

The Friends of Osterley Park

A Supporters' Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 65 SUMMER 2007 £1 (free to members)

Useful contacts

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Mosaic side table detail

Eating Room
Osterley Park House
c.1770

see article on page 10

Photo and cover design
John Stacey / Penny Walls



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OSTERLEY DAY

SUNDAY JULY 15TH

WHEN LOCAL ARTISTS DISPLAY THEIR WORKS ON
THE PARK RAILINGS, FOR VISITORS TO ENJOY AND BUY.

THIS IS THE "FRIENDS" MAJOR FUND-RAISING EVENT.

WE NEED DONATIONS OF GOODS

- NEW OR NEARLY NEW - FOR OUR STALLS:-

- THE BRIC-A-BRAC STALL sells glass, china, ornaments, costume jewellery, etc.
- THE TOMBOI A STALL gives a prize every time! and needs donations of tents large and small - unwanted gifts, cans of soft drinks, etc. (no chocolate or things which cannot stand the heat of summer)
- THE BOOK STALL sells good clean hardback and paperback books, CDs and DVDs

Offers to Audrey or Ian Conacher on (020) 8560 8523 by 9th July. Ideally, we hope for delivery to our home in Isleworth or to the Volunteer's Tea Room at the House. Where essential, collection can be arranged.



from the Chairman Ian Conacher

At our Annual General Meeting, held on 16th May I was delighted to be able to introduce to Members Wei Hei Kipling, who has offered to take over the post of Newsletter Editor from your overloaded Chairman. Her nomination to serve on the Committee was approved unanimously, and she has started work immediately with the preparation of this issue.

Committee Member Michelle Cooper had resigned due to pressure of work; we thank her for her service. The remaining Officers and Members were re-elected unopposed (Chairman – Ian Conacher; Minutes Secretary – Patricia James; Membership Secretary – John James; Committee Members – Margaret Friday, Joan Mound, John Stacey and Jim Tickle).

No firm offers have been received from Members able to fill the vacant post of Hon. Treasurer; I therefore continue to deal with the financial affairs of the 'Friends'. This is not a happy situation; apart from the extra work involved it is not right that I am writing cheques to cover my own expenses!

I was able to pass the Accounts for financial year 2003 to the Honorary Examiner, Harold Rogers, shortly before the A. G. M. These were certified by him as correct in time for presentation to and acceptance by the Membership. The Accounts (see page 5) show a healthy situation, with an excess of income over expenditure.
(Continued on page 4)



from the Editor

Greetings from your new Editor. My name is Wei Hei (pronounced "Way Hay") Kipling and I live in Ealing with my husband Robert. This is my second season as a volunteer room steward at Osterley and as a 'Friend'. I have been to some courses in History of Architecture at Birkbeck College, London and enjoy finding out about more Osterley

from the Chairman *(Continued from page 3)*

ture of nearly £2,700. There were no major purchases for the Trust during the year. The large surplus from Trips and Tours was in part due to Exeter University's original estimate for accommodation being greater than the sum finally invoiced. This coupled with Jim Tickle's usual cautious estimating, gave a surplus of over £1,900.

After many years of service as Honorary Examiner for the 'Friends', Harold had advised that he wished to retire from this duty. We thank him for his years of service. Miss Patricia Barnett has agreed to take on this responsibility, and we thank her for this offer.

Members not attending the meeting will be relieved to know that the Subscription has been held at £6.00 per annum!

Due to the large percentage of Members who had not renewed their subscription to the 'Friends' and to the '100 Club', it was decided to postpone the 1st draw of the new 100 Club Membership Year until Osterley Day - 15th July. A Reminder Form is included with this Newsletter for those who have not paid; those who have not renewed Membership of the 'Friends' will not be able to take part in Trips and Tours.

Following the A.G.M., the Committee met on 31st May; we were delighted to receive from Wei Hei a "dummy" Newsletter, showing her proposals for future issues. I am sure that they will be accepted with acclamation by the Membership.

