

# FRIENDS OF



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



At the Annual General Meeting in March, I announced my intention to stand down as Chairman of the Friends of Stansted Park. I have felt over the past few years that a change was important but was wary as to who my successor might be. The Friends' Committee is a dedicated unit committed to serving the Foundation to the best of its ability. I am delighted therefore, to announce that Nigel Smith has agreed to take on the role.

Nigel joined the committee in 2019 and, since that time, we have all benefitted from his warm personality and wide range of experiences. In addition to sharing with me a deep, emotional, relationship with the Estate, he is a regular volunteer at the Foundation's Bookshop in the Garden Centre, helping to raise impressive amounts of money for the Foundation. He will make a fine Chairman and I know that you will give him your full support.

My time on the committee has been hugely fulfilling. Over the years, the Friends of Stansted have faithfully followed its aims and objectives, promoting the Estate and raising funds for specific projects. Much has been achieved and I have absolutely no doubt that there will be further successes to celebrate.

I now want to take this opportunity of thanking the membership for their valued and continued support. The Friends are a part of the wider Stansted family, an association that I truly believe is one to be treasured. **Michael Olding**

*(Editor's Note: The Committee and Friends wish Michael well in the future and thank him for the excellent work that he achieved during his time as Chairman - a true friend.)*

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Park and Forest has certainly been popular over the last few months with the many footpaths and bridleways being well trodden and the Walled Gardens teeming with people. It is very much to be hoped that the cost of living crisis will not unduly affect the public's discretionary spend and that they will continue to enjoy Stansted Park and all its offerings.

The gardens and grounds looked stunning in June and then a prolonged lack of rain left the cricket pitch, in particular, looking rather forlorn. However, the Garden Volunteers have heroically managed to nurse the borders and keep them as pristine as the season has allowed. In mid-July, we said farewell to Jed Burch who has left to take up a post as a Botanical Horticulturist at Wakehurst Gardens. This is an excellent opportunity for him and we wish him well and thank him for his tremendous contribution over many years at Stansted.

We are very grateful for some very generous donations recently to the Book Shop which is maintaining its incredible generation of revenue for the Foundation; we much appreciate the valiant efforts of the Volunteers to keep the shelves fully stocked.

Sadly, the amazing re-ordering of the Mansion and the improvement of the Visitor Route has not resulted in significantly improved visitor numbers and so, in the interests of efficiency and economy, the difficult decision has been made to reduce the number of days that the House is open during the season from 4 to 3 days per week. However, this is in accord with the Charitable Objectives which are laid upon the Foundation and does free up staff time to focus on marketing the House for Group Visits and other events.

The Stansted Summer Jamboree went off smoothly with a footfall of 2,000, an increase of 500 over last year's Stansted Unlocked. The highlights were some excellent cricket matches, the Batala Drummers from Portsmouth, the



Captain Esther Hayes, Mrs Diana Purchas, Bugle Major Sher Tangnami with David Bennett enjoying The Jamboree

Emsworth Concert Band and the excellent Woods and Parkland display in the Orange Grove.

The weekend reverberated to the sound of 200 re-enactors from the Napoleonic Association firing muskets and cannons and conducting cavalry charges; all extremely impressive. The finale of the weekend was the Beating Retreat ceremony carried out by the superlative Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas on the Forecourt in front of the Mansion. My thanks to staff, volunteers, The FOSP Team and all the entertainers who helped to create such a brilliant atmosphere.

We are all mightily relieved that the work to repair the Clock Tower, by the excellent craftsmen of T Couzens, is finally at an end with all the scaffolding removed. Our attention now turns to conducting much needed remedial work to the Listed walls in the Walled Gardens.

As you will appreciate, preserving the fabric of the heritage assets of Stansted Park is an integral and necessary but never-ending and expensive task.

Work continues on developing the internal Estate signage and we are very grateful to the Friends for very kindly agreeing in principle to fund the new Visitor Entrance opposite the Farm Shop. We look forward to developing the plans over the next year or so. This will be a major improvement to how visitors gain information about the Estate as well as pointing them in the right direction. It will be a tangible, easily identifiable and attributable project which would very clearly demonstrate the added value that the Friends provide to Stansted Park. **David Bennett (Photographs by Michael Parry, Tessa Culley and The Editor)**



The Garden Volunteers saying farewell to Jed



Portsmouth Batala Drummers

## HEAD FORESTER'S NOTES - AUTUMN 2022



Forest Forwarder Machine

Having started my working life in the great drought of 1976 I vividly remember the sight of thousands of shrivelled trees and brown hedges across the landscape. Many re-sprouted the following spring but considerable numbers were lost. The very dry springs we have experienced in the last few years have made the establishment of young trees very problematical and the high temperatures of this summer will only add to these problems. We water a few important trees that have been planted to ensure their survival but have to rely on the weather for irrigation of all of our plantations and I fear the cost of replacements this season could be considerable.

