

The Friends of Osterley Park

A Supporters' Group for the National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 68 SPRING 2008 £1 (free to members)

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Fireplace
Jersey Galleries
Osterley Park

see article on page 14

Photo John Stacey

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Friends of Osterley Park Annual General Meeting

Old Brewhouse, Osterley Park

Wednesday 21 May 2008

7 for 7.45pm



**Wine will
be served**



**1st draw
of "100 club"**

Car Parking in the Stable-Yard

Please come early
Park Gates will be closed
from 7.30pm



from the Chairman

Ian Conacher

The Editor writes:

Ian has not been able to prepare a report for this newsletter as his wife, Audrey, has recently been in hospital for an operation. Ian is glad it is all over and that Audrey is now back at home. I am sure that we all want to send them our good wishes for Audrey's continuing recovery.



Winter Events

Wei Hei Kipling



A good crowd of about 50 gathered on 6 March to hear Helena Browne (see left) playing "Music for Mr Child's Drawing Room", on the harpsichord including excerpts from Handel's Water Music as well as works by Arne (of Rule Britannia fame) and Scarlatti. She mentioned that an arrangement for solo harpsichord was available (1743) soon after the Water Music was first performed in 1717. Perhaps, at the time, with no radios, record players, let alone digital

recordings or ipods, the only way people could enjoy music at home was to produce it themselves. As well as our enjoyment of the music itself, Helena told us a bit about how the harpsichord operates (and is different from the pianoforte).

The other events, although of good quality, were not well-attended and we will be considering at the AGM what sort of events we want in the future.

Sunday 29 June 2008

Osterley Day

.....free activities and entertainment for all the family, including music and dance, Art in the Park, face painting, craft activities and much more....

“Friends” major fund-raising event

WE NEED DONATIONS OF GOODS
- NEW OR NEARLY NEW - FOR OUR STALLS:-

- THE TOMBOLA STALL gives a prize every time! and needs donations of items large and small - unwanted gifts, cans of soft drinks, etc. (no chocolate or things which can't stand the sun)
- THE BOOK STALL sells good clean hardback and paperback books, CDs and DVDs

Offers to Peter Bush on (020) 8570 9296 between 9 and 22 June. Ideally, we hope for delivery to Peter's home in Isleworth or to the Volunteer's Tea Room at the House.

Offers of volunteers to help with the stalls beforehand or on the day to Wei Hei Kipling (details on cover) from 19 May.

How does your Garden Grow? Linda Walsh

This is the title of an exhibition at the Jersey Galleries. From 30th April to 11th May the group **Modus embroidered textiles** (formerly known as Opus) will return for their fourth exhibition. The group has 13 members at present. They meet every two weeks in Hampton to stitch and gossip! Sometimes group projects are under way or a member will give a small workshop on a technique they have heard about. Many of these ladies have been with the group since it was formed in 1993 after they had finished studying for their City and Guilds qualifications. All members have studied to this level so you will find a very varied stitch exhibition from quilting through machine stitching, silk painting to constructions in metal and plastic. While they all have individual styles the group produce a coherent exhibition by choosing a title to give most of the work a similar theme.



City and Guilds training encourages experimentation, so having learnt a stitch you are continually asked could you do it bigger? smaller? in layers? Could you replace the thread with plastic, string, wire, strips of fabric? Instead of using a fabric base could you use a plastic bag, soluble plastic, handmade paper, a Hessian sack or some garden netting? And of course any of these could be coloured with paint, ink or fabric dyes. So the embroiderer's studio will include not just fabrics and threads but sewing machines, all kinds of art materials, rubber stamps, soldering irons, heat tools and a host of unexpected equipment.

While most of the work produced will be framed for the wall members also make cards, quilts, small items of jewellery, bowls,

(Continued on page 6)

London Voices

Rose Swindells

In 2008 the London Voices project is focusing on the theme of 'Family Fashion and Fame' and artist Estelle Rosenfeld will be facilitating the creative sessions using the medium of puppetry throughout May and June. Families from Berkeley Primary School and Spring Grove School will take part in the creative workshops which will explore the stories of the Child Family and the 18th Century. We will focus on Chinese and Indian puppets - the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, which are central to Indian puppetry and tell the adventures of powerful royal families and Chinese puppets (see above) that were in fashion in the 18th century and could have belonged to the Child family. We will see how objects from everyday life can be turned into puppets and have a chance to make our own! Dance, Media and Costume Students from West Thames college will be working alongside the families to produce a performance for the community on Osterley Day.



