

THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Issue 10 of your newsletter. And, yes, this really is the 'Spring' newsletter! Many apologies that the Autumn 2008 newsletter still had the word 'Spring' at the top.

This will be an exciting year for Croome Park with the possible opening of the Court to the public later in 2009, enabling visitors to experience 'the whole' Croome experience. I for one can't wait to get back inside the Court and to view the Park from another perspective. As any of you who are National Trust members will have noticed, there was a request for donations to Croome Court in the last issue of the NT magazine, along with a very good article from Michael Smith.

A quote from the National Trust *"It's a miracle it has survived at all. It has a motorway running through it; much of its parkland was ploughed up to plant crops to*



feed the nation and a succession of different organisations – from the RAF to Hare Krishna – have all had a base on it. Yet Croome Park in Worcestershire lives on."

Lindsay Gray

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Spring will be more than ever welcome this year as we see the end of cold, grey days and the prolonged snow of February. As well as the better weather, there is so much to look forward to at Croome this year, including the new flower and shrub borders, as well as the further maturing of established ones. Above all, of course, 2009 will see the first phase of the Court's opening to the public, an exciting prospect ahead of us in the summer. National Trust members have already received an eloquent letter from Michael in support of the appeal for the 4.8 million pounds that will be needed to make the property safe for visitors to enjoy and to complete essential restoration work. Whether NT members or not, I hope that Friends will donate whatever they can to a cause with which I am sure we can all identify.

The Friends continue to flourish and membership continues to rise. We have a new Membership Secretary, Diana Skeys, who I'm pleased to say has agreed to take over this role from John Willis. John has earned a well-deserved retirement from this vital task and, moreover, he will not be standing again for the office of Treasurer at this year's AGM. Both responsibilities had been John's since the very earliest days of the Friends when we were setting our Supporters Group up. The Website will continue to receive John's expert attention and I daresay his camera will continue to be busy too. We are hoping to expand the committee by adding three more members to add expertise and to share the work involved among a larger overall number.

As well as the Walled Garden visits which have been much appreciated again, thanks to the kindness and hospitality of Mr and Mrs C. Cronin, we have had a "Fungi for Life" evening talk by Diana Bateman, a talk by Jill Tovey on "The Newey View of Croome", both of these in the comfortable setting of the Canteen, and a well-attended, enjoyable Festive Meal at the "Oak" in Defford. The "Oak" evening also provided the Friends with an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to Wendy Carter and present her with a gift and flowers. Friends

will know how much Wendy has contributed to Croome, especially but not only in building up visitor numbers. Perhaps it should be "au revoir" to Wendy, since I am pretty sure we shall have the pleasure of her company many times in the future.

Plans are already well advanced for the 2009 programme of activities, thanks to Christine Adams and the members of her sub-committee. Your committee has also given careful attention recently to producing role descriptions for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary to accompany our existing National Trust-approved Constitution. While the functions of various committee officers are well understood by convention, it nevertheless seemed sensible and appropriate that the roles should be written down, and especially as there is to be some changing of the guard at the March 2009 AGM.

I report elsewhere in this Newsletter on the continuing and intensifying work of the People Engagement and Conservation Group of which I am a member. I wish you all a Happy Croome New Year and continuing enjoyment of what we and the nation have inherited from the Coventry family, their architects, garden designers and countless workers, some known but many more unknown. We all owe them a debt of gratitude, as we do to the National Trust and the Croome Estate Trustees for all their work and commitment in restoring this remarkable country house and park.

Eric Jones

MY FAVOURITE NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY – AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

My favourite National Trust property? Kingston Lacy near Wimborne in Dorset.