One thing that has done very well this season has been our barn owls. We have had four breeding attempts, three of which have been successful with two broods of three owlets and one of two. The fourth brood were predated but, to have so many, shows that the habitat we have created in the parkland with plenty of long grass that is full of voles, their main prey, suits them very well. I assisted Graham Roberts of West Sussex County Council in ringing two of the broods, which will help us understand how well our owls do in the future. Graham was able to tell me that an owl ringed at Stansted two seasons ago was found dead at Clanfield in the spring of this year. It had possibly found a sub-optimal territory and had been forced to hunt on roadside verges.

Another bird that appears to have had a good season has been the nightjar. I have had several wonderful evenings watching them in display flights over recently felled and coppiced areas and listening to the males incredible churring call as the sun disappeared behind the forest canopy. I recorded three males on territory but did not have time to visit all potential sites, so there very well could have been more. Our spraying contractor actually found a female on eggs whilst working in a young conifer plantation, which is a rare find indeed as they are so well camouflaged on the ground.

The large conifer thinning operation has now finished with just a few loads of timber left to go, which is being exacerbated by the difficulty in getting timber lorries at present. We put on a display of how the forest is managed for the Stansted Jamboree event and, as this was just before they finished work, Powell Forestry generously lent us their big timber forwarder for the weekend as a centrepiece of the machinery on display. This leviathan, able to haul 15 tonnes of timber and pick up 1.5 tonnes at a time, was closely inspected by many small children and quite a few mums and dads as well. I believe we were able to show the visitors that came to us the balance that can be achieved between producing sustainable timber and landscape and biodiversity imperatives. A great deal of interest and indeed shock was shown over the twenty year old trunk of a hornbeam completely stripped of bark by squirrels. **(Editors note: It is estimated that grey squirrel bark stripping damage costs the UK timber industry some £14 million per annum. Trees planted using grant funding are being destroyed by grey squirrels which is an additional cost to the UK taxpayer).**

Work on our ash trees will be a focus through to the new planting season, dealing with badly affected trees across the Estate and, to that end, I have just submitted another felling licence application to the Forestry Commission to cover the extra felling from a legal and regulatory point of view. It is still a mixed picture on the Estate, with some trees succumbing very quickly whilst others hang on with almost full leaf which means we will visit most areas several times.

*Michael Prior*



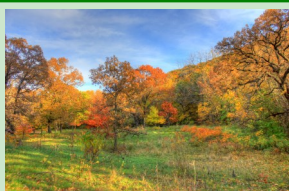
Owlet from Horse Pasture box

## EXTRACT BY ELSPETH TOMALIN FROM 'GARDEN HOUSE DIARIES' by Ruth Tomalin

**27th October 1940** - Awakened at twenty to seven by the explosion of three bombs in the warren. I heard a plane as if it had gone mad - nothing fired at it. We heard after that it was brought down by guns off the Isle of Wight.

**14th November 1940** - This evening at sunset a huge white moon was rising, turning the dead bracken in the East Park to copper colour. Barn owls and tawny owls flew about calling loudly and answering one another. The tulip tree in the pleasure ground was bright gold in the dusk and the young blue cedars silvery. Then before dark we heard planes - the sirens and the guns started up together.

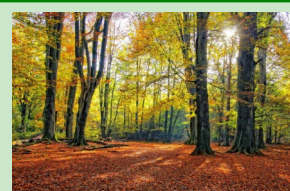
**15th November 1940** - A terrible night. The noise was ceaseless, the guns going and planes streaming over hour after hour in brilliant moonlight, apparently going due north. Then coming back again, some sounding very strange as though about to crash. We could only listen and think - some poor souls are getting it. Today we hear it was Coventry.



## AUTUMN COLOURS

Autumn colours, rich and clear  
Paint pictures of the passing year.

*Valerie Godwin*



## ST PAUL'S CHAPEL

Midday services take place in St Paul's Chapel on the first Wednesday of each month. Light refreshments are also served after the service – tea/coffee/biscuits. Please contact the Estate Office if you wish to attend in order that you can be catered for.

