

CROOME CHRONICLE

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS !!

Spring 2011 is upon us. Bursting out! The huge number of hours put in over the last 15 years by Park, Garden, and now Court staff and volunteers has paid off and Croome is ready to show herself in all her glory. Already visitors are pouring in, anxious to see what's going on in the Court, the new Shop, extension of the Catering Facilities, the changing face of the Park. With an awesome 116,001 recorded visitors in the last year, 74% of whom rated their visit as 'Very Enjoyable', Croome Park hasn't only established itself in the record book, it's breaking records. Catering, fund-raising, volunteer numbers, TV coverage with the recent slot on BBC1's 'Countryfile' – the momentum amazes.

On the last day of February we gathered in the Canteen to attend the Pre-Season Meeting, keen to hear how Croome was doing and what's in store for the rest of 2011. It was exciting, vibrant, awe-inspiring ... we have achieved so much and there's so much more to come. As each staff member rose to give an account of the events of the past year and aspirations for the future we reflected on the magnetism of Croome, our attachment to it, our hunger for information, our fierce pride. Not for nothing do we spend so much of our spare time here, march our friends and family around, spread the word and share the magic.

Since our last bumper issue in August 2010, the Chronicle team has been overwhelmed with material, with information, with questions, news and views. There's so much going on, and at such a pace, and we struggle to be topical, to keep on top of it all. We so want to be able to represent the volunteer experience, to report on what's going on, to inform for the future, to give you space for your own experiences, to pass on some of the funny stories, even – occasionally – to air your grievances. But funding is minimal, print space is at a premium and we have an endless battle to prioritise. Nor do we have an office and many of our meetings take place in the Canteen, on a picnic bench in the Wild Walk or (how we suffer!) in the pub. (Thanks to the Royal Oak in Kinnersley).

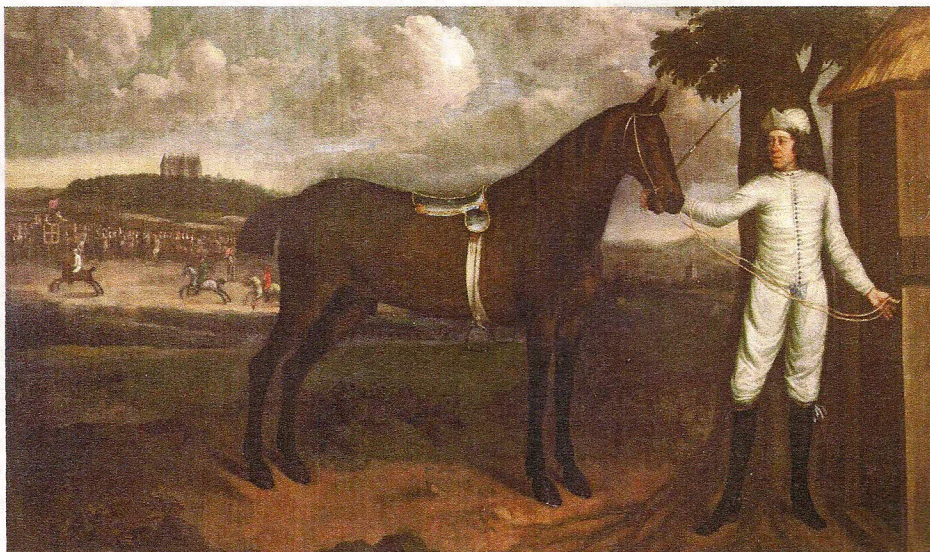
The news in brief: Tina King is the new Shop Manager with plans to start trading in the second week in April; Heather's catering empire is efficient, profitable and expanding rapidly – a new catering outlet will be operating from the Tapestry Room 6 days a week and the Airmen's Tent will supplement the Canteen at weekends and Bank Holidays. And we'll still be using the ice cream bike and selling drinks and ices from the shop. The Temple Greenhouse will soon be given a whole new dimension with the addition of its long-awaited sash windows, 7000 trees will have been planted, the statues will be unveiled and the Follies restored and ready to play their part. Michael is open to suggestions on ways to open the park up to the Outer Eyecatchers – guided walks, carriage rides, gourmet picnic lunches, champagne sunset tours. Phil's fundraising efforts accelerate with concerts, a clay pigeon shoot, lecture lunches, the Morgan raffle. 'Whose Story' winds up with a hugely exciting Hare Krishna festival planned for the end of August. And of course there's the BIG BIG project, the continuing programme of restoration and revelation at the Court itself with all its twists and turns.

