

FRIENDS OF



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Since the last Newsletter, we celebrated 25 years of FOSP at the Summer Party and I'd like to thank everyone who helped out with the organisation; to Viscount Duncannon (the new Foundation Trustees' Chairman) for thanking the Friends for their loyal support throughout the last 25 years, as we look forward to the next 25; to Andrew Grant for his reminiscences on his time serving on the Committee, and as Chairman; to Robert Godwin on the history of the Newsletter; and to the Friends who attended; for making this a huge success.

The annual Garden Show and Summer Festival took place in June and July respectively and again my thanks go to all those Friends and volunteers that freely gave their time to help out and make these events run smoothly.

Finally, the summer holidays are now upon us and, if you are looking for something to read, I can recommend the Stansted Park Foundation Charity Bookshop in the heart of Stansted's wonderful Garden Centre, opposite the café. This is run entirely by volunteers in their distinctive green aprons. All proceeds go to the Foundation for the upkeep of the Estate.

Nigel Smith (Photographs - Robert Godwin)



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Summer seems to be eluding us as I write this at the end of July but we were blessed in May and June when the sun shone and the gardens and grounds looked at their very best. Many thanks to the Garden Volunteers for their sterling efforts. The Garden Show certainly benefitted from the pristine nature of the Estate.

Other events are also proving popular; the Super Car Rally attracted over 200 exhibitors with their amazing vehicles, as well as five helicopters landing on the cricket pitch. We hosted our third year of Gilbert & Sullivan operas with HMS Pinafore being performed in the Walled Gardens. Although not as much of a wow factor as at the front of the House, the intimate setting worked extremely well.

The third year of the Summer Festival passed off well despite the atrocious weather forecast. We were lucky to salvage most of the activities on Saturday, although the prospect of high winds certainly kept some people away. We had to enact a fair



amount of contingency planning and move various activities into buildings and secure marquees. The weather on Sunday improved markedly and over 2,000 people came through the gates that day. The highlights were the Reenactors who performed an impressive 'Changing of the Guard' ceremony on the Mansion Forecourt complete with a Fife and Drum Band. The mock battles were much enjoyed as were the various displays and living history camp. This is becoming the largest event in the country laid on under the auspices of the Napoleonic Association and we can expect more interest next year following the release of the Ridley Scott film 'Napoleon'. The current



affairs and history talks in the Chapel, our own 'Speakers' Corner', were a new addition to the Festival and were well attended and we have built a firm foundation on which to build for the future. My sincere thanks to those FOSP members who kindly volunteered to help make the event run smoothly.

We still have the Proms concerts to come, with over 3,000 people expected and which includes a performance by Malakai Bayoh who featured prominently on Britain's Got Talent!

Elsewhere on the Estate, we are conducting the refurbishment of three cottages as well as reconfiguring some commercial offices in the Stable Yard, as most small businesses do not require such large spaces post-Covid. Enquiries are buoyant and it would be good to achieve full occupancy in the autumn.

The next phase of the signage plan has now been implemented with the last phase to be completed within the next six months or so; this will comprise more directional signage to help people to find our many amenities and retail outlets.

The new Visitor Entrance is still being planned but the Estate remains extremely grateful for the promise of funds to support this project and I will keep you updated on progress.

David Bennett (Photographs supplied by David Bennett)



MYLES PONSONBY, 12TH EARL of BESSBOROUGH

Myles Ponsonby 12th Earl of Bessborough came to stay at Stansted in 1949. He and his wife, Alison, lived at Broadreed Farm from 1975 where their three children were brought up. He became the 12th Earl after his father, Arthur (the 11th Earl) died on 5th April 2002. He became a trustee and Chairman of the Board of Stansted Park Foundation in 1991, and retired on 19th June, 2023. Here are some of his recollections.....



"I first came to Stansted with my parents in about 1949 aged eight, during the regime of Vere and Roberte, 9th Earl and Countess. Vere was my great-uncle, elder brother of my grandfather Myles who was killed at the battle of Loos in 1915.

The main thing I remember about that visit was the bath tap in the form of a swan. The swan tap and bathroom still survive. I also remember my father, a slow eater, regretting that he ate too slowly to be offered, by the butler, Wells (whose gravitas was terrifying), second helpings of Aunt Roberte's celebrated cuisine.

My mother died in 1952 as did George, Vere & Roberte's third son, who was killed in an accident when doing his National Service. They had also lost their second son, Desmond, in a riding accident when he was only nine.

