

The Friends of Osterley Park

A SUPPORTERS' GROUP FOR  THE NATIONAL TRUST

NEWSLETTER

Issue 75 WINTER 2009 £1 (free to members)

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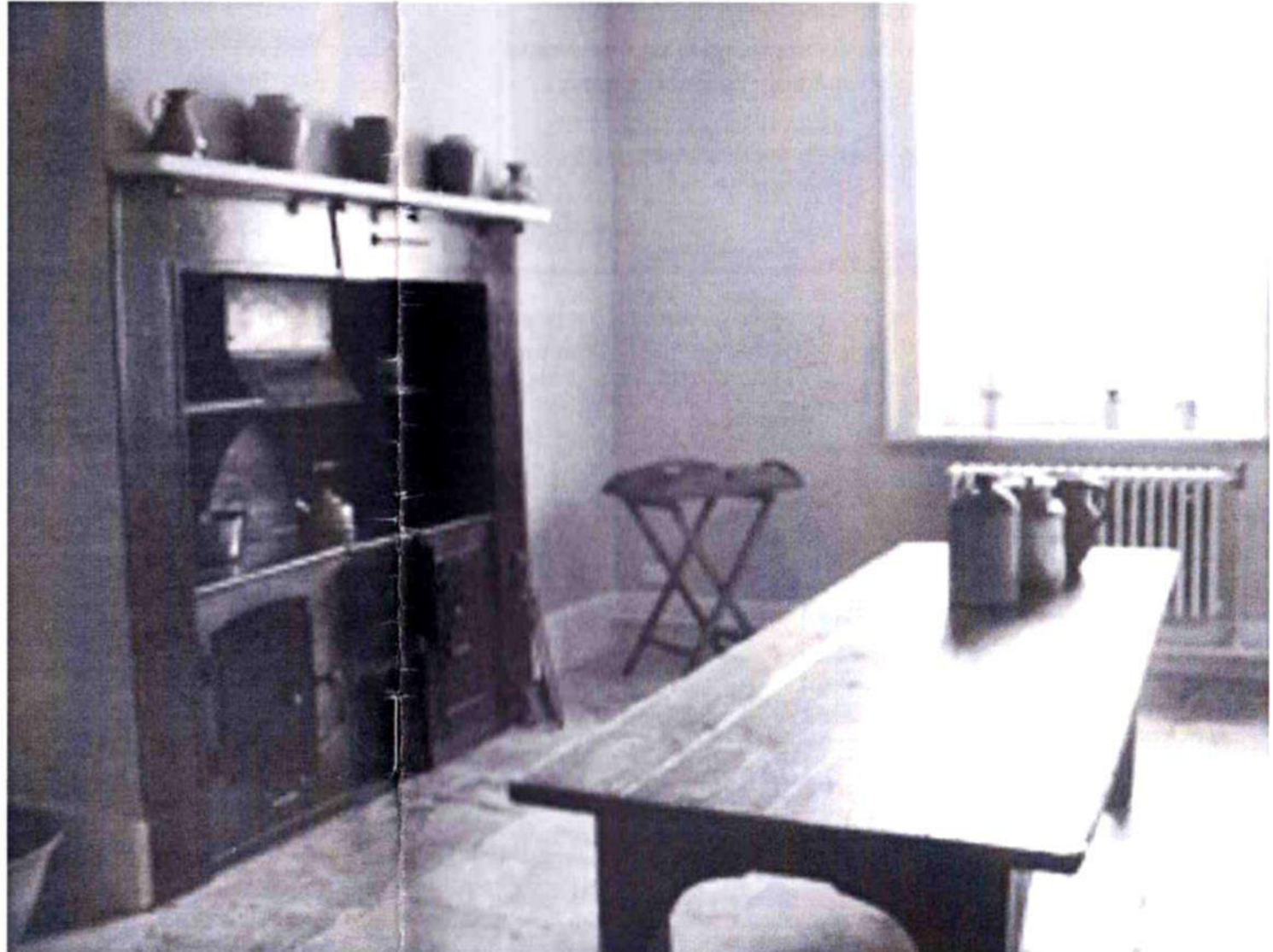
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Still Room

Osterley Park
see article on page 14
Photo John Stacey

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Wanted



Events Organiser

Do you enjoy social events and the challenge of running an event smoothly?