© National Trust

How does your garden grow? (Continued from page 5)

boxes, bags and cushions. Since the group was set up they have had many successful exhibitions, usually at least one a year, sometimes two. These include venues such as Wimbledon Library, Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking, Bourne Hall in Ewell and some members of the group do other individual exhibitions in the SW London area. Modus are very happy to be returning to Osterley house again. If you have any queries about the show at all, please contact member and Friend of Osterley Hazel Lyell on 020 8847 5394.

Editor's note: You may also like to check out the fireplaces while you're in the Jersey Galleries – see article on page 14

from the Property

Staff changes

Welcome to Carole Roche who joined us in November, as a seasonal administrator, to help Sian and Emily with property and step change related administration. Another newcomer is Ben Griffiths from Lancashire who joined the wardens' team over Christmas. Previously he was working as a seasonal warden at the Farne Islands in Northumberland and volunteered at various National Trust properties from Devon to Skegness!

There will be lots of seasonal staff starting in the next few weeks – we are expecting some new Car Park Wardens, Tearoom staff, an Arts Officer and a Visitor Reception Assistant at the Garden Kiosk. Please do say a friendly "hello" to any new faces you meet.

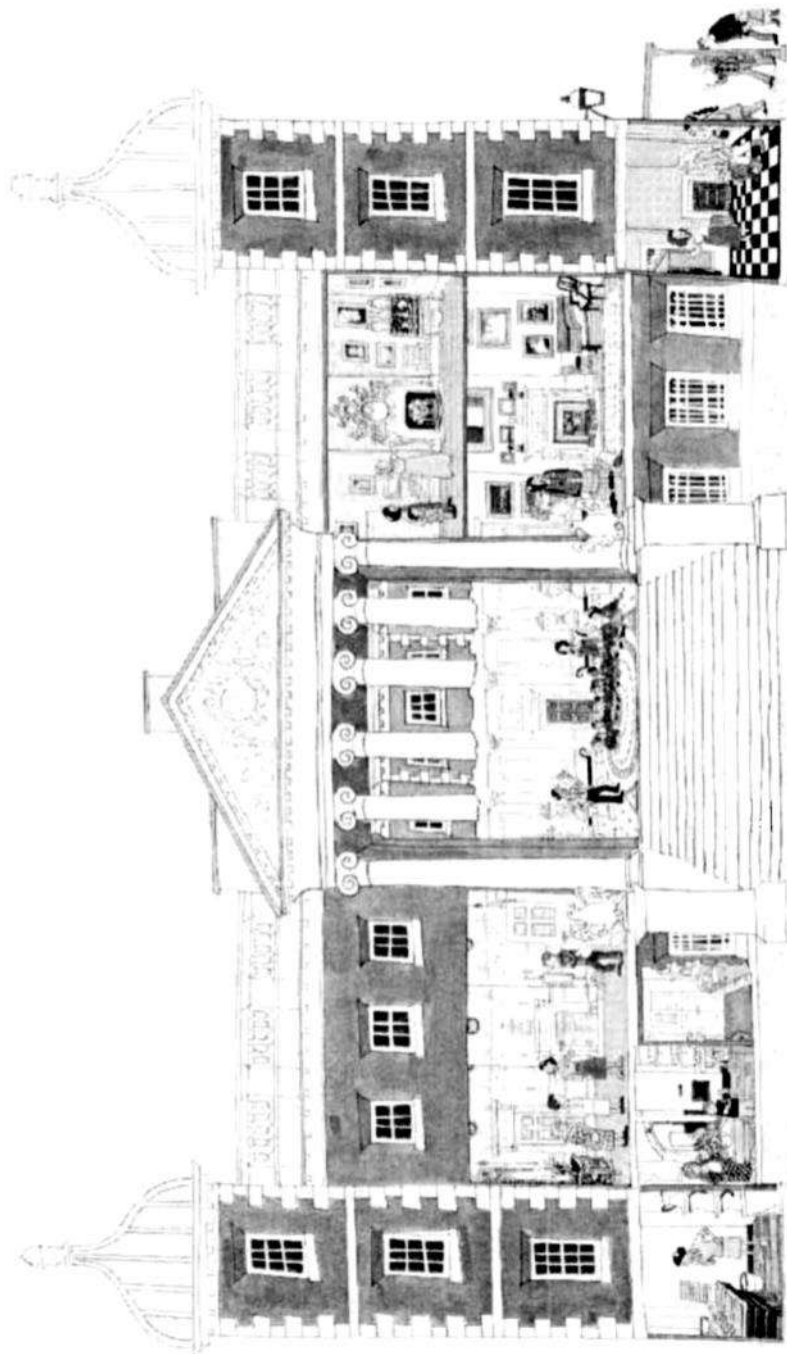
Garden Restoration Feedback

81% of the public who responded in 2007 were positive about the restoration so far. 78% were positive about the interpretation panels. In terms of new interpretation, 24% didn't want to see any more interpretation, while 21% would like a guided walk and 11% would like an audio tour (although 