*Estate Office*



## COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

Continuing the pen picture profiles of FOSP Committee member. Here is number two, our Secretary.

### ANNE BURTON - FOSP SECRETARY



I have lived within three miles of Stansted for nearly..... well, a VERY long time. My playground as a child was the area between the two streams in Westbourne, down towards Emsworth – climbing trees, falling in the water and getting into scrapes. As long as I was home for meals it was fine.

I was a veterinary assistant in Portsmouth before I married Roger, and we have a daughter and a son of whom we are very proud, but most of my working life was spent as secretary, bursar, girl Friday and Clerk to the Governors at Compton Primary School.

And what a wonderful place to work in the times when you

could utilise the South Downs and the opportunities of the countryside with the children, without having to get permission from everyone and fill forms out in triplicate! And we never lost a single child!

When I semi-retired from there, I moved to another wonderful place, Stansted, and worked in the Foundation's Office, on a job share basis which was then the Main Hall of the Mansion with the spectacular view down the Avenue. On retiring properly in 2009, I was asked to join the FOSP committee!

I've been secretary to the Committee since 2009 (crikey!) and support the Foundation as well as I can through FOSP, as a steward in the Mansion, as a volunteer in the Foundation's Second Hand Bookshop in the Garden Centre and various other work associated with FOSP, all of which I thoroughly enjoy.

## THE GARDEN SHOW



FOSP Promotional Stand and Volunteers

The Garden Show! What a lovely Event and one that the public look forward to enormously. This year's, the first 'full' show since Covid, certainly did not disappoint.

There was something for everyone. Besides the flowers, plants, garden furniture, tools and ornaments, the marquees seemed almost bursting at the seams with local craftwork. Glassware, ceramics, wood carving, jewellery, clothing and much, much more tempted the shopper; items that cannot be bought anywhere else but at a show such as Stansted's. It was wonderful to see. And then there was the food! Delicious delicacies of cheeses, pies, pasties, sausages, sweets, ciders and, again, much, much more, giving a great outlet for local producers as well as plenty of

enjoyment for the consumers. Then, on top of all of this, there were birds of prey, puppet shows for the children (and many adults)!!! And so on and so on. Fabulous!

Stansted Park must be proud to deliver such a standout show as this. Long may it continue. *Valerie Godwin*



Visitors Enjoying the Show

## FRIENDS' JUBILEE PARTY SUMMER SUPPER - TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



FOSP Members Enjoying the Evening

The Summer Party, the first since 2019, due to Covid restrictions, was well attended and enjoyed by all of FOSP members and guests.

This year it was even more special than usual, being the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was also a chance to say a farewell thank you to our retiring Chairman, Michael Olding, and to welcome Nigel Smith into his role as our new Chairman.

Friends always have a great opportunity to enjoy an evening in the company of fellow Friends, with Clare's delicious buffet supper which, as usual, was served in a convivial atmosphere. There was so much to catch up on and there was sparkling wine or soft drinks to savour under a lovely evening sky!

The Summer Party is also very much an occasion which is aimed to say 'thank you' to the membership for their loyal support. Whilst essentially non-profit making, every year without fail, the generosity of Members donating prizes to the raffle, enables the event to cover its costs and make a small addition to our funds and to present a gratuity to Clare's staff who work hard in making the evening exceptional.

A special thanks must go to Joan Feltham for her efforts in organising the raffle and to other helpers behind the scenes. We collected nearly £400 towards the Estate.

Nigel gave a welcoming speech, whilst both the Director, David Bennett and Trustee, Clive Nickold, gave an update on the Estate and the work of the Trustees.

A truly enjoyable evening.

*Robert Godwin*



The Chairman and Some Committee Members awaiting Guests

## FROM THE ARCHIVES - " CAN ANY ONE HELP FILL THE GAP!"



An advertisement for The Stansted Players Pantomime in 1929

During the past weeks, The Estate has had several queries as to the history of the Theatre connection to the Ponsonby family and the part that theatre played in the everyday life of the Earls of Bessborough.

The 6th Earl, Frederick George Brabazon Ponsonby, loved performing, especially during the Canterbury Cricket Week. There is a club that has been running for many years of devoted amateur actors who each season put on a full 'professional' performance during the Canterbury Cricket weekend. Although I am told this is not quite such a 'jolly affair' and that the cricket is far more serious than in the past, it is still continuing.

The 9th and 10th Earls, Vere and Frederick (Eric), were also avid actors and were often performing in the now destroyed theatre at Stansted Park House.

