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The Friends of Osterley Park
A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 51 December 2009

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

IAN CONACHER

Time passes so very quickly as one gets older, it is hard to believe that three months have gone by since I last sat down to write my piece for the Newsletter, and still harder to accept that it is now a year since I came out of Hospital at the end of 2002.

The year has seen much progress, both personally and for the "Friends". My medically prescribed regime called for regular walks and where better than in Osterley Park? Involvement with the affairs of the "Friends" also assisted with my recovery. This was boosted by the tremendous help given to me by the Committee, and together we have been able to make major donations to the Property. The total value of our contributions during the year amounts to over £8,300. We have bought new benches for the Park and made our annual donations to the costs of materials for the Flower Growers, Welcome Leaflets, Maintenance of Battery Cars and of the Courtesy Bus, and the work of the Education department.

For the last few months the "Friends" have been without an Hon. Treasurer, during the end-of-season lull I have been able, as the last serving member of the original Committee, to go through the account books and extract all the details of the "Friends" contributions to the National Trust at Osterley from our earliest years onwards. This amounts to the staggering total of over £44,500!

This success has been due to the hard work of your Committee and the loyal support of you, the Membership. We look forward with confidence to a New Year which will bring more challenges and hopefully more successes.

Have a Happy 2004

WELCOME

I was delighted to receive a telephone call shortly after publication of our last issue from an old friend, PAUL LUCAS, Paul and I served together in the early 'eighties on the Heston & Isleworth District Scout Executive, for which he was Treasurer. Having recently retired, he responded to my request in our last issue for a volunteer to act as Hon Treasurer for the "Friends". His offer was enthusiastically accepted, and he will take over from the Chairman as soon as the "Change of Signatories" has been approved by our Bank.

We have also had most welcome offers from JANE FREKE to assist in the distribution of the "Newsletter" in the Linkfield Road area and DAVID BRIGHT who has taken on the deliveries in the Woodlands Road area.



STAFF CHANGES AT OSTERLEY.

CLARE CARLIN, who has been at Osterley since July 2002, is moving to a new post at the Museum of London at the end of December. Clare has been very active in encouraging visits to Osterley by parties of local school children who have benefited from making use of the features of the property to further their studies of the National Curriculum.

CANDIDA HEPTONSTALL, who joined the Team as Events Manager in the spring, has also moved to another post.

FAREWELLS.

We are sorry to have to report the deaths of several Members since our last edition. Many Members will remember **OLIVER HINCH**, of Lingwood Gardens, who joined the "Friends" shortly after their formation. Oliver was frequently to be seen in the Park, and was a regular traveller on Jim Tiedle's trips, before moving to Salisbury in the late 90s. **PETER WILLIAMS**, a volunteer since 1991 and often found at the Entrance Desk, our sympathies are sent to his wife Joan. **DESMOND BRYARS**, of Osterley Road, joined us more recently, and became a valued member of the Battery Car team. He said little about his working life, and it was only when his obituary was published in the Times that we learned of his distinguished career in the Civil Service. Desmond held key posts in the Ministry of Defence in the 1970's and 80's, becoming Deputy Under Secretary of State (Finance and Budgeting), where he helped with the painful reshaping of the Defence programme. The regard in which he was held by colleagues was evidenced by the crowd attending his funeral at Hatworth Crematorium.

LONDON WALKS

A number of walks around Central London were again led by Doris Sherwood during the summer, which were much enjoyed by those who took part. Doris has donated all the proceeds to the "Friends" funds, and we thank her for this.

She has volunteered to lead further walks during 2004; the dates will be chosen to alternate with Jim Tiedle's coach outings, and details will be published in our next issue. In order to swell the numbers, Doris will be inviting members of her Residents' Association to provide a further boost to the "Friends" funds.

BATTERY CARS

One of the causes supported by the "Friends" has, from our earliest days, been the self-drive battery vehicles which are available during the summer months, on free loan to members of the public with walking difficulties who wish to explore the Park. We pay all the maintenance and repair costs, including new batteries when required. These cars were used by 137 visitors during last Summer.

The responsibility for issuing these machines to potential users is borne by a team of volunteers, putting in two or more afternoons a month and reporting to the Trust's management on site. As in many other areas, the average age of this team is increasing year on year, and further volunteers are needed to maintain the service. Any "Friend" interested in this work should contact the Property Manager, Barry Williams. Training sessions are planned for the Spring.

The Committee of the Friends provided Stewards for the annual Carols in the Stableyard on Sundays 7 and 14 December, taking a collection each week to raise funds for the maintenance of these battery cars. Once the pennies and pounds were counted, just over £210 was banked.



WINTER LECTURES 2004

As advised in our last issue, we shall be making use of the new St Mary's Parish Hall for this winter's programme of talks.