Many of our editorial meetings are about priorities, working out what to put in and what to leave out, shuffling stories, arguing it through. The big temptation for this issue was to lead with the Big Horse story. We even had the groan-inducing headline: 'BIGHORSE- we're worth it'. The story has been moved inside but the message stays on the front page: – not only is Croome worth it but it boasts the best volunteers, the best staff, and quite possibly the best story of them all! .



WELCOME BACK JACK

Volunteers at the pre-season meeting were excited to learn that an old friend will return to Croome Court by the end of April 2011. The Great Horse, or 'Jack-a-Dandy', a huge oil on canvas painting measuring 14ft 3 inches wide and 7ft 9 inches high was painted about 1680-90, possibly by the artist John Wootton.



The painting was not sold when the Coventry family sold Croome Court in 1948 but was presented to the Coventry Almshouse Charity in Droitwich. The National Trust has secured a long-term loan of the painting back to Croome.

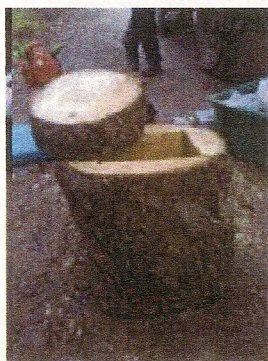
The 1902 Inventory of Heirlooms gives the last item on the list of paintings on the stairs (implying that it was at the top) as

“Large size of a racehorse with a jockey in white satin dress & black stockings, a racecourse & “Westwood”, Seat of Sir J. Packington, in background. Abt 150 x 84, English School. This horse won the celebrated match between Hon H. Coventry & Sir J. Packington, the conditions of which, so runs the legend, were that the loser should endow a charity at Droitwich in the name of the winner”.

CONGRATULATIONS to all in the RAF canteen for cooking up a storm. Annual takings in the last twelve months have topped at almost £400,000. (My consumption of their fantastic Bakewell slices has also added pounds).

HI-TECH HIDE AND SEEK

Geocaching (gee-o-cash) is a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by people equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate containers, called geocaches, which are hidden outdoors, using the given coordinates.



Geocaching is enjoyed by people from all age groups, and it has a big following internationally through the website www.geocaching.com

There will be up to a dozen geocache sites in Croome Park - some cunningly disguised so that they are quite tricky to find. Inside each will be a variety of objects including a log book and

pen, information and activity card, plus a small toy which people can swap when they find the cache.

Geo-caching begins at Croome in mid-March.

Hopefully this will bring new visitors to Croome and encourage people to explore the further reaches of the Park.

There are plans for the painting to hang in the Saloon where visitors will be able to see ‘work in progress’ as the process of restoration takes place.

Volunteers and visitors will soon be hearing more of the fascinating legend which connects this painting to the Coventry family and Croome and its depiction of a slice of social history might have been lost to Croome and Worcestershire forever.

MORGAN RAFFLE AND FUNDRAISING



Many of you will have bought tickets in the raffle for the Morgan car, generously donated to the Croome Court Appeal by Charles Morgan. The car and Steve Bowley have visited other Trust properties and the NEC promoting the raffle – but the Morgan has always been most at home at Croome. It even got snowed in at Croome over Christmas and the New Year – creating a lot of interest amongst visitors, as it was garaged in the RAF canteen.

The raffle went on-line in December and this and other initiatives are gearing up to a final push to the raffle’s end on May 9th. Following the draw in May, the car will be presented to the winner at Croome on Bank Holiday Monday 30 May 2011. Do come along, and – who knows! – drive the car away.

