



The Friends of Osterley Park

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A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER 44

MARCH 2002

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2001

I am following the example of last year, of putting the "Annual Report" on the front page of this Newsletter. This report will be formally presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 15th May.

The year 2001 was once again a year of steady progress for the "Friends". Our Accounts have been examined and approved by the Honorary Examiner. These show a healthy situation; donations to the Trust at Osterley totalled £2,039.22, which included sponsorship of the "Welcome Leaflet" given to all visitors to the Park, repairs to the "Courtesy Bus" ferrying visitors from the Car Park to the House, an additional picnic table near the Car Park, and sponsorship of the Jazz Band on Osterley Day. Other expenditure, including Newsletter, social events, etc was £1,206.57, giving a total of £3,245.79

Receipts from subscriptions, the "100 Club", outings and lectures, and stalls on Osterley Day contributed to a total income of £5,959.98, giving a surplus of £2,714.19. We finished the year with a total of £10,064.55 in the Bank, of which about £7,500 is available for Trust Projects.

At the A.G.M. last year, three new members were elected to fill vacancies caused by the resignations of John Robertson, Jim Tickle, and Audrey Ebison. Audrey's place as Membership Secretary has been filled by Dilwyn Bowles, and Brian Lane and Meera Khambadkone also joined us. Later, Anne Drakeford came forward to offer her services. an offer which has been gratefully accepted.

Jim Tickle, although no longer on the Committee, has agreed to continue to organise the programme of day trips and the "weekend break" for members, and Ron Piper has volunteered to take over the running of the "100 Club", also from outside the Committee. Our thanks are due to both of them for these offers.

The total income of over £900 from stalls on Osterley Day resulted from the hard work put in by Felicity Bernstein, Audrey Conacher, and their team of helpers. I hope that more members will come forward to assist in our fund-raising efforts this July.

Finally, a word about my personal position. I shall be 75 in July - qualifying for a free television licence - and, while I continue to enjoy the challenges of acting as Chairman, I am beginning to find that some of the physical work I have been doing for the past 10 years is becoming more difficult. I would hope during the coming year to be able to find and train younger members to take up some of this load, and also to appoint a Vice-chairman to be ready to take over from me in any emergency.

It is, perhaps, a little late to wish you all a Happy New Year. However, with signs of spring in the air, and with Osterley House already open to visitors at weekends during this month, may I wish all members an enjoyable new summer season.

At this time of year, more than in January, the challenges of the coming months can be fully evaluated. Those of us who serve as Volunteers at the Property have already been asked to commit ourselves to duties during the spring months, and entries have been made in our new diaries. Also in our diaries are the dates of "Events" at Osterley, details of which are given on the enclosed leaflet.

Also enclosed is Jim Tickle's Programme for this year's day trips and weekend tour. Jim has had a difficult year, with health and family problems, and we are especially glad that these have not dimmed his enthusiasm for the organisation of these activities.

One new idea is to organise local visits and walks for members. Two proposals are shown on a later page, and more can be arranged - particularly if some member comes forward to deal with arrangements and bookings!



Dudley Foy

We were saddened to hear of the death in February of Dudley Foy, who was active as a volunteer and as a member of the "Friends" Committee from its early days. Dudley was the driving force behind the setting up of the "Batricar" service at Osterley for the less mobile visitor to the Park, and was responsible for recruiting volunteers for this operation and for organising their duties.

Dudley and his wife, Gwen, moved out to Essex in the mid 1990's, and he continued his association with the Trust by assisting Valerie Wenham, the Trust's adviser on facilities for the disabled at Queen Anne's Gate, with the setting up and co-ordination of Battery Vehicle operations at all Trust properties.

Our sincere condolences go to Gwen and her family.

