

CROOME TIMES

The Newsletter of The Friends of Croome Park. No. 1 - March 2005

Welcome to the first Newsletter of The Friends of Croome Park.

General Meeting

Your Committee has met and agreed the Constitution of The Friends and has arranged a General Meeting for **Tuesday 29th March** at the Earls Croome Village Hall starting at 7.00 pm. At this meeting we will need to formally approve the Constitution and also ratify the membership of the Committee appointed at the Inaugural meeting held in January.

It is intended that at our Members' meetings as well as dealing with business matters we will have a talk about an aspect of the restoration at Croome Park or the history of the Estate. At our next meeting Lady Maria Coventry will tell us about her life at Croome as a child and we hope that Jill Tovey, the Archivist for the Croome Estate Trust, will give a short talk about Croome. In addition, one of the National Trust volunteers will speak about the Local Heritage Initiative which we hope will be able to help us.

We look forward to welcoming you to this meeting, which promises to be an enjoyable one.

Public Launch

On 30th April (May Bank Holiday Saturday) we will be formally launching The Friends at an Open Day in the Park. There will be a stall to promote The Friends (your help would be greatly appreciated) and there will be free guided tours. We propose to have an activity for children with balloons and sweets.

Wendy Carter, Visitor Services Assistant, National Trust, will arrange for media publicity so we look forward to a successful launch of The Friends of Croome Park.

Free Tickets

At the meeting of the Committee it was agreed that as well as the full membership of The Friends, a Junior membership will be offered at a subscription of £2.00. Every Junior member will receive, in the first year of membership, two free children's tickets to the Park. It is hoped that this will encourage them to bring their friends to enjoy the delights of the Park.

You have not been forgotten! Every full member will each receive two free admission tickets to the Park and also the N T members discount to some of the paid events. Your free tickets are enclosed. Please use them for your non-NT member friends if possible!

Day Out

Sometime during the summer we may be able to arrange a Friends visit to Hidcote Manor. If you are interested, perhaps you would let us know so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

...and finally

If there is a particular topic concerning Croome Park that you think would be suitable for a talk or presentation in the future, please let us know and we will see what can be arranged.

We intend to issue a newsletter three or four times each year. Contributions from members about their experiences of Croome and anything else of interest to members would be welcome.

Let us hope for a successful year at Croome beginning with the launch in April.