

 **The Friends of Osterley Park**
A Supporters Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 57 December 2014

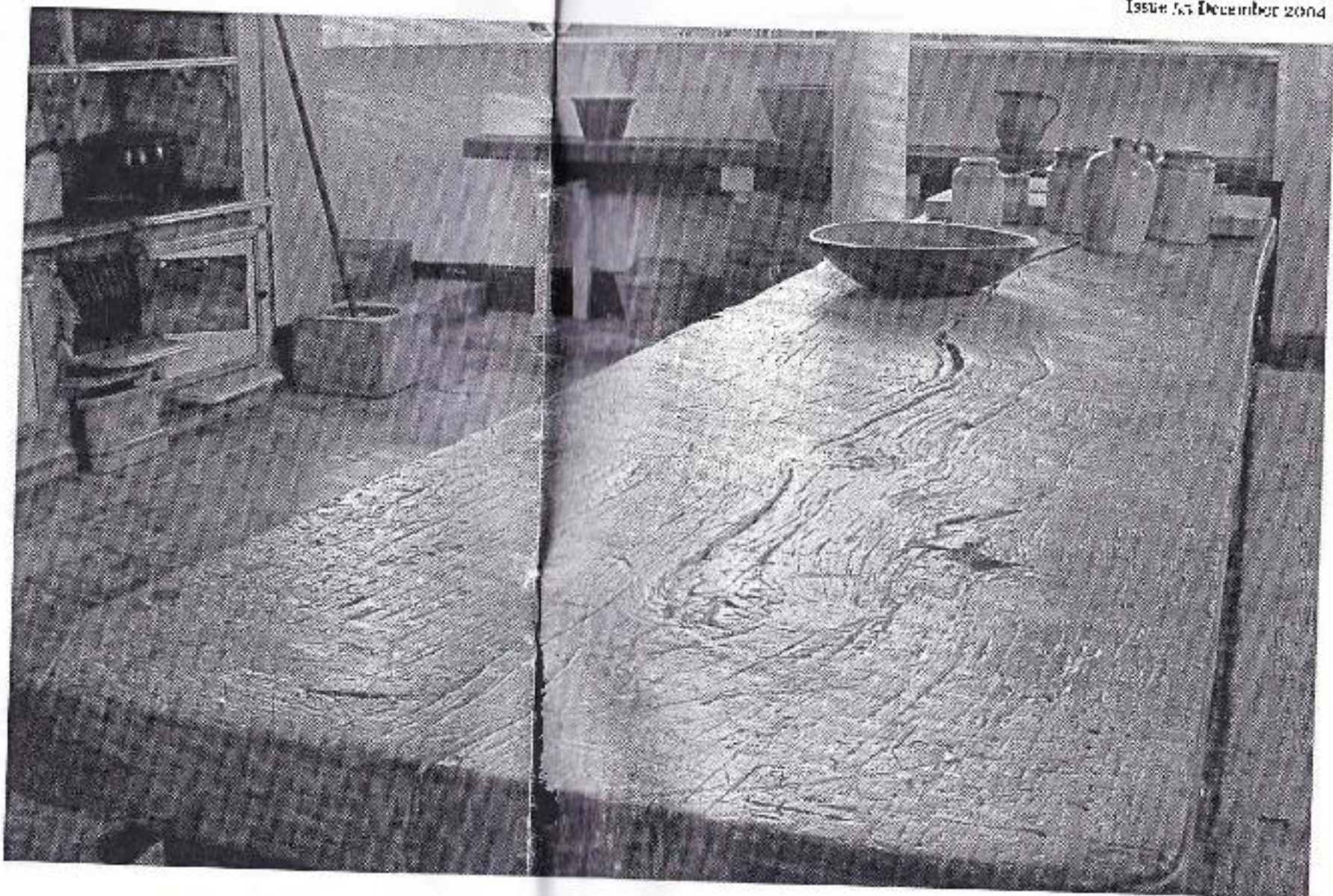
Useful Contacts

Chairman

Ian Conacher
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Membership Secretary

John James
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The Kitchen,
Osterley Park House
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Dates for Your Diary

WINTER LECTURES 2005.

