

Will O'Wisp

The Friends of Osterley Park

A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 50 - September 2004

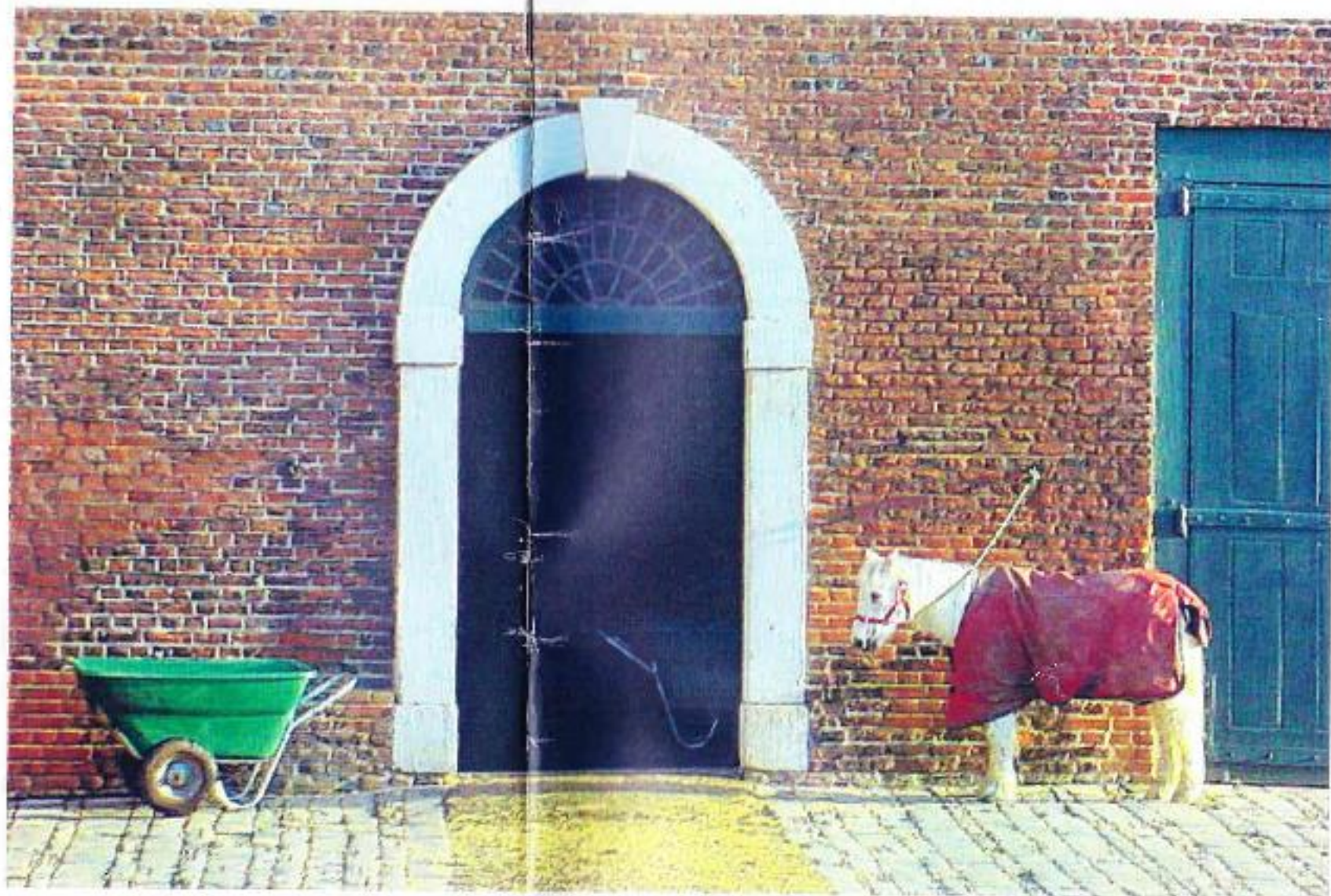
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Tiny, outside Grand Stables
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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

IAN CONACHER



This is a milestone edition of this Newsletter, being our fiftieth issue. We have ventured into colour for the cover to celebrate the event, and hope that members will enjoy the contents of this "Special Edition".

