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

NEWSLETTER

Issue 56 March 2005

Useful Contacts

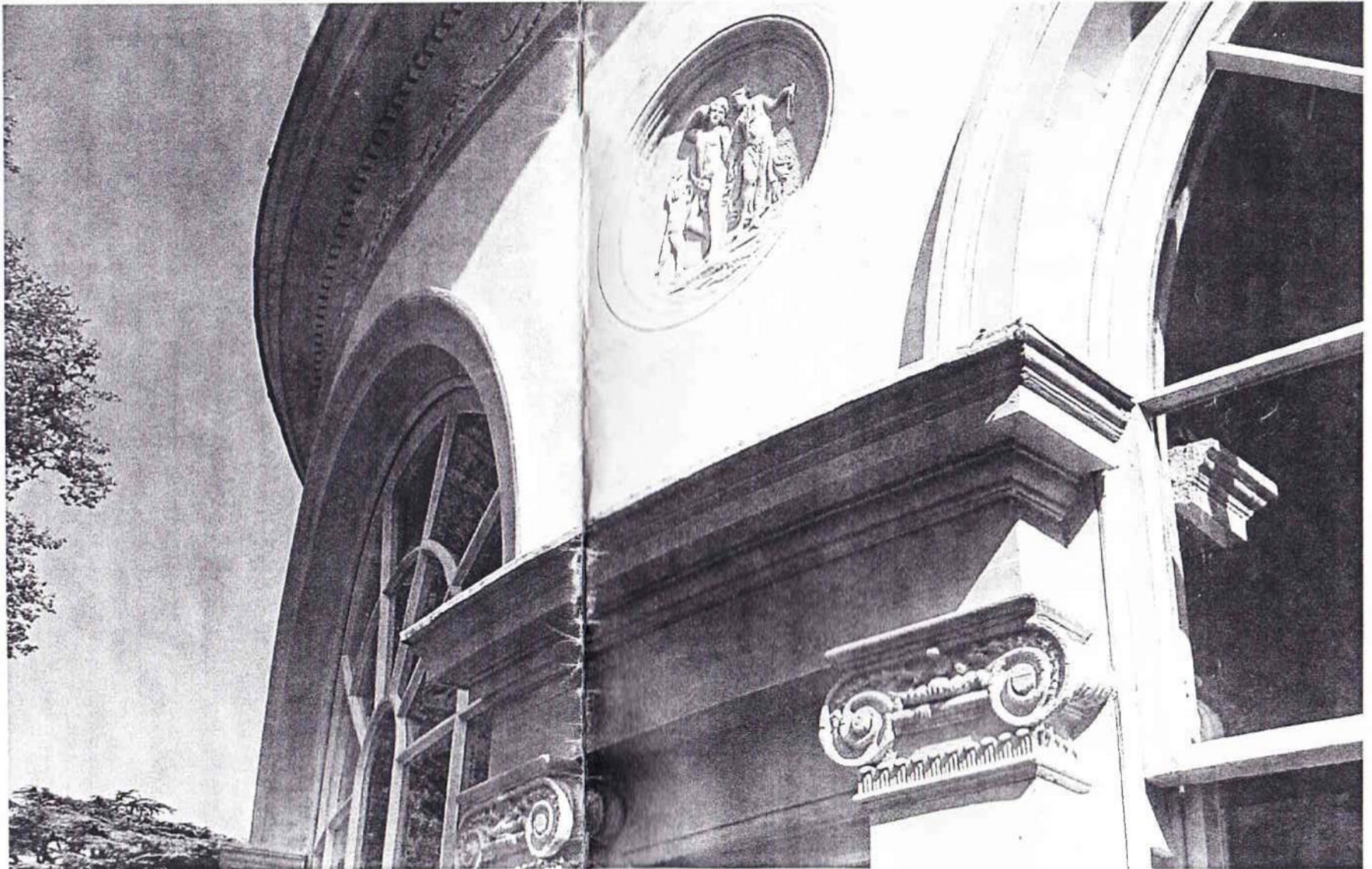
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Ian Conacher
020 8560 8523

Membership Secretary
John James
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Garden House,
Robert Adam c1780
Pleasure Grounds Osterley

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- May 25th. "Friends" Reception and Annual General Meeting, Brewhouse, 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
- July 11th. "Osterley Day", with Art-in-the-Park and the "Friends" Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, and Bookstalls.
- These stalls depend on donations from "Friends"- contact Audrey Conacher on 020 8560 8523 with offers!

