

The Friends of Osterley Park

A SUPPORTERS' GROUP FOR  THE NATIONAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Issue 70 AUTUMN 2008 £1 (free to members)

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The Old Oak
Osterley Park

see article on page 14

Photo John Stacey

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Friends of Osterley Park Autumn Reception

Old Brewhouse, Osterley Park

Wednesday 29 October 2008

7 for 7.30pm



BEIJING
OLYMPICS
2008

John James

- a Technical Director for tennis at the Games -
will talk about his experiences



**Wine will
be served**



**2nd draw
of "100 club"**

Car Parking in the Stable-Yard

Please come early
Park Gates will be closed
from 7.30pm
until after the Reception



from the Chairman Ian Conacher

By Carriage to Osterley House!

In the 18th century, the family and their guests would approach Osterley House by the carriage drive from Wyke Green, passing between the pair of Adam lodges and along Osterley Lane. From there the drive ran across the dam at the east end of Middle Lake, giving visitors the first glimpse of the House. The drive turned south at Jubilee Lodge, ran down to the stable block and turned right, suddenly confronting visitors with the grand frontage of the House and its magnificent classical portico.



©NTPL/Rupert Truman

In 1883 the Metropolitan District Railway was extended west from Mill Hill Park (now Acton Town) to reach Hounslow, with a station on Thornbury Road named "Osterley and Spring Grove". The Earl of Jersey had a new drive constructed on its present alignment, alongside the Garden Lake, over the causeway and down a new tree-lined avenue to Jersey Road, opposite the junction with Thornbury Road.

In later years the lakeside drive was replaced by a new drive cutting across the front lawn to the stable block, with a branch running on the centre line of the Portico. This branch was removed before the Trust took over the direct management of the property in 1991.

Initially, room stewards and visitors with mobility problems were allowed to drive up to the House and park in the area between the House and the Private Gardens. However, there were problems with this arrangement: the number of cars crossing the causeway through throngs of visitors with children and dogs posed a safety hazard; the stream of cars crossing the front lawn

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from the Chairman (Continued from page 3)

spoiled the vista from the House; and parking close to the building was felt to detract from the 18th century character of the House.

In 1993, the drive across the front lawn was replaced by a new drive on the original route along the lakeside. This restored the "Wow factor!" for visitors approaching the House.

To assist visitors and volunteers with walking problems, a battery electric vehicle was provided to link the car park and the House. The "Friends" made a significant contribution to its cost. This "Courtesy Bus" is now nearing the end of its life, and a new machine is required to replace it early in the 2009 season. The

"Friends" committee are launching an appeal to cover the cost of this, which will amount to about £12,000. Cost of new "Courtesy Bus" is about £12,000

As a volunteer driver, I know how greatly this vehicle is appreciated as an essential aid for less mobile visitors to the park. I hope that the membership will respond generously to our appeal and help us to reach our target. A donation form is enclosed with this newsletter. We ask that cheques be made out to "The National Trust" and sent with the enclosed "Gift Aid" form to our Hon. Treasurer so that tax relief may be claimed by the Trust as a charity; this will enhance your donation.




Our Hon Treasurer, also a "courtesy bus" driver, is ready to receive your donations!

from the Property

Those of you who are National Trust members may have seen the comment in "The Thames & Solent News Autumn 2008" that:

"There are exciting developments in the pipeline at Osterley Park and House where a project to revitalise the House and make it more exciting for visitors will come to fruition in Spring 2009."


Rest assured this is not a new project which is about to be sprung on us with no warning!!

Essentially, all the changes we have been observing this year: the route maps; the Adam exhibition room and rest area on the principal floor; the information on life below stairs in Mr Gunther's room on the ground floor; the projections of servants in the servants' hall – this and other new interpretation work is being tested now to re-launch the House in spring 2009. 

The Craft Cart

The craft cart (*see right*) has a range of activities including windmills, lacquer work cabinets, picture frames, tissue flowers and bugs, pipe cleaner sculptures and masks. The activities have been designed for Osterley and can be taken away and enjoyed by families around the site - park, garden and house. The cart has been a real hit (together with the explore more activities, there have been 100-150 people each week) and will make its next appearance in the October half term.



