



# FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026: Issue 115

## News from the Director

The overriding feature of the last couple of months has been the severe drought which has made the grounds look so desiccated and desert like. At the beginning of the year we had got so used to severe deluges that this extended period without rain is quite unnerving. This makes event planning throughout the year quite a challenge as the climatic conditions veer between torrential rain & heatwaves!

We have hosted many exciting events demonstrating that, whatever the weather, Stansted Park remains an attractive destination. The Steeleford Super Car Rally was a great success and, although the South Downs Food Festival had to battle against the elements on the Saturday, the very strong turnout on the Sunday proved its huge appeal. Our own Summer Festival was blessed with good weather and this event is certainly gaining significant traction with an array of eccentric and eclectic activities, displays and demonstrations. The Napoleonic Association and their reenactment of the Battle of Waterloo always goes down a storm and there were many other excellent performances from a variety of highly idiosyncratic bands! The Portsmouth Batala Drummers never fail to impress with their vitality and seemingly never-ending energy!



The Proms Weekend also proved its enduring popularity with over 2,000 people attending to enjoy stirring music, the spectacular Spitfire and phenomenal fireworks. There is something about the great British public wishing to enjoy al fresco picnics as the numbers who turn up for the Outdoor Theatre and Adventure Cinema testifies. Overall, it is encouraging that Stansted Park now has a very good reputation for laying on events which are deemed both of good quality and value for money.

I would like to thank all the Stansted Staff who have really put their shoulders to the wheel to organise and coordinate these many events and to prepare the grounds, gardens and parkland so that the Estate is shown off to its best effect throughout the Summer. This includes the Mansion where there have been a lot of visitors and guided tours; people constantly remark on how wonderful the House is looking.

The Chapel Organ project is proceeding apace and we need one more final big push to raise the necessary funds to complete the work. There will be a concert in the Chapel on 24<sup>th</sup> September led by Richard Barnes to which I hope that a goodly number of Friends will be able to attend. I am particularly grateful for your very generous donation to its refurbishment and to the other projects which are ongoing, namely the Visitors' Information Point, the survey of the upright piano in the Servants' Hall and the Mansion Steps Handrails.

As ever, the support that the Friends provide to the Foundation is hugely appreciated and our immense thanks are due as we weather the weather and the financial climate.

*David Bennett*



## Regular Events

### St Paul's Chapel Monthly Prayer Meetings

The last prayer meeting of the year is on Thursday, 1 October. Entrance is via the Pavilion Tearoom, through the Dutch Garden Gate to the Chapel. Complimentary light refreshments are available after the service and everyone is most welcome. Please let us know if you are likely to attend so we ensure we cater for enough people.

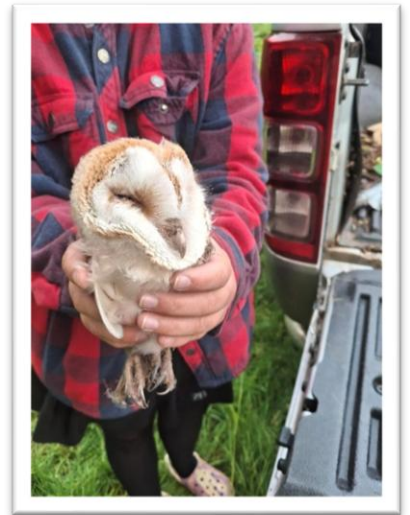
**We continue to raise money for the restoration of the chapel and any donation, no matter how small, is welcome.**



## Notes from the Head Forester

As I pen these notes, I am hoping that the promised rain will arrive soon as the forest and park are now desperately dry and it will take long spells of prolonged rain to rectify this situation. However, we require it to be steady rainfall as sudden deluges will not soak into the ground and could cause flooding which would not be welcome. In general, our newly planted trees have not fared too badly being planted either early in the planting season so they could get their roots down whilst there was still warmth in the soil or in the case of Oak Copse, which was planted towards the end of the season, into what is normally a very damp wood. Here there has obviously been sufficient moisture in the soil as they are at present doing well. Conversely, many of our old trees are showing signs of drought stress especially oak and beech and I fear we may yet lose some. Drought has a cumulative effect on trees so after a number of dry summers trees die several years after, as was demonstrated with old beech after the drought of 1976. I remember this 16-month dry period well as I was in my first year of a forestry and landscape apprenticeship. One of the tasks was landscaping a large new public park which we had to stone pick after heavy plant formed the landscape. A hired in stone picking machine didn't work so it was back to raking into lines and forking into dumpers with potato forks, character building they say!