- August 6th. Glenn Miller Orchestra – Playing in the portico of the House – details see "Osterley Newsletter".

LONDON WALKS –DETAILS PAGE 10-11

- May 1st. William Morris Museum, Walthamstow.
- May 14th. Walthamstow Old Village, Vestry House and Street Market.
- 5th June Chiswick Mall, with private visit to Lingard House and garden-National Garden Scheme.
- 23rd July Spitalfields Market, Christ Church and Brick Lane.

DAY COACH TRIPS – DETAILS PAGE 13-15

- 12th April Tyntesfield – **FULLY BOOKED!**
- 19th May Ightam Mote.
- 11th July West Wycombe Perk.
- 15th August West Green House Garden.
- 7th September Greys Court.
- 3rd October Audley End.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2004.

IAN CONACHER.

Once again I have to report on an extremely satisfactory year for the "Friends". The year-end accounts, prepared by our Hon. Treasurer, Paul Lucas, and approved by our Examiner, Harold Rogers, show that in 2004 we were able to make donations totaling nearly £2,000. The balance carried forward, available for future donations, amounts to approximately £5,135, an increase of £1,800 on the balance held at the end of 2003.

While this is good news, it must be remembered that the "Friends" are not a bank, and that all funds accumulated should rapidly be converted into donations to the Trust.

In the past year, we have continued to support our regular funding targets. Materials for the cut flower growers have cost £432. The cost of Education and Events leaflets has amounted to £1,122, and the maintenance and repair of the self-drive battery cars has cost the "Friends" £214.

On the social side, Jim Tickle's tour and day trips have been well supported, and were generally full to capacity. Jim's ever cautious planning has resulted in a small surplus for the "Friends" funds. The indomitable Doris Sherwood has led a number of walks in Central London; members who have attended have benefited from Doris' vast store of knowledge, and the fees have made a useful contribution to the funds.

In June, the Covent Garden Minuet Dancers made a welcome return to Osterley, performing in the courtyard of the House. An appreciative audience participated in the dancing in the second half of the programme. Unfortunately, advice of the box office receipts was not available at the year end, so the profit cannot be included in this year's income.

One problem which arose early in the year was the decision of Irene and Dilwyn Bowles to resign from the Committee. Irene had come forward some years ago to serve as Minute Secretary, and her husband Dilwyn took over as Membership Secretary when Audrey

Ebison moved away. I was very grateful for their support in 2002-3 when I was in hospital for nearly three months. I was delighted when Patricia and John James stepped forward at the A.G.M. last year to fill these important posts.

Also at the A.G.M, Jim Tickle volunteered to rejoin the Committee, after an absence of some years. His presence has simplified communications when dealing with trips and tours.

These new recruits, alongside the existing members, have given the "Friends" a strong Committee working together harmoniously for the benefit of the "Friends". My thanks are due to them all. We have, however still one vacancy, for a Vice-Chairman, to share the workload and be ready to step in if I should again be unwell.

NEWS FROM THE PROPERTY.

The "Osterley Newsletter", prepared by Hannah Purcell, the Visitor Services Manager at Osterley, is included with this issue. It is intended to publish this quarterly, for the information of visitors to the House and Park.

Rather than duplicate the material in this document in the "Friends" own Newsletter, we have agreed to circulate it to Members as a supplement. We have also agreed to sponsor the printing of this document throughout the year – although unfortunately due to a breakdown in communications this sponsorship has not been acknowledged in this first issue.

The Trust have also produced a smaller version of the "Welcome" leaflet, to be handed out at the Car Park with map and basic information. This will be revised annually and may in future also be sponsored by the "Friends".

STAFF CHANGES AT OSTERLEY.