The Croome Court Appeal Committee has a number of events this year including a clay shoot (September 10), a Lecture Lunch with Henry Sandon (23 November) and a performance of Handel’s Messiah in Pershore Abbey on December 3rd.

Phil Sharpe, Fundraising Manager

A HARD WINTER'S WORK IN PARK AND GARDEN.

A lot of people think that this is the 'quiet season' for us in the garden – but let me assure you that the work has continued at an unrelenting pace in the garden and park!

At the beginning of the year we did some hedging work at Lickmoor in the north of the property. There were some very old hawthorns standing along what would have once been a hedge line. We left a few of these trees as standards, and laid as many of the rest as we could, which was tricky with such large trunks, to encourage new shoots and then planted about 350 young hawthorns to bulk up the new hedge.

There has been a lot of tree safety work done over the winter; many of the old poplars in Menagerie Wood were starting to lean perilously towards the motorway, and not wanting to be responsible for a multiple pile-up we have felled these; Hugh did some, and a local contractor did the rest. The felled trees have been left as wildlife habitat in the woodland. We have also had to fell some dangerous trees alongside the paths through the shelterbelts, mostly dead elms these have been left as deadwood habitat in situ. We took the decision to fell the plane trees in the avenue that leads from the London Arch down to the Court so that the remaining oaks would have room to grow properly. Hugh felled the planes, and the resulting brash was chipped and tidied by the rest of the team and volunteers.

The extremely cold weather put us back workwise in December as our movements about the property were limited, but we used the time to process firewood for the court and local deliveries. Also affected by the heavy frosts, cold winds and snow were quite a number of plants in the garden. In particular the *Viburnum tinus* were very badly hit, and as a result we have had to cut back and remove dozens of these shrubs. On the positive side, this has left some gaps where we shall be able to plant some more unusual shrubs and show people more of the wide variety of plants that were grown at Croome in the C18th.

As most of you know by now we have started planting up a ten acre area to the east of South Park, known as Old Wood. The ground has been put to arable for the past few decades, and it's great that we are now able to restore this bit of woodland. As well as the garden and park volunteers, it was really good to see a number of volunteers whose more usual habitat is the Court, coming out to help plant trees.

Looking forward, the tree planting at Old Wood will keep us busy until mid- March. We need to keep the garden and park looking good for our visitors too. The herbaceous beds in the Evergreen Shrubbery are ready for planting up, which will be a spring time job. We also want to try to keep the lake clear of blanket weed this year by putting barley straw in the lake; we shall make booms of barley straw near the water inflow by the grotto and under the bridges which will hopefully filter the nitrates, keeping the lake and river clearer this year. Of course we are also looking forward to restoring the sash windows of the Temple Greenhouse this Spring!

Work in the garden and park is most definitely a team effort. I would like to thank Hugh, Jez and Seb, along with all the garden and park volunteers who come and work in all weather conditions throughout the year.



By Katherine Alker

“ AS FAR AS WE KNOW...”

Jill Tovey answers your questions...

Q *Did the 6th Earl ever speak in the House of Lords about slavery?*

A. I think what I said was that there is absolutely no evidence that the 6th Earl made his money from slavery (or industrial exploitation for that matter). It was only in the early 19th century that the anti-slavery movement really took off, and the 7th Earl did subscribe to a pamphlet called 'Anti-Slavery Monthly', of which there are copies in the archive. The 6th Earl did make a famous speech in the House of Lords against the British stance in the American War of Independence, a copy of which is also in the archive.

Q *Are the blank panels in the saloon intentional, or were they meant to hold a decorative painting? Did work stop because of Maria's illness? Which bed-chamber did she use?*

A There is no evidence that they were ever painted, although one can't really say whether they were intended to be. It is true that this would all have been about the time of Maria's death and then the advent of Robert Adam, so plans might have changed. The painted panels in the ceilings of Coventry House, Piccadilly are well recorded. We don't know which room Maria died in, although I don't think it would have been over the Long Gallery because that space was still a shell at that time. Perhaps hidden in one of the alcove rooms, since she wanted no-one to see her face...?