Are you a creative person with ideas about the sorts of events "Friends" might enjoy and would raise money for Osterley?

"Friends" Committee are looking for someone to be responsible for the planning and running of fundraising events—perhaps three in a year.

If you are interested, please speak to the Chairman, Ian Conacher, or to any of the Committee for more information.



Committee Members should be members of the National Trust.



Jim Tickle
We hope you
recover soon
from shingles

Ron Piper has not been well for most of this year



Patricia James was rushed into hospital on Friday 11 December and had surgery on the Saturday. She is now convalescing at home.



Pat, we wish you a speedy recovery

***With best wishes to all "Friends"
for the Christmas season and for 2010***



from the Chairman Ian Conacher

I am writing these notes just after the Volunteers' Christmas morning gathering with: coffee and mince pies in the Brewhouse; time to buy presents in the Trust shop; and to inspect the decorations inside the

House. During the morning I was glad to be able to hand over to the Property Manager, Sian Harrington, a "Friends" cheque for £2,973 for the purchase of a long list of items, including: costumes to be worn by House staff on special occasions such as the Masquerade Ball; a dinghy for the use of wardens maintaining the lakes (see page 9); and a whole raft of tools for the estate gardeners.

This brings the total sum contributed to the Property for this year to over £7,700: including a significant contribution to the new Courtesy Bus; and £750 for the cost



of seeds, bulbs and other materials to produce flowers for the displays in the House. The latter was paid directly to the team leader of the volunteer gardeners, Lesley Orton, who began doing this work



when the Trust took over direct management of the House in 1991. The total, since 1991, of "Friends" donations to the Trust is now approximately £75,000.

The figures for this year have been achieved by the hard work of Members of the Committee, who have supported me during the year; my thanks are due to them all. I must in particular mention our long-serving member, Jim Tickle, who has been organising trips and tours for members since 1993. Jim has budgeted carefully for these; thanks to his regular supporters, there have been few empty seats and a surplus of income over Jim's pessimistic forecasts.

My best wishes go to all members and their families for Christmas and the New Year. 🍷

from the Property Staff Changes



Some of you may have heard reference to "Sir" Alan at Osterley this year. Well, sadly, his Apprentice House Steward, **Kimberley Blount**, completes her apprenticeship with us in December and so will be leaving after the Christmas season finishes, having taken her turn in decorating Christmas trees in the Long Gallery (see left). Kimberley would like to thank all the volunteers for being such nice people and she will miss you.

Ben Griffiths, formerly Assistant Warden here has been appointed to the role of Warden and **Mark Rudd** will join as Assistant Warden in the new year. In November we said goodbye to **Max Battocchi**, one of the Gardeners, who is taking up a new post with the Harrington Project. Osterley are currently recruiting to fill this role.

Claire Eaglesham, Assistant Visitor Services Manager, left in October to move to Cumbria and **Alice Springate** has joined to take on this role. Alice lives locally in Isleworth and has a background in event management, most recently running a national pro-

gramme of test drive days for Renault at historic houses and other places of interest.

In the tea room, **Rebecca Milliam** (who has been working as a seasonal catering assistant here for a number of years) has taken on the role of Baker - Cook and will now be responsible for producing all those lovely cakes and desserts! 🍰



©NTPL/David Levenson

The Stables Tea Room

An application for listed building consent has been made to Hounslow Council for alterations to the interior of the tea room (see photos right and below for current arrangement) including the remodelling of the service counter and modern



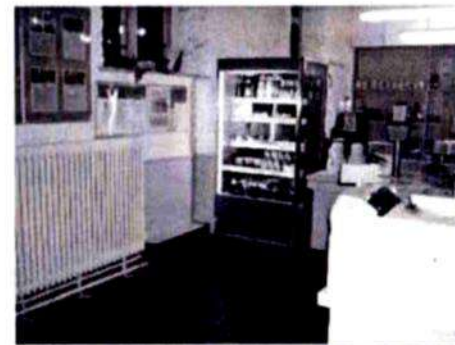
partitions at the west end. As the application mentions, with the benefit of more efficient and compact equipment for food service, storage and dishwashing, the brief (for the alterations) is threefold:

- i) To reorder the service counter at the west end of the Stables Tea Room to provide more open space for queuing, less visitor congestion at the central entrance and a faster and more accessible operation from start to finish.