Ed's Note: The cart itself was paid for by "Friends" - so do visit the cart and see what your money provides. 

London Voices at Osterley uses Puppetry to inspire Hounslow Families

Rose

Families from Berkeley and Spring Grove Schools in Hounslow have been exploring Osterley Park and House this year as part of the National Trust family learning project *London Voices*. The families, led by puppeteer Estelle Rosenfeld, took part in a series of workshops looking at Osterley's connections with Asia. Osterley has an important collection of Chinoiserie – objects and furniture decorated in the Chinese style. Many of these items along with objects and pieces of furniture made in Asia were collected by the Child Family who were Directors of the East India Company in the 18th century. Puppets have provided an excellent, experiential way to connect to Osterley's history and relate this to life in Hounslow today. Families have played with and made their own shadow puppets, cooked in the historic kitchen and created textile designs. Students from local West Thames College's new BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art have volunteered as artists' assistants for the project – sharing their skills with the families and the National Trust. 🏡



Puppeteer Estelle Rosenfeld and Quasim Nisar enjoying Mrs Child's Dressing Room.
Photo: Rachel Mullins

In Memoriam – Mary Groombridge

A collection is being taken for a tree to be planted at Osterley in memory of Mary Groombridge. Donations can be given either to Mel Copley at the Osterley National Trust Shop or by cheque posted to Ian Conacher, 45 Wood Lane, Isleworth TW7 5EF 🏡

Child's Bank and "A Tale of Two Cities"

Margaret Friday



Mr Striver at Tellson's Bank
Source: charlesdickenspage.com

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were

all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only".

This is Charles Dickens introduction to "A Tale of Two Cities" his historical novel set in the years preceding the French revolution. Tellson's Bank "by Temple Bar...an old fashioned place" was based on Child's Bank, the oldest bank in London. The rules introduced by Francis Child in the 17th Century were still in use.

Historian Paul Halsall in his study "A Tale of Economics," referring to Dickens' story, says that many banks at the time had spread themselves too thinly and were involved in political speculation. He portrays Tellson's as an upstanding bank. "Jarvis Lorry, the banker, strives to follow the law while protecting patrons of the bank. Lorry stays at the bank to guard the collateral offered by patrons. He guards bank statements and property deeds in order to insure the bank's return on loans. If Lorry had wavered from his responsibilities,



Temple Bar today by St Paul's Cathedral – it was removed from Fleet Street in 1878.

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Child's Bank (Continued from page 7)

Tellson's would undoubtedly have failed as a bank. The amount of unaccounted-for loans and personal assets would surely place the bank and patrons in debt, causing a failure in the economy".

Lorry sounds very like Robert Child, senior partner from 1763 until his death in 1782 when his wife Sarah became one of the partners until her death in 1793. This period covered the time in which "A Tale of Two Cities" was set.

- A senior partner always sat on a dias in the banking hall making themselves available to the staff and customers alike.
- The capital to support Child's Bank was supplied by individual partners on whose unlimited liability public confidence in the bank depended. The Child family was extremely wealthy and well able to support any financial demands made upon the bank.
- A senior staff member and a number of clerks slept at the bank in order to guard it during the night and when the bank was not open. This tradition continued until 1974.
- Any young clerk could become a senior partner - whenever a partner retired or died, all the clerks were promoted. At Tellson's "the young clerks were kept like cheese till they acquired the full Tellson flavour and blue mould"

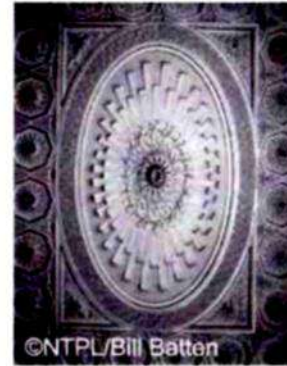


Child's Bank Sign
- sun & marigold

Robert Child was known as a great Banker and Capitalist, always present in his House superintending and directing affairs. The direct link between the bank and the family lasted for 250 years until the 8th Earl of Jersey died in 1923. Death duties caused the Bank to amalgamate with Glyn Mills bank but some of the traditions established at Child's Bank continue to this day. 🏦

Who did what?