Another contrast has been from last year's bust to this year's boom in barn owl breeding. I have had reports from across the South of England of large numbers of breeding attempts and good broods being ringed. We have had at least three broods, two of which were ringed. Sadly, one nest box was blown out of a tree in strong winds when the fixings failed and the three owlets perished. As this was early in the season the adults are likely to have attempted a second brood. I am hoping that there are plenty of small mammals available to sustain this rise in the population. We will be replacing a number of the boxes this year and are going to build them to a standard design from our own timber and redesign the fixings which we feel are inadequate on the boxes we previously bought.



*Barn owl chick from the Big Rearing Field box being ringed*

After many months and several twists and turns I now have the offer of our new Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier scheme for the park. This will assist in funding the continuation of the management of areas managed under the old schemes from a start in 1995. As many of the original fences installed back then to allow grazing to resume in the park are now on their last legs a major part of the new scheme will be to refence many of these areas and continue the non-intensive management that benefits landscape and biodiversity. In addition, in conjunction with Broadreed Farm an area of arable in the East Park will be returning to parkland and in time this will be grass with scattered clumps and single trees. We hope to start the initial work on this area this autumn.



*Now what fence can we break next??!!*

**Michael Prior**



# Wow, what a summer!



*The hummingbird hawk-moth  
(Macroglossum stellatarum)*

The unprecedented heat and dry weather have created many challenges within the gardens and will continue to have an impact into the autumn.

As with many large gardens nationwide, the difficulties regarding early flowering and scorching of vegetation, together with lack of water, has dictated a shorter season. However, with responsible watering strategies and adaptive maintenance routines, we have still had beautiful borders at Stansted and lots of life buzzing around the plants. **Hummingbird hawk moths** have been abundant and frequently seen around the Salvia 'Hot Lips', Nepeta and Gaura. These moths are very difficult to photograph due to their constant movement, but I have managed a vaguely recognisable image! They are a summer visitor to



*The Jersey tiger moth  
(Euplagia quadripunctaria)*

Britain from Southern Europe and are a day flying moth attracting much interest from visitors.

**Jersey tiger moths** have loved our home-grown Zinnias around the garden. This is a beautiful, day and night flying moth, which is happy to be photographed.

Many varieties of butterflies have flirted over the floral displays of the Well Head and walled garden and even though the Dutch garden is still in a state of clearance, the bees are nesting in the ground and working their way diligently around the flowers returning to the nest frequently.

All work on the beds in the Dutch garden has been carried out organically and manually, which allows for a healthy network of life throughout the gardens. It can be necessary to spray at times, but I strive to create an environment which is sustainable and nature friendly. This can take longer than chemical methods but the least spraying we can do the healthier and happier the soil and life within it.

The Well Head, which is managed for biodiversity, sees much wildlife visiting and I am not quick to clear evidence, such as flattened *Persicaria amplexicaulis* and Japanese anemone. As mentioned in previous newsletters, I practice a more relaxed style of maintenance in this area, allowing a wide variety of different fauna and flora to have a home.

Many visitors have stopped for a chat over the hot weeks to talk about planting for drought and my thoughts are still to plant for both dry and wet summers. This season has seen many plants scorched by the searing sun and so I have concentrated on trying to keep the core of the plants as healthy as possible. We will have lost some of these but in general I think they will recover. Our main losses will come from rabbits searching for moisture underneath plants or grass, which then unearths the root system and at times this is an end to the life of the plant. However, we are home to many animals at Stansted, and they will all be struggling in the heat, so I'm willing to share the space.

Another frequent conversation has been visitors asking about my observations on which plants have managed in the dry, hot weather. Certainly, at Stansted: *Nepeta*, *Helenium* varieties, *Verbena bonariensis*, *Alchemilla mollis*, *Gaura*, *Potentilla* 'Etna' and 'Flambeau', *Salvias*, *Penstemon*, *Roses*, *Valerian*, *Catananche*, *Agapanthus*, *Achillea* and *Alliums* all spring to mind. Grasses can provide wonderful interest from the summer into the colder months, coping well with shade, full sun, and dry conditions. The annuals haven't fared quite so well and remain smaller plants, which will impact on the autumn display. We have accepted that this will be a shorter season and plants such as *Helenium*, *Aster*, *Echinacea*, *Sedums*, which usually flower late summer/ autumn, are already looking like they will be over in early September. Unfortunately, the rabbits have also feasted on the *Dahlia* tubers and so these may need to be replaced next year.