- ii) To rearrange the area behind the counter in order to separate the serving of food from the return of finished food trays, for reasons of safety, efficiency and compactness.

- iii) To rationalise the dishwashing area in the northwest corner, with easier one-way circulation (ii above) and reduced visual impact of enclosing the space, in conjunction with the removal of the existing adjacent storeroom.

None of the alterations require planning permission but listed



building consent is required due to the historic importance of the building.

The deadline for objections has passed and the Trust are waiting to hear the decision of the Council—which may take some time! 🍰

Preparations for Christmas

So when did you start putting up your Christmas decorations this year? For the team of volunteer flower arrangers at Osterley, the process started at the end of November when Hilary Ranger met with property staff Louise Ayres and Hannah Purcell to discuss how the rooms were to be decorated for the Christmas opening. On Tuesday 1 December, the oases were soaked in water so that they were ready to be used on Wednesday and then volunteers came the rest of the week to make the decorations (*see below*).



Although the decorations use fresh foliage, the berries are artificial—the thought of a real juicy berry dropping on to a stone floor and being trod in is not wel-

comed by those responsible for cleaning! Similarly, irises and lilies cannot be used during the summer months because they exude a sticky substance and their pollen will stain marble.

The volunteer flower arrangers are self-sufficient—they run stalls to raise money for their materials and indeed fund special items, such as David Austin roses, for the volunteer team who grow flowers for the arrangements (in addition to the money provided by “Friends”).

When the House is open for the main season, the week for the flower arrangers starts on Tuesday when an intrepid team go out-



side in all weathers to pick flowers to be used. On Wednesday morning, a team of no more than 6 (the room they use is too small for more) prepare the flower arrangements ready for the opening of the house in the afternoon. Those for the principal rooms are pre-

pared first in case there are not enough flowers to be used—for example, during the lull between the spring and the summer flowers. The Saturday job is to top up the water and to remove any dead flowers. On Monday, Hilary clears away the arrangements and soaks the oases in the water ready for the coming week.

If you are interested in trying your hand with flower arranging, please do contact Hilary Ranger [hilaryranger@hotmail.com or 020 8568 0141] for more information.

In addition to the work of the team of volunteer flower arrangers, the staff at Osterley—with help from other volunteers—take responsibility for specific items including the garlands (*see right*) around the columns in the stairwell and the Christmas trees in the Long Gallery (*see page 2*).

Although the house has been closed for November, the time-consuming preparation of the decorations for Christmas cannot start until the week before the house opens for Christmas because of the fresh foliage



used. It is quite a communal affair with estate staff bringing the foliage into the house and other staff involved in preparing and arranging the decorations. As you can see from the top photo, sprays of foliage are tied to a rope using florist's wire to form the garlands which are then decorated. As each garland is 16 feet long, that is a



lot of foliage!!

Below stairs, the emphasis was on a wartime Christmas with ingredients for “Thrifty Christmas Pudding” (*see left*) in the kitchen. 🍷

Cowpats in the Garden?

Well, they did look like cowpats from a distance which made me wonder how cows managed to escape into the formal gardens. Those knowledgeable about funghi (or who have asked at the information point) will know



that the object (*see above*) is in fact a giant polypore growing on the remnants of the root system of a copper beech which used to grow next to the oriental plane tree.

Although the oriental plane tree (*see left*) was



planted in 1755, it is still showing encouraging signs of vigour with new shoots (*see right*) growing on the side of the tree which has more space and light with the removal of the copper beech. It is also hoped that the branches touching the ground (*see below*) will take root.