4% stated that they specifically disliked audio). Other (less popular suggestions) included a leaflet (7%) or an introductory tour (now available - 8%). In terms of feedback on restoration, 51% are in favour of restoring the orangery (ie building a replica of the Robert Adam design using photos and maps), with a further 10% in favour of a partial restoration. 67% would not like to see the long walk restored (the planting of the Long Walk borders would mean the lost of precious woodland), although 15% would like a partial restoration. Other general comments which could feed into interpretation: the tree map is inaccurate (2 comments); a demand for tree and plant labels (13%); restore the Boat House and dredge the lake (8%), restore the Temple of Pan (6%).

Changes at the House

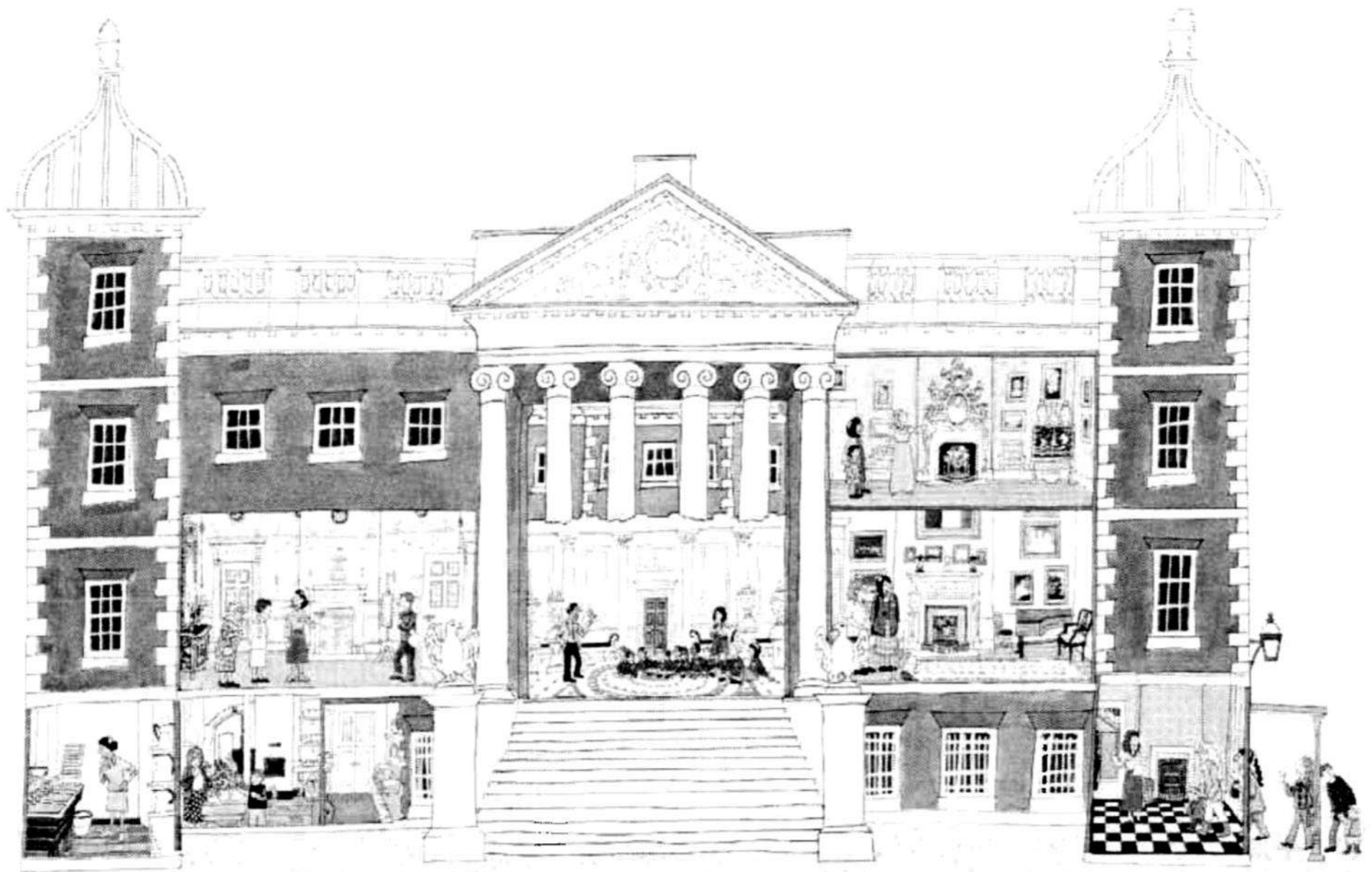
For this season, there will be no official visitor's route. Instead, visitors will be given a (returnable) plan of each floor and invited to explore. Access to each floor will be via the Grand Stair and the main entrance to the House will be at the North Door. (This new name for the family entrance is so that people don't think it is just for people with children!) Those NT members wanting to enter via the portico and Entrance Hall will still be allowed to but the change should mean that visitors will look around and enjoy the Entrance Hall as a show room. Each floor will also include a room with an exhibition space where people can sit and rest or read with an activity for children. On the principal floor, the Garden Room (next to the Etruscan Room) will include information about Robert Adam. The plan is for Mr Child's Dressing Room on the first floor to give more information about the Child family while the ground floor room will provide the story of the domestics.