A new Property Manager, to fill the vacancy left by Barry Williams' retirement, has yet to be appointed. Meanwhile Philip King is serving as Acting Property Manager.

Advertising for a "Gardener in Charge", to take over from Linda Mills, will follow the appointment of the new Property Manager.

TERRY BUTTLE has joined the staff as Estate Warden. Terry tells us that he has had a long involvement in countryside management and conservation, having worked as a Countryside Ranger in Nottinghamshire and more recently Assistant Countryside Management Officer with Nottinghamshire County Council. He was partially responsible for the Greenwood Community Charcoal Project. Among his many and varied interests are the management of trees and woodland, greenwood and woodland crafts, and ropework and knots.

JAMIE MARSH, who joined late last year as Warden, studied Environmental Biology at Royal Holloway College, University of London, and went on to work for the National Trust on the Isle of Wight as a seasonal Warden. At the end of his contract he joined the Environment Agency as an Environment Officer. Office life did not suit him, and he decided to return to the "Great Outdoors" and so ended up here at Osterley. He lives on site at Station Lodge, with his wife Fran, son Joe and Harvey the dog. He enjoys being outside and likes nature watching, fishing, shooting (dodgy ground?), and walking. His particular interests are Mammals and Butterflies.

MAX BATTOCCHI also joined at the end of last year. He is half Italian, as his name suggests, and has been working for the Trust for the past eight months. He spent several years in Japan before returning to the U.K., ending up working in sales. He got fed up with the job and couldn't see himself working in an office again, so got a job with a landscape construction firm for three years. He became more interested in the horticultural side (and knew it was a better option), so enrolled on the RHS General Certificate in Horticulture Course at Richmond College. He then applied for the gardening vacancy at Osterley and has never looked back!

BILL DAVEY, Building Assistant, also well known as a Dowser, is retiring this month, but will still be seen at Osterley, working part-time.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS.

The "Friends" Membership year ends on March 31st. As reported previously, we have regretfully found it necessary to increase the Subscription to £6.00 per annum, in view of the increasing costs of the "Newsletter" printing and postage

April 1st also sees the start of a New Year for subscriptions to the "100 Club", which produces a useful income for the "Friends" and a mild flutter for participants! Half of the annual subscription of £12.00 per share is used for the benefit of the National Trust at Osterley. The other half goes into the "Prize Fund", which is distributed to members at four quarterly Draws, held at "Friends" or Volunteers events. In past years, the Club has produced an income for the Trust of between £800 and £1,000, with a similar amount being distributed as prizes.

To simplify payments for Members, Annual Subscriptions to the "Friends" and optional subscriptions of £12.00 per share to the "100 Club" can be made with one cheque, using the enclosed form.

The last draw of the 2004/5 season is to be made at the last of the "Friends" Winter Lectures on March 16th, after we have gone to press. The first Draw of the 2005/6 season will be made at our Annual General Meeting on 25th May.

We are grateful to Ron Piper for administering the operation of the "100 Club".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 25th MAY 2005.

This will as usual be held in the "Old Brewhouse" in the Stableyard at Osterley, at 7 pm for 7.45. A glass of wine will be served before the formal business, which hopefully can be concluded in 20 minutes or so, leaving time for a talk – speaker and subject yet to be determined. This will hopefully be the time for members to meet some of the new faces at the Property.

BATH STONE

Peter Bush

The Centre Spread shows part of the portico at Osterley House which are columns made of Bath Stone. The actual area shown is approximately 1" by 1.75".

Bath Stone was a popular building stone in Roman times. The earliest post-Roman building using Bath stone was Longleat House in 1582 just 15 miles (24Km) from Bath. This illustrates the problem posed by large blocks of building stone, they are very heavy. It was not until the mid-eighteenth century when the Bath Stone Quarry owner Ralph Allen employed a Bristol engineer John Podmore to build a horse drawn railway from his quarry to the River Avon that the stone became more widely available. Availability further improved with the development of canals and railways.

To the architect and builder the attraction of the stone is its uniform texture and colour and the large size of the blocks and columns that can be shaped from it. The homogeneity of its texture means that it can be used in any direction.