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 PM, ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL

2ND FEBRUARY	Adrian Thornton	An Introduction to The National Parks.
16TH FEBRUARY	Olive Marke	Tyntasfield.
2ND MARCH	Anne Savage	West Wycombe and the Dashwoods
16TH MARCH	John James	The History of The Olympic Games.

OPENING TIMES 2005

The House, Tea Room, and Shop will be open at weekends from Saturday, March 5th.

The early Easter holiday means that the House will re-open for the usual 5-day week from Wednesday, 23rd March, through to end October.

COVER PICTURE - most Members will recognize the massive slab of wood forming the preparation table in the Kitchen at Osterley - obviously a valued possession, as at some stage large cracks have been infilled with lead! The table is so large it could only have been brought in through a window; it has been notched at some time to accommodate a column holding up the ceiling!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK.

IAN CONACHER.

I am writing these notes on November 5th, accompanied by a barrage of sound from the Guy Fawkes' Day celebrations. My hope is that by the time you read this, we shall all have had a Happy Christmas and are looking forward to a quiet and peaceful New Year.

The end of 2004 has already been full of incident. Linda and Kevin Mills have had the mammoth task of extricating themselves and their managerie from Bothy Cottage and the Stable block, and relocating to their new home in Northamptonshire. Barry Williams has delivered his "Retrospective" - a slide show covering his 14 years at Osterley, firstly to the "Friends" at their Autumn Reception, and later to a Volunteers' Coffee Morning. This show highlighted the number of physical changes and improvements there have been at the Property during that period; surely no-one will regret the removal of the funereal yew hedges concealing the unlamented Ministry of Works toilet block! Barry is retiring on 12th December, and he and Christine will be moving down to Worthing.

There have been many changes among the Trust's staff during these 14 years. Audrey and I exchange Christmas cards with Pat Rumsey, who is now living in Canterbury. Sally and Graham Rogers are now retired, but Graham made a brief appearance at Osterley in the autumn as a relief Warden.

During this period, the "Friends" Committee has also seen many changes. We have been fortunate to have had volunteers coming forward to fill most vacancies as they arose. While I am hoping to continue as Chairman for a little longer, I am finding it difficult to cope with the volume of work I took on in earlier days; I am grateful for the support given by the Committee in easing the load. There is, however, a need for a Vice-Chairman, to stand in for me when required. We also need to develop new activities for the "Friends", to provide further interest for Members and also increase the income generated for the Trust. Hopefully, Members will come forward to take on these tasks!

A GOOD YEAR FOR THE "FRIENDS".

Our Financial Year will be closing on 31st December, and our books will then be examined prior to publication, ready for the Annual General Meeting in the Spring. Early indications are that we will be carrying forward a reasonable balance into 2005, as there have been no unexpected calls for expenditure from the Trust.

We have four regular annual areas of sponsorship - paying for the printing of the "Welcome" leaflets given to visitors to the Park, for leaflets and other material for the Education Department, for the purchase of seeds and plants for the Volunteer Gardeners growing flowers for the House, and meeting the costs of maintenance of the self-drive battery electric cars for the use of visitors with mobility problems

Our income has as always come principally from membership subscriptions, plus the contribution from the "100 Club". Our "Winter Lectures" make a small profit; Jim Tickle's choice of venues for his trips and tours, combined with careful budgeting, has brought in a small surplus on an operation which has a substantial turnover. The "London Walks", led by Doris Sherwood, have been much enjoyed by those attending, besides making a useful contribution to our income.

Other sources of income have been the Stalls set up in the Park on "Osterlay Day" and other events. After deducting expenses, these brought in approximately £725.

However, increasing costs, particularly in postage, mean that the expenditure on the "Newsletter" and on administration has risen. Those members who were at the A.G.M. in May will know that it was agreed to increase our Annual Subscription to £6.00 from 1st April 2005. This is the first increase in 14 years!

Our thanks are due to all those members who have assisted on stalls at our fund-raising events, and to those who have generously donated goods for these. We need new helpers to join the team, with new ideas.