In 1956 my father and I attended the funeral service for Vere in St Pauls Chapel, Stansted. The service was taken by Bishop Bell, who also presided over later services in Chichester Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral. He was a great friend of Uncle Vere's and extremely popular in the county. A fine man, whose memory has recently been unfairly challenged.

Eric and Mary, 10th Earl and Countess, moved in to Stansted. Aunt Roberte went to live in London, in a rather grand flat in Onslow Square where she entertained her family and friends, albeit on a reduced scale. She gave me lunch a couple of times at the hotel in Harrow-on-the-Hill, when I was there between 1954 and 1959.

After three miss-spent years at Trinity College, Cambridge from 1959 to 1962, I started work in London as an articled clerk and began being invited to occasional weekends at Stansted. There were always house parties at weekends, in summer involving trips to the Chichester Theatre and in winter, shooting.

These days we all dress more casually but in 1960 a weekend at Stansted required a dinner jacket, a shooting suit and a formal suit for church on Sunday. There was no central heating so all these clothes were of heavy cloth. A big suitcase was required – no question of hand luggage.

One clear memory was talking to Harold Macmillan by the swimming pool on a summer afternoon. The conversation started with my offer of a cup of tea. "No thanks, I'd like a large whisky and soda". He went on to tell me that there were 32 officers of the Grenadier Guards on duty at Loos when my grandfather was killed leading his Battalion and 30 were killed or wounded. This may have been a slight exaggeration but officer casualties were severe and the life expectancy of a subaltern in the trenches was estimated at six weeks.

In 1974 Eric Bessborough put Broadreed Farm into a trust for me and my family. That is why Broadreed did not become part of the Foundation.

Eric and Mary Bessborough kept Stansted going, always full of guests at weekends, thanks to much financial support from Mary as well as a great deal of hard work organizing the housework and the kitchen. She didn't have a French chef like her mother-in-law but was often inventive – fish fingers were served as goujons de plie.

Economic pressures were intensifying – rising costs and high taxes made it increasingly difficult to keep going. By the early 1980's it became obvious to Eric and his advisers that drastic measures were needed. Eric was insistent that Stansted should be preserved and not sold. The solution involved giving Stansted to a new charity, Stansted Park Foundation. The Foundation is charged with preserving the Estate for the future for the benefit of the public.

The Foundation, set up in 1983, owned the core of the Estate, although several farms had to be sold to finance the process. The new charity started with a modest endowment which was gradually eroded. Eric Bessborough died in 1993 and Mary stayed on in the House until she moved to Lumley Seat with Charlotte & Yanni. Nothing had changed very much – office and retail developments had not yet begun.

James Cooper became the Director of The Foundation in 1997. A chartered surveyor, Richard Glover, reported that the backlog of maintenance to the Mansion and outbuildings amounted to £5 million. James began a programme of office development which also began to address the maintenance backlog.

Glover did not look at the houses and cottages. Most were in need of updating or repairs. Today, after much work has been done, we still have millions to spend, part of an on-going programme of maintenance and improvement.

The retail portfolio – the Pavilion Tea Room, the Garden Centre, the Farm Shop and the other excellent small businesses such as Physio-Logical – is a major contributor to The Foundation. It seems well established today but Friends will remember that progress has been sporadic and challenging, as well as expensive.

The Foundation also has to maintain the heritage properties, chiefly the Chapel and the Mansion itself. Some produce no income at all!

Revenue from Public Opening and Events makes an important contribution but does not entirely offset the cost of upkeep of the gardens, grounds and Mansion.

Friends will sometimes wonder about the economics of running Stansted and keeping it going for the long term. A rural estate is an expensive luxury. Those of us who own even modest houses know the high cost of upkeep. If the family could not afford to keep Stansted going in 1983, how can the charity manage 40 years on?

The Foundation has three advantages over family ownership: it pays less tax; it can earn income from the Mansion and outbuildings; and the owners do not need to take an income from the Estate. Even with these advantages, The Foundation struggles to finance capital expenditure out of revenue. For example, last year we had to spend over £100,000 on the Clock Tower.

The Foundation is fortunate to have excellent Trustees who give their time and expertise for free, in support of the management. We also have a hard-working Director and staff who are devoted to this beautiful estate. And last but not least, we have about over 500 Friends of Stansted Park who support us in many ways.