We have still had a beautiful display throughout the season, but thinking ahead and working towards creating resilient areas, providing shade for humans and plants will need to be part of the plan.

/cont...



## Summer images of the Walled Garden

The intensely dry and hot summer is making autumn/winter a little unpredictable, but the same tasks as usual will be completed even if a little earlier, such as perennials cut back (later in the well head), shrubs pruned, annuals removed, seeds collected, and mulching started. Any ground clearance and repairs around the gardens will be completed. I am hoping to put in some new shrubs/climbers in the walled garden such as *Abelia grandiflora*, *Hamamelis* and *Coronilla valentina glauca* 'Citrina'. We will try to do any new planting in the autumn to encourage roots to be deep by the spring in case of another hot dry year. The plants are much more likely to survive as the root systems will be established and able to seek moisture deep in the soil. Mulching helps to retain moisture and so we will be working on our planned system of applying mulch over a 2-year cycle.

This year has proved more than ever that we need to be adaptable and responsible in our gardening practices. Climate change presents challenges in all seasons, but we can make a difference and gardening in a sustainable way such as using less pesticides, conserving water, mulching, using peat free compost and being mindful of our planting choices, will all help.

As always thank you to our wonderful garden volunteers who have had to be flexible and adaptable on Thursday mornings in this challenging season. Enjoy the autumn which may well be full of amazing colour and texture. Garden with pleasure and enjoyment.

*Jan Atkinson - Head Gardener*



*This pigeon was not for moving from the cool of the portico!!!*



# This summer so far..

## Michael Prior's Guided Walk for FOSP, in May

Michael's second guided walk of the year was to the East Park, to explore restoration plans for that part of the park. Over a section across an ex-arable field, strewn with flints and weeds, we needed to be mindful of the skylarks nesting there.



Michael explained that hedges here, planted by him, create wildlife corridors and were due to be "laid" over the next couple of years, needing skilled contractors. Individual stems are taken, cut part way through at the base, and folded over, bound and staked into the hedge, producing a mass of new growth the following year, making the hedge impenetrable to sheep. An expensive process but fortunately Stansted will receive a Countryside Stewardship grant for this work.

East Park North has been under arable cultivation since WW2, but the renovation proposal, with the co-operation of the current tenant, and supported by Natural England, is to revert some 23.32 hectares to grass parkland.

Michael pointed out a three hundred year old sweet chestnut tree surrounded by a clump of younger trees, and Lumley Seat, originally a folly with a cottage behind it, but now an impressive house, owned by one of the family.

The land is very flinty, and farm machinery bears the brunt - arable operations on stubble are always at risk of fire from sparks.

The last stop was Lumley Plantation. With the relatively new problem of great spruce bark beetle spreading from Asia across Europe, it is causing major problems in spruce plantations. In the South of England affected areas have been cleared and destroyed. The Forestry Commission want to initiate a "Proactive Spruce Removal Program" in the South of England to prevent it's spread in the UK, unfortunately, the young spruce plantation only planted in 2018 and growing very well, may have to be removed if their programme goes ahead.

A huge thank you to Michael Prior for his consistently fascinating and informative walks.

*from notes by Andy Rackham*

## The Food and Summer Festivals



The FOSP tent was up and running at both these events and we were happy to see so many of you there. The Foundation Bookshop was also represented at these events with books sold on both days.

Unhappily, the Food Festival was dampened somewhat with some heavy rain showers but nevertheless was well attended with many interesting stalls to visit and expert classes to see including MasterChef finalist Luke Emmess, the local head chef at The Wykeham Arms in Winchester talking about sous-vide and steaks and other things.