WINTER LECTURES 2005

These will again be held in the new solar-powered St Mary's Parish Hall, on alternate Wednesdays in February and March.

On 2nd February, Adrian Thornton, of the Council for National Parks, will be talking to us about the distinctive natures of the 11 National Parks, the important contribution made by the National Trust to the well-being of these, and the progress being made with the establishment of new National Parks in the New Forest and the South Downs.

On 16th February, Olive Marke, known to many of you as a founder member of the "Friends" Committee, who is now serving her second stint (and seventh year!) as Chair of the Ealing N. T. A., will be talking to us on the Trust's recent acquisition, Tyntesfield. Olive is also a member of the Thames and Solent Regional Committee.

Our speaker on 2nd March will be Anne Savage, who will be talking to us about West Wycombe Park and the Dashwood family. Anne retired from her profession as a pharmacist some ten years ago, and enrolled as a volunteer speaker for the National Trust. She is a past Chairman of the West Middlesex N. T. A.

Finally, on 16th March, our Membership Secretary, John James, will be talking to us about the history of the Olympic Games, from ancient Greece to the present day, and his experiences in Athens as Chairman of the British Olympic Association during the 2004 Games.

As usual, we will set up in the Hall from 7.30 onwards - after the Brownies have left - ready to start the proceedings promptly at 8 p.m. Coffee and biscuits will be served at 9.15. and we reckon to clear the Hall well before 10 p.m.

Tickets will cost £4.00 each or £12.00. for the series of four, and may be bought in advance by post, using the application form enclosed. They may also be purchased at the Volunteers Coffee Mornings at the House in the New Year, or - if any remain - at the door.

NEWS APPOINTMENTS AT OSTERLEY

Recent departures have left several vacancies among the Estate staff. The post of Estate Warden is presently vacant. George Streeter has moved from gardening to become a Warden, with new recruit Jamie Marsh as assistant Warden.

A new Gardener-in-charge is being sought to replace Linda; meanwhile Max Battocci has been recruited to work with Howard Williams. (No relation to Barry!)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Building assistant Bill Davey is looking for volunteers to help out during the winter months with maintenance of the woodwork and painting of park benches and tea garden tables - including touching up damaged paintwork on two metal benches which have been damaged by vandals and are now being repaired at the "Friends" expense. Phone Farah on 020 8232 5050 - or e-mail farah.quireshi@nationaltrust.org.uk to offer your services.

Alan Rideout is also looking for help in the House during the winter months. There are a range of jobs to be done in addition to the regular work of cleaning silver and copper. For details, ring Alan on 020 8560 3275 or e-mail him on alan.rideout@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Training sessions for Room Stewards, Courtesy Bus Drivers, and Battery Car Stewards will be held during the winter. Any Friends wishing to volunteer should contact the House on the numbers above.

ERRATUM

On further study, I realize that the centre spread photo in our last issue shows afternoon rather than early morning shadows. Sorry John!

100 CLUB DRAWS

The second draw of the Membership Year was held on October 20th at the "Friends" Autumn Reception and the third on December 4th at the Volunteers' Christmas Party. The lucky winners were: -

	October 20th	December 4th
1st Prize - £100.00	Mr. M. Pfeiffer	Mrs. A. J. Nimz
2nd Prize - £60.00	Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. G. Daniel
3rd Prize - £30.00	Mrs. A Conacher	Miss D.E. Young
4th Prize - £15.00	Mrs. A Beaumont	Mrs. B. Thorp
5th Prize - £10.00	Mrs. M Longhorn	Miss E.A. Hawtin

The 4th and final draw of the Membership year will be held at the last Winter Lecture on 16th March

The Membership year for the "Friends" runs from April 1st. To keep things simple, we normally collect £12.00 per share for the Annual Subscription to the 100 Club at the same time as the "Friends" Membership subscription.

However, any new member who wishes to join the 100 Club in time for the March Draw may send a cheque for £15.00 per share, giving entry to the next 5 draws, to the organizer, Ron Piper, at 44, Killowen Avenue, Northolt, UB5 4QT. Please give your name, address, and telephone number, plus your "Friends" Membership Number and a S.A.E. for your receipt and Membership Card.