Christmas carols in the Stableyard

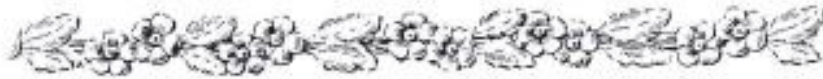
On December 9th and 16th, an intrepid group of singers and musicians turned to perform a concert of traditional Christmas Carols in the Stableyard, under the baton of Howard Stephens. A large audience, well wrapped up against the cold, joined heartily in the singing. The orchestra was joined on the second occasion by Philip King, the Custodian of the House, with his trombone!

Collections were taken on each day to support the Friends' Battery Car Maintenance Fund.





Reception and Annual General Meeting, 15th May 2002



This will as usual be held in the Old Brewhouse restaurant. Wine will be served from 7 pm, and the formal business will hopefully be conducted between 7.45 and 8.15, followed by a talk by Carol Reeves, the Trust's newly appointed Director for London.

The papers for the meeting are enclosed with this newsletter. Please tick the box on your Membership renewal form if you intend to be present.



News from the House

Alan Rideout is acting as temporary House Steward following Megan Doole's secondment to Chartwell, and has taken up residence in one of the flats on the top floor.

The post of Education Co-ordinator, vacant since the departure of Martha Godfrey, has not yet been filled.

Philip and Alan, with the conservation cleaners, have been very busy during the winter closure. Particular attention has been given to the Eating Room and Mrs Child's bedroom. Some work remains to be done, and visitors to the House during March opening weekends will be able to see work in progress.



Spring in the Park

Snowdrops were abundant alongside the drive during February, and are now being followed by daffodils, with crocuses coming into bloom under the trees on the south side of the House.

The four cygnets, raised on the Garden Lake, were still there early this month. The cob will be chasing these away before preparing to nest again shortly.



SNOWDROP



CATKINS

Artist in Residence

Rachel Brown has been appointed for this season, and has set up her studio in the Garden Gallery behind the Information Point in the Stableyard. She will be open to visitors there between 11 am and 5 pm on the first Sunday and the last Wednesday of each month.

Summer Events

The Osterley events leaflet is enclosed. The "Friends" will be providing stewards for a number of these, including the Bollywood Brass Band on June 22nd, the Covent Garden Minuet Dancers on June 29th, the evening of Indian Classical Music on July 20th, and the performance of "The Reluctant Dragon" for children on 2nd August.

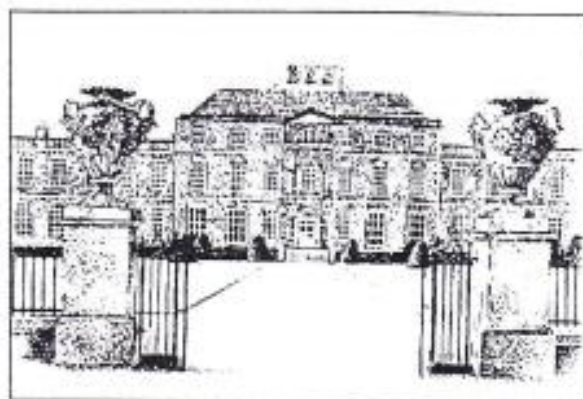
Highlight of the summer for the "Friends" is Osterley Day on 14th July. Our "Tombola" and "Bric-a-Brac" stalls will be present, organised respectively by Felicity Bernstein and Audrey Conacher. The success of these depends on the generous donations of goods from the membership, so start now to sort out suitable items to be given as Tombola Prizes or sold on the Bric-a-Brac stall.

We would like to add to the fun on the day by running further stalls - simple things like "Roll a Penny" or a Teddy bear Raffle. We will arrange equipment for these if we know that members are ready to run them. If you are interested, please tick the box on the Membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter.



