

# The Friends of Osterley Park



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 77 SUMMER 2010 £1 (free to members)

### Useful contacts

#### Chairman

Ian Conacher  
020 8560 8523

#### Membership Secretary

John James  
020 8232 8683

#### Newsletter Editor

Wei Hei Kipling  
020 8840 5939  
28 Airedale Road  
London W5 4SD  
kiplings@tiscali.co.uk

18th century dressing up clothes  
Osterley Park  
see article on page 14  
Photo: John Stacey

Printed by:  
Colormax (West Ealing)  
020 8566 1155



## Lakeview Coffee Shop

Wei Hei Kipling

The Lakeview Coffee Shop was a welcome sight after my busy afternoon taking photographs in and around Osterley for the newsletter on a hot and sunny Friday afternoon in June.

The lease for the kiosk by the car park, now called



the "Lakeview Coffee Shop", has been taken by Barry and Sheila from the Park Café in Thornbury Road while Jo (*in the picture above*) is responsible for day-to-day running. The Shop replaces the ice-cream van which parked by the car park and sold ice-cream in recent years but had the disadvantage of having to run a noisy diesel engine to provide electricity to keep the ice-cream frozen.



The Shop is open 7 days a week from 10am to about 5 or 6 in the evening depending on weather and custom. In addition to ice-cream, the Shop sells hot and cold drinks (including milkshakes and Lavazza coffee), fresh sandwiches, crisps and other snacks, chocolate and muffins. A seating area (*see left*)

is available by the willow tree by the lake for those who want to sit down to enjoy their refreshments.

The Shop already has regular customers and sales of ice-cream in this weather have gone well. As for me, I enjoyed very much my Movenpick pistachio flavoured ice-cream. Delicious!! 🍦



## from the Chairman Ian Conacher

I write under some pressure as Audrey and I are at present immersed in the stressful business of house-moving. We had discussed this change for some time, were persuaded by our son and daughter to

look at a small "retirement flat" close by, and decided "to go for it." We are finding the business of "downsizing" after fifty two years of accumulating clutter rather stressful!

We were able to spend a few hours in Osterley Park in April and also attended the AGM in May—but since then we have had little time to spare. We are planning to move before the end of June.

### Ron Piper

One sad outing was to attend the funeral of Ron Piper at the beginning of April. Ron was among the first volunteers recruited as a room steward by the National Trust when they took over management of Osterley from the Victoria and Albert Museum in early 1991. He soon graduated to "front of house" duties, greeting visitors on arrival. He was also one of the first volunteers to join the team offering visitors with walking difficulties the use of a self-drive battery car to enable them to explore the Park.

Ron also took over the management of the Friends "100 Club" founded by John Robertson. He ran this for several years, producing a useful revenue stream for the benefit of the Friends and adding to our support for the Trust.



A selection of the 100 Club balls made by Ron Piper which will continue to be used for draws by the Friends.  
Photo: Douglas Craik

(Continued on page 4)

Ron was an active supporter of his local Scout Group in Northolt, particularly at their fundraising events: his funeral was attended by Scouts in uniform carrying their flags.

His cheerful face will be much missed at Osterley.

*Ed's note: Due to the inevitable time lag between the newsletter being sent to the printer and being received by Friends, I heard the news of Ron Piper's death after I had commented on his final article on the 100 Club in the Spring 2010 newsletter. I apologise for any hurt this may have caused.* 🏠

## Williams & Glyn

Wei Hei Kipling



The offer for sale by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) earlier this year of 318 branches (including Child & Co.) under the Williams & Glyn brand initially attracted interest from, among others, Santander, National Australia Bank, Spain's BBVA, and Virgin Money, part of Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Group VA.UL. After the initial flurry of interest, Santander were recently confirmed as the only bidder with an offer of up to £1.8 billion.

It will be interesting to see how this offer progresses. On the one hand, RBS have to sell the 318 branches (or some equivalent) to comply with EU regulations because of the help they have received from British taxpayers. On the other hand, Santander already own Abbey, Alliance & Leicester and Bradford & Bingley. The addition of the Williams & Glyn business—1.8 million British retail customers as well as 230,000 small business accounts and 1,200 larger corporate customers—would make it a major player in the UK bank market with 14% of the mortgage market and 10% of retail savings. Will this sale comply with the current political thinking that there should be more competition in the UK banking sector? And what would the Child family have thought about all this? 🏠

## from the 100 Club

The first draw of the new competition was held at the AGM on Wednesday 19 May.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| £100 | Mr D Blackett   |
| £40  | Mrs B Robertson |
| £20  | Mr B Shephard   |
| £10  | Mr N G S Clark  |
| £5   | Mrs B Thorp     |



Unusually (but pleasantly) the 2 top winners were there and able to receive their cheques in person.