FOSP members comprise most of our volunteers, house stewards, gardeners etc. and also contribute to capital expenditure, for example the fine display case in the new Ponsonby Room.

As for the future, we are going to appeal for legacies and sponsorship from Friends. I am sure that together we can and will keep Stansted going. *Myles Ponsonby, 12th Earl of Bessborough (Photograph - www.irishlifeandlore.com)*

HEAD FORESTER'S NOTES AUTUMN 2023



As Powell Forestry, our main timber contractor, were on site carrying out thinning and felling works at the time, we were able to put on quite a display for our stand at the Stansted Festival. In addition to the big forwarder for moving timber that we had last year there was also their timber harvester. In addition, we had on display a grapple saw that was on hire to deal with some dangerous and awkward ash trees. This machine can reach thirty metres and snip the branches off trees, reducing them bit by bit to allow safe and easy felling of the trunk. Despite the weather, a good number of

visitors came to our stand. Apart from the big machines, the most popular things were the Goldoni compact tractor, which we allowed children to sit on for a photo opportunity and my collection of deer skulls, and antlers, which most children thought were dinosaurs!

The crop of Norway spruce in the northern end of the forest has now been successfully felled and is being extracted to the loading bay for onward movement by lorry to a number of sawmills. The next operation on this site will be a mulching machine, which will grind up all the brash and stumps to leave a reasonably level surface of mixed woodchips and leaf litter. I have been across the site, marking any promising young trees that had grown up amongst the spruce with hazard tape so the mulcher operator can avoid them. There are some nice sweet chestnut, oak, birch, rowan and yew, which will add diversity to the trees we plant. A deer/rabbit fence will be installed in the autumn and all being well the first stage of replanting will take place by spring. I predict this area will attract a pair of nightjars next spring as they are particularly attracted to recently felled sites.



Although we have continued felling ash badly affected by dieback disease we have seen a marked improvement in the health of a number of trees and can only hope that we have several that will prove to have some resistance. Our disease resistant elms continue to flourish in marked contrast to the re-growths of English elm which have been very badly hit by the disease this year. Sadly, one of our white elms, which normally show good resistance to the disease, is affected. This species is not truly resistant but it has been found that the elm bark beetle just does not like to feed on it normally.

Tree growth this year has been good after a shaky start, especially our young conifers, most of which have done very well. Growth of second season and older broadleaves has mostly been fine, the first season plants have barely moved, just consolidating their root systems at present but the majority are alive. Regrowth of cut areas of chestnut coppice has been very good again, although the Phytophthora disease affecting the stools seems to be getting more widespread, which is a concern.

We desperately need some dry weather now, to allow extraction of all the cut timber without causing too much ground damage. Our contractors will start cutting chestnut in late September to start the cycle all over again.

Michael Prior

RECOLLECTIONS - RUTH TOMALIN

- continued from the last Newsletter....

The summer of 2006 produced drought conditions, causing concerns for agriculture, horticulture and some of the wonderful old trees at Stansted. I wrote to Ruth Tomalin telling her that making daily visits to the Dutch Garden to try and keep the flowering plants alive and provide colour for visitors to the garden felt like an uphill struggle, as watering had to be done by hand.

Ruth replied on 28th September 2006 saying.... "I know exactly what you mean by mountain-climbing. After posting my tax return I thought I deserved a day at Stansted but immediately the postman brought me another task that had to be completed, so I still haven't felt able to make it to the other end of Sussex in this lovely [although problem setting] weather. It's so serious, especially for newly planted trees as you have in the Dutch Garden. Let us hope for a record wet late autumn, as in 1976, when a 'rainmaker' [an immigrant in Southall I think], solved the problem. I watched this dramatic event from our high window in Highgate. Miles away, he kindled a fire which caused tiny clouds to form above and as the first raindrops fell the birds in our gardens began to scream with excitement. A few weeks later someone got up in the House of Commons and facetiously asked that the MP for that area should ask his constituents to stop! Of dear, as so often, memory has rather carried me away. This story sounds rather like The Sorcerer's Apprentice, doesn't it?"

"How I wish I were young and could volunteer to help with the bulb-planting, but will have to content myself with planting pots for my balcony - snowdrops first. I begin my tasks early in the morning but by about 2pm the energy runs out nowadays. This doesn't however apply to days at Stansted, when the time available is never long enough and I continuously long for my next visit!"