Volunteers & Friends Excursions, 2002

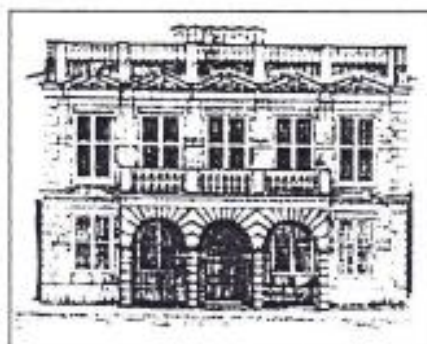
Members who took part in last season's excursions may recall that our April trip to Wimpole had to be cancelled on account of Foot and Mouth regulations. Happily, these have now been removed and on the **18th April** we can resume our postponed visit to the largest 18th Century house in Cambridgeshire. The park, landscaped by Repton, Bridgeman and Brown, features a grand folly, lakes and a Chinese bridge.



Wimpole Hall was bequeathed to the National Trust by Elsie Bambridge, the daughter of Rudyard Kipling. There is a magnificently painted Chapel by James Thornhill, an impressive Library by James Gibbs, which houses over 10,000 books, and an elegant Bookroom, a spectacular yellow Drawing Room and an unusual Bath House, all designed by Sir John Soane, who also designed the Home Farm. Restored in the 1980s, this working farm is now a centre for rare breeds, including Longhorn cattle and Tamworth pigs. If, weather being conducive, you wish to visit the farm, please note that there is now a charge of £2.60 for National Trust members.

Time, and again weather permitting, Barrie hopes to complete the day's enjoyment with a brief visit to the attractive Cambridgeshire villages of Ashwell and Cockayne Hatley.

Our excursion on **13th May** takes us first to Lodge Park and the Sherborne Estate in the Cotswolds. Donated to the Trust in 1982 by Charles Dutton, 7th Lord Sherborne, the Estate covers 4000 acres, encompassing a village, water meadows, pleasure ground and three deer parks. The most important architectural feature is the curious 17th century Grandstand, built by John "Crump" Dutton for deer coursing.



"Crump", a hunchback, was an influential landowner and wily politician who managed to remain on both sides during the Civil War. But most importantly he loved gambling and



banqueting and that's why he created Lodge Park. This is a grandstand on a grand scale, with room for parties, banquets and, of course, gambling. His great nephew, also named John, added to the grandeur by calling in William Kent to design new furniture, and the renowned landscape architect, Charles Bridgeman, to reshape the deer park.

Following the morning tour of Lodge Park and the Sherborne Estate we drive on to Gloucester, where you may wish to enjoy a late lunch and be free to explore this splendid, historic cathedral City.



A prompt, early start on Friday, 21st June at 8.30 am, and we set out for Wiltshire and a busy day which promises to be something of a change from our normal programme. The time schedule for our guided tour of Great Chalfield Manor may preclude the usual en route coffee stop, so Barrie will be arranging on-board coffee and toilet facilities!

The charming Manor House of Great Chalfield dates back to 1480 and beyond the moat and gatehouse, one can admire the great hall and its beautiful oriel windows. Owned now by the Trust, the House and Gardens were restored early last century by Major R. Fuller, whose family still live here and manage the property. We will need to divide into two groups for our 45 minute guided tour, so you should visit the adjoining parish church and the gardens whilst waiting. Since there is no tea-room here, we will stop for lunch in the nearby National Trust village of Lacock, where you might wish to pay a fleeting visit to the Fox-Talbot Photographic Museum; but sadly, time does not allow for an interior visit to Lacock Abbey.

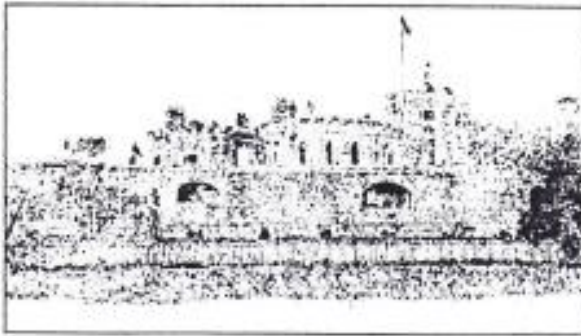
Since our first Excursions Season in 1993, our visits have been exclusively to National Trust and English Heritage properties, but in our visit to privately owned Corsham Court and its intriguing old-world village, we will be breaking new ground. A Royal Manor in the days of the Saxon Kings, Corsham Court is based on an Elizabethan house dating from 1582. Bought in 1745 by Paul Methuen to