Stepchange has enabled Osterley to fund some of its own projects without continual reference to Head Office such as experimenting with new approaches to marketing. In April and May, there will be posters at the Underground stations at Osterley and Hammersmith to see if this brings more visitors. Another project is to raise the profile of the National Trust and the house for people who already visit Osterley Park (for free) New attractive signage will be provided including new maps and interpretation panels. Illustrator Alison Gardiner, whose designs for mugs for Osterley and Ham House you may already know, has prepared designs for some of the panels. On page 8 is her partially sectioned view of the house, intended for use on an interpretation panel (next to the one of the Garden) at the car park and also may be used in the Children's Corner in the tea room which is being redone this year.



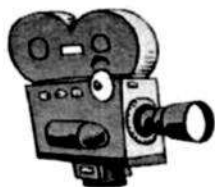
Partially-sectioned view of Osterley House

Artist and © Alison Gardiner – see article on page 8



Partially-sectioned view of Osterley House

Artist and © Alison Gardiner – see article on page 8



Filming at Osterley

Filming took place at the House over the winter months raising £40,000 of extra income. In addition to various TV programmes, Osterley will be in two films coming out this year. "The

Duchess", about Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire in the 18th century, who was reviled for her extravagance, her political involvement and her personal life, is due to be released on 29 August 2008. Check with the Property staff what they thought of the stars Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes! "The Young Victoria", a dramatization of the turbulent first years of Queen Victoria's rule, and her enduring romance with Prince Albert, is due to come out in 2008 but no release date is available yet.



Summer Masquerade Wei Hei Kipling

The idea of a "Summer Masquerade" at the end of May sounds very exciting. The arrangement will be much like the Christmas events. We are told that:

"visitors will be able to see some of the main show rooms of Osterley Park House dressed and decorated. This time it will be for an 18th century masquerade ball, including stunning flower arrangements, music and costumed guests".

Ideas are still being developed and research undertaken before a firm decision is made. Perhaps, bearing in mind the interest of the Childs in "China" (by which they would have meant anywhere in the Orient), a theme of "China" might be used.