Funniest story of 2010 ?

The buggy jolted over the cattle grid near the Church. Mid-laugh, a visitor's false teeth flew out landing in the earth deep below the metal grid. Teeth retrieved and returned with a bow and a flourish by gallant buggy driver. That's why Croome rates so high for visitor satisfaction. Well, that and those fabulous pies sold in the Canteen.

BROWN'S KIRKHARLE YEARS

In the summer of 2010, Croome volunteers Pat and Catherine Griffin sent us an account of their visit to the National Trust property Wallington where they heard about the young Lancelot Brown's first independent project at Kirkharle. It was close by, they were intrigued, so they went to find out some more about it and this is their account.

Brown was the fifth child of six in the family of a tenant farmer. He went to the nearby Cambo village school till he was 16 when he went to work on the Kirkharle Hall estate of Sir William Loraine, staying there for seven years.

Just off the A696 Newcastle-Jedburgh road is Kirkharle Courtyard. Farm buildings from the 1770's have been converted into a welcoming coffee house, artists' studios and small retail spaces. Just yards away is St Wilfrid's Church and on the other side of the Courtyard an area is being developed with a curving lake, trees and path inspired by Brown's 1770's plan. This is the site of the Brown exhibition which celebrates the great man. The Wallington steward told us that "Brown exported Northumberland to the rest of Britain" and we saw what he meant. Gentle slopes and water, trees and woodland, productive meadows with cattle and sheep, and well-sited buildings. As Dorothy Stroud, (Brown's first biographer whose ashes and memorial are beside the lake at Croome) observed, "the scale and grandeur of the scenery (around Kirkharle) made an indelible impression on him in the first decades of his life".



We saw an article in The Northumbrian from August 2008 by the exhibition's author, Jessica Kilburn and acquired a copy for the Croome Volunteers' Library (recommended reading!). She wrote that Sir William was an ideal first employer. A former barrister and MP for Northumberland, he was an enthusiastic improver of his estate. He inherited it at the age of 60 and dedicated the remaining 25 years of his life to improving it with "a new Mansion-house of his own plan and contrivance" surrounded with elegant formal gardens, fountains and fishponds (long since lost) – and all this when Brown was growing up, then working for, this energetic, inventive and visionary man.

In his work for Loraine, "Brown acquired the fundamental practical skills of his trade – he learned to dig, to use a fork, spade, rake and hoe, how to raise young plants and replant old ones. He learned how to drain wetland, what types of trees to plant and in what kind of conditions."

As Sir William's project was ending in 1738, the Loraines "probably used family connections to find Brown employment at Kiddington Hall in Oxfordshire" where he quickly came to the notice of Lord Cobham at nearby Stowe. At 25, just two years later, he had become Head Gardener and Clerk of Works in charge of what Sir Roy Strong has called "the largest, grandest and most important landscape garden in England, much visited and greatly admired".



And 10 years later, when Cobham died, Brown was ready to move on to his own business and so came to the notice of another ambitious and wealthy patron at Croome.

Inspired by the above, we've done some more digging about Kirkharle and Di Dickinson has written the following, bringing us up to date on the Kirkharle story:

BROWN'S KIRKHARLE DREAM

Just imagine. You knew that your family home, Kirkharle in Northumberland, had belonged to the Loraine family in the 18th century. You knew that Lancelot 'Capability' Brown had been born there in 1716. And you knew that your grandfather had purchased the estate in the 19th century.