The Kingston Lacy estate was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1981 from the Bankes family who had been in residence since 1663. As supporters of the King during the Civil War, Lady Bankes was involved in two Parliamentary sieges at another part of the estate, Corfe Castle. She was eventually betrayed and the castle now lies in ruins, albeit rather spectacular and they can be viewed from miles away in all directions. The estate is

massive and includes Studland and Shell Bay, Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, Corfe Castle, Badbury Rings, the delightful village of Pamphill, and the Kingston Lacy estate itself.

The house is beautiful and filled with stunning paintings including many Van Dykes. William Bankes was a great traveller in the nineteenth century and filled the house with artefacts from all over the world, especially Egypt. It's also homely with the nursery of the last incumbents, Ralph and his sisters, at the top of the house in the style of a luxurious tent.



The grounds are extensive and magnificent and include pasture, woodland, a fernery, restored Japanese garden (on which I worked for one year prior to its re-opening), and many long walks. The Estate is home to a herd of Red Devon cattle, perhaps one of the tastiest beef cattle, apart from Hereford of course! Each year they slaughter several cattle in time for Christmas and the meat is then sold at the butchers in Pamphill – you need to get your order in early though.



The River Stour winds through the outer parkland on its way to the sea at Christchurch and Mudeford.

I'm lucky enough to be able to walk to Kingston Lacy, the river and many parts of the estate from

my house so can view it at all times of the year. If you're ever down in Dorset, don't forget to pop in to Kingston Lacy. Croome is still my favourite though!!

Lindsay Gray

(This is the second of a series of such short articles in the Friends Newsletter. We invite your contributions.)

FRIENDS SOCIAL EVENING – NOV 2008

Jill Tovey, the Croome Estate Archivist, gave a very interesting talk entitled 'The Newey View of Croome'

The Friends of Croome met again in the splendid RAF Buildings for their Social Evening. Our Chairman, Eric Jones welcomed everyone and introduced our in-house entertainer, Jill Tovey, Archivist extraordinaire.

Jill explained that when he retired from the Midlands Electricity Board in the early 1970's, Gordon Newey and his wife, who lived at nearby Hatfield, Norton, decided as a project to research the history of the Coventry Family and Croome. (The last previous attempt had been by William Dean in his 'Hortus Croomensis' published in 1824!). They produced a detailed commentary, lasting one and a half hours, to accompany their unique collection of over 200 photographs. These included copies of photos, prints and paintings taken from books and magazines such as 'Country Life', depicting earlier splendours and family gatherings. When the couple moved from the area in the late 1970's, they presented their 'magnum opus' to Lord Coventry, the Eleventh Earl.

Jill's task on this occasion was to reduce the presentation to half its original length; she achieved this at a stroke by excluding the histories and portraits of illustrious Coventry forbears prior to the 6th Earl and flattering her audience by saying that we were already well versed in these matters! She

set the scene by showing a portrait, which had hung in the Salon of William III, who ennobled Thomas, the 5th Baron to become the 1st Earl in 1697.

It was fascinating to compare the interiors of Croome Court's 18th Century Salon, Long Gallery and Library photographed in the early 20th Century with those taken in the '70's, when it was a school. What a contrast from the rich formality of the Long Gallery with Robert Adam's furnishings to its prosaic but nostalgic use as the school dining room.

There was the charming image of the school children's paper cut-outs for Hallowe'en stuck to the magnificent glass-fronted mahogany book-cases in the Library, now safely removed to the Victoria and Albert Museum! Jill told us of a recent scholarly view that perhaps the delightfully carved pair of doves on the marble over mantel in the Library indicated that this room had been intended as My Lord's bedroom, but that it became the Library, after his beloved Maria died.



Jill suggested that it must have been a particular wish of the 6th Earl and his Countess that so many flowers were incorporated into the decorations. There were details of plasterwork by the great Vassalli and Joseph Rose and in Sefferin Alken's intricate wood carving in the Church, on the Pulpit and on the Font, which many have not seen in situ, since its theft in the 1990's. The Newey's photos also took us on a tour of the then derelict Walled Garden and of the 'Eyecatchers' as they were in the 1970's, including Broadway Tower and a reminder of the condition of the Ice House then, which is now under such exciting reconstruction. There was that shot of the M5 Motorway, which sliced through the Estate, with its initial four carriageways only and no heavy vehicles apparent. The audience was able to confirm that many of the Newey's landscape photos had been



taken during the drought year of 1976, in itself a remarkable reminder of that parched year.