house his collection of 16th and 17th century Italian and Flemish paintings and statuary, which was substantially enlarged during the 19th century, Corsham is still owned by the Methuen family. The Picture Gallery and the State Rooms, including the Music Room and Dining Room, provide the setting for over 140 paintings, statuary, furniture and bronzes, with works by Adams, Chippendale, Caravaggio, Reynolds, Rubens and Van Dyck. The House and Park today are principally the work of Capability Brown, John Nash and Thomas Bellamy. Brown also designed the Gardens, built the Gothic Bath House and planned the 13 acre lake, completed later by Humphrey Repton.

Time permitting, you will find a walkabout in Corsham village most rewarding. Amongst a veritable treasury of beautiful old buildings, don't miss the ancient Church of Saint Bartholomew, dating from 1132, in whose churchyard is the famous flat-stone grave of Sarah Jarvis who died at the age of 107 in 1753 having grown a third set of teeth! Look out, too, for the attractive 17th century Flemish cottages, - a reminder of the days when Flemish weavers, fleeing from religious persecution, brought their skills to Corsham. The Town Hall, formerly the Old Market House of 1784, is well worth a visit and the Almshouses and Schoolroom, erected in 1668 by Dame Margaret Hungerford, retain all their original features and are amongst the finest in the country.

Close to Cosham, on the road to Bath, is the Underground Quarry Centre, - the only shaft stone mine open to the public in the world. Here, reached by 159 steps, lies the hidden world of the underground quarrymen, where the story of Bath Stone from rock face to architectural heritage is told.

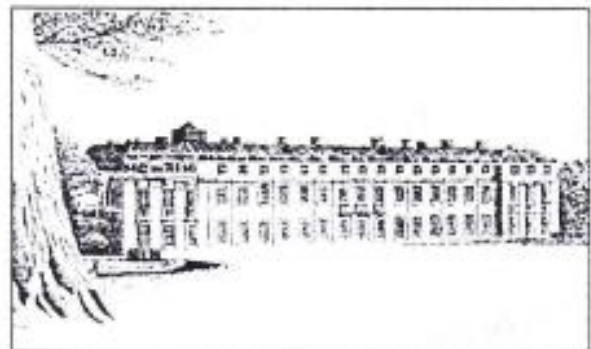


The success of a previous trip to the Castle of Dover certainly warrants a return visit to the stone sentinels of the Kent Coast and on Tuesday, **23rd July**, we visit Walmer Castle, an English Heritage property. Built in 1539 as part of the coastal defences against the French and Spanish after Henry VIII's break with the Roman Catholic Church, Walmer was never put to the test, and now serves as

the official residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports, an ancient title originally involving control of the five most important medieval ports on the South coast. The title is currently held by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and past Wardens include William Pitt the Younger, The Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill.

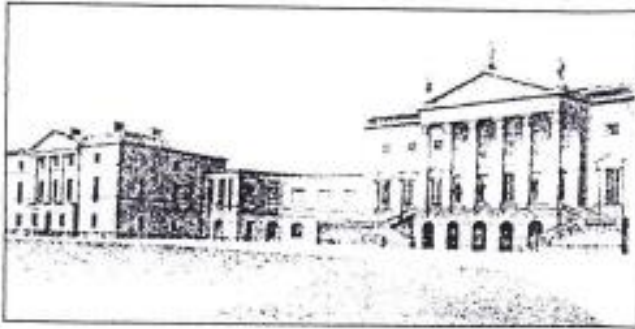
The first Lord Warden, the Duke of Dorset, converted the fort into a stately home by increasing the number of first-floor rooms and extending the living quarters out over the bastion. Two of these rooms are now dedicated to the Duke of Wellington. The superb Gardens surrounding the castle owe much to the enthusiasm of William Pitt, and the Queen Mother, some of whose rooms are open to the public, has added a garden of her own, designed by Penelope Hobhouse. For gardening 'souvenir hunters' there is a plant stall. Light lunches and afternoon teas are available in the Lord Wardens' Tea Rooms. Following our visit to Walmer, we take a leisurely tour of the Kent Coast, with a possible stop to view the Channel Tunnel Exhibition at the terminal near Folkestone.

