The dates will be confirmed in our next issue, together with a list of speakers and a booking form.

FRIENDS DONATIONS TO OSTERLEY

Your Committee has been active recently in disposing of our bank balances in order to support the Trust at Osterley, as it is not our policy to allow funds to accumulate!

We now have ongoing commitments to sponsor regular items of expenditure. We have been paying for maintenance costs on the small fleet of self-drive *Buttery Cars* for some years past, and we now also meet the costs of production of the "*Welcome Leaflet*", given to first time visitors to the Park.

A new item this year is that we are paying for the expenditure on *seeds, plants and other materials* for the Volunteer Gardeners growing flowers for display in the House.



Recent "one off" items include the *circular seat around the willow tree* by the lake and new batteries and *repairs to the roof of the Courtesy Bus*. We also sponsored the *Jubilee Jazz Concert*.



Other projects are in the pipeline, including *bench seats by the middle lake* and *dog litter bins*.

These donations are made possible by the support we receive from the Membership, not only through subscriptions, but also at events. The "100" Club contributes about £900 each year, as half the subscription goes - via the "Friends" - to the Trust.

The total of our donations now stands at more than **£30,000** over the ten years since our formation!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF OSTERLEY PARK, HELD ON 15 MAY 2002 AT THE OLD BREWHOUSE, OSTERLEY

Prior to the meeting for business, Barry Williams gave a guided walk around the grounds, as the planned speaker, Carol Reeves, was unable to attend.

There were approximately 60 people present. The Chairman thanked Barry for providing an interesting and informative tour.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Mr and Mrs Alton, Mrs Beaumont, Miss Bennett, Mrs Bernstein, Mrs Clayden, Mrs Conacher, Mr Graham, Miss Haines, Mrs Lane, Mrs Lynch and Mrs Mundy.

It was reported that Mrs Bernstein, a hardworking member of the Committee, had recently lost her husband after a long illness, and the best wishes to Mrs Bernstein of those present was recorded.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 2 May 2001 were proposed, seconded and carried as a true and accurate record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report had been distributed with the March 2002 Newsletter. The Chairman highlighted some additional items to that report:

- The Friends are continuing their support of the Welcome leaflet for the House at around £1000 per annum
- The circular bench by the willow tree has been provided by the Friends at a cost of approximately £800.
- The Jazz Concert for the Jubilee Weekend in June is to be sponsored by the Friends.
- The Friends will pay for the cost of repairs to the Courtesy Bus, when these are complete.

- An amount of up to £1000 per annum will be made available for seeds, etc to the Volunteer Gardeners.
- Membership of the Friends remains constant. Final reminders for renewal will be sent out soon. All trips, etc, will be restricted to fully paid-up members of the Friends.
- Dudley Foy died in February 2002. He was a founder member of the Friends, and brought battery cars to Osterley, going on to be the National Trust's national representative for battery cars. In March 2002, his widow planted a tree in his memory in the avenue near the car park.
- Clive Bernstein, husband of Felicity, recently died. Although he was not a member of the Friends, he gave a great deal of support to Felicity and her work on the Committee. He will be sorely missed.
- The Winter Lectures were a success, yet again.
- Trips and tours are going well, although the first trip to Wimpole ran at a loss. The 5 day trip to Norfolk is full.
- The Chairman has arranged some half day trips. The first, in April, to Temple led by Doris Sherwood, was well attended, and was an excellent trip. The second, on 14 May, to Strawberry Hill, led by Anna Chalcraft was equally enjoyable. It was agreed to try to continue these trips. The Chairman asked those present to consider taking responsibility for the organisation of these.
- The Friends would again be organising bric-a-brac and tombola stalls for Osterley Day – a meeting for volunteer helpers would be held shortly.
- The Chairman advised the meeting that all this activity had been achieved at some cost; he was trying to delegate some of the workload. The committee is in need of a variety of skills: writing for the Newsletter, speaker secretary for the Winter Lectures, "Box Office" person, etc, etc. It was agreed that the format for the Newsletter will change to A5, so that the envelope filling will be less time consuming.
- Volunteers are sought for Osterley Day, particularly in light of the ongoing illness of Audrey Conacher and the recent bereavement of Felicity Bernstein. It is hoped that both ladies will be able to be present on the day, but that is not definite.

