

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

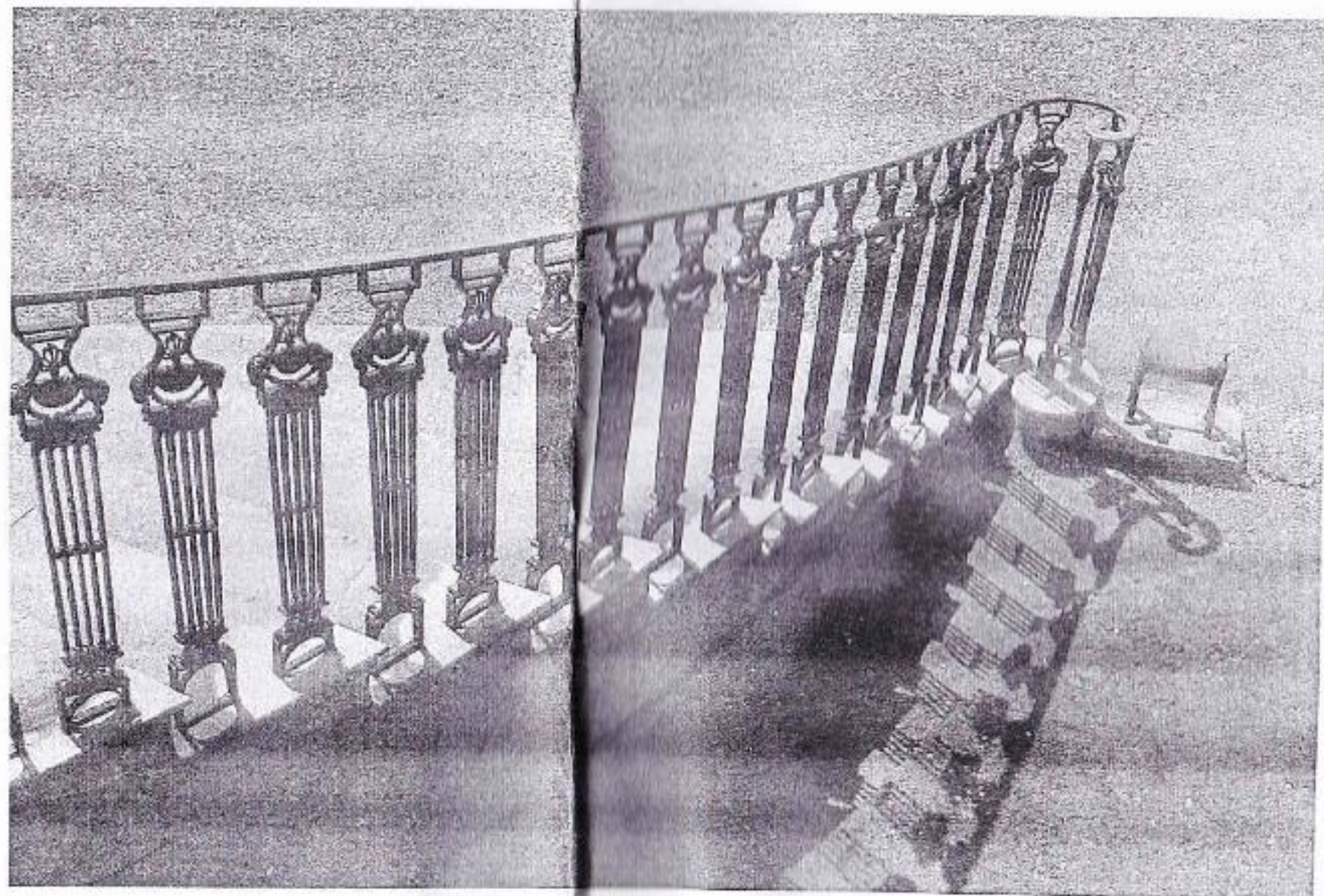
NEWSLETTER

Issue 59 December 2005

Useful Contacts

Chairman
Ian Conacher
020 8560 8523

Membership Secretary
Julia James
020 8332 8883



West Front Balusters
Robert Adam circa 1761

Photo and cover design:
John Stacey

Copied by
Allprint & Design
020 8599 6988

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE STABLEYARD

Sundays 4th, 11th, & 18th December, 2.30 – 3.30 pm.

LONDON WALKS WITH DORIS SHERWOOD

12th December – Drapers' Hall – Fully booked!