The oriental plane tree is not a native tree of England but came from Turkey or Iran. Because



the bark is shed as the tree grows, it is remarkably tolerant to pollution.

Ed's note: The comments on the oriental plane tree are from the talk given by Head Warden, Jeremy Dalton, on 21st October at the Autumn Reception. 🍄



Wei Hei Kipling

Boating on the Lake



"Friends" have donated money to buy a dinghy (specifically a "fun yak coralline") for use by the wardens in maintaining the lakes. It is hoped that the new boat will arrive in mid-January.

Competition What do you think the boat should be called? "Osterley" might be confusing while "Maid of the Lake" might be too general (and long-winded). Please submit ideas in writing to the Editor (Wei Hei Kipling—contact details on the cover or you may include a suggestion with your booking form for London Visits) by **14th January 2010**. The judges will be the warden team (as they will be using the boat) and their decision is final! 🍄

Ancient Trees on Trust Land

A three year survey of more than 40,000 ancient trees, including Newton's apple tree and the yew tree which overlooked the signing of the Magna Carta, will reveal the full extent and condition of the ancient trees cared for by the Trust.

Ancient trees provide an extremely valuable habitat hosting rare funghi, lichens and deadwood invertebrates, many of which are totally dependent on ancient trees for their survival.

By surveying these habitats and their locations, the Trust, as the most important organisation for ancient trees in the UK, will be able to ensure that there are enough replacement ancient trees for the future.

An ancient tree is one which is very old in comparison with other trees of the same species. There is no strict definition as to what age a tree must be to be considered ancient, but a 600 year old oak tree or 300 year old beech tree would qualify. Yew trees can live for several thousand years and oak and sweet chestnut for 1,000 years or more.

Ed's note: Information taken from National Trust website. 🍄

Conservation in Action Week

For those of us who had volunteered to help with conservation for the last week of the summer season in October, the week started on Monday or Tuesday when we were given training in handling, cleaning and storing metal objects (such as pokers and tongs). In addition, we learnt how to identify objects on the National Trust database and to put new allocated inventory numbers from the database on the label for each item. A small team of volunteers with the exceptional talent of being able to write very small and neatly will be completing the job of adding new inventory numbers to all the objects at Osterley by the end of January 2010.

Volunteers also helped with the dusting of books in the library during opening hours for Conservation Week. Some visitors wondered if we were "real" conservators as we were not wearing gloves—the current thinking is that the risk of damage to a book in reasonable condition is greater with a gloved hand tearing a page than with chemicals from an ungloved hand.

Visitors also saw professional conservators at work in



the State Rooms. The mirror in the Etruscan Room was cleaned and inspected by one of Tankerdale's expert conservationists and some new gold leaf gilding was applied. Conservators checked the tapestries in the Tapestry Room and found signs of grazing and holes caused by woolly bears (carpet beetles). In some upper parts of the room, there was damage only on the dark red parts of the



©NTPL/Bill Batten

tapestry, possibly due to a dye in the wool which the pests prefer. The house staff will be monitoring the situation closely, particularly in late March when carpet beetle grubs are more likely to appear. The pest damage, although undesirable, is slight and containable. 📖

from the 100 Club

Ron Piper

The second draw for this competition was held on 21st October at the Autumn Reception. The winners were:

- £100 Mr & Mrs James
- £ 60 Mr & Mrs Bignell
- £ 40 Mr & Mrs Huffer
- £ 20 Mrs W Coombe
- £ 10 Mrs L Barlow



The third draw for this competition took place at the Christmas Concert on 12th December. Congratulations go to the following:



- £100 Mrs M Martin
- £ 60 Mr H W Rogers
- £ 40 Mrs A Stead
- £ 25 Mr P Howard
- £ 15 Mrs R Warne

150 shares have now been taken up. More details in the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, may I wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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

Williams & Glyn

Wei Hei Kipling

Following the paragraph in the Autumn 2009 newsletter, readers may be interested to note an announcement on 3rd November that: The European Commission and HM Treasury have agreed in principle that RBS will reduce its presence in the UK banking sector. The UK divestment will include RBS England and Wales (originally Williams & Glyn's) branches ... the "Williams & Glyn's" brand name will also be available to an acquirer.