Wei Hei Kipling



©NTPL/Bill Batten

During the summer of 2006, I was stewarding at Osterley Park when I heard two colleagues disapproving of an outside guide who had been taking a party around the house and talking about the drawing room ceiling (see left). "She said the ceiling was by Chambers and everyone knows it was by Adam," said one. "I checked in the guidebook and there's the drawing by Adam in the room upstairs," said the other.

The current guidebook is copyright 1994. I happened to have an earlier copy of the guidebook, copyright 1985, with me because the photographs in that one are more lavish. Out of curiosity, I looked up the relevant room in the 1985 guidebook and the ceiling was attributed to Chambers! The current (1994) guidebook said the ceiling was by Adam.... A further comparison of the two guidebooks showed the following:

- The 1985 guidebook attributes to Chambers the following in the house: the long gallery; features of the eating room and the breakfast room including their ceilings; the beginning of the great staircase; the ceiling plasterwork of the drawing room (the ceiling under discussion); and features of rooms on the bedroom floor.
- The 1994 guidebook argues that Chambers was not directly involved at Osterley, attributing the ceilings of the eating room and the drawing room to Adam and the work in the first half of the eighteenth century (including the long gallery) to an artisan architect.

Why these differences?

A review of the guidebooks published on Osterley since 1939 suggests a family tradition that Chambers was employed by the Childs and more positive attribution of features with the

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Who did What? (Continued from page 9)

publication of a monograph by John Harris in 1970 about Chambers.

Referring to the work on the west front and the gallery behind it, Harris 1970 acknowledges that there is no direct documentary evidence for Chambers' involvement but argues that:

'it may be safely attributed to Chambers on several accounts.' (emphasis added)

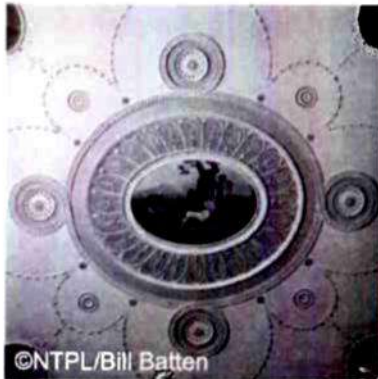
The 1972 guidebook enthusiastically made use of the stylistic attributions of Harris 1970 and further commented:

'the Gallery and Breakfast Room are clearly in Chambers's style, although he has introduced a few fashionable Rococo motifs

The 1977 guidebook is more restrained, making no claims additional to the Harris claims but noting:

'a number of rooms have chimneypieces that are almost identical to surviving Chambers designs.'

As we have already noted, the 1985 guidebook is very enthusiastic in attributing features to Chambers which is perhaps not surprising as one of the authors of the 1985 guidebook was also the author of the 1972 guidebook.



©NTPL/Bill Batten

A further argument for the approach taken in the 1985 guidebook may be a concern about the alternative attribution of the ceilings of the Eating Room and Drawing Room to Adam. A comparison of these ceilings with the more delicate ceiling of the State Bedroom (see left) known to be by Adam shows differences.

On the other hand, it would appear that Harris had changed his mind about his Chambers attribution by 1996 when he states:

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from the 100 Club

Ron Piper

Since the Summer newsletter the total shares has risen from 118 to 135 so thanks to those who either renewed or took shares for the first time. This means that the total subscriptions for the current competition have reached £1,572 of which half will be paid out as prizes. This is an increase on last year.



The next draw will take place at the "Friends" Autumn Reception to be held on Wednesday 29 October when five lucky members will win over £200 between them.