Some of you may remember a celebration of "Chinese Osterley" that took place in the Summer of 1987 (my first introduction to Osterley). This was the last in a series of initiatives by John Hardy, in charge of Osterley Park in the 1970s and 1980s, "to dispel the myth that Osterley was and is an essentially chilly, formal, even dull house." At present, the National Trust seem to be taking the approach that Osterley was a place for parties! You are invited so come and enjoy yourselves!!!

from the 100 Club

Ron Piper

The third draw for the current competition was made at the Volunteers' Christmas Party on Tuesday 11 December 2007. Congratulations to the winners who were as follows:

£100	67	Mr G & Mrs E Daniel
£ 50	5	Miss N R Kelly
£ 20	102	Mrs B Thorpe
£ 10	41	Miss L G Newman
£ 5	72	Mrs E Smith



The final draw of the current competition was made at the Winter Event on Thursday 6 March 2008. The winners were as follows:

£100	71	J A Law
£ 50	149	Mrs J Beckett
£ 20	7	Miss P Barrett
£ 10	31	Miss M V McQueen
£ 6	69	Mr G & Mrs E Daniel

A new competition will start on 1 April 2008 and a form enclosed with this newsletter invites "Friends" to send just one cheque to cover both their annual subscription and their 100 Club share(s). This should be sent to John James (Membership Secretary) who will forward the 100 Club details to me so that I can keep my records up to date.

I hope that all members of the 100 Club will renew their shares and that others may join the Club. There is no limit to the number of shares that can be purchased at £12 each and the more members we have, the greater both the prize fund and the money available for Osterley projects.

It is hoped that the first draw of the new competition will take place at the "Friends" AGM in May.

Please note that the 100 Club is a private lottery and shares can only be allocated to paid up members of the "Friends".



Fireplace in Butler's Room (now the office), Osterley Park

Photograph John Stacey (see article on page 14)

Fireplaces at Osterley

(see photographs on cover and page 12)

Margaret Friday

At Osterley we have a variety of fireplaces taking us through several centuries. Thomas Gresham's 1570's house would have had a number of large fireplaces which would have continued in use during William Waller's residence in the house. When Waller died in 1668, Francis Child, (later founder of Child's Bank) assistant to Robert Blanchard, goldsmith helped prepare the inventory which listed 46 rooms at Osterley.

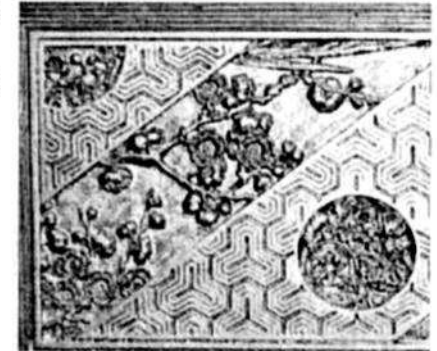
In 1682 Osterley was purchased by Nicholas Barbon, property speculator and opportunist of the most blatant kind. He invented fire assurance after the Great Fire of London and used the excuse of the Great Fire to remove many old dwellings in London and replace them with small expensive town houses available on 99 year leases only. Barbon purchased Osterley for £9,500 because he wished to be associated with the powerful name of Gresham and to live in the same magnificent style that Gresham had enjoyed. Barbon then raised a mortgage of £12,000 on the property through Child's Bank.

We know that Barbon removed towers and claimed to have knocked down so much of Osterley that no-one could live there when he was declared bankrupt in 1690. On his death in 1698 he had massive debts including money owed to Child's Bank; however; one of the stipulations in his will was that none of his debts should be paid from his estate.

We know that the wooden staircase in Osterley's southwest tower is by Barbon. John Summerson in Georgian London says that this Barbon trademark of wiggling balusters "can be seen peeping through the sash windows of the great Adam mansion". The houses Barbon designed were to quote Summerson "economically built to the point of meanness, with coarse ornaments which repeated themselves over and over again. The design of his panelling and staircases never varies, and his carpenters must have turned out thousands upon thousands of the twisted balusters whose slick modernity was calculated to

engage the eye of the bumpkin in search of his first town house" Could the fireplace (see page 12) photographed in the Butler's room, now the office, be from Barbon's house? It seems to fit some of the criteria – cheaply made to a standard design – what do you think?