At the time of the first draw, 110 shares had been sold with a total of 90 owners (the maximum number of shares owned by one person was 4). There are still three draws to come and membership is available for £9 per share for the rest of this competition. If anyone wishes to join, rejoin or increase their holding in the 100 Club, please send your cheque made payable to "Friends of Osterley" to:

John James (Membership Secretary, Parkfield Cottage, Osterley Road, Isleworth, TW7 4PF)

with your name, address and telephone number and an SAE for your membership card and the rules of the competition.

Those Friends who have not yet paid their subscription to the "Friends" for the current year will receive with this newsletter a reminder and can send just one cheque to cover both their annual subscription and their 100 Club share(s).

It is expected that the other draws in this competition will be held as follows:


- No. 2 at the Autumn Reception on Wednesday 20 October;
- No. 3 just before Christmas; and
- No. 4 at a Volunteers' training session in early 2011.

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

## from the Property

### Staff Changes

**Karina Swann** started here at the end of March as Visitor Experience and Marketing Manager and is involved with volunteer groups and training.

**Fenella Hunt**, the new Learning Officer, has been doing lots of school and craft cart activities (see right). 




### Opening Hours



It is too early to say whether the longer hours are having an impact on visitor numbers as it always takes time for such changes to filter into the public consciousness. Do encourage all your family and friends to make use of the longer opening hours.

The current arrangement for room guides is that the House can open with six volunteer room guides on

duty from 12noon to 4.30pm (with a 30mins lunch break). One to three volunteers on duty from 1pm to 3pm provide tea / lunch relief while additional rooms can be opened if more volunteers are available, possibly from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. The disadvantage of this arrangement is that the rooms on the principal floor have to be allocated to the first six volunteers available from 12noon to make sure that they are open when the House is open while volunteers who sign up later take rooms on the ground or second floor. This has caused some grumbling from volunteers who are not allocated the rooms in which they prefer to guide.


The staff are attempting to rectify this problem and have started to trial an arrangement in which volunteers change rooms after their lunch / tea breaks. This option does, however, depend on there being enough volunteers available to provide the necessary cover so that everyone can have a break at a reasonable hour. 

## The Stables Tea Room

Visitors to Osterley at the beginning of the season in March will remember a temporary tea room in the Old Brew House while the Stables Tea Room was closed for building work. The new improved Tea Room is now open and feedback so far is positive. There were a few niggles



The larger serving area in the Tea Room

to begin with but the staff have sorted many things out and there are now lots of good comments from visitors. The work is ongoing and there are still a few issues to be ironed out: the dishwasher has been particularly temperamental so for a while all dishes had to be done by hand; and what to do about a queue forming because of people waiting for hot meals (though this is a problem encountered everywhere). 


## from the NT Shop



### Special Offer

£10 reduced from £30

"Treasures from the National Trust" with stunning photographs of a range of priceless objects held in the Trust's historic properties (offer while stocks last). From Osterley are shown Gaspard Pousin's *Classical Landscape*, the tapestries and the state bed.

Also in stock are the new range of 2011 diaries and calendars. 

## from the Lake



Visitors to Osterley over the past few weeks may have seen swathes of yellow and green floating on the lake (see above). The green is algae—an increased amount due to warm, sunny days and high nutrient levels in the lake. Excessive algae in the lake creates many problems: blocking drainage; preventing sunlight from reaching plants growing at the bottom of the lake; reducing oxygen levels in the water; as well as being an eyesore. The yellow is barley straw, added by the wardens, which decomposes in the water to produce chemicals which inhibit the growth of the algae. (Our

boat “Marigold” was used by the wardens to ferry the straw out into the middle of the lake.)

One cause of high nutrient levels in the lake and therefore of algae is the bread thrown to the ducks which sinks to the bottom of the lake. There are now notices by the lake to discourage visitors from feeding bread to the ducks and geese and suggesting the healthier option of grain available from a number of places including the Osterley farm shop. 🍞



## London Visits Autumn '10 Wei Hei Kipling

The Company of Watermen and Lightermen was established by Act of Parliament in 1555 to control the Watermen on the River Thames responsible for the movement of goods and passengers. The present Hall (see below) dates back to 1780 and remains the only original Georgian Hall in the City of London. It was designed by William Blackburn and is, according to their website, a perfect example of eighteenth century domestic architecture.