In contrast, the Summer Festival enjoyed excellent weather, and both days were filled with families having fun. There was plenty to see



## Our FOSP Summer Supper Party held on Wednesday, 8 July in the Pavilion Tea Room

This year's Summer Party began in style, with guests enjoying a glass or two of fizz on arrival before a delicious two-course meal from the excellent Pavilion Tearoom. The exceptional warm weather meant that most people could drink, chat and dine outside in the walled gardens.

Fred Duncannon and David Bennett thanked members for their continued support of the Foundation, and the obligatory raffle offered plenty of prizes – many of them drink-related!

New friendships were made and old acquaintances renewed.

All in all, everyone agreed it had been a very enjoyable evening.



## Cream Tea held on Thursday, 13 August



On officially the hottest day of the year an excellent gathering of Friends, old and new, plus guests came together in the Music Room and Entrance Hall to share in a wonderful Cream Tea to the accompaniment of easygoing piano music played by Vanessa Bowler.

Because of the intense heat, several fans were used to create a through-draught and keep everyone cool – and the cream from melting! It was a thoroughly enjoyable event, and our thanks go to all the volunteers who helped with serving and clearing up.



# Events coming up..

## The Role of an Archivist – Wednesday, 7 October, 2.00pm

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Tessa Culley, one of our in-house Archivists, has kindly agreed to give a talk on the role of an Archivist at Stansted. Her talk will offer a fascinating look at how the archives are cared for, along with reflections from her years of volunteering at Stansted.

To book, please contact the office on 023 9241 2265 and pay by card. Tickets are £6 for FOSP members – please have your membership number ready – and £8 for non-members. Tea and coffee are included. The talk starts at 2.00pm; entry is via the North Entrance, with parking in front of the House.

We look forward to seeing you.



## Yuletide Tea - 2 December

After what has felt like an endless summer, the temperature is finally dropping – so brace yourselves, it is time to whisper the C word.

Note this date in your diaries – more details will be in the Winter Newsletter or by email nearer the time.



## Trip to [Polesden Lacey](#) – Wednesday, 16 December 2026

You will recall that we recently asked for feedback on a potential trip to Ham House in December, but after further research and discussions with the coach company the journey times proved to be prohibitive. We have therefore decided to visit Polesden Lacey, a National Trust house near Dorking with a much shorter journey time.

Polesden Lacey was the country retreat of Edwardian socialite, Margaret Greville and the downstairs showrooms house her extensive collection of paintings, ceramics and fine French furniture. The house will be decorated with a Christmas theme, the subject of which will be confirmed at a later date.

On our return journey, we will visit [Squires Garden Centre](#) at Milford which will provide an ideal opportunity for afternoon refreshments and last-minute Christmas shopping.

We are planning to leave Stansted at 9.00am, returning late afternoon. The cost of the coach including the drivers tip is £25 for FOSP Members or £30 for non-members. National Trust members have free entry to the house and for non-members the cost will be £17.10 payable upon entry.

Please let us know by calling the office and quoting "Polesden Lacey Trip" if you are interested in going so we can ascertain numbers.

This promises to be a fabulous day out. Further details, including final timings and payment information, will be sent by email later in September.