Our destination on Wednesday **14th August** is Petworth House in East Sussex, rebuilt in 1688 around the ancient manor house of the Percy family. Petworth today contains the finest collection of paintings and sculpture in the care of the National Trust, with works by Titian, Van Dyck, Reynolds, carvings by Grinling Gibbons and, for this year, a major exhibition of Turner's work, - with loans from



the Tate Gallery. The Carved Room and the Red Room, containing priceless items, are now restored to their 19th century appearance and an ever popular attraction is the Servants' Quarters and Kitchens, where the polishing of a splendid copper 'batterie de cuisine' of over 1000 pieces must have kept the kitchen maids permanently occupied! The 700 acre Park, home to the largest herd of fallow deer in England, was landscaped by the ubiquitous 'Capability' Brown.

In keeping with the Excursion Programmes that we have adopted in more recent years, September will be devoted to our Annual 5-Day Mini-Break, this year based in Norfolk. Our final day-trip of the year, on Wednesday **2nd October**, is planned to be a re-run of the memorable 1993 journey to Kedleston in Derbyshire, - i.e. "Robert Adam Re-Visited"! Though the weather was quite kind to us during our last visit, veteran travellers may recall that horrendous black storm on our homeward journey down the M1, when with the windscreen wipers frantically working overtime, - and peering through sheeting rain, our faithful friend Barrie once again proved his remarkable driving skills.



Like Osterley, though on a much grander scale, Kedleston is a lasting testament to the architectural genius of Robert Adam. Built for the Curzon family at the same period as Osterley (1759-65), Kedleston houses a vast collection of paintings and original furniture. The Eastern Museum contains a fascinating range of objects collected by Lord Curzon whilst serving

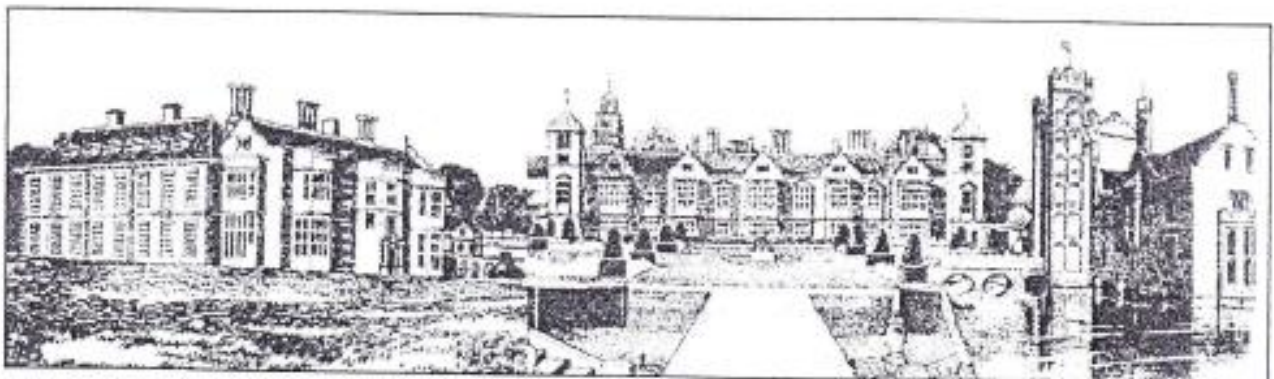
as Viceroy of India at the end of the nineteenth century. Of particular note is the great Marble Hall and the Saloon, with its coffered dome based on the Pantheon in Rome. The garden has been restored in part to an 18th century pleasure ground and the park, with its lakes and cascades, has several original Adam buildings, including a bridge and fishing pavilion.