The fireplace (see detail on right and cover) with the oriental patterns probably dates from the time when Robert and Francis Child the younger (sons of the Francis who founded Child's Bank) were at Osterley. Both were directors of the East India Company. Robert had certainly been on the Grand Tour for he was painted in front of the



Coliseum in Rome. In Robert's time the Billiard Room on the ground floor was installed. Robert Child died in 1720 and his brother Francis in 1740. The Chinese lacquered chairs now in the south passage and the Chinese deep blue bordered armorial plates were made from 1720-30 for Francis Child the younger. Some of the Emperor's parade jars in the long gallery were also acquired then. Perhaps the fireplace with oriental decorations was designed for Osterley at that time. In 1772 when Lady Beauchamp Proctor stayed at Osterley she wrote to a friend commenting on such a profusion of rich China and Japan that "I could almost fancy myself in Peking." Horace Walpole also commented on Sarah Child's dressing room after one of his visits.

When Robert Adam set about turning the Elizabethan mansion into a neo-classical villa it seems that he kept many of the chimney pots on the roof and just connected the new fireplaces to the chimney flues that already existed. The Chimney pots on the roof are labelled so that the chimney for each fireplace is known.

When you have a chance seek out the two fireplaces pictured in

Excursions 2008

Jim Tickle

I am delighted to confirm that this year's major outing, the six-day Tour of parts of Cheshire and the Peak District from Monday 8th – Saturday 13th September, is now fully booked with our new driver Graeme at the wheel. I'm sure, too, that we'll all welcome as a passenger a newly joined member of the Friends, our old faithful friend and former driver, Barrie Pyle.

The response to our first day-trip of the year to Baddesley Clinton and Packwood on Wednesday, 9th April has been very keen, so we'll again be setting off with a full coach.

For the whole of the 2008 day-trips programme, you may detect a touch of nostalgia, since all our proposed outings are to National Trust properties that we visited ten or more years ago.

Wednesday 9th April: Baddesley Clinton & Packwood

Tuesday 6th May: Wightwick

Tuesday 3rd June: Salisbury & Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens

Wednesday 9th July: Clevedon & Clevedon Court

Thursday 14th Aug Buckingham & Stowe Landscape Gardens

Monday 6th October: Stratford-on-Avon & Hanbury Hall

A Booking Form for this Season's excursions is enclosed with your Newsletter and may I advise you to complete and return it with your cheque (and not forgetting a stamped addressed envelope, please) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Wightwick Manor



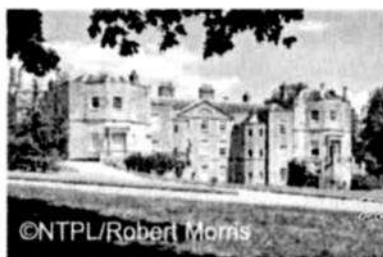
This pseudo-medieval house built between 1887-93 is a fine tribute to the Arts & Crafts Movement that was inspired by William Morris, Ford Maddox Brown, Burne-Jones, Millais and Ruskin, to name a few whose work is to be found here. The open timber roof of the great parlour was painted by Charles

Kempe, who was also responsible for the glowing colours in the

Excursions 2008

painting the deep plaster frieze telling the story of Orpheus & Euridice. Kempe's picture of a menagerie of animals attracted by the music of Orpheus is also taken up in the drawing room's Italian Renaissance chimney piece, inset with rich green tiles by William de Morgan, featuring a bestiary of mischievous creatures. The attractive garden contains formal walks framed with clipped yew and holly leading to a rose garden overlooked by topiary peacocks and a less formal pond garden.

Mottisfont Abbey House & Gardens



At the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII granted the Augustinian Priory to his Chamberlain, William Lord Sandys, whose descendants moved here from The Vyne after the Civil War.

