

CROOME TIMES

The Newsletter of The Friends of Croome Park. No 5 – August 2006

Welcome to this our 5th edition of Croome Times. We apologise for the delay in producing this edition. We are now half way through our second year, which has been very successful. We have 115 members; have served tea / coffee on several occasions, which has swelled our funds by nearly £650.00; have continued with the work on the Local History Initiative project and had two enjoyable trips to other N T properties. We look forward to next Open Meeting on 5th October.

Annual General Meeting – February 2006

At our AGM held in February and attended by a capacity number of members your Committee for the current year was elected as follows: Chairman – Eric Jones; Vice Chairman – John Henderson; Secretary – Joan Willis; Treasurer – John Willis; Committee Members – Mike Ellison, Hilary Burton, Nigel Matthews, Sue Coleman and Eileen Clement. In addition Michael Smith or Wendy Carter will attend meetings as representative of the National Trust.

After the business section of the meeting our President, Chris Beardshaw, gave members a most interesting talk about his recollections of Croome as a boy. He told members about when he cycled in and around the Park and about some of the people he met. He concluded by telling of a garden restoration project he was currently involved with in Dorset and invited a party of members to visit. This was arranged for Sunday 4th June.



Visit to Phillip Green Memorial School Garden, Boveridge, Dorset.



On 4th June a party of members travelled to Dorset to visit this Garden and were looking forward to a guided tour by Chris Beardshaw.

Boveridge House

At the last moment we heard that Chris had injured his ankle and was unable to attend. We hope that he has made a full recovery.

Arrangements were made for the Head Teacher at the School, Lesley Walker, to lead a tour of the Garden. The House shown in the photograph was built in about 1800 and after various owners it became a boarding school for children with learning difficulties in the 1960s. The School was taken over by the Phillip Green Memorial Trust in 1998. Until 1998 it had not been appreciated that a major garden makeover had been carried out by Gertrude Jekyll to a plan by Thomas Mawson and it was then decided with the help and encouragement of Chris Beardshaw to attempt to restore it to its original design. The members were able to tour the garden and enjoy seeing the work carried out by Chris and his team, which included some of the boys at the school.



This photograph shows what is described as a typical Mawson canal with a summerhouse at one end. It was this feature, which was incorporated by Chris Beardshaw in his award winning show garden at the recent Chelsea Flower Show.

(Photographs: Geoff Clewer)

Planning Application for the construction of housing in the Walled Garden.

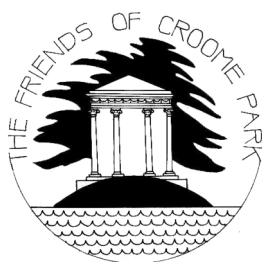
Members will remember that a meeting was held earlier this year to discuss the proposal by the owner of Croome Court to build six houses in the Walled Garden. Following this meeting a petition objecting to the proposals and signed by those attending was submitted to the Malvern Hills D C. Subsequently many individual objections by members were submitted.

We now understand, from the Malvern Hills D C website, that the application has been withdrawn.

What happens next??

Friends Logo

Members will remember that at the end of last year we held a competition for the design of our logo. We had several entries and at the AGM in February we were delighted to announce that Catherine Gordon was the winner of the prize - a bottle of Champagne. The winning design, which incorporates the Lebanon cedars, the Island Pavilion and the lake, so part of Brown's landscapes, is reproduced below.



LHI Project

Work with the LHI project is progressing well. To date 26 people have been interviewed and a start has been made with transcriptions. Once these have been finished, work will begin with the design and format of the display panels and booklets we are required to produce under the terms of the LHI grant.

Are you interested in calligraphy?

If you can help or give advice please let Eileen Clement know. She can be contacted on 01684 891815.

Newsletter

We are looking for someone to collate and edit our Newsletter. It is not a great task but it would be helpful if the current Editor could pass the job on to someone else. If you can help, please contact John Willis (01684 594570)

Visit to Hanbury Hall

In July a party of members visited Hanbury Hall, near Droitwich. We had an excellent guided tour of the House given by one of Hanbury's volunteers. Afterwards members were able to visit the gardens including the newly restored Knot Garden.



Members at Hanbury Hall with the Volunteer Guide.

Open Meeting – 5th October 2006

Our next Open Meeting for members will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 5th October next at Severn Stoke Village Hall.

Our speakers will be Catherine Gordon, author of "The Coventrys of Croome" and Jill Tovey, archivist for The Croome Estate Trust. The subject of their presentation is still to be announced, but we can expect a very interesting and informative talk.

In addition to this there will be a short presentation on the LHI Project when we will be told of the progress so far and given a taste of some of the material collected during the interviews.

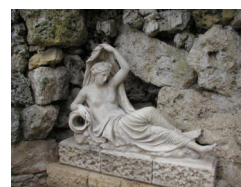
Make a note of the date in your diaries. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible.

Statues Return to Croome

It has been an eventful year at Croome. Firstly we have seen the return of many of the statues including The Druid and Sabrina. Also in June there was a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the acquisition of the Park by the National Trust. At this event our Patron, Lady Maria Coventry, unveiled the Brown Memorial at the side of the lake.



The Druid



Sabrina



Brown Memorial