We have come a long way from the days when our first Newsletters were produced, shortly after the formation of the "Friends" in 1990. During the V & A's tenure of the House, relationships had formed

with commercial firms who had used the House for "Corporate Hospitality", and who in return sponsored our early issues. However, it soon became clear that the Trust, in the interest of conservation, would not continue with such use of the House, and the "Friends" were forced to find other means of financing their Newsletter.

We have been most fortunate in having a succession of helpers with the production of this magazine. Margaret Friday took over from Olivier Vorms, who had been typing and printing for us for some time, and was able to add her own distinctive touch to the production - often at the cost of some very late nights! Recently, we have moved further into the "New Technologies" now available on Dilwyn Bowles' computer, which give him the ability to print photographs, including John Stacey's pictures for the front cover.

These developments have been paralleled by growth in our income and in the support we are able to give to the National Trust at Osterley. The total of our donations since our founding in 1990 is

now in excess of £42,000! This sum has been extracted painlessly from our loyal membership, and I hope that they will continue to finance our activities. Our support for the Property is even more needed at this time, as falling interest rates have led to a massive reduction in the Trust's investment income, and in turn to cuts in the budgets for Properties.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR "POSTMEN"

Whilst the majority of you receive your copies of the Friends Newsletter via the Royal Mail, we have a small band of Friends who undertake to hand-deliver copies to members in their locality. Between them, they deliver 88 copies, which is just under 30% of the total. The Committee feel that it is fitting, in this 50th issue, to acknowledge their contribution and thank them for their commitment. They are:

Mr and Mrs Folley
Mr and Mrs Bush
Mr and Mrs Clayden
Mr and Mrs Higgs
Mr Conacher
Mr Bowles

If you live either in the Woodlands Road area of Isleworth (to replace Michael Pfeiffer) or the Lampton Road area and would be able to help in this way, please contact Audrey Conacher, who organises the distribution of Newsletters, on 8560 8523.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

IAN CONACHER

Since our last issue, we have to report the loss of three members from the Committee.

BRIAN LANE, who had joined us fairly recently, found that the pressure of other commitments did not allow him to devote time to the "Friends" interests.

FELICITY BERNSTEIN was responsible for devising and operating a very successful "Tombola Stall" for several summers on "Osterley Day". This brought in very welcome additional income, largely because of her insistence on "a prize every time", many of which she had donated. She has now decided to devote her considerable energies to a medical charity near her home in Chiswick. We wish her every success with this new venture.

MICHAEL PFEIFFER, who had been our Hon Treasurer since 1995, has left us rather suddenly. Following the death of his mother in Germany, he is of necessity involved in clearing her estate. Michael and his wife were already planning to move to Spain next year, and this development means that he is leaving us earlier than originally planned. His meticulous book-keeping and his supporting presence at our events will be greatly missed.

All these departures throw a burden of extra work upon the remaining members of the Committee. In particular, the post of Hon Treasurer is one which calls for a considerable amount of work, handling receipts and expenditure for Membership, "Winter Lectures", trips and tours, etc., which this year have already totalled over £20,000. For the present, your Chairman will act as Hon Treasurer, but this cannot continue for a long period.

Hopefully, the ideal candidate for the job can be found amongst our Members. I would be delighted to hear from any member who feels able to deal with all the demands of the job – not only the book-keeping but also collecting and paying in cash and cheques to the Bank.

However Michael was recruited from outside the "Friends", being already involved as Treasurer for a number of other community groups. If no suitable candidate comes forward from among the "Friends", we may again need to look outside the current membership.

A BIT OF FUN.....

The existing Committee Members names can be rearranged to:

Anzchaic One	Ian Conacher
Enjoys Chat	John Stacey
Farmyard Gaiter	Margaret Friday
Mar. on Judo	Joan Mound
Windy Bellows	Dilwyn Bowles
Woe be Liners	Irene Bowles

Can you work out what

poor sniffy deerstalker

is?

[Clue: YOU are one!!]