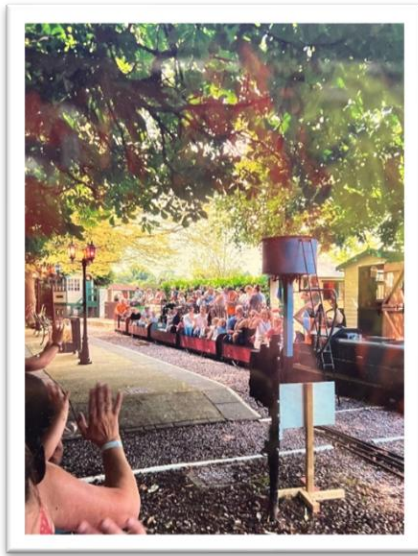




# ALL ABOARD!! - A firm favourite for over 20 years

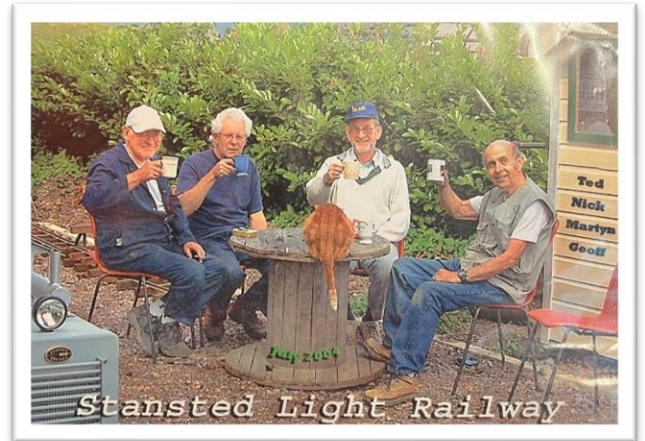
When the Stansted Park Light Railway (SPLR) opened in 2005 it marked the culmination of a lifelong model railway enthusiast's, Geoff Jago, desire to see a fully functioning miniature railway operating in the West Sussex countryside - and what better location than Stansted Park.

Construction of the railway started in 2002 and despite humble beginnings is now run entirely by a group of twelve enthusiastic active volunteers. The railway runs every Wednesday & Saturday (between 10am & 3.30pm) along with seasonal special events like the Stansted Summer Festival.



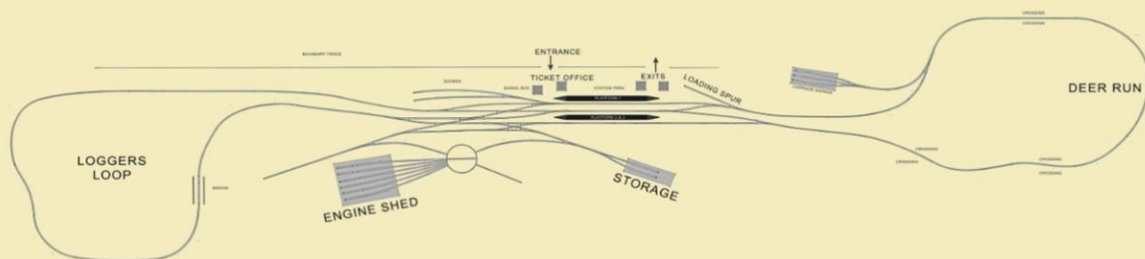
The train runs from the main station past the carriage sidings, through the gate crossing and then down the deer run. It travels onwards to the bamboo crossing, through the cutting and back to the down line of the main station area. Onwards, passing the engine shed and turntable, the line continues across the bridge, around the forest end and back into the main station. The circuit is roughly half a mile long and gives travellers an excellent chance to experience the charm of a 7¼-inch miniature railway while enjoying views of the many different aspects of Stansted Park. It is suitable for all ages and fully accessible for wheelchair users.

The railway originally operated with privately owned steam locomotives, but these were withdrawn in 2020 when their owners permanently left the line. Today, the locomotive fleet consists of three petrol engines – Ted, Grafton and Theo – along with one hybrid, Nazomi. With continued fundraising, we hope that a steam locomotive may one day make a return.



*Photograph taken in 2004 during the latter stages of initial construction showing not only the railway cat but also Geoff Jago (far right) the railways champion*

## TRACK LAYOUT



Copyright © 2026 Stansted Park Light Railway

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The railway closes January to February for vital/necessary maintenance work, etc. and normally opens first week of March.

For latest information and updates please visit [www.sp-lr.co.uk](http://www.sp-lr.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/stanstedparklightrailway](https://www.facebook.com/stanstedparklightrailway)

My thanks to Jim Hallett and Tod Sloan for their valuable input and fact checking.

**Peter Dudman**



# Research Corner

By Vanessa Curtis

*In a new occasional feature called, 'Research Corner', I will discuss paintings, artefacts, photographs and buildings connected to the Stansted estate.*

Today's piece features this intriguing photograph from inside Bessborough House, Kilkenny, taken prior to the fire of 1923. The table is elaborately decorated for a wedding breakfast and the date given is 1901. Eagle-eyed readers will be able to spot portraits that now hang in the dining room and blue drawing room at Stansted. There may be other recognisable artefacts and/or paintings here too. All were sensibly removed and brought to England by Vere Ponsonby when the War of Independence broke out in Ireland. These treasures were eventually moved into Stansted in 1924 when Vere and Roberte purchased the estate.



Photograph from the Bessborough Papers  
National Library of Ireland

## ...and within Stansted Park..



The Stansted Park Farm Shop stocks the finest food and drink from over 100 Sussex and Hampshire artisan producers. With a full butchery counter of local game and meat, a deli brimming with homemade pastries, charcuterie and award-winning cheeses, it's a spectacular destination to enjoy the food of the South Downs and Coast.