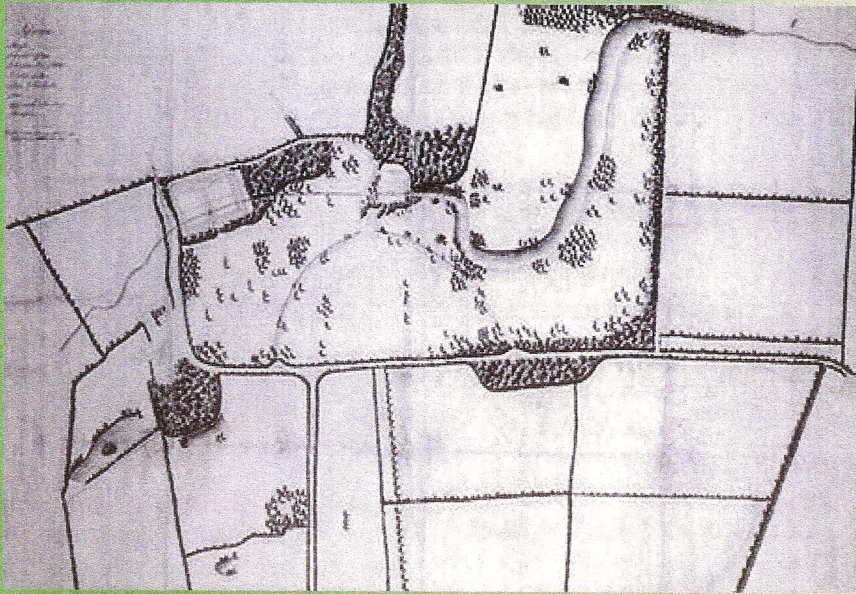
But when, one day in 1980, you decided to spend an hour or two going through family papers you certainly wouldn't have known of the gem of English landscape history about to be uncovered.

John and Kitty Anderson were the lucky people. Opening a drawer, and leafing through the contents, John came upon an old hand-drawn plan in ink, pencil and brown wash. It wasn't signed .. but it had the hallmarks of a Brown plan: serpentine lake, woodland, belts of trees.

The Andersons turned to Peter Willis, an architectural historian at Newcastle University, who believed it was a Brown landscape ... "It is a typical drawing of his in terms of draughtsmanship. The landscape is also very much in the Capability Brown tradition." However, it was initially felt that the plan was drawn after Brown had left Kirkharle, possibly around 1770, when he returned to Northumberland to work on the garden at Alnwick Castle for the 1st Duke of Northumberland.



But the drawing showed a peel (or pele) tower. These towers were built from late 13th to end of 16th centuries as small fortified keeps and were lived in by the lairds of the area and their families. (In 1445 an Act of Parliament deemed that every tower must have an iron basket at the top where fires could be lit to warn of approaching danger.) They appeared along the Anglo/Scottish borders and in the north of England in response to the threat of attack by Scots and Border Reivers, who consisted of English and Scottish families who indiscriminately raided the entire border country. They were generally built close to a church, in this case St Wilfred's, which still stands today and dates back to 1336, and is where the infant Lancelot was baptized. The Kirkharle peel tower had been absorbed into the main house in 1740, making it almost certain that the plan had been drawn prior to this date - and therefore while Brown was living at Kirkharle before leaving in 1739, at the age of 23, to gain experience further south. He came to Croome in 1752.



So this was almost certainly Capability Brown's first landscape design. And after many years of planning, the Andersons are bringing this design to life. It can't be created exactly to Brown's plan as the A696 now cuts through the site of the original plan. (At least they didn't have the M5 to contend with!) But it has been sensitively interpreted by Nick Owen, a historic landscape architect and a Brown expert, and David Ronn, NT North-East Regional Director, who helped in the recreation of Croome and is a friend and neighbour of the Andersons, has also maintained a close interest. The new Capability Brown parkland will cover about 100 acres, with a two-and-a-half acre lake, new paths and thousands of trees. There are plans for a grand opening in 2011, but, as with Croome, it will be years before Brown's vision will reach its full glory.

The original Brown plan is now on display in the library at Newcastle University.