CENTRE SPREAD

Detail of the cover of a "Tazza", or wine cup, made by Robert Hennel in 1865, and presented by Queen Victoria as a trophy for Plymouth Races in 1869. One of several trophies won by the Earls of Jersey and displayed in the Strong Room at Osterley. The horse is about 3" high.



Following a now well established pattern, our major outing next year will be a six-day holiday in June based at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, - a County Town which, like most of its County, has long ago shed the grime of its northern industrial past to rediscover a proud cultural and historic heritage. Though our final programme is yet to be completed, the North of England offers a wide variety of tourist attractions. To the north of Preston lies the Lake District, - where the National Trust properties include

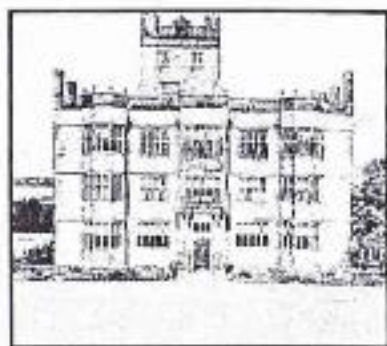


Sizergh Castle, the impressive seat of the Strickland family for over seven centuries. Amongst the wealth of family portraits, one of the remarkable features of Sizergh is the fine quality and quantity of its Elizabethan oak panelling, especially that in the Inlaid Chamber, which the V&A reinstated in 1990.

Contrasting sharply in size, - but well able to compete in charm, is **Hill Top**, Beatrix Potter's small 17th century house near Sawley, where she wrote many of her well known childrens' tales. In every room there are illustrations of the animal characters that appear in her stories, - (*Mrs Tiggwinkle, Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddlesnuck, etc.*)



Being so near to the Lake District, we hope to arrange a trip to **Conston Water** and sail across on the Trust's steam powered *Gondola* and visit Ruskin's lakeside retreat, **Brantwood**.



Last of Preston, via the magnificent and undulating landscape of the Trough of Bowland -- and if you ever imagined that Lancashire was nothing but grimy factory chimneys, think again! - we arrive at **Gawthorpe Hall**, not unlike Hardwick, and reputedly designed by the same architect, Robert Smythson. Restored by Sir Charles Barry in the mid-19th century, its opulent Victorian interior houses the remarkable Shuttleworth Collection of needlework, costume and lace.

A fairly short drive southwards from Preston takes us to one of the Trust's lesser known gems, - **Rufford Old Hall**. The head of a powerful Lancashire dynasty, Sir Robert Husketh built the original half-timbered manor house in 1530 and it remained the family seat for the next 350 years. Only the Great Hall has survived intact - but 'What a Great Hall!'



Its hammer-beam roof and richly carved 'movable' screen are genuine Works of Art, no doubt admired by William Shakespeare when, reputedly, he may have performed here whilst in the service of Sir Robert's son, Sir Thomas. Many alterations and additions were made to the house in the 17th-19th centuries and much of the furniture is attributed to local craftsmen. Outbuildings house the Philip Ashcroft Museum of Rural Life, a unique collection of objects and implements illustrating village life in pre-industrial Lancashire.

On the day of our proposed trip to Rufford, it may be possible to include a morning's visit to explore the elegant seaside resort of Southport, the 'Paris of the North', where you can admire the famous floral displays along the Promenade and around the Marina lake, take a train ride on the longest pier on the North coast or go shopping amongst the arcades on Southport's splendid mile-long boulevard, Lord Street.

Further south, on the outskirts of Liverpool, is another Tudor half-timbered manor house, but this time much grander than Rufford. **Speke Hall**, the seat of the Norris family, between the late 15th and 16th centuries, remains very much in its original state; though, as Catholics during Elizabeth's reign, the Norrises suffered religious persecution and as Royalists during the Civil War, they had great difficulty in retaining their estates. Like Sizergh Castle,



Speke Hall is rich in carved oak panelling and there is an excellent early Jacobean stucco ceiling in the Great Parlour. Interesting, too, is the more recent introduction of William Morris wallpapers in some of the corridors and more intimate family rooms.