Five-Day Break in Norfolk

Tuesday, 10th – Saturday, 14th September

Seasoned fellow travellers will certainly not need to be reassured of the popularity of our previous years' short breaks for Volunteers and Friends, staying half-board in en suite University accommodation in Bangor, Northumbria, Exeter and Shropshire. This year our holiday is based in the University of East Anglia in Norwich and as usual we are fortunate in again having the expert services of Barrie Pyle from European Heritage Tours. As yet, our programme is still in the planning stage, but it may include visits to such NT properties as Felbrigg, Blickling and Oxburgh (illustrated below in quite impossible proximity!). We would also like to visit Holkham Hall or Sandringham and may well take a boat-trip on the Norfolk Broads. Some free time will be set aside for you to explore the historic City of Norwich.

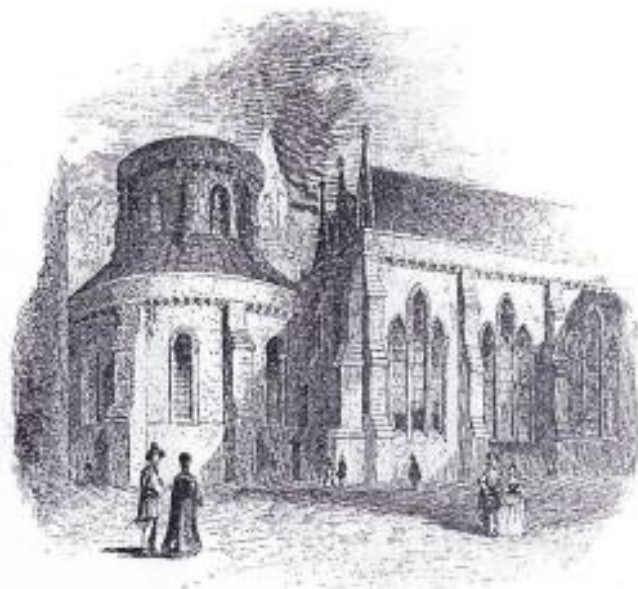
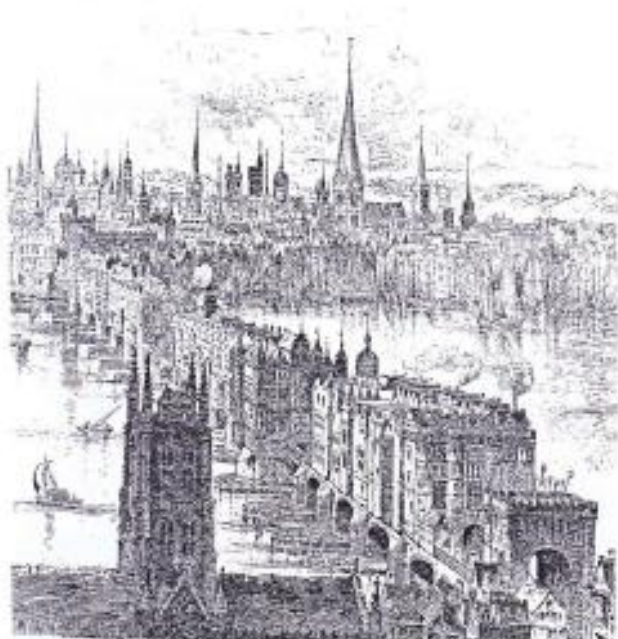
If you wish to join us this year, may I advise you to return your Booking Form promptly to avoid disappointment. Finally, I understand that the University can offer a limited number of twin-bedded rooms. There is no difference in the cost, but please indicate if you wish to share.