AUTUMN RECEPTION – WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER

As in previous years, this will be held in the Brewhouse from 7pm. The programme has not yet been finalised, but members can be sure of a warm welcome and a glass of wine, and hopefully a talk about some aspect of our activities at Osterley. Cars can be parked in the Stable Yard, and the evening will finish at about 9pm. Please note that the Park Gates will be closed at 7.30pm.



The 100 Club draw will also be made during the evening.



WINTER LECTURES 2004

The new St Mary's Church Hall has been booked for next year's programme of talks. Whilst the full programme has yet to be settled, we give you the dates now for your new Diaries.

The first talk will be given on Wednesday 28th January, by Ted Fawcett, a long-ten friend of the "Friends", on "Dowsing for lost Gardens". Ted was one of our first speakers in 1992, and we look forward to his return visit.

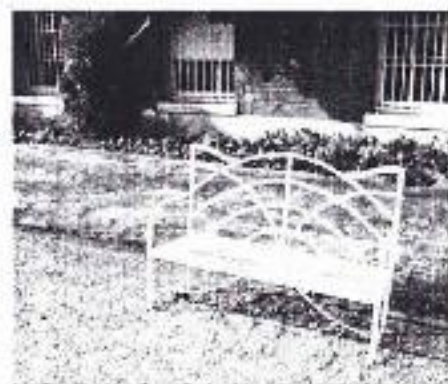
Further talks will be given on 11th and 25th February and 10th and 24th March. Details and a booking form will be published in our next issue in late December.

WINTER OPENING

The Tearoom and Shop will be open
5 Nov – 21 Dec
Wed – Sun, 12.00 – 4.00pm.

The Farm Shop is open every day
9.00am – 5.00pm

Visitors to the Park may have noticed that, in addition to the seat around the willow tree by the edge of the lake, four new metal benches have appeared: two – painted white – on the path alongside the south wall of the House and two more – painted green – at the north west corner of the lower lake near Osterley Lane. These were procured and paid for by the "Friends".



The "Friends" have agreed to sponsor each year the purchase of bulbs, seeds, and other materials for the volunteer gardeners, growing flowers for the displays in the House. We also meet the annual printing costs of the

"Welcome Leaflets" given to visitors to the Park, and leaflets for the Education Centre. We are, as usual, meeting the cost of maintenance and repairs to the Courtesy Bus and the self-drive Battery Cars for the less-mobile visitor.

Following last year's free Jubilee Concert by the Great Western Preservation Group's Jazz Band, we again sponsored the Group for a further free concert on the late Spring Bank Holiday Monday. This was well attended, although the money raised through a raffle did not cover running costs!

For some years, this event has been blessed with fine clear weather, and this year was no exception. The Park railings were used to display the work of local artists, and many local groups had stalls upon the front lawn.

The "Friends" Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, and Bookstalls were as usual set up in the Stable Yard and did brisk business, bringing in a total of over £760.

Our thanks are due to Felicity Bernstein, Audrey Conacher and Joan Mound who organised the stalls, to all those members of the Committee who helped on the day, and to all "Friends" who donated goods for the stalls.

DAY VISITS AND RESIDENTIAL TRIP 2003

Jim Tickle has yet again done a marvellous job this year in arranging an exciting range of day trips and the 5 day residential trip to Scarborough. Whole coachloads of Friends have taken advantage of these trips, visiting both National Trust and English Heritage properties, from as far north as Bolsover Castle and as far south as Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

The Committee extend their warmest thanks to Jim for continuing to take responsibility for the planning and organisation of these trips, and wish him well in the planning for next year's trips!

The heat-wave summer has had a noticeable effect on the level of the Garden Lake, which is now some nine or ten inches below the overflow. At present, this does not seem to have caused any problems to the water fowl. The dry weather has also affected a number of mature trees, which are losing leaf early. Some of these appear to be in dire trouble. A large branch fell from the willow tree by the lake, fortunately without injury to the public - or damage to the "Friends" seat!

The number of Canada Geese has increased, is increasing, and, unfortunately - as a protected species - cannot be diminished! Many of these birds commute between their feeding grounds at Osterley and their roosting sites on the river at Isleworth.



<http://www.birmagas.org.uk/HTML/P41263.HTM>

It has also been a good year for butterflies.