May once again thank those members who have in the past assisted with hand delivery of our newsletter to other members in their locality. With the rising cost of postage this makes a significant saving of our funds. More volunteers would be welcome!

Finally my thanks are due to all Members of the Committee for their help and support during the past Year.

Friends of Osterley Park Income & Expenditure Account 2006

INCOME	2006	2005
Subscriptions	1,555.50	1,771.50
100 Club	804.00	821.16
Winter Lectures	227.00	190.47
Excursions	1,812.01	245.98
London Walks	117.00	117.00
Battery Vehicle Maintenance Fund - Donations	97.91	124.92
Osterley Day Goals	656.15	587.00
Misc. Donations	34.00	681.00
Memoria Fund Donations (Held in trust)	672.52	
TOTAL INCOME	8,394.07	4,894.61
EXPENDITURE		
DONATIONS TO NATIONAL TRUST:-		
Materials for Volunteer Flower Growers	757.78	647.72
Repairs to Battery Cars	314.20	111.63
Trust Welcome Leaflets & Newsletters	1,329.00	--
Litter Pickers	155.88	--
Jazz Band - Osterley Day	--	243.75
Warden's Bicycles	--	520.00
Leaf Squeezer	--	387.00
Repairs - Park Benches	--	211.47
Music Donations	--	150.00
TOTAL	2,547.66	3,189.97
OTHER:-		
'Friends' Newsletter	755.01	756.95
'Friends' Leaflets	110.90	--
Carriage - postage etc	135.02	232.91
F Yards - Memorial Tree	150.00	--
TOTAL	1,050.93	989.86
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,598.59	4,189.83
EXCESS - INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	2,695.83	705.15
BALANCE SHEET - YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2006		
Assets at 31 st December 2005		
Community Account - Uncommitted Balance		5,044.25
Deposit Account		798.23
TOTAL		5,842.48
Adj - Excess of Income over Expenditure - Financial Year 2006		2,695.83
Adj - Deposit Account Interest		15.51
Assets at 31 st December 2006		
Community Account - Uncommitted Balance		7,740.53
Deposit Account		617.71
TOTAL ASSETS		8,358.27

from the Property



Congratulations to

Emily Mealey and Ben Toettcher

married on Saturday 2 June 2007

Emily started her job at Osterley as Audience and Community Development Manager in January 2007.

New Staff

Justin Gorbald begins work on 11 June as Head Warden, taking over from Terry Butts who left just after Xmas. Justin is originally from Dorset. He has worked as a forester and estate worker, and has just completed his B.Sc. in Forestry and Woodland Management. He will be living on site.

The Garden

The Restoration Project in the Garden and consequent change to enter has been a major change this season.

Despite initial worries from sceptics, visitors have made lots of positive comments about the improvement in the quality of the Garden. With the help of the fine weather (at least in April), there were improved visitor figures over last year: 7,961 in 2007 (up to mid-May) as compared with 4,982 in the same period in 2006. Higher cost of tickets; more people joining the NT due to the higher costs; and increased credits from NT central funds for members visiting the Property; all helped to increase income over the first few months of the season.

The Property is hoping to extend the opening hours next season with late opening one day a week.

Osterley is looking for volunteers to join a Garden Welcome Team to give introductory talks about the Garden, initially on an ad hoc basis. For more information, contact Emily 020 8232 5069 emily.mealey@nationaltrust.org.uk.

more from the Property

London Voices

...supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a three year project involving four NT properties in the London area: Osterley, Ham House, Sutton House and Morden Hall Park. The aim of the project is to break down barriers and consider what we can offer for people in the local area. A focus for Osterley is families as we do not offer much for them.

Osterley's link is with a local school in Heston, Berkeley Primary. Every week for six weeks, starting 1 May, a group of families with children at the school will explore some of the treasures at Osterley with workshops at the house involving a storyteller and craft activities in response to their visits at school. This year, there will be six workshops on the theme of 'Myths, Secrets and Legends'. They will consider, among others, the mythical creatures in the Long Gallery and griffins in the Dining Room.