WINTER WORK TO TREES IN OSTERLEY PARK

Walk with Sian Harrington – December 13th – 10 am.

WINTER LECTURES 2006

St Mary's Parish Hall, Osterley Road, Wednesdays, 8 pm

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| February 8 th | Mike Watts – Gardens of the National Trust. |
| February 22 nd | John Garrod – The History of Fleet Street. |
| March 8 th | Andrea Cameron – The History of Hounslow High Street |
| March 22 nd | Sian Harrington and Ruth Clarke – Sutton House – its History and Place in the Community |

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

IAN CONACHER

We are coming to the end of a year of very mixed fortunes for the Trust at Osterley and for the "Friends". The decline in the number of American visitors to the U.K. since "9.11" has affected visitor numbers to Trust properties, and the events of 7th July this year has increased this effect. The departure of many long-serving members of staff from Osterley has thrown an additional burden on those remaining.

With all these problems, it is encouraging to see that the Park is still retaining its attraction for the day visitor, demonstrated by the number of families who bring their picnics in the summer months. In particular, the Glenn Miller Band Concert in August brought a mass of visitors, with the front lawn being packed with picnickers.

For the "Friends", this has been a successful year; membership has remained steady, and the Committee's efforts have had a good volume of support. "Winter Lectures" were well attended, and our efforts on Osterley Day were rewarded by a satisfactory income.

Jim Tickle's Trips and the tour of Lancashire were also well supported, and Doris Sherwood's London Walks have attracted a steady following – and brought in a useful sum for our funds!

Financially, the "Friends" started the year with money in the bank, having spent little of our income during 2004. This year we have made several capital purchases, including Bicycles for the use of the Park Wardens, and a Leaf Blower to reduce the time and effort needed to gather fallen leaves. These purchases are additional to ongoing support for the cut flower gardeners, the Trust's Newsletter, maintenance of Battery Cars, and Education Projects.

Our thanks are due to Members for their support, and our best wishes go to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

SIAN HARRINGTON joins us from Sntton House where she has been Property Manager since 2002. Sian has previously worked at local authority museums in Tottenham, Southampton and Newport. Her successes have included achieving lottery funding for a building restoration project in Southampton; managing an innovative new citizenship project for secondary schools in Tottenham; making a successful application for national designation status for the art and archaeology collections in Southampton; and achieving a Gulbenkian Award Museum of the Year short-listing for Sntton House. She has a degree in anthropology, and is now able to enjoy the odd bit of people watching from her new office in the Stable block!

ANDY EDDY starts work as the Park & Garden Manager on 5 December 2005. Andy has a wealth of experience in gardens and his ambition is to make Osterley the best garden in London! He worked for the National Trust at Sissinghurst Castle as Senior Gardener, and more recently he has been Head Gardener at a private estate in Putney. Andy is from a farming background and is looking forward to building links with Brian and Julian on the Osterley Farm.

AUTUMN RECEPTION, OCTOBER 26th.

About 60 Members attended this event; principal guest was our new Property Manager, Sian Harrington. We heard from her something of the challenges facing her on taking up this post.

We were glad to hear that a Park and Garden Manager had now been appointed; this appointment was vital in managing work entailed by the need to carry out an annual survey of the parkland

and to identify and deal with any trees which posed Health and Safety risks. Much work would of necessity be done by contract, as it had been policy in recent years to reduce the use of Trust staff in major forestry.

Proposals for remodelling the Park at Osterley have in recent months been under consideration at the Trust's Regional Office. These propose restoration of some of the 18th century features and views of the parkland from the House and vice versa: this may involve the removal of some trees and the planting of new.

The plan also calls for the upgrading of Osterley Lane at some time in the future, to provide a visitors entry to the park from Wyke Green. This is not a new idea; it was revealed by Ted Fawcett at a meeting chaired by the then Regional Director, Robin Mills, during a meeting held at Osterley in the late 1980's, when the Trust were preparing to take over management from the Victoria & Albert Museum. There are many problems posed by this plan – practical, political, and financial, which will need to be discussed with local residents, Park users, and the Local Authority. For over fifty years, the local community have enjoyed access to the Park from Jersey Road, and it would be unfortunate if the implementation of these proposals were to lead to any loss of goodwill.

However, it is likely to be some years before any major changes to the access route to the Park and to car parking arrangements can proceed; in the meantime, however, work to restore the original vistas will be put in hand.