If anyone wishes to join, rejoin or increase their holding before the next draw on 29 October, membership is £9 per share (three draws) for the rest of this competition. Please send your cheque **by 22 October** made payable to "Friends of Osterley" to me (Ron Piper) at 44 Killowen Avenue, Northolt, UB5 4QT with your name, address and telephone number and an SAE for your membership card and the rules of the competition.

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

Who did What? (Continued from page 10)

'Chambers was not offered the opportunity of sequences of grand interior installations in earlier houses such as Adam's at Osterley and Syon..' (emphasis added).

And just to confuse things, the current discussion at the House is whether or not Chambers had some involvement after all!!

So who did do what? Stylistic attributions are often risky so, unless there is documentary evidence, it is often opinion. The other useful thing to do is to check the date of what you are reading and to keep up-to-date – after all, even the Osterley guide book has been changing its mind!



Bluebells at Osterley

Photograph John Stacey

Osterley's Ancient Oak Tree

(see photograph on cover)

Margaret Friday

Osterley's splendid ancient oak photographed so beautifully by John Stacey graces the cover of this edition of the newsletter

We know that the tree which stands on a mound near the artificial lake is very old - but exactly how old?

Over the years I have heard stories that this tree was here when Elizabeth I visited Thomas Gresham's impressive new house at Osterley in 1576. Could this be so? Let us begin by looking at W.J. Bean's extensive study of "Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles" written during the time when he was curator at Kew Gardens. He tells us that the two native British oaks, "Quercus Pedunculata and Quercus Sessiliflora are the largest and longest lived of our trees. Nor are they surpassed in rugged beauty and strength. Their maximum duration of life is not less than one thousand years. Their wood is the best that can be used in house building - floors, panelling...and none other lasts so well, has so much beauty, or satisfies one's

sentiments so completely in an English house" The magnificent oak floors and oak panelling at Osterley attest to W. J. Bean's views.

Their wood is the best
that can be used in
house building ...

Having consulted the expert on the common British oak, I spoke to Osterley's two resident experts on trees, Andy and Justin. Andy believes that the oak is about 400 years old and that it could have been planted when the patte d'oie (goose's foot) was copied from the park plans at Hampton Court Palace and shown in Rocque's map of Osterley published in 1741. Chiswick House has a patte d'oie laid out in 1716. Man-made waterways were also popular additions to country house gardens in the early 18th century. Andy feels that the tree was probably planted in the park when the stables were extended in about 1610.

Justin thinks that Osterley's oak is much older - at least 800 years meaning it would certainly have been growing here in Queen Elizabeth's day. The age of the tree can be assessed from its

girth as well as the number of rings marking each year of its growth. The tree is on a mound - and we know that when artificial lakes were added to the park at Chiswick the old trees were kept and their roots were shored up to ensure that they were not affected by the construction of lakes in the grounds.

Evidence for ancient oaks abound in Windsor Great Park. Henry VIII planted a large number of oaks there in 1529 to replace those used to build the ships - the hearts of oak that protected our island. Some of these ancient oaks are still at Windsor. Over the centuries new trees were regularly grown from their acorns. In fact, because of this long tradition of breeding only from the park oaks, they are now officially known as Windsor oaks. At present the gardeners at Windsor are looking for similar parks in the area where Windsor acorns might be planted to ensure the survival of the ancient and impressive local tree. Osterley is one of the preferred sites so we can look forward to seeing more of the oaks which shaded Elizabeth I thriving in Osterley's pleasure gardens.

When you are next visiting Osterley do take a look at our ancient tree - what do you think - did good Queen Bess admire this lovely oak tree when she visited Osterley? As the British oak is known to live at least 1000 years we could be admiring a tree which saw Thomas Gresham build Osterley and entertain the Queen; later Nicholas Barbon make changes; then Francis Child use the vaults; then his sons come and lived at Osterley; his grandsons hire Robert Adam to remodel their Elizabethan mansion transforming it into a neo-classical villa described by Horace Walpole as "the palace of palaces." The tree was here when Sarah Ann eloped with the Earl of Westmoreland and Sarah Sophia married the Earl of Jersey. In the nineteenth century, many American trees and shrubs were introduced to the park. The tree stood in the park



"Good Queen Bess"
©NTPL/John Hammond

(Continued on page 16)

when the future 9th Earl of Jersey was a small boy having lessons in the Etruscan dressing room. It watched the Ministry of Works and the V&A look after the house and park and saw the National Trust take up the restoration of the Great Meadow in the 1990s and now it observes the restoration of the Pleasure Grounds at Osterley. Our ancient oak is symbolic of the long tradition of the English country house and garden from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II.