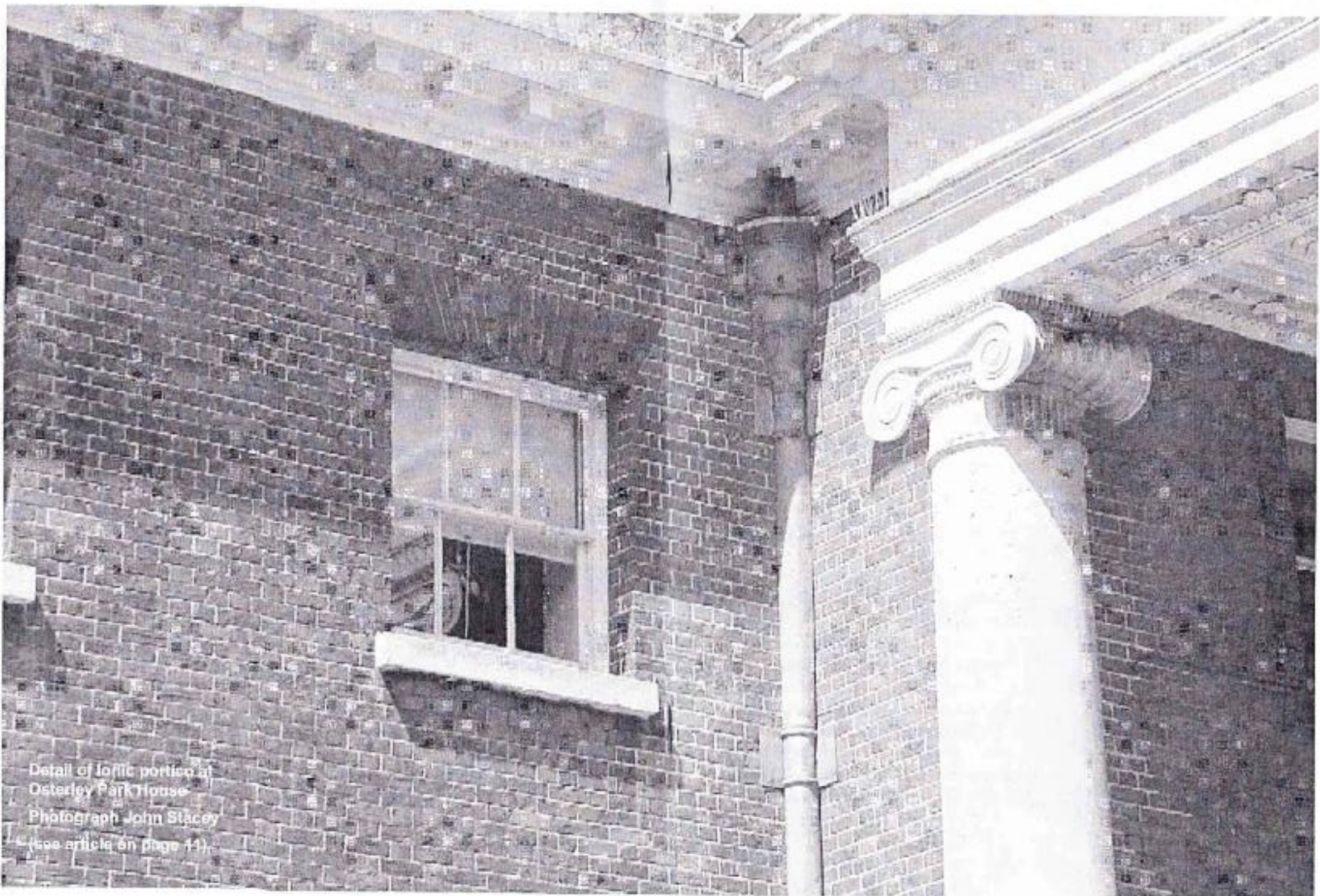
In July, the Footmen's Room will become an interactive discovery room with, for this year, an I-spy guide to look out for mythical creatures and costumes to wear.

It is hoped that, by the end of the workshops, the families will know more about Osterley, have had a good time visiting and want to visit again soon.