We wait to see what happens. 📖



*A Maid Sewing
Servants' Hall, Osterley Park*

*Photograph John Stacey
(see article on page 14)*

Servants at Osterley

(see photographs on cover and centre spread)

Margaret Friday

The pictures taken by John Stacey for this newsletter illustrate scenes from below stairs showing the servants' hall and the still room used by the head housekeeper, Rachael Holmes to preserve fruits and to make jams, jellies and pickles.

The Servants' Hall is believed to have been the Chapel in Thomas Gresham's original house where he entertained Elizabeth I. The arched proportions of the room are not the only clue. We know from recent excavations at Greenwich that the chapel there in the Tudor palace had the same black and white flooring as we see in the Osterley Servants' Hall. Gresham may have planned it to look like the chapel at Greenwich just as he was inspired by the Queen's stables at Hampton Court when building the Osterley stables. In the 16th century it would have been usual for a great house to have its own chapel. With the coming of the enlightenment and the changes made to Osterley by Nicholas Barbon and the Child family culminating in Robert Adam's neoclassical house, the need for a chapel ended. The chapel, with the addition of a large fireplace became a comfortable Servants' Hall with two large tables and form seating. Osterley was one of the first houses in the country to have a system of bells for calling servants and this was certainly installed by 1780 so that servants could be summoned easily and quickly when required elsewhere in the house.

We have various lists of servants for Osterley over the years. Mr. Edward Bunce was Robert Child's steward: he looked after the Osterley estate, collected rents from local farmers who worked the estate land, arranged building works, disciplined staff and handled all accounts on behalf of Robert Child. Mr Bunce was also responsible for ensuring that Robert Child's other properties in Berkeley Square and Upton Park were looked after. Mr and Mrs Bunce did not live in the house or on the estate but in a house nearby.

Mrs. Bunce used the room next door to the estate office as her room. It included cupboards with hooks and wig stands as well as a hidden safe, comfortable armchairs, a seascape, plus several tables probably used when the Bunces dined with the other senior house staff.

We know that Mrs. Bunce ordered and arranged for payment for

mourning clothes to be worn by all the staff following Robert Child's death in July 1782. It was the Bunces' job to pay the servants at Osterley and they kept receipts which staff signed when they were paid. Bunce would have reported the number of manservants and later maidservants on whom the servant tax was levied.

From 1780 the government introduced a tax on manservants of £1/1- a guinea a year. In 1782 the Childs paid £23/2/0 tax for 22 manservants at Osterley. In his article *English servants and their employers during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries*, Leonard Schwarz shows that in Middlesex there were 2,680 untitled employers of manservants employing between 5 and 6 servants each. In Westminster, 1797 untitled employers employed 7 to 8 manservants. The Child family would have been included in this number. Compared with their neighbours in Berkeley Square and in Middlesex the Child family employed a large number of manservants bearing in mind that they were a family of just three.

In 1786, a tax on female servants was introduced. However, while manservants were often used to display one's wealth and sumptuous lifestyle, female servants were employed by ordinary people to help look after the children, do the cooking or laundry and be a general helper in the household. The female servants' tax proved to be a great burden on the people, it was difficult to collect and failed to provide the predicted returns the government had expected so was discontinued after 1792. The Man Servant Tax was not repealed until the Finance Act of 1937!

During the eighteenth century several noted authors wrote about servants in England. Daniel Defoe wrote *Behaviour of Servants* in 1724. Jonathan Swift published *Directions to Servants* in 1745. Two feelings were prevalent early in the century.

1. Servants have forced wages up to a ridiculous rate (Defoe) and
2. Charges of insubordination, insolence and luxurious living were made (Swift)

Fielding and Richardson wrote novels in which footmen and chambermaids were portrayed as heroes, but John Townley's play *High Life Below Stairs* led to riots by footmen in Edinburgh.

Servants who were house staff at Osterley lived in and were thus provided with a home and food plus a salary. (Names and salaries of servants come from *Sans Coronet* by Lissa Chapman, 2009.)