It was a serious hobby, one that involved the performances of well known actors of the time and was also a force behind the interest in the founding of the Chichester Theatre. The idea and vision of Sir Laurence Olivier for the Chichester project and, later, the Globe Theatre in London, was hugely helped by Eric's interests and connections.

It is a great sadness to me that we no longer have the benefit of the Stansted Park Theatre, having been totally destroyed by an accidental fire in 1942. In my line of work for the Trust, I look out for anything that I consider would be of interest to the coming generation of visitors and, although recently, The Estate has been kindly given some old programmes by Michael Olding and, in the archive, we have dress tracings of characters for the Nebuchadnezzar play, we have very little about how, what and why it all happened.

So, as I am sure you will have guessed.....*Is there anyone out there that can help put this interesting chapter together for the archives?* Anything, however small or insignificant it appears! If we put it all together, we will be able to make sure that this lovely chapter of the Ponsonby history is fully recorded. **Diana Roberts**

**Editor's Note:** For further detailed information about the Stansted Theatre, and indeed the history of the entire Estate, from Earl Godwin till the present day, please read the 10th Earl of Bessborough's book 'A Place in the Forest')

## TRIP TO STRATFIELD SAYE

On Wednesday 1st June, thirty Friends visited Stratfield Saye, the Estate given by the Nation to the first Duke of Wellington following his success at the Battle of Waterloo. We were met by our guides, split into four groups and enjoyed coffee and biscuits prior to the tours. Our group proceeded to the old stables where we viewed Wellington's state coach, followed by his funeral car. The latter is built on a gargantuan scale with six wheels and constructed of timber, iron and bronze; an amazing feat of engineering, weighing eighteen tons and pulled by twelve black shire horses. It was Prince Albert's and Queen Victoria's idea to have a state funeral, not The Duke's family!

Onto the House, which is filled with an amazing collection of furniture, paintings and ceramics bought or presented to Wellington. The House also feels rather different, as it is still the home of the 9th Duke and his family. Our knowledgeable guides provided a wealth of historical detail on the House, contents and the Duke's life and death. We then retired to the Visitor Centre for a much needed lunch, followed by the opportunity for a walk around the Estate, prior to the journey back to Stansted.

## FROM THE DAILY MAIL, 26TH JANUARY 2022 WAS THE DUKE WELLINGTON'S FATHER A COMPOSER OF NOTE?

**ARTHUR WELLESLEY**, 1st Duke of Wellington, was the son of Garret Colley Wesley, 1st Earl of Mornington. The family reverted to the older name of Wellesley in 1798.

Garret was a musical child prodigy, composer and Dublin University's first Professor of Music. Born at the family estate of Dangan Castle, near Trim, Co. Meath, in 1735, he was a member of the Anglo-Irish aristocracy that governed Ireland on behalf of the Crown.

Garret was educated at Trinity College Dublin and represented Trim in the Irish House of Commons until 1758, when he succeeded his father as 2nd Baron Mornington. He married Anne Stafford the following year.

In 1760, Garret was elevated to Earl for his philanthropic works. He raised large sums for charity with his concerts and was elected Professor of Music in 1764.

Garret was highly respected in Dublin and London for his musical talents and for writing popular Georgian part songs known as glees. **Ian Barry, Beaumaris, Anglesey**

## KINGS THEATRE HISTORY TOUR



There is a planned visit to The Kings Theatre Southsea on September 15th. The two hour historical tour (including refreshments) will cost £8 per person. Step behind the scenes and see the iconic theatre from a new perspective. The tour will allow you to visit the unseen areas of this Grade II listed Edwardian Playhouse and delve into the secrets and history of the past. **Nigel Smith**

*Please note that, due to the age and design of the theatre, not all parts will be accessible to mobility impaired visitors. Bookings now closed.*



### A FAVOURITE CORRESPONDENT - RUTH TOMALIN

*Following on from my previous article, I would always write to Ruth when I sent her copy of the latest Newsletter, either to elaborate on a walk with Michael Prior, a tree, a plant or something I thought might interest her. Likewise her replies, commenting on articles, mostly about Stansted, but often interesting snippets from the past.*

**Ruth - 2nd March 2006** "I forgot to mention an item in the Winter Newsletter about the name of the 'Orange Grove'. I once heard someone say that in summer orange-trees in tubs used to be put out thereabouts.