London Visits

Wei Hei Kipling

As the nights draw in after an English summer with Jim Tickle's excursions to far flung parts of the English countryside, our thoughts turn to pleasures closer to home.



The Geffrye Museum is one of London's best-loved museums. It shows the changing style of the English domestic interior in a series of period rooms from 1600 to the present day. "Christmas Past: 400 Years of Seasonal Traditions in English Homes" is an exhibition in which the Museum sets out to rekindle some of the magic of Christmas by decorating its eleven period rooms in authentic festive style.

"Friends" will be visiting "Christmas Past" on Friday 5 December with a talk on Christmas traditions, a two-course Christmas lunch and time before and after lunch to visit the exhibition. There will also be a chance to visit the exhibition "Choosing the Chintz: Men, women and furnishing the home, from 1850 to the present" which runs from 14 October to 22 February 2009. Cost £15 per person to include cost of talk and two course meal (excluding drinks – typical cost £1.50 for soft drinks, £3 for glass of wine).

Meeting arrangements: 10.30am at Holborn tube station (High Holborn exit) to catch bus 243 to Geffrye Museum at Kingsland

Road, London E2 8EA;

11.30am to 12.30pm Christmas talk;

12.30pm to 1.15pm free time to look at exhibitions;

1.15pm to 2.15pm Christmas lunch;

Geffrye Pie: A Victorian favourite- gammon and turkey in a creamy sauce with nutmeg and sage

or **Vegetable Pie:** Seasonal vegetables in pastry served on a bed of root vegetables and shredded sprouts

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
or **Festive Ginger Cake with Brandy Sauce**
Coffee or Tea

2.15pm onwards free time to look at exhibitions.

In view of the cost of the Visit, please prebook by Wednesday 19 November 2008 with payment using the enclosed form. (If you are not able to join the "Friends" for the group visit, the exhibition is on from 25 November 2008 to 4 January 2009.)



On Tuesday 6 January, we have arranged a group visit to the Sir John Soane Museum (*see left*) at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A to see the exhibition "The Adam Brothers in Rome: Drawings from the Grand Tour". This exhibition, drawing upon the Soane Museum's rich holdings of Adam Office material, will attempt to explain the impact of Italy and the Classical past on both Robert and James as well as to trace the influences of contemporary artists and architects whom they encountered on the Grand Tour. Cost £5 per person: half to the Soane Museum and half to the "Friends".

Meeting arrangements: 1.45pm at Holborn tube station (Kingsway exit) for 2pm entry. Please prebook using the enclosed form or phone Wei Hei (*contact details on cover*) after Wednesday 19 November to book your place. (If you are not able to join the "Friends" for the group visit, the exhibition is on from 25 September 2008 to 14 February 2009.)



Manchester 2008

Jim Tickle

Photos: John Stacey

Despite the dismal weather prospects foreboded by the miserably wet previous week, on Monday 8th September 49 members of the "Friends" cheerfully boarded Graham McCormick's coach for the start of their annual six-day break, based this year at Fallowfield Campus of Manchester University. The accommodation was excellent, with comfortable, spacious en-suite rooms and good food served in a rather splendid dining Room.