(Continued on page 16)

Senior house staff had their own furnished rooms – these included the butler, James Allen, paid £42 per year; Robert Child's valet William Arnold, and the housekeeper, Rachael Holmes. Rachael Holmes had the room next to the still room as her bed sitting room giving her access to the still room where she preserved fruits and vegetables and made jams and pickles for use in the Child's elaborate dinner parties. She was paid £25 per year. William Arnold's room had two beds, two chests of drawers, a chair, a table and a mirror. It is thought that he would share his room with the valet of any important guest. Mr Gunter, who was in charge of the estate workers at Osterley, also had his own room. These rooms were all below stairs in the house. Three housemaids, paid £9 per year, shared a room next to the still room and three footman, paid £16 per annum plus £1/10/- for ruffles, shared a room next to the kitchen. Other servants had rooms over the laundry, the brew house and in the stable block. Mrs Child's lady's maid, Mary Kitchman, slept outside Mrs Child's bedroom door in the corridor joining bedroom to dressing room on a truckle bed so that she could be called at anytime.

As most servants in the 18th century, apart from footmen, did not wear uniforms the social stigma found in the 19th century did not occur. As P J .Grosley observed in *A tour of London* in 1772 "all domestics of the citizens are dressed in plain but good clothes and insolence is not the characteristic of any in that station of life".

The Child family provided each of the manservants with a good suit of clothes once a year. Winter coats and shoes were provided for work out of doors and footmen had a new blue liveried uniform with gold epaulets and hats with gold braid every year in addition to their pay. Female servants had to supply their own clothes but were often helped out with gifts of cloth which could be made up or clothes handed down from the ladies of the house.

An improvement in the life style of servants so complained of by Swift and Defoe and the phasing out of vails (tips paid to directly to servants by visitors) led to improved relationships between servants and their employers by the 1780s.

Before that time De Saussure, a man of moderate means, told Lord Southwell when invited to dinner at his house "In truth, my lord, I am not rich enough take soup with you often. His Lordship under-

stood my meaning and smiled." *The World* in 1752 reported that those who came to dinner and were known to be less than generous with their vails found that when the serving platter reached them they were forced to eat mutton with fish sauce and pickles with apple pie and their wine glass was filled with a mixture of the whole sideboard served in a greasy glass. I suspect that the immensely wealthy Child family would not have permitted such behaviour from the staff. Edward Bunce is on record as having taken legal action against at least one staff member who proved unsatisfactory. Often the staff stayed with the Child family for many years. This was unusual. John MacDonald, a valet, wrote an account of his life in service after having 28 masters in 32 years. The idea was to seek a better position. MacDonald was usually paid £15 or £20 per year but some masters allowed him to have two suits of clothes made, or gave him 12 pairs of silk stockings and a £2 allowance for tea. In contrast, William Arnold, Robert Child's valet was paid £36/15/- per year plus suits of clothes and had his own room at Osterley and Berkeley Square. Richard Gillam was the groom in 1782 when Sarah Ann eloped and he was still there in 1787.

Sarah Ann's lady's maid Mary Eldred helped her plan her elopement and was still with her until her death in 1793. Mary must have seen John Fane, Earl of Westmorland as an attractive match. Men who were courting complained that their only access to a lady was via her maid who passed on letters and arranged for meetings. If the maid did not favour you your chances were greatly reduced. Families with a single daughter often chose a lady's maid of similar age to be a friend and companion. Mary served as Sarah Ann's friend even after her death, preventing sailors from throwing Sarah Ann's coffin overboard in the rough Irish Sea, thus ensuring that Sarah Ann was buried in England.

I shall close with a quote from Dorothy Marshall's article "Domestic servants in the eighteenth century" published in *Economica*, April 1929. "The number of persons employed in domestic service was very considerable, and though masters may have been difficult and exacting, the servants show every mark of independence; a state of cowed submission was very far from being their lot, on the contrary, they seem to have been quite capable of securing their own interests and a reasonable standard of life. In short, domestic service was by no means the Cinderella of the occupations of the poor. ❏

London Visits Spring 2010 Wei Hei Kipling

For those who have not yet been on a London Visit, perhaps I should explain my approach and reasoning.