The Chairman's Report was formally adopted by the meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2001

The accounts had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. The Treasurer expressed thanks to Harold Rogers for examining the accounts in a speedy and efficient manner. He informed the meeting that the Friends' balance is increasing by around £3000 per annum, and there is a need to spend more!

A question was asked concerning the Bank Charge of £5.00. The Treasurer explained that this fee had been incurred as it had been necessary to transfer money between accounts without giving the required notice period. The accounts were formally adopted. A vote of thanks was voiced to Michael Pfeiffer for his immaculate accounts.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chairman proposed that the current Officers and Committee Members be elected en bloc as they were all willing to stand for re-election. This was unanimously agreed. Those elected were:

Chairman	Ian Conacher
Honorary Treasurer	Michael Pfeiffer
Minute Secretary	Irene Bowles
Membership Secretary	Dilwyn Bowles
Five Committee Members	Felicity Bernstein Margaret Frickay Meera Khumbhakarone Brian Lane Ann Drakeford

6. APPOINTMENT OF HAROLD ROGERS AS HONORARY EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Rogers be re-appointed to carry out this task for 2001.

7. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION – ANNUAL REVIEW – AS REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION

It was recommended that no increase be implemented in the subscription sum of £5.00, which was agreed after some discussion.

8. "100 CLUB" – PROGRESS REPORT

Ron Piper reported that the current membership of the 100 Club stands at 161 members. Over £900 will have been raised by the end of the year from this activity. The latest draw then took place.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Barry Williams and staff for hosting the AGM and for providing the guided tour prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Spread the Word...

*We hope that members will spread the word about our achievements,
and encourage others to join us!
Being a "Friend" is definitely worthwhile.*



A CUT ABOVE THE REST!



A report in the 'Brentford & Chiswick Times' caught my attention, highlighting the prowess of the team from the Osterley Park Tea Room in the National Trust's Annual Cookery Competition.

Melanie Hanmore, the Catering Manager, and Assistant Manager Adrian Prendergast, have already emerged as Champions for the Thames and Solent Region, and will be taking part in the National Final on September 18th, at Stourhead in Wiltshire.

As a frequent driver of the Courtesy Bus on a Sunday afternoon, I have noticed how many visitors make for the Tea Room as the principal attraction. This is evidently due to the quality of the catering! We wish Melanie and Adrian every success on the 18th.



ONE GOOD TERN?

I was surprised to see a Tern fishing the Garden Lake during the summer. My more knowledgeable friends tell me that these sea birds are now frequently to be found on the nearby Grand Union Canal.

Another sea bird which has moved inland over recent years is the cormorant, which I first spotted near Brentford Dock in the seventies. These too are now occasional visitors to Osterley, competing with the resident herons for the fish in the Garden Lake.

"FRIENDS" 100 CLUB

There has been very little activity since the last newsletter, but this will now change as the next draw is scheduled to take place at the Friends' Autumn Reception to be held on 16th October.

Meanwhile, renewal invitations are enclosed with this Newsletter for those members who have share subscriptions due on 1 October 2002 and I shall look forward to receiving your cheques sometime during that month.

Ron Piper

Please note:

The Committee have discussed the 100 Club membership and draws several times in the last year, and will be looking at the wording of the rules at the next Committee Meeting. Meanwhile, to make sure that members are aware of the interpretation that the Committee have agreed, all Friends who hold shares in the 100 Club should note that only those who are Friends on the day of each 100 Club draw will be eligible to have their number(s) entered in that draw.