En route on our first day we visited Calke Abbey, a rambling early 18th century mansion which the National Trust preserved almost as it was found in the 1980s. Over the years the eccentric Harpur Crewe family had crammed the house with a vast collection of stuffed birds and animals and the last occupant had slept in a veritable junk room, surrounded by the mounted heads of all the deer and other sorry creatures that he had blithely killed on his estate. In total contrast, hermetically sealed in a huge glass case is displayed a magnificent 18th century bed that the Trust discovered in the house in 1982. It was found in several pieces in huge packing cases, just as it had been delivered over two hundred years earlier! Assembled at last, its grandeur and its luxurious silk hangings can now be admired in all their glory.

On Tuesday, we ventured into the Peak District, stopping first at the 'plague village' of Eyam whose inhabitants went into voluntary isolation in 1665 when the plague was imported in a bale of cloth. During this quarantine period, whole families died of the plague and the village population was almost decimated. Moving on from tragic but now peaceful Eyam, we spent the rest of the day at leisure in the charming spa town of Buxton, Derbyshire's smaller version of Bath. It still retains the warm springs that attracted the Romans; the impressive Crescent built by the 5th Duke of

Devonshire; the Opera House by Frank Matcham in 1903; a small but fascinating Museum; and, not least, the beautiful, spacious Pavilion Gardens.

On Wednesday morning we made an early start to visit Daresbury Church near Warrington, which is noted for its connection with Lewis Carroll; his father, Charles Dodgson Senior, was the rector here. The main attraction in the church is the stained glass window designed by Geoffrey Webb, showing scenes and characters from 'Alice in Wonderland'. We also enjoyed a very entertaining introductory talk about the Dodgson family and were shown the ancient font at which Lewis Carroll was christened and which retains the marks of a hinged, lockable lid to prevent witches from stealing holy water for use in their evil rituals.



We then hurried on to Tatton Park, visiting a series of well-kept gardens, one of which was a superb example of a genuine Japanese garden (*see left*). Next we toured the Mansion, the early 19th century home of the Egerton family, set in a landscaped deer park and opulently decorated to provide a fine setting for the family collections of pictures, books, china, glass, silver and specially commissioned Gillows furniture.

If this wasn't enough, we concluded a busy day with a visit to Dunham Massey, an elegant Georgian mansion where we were met by and exchanged greetings with former "Friends", Dorothy and Cliff White who now live in the Manchester area. There are stunning views across the gardens from the beautiful Edwardian Saloon in the house, refurbished by theatre designer Percy Macquoid in 1905. In the 18th century Library are what are thought to be the earliest known carvings by Grinling Gibbons. The 19th century Billiard Room has a rare Gillows billiard table, and the spectacular collection of Huguenot silver demonstrates

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the wealth and power of the Booth family.

Thursday was meant to be a more relaxed day, starting with a leisurely drive through some of the High Peak scenery of Derbyshire to Matlock, another attractive spa town. A short walk took us to the Cable Car Station from which we were ferried in six-seater cable cars (*see right*) over the River Derwent to the cliff-top park "The Heights of Abraham" which affords fantastic views across the surrounding countryside.



Later in the day, after an unforeseen, wearying trek to the Railway station, we took a sentimental trip in a steam train on the High Peak Railway along the Derwent Valley from Matlock to Rowsley and back. After this, there was an all too brief amount of time to go our separate ways to explore the other attractions of Matlock.

We focused on two National Trust properties on Friday. Firstly we drove to Alderley Edge and strolled on woodland paths along the ridge which gave extensive views over the Cheshire Plain to the Welsh mountains. The Edge also has a history, still evident, of copper mining going back to the Bronze Age and Roman times. Since the Alderley Edge tea-room is only open at week-ends, we left after a short while and went on to Lyme Park where our former Osterley Staff member, the very amiable Gary Enstone was employed before his promotion to Property Manager at Batemans.

Lyme Park's recent claim to fame is that Mr Darcy met Miss Elizabeth Bennett here after his famous swim in the lake at 'Pemberley'. The house, originally Tudor, now outwardly resembles an 18th century Italianate palace with garden borders in the style of Gertrude Jekyll and surrounded by a large medieval deer park. Lyme was owned by the Legh family after the estate passed by marriage to the first Piers Legh in 1398.