29th November 2006..... "We've been visited by wild, wet days lately, but in between, on the odd beautiful sunny one, I've enjoyed splendid sightings of the elusive planet Mercury several times in cloudless pre-dawn solitude.



Thank you for your letter and especially the fascinating newsletter, so full of interest and marvellous photos - the ancient tree with the full moon, the South front with tulip trees and that glimpse of the Dutch Garden where long ago we used to watch the humming-bird hawk moths on the verbenas and what a treat to see one again and the Red Admirals. I always find Michael Prior's contributions so riveting and wonder if the Mansion was heated solely with wood from the forest in earlier centuries? Thank you also for including the piece about the elm-grove bulb planting. At this time of year I remember the autumn wych elms like a floodlit cathedral interior - so beautiful.

Did I tell you that a recent article brought contact from a Land Army colleague of 60-odd years ago? We both remember so vividly all the jobs we did together and the horses we worked with.

Looking forward now to our talking again when you've time - love, Ruth"

Jill Waring

THE GARDEN SHOW & SUMMER FESTIVAL



FOSP & volunteers tent

The Garden Show, followed by the Summer Festival, were joys to behold for those lucky visitors who attended. The Garden Show had glorious weather and, with wonderful attractions, there was so much to see and do. Stall after stall, marquee after marquee and many, many varied exhibits. The choices to buy, or simply just to look at, included clothing, jewellery, arts and crafts, accessories, intricate glass work, paintings, plants, sculptures, garden ornaments, garden furniture and food. Indeed, the food marquee was, as usual, extremely popular and had, amongst other things, free samples of chocolates, cheeses and liqueurs to taste. And, whilst enjoying all of the above, there was music to entertain from The Jazz Trio, The Southdown's Folk Singers, Chichester City Band and singer Dawn Gracie. There were also Funfair games to try and plenty of garden advice for all. The good quantity of seating available was very

welcome. It was, without doubt, a beautiful extravaganza and an excellent show which was attended by 17,000 people.



Gunnery at their best

The Summer Festival was a great success, even if the weather forecast of rain in the main held off, the wind though was extremely gusty. Indeed, it had Toby, the Estate Manager, running from tent to tent with an oversized mallet ensuring that the structures were kept safe. A special mention has to be made for Toby's children, Leo & Meg, who worked tirelessly picking up dropped litter and ensuring that chairs did not disappear over the horizon. Well done!

made the House warm,

Again, the actions of a quick thinking Director, David Bennett, with his group of volunteers had all the exhibitors and stalls moved into the House at very short notice which, in hindsight, was a brilliant idea as it welcoming and busy.

The encampment was really lifelike, with musket and cannon fire reverberating around the Estate. A full size guillotine gave demonstrations of its workings - no children were hurt during this enactment!



Relaxing before the battle

Soldiers mingled, repairing uniforms, cleaning weapons and generally preparing for the battle ahead whilst partners and followers cooked authentic meals. Meanwhile, officer's elegant wives ate meals prepared by servants from porcelain plates with silver cutlery, gently sipping wine behind the battle lines and keeping well away from 'the action!'

Of special interest was a soldier from the Scottish Dragoons who showed us letters written just before the actual Battle of Waterloo by soldiers to families back home. He kept these in an authentic mahogany writing slope. They made absolutely fascinating reading being written in beautiful manuscript with interesting content.

Both were great shows, so well done to the Estate and volunteer personnel for producing two brilliant weekends.

Valerie and Robert Godwin (All photographs taken by Robert with the exception of 'Relaxing before the Battle' by Dominic Joyeux)



Officer's wives!



Who is for 'The Chop?'



1815 letters

OLD IDSORTH - A HISTORY BY MARK SEAMAN FOSP TALK - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 2.00PM & WALK - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 2.00PM

Idsworth is the least known of the three local Estates. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, although the house is situated on a rise only two kilometres from Rowlands Castle off the road to Horndean, it lies at the end of a 300m drive and can only be seen from a distance. Furthermore, it has always been in private hands, so the public have never had access to it.

As is usually the case, the existing building is by no means the first Idsworth House. It is less usual however, that its predecessors were built on an entirely different site. The existing building dates back no further than the middle of the nineteenth century: even so, it is older than that at Stansted (like Uppark, rebuilt after a fire) while Staunton's House was demolished altogether.

To locate the site of the earlier Houses, one has to look two miles north-east, across the shoulder of Idsworth Down. What is left of the previous House and garden can still be seen in the valley bottom, near the celebrated Saxon chapel, in the area now widely known as 'Old Idsworth'.