Within the Walled Garden is a beautifully restored Victorian glass house, which now houses The Pavilion Tearoom.



Sarah has been a potter for many years and has been very lucky to have a studio in the grounds of Stansted Park. She has recently retired as an art lecturer after 17 years of full time teaching and is now able to work full time as a potter. She is inspired by the gardens and wild life that surrounds the studio and has developed her own style of decoration using strong colour and abundant pattern. Sarah travels frequently and collects ideas and inspiration from other countries and cultures, which include India, and the Mediterranean countries. Her ceramic ware is decorative and functional and is great for decorating dinner tables and complimenting good food! are on hand to help with expert gardening advice.



Staying active and independent is something we all value, especially as we get older. However, as strength, balance, and confidence change over time, the risk of falls can increase. Falls are one of the most common causes of injury in people over 60, but the reassuring news is that many falls are preventable.

With the right exercises and a little consistency, you can improve your strength, balance, and confidence, helping you continue to enjoy everyday life. Whether that's a walk through Stansted Park, time in the garden, or keeping up with family and friends.

At Physio-logical, based here in Stansted Park, we work with many people to help them stay strong, steady, and independent through simple, effective exercise programmes.



## Cynthia Baird

19 August 1925 – 4 April 2026

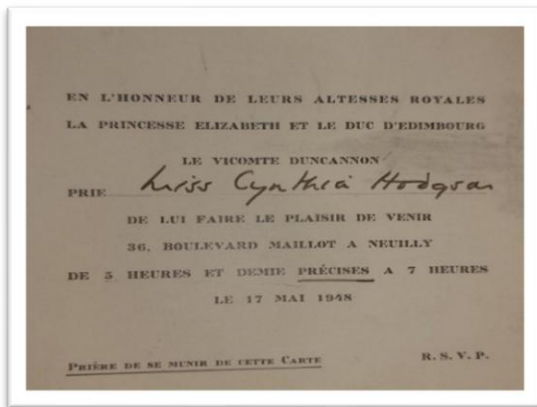
friend of the 10th Earl Frederick (Eric) Ponsonby

Sources : Louise Baird and The Sheet News

rose to become Head of Australia's External Affairs, placing Cynthia at the centre of global diplomacy.

In 1945, aged just twenty, Cynthia travelled across the world with her parents as her father helped shape the United Nations and was the Australian delegate for the Security Council. She briefly at the Savoy Hotel, attended the first post-war party at Buckingham Palace, met the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, and listened to Winston Churchill tell stories about his quarrelsome black swans that had been gifted to him by the Australians.

She lived in Paris from 1946 whilst her father was there as the Australian Ambassador getting involved in many diplomatic functions when, naturally, the Brits and the Aussies spent a lot of time together. Cynthia became friends with Viscount Duncannon – Frederick or Eric as he was known, who was 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary at the British Embassy later becoming 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary, and they often shared social events and dinners. Eric was also involved in planning and hosting the trip when Princess Elizabeth, the Duchess of Edinburgh, came to Paris with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh. Cynthia was invited to join them as she and the Princess were similar ages and had met before in London.



Living in Paris, Cynthia shared a flat with Diana Bowes-Lyon, a cousin of the princesses and when Princess Margaret came to stay, Cynthia and Diana were asked to take her out to lunch. Lord Duncannon arranged a memorable picnic for them. Cynthia also remained close to Eric Duncannon and his future wife, Mary, whom he met while she was working for the Red Cross in Paris. Cynthia was invited to their wedding there.

Paris soon became her playground. Studying at the Sorbonne, living with Diana Bowes-Lyon, attending couture shows, riding polo ponies, hosting diplomats, and had entertained the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Cynthia embraced post-war Paris. even joining the official Royal Tour of Paris with Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

She left Paris in 1951 with her father for his next appointment as Australian Ambassador in Tokyo and met and married a RAF officer there in 1952 in the presence of the Emperor of Japan. Later in London Eric and Mary invited Cynthia for lunch - by then, Eric had become the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bessborough.