Wednesday 28th January

Ted Fawcett



For our first talk, we shall be welcoming back Ted Fawcett, who spoke to the "Friends" in our first season in 1992. Ted was a senior member of the National Trust's management team; since retiring, he has developed his interest in garden design and has coupled this with his abilities as a "Dowser". His talk to us is entitled:

"Downing for Lost Gardens"

Wednesday 11th February

Doris Sherwood

February sees the return of Doris Sherwood, well known to members as a London Guide, who will speak about:

"The British Museum - a 250 year old Treasure House"

Wednesday 25th February

Andrea Cameron

Andrea, our well-known local historian and one of our regular speakers, will talk to us about:

"The History of the Q Theatre at Kew Bridge"

Wednesday 10 March

Dennis Ashbourne

Dennis Ashbourne returns to us, to describe the development of the West End estates alongside the more rural properties such as Osterley, in a talk entitled:

"Georgian London"

Wednesday 24th March

Mike Wans

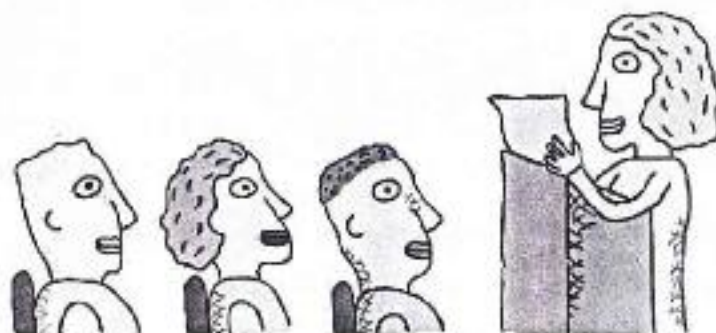
Finally, bringing the 2004 Winter Lecture season to a close, Mike Wans, who spoke to us in 2003 about the Chelsea Physic Garden, will speak on:

"London Properties of the National Trust"

Doors will open at 7.30pm, with talks starting promptly at 8pm. All talks will be illustrated by slides, and coffee - or tea - and biscuits will be served after the talk. We expect to vacate the Hall by 10.p.m.

Tickets will cost £4.00 each, our first increase for some years, or £15.00 for the series of five. Mrs Joan Mound has volunteered to run the box office, and advance bookings can be made with her using the enclosed booking form. Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your booking form and cheque (made payable to "Friends of Osterley Park"). Tickets will also be available at the door.

These are open events, and friends of "Friends" and other members of the public will be welcome.



TEXTILE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS AT OSTERLEY PARK

We have been asked to draw your attention to this workshop series by staff at the House. Anyone wishing to book a place should telephone 020 8232 5069/5052.

Stitch a flower border With Sally Kelly

Thursdays 22 January, 26 February, 25 March
10.00am – 4.00pm
Cost (Adults only) £65, including tea/coffee
Bring a picnic lunch.

Taking inspiration from Osterley and the many lovely gardens of the National Trust, we will make a colourful stitch sampler suitable for framing.

All materials supplied. Please bring a haste sewing kit – assorted needles, pins, small scissors.

EXCURSIONS PROGRAMME - 2004

Once again, the closing weeks of the old year see Jim Tickle beavering away to offer Friends an exciting programme of outings for the coming year. As usual, this will include six monthly day-trips and a mini-break, which by popular request has now been extended to cover six days. Our September stay in North Yorkshire also proved so popular this year, that we will be returning to Scarborough and to the excellent hospitality of the Scarborough Campus of Hull University. The holiday will be a little earlier than usual, from Tuesday 8th to Sunday 13th of June, so for those of you who enjoyed the splendour and colours of the North Yorkshire Dales this year, the early summer season may have even more joys to offer.

During our tours of the rugged coastline and attractive, unspoilt villages of the Dales, we plan to visit Studley Royal and the awesome remains of Fountains Abbey, grandiose Castle Howard – the location of the TV production of 'Brideshead Revisited' - , Helmsley or Pickering Castle and Ormesby Hall (NT Handbook p.311). Time permitting, a visit to the delightful town of Beverley, with its historic Minster, might also be included.

The outward and return journeys present opportunity for further visits, for example, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire; and during our stay a whole free day is set aside for you to enjoy Scarborough or take a bus to see what the City of York has to offer.



The holiday has again been arranged in association with European Heritage Tours and travel throughout is by West Bus coach, driven by the irreplaceable Barrie Pyle. The bargain cost of £262.00 covers all travel, half board, single en suite accommodation at the University and the entry fee to Castle Howard. A Booking Form is enclosed with this Newsletter. If you wish to join us, don't delay. Complete the form and return it promptly; places are taken up very quickly.