"I found the copies from the Bessborough archives immensely interesting, especially about the time of 'The Troubles' as it was always called. My earliest memory (aged just 3) is of waking one night in my parents bedroom and seeing my father at the window and a voice calling from down in the dark - 'the House is burning down.....' and they had locked the staff in an outside laundry building (still there) so that they couldn't give the alarm. But one brave girl got out of the window and ran half a mile through the woods to our home. How terrified she must have been, with armed men about in the dark and all the estate people gathered and trying to rescue the contents, piling them on the front lawns. I heard about this a few years ago from the last survivor of the outdoor staff, Michael Foley. Before his death in 2001 he published his memoirs, 'The Times of my Life' and sent me a copy. We'd met when I went back in 1984, and again with Nick, Gail and Claire in 1985.

"I also remember us being 'held up' at that time by a masked man with a gun - we were in the pony and trap - and my brothers and I had to put up our hands in our little woolly gloves.... but my forthright Scots mother, who'd been to the village school when small, said..... 'get away out of that Paddy Finicun' or whoever, and he unmasked and had a chat.

"One night a troop of IRA came into our home and my father described sitting with them, looking as nonchalant as possible but feeling quite otherwise.... as an Englishman he might have been in some danger, but he'd been there 17 years and (always deeply interested in politics) came to support Home Rule and the Free State and say so openly, so they knew he was on their side in that way.

"All the Bessborough details are so fascinating. For instance, the Cork tree, brought from Goodwood in about 1851. I recall this as a tall tree in the gardens with a bed of violets under it. And, of course, it's amazing to read the family correspondence about the engagement to Mary Churchill! This came at a particularly hectic time - Hess had just flown to Scotland on his mysterious peace mission and there were terrible raids on London....

"Thank you again for giving us (Ruth and Gail) such an interesting day. It was especially good to meet Malcolm Goodwin - newly appointed Head Gardener - and the tour of 'Below Stairs' which we found fascinating. I'd always meant to see this on one of my visits, but these were taken up with revisiting the gardens and surroundings at different seasons. Before the reopening in 1984, Nick and I used to revisit the Wych Elm Grove at daffodil time and walk in the forest.

"Another batch of reminiscences I'm afraid, but looking forward to meeting again soon, Ruth"



The 'old' & 'new' FOSP Editors at Stansted



Rico on a romp!

**NOTE:** I finally made my promised visit to the UK to see the family thanks to British Airways not cancelling either of my flights. My greatest disaster was my mobile telephone, iPad and watch disappearing when going through chaotic Tenerife security and not being able to contact anyone until I reached my friend in Petersfield. Fortunately they were found in lost property which was a great relief but made my visit somewhat more complex. The phone was the greatest loss as since the pandemic airports appear to have removed all public telephones and clocks!

However, I met up with Robert and Valerie (and an old friend Mike who is a neighbour of Robert and Valerie) who kindly took me to Stansted where I had the pleasure of a quick chat with Michael Prior, then at a request from Robert to Kim, Alex was able to show me the new Ponsonby Room, a beautifully laid up Dining Room for the new brochure photographs and then lunch at the Pavilion Tea Rooms - excellent as always. Sadly the weather was not kind, (although Michael Prior must have been delighted for every drop) and without wet weather gear it was impossible to view the gardens. I sincerely hope that my next visit will not be as long as the last six years and I will be able to see more of the changes.

My promised visit made, an unexpected encounter brought me my next rescue dog - a 2-3 year old border terrier cross, we think. He responds to the whistle, loves people, children, other dogs and is very affectionate. Scruffy will always be missed but Rico has helped to fill the loss with his own joyfulness.

Best wishes to all FOSP Members for an enjoyable summer and autumn.

**Jill Waring**

*in March.*

**Editors Note:** Valerie and I had the pleasure to meet up with Jill for lunch on our cruise to the Canaries



Jill & Robert catching up in Tenerife

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A reminder that membership payment is due on 1st January. We would prefer you to pay by setting up a **STANDING ORDER** on-line.

**The banks details are: Nat West, Friends of Stansted Park, Sort Code 60-10-20 Account No 61788627**

If you are unable do so, then please pay by cheque or renew with a card payment through Kim at the Estate Office.

**If you have any queries, change of address or email, then contact the Membership Secretary, Paul Bennett, by email on:-**

**[friendsofstanstedpark@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstanstedpark@outlook.com)**

**or call the Estate Office on 023 9241 2265**

## 2022 HOUSE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 8th - MUSICAL EVENING - 7.30pm**

Climb Every Mountain - An evening with The Two Singing Sisters.