This year, for the first time, I have noticed large brown dragon flies patrolling the area by the Garden Lake, and numbers of brilliant blue damsel flies on the edges of the lower lake.



<http://www.birmagas.org.uk/HTML/P41278.HTM>

Dear Osterley, I fly to you
For there I find I shall renew
A sense of peace within my heart
Absent when we are apart.

And oh the trees of Osterley!
I long for wings that I might fly
Along its wide, green avenue
When suddenly will come in view

The house in all its glory,
With facade of pillared beauty.
Up to the roof I'd rise and sing
A heartfelt praise of everything,

Then spread my wings to reach the woods
To join the happy throng of birds,
Woodpecker, owl, and parakeet
Who sing and call aloud to greet

The rising sun, the moonlit night,
Whose silver shadows are delight.
Cattle and horses fill the fields,
Or rest beneath the oaks that shield

From intrusion overhead,
When 'planes invade our country spread
With flowers and people at their ease
Drowsing in summer reveries.

Long may we live to take our flight
To Osterley, our dear delight.

There is not a lot to report at present, as there has not been a draw since the AGM in May, the results of which were reported in the last Newsletter.

Invitations are enclosed with this Newsletter for those members whose shares are due for renewal on 1 October. If you are one of these, you will see that you are requested to make a payment of only £6.00 per share to cover your membership until 31 March 2004. This is in line with the new arrangements that have been in force this year, to bring the 100 Club subscriptions into line with the Friends membership year. Your subscription will then be £12.00 per share payable on 1 April 2004 and annually thereafter.

A few new members have joined since my last report, but we could still do with more to boost not only the prize fund but also the sum we make available to the management of Osterley Park to be used for the benefit of the house and estate. (For each annual share of £12, £6 goes into the prize fund and £6 for projects funded by the "Friends")

Anyone interested in joining the 100 Club should please drop me a line at 44 Killowen Avenue, Northolt, UB5 4QT, with a note of your name, address, telephone number and Friends Membership Number, together with a cheque for £6 for each share you wish to purchase and a SAE for the return of your membership card. You will then be eligible for the draws in December and March.

Finally, the next draw for this year will take place at the Friends Autumn Reception on 22 October.



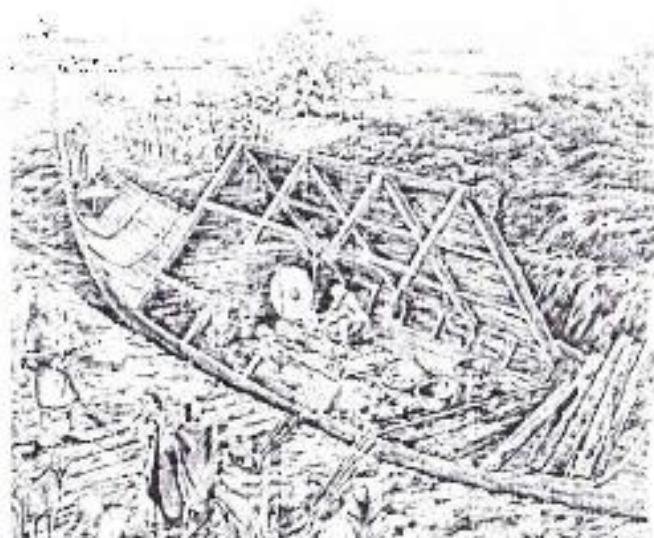
Once again, we have arranged for St Mary's Singers to lead in the singing of Christmas Carols in the Stableyard at Osterley, on Sundays 7th and 14th December, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The "Friends" will be taking a collection for the Battery Car Maintenance Fund, for the benefit of visitors to the Park with walking difficulties.



Following the singing, there will be a performance by the Osterley Mummers. The Tea Room and Shop will be open until 4pm.





Our King, could see the end coming –
the end of our old ways;
cloak shrouded, gold draped, pyre torches,
smoke, wind entwining; beyond.

But when he, - King Raudwald
came to make the journey to Vpðhalla
we buried, not fired, what was fine
and what might he 'lost.

In the burying ground –
the ground of his forbears,
dug deep ditch for him and his ship
he loved his old ship

ninety feet long, hauled up
from the Deben, set to rest
even-keeled in the sandy soil.
In death, the final berth.