The stone was deposited about 160 million years ago during the Middle Jurassic at a time appropriately called the Bathonian by geologists worldwide.

In Jurassic times Britain was much further south than now in an arid subtropical region like the present Arabian Gulf. The area now occupied by Bath and the Cotswolds was covered by a very shallow, current dominated, saline sea, with no landmass of significant topography and no large rivers nearby. In this sea there lived a number of animals that made part of their structure from calcium carbonate, including shell fish, corals and bryozoa (a colony - building animal similar to corals). Fragments of these animals can be seen in the photograph. However most of the rock consists of spherical particles with a concentric structure about the size of a fish's roe., called for that reason oolites. Oolites are formed when sand sized grains are suspended in sea water saturated in calcium carbonate. The grain is covered with a thin coat of calcium carbonate. This process is repeated until the grain is too heavy to be suspended giving the grains a uniform size. Burial and time converted this loose material into an oolitic limestone with all the excellent building properties mentioned above.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

There are always opportunities for Members - and their families and friends - to enlist as volunteers at Osterley. There is a wide range of vacancies, for both indoor and outdoor work. Contact Philip King on 020 8560 3918.

MEMBERS NEWS.

Members will be sorry to hear of the death of MARJORIE STEPHENS in late January, after a long illness. She was well known locally for her work with the Girl Guides, both with 2nd Spring Grove and at District and County levels, and for her contribution to the musical life of the community, with her husband Howard, for many years organist and choirmaster at St Mary's, Osterley. She was also a volunteer in various areas at Osterley.

She played with an occasional Chamber Music Group in the Long Gallery at Osterley, and joined in the Carol Concerts in the Stableyard conducted by Howard, to whom we send our condolences.

MAJOR SUMMER EVENTS AT OSTERLEY.

Members will have seen from the enclosed "Osterley Newsletter" that "Osterley Day " this year is Sunday July 10th, when not only will the park railings be lined with pictures for sale but also the "Friends" will be running their regular fund-raising stalls.

These are a major source of income for the "Friends", and are dependant on Donations from Members for the Bric-a-Brac, Books, and Tombola stalls. Members are asked to contact Audrey Conacher on 020 8560 8523 in May or early June with offers of gifts..

The other major Summer event is the welcome return of the Glenn Miller Orchestra, playing the "swing standards" of the 1940's on Saturday 6th August - a treat for we senior citizens who can remember dancing to the music of the war years!

LONDON WALKS 2005

Once again Doris Sherwood has volunteered to lead a series of gentle walks around central London, starting at various tube or railway stations. The fee for each walk will be £3.00, which Doris donates to the "Friends" funds.

On Sunday, 1st May, the party will meet in the Booking Hall of Blackhorse Road Underground station, Victoria Line, at 2 pm, for a visit to the William Morris Museum, Walthamstow.

On Saturday, 14th May, we shall meet at 11 am in the Booking Hall of Walthamstow Central Station, Victoria Line, for a walk around the old village, viewing the Vestry House and the famous street market.

On Sunday, 5th June, the rendezvous is W H Smith's shop in Hammersmith Tube Station, (Piccadilly & District Lines), at 10.30 am, to walk from Hammersmith to Chiswick Mall, for a private visit to the National Garden Scheme garden of LINGARD HOUSE. Members who wish to come by car should join the party outside the House at 11.30 pm. However, there are no parking facilities close to the House. There will possibly be plants for sale.

On Saturday, 23rd July, Doris will be leading a walk around Spitalfields, Visiting the Market, Christ Church, and Brick Lane. Meet at Liverpool Street Station, Main Line, at W H Smith's bookstall opposite platforms 12 & 13, 11 am.

Advance booking is not required - just turn up on the day, but please be prompt! Please allow adequate time where long tube journeys are involved.

Doris is proposing further walks in the Autumn; details will be given in our next Newsletter.

INSURANCE COVER AT "FRIENDS" EVENTS

We would remind Members that neither the "Friends" as a group nor the Tours and Outings Organisers and members of the Committee can accept any responsibility for injury or loss occasioned by Members attending events and activities organised by or for the benefit of the "Friends".