Much of Lord William's Tudor building is now concealed by Georgian remodelling, - but the

ghost of the old priory remains in the early thirteenth century cellarium, with its vaulted roof supported by columns of Caen stone. Above this is the main glory of the house, The Whistler Room, an enchanting drawing-room with elaborate trompe-l'oeil murals, designed by Rex Whistler in 1938-9 after the completion of his mammoth work at Plas Newydd. Newly refurbished this year is the Old Dining Room, as originally laid out by Mrs Gilbert Russell, the donor of Mottisfont, known for her fine taste and patronage of the best artists of the mid 20th century. It was Mrs Russell and her husband, coming to Mottisfont in 1934, who largely created the gardens as we see them now. Beyond the neat parterres and sweeping lawns you may wander lazily along the trout stream of the River Test, but a visit to Mottisfont in June would not be complete if you miss the Rose Garden with its National Collection of over 3000 varieties.

(Continued on page 18)

Clevedon Court



In the 19th century, the wealthier citizens of Bristol discovered the peaceful little seaside village of Clevedon and it quickly developed into a popular resort, boasting grand Victorian houses, hotels and a fine elegant pier, recently restored. In the summer, the paddle steamer

Waverley still calls in alongside the pier on regular pleasure trips between Bristol and Weston-super-Mare.

But just north of the village, almost 500 years earlier in 1320, Sir John de Clevedon converted an earlier tower and great hall into an impressive family seat. Despite later Elizabethan additions and alterations, much of his original building still remains, including the buttressed walls and the portcullis grooves in the entrance porch. In 1709 Clevedon Court was acquired by Sir Abraham Elton, Mayor of Bristol, and after three hundred years, present members of the Elton family still live here. During their tenure, the Eltons have shown great literary and artistic talents. Amongst their intimate friends are listed the names of Thackeray, Lamb, Coleridge and Tennyson. In 1880, Sir Edmund took up pottery, using clay from the estate, and established the reputation of Eltonware pots and vases, many of which are on display in the old kitchen. Also shown in the house is a colourful collection of local Nailsea glassware

Stowe Landscape Gardens

One of Europe's foremost landscape gardens, Stowe holds an unrivalled place in landscape design. During the 17th and 18th centuries over about 80 years leading landscapers, architects and sculptors – including Bridgeman, Vanburgh, Kent, Gibbs and 'Capability' Brown were working here. In over some 560 acres of undulating countryside, you may find more than 40 monuments, temples and bridges; a 60-foot Corinthian Arch, a Gothic Temple

Friendship, Concord and Victory and of Ancient Virtue; a curved screen with alcoves containing busts of 'British Worthies' including King Alfred and William Shakespeare, Raleigh and



Elizabeth 1st, and our very own Thomas Gresham! The grand Palladian Bridge is based on the one in the grounds of Wilton House and in its turn inspired a similar bridge in Prior Park, Bath. Among the monuments are those to Lord Cobham,

Congreve, Cook, Grenville and Queen Caroline. There is a curious 'Chinese House' and a lakeside pavilion with interesting mosaics. The House at Stowe (not NT) is a private school, but entrance is possible for a small charge during school holidays

Hanbury Hall

In 1701 a very successful barrister, Thomas Vernon completed the building of Hanbury his magnificent Painted Hall at Greenwich, Thornhill accepted the commission and the results of his artistic genius are now the main attraction of this delightful William and Mary-style mansion. Sadly,



most of the original contents of Hanbury Hall were dispersed in 1790, following a disastrous marriage between Emma Vernon and Henry Cecil, later Lord Exeter. Some family pieces and nearly all the portraits have recently been returned, but the English furniture and porcelain and the 17th century flower paintings in the house are mainly from the collection of Mr R.S. Watney. The Long Gallery is unusually detached from the main building and other notable garden features include an orangery, ice house, 18th century bowling green and a working mushroom house.

London Visits

Wei Hei Kipling

One advantage of going in a group on a visit is that the museum or house will often arrange for someone to give a small talk or lecture. The small group of "Friends" who visited the Soane Museum on 8 January were given two such treats. First, Stephen Astley, drawings curator, gave us a talk about the Soane Museum generally, the Adam brothers and the exhibition on their speculative building work at the Adelphi and elsewhere. Did you know, for example, that in addition to their work as architects, the Adam brothers were building contractors and, among other projects, supplied sandstone flags to pave London streets? Then, our own Doris Sherwood gave a commentary on the Hogarth paintings. After that, the "Friends" were free to wander around the exhibition and the museum as a whole.