A vault was roofed midships
his body and regalia placed within –
establishing majesty, for
his voyage of no return

His helmet, studded with
gold, silver, bronze, garnet
was ready for attack.
War-gear a king might need

laid alongside, sword and shield
finely wrought, bequeathed
by kinsmen – Swedes from
Vendel and Old Uppsala

two Greek spoons 'Saulos' & 'Paulos'
lay under ten silver Byzantine bowls
stacked and ready for use –
convivial hospitality

a gold and garnet purse,
our very best work, haven to
thirty-seven gold Frankish coins
one coin for each his years

drinking horns, harp, cloak
still more I haven't reported –
the usual boat gear
all neatly stowed snug.

Beneath the gloomy sky
we began to backfill
tamping down the sandy soil
adding as we filled, until
a mound was raised
high above the heartless heath –
visible beacon to seafarers all.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 21 MAY 2003 IN THE OLD BREWHOUSE,
OSTERLEY PARK**

Present: All members of the Committee except Mr D Bowles and approximately 50 members.

Prior to the meeting, Philip King made an appeal for new Volunteers for the House. He informed members of a series of introductory sessions for those considering volunteering, to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, and a Saturday morning session on 21 June. This will be advertised in the May Newsletter.

The Chairman, Ian Conacher, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from: Mrs A Beaumont, Mr D Bowles, Mr J Buchanan, Miss F Hawtin, Mr & Mrs D Jenkins, Mrs L Orton, Mrs O Prosser, Mr H Rogers, Mr & Mrs Spikings, Mr J Tickle, and Mrs M Vian.

The Chairman advised that Jim Tickle, organiser of Friends outings through the year, had been in hospital, but was now recovering at home, and hoped to be fit enough to attend the next trip on 2 June to Poole and Brownsea Island. Harold Rogers, our Examiner of Accounts, was unable to attend due to the ill health of his wife, Olive.

As there had been a number of changes to the Committee since the last AGM, the Chairman introduced them to the meeting; particularly new Co-optees Michelle Cooper, Joan Mound and John Stacey.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 15 MAY 2002**

The minutes of this meeting, previously circulated with the September 2002 Newsletter, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This was circulated at the meeting, and is reproduced in the May 2003 Newsletter. The Chairman led the meeting through his Report, which highlighted the following points:

- Winter lectures 2002
- AGM 2002
- Jazz Band - Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend
- Osterley Day
- Day and Residential trips
- Walks and Talks by Doris Sherwood
- Health of the Chairman and his wife
- Co-options of Committee Members
- Donations through the year

The Chairman's Report was adopted by the meeting.

**4. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFIED ACCOUNTS –
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002**

The Treasurer, Michael Pfeiffer, led members through the Accounts, the record of which had been circulated at the meeting. Michael explained that the accounts had been presented to Harold Rogers, the Independent Examiner, who had signed them as true and accurate records. Harold was thanked in his absence - for continuing to examine the accounts for the Friends.

A member asked about the vast increase in donations to the Trust in 2002. The Treasurer explained that this had been due to the lack of projects put forward by the Property Manager in the previous two years. This situation had changed in 2002, and the Committee were able to release

more funds to the Trust as a consequence. Members were advised that a further £4000 had already been committed in 2003.

The accounts were formally adopted by the meeting, and thanks were extended to Michael Pfeiffer for his work as Treasurer.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised that all current Committee members were happy to stand for re-election, and the meeting re-elected them en bloc. Those elected were:

Chairman	Ian Conacher
Hon. Treasurer	Michael Pfeiffer
Minute Secretary	Irene Bowles
Membership Secretary	Dilwyn Bowles
5 Committee Members	Felicity Bernstein, Michelle Cooper, Margaret Friday, Joan Mound and John Stacey

6. APPOINTMENT OF HAROLD ROGERS AS HONORARY EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS

It was agreed that Harold Rogers be appointed to examine the accounts at the end of 2003.

7. MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION – ANNUAL REVIEW AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee recommended that the annual subscription remain at £5.00. This was agreed by the membership.