Jill intrigued us by referring to various mysteries. Seen in the photos, but now missing are the John Cheere plaster statues and framed Grisailles from the Long Gallery

and the bust over a doorway in the Salon. Further investigations will be required to find their whereabouts.

All the photos will be of immense assistance to The National Trust as they grapple with the challenge of how to present the Court to the public next year. It is so tantalising to think that there is the whole Tapestry Room, shown in one of the photographs, including the decorative plaster ceiling, the floor boards and of course, the jewel-like tapestries themselves, which now resides in the Metropolitan Museum, New York. Could these ever be returned?

Questions at the end revealed admissions, from two of the Friends, Messrs Keyte and Chugg that they had been contracted to demolish some of the war time buildings, for which we can only be grateful. One always learns something new at these Meetings!

After a vote of thanks, everyone descended on a delicious finger buffet and some went home victorious with a Raffle Prize to round off a most informative and entertaining evening. Our thanks to Jill, to the Events Committee and to John Yates of NT, who kindly transferred all of the colour slides to DVD for future electronic use.

John Henderson

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The initial phase of the Court's opening in the early summer of this year will not only be an occasion long anticipated by Friends, National Trust members and all who enjoy Croome, but it will also mean there will be a need for many more Volunteers than there are at present.

Croome Court, like the stunning park that surrounds it, was designed by 'Capability' Brown and is at the heart of his vision. The National Trust plans to furnish the Court with its historic landscapes and open it to the public this year, but we need more volunteers to help us bring its stories to life.

Join in with US

become a volunteer at Croome Park

Become a volunteer at Croome Park

If you are friendly, enjoy talking to people and can be enthusiastic about Croome's past and present, this could be for you.

- Enjoy new experiences • Make new friends
- Learn new skills • Become part of the team

All new volunteers will participate in a short training programme to fully prepare them for their new role. We are looking for people who are willing to commit to volunteering at least once a fortnight.

Come along to one of our drop-in days

To find out more, call into Croome Park on either Tuesday 24 or Thursday 26 February, between 10am & 5pm or 10am & 3pm.

Croome Park, Croome D'Abbot, Worcestershire, WR8 9DW www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croomepark

If you cannot make the drop-in days, but would like more information on volunteering at Croome Park, contact the West Midlands Regional Office on 01743 768 160 or email wm.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering

The Trust will be seeking to recruit and train up to 150 more willing hands to welcome visitors and help them to get the most out of their visit. A wide variety of roles will be involved, not all of them traditional. It is envisaged that the Volunteers inside the Court

will be more active in their approach than perhaps has traditionally been the case in other properties, engaging visitors' interest and drawing their attention to aspects of the Court's history and architecture and to the people who made it the fascinating place it is. At the same time, it will be important to seek to involve visitors and gain their views on the restoration process itself, a process which will be far from complete for years to come. Restoration will be a gradually unfolding story to which all can contribute their ideas and suggestions in terms of the way Croome is presented.

If you are interested in volunteering, please phone Croome on 01905 371006 to find out more. There will be a full training programme for new volunteers beginning on Monday 23 March 2009 at Croome. Please join us. Croome needs you.

Eric Jones

NOTES FROM THE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Here's a brief update on work since the last newsletter

- Completion of research and repair of the Worcester Drive between Dry Arch Bridge and the Court. The drive is done using hoggin (as dug sand/pebble/fines) from the Ryall quarry just down the road. Being a



natural material there is some unevenness, but I am confident it will bed in given time. New paths which we will need to put in, especially that for the buggy, will be hoggin too, and here it will be particularly critical to get the right material.