Following the Reception, Sian has invited members of the "Friends" to attend a meeting at Osterley on Tuesday 13th December, at 10 am, assembling in the Stableyard for a walk around the Park to look at the tree felling and planting proposals, followed by coffee in the Brewhouse. We hope to see many of you there.

"FRIENDS" 100 CLUB

The second draw of the Membership Year was made at the Autumn Reception on 26th October. Winners were:-

1 st Prize	£100.00	Mrs S. Heisman
2 nd Prize	£60.00	Mrs M.S. Filmer
3 rd Prize	£30.00	Mrs E. Smith
4 th Prize	£20.00	Mr P. Howard
5 th Prize	£10.00	Miss J Wye

The 3rd draw of the year will be made at Osterley on December 3rd, during the Volunteers Christmas Party. Many "Friends" are also Volunteers, and all those present will be able to witness the Draw!

Similarly, the final draw of the Membership Year will be made before the audience at our "Winter Lecture" on 22nd March

The 100 Club combines an effective way of fund raising for the Trust with a mild "flutter". Annual subscription is £12.00, or £3.00 per draw, and the income is divided equally between the Members and the Prize Fund.

Participants in this Club will have received a total of £831 in prizes by the end of the year, with a similar sum being used to finance donations to the Trust at Osterley.

Any "Friend" who would like to have Membership details of the Club should write to the organiser, Ron Piper, at 44, Killowen Avenue, Northolt, UB5 4QT, or telephone him on 020 8864 1023.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE STABLEYARD

During the summer, the Trust's staff sought to make a change to the arrangements for these events, using school choirs. However, there have been problems in making final arrangements, and we are still awaiting details as we close for press.

Hopefully, choirs will be leading the singing on Sundays 4th, 11th, and 18th December, at 2.30 pm in the Stableyard. The House will be open on Saturdays and Sundays on the first 3 weekends in December, from 12 noon to 3.30 pm, and the Deisel House Studio will be exhibiting their work in the Jersey Gallery on these days. The National Trust Tea Room and Shop will be open from 12 noon to 4 pm from Wednesdays to Sundays until 18th December.

OUR PHOTOGRAPHS.

John Stacey's pictures this issue focus on the Adam staircase on the west side of the House.

The double curved flights make an imposing approach to the doors of the Long Gallery on the principal floor. On the outside of the curve, the wide steps and shallow risers produce what is known to the Architectural profession as an "Easy Going" staircase.

Generations of children have adopted this staircase as one of their first challenges, watched by doting parents and grandparents.

Our cover picture gives an unfamiliar view, taken from inside the Long Gallery, while the Centre Spread shows at a large scale a detail of the balustrading and the ram's head castings.

During the V. & A's reign, details of the ironwork were picked out in gold; the Trust have now reverted to the original black!



As usual, we shall run a series of four talks on alternate Wednesday evenings in February and March, in the newly-new solar powered Parish Hall next to St Mary's Church in Osterley Road, identified by the spire south of the Great West Road.

We begin on 8th February with an old friend, Mike Watts, who will talk about "National Trust Gardens - Rooted in History and a joy for ever".

On 22nd February we shall welcome John Garrod, a registered Blue Badge Guide for the London and the City, who will give a talk about "The History of Fleet Street".

On 8th March, Andrea Cameron, one time Hounslow Borough Archivist, will talk about "The History of Hounslow High Street".

Finally, we have persuaded Sian Harrington and her colleague Ruth Clarke to talk to us about "Sutton House - its history and place in the Community".

As usual, we will be setting up in the Hall from 7.30 onwards, after the Brownies have left, ready to start promptly at 8 pm. Coffee - or tea - and biscuits will be served at about 9.15, and we reckon to be out of the Hall well before 10 pm.

Tickets can be obtained in advance from our Hon Treasurer, Paul Lucas, at 49, Sutton Square, Heston, TW5 0JB, price £4.00 each or £12.00 for the series of four. Please make cheques payable to "Friends of Osterley Park", and enclose a stamped addressed envelope. Alternatively, tickets will be on sale at the door.

In our last issue I listed many of the duties undertaken by Volunteers at Osterley. However, I have been taken to task by Hilary Ranger, one of the ladies involved with the cutting and arranging of the floral displays in the House. It seems that, as a mere male, I got it all wrong, and have now been given the full story!

The job begins on a Tuesday, when flowers are picked in the Walled Garden and taken to the flower room in the basement of the House, where they are placed in buckets of water to freshen up overnight.

On Wednesday mornings, the flowers are arranged carefully in a large variety of containers, and then placed in the rooms.