Activities at National Trust properties are covered by the Trust's own Public Liability Insurance; similarly, other Heritage sites, Halls of Residence, visited during a "Friends" activity will carry similar cover. Operators of coaches and public transport are legally required to carry adequate cover against risks to their passengers.

Mellow Fruitfulness

*One, I'd picked up
-its sheen starting milky
with a little bounce, another.
mahogany pristine
plonked hollow at my feet
I'll have you, I thought
-another step and I'dve caught it on the head.
The third, I'd prized from its prickly prison
white padded cell
The smell of fresh conkers.*

*How small they are
these three, nestling in my palm
Remembered 'sixers' of the playground
seemed much larger - miniature boxing gloves
"Sixer" - I wished.*

*Playground rumour had it
that vinegar was the magic hardener
- Charlie Skeats always had at least four "sixers"
But Charlie, strung his conkers
on shoe laces, not scraggly sisal
- creeping professionalism, even then.*

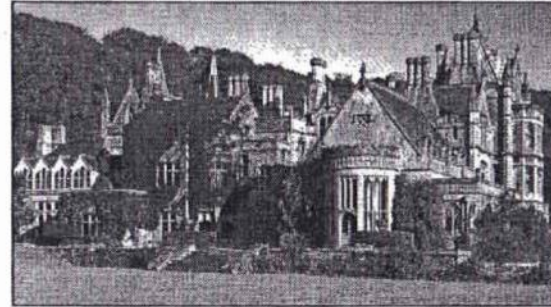
John Stacey 2004

Excursions, 2005

Jim Tickle

Arrangements are now well in hand for the Friends Annual 'Mini-Break' which in June this year takes us on a tour of Lancashire and the North West, also encompassing the Lake District and Merseyside. The coach and our accommodation at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, is now fully booked, but there is still limited space on the reserve list in the event of any cancellations.

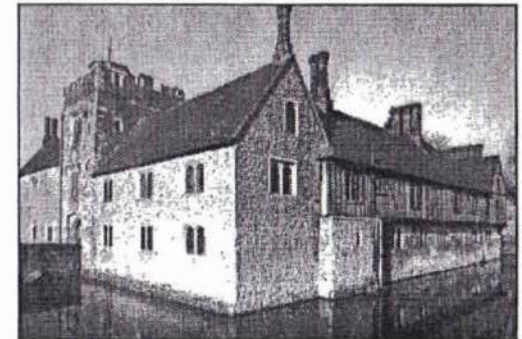
We have again been fortunate this year in obtaining the services of Barrie Pyle of European Heritage Tours for all our day trips. More than seventy members applied for places on the visit to **Tyntesfield on 12th April**, and a ballot had to be held at the second Winter Lecture when, appropriately, Olive Marke's subject was Tyntesfield.



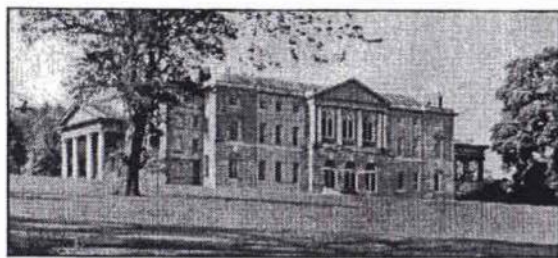
Acquired by the Trust with grants from various heritage funds and public appeals, the mansion is a revival of Gothic extravaganza, set on a ridge overlooking the Yeo Valley in North Somerset. It survives intact and contains an unrivalled collection of

Victorian decorative arts, an insight into life below stairs and a lavishly decorated private chapel. Conservation work is on-going with frequent new discoveries, from exquisite ladies' evening gloves to rare orchids. Facilities at Tyntesfield at present remain basic; there is no restaurant and catering offers just tea, coffee, sandwiches and cake. Picnics are restricted to 'al fresco' in the coach park.