- Re-discovery of a short section of side path identified by Oxford Archaeology in 2001 close to the Dry Arch Bridge. We have re-instated this one re-using blue lias edging as originally. The straighter path from the bridge was found partly to have had a brick edging interpreted as later, but which has been left.

- Excavation of the Ice House. This was done by archaeologists Ian Brooks and Cathy Laws from EAS Ltd working with Graham O'Hare of Ward & Co, main contractors. The dig was intended both to clear the rubbish dumped after the 1939-45 war, which was considerable, and to determine the nature of the porch/tunnel structure. Amongst the rubbish was a considerable quantity of RAF earthenware plate as well as the usual bottles, boots, galvanised ironwork and the like, some of which has been kept.



The porch was found to be probably timber built, but largely built away in brick without foundation. We have replaced it with one in the spirit of the brick version, rather better built.

- Observations in the Court. Servicing work in the house has provided glimpses only (as

yet) of the pre-Brown mansion. In November some floorboards upstairs were lifted giving clues to the Carolean house which was massively joisted. Two phases of timber framing used internally were also seen, and there is a possibility the earlier of these may belong to the C17th house.

- Observations around the Court. The installation of a new sewer system provided an opportunity to identify various features including an enormous cistern on the N side of the house and a brick culvert to the S. We learned that all the N courtyard area is cobbled with very small pitched ovals that must have looked wonderful until covered by tarmac and gravel. I have restored a small section round the W end to give the idea.

- Excavation in the Rotunda. Ian Brooks, again working with Wards, recorded the floor and its substrate when lifted in December. A Broseley clay pipe dated to c.1825-30 was found beneath suggesting that the present floor is later. It seems the original C18th floor was done in timber, suspended. We may be back as the roof is stripped for further recording.

There should be openings for volunteers to get involved with archaeological work from summer 2009. We will be returning 25-26 July to the Temple Greenhouse to complete last year's excavation of the latrine site, and I hope to be able to let Friends know of other opportunities. Work coming up includes fabric research of the Court, recording and conservation around the plug, sluice and splash at the bottom end of the Croome River, the shrubberies path system to rediscover, a stove house to excavate, eye-catchers research and plenty more. 2009 promises to be a busy year at Croome archaeologically.

Jeremy Milln

FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS FROM DENNIS WILLIAMS

Back in November, I carried out salvage recording of the spoil excavated from the base of the ice house. As well as earth and general building rubble, a huge amount of broken war-time pottery was recovered. Practically all of this bore makers' names, 'George VI' inscriptions, and dates ranging from 1941 to 1944. A variety of white china



table wares were present, some finely decorated with blue glazes and gilt edges, and in many cases, a light blue 'RAF' transfer printed badge. Presumably, these were breakages from the nearby RAF

Defford Officers' Mess, which was situated just to the north of the drive to the Court. In all, about 50kg of pottery has been retained, although this represents only a small fraction of the total.

The report on last July's excavation at the latrine, close to the Temple Greenhouse, should be completed by Emma Hancox and Dennis Williams by the beginning of March. This document will be available online, via the Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/archaeology/library. Preparations are now under way for continuation of this excavation as part of the National Archaeology Festival in July 2009.

Following a long period of research, I am now in a position to starting writing my history of RAF Defford,

with a view to publication in 2010. This book will describe the wide range of radar flight trials carried out from Defford Airfield during 1942-57, with many interesting illustrations of the aircraft used. However, it will also tell the important story of a war-time community of over 2,000 people that existed briefly in rural Worcestershire, and the lasting effect this has had on the landscape of Croome Park. I am still seeking photographs and memories from the 'airfield years'; if anyone can provide further information, I can be contacted by email - DennisJWilliams@aol.com.