A guided tour of the **Watermen's Hall** has been arranged for Mon-



day 20 September. Cost: £13 (£11 to Watermen's; £2 to Friends) to include tea and coffee. Meeting arrangements: 10.10am at Monument tube station (exit at street level on King William Street) to walk to Watermen's Hall for 10.30am to start tour of 1 1/2 hours.

Our October visit on Monday 25 October will give you the opportunity to visit Horace Walpole's **Strawberry Hill** (see right and article on page 10) after its two year restoration. Cost: £15 (£12.70 to Strawberry Hill; £2.30 to Friends) including tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. **Please book by Tuesday 12 October.** Meeting arrangements: 10.10am at Richmond train station (by ticket barrier) to catch 10.29am train to Strawberry Hill station to arrive at Strawberry Hill for

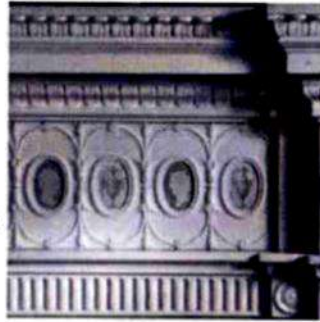


11am (if you prefer to make your own way to Strawberry Hill, please indicate on booking form - there is limited parking although disabled spaces can be booked in advance). 🍞

## Walpole and Adam

My reason for choosing Strawberry Hill as a suitable place for a London Visit was Horace Walpole's comments about Osterley, in particular, his criticisms of the State Apartment. Here, I thought, would be an opportunity for us to visit Horace Walpole's property and to give our opinion about his architectural efforts in return. I was therefore surprised to find that Horace Walpole

### Wei Hei Kipling



©NTPL/Bill Batten

had commissioned Robert Adam in 1766 to design a ceiling and a chimney piece in the gothic style for Strawberry Hill (which we should be able to see in the Round Room on our London Visit on Monday 25 October—see page 9).

So what did Walpole think of Robert Adam and his work?

John Wilton-Ely points out, in his 2001 essay "Gingerbread and snippets of embroidery" that Walpole's reaction to Adam's early work at Syon and Osterley was one of admiration. Of Adam's initial work at Osterley, Walpole wrote in June 1773:

"There is a double portico that fills the space between the towers at the front, and is as noble as the Propyleum of Athens .. a drawing room worthy of Eve before the Fall ..."

But when Walpole came to see the State Apartment in 1778, he was very dismissive. He liked the Tapestry Room (*see above*):

"except that he [Adam] has stuck diminutive heads in bronze, no bigger than a half-crown, into the chimney-piece's hair".

The State Bed, with its eight columns, he considered:

"too theatric and too like a modern head-dress, for round the outside of the dome are festoons of artificial flowers."

As for the Etruscan Room, Walpole wrote:

"I never saw such a profound tumble into the Bathos. It is going out of a palace into a potter's yard."

Wilton-Ely suggests that that the background to Walpole's change

in attitude may lie in the Adam brothers' response to the changing architectural climate of the 1770s. In the previous decade, the Adam brothers had been very successful in their country house commissions and had successfully challenged their rivals William Chambers and James 'Athenian' Stuart. The 1770s brought a new younger rival, James Wyatt, while the Adam brothers themselves were in financial trouble arising from their speculations in the Adelphi.

The Adam style therefore developed further with new ideas to compete with the new rival and also with a lavish book to publicise the new ideas. However, the tone of the book was considered by some to be self-congratulatory and arrogant with its boast of:

"We have not trod in the paths of others, nor derived aid from their labours. In the works which we have had the honor to execute, we have not only met with the approbation of our employers, but even with the imitation of other artists.."

Overall, Walpole's epithets indicate that he felt the Adam brothers' later use of ornamentation to be excessive and too delicate:

"Adam ... is all gingerbread, filigraine and fan painting."

Moreover, Walpole knew what he considered appropriate styles of architecture for different types of building: the classical was suitable for grand buildings such as his father's neo-Palladian Houghton Hall (and presumably the external portico at Osterley [*see below*]) but not for his own smaller property of Strawberry Hill. :

"Columns and all their beautiful ornaments look ridiculous when crowded into a closet or a cheese-cake house."



So Walpole's attitude to Adam may be consistent if we take into account his opinion that not all styles of architecture are appropriate for all settings and that the Adam style did change over the years. 🏛️



*18th century dressing up  
clothes, Osterley Park*

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

## 18th Century Dressing up at Osterley

(see photographs on cover and centre spread)

Margaret Friday

For the summer newsletter we are featuring the costumes funded by The Friends and made by Annie Kelly for the dressing-up box in Mr. Child's dressing room. Annie is an historical costumier and has previously made dressing-up clothes for Sutton House as well as costumes for historical plays.