Osterley Research Forum

...set up as part of London Voices, is looking at the emergence of the banking trade and the fortunes of Francis Child at Osterley; Osterley and the East India Company; and Chinoiserie at Osterley. If you have any stories to tell, information picked up from visitors or in your own private research, please contact Rose Swindells, Project Officer at London Voices, on 020 8525 9054 rose.swindells@nationaltrust.org.uk.



Detail of Ionic portico at
Osterley Park House
Photograph John Stacey
(see article on page 11).

Mosaic Tables at Osterley

(see photograph on cover) Margaret Friday

The fine photograph on the cover of the newsletter is a close-up of one of the tables in the Eating Room. The designs show scrolling vine leaves and flowers encircling an eight-petalled flower. This pattern appears eight times on each table top. The eight-petalled flower is an ancient symbol of good luck and protection used 4,500 years ago in Ur and Babylon.

In the 1782 inventory they were described as 'two antique marble mosaic slabs very highly finished or elegant carved and gill furnished gold frames.'

What do you think
-are they Roman?

In the eighteenth century the mosaics were thought to be Roman. At the time they were installed at Osterley in 1767 Pompeii was being excavated. What better complement could one have in a dining room celebrating Bacchus, the god of wine and Ceres, goddess of plenty? The Bacchic theme is expressed in the twining grape vines in the ceiling and on the tables. Further references to Bacchus include the thyrsis or staff which he carries along with the jugs for serving wine which are also part of the ceiling decoration.



It is impossible to carbon date marble tesserae. Some have said the mosaic pieces are Roman but they were reset in the eighteenth century. My feeling is that they are indeed Roman given the design and the colours used in the mosaic. If they had been made for the room I think that they would have been made up in a lighter form. The very heavy marble surrounds meant it was necessary to support the table tops by placing them on a supporting ledge which

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The Ionic Portico at Osterley

(see photograph on pages 3-6) Margaret Friday

The splendid appearance given to Osterley by the magnificent portico does not appear in the original Adam drawings for the house. The portico plan exists as an unsigned sketch added to the main plans and approved by Robert Child in 1764. Perhaps Adam and Child were discussing the Osterley facade when they hit upon this impressive solution.

The new scheme required the removal of the east front including the library completed for Francis Child before his untimely death in 1763. This arrangement opened up the courtyard giving access to the house and the Roman entrance hall through a double colonnade decorated with marigolds - symbol of Child's Bank.

Doreen Yarwood suggests in her book on Robert Adam that the ideas for this grand entrance may have come from Robert Wood's drawings of the Temple at Palmyra in Syria or the Erechtheion in Athens. More recent suggestions include Septimius Severus' portico in Rome or Pliny's villa.

I have one further idea. The front steps at Osterley are almost an exact copy of the steps and colonnade of Palladio's Villa Rotonda at Vicenza in Italy. Twenty shallow steps lead up to six Ionic columns surmounted by a pediment. The Palladian steps are also flanked by walls topped with statues.

Chiswick House mimics the Villa Rotonda with the great domed room but Chiswick has scissor stairs leading to the portico giving it a less grand appearance than Osterley.

Simon Jenkins, on a recent visit to Osterley described the portico thus: "Adam's masterpiece was to enclose the courtyard with a pedimented loggia linking the north and south wings. The result enhances the serene symmetry of the redbrick exterior, which now floats like a ship on a sea of grass."

How do you view the portico? Come and take a closer look.

Designs by Adam

Wei Hei Kipling

(Photographs kindly supplied by Drewatt Neate)



£22,000 was the sum raised in a recent sale of three Adam designs in Newbury by the auctioneers Drewatt Neate. The vendors were the Moreton family, descendants of Thomas Moreton, 3rd Baron of Dupis whom Sarah Child married in 1791. (The auctioneers are not allowed to reveal the identity of the purchaser.)

The sale is of particular interest to Osterley as one of the designs is that for the panel on the borescreen in the Etruscan Room (above - this design alone raised £17,500).