The beautifully furnished house lists amongst its treasures many magnificent tapestries, an important collection of clocks and some superb woodcarvings attributed to the ubiquitous Grinling Gibbons.

Arriving back early at Fallowfield, many of us decided to see a little of what Manchester itself had to offer before we left next morning. We headed for Salford Quays, Manchester's recently converted docklands, and we were not disappointed. Although by the time we arrived some of the attractions including the Lowry Arts Centre and the Imperial War Museum North were already closing, the modern, imaginative architecture and feeling of spaciousness was awesome.

On our return journey home on Saturday 13th, we sadly had to abandon our original plans to visit Little Moreton Hall and Biddulph Grange Garden, because the National Trust refused to admit coach parties on Heritage Open Weekend. However, we were heartily welcomed at Trentham Gardens where there were attractions to suit all tastes, including lakeside walks, a 'village shopping street', restaurants and tea-rooms, a miniature railway, a garden centre and even a Monkey Jungle! Most of us, though, opted to spend our time exploring the vast Italian Garden (*see right*) which has recently been restored to its former glory at a cost of several million pounds. There was so much to see that a certain party leader was spotted exhausted and being pushed around the garden in a wheel-chair by our sturdy former driver, Barrie Pyle!




Finally, in planning this year's trip, I had intended to make it rather more leisurely than in previous years. If I have failed, friends, I trust you will forgive me! 🙏

Donations to Osterley



For the year 2008, up to 3 September, £1,487 had been given by "Friends" to the National Trust at Osterley. Over the last few months, there have simply been our regular donations for plants and seeds and other materials for the volunteer flower arrangers; repairs of the battery vehicles; and printing of the free Osterley Newsletter.

Ed's Note: Please see pages 3 and 4 for details of our major fundraising appeal for a new "Courtesy Bus" 



from the Editor

There are many ways in which "Friends" can help support the work of the National Trust at Osterley:

- Simply being a member – some of your subscription is left over after the administrative costs are deducted (although the Newsletter is getting more expensive!) and goes into the pot;
- Attending "Friends" events – any profit after expenses goes into the pot;
- Helping at events such as "Friends" stalls at Osterley Day;
- The 100 club – see report on page 11;
- Contributing to the "Friends" appeal for the Courtesy Bus – see article on pages 3 and 4;
- Volunteering at Osterley.

Another option for book lovers is the second-hand bookstall in the tea room at Osterley. Last year, the stall raised £2-3,000 for the Osterley Park Community Learning Fund (which funds activities by the Education Department at Osterley Park). The books are not individually priced - people are simply invited to make a contribution for a book - the sums soon mount up! You may save your old books for the "Friends" bookstall on Osterley Day but if you would like to make a donation of books (no text books or instruction manuals) to the tea room bookstall, this can be left with the car park attendant or in the volunteers' tea room.

from the Diary

"Friends" Events and Excursions

Mon 6 Oct	Excursion: Stratford-on-Avon & Hanbury Hall (fully booked)
Weds 29 Oct 7 for 7.30pm	"Friends" Autumn Reception with wine Old Brewhouse, Osterley - a talk on the Beijing 2008 Olympics
Fri 5 Dec 10.30am at Holborn	London Visit to Geffrye Museum - "Christmas Past: 400 Years of Seasonal Traditions in English Homes"
Tue 6 Jan 2009 1.45pm at Holborn	London Visit to Sir John Soane Museum - "The Adam Brothers in Rome: Drawings from the Grand Tour"

For more details about London Visits, see pages 16 and 17

Osterley Park House – a selection

until 2 Nov	House and Garden Normal summer opening times
5 Nov to 21 Dec	Tearoom and Shop Open 12 to 4 Wednesdays to Sundays
6,7,13,14,20,21 Dec	House open 12.30 to 3.30 (last entry 3pm) - Opulent 18th century Christmas on principal floor - Wartime Christmas on ground floor when House used as bank headquarters

Next newsletter due to be published in December 2008.
Any contributions to the Editor by **1 December**.
The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.