

# CROOME TIMES

The Newsletter of The Friends of Croome Park. No. 2 - April 2005

## Patron

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Lady Maria Coventry has graciously agreed to be the Patron of The Friends.



Lady Maria at the General Meeting alongside pictures of her Great Grandparents, the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl and Blanche, Countess of Coventry

## President

Also, with great pleasure we can announce that Chris Beardshaw who presented the Hidden Gardens programme on TV has agreed to be our President. This news was received on the morning of our General Meeting, so it was wonderful to be able to announce it that evening together with the news of our Patron.



Chris Beardshaw

## General Meeting

A very successful first General Meeting was held at the Earls Croome Village Hall. The Constitution was formally adopted and the Committee appointed at the Inaugural Meeting in January was ratified. Copies of the Constitution have not been circulated to members to save printing costs, but if anyone would like a copy, please contact the Secretary, Joan Willis on 01684 594570.

## Public Launch

May we remind you that on 30<sup>th</sup> 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; we will be serving coffee and biscuits and there will be free guided tours. We hope also to have an activity for children with balloons and sweets. Also the volunteer gardeners will be there to answer questions. A number of members have already offered help to serve refreshments and be on the stall. However, we shall require more help. If you can help, please let Joan Willis (01684 594570) know.

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

## Visit to Hidcote Manor Garden

We have arranged a visit for The Friends to Hidcote Manor Garden on Tuesday 14 June. We have a number of members who have booked already, so if you would like to go please let us know as soon as possible as numbers are limited. We will meet at Hidcote at 10 30 am when we will be given a guided tour of the Gardens. There is no charge apart from the normal entrance fee for non NT members. If there are any members who would like to go, but have no transport, please let Joan Willis know as we may be able to arrange lifts with other members.

## ...and finally

We look forward to seeing as many of our members and new members as possible on 30 April and hope for good weather and a good response from the public.

If you have any items for our next edition please send them to Joan Willis before 30<sup>th</sup> May