Another advantage of going in a group is that you might be able to visit somewhere that is not normally open to the public. Home House, with its splendid Adam interiors, is an exclusive members club.

Because of the trustees' love of the architecture, the building is open during Open House weekend.



Otherwise, they allow small groups to visit (perhaps less than 10 in a year) for a small donation to their designated charity, this year the NSPCC. Our small group of "Friends" (see above) were treated to tea, coffee and home-made biscuits in the Etruscan Room before a tour of the building with David Johnson, director of sales and marketing.

Our next visit will be on 14 March to Highgate Village and Kenwood. This visit was advertised in the last newsletter but this newsletter will be going to print before the visit takes place.

We had hoped to arrange a visit to Syon House this spring but there has been building work going on (you may have seen the scaffolding) so we have not made any progress on this proposal.

London Visits

On Sunday 1 June, the Howards will once again be opening the gardens of the Old Farmhouse (see right) at Osterley for us to visit and enjoy. Last year, our visit was on 17 June with the focus on the house. There was concern that the gardens (see below) might not be at their best. This year, we hope that the roses will still be in bloom and that the bearded iris will be out.

Meeting arrangements 3pm at the Old Farmhouse, Osterley Lane.

Directions from Norwood Green for cars or pedestrians – go down Osterley Lane; cross the motorway bridge; turn right through the grey gates with the sign to Osterley Park Farm; walk on drive and through black gates to the Old Farmhouse.

Directions from Osterley House – take path from stableyard, past public toilets; turn left on to Osterley Lane; turn left through grey gates with the sign to Osterley Park Farm; walk on drive and through black gates to the Old Farmhouse.

Please contact Wei Hei (details on cover) after 19 May if you want to join us so that we have some idea of numbers.



Donations to Osterley

There has been no expenditure on projects since the beginning of the financial year.



from the Editor

More than one "Friend" has been asking me when the details of Jim's excursions would be available (so that they can book the dates in their diaries) and wondering if the details are available later this year. Although details were out at the final winter lecture last year, that did not take place until 29 March while the final winter event this year was only 6 March. I think the early date of Easter (23 March compared with 16 April in 2007), which caused the Committee to bring the dates of the winter events forward, has got us all confused.

Further confusion with the early date for Osterley Day this year of 29 June. As the summer issue of the newsletter normally goes out in June, it would be too late to advertise for the first time for donations or help in the summer issue. On the other hand, Peter Bush would prefer not to store all your donations from March onwards if "Friends" are prompted to act by receiving this issue of the newsletter. So please do put the dates on page 4 in your diary and respond in May and June as appropriate.

Nature also does not keep account of the human calendar. We hope that the gardens of the Old Farmhouse (see page 21) will be at their best for our visit on 1 June but such things cannot be guaranteed. Patrick Howard did offer the earlier dates of 25 / 26 May as flowers seem to be coming into bloom earlier. Sounds like a good reason for choosing the earlier date – and then I worked out that I would not be very popular with the Property staff if I distracted "Friends" from their volunteer roles on a busy bank holiday weekend!



from the Diary

"Friends" Events and Excursions

Wed 9 Apr	Excursion: Baddesley Clinton & Packwood (fully booked)
Tue 6 May	Wightwick
Wed 21 May	AGM (see inside front cover)
Sun 1 Jun	Osterley Old Farmhouse & Gardens (see page 21)
Tue 3 Jun	Excursion: Salisbury & Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens
Sun 29 Jun	"Friends" Stalls at Osterley Day (see page 4)
Wed 9 Jul	Excursion: Clevedon & Clevedon Court
Thurs 14 Aug	Excursion: Buckingham & Stowe Landscape Gardens
Mon 6 Oct	Excursion: Stratford-on-Avon & Hanbury Hall
Mon 8 to Sat 13 Sep	Coach tour: Cheshire & the Peak District (fully booked)

For details of Excursions – see pages 16-19

Osterley Park and House (a selection)

Wed 12 Mar	New season starts
Sat 24 May to Sun 1 Jun (excluding Tue 27 May)	Summer Masquerade
Sun 29 Jun	Osterley Day
Sat 19, Sun 20 Jul	Osterley through the Ages

Next newsletter due to be published in June 2008.

Any contributions to the Editor by **1 June**.

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.