Dennis Williams

THE WALLED GARDEN

Chris and Karen Cronin continue to work tirelessly on their project to restore the walled garden. Progress in 2008 and ongoing commitments include:

- Complete restoration work to North East section of the main walls
- Construct new boundary wall in South West corner
- Restore garden building to lower end of the 'Hot Wall'
- Advance roof construction of the 'Vinery House'
- Render 'Fig House' wall and conduct internal ground works
- Excavate tunnel entrance within 'Fig House'
- Complete remaining restoration work to perimeter walls
- Undertake complete rebuild of Orchard House & Tomato House
- Reinstate main garden area to its historic function of vegetable production
- Collaboration with the NT to provide traditional kitchen garden produce with help from NT volunteers
- Provide seasonal garden produce for NT visitors
- Encourage other interested parties to collaborate for educational benefits
- Reintegrate the gardens into their historic environment



Notes from the website include:

With the new southern boundary wall now complete, we embrace 2009 with cautious optimism, and decide to concentrate on advancing with the major

glass houses. New technology under floor heating is installed in the Fig House whilst excavation work resumes along the arched frontage of the Vinery House. It's been a few years since the two bays to the west side, exactly half of the 40m low front wall, were restored. During that period, we uncovered firm evidence of previous buildings and path ways, but it left us with many un-answered questions. Expectations of disappointment mount as the mini digger begins to scoop away the top soil. We have uncovered yet another mystery which, if solved, should provide us with a better understanding of an earlier phase in the development of the glass houses. This in turn will contribute to the broader study of the evolution of the Walled Kitchen Garden. Exciting stuff, at least from our perspective.

Chris and Karen Cronin

CRICKET AT CROOME COURT 1994-1999

In early 1994, the Earl's Croome Cricket club, having been forced from their village cricket pitch, approached John Rudge, the then owner of Croome Court, to seek his approval for the club to relocate to the Court, which was readily granted. The plan was to play on the north lawn, with its magnificent view towards the Malverns, with changing facilities within the main house. Following hard pre-season work, a truly splendid cricket square was prepared by the hard working Frank Poole, who became a regular sight circling the outfield in ever decreasing



circles, on the club's ancient tractor, towing the all important mower. The club, having operated for three seasons on a village wicket, which tested the nerve of any batsman, found itself in a position where it was able to pick rather than beg teams to visit, and a very attractive fixture list, including some prestigious clubs such as Windsor, was established.

Initially the club was given the run of the house, which enabled a visitors' changing room to be set up in the Hari Krishna room, which was always a talking point, with the home side having a large, but less auspicious changing room. The room through which the long room was accessed was the bar and lounge, hosting many happy post match gatherings, and in which tea was served. Over the period at the Court, the club facilities moved via the cellars, to the corner courtyard rooms, which served for changing and catering purposes.

Perhaps the most vivid non-playing memory that club members will have taken away from the era at the Court, is of a Christmas Buffet Dance in the long room, with logs from Dunstall House burning throughout the day in the main ground-floor fireplaces. Tables around the room were attractively laid, and the room was festively decked out by team members, their wives and girl friends, which with the sound of dance music, took the Court back to events of long

ago. Other events were also held in the Court, such as Quiz evenings, as well as the obligatory club meetings, enhanced by bar facilities.

The home Sunday fixtures were wonderful occasions, with players being privileged to be able to walk down the Court steps to the wicket, with visitors settled beyond the boundary edge to watch the cricket and to enjoy picnic meals. The quality of the wicket and outfield seemed to bring the best out in the players who apart from Mike Clemas, Dave Callighan and David White, were drawn from surrounding areas, which meant that an enviable record was achieved, including one season undefeated. In May 1998 the club achieved national fame, as the village cricket team with the largest pavilion in the country, this being reported, complete with pictures in the national press. Following this, Tony Francis featured the club in his "Heart of the Country" programme, an occasion only slightly marred by his being injured whilst fielding as a guest player, and requiring hospital treatment! The cricket club was always very much part of the scene during John's tenure, even on one occasion staging a match so that his guests could witness the scene of men in white, and could hear that wonderful sound of bat on ball, resonating around.