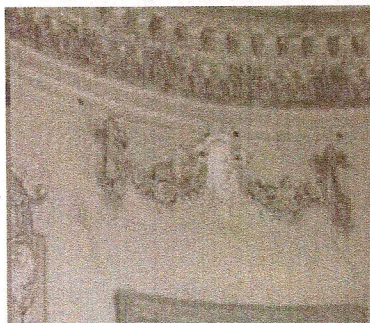
You can find out more about visiting Kirkharle, and the Grade I listed St Wilfrid's Church, at www.kirkharlecourtyard.net or by telephoning 01830 540362.

(With grateful thanks to Kitty Anderson for providing information and photographs for this article)

A JEWEL - BOX OF A ROTUNDA

Repairing the jewel-box which formed a frothy backdrop for entertainments !

The Rotunda was probably designed by Capability Brown in the early 1750s for the 6th Earl of Coventry. It is amongst the earliest garden buildings at Croome, and because of its intricate plasterwork, one of the most ornate. According to the archives the Rotunda was used as a banqueting house where the 6th Earl would entertain his guests. Its elevated location in the parkland is symbolic of the home of the classical gods (echoed in the interior plaster reliefs).



Many skilled craftsmen created this very fine building in the 18th century and now, 250 years later, thanks to funding from the Wolfson Foundation we have again been able to witness skilled craftsmen at work undertaking a second phase of essential repairs.

These works have included:

- * Stabilisation of the plasterwork
- * Completion of the external masonry repairs
- * Completion of the joinery repairs to the sash windows and skirting
- * Replacement of the failed lead on the pediments



In October and December we conducted a number of conservation tours of the work in progress which were very well received by visitors.

There is still more work to be done on the Rotunda including repairs to the steps and the internal decoration. However before that, we plan to open it to the public so that they may enjoy this wonderful and important building in Croome's landscape.

ONE STEP AT A TIME

The North Entrance Steps provide the main access for visitors to the Court. The original 18th century balustrade and piers were removed in the 1980s due to their poor condition and were replaced with artificial stone. This has since failed, and the staircase has now been in a state of decay for a number of years. Since opening the house to visitors we have had to support it with a wooden structure.



Thanks to funding from the Wolfson Foundation we have been able to repair the west side of the steps.

- * Removal of badly deteriorated artificial stone

- * Incorporation of original stone into the repair work
- * Replacement of badly broken paving stones

Much of the work has been done on site so we have been able to hear the stonemasons chipping away at blocks of stone during the week.

In January and February we provided visitors with an opportunity to see the craftsmen at work and also to have a go themselves!

We will need to undertake a second phase of works to the steps and balustrade on the east side when funding becomes available.

Both conservation articles by
Catriona Hughes
Project Conservator



CROOME VOLUNTEERS' LIBRARY

These few words are aimed at our more recent volunteers who may not know about our library which is located in the volunteers' room in the Court. The Library was originally intended to extend our knowledge of all things Croome. However due to the kind generosity of both volunteers and staff, who both donate and lend books and articles, the range of topics is forever expanding.

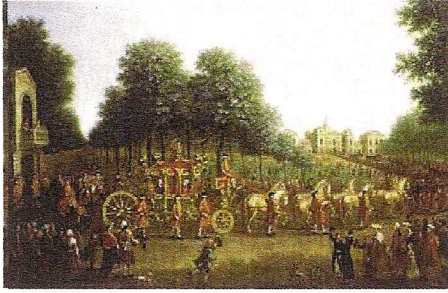
All of the items in the library can be borrowed and taken home for further reading. There is an index folder on top of the bookshelf which lists in detail the library's contents and at the back of that folder are the lending sheets. You are simply requested to fill out the relevant bit of the sheet before taking the item home. We would also ask that

you try to keep the item out for no more than two weeks, but if you need more time, then just "re-borrow" it by filling out a new entry on a lending sheet. By the way, if anyone would like to lend or donate anything to the library, then it would be very gratefully received. Please contact David Vernon whose details are in the Indexes.

A GRAND DAY OUT

George III with Queen Charlotte and three Princesses visited Croome on Saturday 26th July 1788. George III was 28 years into his reign having lived virtually all his time in London, leaving only to make one trip to Oxford.