On **19th May**, we have a return visit to **Ightham Mote**, in Kent. The moated manor house near Sevenoaks originates from the early 14th Century and since our previous visit, much restoration and conservation has taken place. Saved from a state of dereliction by Charles Henry Robinson - a wealthy American,



Ightham was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1985. Your tour will include the Great Hall, the Old Chapel and Crypt, the Tudor Chapel with its 16th Century painted ceiling, the Drawing Room with Jacobean fireplace, overmantle and frieze, the Victorian Billiards Room and, most recently, Mr Robinson's apartment.

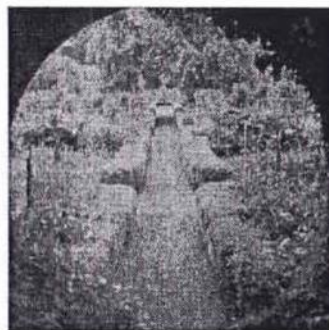


West Wycombe Park on 11th July, takes us to the 18th Century mansion of Sir Francis Dashwood, founder of the Dilettante Society and notorious Hellfire Club, which, according to repute,

held wild, unbridled parties (some say 'orgies') in the nearby 'Hellfire Caves'. I often wonder if our own Robert Child of Osterley, a friend of the Dashwoods, ever joined the festivities! Caves, however, are very claustrophobic, so we'll return to the house. With its facades designed as classical temples it is regarded as one of the most theatrical and Italianate houses in England. The interior has Palmyrene ceilings and decoration, with pictures, furniture and sculpture dating from the time of Sir Francis.

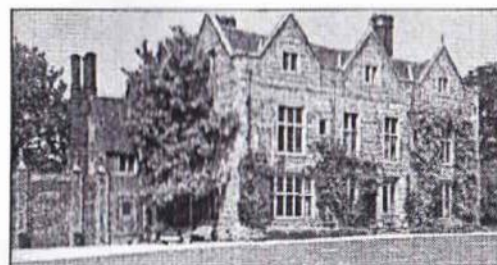
West Green House Garden, 15th August.

The garden, a series of walled or hedged enclosures, was developed by the National Trust's tenant, Lord McAlpine, and has been given many 18th Century features, one of which is the Nymphaeum, designed by Quinlan Terry. Its fountain, basin and lead statues set in niches have a classical air, the whole resembling a romantic feature in an 18th Century landscape garden.



View through the moon gate

Beyond the walled garden is the lake, especially made for wildfowl. The lake is not open to the public, but it can be admired from a distance --- its island reached by a Chinese-style bridge, the grotto and the Doric gazebo on the far bank.



Greys Court, 7th September.

The House and its outbuildings are mainly the legacy of two old, influential noble families – the de Greys and the Knollyses. In 1239, Walter de Grey, then the Archbishop of York, bought the estate for his brother, Robert.

His grandson, also Robert, fought with distinction for Edward I in Wales in 1283. A Barony was granted to the family and the first Lord de Grey, after loyal service to Edward III at the battle of Crecy was given licence in 1347 to crenellate Greys Court and was one of the original Knights of the Garter. Robert Knollys became tenant in 1518 and in 1538 Henry VIII secured the estate to 'his friend Francis Knollys', son of Robert. Francis married a grand-daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, a first cousin of Elizabeth I, and he soon became one of the Queen's most intimate Councillors. A staunch protestant, he was sent by Elizabeth to attend Mary Queen of Scots in her captivity. Greys Court remained the home of the Knollys family until 1708. It became the home of the Brunner family in the 1930's and was given to the Trust by Sir Felix Brunner in 1969.

Audley End, Monday 3rd October.

Built between 1603-14 by the Earl of Suffolk, whose ambition was to entertain King James I there, the House slowly went into a decline after Suffolk fell



from royal favour only four years later. In the second half of the 18th Century, Audley End was given a new lease of life by Sir John Griffin, who created an elegant suite of reception rooms designed by Robert Adam when elevated to the peerage as Lord Howard de Walden in 1784. Some of Adam's work sadly disappeared when a subsequent owner, the third Lord Braybrooke, transformed the first-floor reception rooms in the 1820's, giving them a romantic Jacobean character. The House contains valuable collections of art, silver and furniture and the landscaped park was laid out by Capability Brown.