As with all good things, there had to be an end, which came after the 1999 season, when for easy to understand reasons, the new owner, Lawrence Bilton, was turning the house into a family home, and seeking to develop the site. The club then moved to Severn Stoke retaining only the view of the Rotunda of its period in the shadow of the Coventry family.

Mike Clemas

FUNGI FOR LIFE ...

On Wednesday 22nd October it was with curiosity that I attended a talk by Diana Bateman entitled 'Fungi for Life'. The evening unfolded with Diana giving a fascinating insight into the world of Fungi, having brought with her a large collection of newly foraged specimens gathered that day to illustrate her talk.



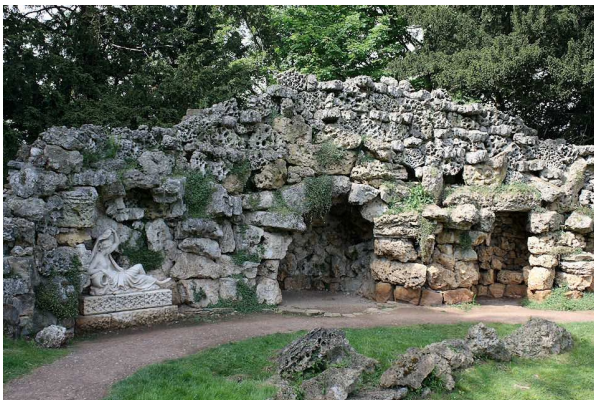
Although she apologised that there were not as many varieties as usual for the time of year, she still managed to fill a large table

with the weird and wonderful shapes of her collection. As she talked she invited us to touch and smell and ask her any fungi question we pleased. Her talk was well received by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience and I, for one, am a little wiser now ...

Carrie Wishart

PHOTOS FROM THE PARK

New Friends member, Tadjio Szczepanik, has been out and about in the Park over the past year taking some amazing photos. Here is a selection:



Tadjio Szczepanik

CROOME PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION GROUP

Croome is different. Whereas most National Trust properties are full of furniture, paintings, porcelain and the accumulated treasures of a family's life, Croome Court at the moment is practically empty and would certainly not be a safe environment for the conservation of fragile and irreplaceable objects. The challenge for the PEC Group which continues to meet on a regular and quite frequent basis is how to make largely empty spaces – as they will remain for some time to come – interesting and stimulating for the visitor. An incidental challenge of the severe winter proved to be travel to Croome for those coming some distance, especially from Shropshire, for the last scheduled meeting on the 10th February, so it was held at Attingham, thus putting the travel difficulty upon Worcestershire and Gloucestershire members of the group instead.

Many ideas have been offered and discussed and papers written on the various options and opportunities presented by the condition of the Court in the initial phase of its opening to the public. A key consideration is the engagement of visitors in the actual discussion of the options and finding ways in which people might contribute their thoughts on the most effective ways of presenting the house and its history to visitors over the coming years, and before plans are more firmly made for restoration and the eventual return of the treasures of Croome. These treasures are at present very dispersed but in safe hands from Kelmarsh Hall, Northants., to the V.& A. in London, to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, as well as other places. The general approach to presentation being discussed by the PEC group is one in which visitors are much more actively engaged by their experience of the property, rather than rather passively wandering through rooms picking up information on laminated sheets perhaps or having a word or two with a Room Steward. This is the challenge being met by the PEC group as it continues its discussions and preparation for this summer's first phase of opening. There is a great deal of work to be done and many contributions to be made by a range of specialists. What will make it all worthwhile is the excitement of opening and the enjoyment of visitors as they begin to immerse themselves in a world we nearly lost - the Court in something of its original glory. The experience will include seeing the views to the eyecatchers from the Long Gallery and the different forms and functions of other rooms, as well as an appreciation

of the successive occupants of the Court, not forgetting those who came after the many generations of the Coventry family following their final departure from Croome in 1948.