Regarding the other two designs, Drewatt Neate wrote:

"The precise location within Osterley Park of the schemes shown by the other drawings has not been discovered at this time. The largely

floral design of the first of these two drawings (middle design) relates closely to existing ceilings within the house, particularly the ceiling of the ante-chamber (or tapestry room). It seems possible that the second drawing (bottom) could have been designed for a screen or a ceiling. It is known that some of the original ceilings have been

(Continued on page 13)



Upon waking

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*No matter where we are, at home or away
it's that first cup of tea, that makes the day
No matter how good or bad the nights
it's that first cup, that sets the world to rights
Tetty, Taylors or Typhoo, - by the bag or Assam Leaf
peppermint, raspberry or cranberry (?)
Kettle nisses, bag submerged, just off the boil
Gold Cup invested - makes an infusion - Royal
A biscuit or three, prised from the packing
- for a cup of tea, is not Tea, with biscuit lacking
Maybe, it's not that first morning sip
- but the art of putting crunch to lip
Digestive, Nice, Custard Creams
- Those are the little meals that round off our dreams*

Mosaic Tables *(Continued from page 15)*

extends from the wall. The weight is also held on the six strong legs designed by Robert Adam.

What a prize acquisition for Robert Child's tasteful neoclassical villa - genuine ancient Roman tables! The architect, Robert Adam, popularly known as Roman Bob, would have loved the idea of incorporating something Roman in his fine room. Next time you are in the Eating Room take a closer look at these two fine examples of mosaic craftsmanship. What do you think - are they Roman?

Designs by Adam *(Continued from page 12)*

over painted during the course of their history; yet further in depth research may lead one to discover their original location."

Excursions

Jim Tickle

Although the number of empty seats on the coach for May's visit to Boscian Castle and Batemans meant that the outing barely covered its costs, we managed to avoid most of the rain and at Batemans many of us had the added pleasure of a happy reunion with Gary Enstone, formally a very popular member of staff at Osterley, and now elevated to the post of Property Manager at Batemans.

For the rest of the season's day-trips, only two places remain available for the visit to Kirby Hall on Tuesday, 17th July, but all the other outings are now fully booked.



ISSUES

In the Issues section, the Editor intends to raise matters on which you might have an opinion.

Comments and reactions can be addressed to:
Wei He Kipling, 26 Aircoale Road, Ealing, London W5 4SD or
kiplings@tiscali.co.uk

The Newsletter

What would you like to see in your newsletter? How should it differ from the National Trust magazine, the general Osterley Park newsletter or the volunteers' newsletter? What do you think of the format?

The Long Walk

At the Temple of Pan and the Long Walk, an information board explains that the flower borders which decorated the Long Walk in the 18th century have since turned into woodland. If the NT were to restore the borders, the precious woodland would be lost. What should the NT do?



from the Diary

"Friends" Events

Sunday 15 July
11am to 4pm
OSTERLEY DAY
see page 2 for details
three stalls run by 'Friends'
- major fundraising day

Advance Warning

Weds 24 Oct
'Friends' Autumn Reception
Brewhouse, Osterley
further details in next issue

"Friends" Excursions

Jim Tickle 020 8794 4174

Friday 15 June
Coughton Court & Kinwarton Dovecote
(fully booked)

Friday 13 July
Deadline for payment for South Wales

Tuesday 17 July
Kirby Hall & Gardens
(2 places left as of 8 June)

Weds 15 August
Highclere Castle & Sandham Memorial
Chapel (fully booked)

Mon 3 – Sat 8 Sept
Coach tour of South Wales
(fully booked)

Monday 8 October
Upton House
(fully booked)

Members booked on the six day **Tour of South Wales** based at Cardiff University, please note that your final balance of £279.00 per head is due by Friday, 13th July. Cheques payable to 'The Friends of Osterley Park' and addressed to Jim Tickle please, at 54 Roscroft Gardens, Twickenham, TW2 7PZ

Next newsletter due to be published in late September.

Any contributions to the Editor by **31 August**.

(Contributions regarding the coach tour by **12 September**.)

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.