Irene Bowks, Minute Secretary

AVE ET VALE

CLARE CARLIN has been appointed as Community Education Officer at Osterley. We welcome her to Osterley, and are glad that she will be able to put to use of the equipment donated to the Education Centre during her predecessor's time. She has given us these notes on her experience and objectives:

I was appointed to this post in the middle of July this year. Previously I was a Secondary School English teacher at a comprehensive school in Greenford. I have a Masters degree in museum education and have been doing voluntary education work at several museums over the last two and a half years.

There is already an excellent basis for education at Osterley, which I intend to continue and develop. However, as well as working with schools, colleges and other formal education groups, I will be making new links with the local community and involving it more actively in its use of the house and grounds. The National Trust is putting a lot of emphasis on attracting new audiences to its properties and part of my job will be to fulfil this aim.

ANTHEA PALMER has been Historic Buildings Advisor at the Regional Headquarters at Hughenden since before the Trust took over direct management of Osterley in 1990. She has since then been responsible for all the changes made to the principal rooms in the House, including the re-decoration of the Library, the Long Gallery, and the Yellow Taffeta Bedroom. She is now leaving the Trust and making a career change, to work in Special Needs Education. We wish her well in this new venture.

A WELCOME RETURN

I was delighted to meet up with Ted Fawcett in the Stableyard on Osterley Day. Many members will know that he was at one time Director of Public Affairs for the Trust; after retirement, he became active as a Gardens Advisor to the Trust, and pursued his interests in garden history, archaeology - and dowsing!



Ted spoke at our Winter Lectures in 1992 on Osterley and in 1993 on Garden Archaeology, and has now offered to speak to us next year on "Dowsing". This

promises to be a fascinating talk - details of time and place in our next issue!

Quite by chance, I came across an article about his prowess in this field in a volume of collected pieces by Duff Hart-Davis, first published in the "Independent". This refers to his work at Avebury, and also to his discovery of Iron Age settlements at Osterley.

Ted contributed an entry to the "Poetry Trail" competition at Osterley this summer, which we print on the next page. "Beltane" was the Neolithic fertility rite, which Ted suggests was celebrated at a stone circle in the Great Meadow at Osterley.

Ian Conacher

BELTANE - THE MAIDENS' SONG

At sunrise we shall dance to keep Beltane,
The God regains his height, the world
Is green and growing. Sap rises
And explodes in wild blaze of flowers.
We must be up and go garlanded
Down the tall avenue of stones
To where the dancing-circles stand.
There hand-in-hand, we glide, we sing.
Passing the counter-circle of the men,
Striking with staves the rhythmic stones.
"Great Sun arise, great Power come,
Fill roots, fill flesh, fill flocks,
Fill men with growing strength.
Let us receive, and bear, your likeness child.
Great Power come, great God arise"

E Fawcett



TRUST AUTUMN OPENING TIMES

Osterley House will remain open to visitors from Wednesday to Sunday, between 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm until 3rd November.

The Stables Tea Room will be open on the same days, between 11.30 am and 5 pm, and the National Trust Shop will be open on these days between 1.00 pm and 5.30 pm.

From 6th November to 22nd December, the Tea Room and Shop will be open between 12 noon and 4 pm, each day except Monday and Tuesday. A courtesy bus service will be provided between the Car Park and Stable Yard.

A special Christmas Menu will be served to pre-booked parties on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays only, between 27th November and 20th December - one sitting only, at 12 noon. For bookings, telephone (020) 8232 5057.

DONATIONS WANTED!

Donations of second hand books, tapes, CD's, vinyls and sheet music in good condition, for sale in aid of the Trust at the Book and Music Fair on Sunday 3rd November, will be welcome. Contact Farah on (020) 8232 5050 to arrange delivery.



HEATHROW DEVELOPMENT



HACAN, the campaigners against noise from Heathrow Airport, have just published details of the proposals for a third runway north of the A4, with details of the effect on the neighbourhood of the additional approach paths. For eastbound landings, the path will pass over Osterley Park and areas of Uxton north of the M4.



Members living in areas likely to be affected are urged to familiarise themselves with the proposals and join in the protest campaign now being mounted by Hacan, by writing to your M.P!