**Friday 23rd - FAMILY SLEUTHING MYSTERY  
6pm to 7.30pm**

Do you have any budding sleuths in the family? A little Miss Marple, Sherlock Holmes or even Hercule Poirot? Why not challenge them to solve the Stansted Murder Mystery. On arrival, there will be lashings of tea, biscuits and ginger beer. This is your opportunity to meet the suspects. When the host does not appear, you will have one hour to speak to the suspects - explore the house and see if you can work out what happened to the host. Then, with everyone assembled in the Servants Hall, you will have a chance to voice your theories. Price range: £7.50 - £15.

**Friday 23rd - MURDER MYSTERY - 8pm to 9.30pm.**

Imagine being invited to a mysterious Country Estate by an enigmatic host... with a room of curious guests, your host never appears... the clock is ticking and you must work as a team to investigate what happened. Well, that is exactly what will happen when you join Torchlight Mysteries for a truly immersive Murder Mystery at Stansted House. Price range: £7.50 - £15.00

### OCTOBER

**Thursday 13th - MUSICAL EVENING**

Performance starts at 7.30pm. (Details on Stansted Website)

**Friday 28th & Saturday 29th - HALLOWE'EN THEATRE**  
(Details on Stansted Website)

### DECEMBER

**Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd 10.30am - 12.30pm.**

#### CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Guests arriving at Stansted House will be greeted in The Main Hall with a glass of sparkling wine and a mince pie ordered fresh from our local bakery. Once you've warmed up, you will be shown through to the elegant Blue Drawing Room where Rebecca will guide you through creating your very own natural Christmas Wreath. All materials are supplied by us and the foliage is collected from the Estate. **Price £45.00 per person.**

**Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd December  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL THEATRE**  
(Details on Stansted Website)

**Friday 9th  
CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING (as above)**

**Friday 16th  
AN EVENING WITH PETER AUTY  
First performance 5.30pm (doors open 5.15pm)  
Second performance 7.15pm (doors open at 7pm)**

Guests will enjoy a 45 minute Christmas recital in the private Chapel of St Paul followed by a sparkling wine and canape reception in the Mansion House. The Main Hall and Music Room will be beautifully decorated with a large Christmas tree, garlands and twinkling lights to add to the festive atmosphere.

**£35 per adult (Plus Eventbrite booking fees)  
FOSP Members £25 booked via the Estate Office**

**For more information please contact the office on  
023 9241 2265 or [enquiry@stanstedpark.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@stanstedpark.co.uk)**

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

**A discount to FOSP members is available on most  
Foundation events.**

## FOSP 2022 DATES

### SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Head Forester's Walk at 2.00pm**  
The Groves and Pond Wood - Meet in Garden Centre car park.

#### KING'S THEATRE VISIT

**Thursday 15th at 10.00am - please make your own way there.**  
Bookings now closed

### NOVEMBER

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm - A Talk on  
'Bats, Superheroes of the Night' by Nik Knight**

Bats are amazing, charming, useful mammals and have experienced serious declines in the UK over the past century. The Stansted Park Estate has an excellent record in helping with the conservation of these significant components of our natural heritage. An amazing fifteen out of the UK's total of seventeen breeding bat species have been recorded in the area in recent years, making this one of the most special places in the country. Please book through the Estate Office.

**Members £5 Non-members £8** (followed by refreshments)

#### FOSP COFFEE MORNING

**Friday 18th at 10.00am**  
Telephone The Estate Office to book

### DECEMBER

#### THE PHOENIX SINGERS RETURN

**Thursday 8th at 7pm**  
After a two year absence, the Phoenix Singers have agreed to give us a Christmas Concert. The Concert will take a similar pattern as previously, with seasonal songs and readings in the first half, followed by an interval where mince pies and mulled wine will be served, followed by carols old and new. This is a great way to start the ball rolling for Christmas and the Committee hope you will join us. **Members £7 Non Members £9**

**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**

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.

#### BOOKING IS NOT REQUIRED FOR HEAD FORESTER'S WALKS

**A tree planting in the Arboretum, on behalf of FOSP  
Members, commemorating The Jubilee is planned to take place  
in the near future. Details, when known, will be notified to  
Members. FOSP Committee**

## COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACTS

Chairman:- Nigel Smith  
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**[crana.crana@ntlworld.com](mailto:crana.crana@ntlworld.com)**

**For FOSP Membership Enquiries please contact Paul Bennett**

## NEXT FOSP NEWSLETTER COPY DATE

**Friday 28th October 2022**

**NOTE:** Hard copies of the Newsletter are available from the Estate Office. *Editor*