His bilious attacks (now known to be porphyria) started in June 1788. He was becoming a political embarrassment and it was suggested that he might benefit by taking the waters at Cheltenham which was becoming well known for its Spa.



His courtier Lord Fauconberg lent him Fauconberg Lodge (close by the site of the current Cheltenham Ladies College).

The court entourage arrived 23rd July and stayed for three weeks. In addition to drinking the waters they attended theatre and made sight-seeing expeditions and visited many landed gentry, including Lord & Lady Coventry.

On Saturday 26th July the royal party and attendees travelled by carriages from Cheltenham via Tewkesbury stopping at a field on Mythe Hill where they had a lovely view of the Severn, the Avon and the grand old Abbey. They arrived at Croome at 9.30 in the morning where they had breakfast in the Tapestry Room before visiting the parkland and the Menagerie.

There is a full transcript in the Croome Court Library of Richard Cooksey's account in a letter sent to Lord Deerhurst on 29th July 1788.

The royal party left Croome at 6.00pm that evening accompanied by Lord & Lady Coventry returning directly to Cheltenham. On Sunday 27th the Royal Family attended service at Gloucester Cathedral and later promenaded at The Walks in Cheltenham where they were honoured with nobility including The Duke of Queensberry, Lords Salisbury, Coventry, Courtown, Harcourt, Maitland and Kenmare.

Seven days later they moved the whole entourage to Worcester, staying at the Bishop's Palace where they were welcomed by Lord Coventry who was the Recorder for Worcester. They attended concerts in the Cathedral having moved the Worcester Music Festival (forerunner of the Three Choirs Festival) forward especially for the Royal patronage. This visit lasted six days when they returned to Cheltenham and finally back to London on the 16th August.

By Alan Little

IT MAKES YOU THINK

Why have I used the expression so much over the last few months?

For the last year or so I have been part of the Whose Story Team as Community Ambassador for Croome. Whose Story is an initiative funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to work in four NT properties, with the aim of stimulating and increasing the interest and involvement of Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) groups in the NT. We go out into the local communities to spread the word, and try to discover and bring to notice any 'hidden history' that might be identifiable with minority groups. Also by inviting groups to come and enjoy the surroundings we hope to encourage more visitors and new volunteers.

I have never ceased to be amazed at our visitors, their knowledge and wisdom and which details they find particularly enjoyable to make it a memorable visit.

A multi national group of Mums and Grandmums were very excited to come. Some ladies only here with their husbands' permission because it was a women only group. How thrilled they were, smelling roses by the Temple Greenhouse and watching a family of goshings swimming on the lake.

One lady shyly had her photo taken by the oak tree on the hill, because it reminded her of home in Pakistan. Then the best bit, the PICNIC. A truly international homemade feast was produced from their baskets, Asian, Turkish, Mediterranean and English food. Memorable for us all.



Then there was the grandmother who moved to Birmingham from Jamaica in 1950s. She returned to Croome after her first visit with a huge party of family and friends to our All Nations Picnic. They loved it. We even feature on her granddaughter's Facebook page as her best day out ever!

I must just include a couple of other comments as food for thought.

* The beautiful Robert Adam carved door and door frame of the church reminded several ladies of going to worship - to their mosque.

* Another remarked upon the ceiling plaster design as being like that in her mother's home in Pakistan.

* The thatched round Ice House reminded an African couple of village homes in Africa

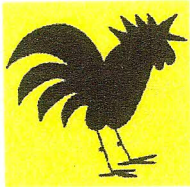
* Another, a black African Brummie pointed out to her son the Cedar tree on the horizon, as being very like what she knew

of the countryside in Africa.

All these comments were spontaneous. They set me thinking, pondering more deeply on a landscape I thought I knew. It makes me realise how little I do know, and it makes me enjoy the Croome setting even more. It makes me appreciate the wonderful vision of the 6th Earl, Capability Brown and Robert Adam. How they drew inspiration from all around the world. We tend to think of Croome as a true English landscape, but it is far more than that, it is truly international, and the people coming here from Whose Story are teaching us all that, if we care to listen.