8. "100 CLUB" – PROGRESS REPORT

Ron Piper reported that, in 2002, £936 had been paid in prize money, and a further £936 had been donated to the Friends account. The current membership of the 100 Club

has decreased slightly in recent months, and Ron appealed to members to either join or take an additional share. He reminded members that there had been a change to the accounting arrangements for the 100 Club, so that it will synchronise yearly membership to the membership year of the Friends, ending on 31 March each year. Consequently, this year subscription fees are amended to bring everyone in line together by 1 April 2004. Ron thanked members for their support, and a draw was made.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Audrey Conacher reminded everyone that brie-a-brac is needed for the Friends stall at Osterley Day.
- ii. Ian Conacher advised Friends to purchase their Trust Raffle Tickets at the House, rather than through their National Trust Magazine literature, as funds would then be channelled to Osterley as opposed to centrally for national distribution.
- iii. Ian Conacher advised the meeting that Doris Sherwood would be undertaking "Walks and Talks in London" again this year. The first visit will take place on Tuesday 17 June – entitled *Wren Churches*, and meeting at Mansion House Tube Station at 1.30pm. This will be the first of 4 walks.
- iv. The Committee voiced their thanks to Ian for his work as Chairman over the last twelve months, and expressed their gratitude that he was able to continue in his role as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm for formal business.

Claire Carlin, Community Education Officer at the House, gave a talk to members on her work. A summary of her talk appeared in the May 2003 Newsletter.

HOLIDAY IN SCARBOROUGH - AUGUST 2003

DORIS SHERWOOD

We had five glorious days: the sun shone, the North Sea was blue. The countryside glistened green, for rain had refreshed the north-east the week before. A party of 52 settled into the intimate surroundings of the Scarborough campus of the University of Hull, content that Jim Tickle had arranged our trip to make us happy, contented and as stimulating as always.

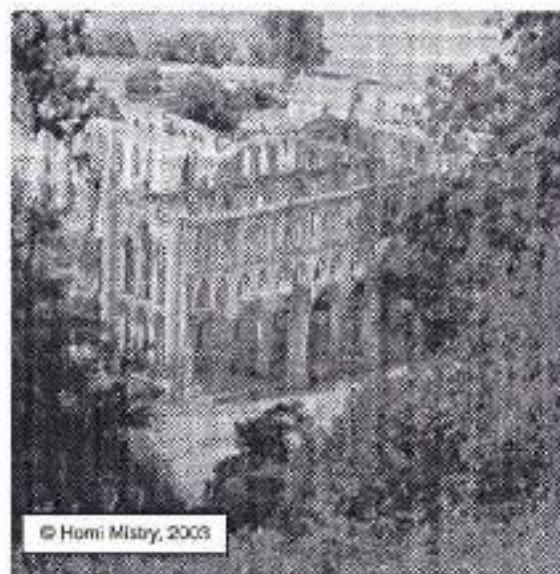
Our first visit was to Beningborough Hall (NT). The grounds and gardens are fabulous and who could resist the delights of walled gardens, wildlife ponds or potting shed! This handsome Queen Anne building was completed in 1716. When the Trust took over, all furniture had gone. It has been most luxuriously refurbished. The outstanding attraction is the collection of 18th century portraits loaned by the National Portrait Gallery, most by famous artists. The steward in the room showing **KIT KAT CLUB** portraits amused us with stories of the schoolchildren visitors' reaction to "**KIT KAT**" (where's the choocy then?).

On Day Two, we drove over moorland to Robin Hood Bay and seaside cliff scenery to Whitby where we visited the awe-inspiring ruins of Whitby Abbey and considered the beautiful detail of the inspired alliance of late Romanesque with early 13th century architecture. We then sought St Hilda's blessing to enjoy the harbour and reward ourselves with a choice of food on Whitby Jet (I wish Hilda had blessed my VISA card!).

The following day we experienced the rolling beauty of the North Yorkshire moors, where heather made misty lavender-hued vistas. Through Ryedale to the Moorland charm of the village of Hurton-le-Hole with its tinkling stream and Folk Museum. Helmsley was too full of tourists' cars to suit our bacolic mood, so we entered the

delightful precincts of Nunnington Hall (NT). This is an "*Upstairs, Downstairs*" experience of how a landed gentry family acquired a most musty collection of things to live with. However, the great attractions were a Beatrix Potter exhibition and the famous Carlisle collection of miniature rooms. The gardens were divine, as is usual in NT houses, but, as is most often the case, not enough garden seats for the elderly to rest.