On Saturday, the flowers are checked over and the containers topped up with water, remaining in the rooms until the House closes on Sunday, when they are removed.

On Monday morning, the team are back, emptying, washing, and cleaning the containers, ready for re-use on Wednesday! If Monday is a Bank Holiday, then cleaning and picking have to be done on Tuesday!

This saga has the makings of a folk song, and shows the dedication that goes into the jobs of growing and preparing flowers for the House; visitors frequently comment on the displays - and room stewards have been known to prompt such comments!

All the materials needed by Lesley Orton and her team of growers are paid for by the "Friends" - including the compost required now that there are no longer horses in the Stables!

SARAH JODRELL CHILD AND ROBERT ADAM -
MARGARET FRIDAY.

"When Robert Adam appeared Sarah Jodrell was the only person at Osterley with tastes" wrote Willy Thorpe in his article Imperial Osterley in *The Connoisseur* in 1946. Sarah was born in Chancery Lane on 23rd September 1741. She was from an old Derbyshire family but grew up at Ankerwycke Priory situated in meadows next to the Thames in Buckinghamshire. Her most famous forebear was Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury after the Restoration. Her uncles were Sir Gilbert Jodrell, Solicitor General, Sir Paul Jodrell, 11th Wrangler and physician to the Nabob of Arcot in Madras. Uncle Richard was a playwright - his best known work was "The Persian Princess", performed at Drury Lane. His works were called "Herodotus in the East India style." Perhaps her family background inspired the love of fine fabrics from India and China.

Sarah Jodrell married Robert Child on October 6th 1763. Her dowry was £10,000 and she was heir to the family fortune. Sarah was an accomplished artist. Willy Thorpe tells us that many of her paintings could be seen at Osterley and he visited the house before

Lord Jersey sent the paintings to Jersey, where they were tragically destroyed by fire. The wooden vases containing silk flowers are Sarah's work and these still adorn several of the rooms at Osterley. We know that in 1774-5 Sarah helped Adam design the State Bed. The first drawings were changed to include her love of floral design and exquisite needlework.

Sarah's own fine embroidery once graced the chairs in the Breakfast Room. In 1776 Robert Adam designed "a workbag for Mrs. Child". The Adam drawings for this and the four pole screens also made that year are in the Soane Museum. The pole screen in the Etruscan Dressing Room is a fine example of her skill.

Sarah was a collector as well as a creator of paintings. She purchased works by Gainsborough and she and Robert Child and their daughter sat for portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds. These were all on display at Osterley when Willy Thorpe wrote his article. Thorpe says "When Adam entered the jaghire (Horace Walpole's word) there were two tastes there - the house tradition of supercargo and the douce floral naturalism of Sarah. Between his client and himself lay Adam's triumph, the fantasies of Osterley ...there is a natural blend of the "oriental" with the Grecian fancy".

Robert Child's place in the design of Osterley was seen by Willy Thorpe as "paying for things." He says the Reynolds portrait of Robert Child was one of the best he ever painted" but he feels it shows him as "a person of acumen and determination, not a virtuoso". Osterley can be seen as the splendid result when architect and artist work together, and stands as a tribute to the combination of skills and tastes which Robert Adam and Sarah Child used to create the ambience of Osterley.

CORNISH JOURNEYS.

IAN CONACIER

Those members who take part in Jim Tickle's Cornish tour next year will, I am sure, have a wonderful time and come back with memories to treasure. Our first visit to a National Trust property was to St Michael's Mount; at the ticket Office in Marazion, we had our first experience of the benefits of Trust membership, when members were called out of the queue and allowed to go down to the ferry, ahead of the rest of us!

Years later, we visited Cotehele; I can still remember the sense of wonder when we went into the Great Hall with all its treasures dating from the 16th century. Also memorable are the gardens, the quay, the mill, and the limekilns - a whole community preserved!

Excursions, 2006.

Jim Tickle

In last year's December edition of the Newsletter, I was able to give a detailed preview of the 2005 six-day tour of Lancashire and the Lake District. This year however, although the wheels were set in motion as early as mid-August, our plans are still not sufficiently advanced at this stage to give a complete picture of our final proposed programme. By popular accord, though, I have reserved our accommodation at the University of Exeter's Tremough Campus near Penryn in Cornwall for a six-day break from Monday, 4th to Saturday 9th of September. The buildings at Tremough are excitingly modern in design, completed in 2004 and commanding majestic views across Falmouth Bay. The campus provides an excellent base for our exploration of the delights of the county of Cornwall.