There was a Saxon settlement on Church Down in the sixth and seventh centuries, recently excavated by Southampton University, but this was abandoned and the inhabitants relocated to the current sites of Chalton, Blendworth and Idsworth. There are signs of a village dating back to the ninth century in the region of Old Idsworth, but this had also disappeared by the end of the fourteenth century, possibly a victim of the plague.

By this time the area had passed through the hands of Godwin, Earl of Wessex, the most powerful man in England, who oversaw the building of St Peter and St Paul (later St Hubert), and of his son Harold, King until defeated at Hastings in 1066. William the Conqueror (or William the Bastard as he was less generously known) dispersed the conquered land among his followers. What is now Hampshire and Sussex were divided amongst Roger de Montgomery and Hugh de Port.

From an article by Guy Phelps (Guy lived in what used to be the servants' quarters of Idsworth House for sixteen years).

For further information see -

[Idsworth - The Clarke Jervoise Dynasty - Rowlands Castle History and Heritage \(rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk\)](http://rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk)



FRIENDS' SUMMER 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUPPER PARTY

The 25th Anniversary party of the formation of the Friends of Stansted Park was an unrivalled success with over seventy attendees.

The evening began outside the Pavilion Tea Room with either prosecco or non-alcoholic elderflower wine, as Friends mingled and enjoyed conversing with each other. A display board, organised by the Committee, showed a potted history of FOSP through photographs, whilst on the garden tables, copies of previous Newsletters were available to peruse.

This was followed by Clare's delicious buffet supper and dessert in the Pavilion. Other drinks of, tea, coffee and wines were also available at

the bar throughout the evening.

In a speech by Andrew Grant, we were reminded of how the Friends was conceived, with the amalgamation of the Friends of Stansted House and Friends of Stansted Forest back in February 1998. A brief history of the Friends' Newsletter was also given by yours truly whilst Fred (Viscount Duncannon) gave thanks for all the hard work put in by the Friends in assisting the Estate, maintaining various projects throughout.

The regular feature of the evening, the Raffle, was as usual in, her efficient way, organised by Joan Felton from generous prizes donated by members and Estate resident businesses. The proceeds from the Raffle of £240, as always, will go towards special projects to support the Foundation.

A big thank you must go to the Committee who, once again, organised this annual summer event. **Robert Godwin**

**HEAD FORESTER'S WALKS FOR FRIENDS OF STANSTED PARK**

Many of you will have joined Michal Prior on his wonderful walks around the Estate - these walks have always been a free, exclusive benefit for FOSP members but, as they are so popular, some members have brought along their friends as well. We do welcome non-members on the walks, but would ask that they make a voluntary donation to FOSP for the privilege of sharing in these fascinating and informative private guided walks.

A donation can be easily made by telephoning the Estate Office, **023 9241 2265**, mornings only, and make a card payment to Friends of Stansted Park.

Alternatively, you could encourage your friends to join the Friends instead! Then they can support this beautiful Estate and enjoy all the other benefits of membership as well.

Nigel Smith

To join Friends of Stansted, see the FOSP page on the Foundation's website
www.stanstedpark.co.uk

or

join at the House during opening times

THE SPINDLE TREE

As summer fades
And autumn shades
Come bursting into view,
The spindle tree
Is there for me
In all her vibrant hue.
Bright 'fairy lanterns',
Fuchsia pink
With drops of orange gold
Will light the lanes
On gloomy days
And brighten winter's cold.

Valerie Godwin

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES**FOSP COMMITTEE DEPUTY NEWSLETTER EDITOR - VALERIE GODWIN**

My formative years were spent at 'The Cottage in the Woods', Rookesbury Park, Wickham, a part of the Great Forest of Bere as is, of course, Stansted Park. I lived there from my birth in 1941 until a year after World War II ended and this installed in me a deep love of nature, wild flowers in particular. My grandfather, who rented the cottage for eight years from 1939, was Portsmouth's very first City Architect, having been appointed in 1935, and he travelled to work every day, sharing with a colleague, in 'CLOEE', a little Austin 10.