When visiting Speke Hall, the proximity of the City of Liverpool provides an ideal opportunity to explore the new Maritime Museum and Tate Liverpool on the Albert Dock, the City's modern, imaginative tourist attraction.

During our stay at UCL we hope to include most, if not all of the above suggestions in deciding our final programme and, somehow, try to find time at leisure for you to explore the City of Preston. Indeed, should you wish to take a break from the organised schedule, there is the option of hopping on a bus to that famous sea-side place called Blackpool, that's noted for fresh air and fun!

As usual, on the outward and return journeys we will visit other places of interest. Our driver, Barrie, has already offered several possibilities, amongst which are **Shugborough** in Staffordshire, the home of Lord Lichfield; **Biddulph Grange Garden**, also in Staffordshire, but with garden features that conduct the visitor on a miniature world tour; **Lyme Park** in Cheshire, the location for 'Pemberley' in the BBC adaptation of 'Pride and Prejudice'; and the Trust's perfectly preserved industrial heritage site of **Quarry Bank Mill** with the idyllic village of **Strat** in Cheshire.

Inevitably, the costs of accommodation and coach travel have risen again and the price and viability of the holiday depends on our attracting sufficient numbers to fill the coach. I have provisionally booked our rooms at UCL, but to secure the accommodation deposits will be required very shortly. If you wish to join the tour, please complete the accompanying Booking Form and return it as soon as possible including a stamped addressed envelope.

Day Trips, 2005

The programme for next season's day trips is currently being compiled, but until I am able to confirm a definite date for a visit to Tynesfield, all the details cannot be finalised. However, possible dates of the trips have been fixed with Barrie and you may like to enter them in your diary. They are:

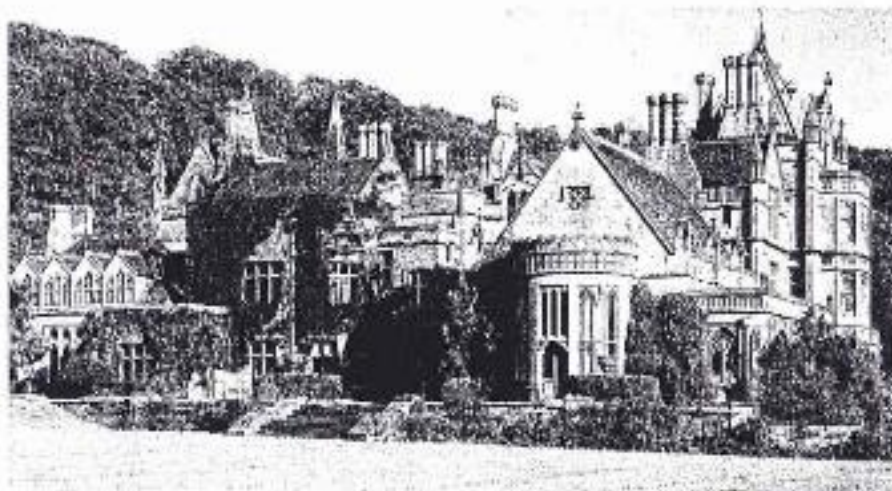
Tues, 12 th or Wed, 13 th April	Wed, 18 th or Thur, 19 th May
Mon, 11 th or Tues, 12 th July	Fri, 12 th or Mon, 15 th August
Wed, 7 th or Thur, 8 th September	Mon, 3 rd or Fri, 7 th October

Apart from Tynesfield, National Trust properties being considered include West Wycombe Park, Groy's Court, West Green House Garden and return visits to Igham Mote or Wightwick. English Heritage alternatives could include either Witley Court, Kirby Hall or a repeat visit to Audley End House and Gardens. Full details and Booking Forms will be available in the next Friends Newsletter and at the March winter lectures.

— STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS — STOP PRESS —

Since the article on the 2005 Excursions went to the printers, we have at last been given a date for our long-awaited visit to

TYNTESFIELD



The coach will leave Osterley house car park promptly at 8.30 am
on

TUESDAY, 12th APRIL

As there is likely to be heavy demand for places on this particular excursion, seats will be allocated by ballot. If you wish to join us, write to Jim Tickla, 54 Rosecroft Gardens, Twickenham, TW2 7PZ enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, or phone 8894 4174 or e-mail

james@tickla54@natureserve.co.uk

Applications will close on Monday, 14th February.

The cost of the trip will be £13.20, but please do not send payment until places can be allocated. Booking Forms and details of the rest of the season's day-trips will appear in the March Newsletter.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS - OSTERLEY RESIDENT.

Sir Joseph Banks, botanist, plant collector and President of the Royal Society lived at Spring Grove, Osterley from 1779. He was the only son of William Banks M.P. and landowner.

Joseph discovered botany at the age of 14. His class at Eton had been for a swim in The Thames when Joseph was taken by the beauty of the wayside flowers and decided to find out more about them. At Oxford he hired the tutor Philip Miller, to teach him more about botany. It was Miller who inspired Joseph's passion for exotic floras and led him to embark on plant collecting in distant lands. Miller worked at Chelsea Physic Garden and Joseph's mother lived at Turret House, Paradise Row near the gardens after his father's death in 1761. In 1764, aged 21 Joseph inherited estates, which brought him an income of £6,000 a year.

He decided not to go on the grand tour but went on adventures of exploration first to Newfoundland and Labrador in 1766 and then to the South Pacific with Captain Cook from 1768-1771 and finally to Iceland in 1772 to discover natural history. He financed a team of naturalists and artists who travelled with him and helped him collect and describe the flora and fauna he saw.

Banks reputation as an intrepid and skilled naturalist began at this time. On the voyage to Tahiti, Australia and New Zealand he collected more than 3,600 species and 1400 of these were new to science. He and his helpers made over 900 botanical drawings. It was Joseph Banks who named Botany Bay in April 1770 because it contained so many plants he had never seen before. Plants from Australia and New Zealand were introduced to British gardens for Joseph brought back live plants from all his journeys and these were grown not just at Chelsea and Kew but also in the gardens of his many friends. Were any seen here at Osterley? We have yet to find out.

Mrs. Child was famous for her aviary "where birds which could be seen nowhere else in Europe" were found. Did Mr. Banks return with exotic wildfowl as well as plants from his voyage with Captain Cook?

Mrs Child would certainly have wanted to add these to her outstanding assembly of rare and beautiful birds.

At Osterley the Eating Room was being decorated whilst Banks was away. Allegorical portraits of the continents appear above the doors beautifully depicted by Antonio Zucchi, but there are only four. We did not know of Australia until the triumphant return of Cook and Banks on 12th July, 1771!

In 1773, when he was 30 Banks stopped going on extensive tours but extended his team sponsoring others to search for and collect plants from around the globe. These included Frances Masson in South Africa, William Roxburgh in India, the Duncan brothers in China and later, George Caley in New South Wales. From 1773 Banks became the informal director of Kew Gardens. In 1778 he was elected President of the Royal Society and remained so until his death in 1820.

In 1777 he purchase 32 Soho Square as the centre for his expanding interest in the discovery, collection, description, recording and distribution of plants around the world.

Joseph Banks married Dorothea Hugessen in 1779 and moved to Spring Grove at Osterley. Seeds from plants cultivated at Chelsea Physic Garden from specimens collected by Banks during his travels were sent to him on a regular basis. Mary Delaney in her 70th year made paper cutouts of these exotic plants. Banks said these were so perfect in every detail that he could accurately describe a plant from her representation.

If you wish to discover more about Banks and his extraordinary collections visit the Enlightenment Gallery at the British Museum. There are two busts of Joseph Banks - one at each end of the gallery, which attempts to recreate the original look of the museum when it opened in 1759 with the intention of being a "collection of everything for everyone". Some of the beautiful engravings made for Florilegium are here along with the Maori shield, which Banks describes in his diary as, found on the beach at Botany Bay. Robert Child spent £1400 annually on his Osterley gardens. Banks was a contemporary and a close neighbour, but were there other links through the flora and fauna itself at Osterley Park?