Amongst those delights from which our proposed programme will be selected are likely to be the National Trust's own properties of Cothelie (right), Trelice, Lashydrack, Antony and St. Michael's Mount at Marazion. The Trust also has an impressive collection of superbly maintained gardens; Glendurgan with its laurel maze; Trelissick, affording panoramic views over Truro River and



The Fal Estuary and, near Penzance, Trenowainton with its sheltered walled gardens and splendid views across Mount's Bay to the Lizard. There are so many gardens from which to choose, but if time permits it may even be possible to arrange, as an optional extra, a visit to the Eden Project or to the Lost Gardens of Heligan.

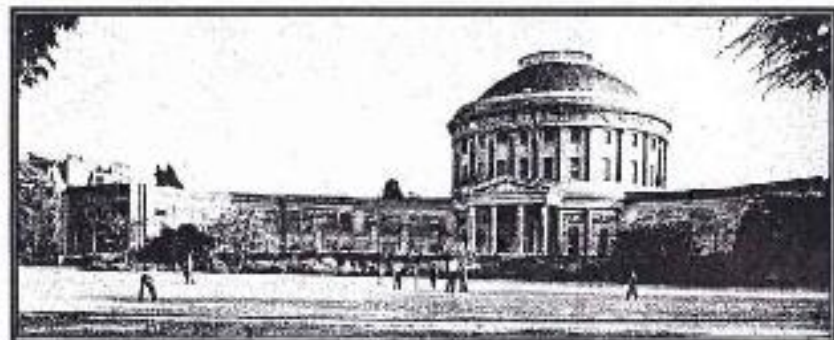
On Cornwall's rugged northern coast, still braving Atlantic winter gales, stands King Arthur's castle of Tintagel, now maintained by English Heritage who also own the castles of Pendennis and St. Mawes, solid sentinels guarding entry to the harbour of Falmouth. Built by Henry VIII, they were even recalled to duty during the first and second World Wars and, being so close to our 'home base' we should at least visit one of them.

With so many wonderful attractions to choose from, it's obvious we couldn't see them all and we will still need some time to relax. We expect to offer you a little time of your own to explore either St. Ives, Mevagissey or the city of Truro.

Inevitably, every year transport and accommodation prices increase and the popularity of Cornwall as a tourist resort doesn't help! The cost of this year's holiday is £326, based on half board single en-suite accommodation. Despite the increase, Barrie and I feel that this is still good value and should prove very popular. To ensure your place, please complete the enclosed Booking Form and return it with your deposit as soon as possible.

Turning to the position regarding day-trips (we have made sixty-two since we started in 1983!), full details and booking forms for the 2006 Season will be published in the March edition of the Newsletter. I am currently in touch with Tyntesfield in the hope of arranging a return visit in the second half of the season, for which the many members disappointed in this year's ballot may be offered priority booking.

Meanwhile, in this mailing you will find enclosed the booking form for the April outing to Bury St. Edmunds and Ickworth in Suffolk. Bury St. Edmunds has a wealth of attractions which include the beautifully maintained Abbey Gardens, St. Edmundsbury Cathedral and nearby St. Mary's Parish Church. At the top of Crown Street on the opposite side of Westgate street, try not to miss a visit to the charming Theatre Royal, a unique Regency playhouse associated with the works of Richard Brinsley Sheridan and now owned by the National Trust. Close to the ancient Buttermarket you may admire the classical façade of the Corn Exchange, Robert Adam's Market Cross (now housing an art gallery), and the fascinating little borough museum in Moyse's Hall, originally an old Norman building probably used as a monastic guesthouse with living quarters above a vaulted undercroft.



Ickworth is a remarkable Georgian house set in an attractive landscaped park designed by 'Capability' Brown. Its most unusual architectural feature is the vast rotunda flanked by curved promenade corridors where in 1795 the fourth Earl of Bristol, the eccentric Bishop of Derry, planned to display his collection of works of art. Sadly, the Earl-Bishop died in Italy in 1803, before seeing Ickworth completed and many of his treasures had been captured by the French in Rome during Napoleon's campaign of 1798. It fell to his son, the first Marquess of Bristol, to complete the building between 1821 and 1829 and install the present furnishings, which include sculpture, a magnificent Georgian Silver collection and copious works of art with paintings by Titian, Velazquez and Gainsborough.

Although some members may recall that we have been to Ickworth previously, may I point out that it was in 1987 and that this property genuinely deserves a second visit!