Life back in Britain brought children, travel, and a glamorous career in beauty PR – as Director of PR and Marketing for Orlane cosmetics, and she later launched Sisley in the UK. Holidays in Sicily became a cherished family tradition after David and Cynthia built a holiday house there. After David's death, Cynthia continued to fill her life, with a new partner, dividing her time between London and Sicily and travelling widely. She played bridge and celebrated birthdays in style and in 2019, at the age of 94, Cynthia moved from London to Sheet to live with her daughter Louise.

In 2022, another chance encounter happened when Cynthia's daughter Louise was going to visit Stansted and mentioned the name of Bessborough to her mother. Cynthia immediately recalled the days she spent in Paris with Eric. The current 12<sup>th</sup> Earl invited Cynthia and Louise to meet him and the Countess for tea at Stansted and they took several pieces of memorabilia with them to show them. He very kindly gave Cynthia the book written on Stansted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bessborough, "Enchanted Forest". The photograph taken in the Music Room at Stansted shows the 12<sup>th</sup> Earl Myles Bessborough and Cynthia below the painting of the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl, Eric and his wife Mary. The caption all agreed on was "What happened in Paris stayed in Paris ..."

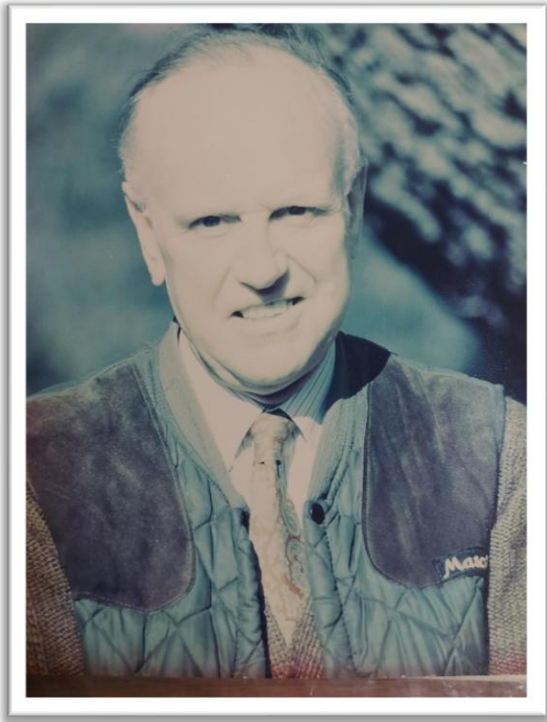
Cynthia enjoyed many happy times after that as a Friend of Stansted and attended musical evenings and Friends' events until her 100<sup>th</sup> year when she was no longer able to attend. Cynthia lived an extraordinary life, and these few words can only hint at its fullness.





## *and sadly*

### Geoffrey James



Geoffrey [ aka "Jimmy" ] James passed away on the 11th of July 2026 at the age of 97.

Jimmy, as he was universally known, was born on 5th November 1928 and was Agent at Stansted from 1985 to 1991. In 1997 he was instrumental in setting up the current Friends of Stansted Park group, acting as Interim Chairman of the newly constituted committee and helping to steer it through its early months.

He had a successful career in the Royal Navy [ Surface Fleet ] including service in the Royal Yacht Britannia, before entering the Naval Diplomatic Corps.

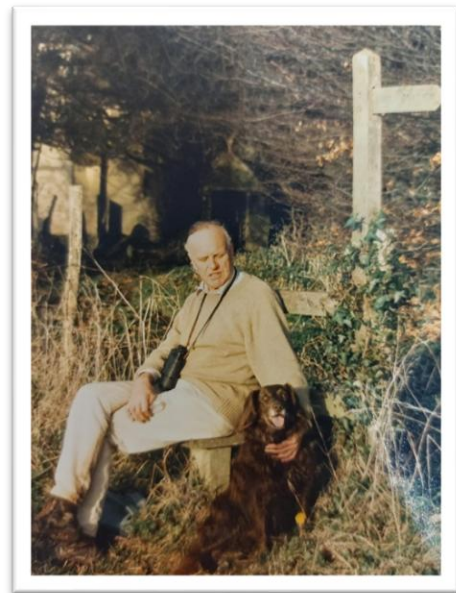
Through the latter part of his time in the Royal Navy, Jimmy and his wife Wendy's home in Rowlands Castle was their UK base, where they brought up their two children, Dawn and Clive. His arrival at Stansted, in the early years after the Foundation was formed, was not an easy time as the estate was perilously short of financial resources and his 'boss' and Chairman, the 10th Earl of Bessborough was living "above the shop" watching his every move.