"London Visits" arose from the "London Walks" organised by blue badge guide Doris Sherwood. Not having the knowledge and experience of Doris, I did not feel that I could guide a walk myself, but I thought that I could co-ordinate a group visit. The advantages of a group visit are many:

Company of like-minded people for an enjoyable social event;

Possibility of going into a place that might not otherwise be open to individual members of the public often or at all (Spencer House or indeed the former Admiralty Residence we visited in July);

Option of a guided tour which might not be available to individuals.

The demarcation between London Visits and Jim's Excursions is that we travel by public transport so, for example, Rainham Hall on the other side of London was in scope because we could travel there by train from Fenchurch Street (and the cost was covered by the Freedom Pass!). People attending London Visits do therefore need to be able to get to a central London tube station meeting point and then to travel to the property of interest using the arrangements given (perhaps just a walk or using a bus or train). On the other hand, the timings given do include an allowance for sorting ourselves out once we arrive so if you are concerned about the time allowed for a walk, please do check the details with me.

Our first visit in 2010 will be to the Goldsmiths' Hall on Monday 11th January. Details of that were set out in the Autumn 2009 Newsletter – there were still a few spaces at the beginning of December. If you would like to join us, please 'phone me (Wei Hei—contact details on cover) to check availability.

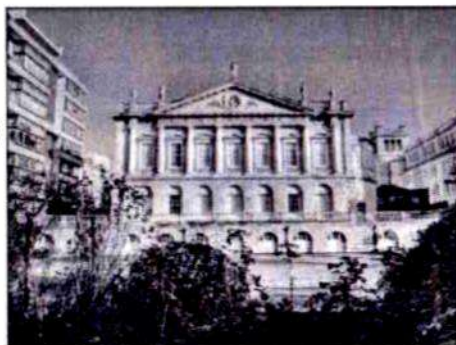


Photo: Rich Lewis (flickr)

From its conception, Spencer House (*see previous page*) was recognised as one of the most ambitious aristocratic town houses ever built in London and is, today, the city's only great 18th-century private palace to survive intact. "Friends" have the opportunity to visit Spencer House on Monday 8th February for an exclusive one-hour guided tour. **Please book by 14th January 2010.** Cost (including £1 donation to "Friends"): adults £10, concessions £8 (including senior citizens, Friends of the RA, Members of the V&A, Tate Members—please bring relevant ID)

Meeting arrangements: 10.15am at Green Park tube station (on the south side of Piccadilly for Green Park) to walk to Spencer House to arrive at 10.30am for a 10.45am tour. No refreshments available at property.



Photo: Alan Stanton (flickr)

The Foundling Museum (*see left*) tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children, and of three major figures in British history: its founder, philanthropist Thomas Coram; the artist William Hogarth; and the composer George Frideric Handel. This

remarkable collection of art, period interiors and social history is now housed in a restored and refurbished building adjacent to the original site of the Hospital, demolished in 1928.

A guided tour (45 mins to 1 hour) of the Museum has been arranged for Tuesday 2nd March and "Friends" will have the opportunity to look around the Museum at their own pace afterwards. Cost: Art Fund Members £4 (first £50 to cover cost of guide and then donation to "Friends") others £9 (extra £5 entrance fee).

Meeting arrangements: 2.45pm at Russell Square tube station (at street level) to walk to the Foundling Museum for 3pm tour. Refreshments not included in cost but there is a café on site. ☺

Excursions 2010

Healthwise, this year for me has been something of a disaster and, as I write, I'm slowly recovering from a long, debilitating attack of shingles. I am anxious to meet the Newsletter deadline, so please forgive me if my column is much briefer than usual.

Firstly, as you will have noticed from the enclosed Booking Form, the 2010 six-day break will be based at Nottingham University from Monday, 30th August to Saturday, 4th September. The programme for the week is not yet finalised, but again we will offer a

varied selection of National Trust, English Heritage and other places of interest in the East Midland counties, including a visit to Lincoln and its spectacular Cathedral (see above and interior below). Graeme is expecting to take delivery of his new 53-seater



Photo: gothick_matt (flickr)

coach in the summer, so please get your booking in early, as I hope to fill the bus and close the list by the end of February.