London Walk

On 6th February, we had a good audience to hear a talk by Doris Sherwood on "London Bridge and Southwark Cathedral" as part of our series of Winter Lectures. Doris is a "Blue Badge" Guide to the City of London, and has offered to lead a walk around the Temple and its gardens on Tuesday, April 23rd. We would meet outside Temple station on the District Line at 1.30 pm, for a walk of about 2 hours duration. The charge for this will be £3.00. Numbers are limited to 30. Please return the enclosed booking form with a cheque made out to "The Friends Of Osterley Park".

If this proves popular, we may well arrange other walks later in the season.

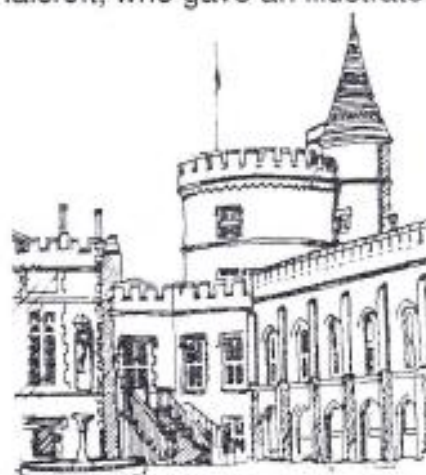


The Temple Church, the second oldest in the City

Visit to Strawberry Hill

The speaker at our talk on 20th February was Anna Chalcraft, who gave an illustrated description of Horace Walpole's villa at Teddington.

Following this, we have arranged a group visit on Tuesday, 14th May. Meet at Strawberry Hill House at 2 pm. The admission charge for this visit is £5.90 - including tea and biscuits - payable in advance. Please return the enclosed booking form and cheque to Ian Conacher.



Strawberry Hill

A Brief History of Osterley

This summary of the history of Osterley Park and House was prepared initially by the Trust for the benefit of Volunteer Stewards; we feel it will be of interest to all our Members.

- * Thirteenth century Osterlee was the resort of cattle and outlaws. It was not until 1562, when Sir Thomas Gresham acquired 740 acres of land adjoining the manor of Heston, that the present structure of the park began to evolve. Gresham built *"a fair and stately building of brick. It standeth in a park by him also impaled, well-wooded and garnished with manie faire ponds, which afforded not only fish and fowle, as swans and other water fowle; but also used for mills, oyle mills and corn mills"* John Nordon - *Speculum Britanniae*, 1596.
- * Following Gresham's death Osterley changed hands frequently. In 1711 it was acquired by Sir Francis Child who had made his fortune as a goldsmith and banker. In 1761 his grandsons, firstly Francis and then Robert Child, employed the fashionable architect Robert Adam to reconstruct the house. Twenty years later Osterley was described as *'a palace of palaces'* with *'a drawing room fit for Eve before the Fall'*.



Child's Bank and the old Temple Bar.



- * Lady Sarah Sophia Fane, granddaughter of Robert Child, inherited Osterley at the age of 8. In 1804 she married the 5th Earl of Jersey, and loyalties became divided between Osterley and the Jersey's house, Middleton Park, in Oxfordshire. Their infrequent use of Osterley over fifty years meant it remained largely unaltered.
- * Margaret, wife of the 7th Earl, was crucial to Osterley's future. She realised the value of the place and in 1884 determined that they should use the house themselves rather than letting it. Rooms and furniture were refurbished and the house was used extensively for parties. *"Osterley became the joy of my life and a great pleasure to my husband"*. Even as late as 1920, urban London had not yet reached Osterley and Lady Jersey was able to write *"As Sunday evening draws in, the peal of distant church bells are the only sound which come to break the quiet of a home so near the town and yet, seemingly so secluded from the world, then these cease, and the song of the nightingales alone disturb the slumbers of Osterley"*.
- * There followed a period of rapid change. The farms and nurseries which had

surrounded Osterley since the late eighteenth century disappeared as metropolitan suburbia expanded westwards. A cat's cradle of transport routes soon enveloped the park, the Metropolitan Railway (now the Piccadilly Line), the Great West Road and, most recently, the M4 motorway. Combined with the relentless expansion of Heathrow Airport, at the start of and 21st century jet and internal combustion engines now *disturb the slumbers of Osterley*.