Michael Prior recalls his interview with Jimmy for his job before he was appointed in 1990. Jimmy pointed out of the window of the old Agents' Office to a tree and asked Michael what it was. The question was not academic as Jimmy didn't

know and was impressed to learn both the Common and Botanical names. The interview obviously went well because Michael got the job!

Jimmy was a passionate historian and fascinated by the development of historic houses and their estates. Whenever a question about the history of Stansted came up, Jimmy was always my first port of call. If he didn't already have the answer, he would invariably undertake the necessary research to try and find the information needed.

After an initial spell as interim Chairman of the newly emerging Friends of Stansted Park which combined two almost obsolete groups; "Friends of the Forest", and "Friends of Stansted", Jimmy gave way to Andrew Grant as Chairman and undertook the role of Treasurer of this emerging group, a position he held with distinction until shortly after his 80th birthday in 2008. He then stepped down from the Committee but continued a close connection with Stansted as Jimmy and Wendy remained regular supporters of Friends' events for many years.



*Jimmy at Stansted with Bonny*

Jimmy's funeral was held on 4th August at Saint Hubert's, Idsworth, but sadly, due to ill health Wendy was unable to attend the funeral but Dawn and Clive gave an excellent Eulogy of his life.

Jimmy will be much missed by his family, and Friends in every sense.

***By James Cooper***



# Diary Dates

The Stansted website always has the latest information about what's on at Stansted Park so that should always be your first port of call - [www.stanstedpark.co.uk.whatson](http://www.stanstedpark.co.uk.whatson). Alternatively, you can contact the Office by email - [enquiry@stanstedpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@stanstedpark.co.uk) or phone 023 9241 2265, option 5.

FOSP Members can get discounts on many Foundation Events and emails are sent out regularly with discount codes so watch out for them!



## FRIENDS OF STANSTED PARK EVENTS

**How to get here:** Unless otherwise directed, please use the North Entrance to attend FOSP events. Drive through the automatic gates, veer to the right where the drive forks and park in front of the House.

A Talk by Tessa Culley on her role as an Archivist at 2.00pm – see page 7..... .. Wednesday, 7 October  
**More details on the following events will be given nearer the time -**  
Yuletide Tea – see page 7..... .. Wednesday, 2 December  
Trip to Polesden Lacey – leaving at 9.00am – see page 7..... .. Wednesday, 16 December

## Coming in the Winter Newsletter .....

It's hard to contemplate that the days will be getting progressively cooler when we have been blessed by such outstanding weather but we plan to include the following:-

- Further updates about the Visitor Experience
- Michael Prior's 2 September walk
- Feedback on Tessa Culley's talk on "being an Archivist"
- What's coming up...

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

*Latest copy date : 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026*

..and, as usual, if you have anything that you think would be of interest to the Friends please send any copy to [peter.dudman1@virginmedia.com](mailto:peter.dudman1@virginmedia.com) by **23<sup>rd</sup> October** for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter. We have had some ideas on short themes for forthcoming issues but would love to hear what you like and don't like to hear about. We love feedback

## COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman ..... Nigel Smith – [ngs.1957@hotmail.com](mailto:ngs.1957@hotmail.com)  
Secretary ..... Anne Burton – [anneburton99@gmail.com](mailto:anneburton99@gmail.com)  
Treasurer ..... Sarah Hutchinson – [hutchsj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hutchsj@yahoo.co.uk)  
Membership Secretary ..... Paul Bennett – [friendsofstanstedpark@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstanstedpark@outlook.com)  
Newsletter Editor ..... Peter Dudman – [peter.dudman1@virginmedia.com](mailto:peter.dudman1@virginmedia.com)

For **membership enquiries**, please contact **Paul Bennett**. Membership cards will be issued to new members only. **Membership Renewals**: When renewing your membership, would you please consider setting up a Standing Order to save on volunteer time. Our Bank Details are: Sort Code 60-10-20 Account 61788627. Please give your membership number as a reference.

**Consider keeping a photo of your membership card on your phone for ease of access.**