Eric Jones

FRIENDS FESTIVE MEAL



A great time was had by all during the Festive Meal in January. Good food and company and a presentation to Wendy for her many years of hard work in encouraging visitors to Croome.

Christine Adams

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Christine has been busy at work arranging a calendar of events for 2009 and 2010, which we have detailed below:

2009

- 26 Mar** – AGM, guest speaker Sir Roy Strong
- 22 & 23 Apr** – ‘Continuing the Restoration’ with Head Gardener, Katherine Alker
- 10 May** – ‘A Changing Landscape’ walk with Nigel Matthews
- 23 May** – Tour of Croome Court for first-time Friends with Michael Smith
- 17 Jun** – ‘Strawberries in the Temple’, a fundraising event for Croome Court
- 25 Jun** – Visit to Kelmarsh Hall to view Croome furniture exhibition, Hall and Garden
- 8 Aug** – Eye Catcher Walk with Michael Smith
- 26 & 27 Sep** – Walled Garden visit with Mr & Mrs Cronin
- 1-5 Oct** – Cornish Holiday with Connie Cook
- 10 Nov** – Social Evening with talk by Arthur Casey

2010

- 20 Jan** – Festive Meal
- 25 Mar** – AGM

Details of all the above events will be posted/emailed to you by members of the committee prior to each event, but put these dates in your diary now – it’s a great programme

JOIN YOUR COMMITTEE

From March 2009, the Friends will need a new Treasurer to succeed John Willis (I think we have a replacement lined up, if he is elected in the face of hot competition!). Joan is willing to continue for another year as Secretary. Joan and John, as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, have served the Friends admirably in these two key roles since the formation of our supporters group in 2004. That the Friends of Croome is such a flourishing and well-supported organisation is in no small measure thanks to Joan and John.

Mike Ellison has said that he does not wish to stand again, and Nigel wants to take a year's sabbatical. At this moment, my understanding is that everyone else is offering themselves for re-election. We hope to recruit 3 additional members to the

committee and, if possible, fill at least the vacancy created by Mike's departure.

Please start to give some thought to either offering to take up one of these roles yourself or perhaps to encouraging a friend of yours to do so. Existing committee members would be pleased to talk to anyone who is interested.

Eric Jones

YOUR COMMITTEE

Here are the members of your committee, appointed at the AGM:

Chairman:	Eric Jones
Vice Chairman:	John Henderson
Secretary:	Joan Willis
Treasurer:	John Willis
Membership Secretary:	Diana Skeys
Programme Secretary:	Christine Adams
Members:	Mike Ellison
	Nigel Matthews
	Geoff Sherwood
	Michael Smith (NT)

AND FINALLY ...

As always, we would love to receive your thoughts, photos and articles in time for the next issue in Autumn 2009. Please email them to me at any time and we'll get them into the Newsletter.

With thanks to Jeremy Milln, Chris Cronin, Tadjio Szczepanik, Mike Clemas, Lindsay Gray, the National Gallery and The National Trust for the photos.

Thanks also to Atotech for kindly sponsoring and printing this newsletter.

Lindsay Gray
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Friends of Croome Park

Spring 2009 Newsletter Issue 10

BRAINTEASERS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CROOME

This is a new addition to your Newsletter and I hope you'll find it to be a bit of fun – the answer(s) will be in the next issue. No prizes, just the satisfaction of knowing your stuff! We'll start off with an easy one ...



Q. At whose court were the Gunning sisters presented, and, between them, can you name the three Dukes they married?

A.
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CAPTION COMPETITION ...

Another new addition to your Newsletter to encourage feedback and contributions. Again, no prizes, but a lot of fun!



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