On Friday morning, many of us visited Scarborough Town, a bus ride or a two mile walk away. Some picked their way by seashore; the wise ones stayed put and revelled in the sun on the plentiful seats gracing the charming green cliff-top just five minutes walk from our College. The bay was lovely, with the castle punctuating the view. Our hope to see an Alan Ayckbourn play in the famous Stephen Joseph Theatre were laid aside because it was "Children's Week" there; quite right, too!



In the afternoon we visited Rievaulx Abbey, first viewed from the stupendous Rievaulx Terrace (NT). We strolled above the wonderful wooded river valley from the 18th century Banqueting House Temple to the round Greek Temple (Tholos), glimpsing the 12th century great Cistercian Abbey below in a most Wordsworth-worthy setting.

Below, we entered the vast ruins and encountered another Saint – Aeldred, the third Abbot (1147-67), who ruled this great farming workforce of 500 monks, and whose praises were sung by a choir of 140 brothers. It is a larger sister, more sturdy, less refined, than Whitby Abbey.

Our journey home was broken by a visit to the stunning Norley Priory. The Augustinian Priory, built in the 12th century, was dedicated to St Oswald. Later the house was built in the 18th century for Sir Rowland Winn by James Paine and Robert Adam. It has beautiful rooms and elegant décor and fine pictures. The Osterley Friends cast experienced eyes over all and, I am sure, concluded that, although reminiscent of Osterley House – lake and all – the Chippendale furniture (“the grandest collection in England”) is grand, but the Brussels Tapestry Room is certainly not as lovely as ours at Osterley. [What a pity that Chippendale didn’t make any garden furniture!]

What a marvellous time we had.... It was so good we want to go back to Scarborough “Fair” again and have asked Jim Tickle to take us back, with Barry our driver friend, as soon as possible.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

Congratulations on a very musical edition of the May Newsletter. It brought back many happy memories of my youth. Songs, venues and an LP were well represented:



*Strolling in the Park,
The t'ing is ended, What is this t'ing?
100 Club, Jazz Concert, and
Milestones (an early Miles Davis LP).*

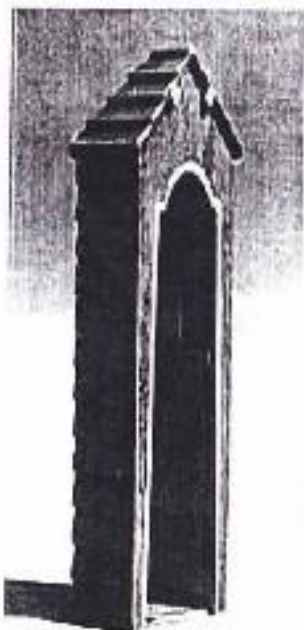


Perhaps a future edition could include an article on Edith Piaf's No egrets?

I am, Yours faithfully,

Emeralda Fescue (Mrs)

Many thanks to Emeralda for writing in - we hope to continue a "Letters" page in future editions. Please send your letters (and any other contributions) to:
Irene Bowles, 9 Gladstone Gardens, Osterley, TW3 4ND (e-mail to ibowles@ukgateway.net)



I was but a lad when I was first taken to Osterley. This, some years after the V & A had day-to-day management. I can remember three or four Commissionaires practising Arms Drill at the sentry box (they mimed their rifles). The box was along near where the staff and volunteers' car park gate now stands. Along the causeway, a privet hedge to the right, and scores of squirrels. We approached the House from the traverse drive that bisected the Front Lawn. Entrance was up through the Portico as now, but the colour scheme of the ceiling was a dark green and white. Although I was unaware of what a portico was, I can remember being most impressed by *actually walking through one of these* and seeing the bay trees.

After paying the admission fee, the Hall was described; then the Grand Stair. The guide then took us into the Library. I don't think the polychrome scheme was in situ at the time. The guide ended his talk in there with a demonstration of the Gib Door. Years later, I could still hear the click it made (indeed it wasn't 'til I started book cleaning that that this particular ghost was laid). From the Library, the guide then took us into the Eating Room, finishing with the flourish of showing us the Adam fluted pedestal with its door fully open.