As for the monthly day-trips, the first will be on Friday, 9th April to historic **Framlingham Castle** (see page 21 above), owned by English Heritage, in Suffolk. Built in the 12th century by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk and one of the most influential people at the court of the Plantagenet kings, it became the centre of the struggle between the barons and the Crown. A

Jim Tickle



Photo: Foto43 (flickr)

display in the Poorhouse illustrates this struggle for power and also tells the tragic stories of family members, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. Mary Tudor mustered her supporters at Framlingham in 1553, before being crowned Queen. At the end of the 16th century the castle became a prison. Later, a Poorhouse was built within the walls and it was still in use until 1839.

The rest of the day-trips will be published fully in the next edition of the members' Newsletter, but the basic programme is most likely to be as follows:

Monday, 17 th May	Uppark, West Sussex (NT)	£14.40
Monday, 14 th June	Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire	£13.50
Wednesday, 14 th July	Kingston Lacy, Dorset (NT)	£15.10
Thursday, 5 th August	Wrest Park Gardens, Beds (EH)	£12.30
Tuesday, 5 th October	to be arranged	

You should enter these dates in your diary, but please do not send any money until you receive the booking form in March. ☺



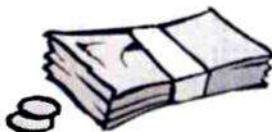
Blenheim Palace



© English Heritage Photo Library

Donations to Osterley

Ed's note: see "from the Chairman" on page 3 for summary of donations for 2009. 📄



from the Editor

I must apologise to the team of volunteer flower arrangers for suggesting, in the Autumn 2009 newsletter, that they receive donations from "Friends". In fact, as reported on page 6 of this newsletter, they are self-sufficient—covering all their own costs and providing funds for particular plants in the garden that they would like to use in their arrangements.

One good result of this mistake was that I was invited by Hilary Ranger to join the team one morning to find out what they did and the result is part of the article on "Preparations for Christmas".

So, is there something you do relating to Osterley which you think might be of interest to other "Friends"? Or is there some aspect of Osterley that has not yet been covered in this newsletter which you and other "Friends" want to read about? As with the volunteer flower arrangers, I would be happy to spend some time chatting to you or your group if that would be easier for you than writing an article yourself. Please do feel free to get in contact and make suggestions so that I know what to put in the newsletter.

I should add my thanks to the staff at Osterley for their patience, co-

operation, willingness to write emails in response to my many questions and to chat things over so that I can find out news and information which may be of interest to you the reader!!

(see right for Christmas table in Entrance Hall) 📄



from the Diary

"Friends" Events and Excursions

Mon 11th Jan	London Visit: Goldsmiths' Hall (details Autumn 2009 newsletter phone Wei Hei to check availability)
Thu 14th Jan	Closing date for entries for boat name (page 9)
Thu 14th Jan	Deadline for booking London Visit Spencer House
Mon 8th Feb	London Visit: Spencer House
Tue 2nd Mar	London Visit: Foundling Museum
Fri 9th Apr	Excursion: Framlingham Castle
Mon 30th Aug	Coach tour—East Midlands
To Sat 4th Sep	details—see page 20 and booking form

For details of London Visits – see pages 18 to 19

For details of Excursions—see pages 20 to 21 and booking form

Advance Warning

Mon 17th May	Excursion: Uppark, West Sussex (NT)
Mon 14th Jun	Excursion: Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire
Wed 14th Jul	Excursion: Kingston Lacy, Dorset (NT)
Thu 5th Aug	Excursion: Wrest Park Gardens, Beds (EH)
Tue 5th Oct	Excursion: to be arranged

Osterley Park House

Wed 3rd Mar	House open Wed to Sun
to Sun 31st Oct	12noon to 4.30pm (last entry 4pm)

Next newsletter due to be published in March 2010.

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

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.