Having been educated at Portsmouth High School and Wykeham House, my working life was spent almost entirely with the NHS in a clerical capacity. My father, who left the army as an Acting Lieutenant Colonel, was Group Treasurer of Portsmouth Hospitals from 1948 until his retirement. I married Ian in 1965 and had two daughters. Sadly the marriage did not last and, in 1992, I married Robert Godwin. We moved to Emsworth and joined Friends of the Forest in 1993. Together, we have travelled the world and involved ourselves in many projects. I have taken a keen interest in Amateur Dramatics, culminating in a small cameo role in 'Cavalcade' at the King's Theatre, Southsea and being given a NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) long term service award. I have also been lucky enough to have a book of poetry for children, 'The Daisy Chain', published. Before any involvement with the Friends, where I still continue writing prose and poetry for this quarterly Newsletter, Robert and I, and a colleague from Kent, ran the 'Taggart' (the Scottish detective drama series) Fan Club for many years. We appeared in the 'Episode Mind over Matter' in 2005 and were interviewed on Southern Television and GMTV on the crimson couch!

As well as my two girls, I now have five grandchildren and four great grandchildren and am very involved with Family!

2023 HOUSE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GUIDED TOURS OF STANSTED HOUSE
Sunday 20th August & Sunday 10th September
10:30am or 11:15am

Join one of our knowledgeable tour guides for a guided tour of Stansted House.

SEPTEMBER
MUSICAL EVENING
(Please check time on website)
Thursday 14th September
and

Thursday 12th October

OCTOBER
Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October - HALLOWEEN (check times on Stansted website)

NOVEMBER
Thursday 9th
 Armistice talk by Lieutenant General James Bashall
 In the Mansion

James commanded the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, the 1st Mechanised Brigade, and the 1st (UK) Armoured Division and is currently the National President of the Royal British Legion.
 (For time and further details check the Stansted website)

Saturday 11th - Remembrance Service at 1100am
 Outside The Mansion - Park in Mansion car park

For more information please contact the office on
023 9241 2265 or enquiry@stanstedpark.co.uk
or

<https://www.stanstedpark.co.uk/whatson>

A discount to FOSP members is available on most Foundation events. Contact the Estate Office quoting Membership number

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACTS

Chairman:- Nigel Smith
ngs.1957@hotmail.com

Secretary:- Anne Burton
anneburton99@gmail.com

Treasurer:- Sarah Hutchinson
hutchsj@yahoo.co.uk

Membership:- Paul Bennett
friendsofstanstedpark@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor:- Robert Godwin
crana.crana@ntlworld.com

For FOSP Membership Enquiries please contact Paul Bennett.

NOTE: Membership Cards will only be issued to NEW Members.

FOSP 2023 DATES**SEPTEMBER**

FOSP TALK - Thursday 7th at 2.00pm
Old Idsworth – what we thought we knew and what we now know about its history by Mark Seaman
 (embers £5 Non-members £8 (followed by refreshments))



Old Idsworth is believed to be the site of a deserted Medieval village.

The Chichester & District Archaeology Society has carried out extensive work in the surrounding area in an effort to find the remains. Mark will reveal the results of geophysical surveys and an excavation and explain how these throw new light on the history of Old Idsworth.

For additional interesting information about Old Idsworth please see page 4

IDSWORTH WALK
Thursday 14th at 2.00pm

Following the above talk about Old Idsworth, Mark will be giving a guided tour to look at the site.

Meet near St Hubert's Church, Idsworth. PO8 0BE

NOVEMBER

FOSP Coffee Morning - Friday 17th at 10.00pm

DECEMBER

Christmas Carols - 14th December 2023

This year, a joint FOSP/Foundation Christmas event of a carol service will be held in the Chapel followed by the usual mince pies and mulled wine in the Mansion. **Further details will be announced in the Winter Newsletter.**

HEAD FORESTER'S WALKS

(PLEASE NOTE UPDATE ON PAGE 5)

Tuesday 12th September 2.00pm
 Lumley Wood, Long Copse, Wythy Piece
 Please meet in Mansion car park

Tuesday 10th October 2.00pm
 Interesting trees of the grounds and the arboretum
 Please meet in Mansion car park

PLEASE TELEPHONE 023 9241 2265
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

For talks, coffee mornings, FOSP events etc, in order that we can arrange appropriate seating and refreshments. Thank you.

No booking required for Head Forest's Walks
But please see page 5

For Foundation and FOSP events at the House, use the North Entrance, go through the automatic black gate, and park in front of the House unless otherwise directed.

NEXT FOSP NEWSLETTER COPY DATE FOR ARTICLES

Friday 27th October 2023. NOTE: Hard copies of the Newsletter are available from the Estate Office. Editor