And then, out, - no other rooms (perhaps the Long Gallery, I'm not sure). Whilst in the Hall, I can remember seeing a car go across the traverse drive..... Most odd it looked, in the middle of all the greenery.

I worked for the Post Office Savings Bank at Osterley Park around 1950. The building was I think some sort of temporary pre-fab. There was a large work force and a group of us decided to entertain the other employees. We sang all the songs of the day, Chantanooga Chu Chu and the like. (Kathleen McManus)

Quotes such as this appear in "Isleworth Remembered" - memories of life in a riverside London village 1900-2002 to be published by the Isleworth Society this Autumn. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this book, please contact Christine Diwell on 020 8744 0663.

Hopefully, some of you may have visited an exhibition of photographs and postcards, rare examples of Isleworth pottery, medals and Pears soap memorabilia at Isleworth Public Hall on Saturday 20 September. Unfortunately, our publication date for this Newsletter has come too late to have publicised this event.

CORRECTION FROM NEWSLETTER 49

In the last Newsletter, Margaret Friday wrote a very interesting article on the visit to Milestones and the Vyne. Unfortunately, there was a typographical error, which was quite important to the relevance of the article. John Chute was the owner of the Vyne at the time of Horace Walpole, not Horace Wimpole, as stated in the article.

Apologies to Margaret for any embarrassment caused, and it is hoped that the error did not spoil readers' enjoyment of the piece.

**THE LANGUAGE OF THE FAN AT OSTERLEY ON
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MARGARET FRIDAY**

On Bank Holiday Monday, Clare Carlin, Margaret Friday and Ada Barker played their parts in introducing children to a peep at life in eighteenth century Osterley.

Clare showed the children how to make a fan and demonstrated The Language of the Fan as described by Duvelleroy, "*Fanmaker by appointment to Their Majesties The King and Queen.*" Some useful "phrases" include:

carrying in left hand open = come and talk to me,
carrying in left hand in front of face = desirous of
acquaintance,
touching tip of fan with finger = I wish to speak to you,
drawing across cheek = I love you,
placing on left ear = I wish to get rid of you (get lost)
resting fan on right cheek = yes,
resting fan on left cheek = no.

Ada then brought the children into the Long Gallery. Once they were seated on the floor, she introduced them to Margaret, who was dressed in a copy of a gown of 1765 and took the part of the young Mrs Child. The guests were welcomed to her beautiful summer home just being decorated by the famous architect, Robert Adam. Mrs Child talked about the dress she was wearing, with the train called a Wateau pleat after the French artist who paints ladies picnicking in country parks wearing these beautiful silk dresses. Mrs Child explained that all of the young ladies who lived in country houses would have had a grand dress just like hers. In the Drawing Room they could see Cornelia and Selina Chambers and her doll wearing dresses just like

the grown-up ladies wore. Mrs Child thanked the children for visiting her house, and said "goodbye" with her fan, by holding it open with her little finger extended. The children said "farewell" in the same way, and rejoined their parents in the great neoclassical entrance hall.

**SOME EIGHTEENTH CENTURY THOUGHTS ON THE
FAN.**

The Fan

"It exercises the office of the zephyrs, and cools the glowing breast. It saves the blush of modesty by showing all we wish to see, yet hiding all that we desire to conceal. It serves the purpose of a mask, covering the face that would remain unknown.

It keeps off the rude beams of the uncourtly sun...or from the fiercest ravage saves the brilliant eye and blooming cheek. It hides bad teeth, malicious smiles and frowns of discontent; stands as a screen before the secret whisper of malicious scandal; expresses the caprices of the heart, nay sometimes even speaks; in a word it has a thousand admirable qualities, and may justly be entitled one of the noblest inventions of the human mind".

Extract from "The Grand Magazine", London, November 1760.

"The Fan" and "The Language of the Fan" are from The Fan Museum in Greenwich; an excellent place to visit if you love beautiful fans exquisitely displayed. There is even a fan shaped garden!