- * In 1923 the 9th Earl inherited Osterley at the age of 13. He opened it to the public in 1939 because he said, *"he did not live in it and...many others wished to see it"*. As an interesting contrast to the 18th Century rooms he introduced changing exhibitions of contemporary art in the upstairs rooms.
- * During World War II the house was occupied by Glyn, Mills Bank, to whom Child & Co. had been sold in 1924. In 1940 Lord Jersey allowed the park to be used for training the Home Guard. They were taught ambushing, building home-made weapons and other guerilla tactics. The park was also partly ploughed -up and worked largely by Land Girls to produce food as part of the war effort. Towards the end of the war Lord Jersey sought to find a permanent solution to the future of Osterley *"to ensure that it will be maintained and shown off in the way I consider it deserves to be"*.
- * A solution was finally arrived at in 1949 when Lord Jersey gave Osterley and the central core of its landscaped park (58ha - 142 acres) to the National Trust. His family had owned Osterley for over 200 years and although now absent their hand is still there. In his foreword to the 1994 Guide Book the 9th Earl wrote *"When the war ended, it was obvious that trying to live in a house like Osterley would be quite impractical. I arranged therefore to give the house and grounds to the National Trust. I am happy to find when I visit Osterley now that it no longer has the 'museum' atmosphere of my youth, but rather that romantic lived-in feeling which Robert Adam designed for the newly-wedded Robert and Sarah Child in the 1760's."*
- * However, without an endowment raising funds for the upkeep of Osterley posed serious problems for the Trust and it was decided to lease the house and park to the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (now the Department of the Environment) for 99 years. The management of the property was split between various agencies - the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works for the fabric of the buildings, the Royal Parks in the grounds and the Victoria & Albert Museum for the interior of the house and care of the contents whose ownership had passed to the nation.
- * In 1989 the Department of the Environment surrendered its lease and Osterley, whilst always in single ownership, passed back into the single management of the National Trust.
- * In early 1996 the Trust, with the assistance of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, purchased 62ha (153 acres) of Osterley Park Farm, which formed part of the original park at Osterley. Later that year the Trust purchased the remaining 25ha (62 acres) of farmland south of the M4 motorway.
- * The whole of the property - 145ha (357 acres) has been declared inalienable.

100 Club



Ron Piper

There has been a slight decrease in membership since the last newsletter. For a variety of reasons several shares have not been renewed but against this is a few new members have joined and numbers at present stand at 155. Despite this reduction I still anticipate total prize money this year to exceed £900 with a guaranteed top prize of £100 at each draw.

Renewal invitations are enclosed with this newsletter for those members who have share subscriptions due on 1 April 2002 and prompt renewal will ensure inclusion in the second draw of the year to take place at the "Friends" AGM in May.

If any "Friend" who is not a member of the 100 Club would like to join, please send a cheque made payable to "Friends of Osterley" for £12 for each share to me at 44 Killowen Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4QT. Please give details of your name, address, telephone number and "Friends" membership number and enclose a stamped address return envelope so that I can send you your membership card, draw number(s) allocated and the 100 Club rules.

As expected, I will not be able to attend the draw on Wednesday 20th March and am very grateful to John Robertson for agreeing to cover for me, but hope to meet you all at the AGM draw.

CLUB Winners in the last draw of 2001, held at the volunteers party on 8th December, were:-

£100	Ticket no	45	J Dingwall
£60	"	137	A. Birch
£40	"	60	D.J.Huffer
£25	"	89	E. Smith
£20	"	63	P. B. Ratcliffe
£15	"	41	M. Perkins
£10	"	24	E. Smith