Booking Forms for next season's day trips will be issued with the next Newsletter, hopefully in February. For your diary, the first visit will be to Stourhead (NT Handbook p.103) on Tuesday, 6th April. Subsequent dates already arranged are:

Wednesday, 5th May
Thursday, 15th July
Monday, 9th August
Friday, 3rd September
Thursday, 7th October

Our destinations for the above dates are yet to be confirmed, but there will be a distinct 'House and Gardens' flavour. The 'possibles' include:

Goodrich Castle(EH) & Westbury Court Garden (NT)
Kington Lacy (NT) & Compton Acres
Layer Marney Tower & Paycocke's (NT)
Scotney Castle & Finchcocks Living Museum of Music
Peckover House & Garden (NT)
Wakehurst Place (NT)
Greys Court (NT)
Wrest Park Gardens (EH)

As always, your comments and suggestions for alternative visits will be welcome. You may write to Jim, before 9th February please, at:

54 Rosecroft Gardens, Twickenham TW2 7PZ
Phone 020 8894 4174
or e-mail: james@tickle54.freemove.co.uk

CEDARS

JOHN STACEY

As men dreamed spires
They could not see complete
And passed the vision to others
So, too, those who nursed and cursed
Saplings' slow spring,
Would miss its glorious summer

For the years' mill grinds fine
Kings, countries prosper
Men invent, invoke, inspire
But roots deeper delve, rain nourishes
Thicker, higher, spread
Wind tempered limbs.
Storms weathered, drought survived

Stretching ring by ring, year on year
Gaining strength, forging buttress
folds
Pushing incredible curve, still higher
Forcing fan-vaulting skyward
Leaving dappled greensward
Far beneath these cathedrals of shade

(This poem was inspired by the cedars in Osterley Park)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Thank you very much for reminding me about "poor stuffy deerstalker" in Newsletter 50: it fair brought back my youth. I remember Joan (Hunter Dum, us was then) and I used to stalk with the Richmond Park Deerstalkers. I was her gilly. One had to be careful, not getting too far downwind, or one could end up in Pembroke Lodge Car Park. We were both young gels, then.

This was before she took up Lawn Tennis and became famous. Ah! Happy days...

I am, Yours faithfully,

Emeralda Fesene (Mrs)

Sir,

With memories of complaining about the low-flying planes when I was a Room Steward at Osterley, I very much appreciated Ted Fawcett's "A flying visit".

So you can see that I was very pleased, when in one of those self-same planes returning to Heathrow, to get a fantastically clear view of Osterley and its surroundings. I grabbed my camera and took a photo through the plane's window - but alas! The resulting print is not much more than a hazy impression. What a shame! I had hoped to submit the print for the Newsletter, but it's quite unrecognisable! Nevertheless, I'm not going to bin it.

Margaret Jenkins

Two draws have been made since the last Newsletter – at the Friends' Autumn Reception and the Volunteers' Christmas get-together. Winners were as follows:

22 October	Prize	6 December
66 Mrs B Robertson	1 st £100	8 Mrs M Leman
120 Mrs A Gregg	2 nd £ 50	100 Mr D Kearns
151 Mrs M Hurwitt	3 rd £ 20	125 Mr/Mrs Bignell
124 Mrs M Groombridge	4 th £ 10	39 Miss G Cousins
20 Miss P Timms	5 th £ 5	160 Mr P Goodwin

The fifth and final draw for the current subscription year will be held at the Winter Lecture to be held on Wednesday 24 March 2004. In view of the changes made to the 100 Club in January 2004, there are no subscriptions due on 1 January 2004 and all existing members will be entered into the March draw.

New members are always welcome and anyone who wishes to may join immediately by paying £3 to cover the March draw or £15 to cover not only March but all four draws to be made in the next subscription year running from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. [Please note that you must renew your Friends' membership for 2004/05 to be eligible to be entered in the draws].

If you are interested, please drop a line to Ron Piper at 44 Killowen Avenue, Northolt, UB5 4QT with details of your name, address, telephone number and Friends Membership Number together with a cheque for either £3 or £15 and a SAE for the return of your membership card.

In conclusion, all members are wished a happy and prosperous 2004.

William Hogarth (1677-1764), the famous artist and satirist had a home on the outskirts of present day London. However, in those days Chiswick was a pleasant village by the River Thames. It has been open as a museum since 1904, and centenary celebrations are being held in 2004.

The house was saved by Lt. Col. Robert Shipway, who donated his collection of prints to the house. It can be found nowadays in a built-up area on the main thoroughfare between London and Richmond and the West. If you do go, visitors will find much of interest about the life and times of Hogarth.

The entrance is in the Great West Road. It is a small house, with wheelchair access to the ground floor, and has a small garden. The Dining Room, near the entrance, displays the story of Hogarth's early life, including his employment as a Silver Plate Engraver. Here you can see the Walpole Salver.

Up to the first floor by a narrow staircase leads to a former bedroom where five examples of Hogarth's engravings, including "Marriage à la Mode", can be found. These tell the story of a marriage by the Earl of Squanderfield's son. These are well worth a look.

In the Parlour, you will see a display showing how Hogarth made and sold prints for a living, including copies of "Rake's Progress".

If you are interested in the Hogarth period, the House is well worth a visit. During winter months it is open from 1pm to 4pm Tuesday to Friday, and 1pm to 5pm at weekends, closing one hour later in the summer months. It can be easily reached by 190 bus, which stops in Burlington Lane.