Yes, I have to say, IT MAKES YOU THINK.

By Sue Waugh



Croome - a - Doodle - Doo

Second Tuesdays 6-8pm

March 8 : Q & A

April 12 : tbc

May 10 : Open House
Evening in the Court

June 14 : tbc

July 12 : tbc

August 9 : Pimms in the Park

September 13 : Day trip to ????

Is the Withdrawing Room drawing you in?!

By Genevieve Pearson.
It's not long now till the Withdrawing Room Project comes to fruition I'm really pleased with the detailed design that Oliver and Holly have recently shown us – they have incorporated lots of our thoughts on how it should function in very interesting ways. I love the way we'll be able to encourage visitors to seek out a moment of reflection: whether it's to look at the views, to admire the fireplace, to consider the very idea of withdrawing itself, or purely to enjoy a bit of peace and quiet within swathes of gorgeous fabric – it's sure to get people thinking and talking!

Make sure you keep up to date with the progress of the project on the blog <http://croomewithdrawingroom.wordpress.com/> and ask Stephen Smart, the Project Champion, or me if you have further questions.

THE EDITORS

Sue Coleman ; Di Dickinson ; Phil Douce, Kath Morris and Alexis Robinson.

Please let us have any ideas for articles or if you have a comment on anything in this issue.

Either drop them in the Boxes at the RAF building or in the Volunteers' Room, or email us at:

croomechronicle@gmail.com

DIARY THIS - A BUSY CROOME THIS YEAR !

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| MARCH 19 & 20 | Sat & Sun 11.00am - All Day Geocaching - The Croome Caches Launch | Free |
| APRIL 2 & 3 | Sat & Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm Marvellous Mother's Day Weekend | Crafts £1.50 |
| APRIL 9 to 25 | Sat to Mon 11.00am - 4.00pm Easter Eggventure. Trails and Activities | Trail £2.50 |
| APRIL 30 & MAY 1 | Sat & Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm Royal Wedding Celebrations & May Day | £ some activities |
| MAY 1 | Sunday The Great Horse Tea Party The return of the first painting to Croome | TBC |
| MAY 28 To JUNE 5 | Sat to Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm Forgotten Island Treasure Trail | Trail £1.50 |
| MAY 30 | Monday Morgan Car Winner Presentation | TBC |
| JUNE 18 & 19 | Sat & Sun 11.00am - 3.00pm Fantastic Father's Day weekend | Crafts £1.50 |
| AUGUST 8 | Monday 11.00am - 12.00 noon Morning Concert in the Long Gallery Part of the Three Choirs Festival | £19 |
| AUGUST 15 To 21 | Mon to Sun 11.00am - 4.00pm Kite Flying Week bring or make a kite | Kites £3 |
| AUGUST 27 & 28 | Hare Krishnas Were Here Festival | £ some activities |
| JULY 23 to SEPTEMBER 4 | Mon to Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm School Term activities | £ cost |
| SEPTEMBER 10 & 11 | Sat & Sun All Day Heritage Open Day | Free |

WELL DONE !

Our pre-season meeting finished with Long Service badges being awarded to the following volunteers:

5 YEAR SERVICE

Christine Adams
Wendy Carter
Eileen Clement
Sue Coleman
Constance Cook
Charlotte Davies
Anthony Evans

John Evans
Brian Wright
Jill Francis
Sue Lloyd
Betty Mills
Mary Oliver
Peter Parkes
Michael Partridge
Elizabeth Pearce
Margaret Radnidge
Richard Southerden
Jeremy Tudge
Jill Tovey

10 YEAR SERVICE

Keith Evans
Karen Crowther
Frank Forster
Janet Forster
Pat Davis
Mary Day

15 YEAR SERVICE

David Wilson

Those that did not receive their badges on Tuesday will be presented with them soon.