Gertrude, Viscountess Villiers (1750-93) - from corridor of Child suite

John has taken pictures of Kate and Judith showing us two examples of the fine clothes that the Child family and their wealthy guests would have worn between 1760 and 1785. After 1770 this very decorative style of dress for men became less fashionable as jackets became smaller and tighter and waistcoats plainer. The ladies would have displayed less lace with frills and furbelows after 1785 but here our dressing up clothes are inviting you to dress in the fashions designed to show off your great riches and perfect sense of style.

It was important to "make an entrance" ap-

pearing framed by the doorway as if portrayed in a Reynolds or Gainsborough portrait. The elegant white and gold door surrounds which match the rooms on the principal floor at Osterley make beautiful frames for making that very important grand entrance.

Our pictures show Kate wearing a fine silk gown with lace at the neck, on the sleeves and decorating the dress front. Silk bows grace the sleeves and the front of the dress. The dress is long with padding at the sides to reflect the panniers that would have been worn from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until about 1780. After that time more rounded dresses became fashionable unless the invitation was from Queen Charlotte. Any lady invited to formal royal occasions was expected by the Queen to wear large panniered gowns. This fashion requirement persisted throughout her life from 1760 when she became queen until she died in 1818!

Judith is attired as a gentleman dressed for an important occasion during the afternoon or the evening. The shirt made of expensive imported cotton has lace on the sleeves and an elaborate lace cra-

vat. The waistcoat is long and made of exquisite brocade with an intricate design. Waistcoats were often embroidered in gold or silver and the waistcoat fastened with gold buttons. The frock coat or jacket is made of silk. This would have been worn with elegant white silk stockings and knee breeches. Black shoes with large buckles were worn. When attending important events men wore white powdered wigs often curled on the sides and tied at the back with a black ribbon.



Allan Ramsey's "A Young Man" from the Breakfast Room

Kate and Judith have not copied the wearing of wigs but Judith wears a tricorne hat. They appear just as our visitors do when they discover the dressing-up box and explore its contents by trying on the various costumes.

Last year many children delighted in the chance to dress as Sarah Anne and her friends who visited Osterley would have done. Many grown-ups who visited the house wanted to see themselves as Robert and Sarah Child and often wished that they could dress up too. Now, through the generosity of The Friends of Osterley, everyone can enjoy the chance to view themselves beautifully dressed for a grand afternoon or evening at Osterley Park House. Friends are invited to come to Robert Child's dressing room and bring along anyone of any age who enjoys dressing-up. Once dressed admire yourself in the mirror and pose for a photograph in front of the eighteenth century fireplace or in the doorway. Do not forget to bring your camera as John Stacey may not be on hand to record how superb you look dressed in grand 18<sup>th</sup> century style. 📷



## Adam's Tapestry Room Wei Hei Kipling

Robert Adam was not enamoured of Paris, writing to his brother James on 27 December 1755:

“As to all your objections concerning your seeing Paris ..., they don't signify a farthing, as if you once saw them you would wish you never had, as they do much harm and no good.”

So, if this was Robert Adam's attitude to Paris, what inspired him to design a Tapestry Room at Osterley in “the French style”?

First of all, it would not have been business-like for a dislike of



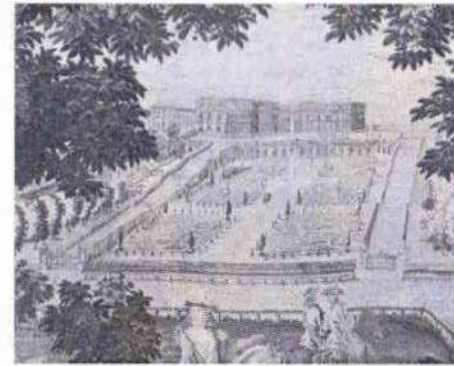
©NTPL/Dennis Gilbert

France to prevent Adam from making use of French goods or ideas. In the period 1720-1770, according to Peter Thornton:

“The French had the monopoly when it came to luxury wares – furniture, carpets, soft-paste porcelain, tapestries – and when any other country entered the luxury field, it was almost always French wares that were imitated.”

It appears likely the chairs for the Tapestry Room (*see above*) had a basic French design (with an oval back) but were made by John Linnell or another English craftsman while the glass for the pier glasses in the Tapestry Room and the Bedchamber may have been imported from France.

Secondly, the Gobelins tapestry works in Paris were looking for private customers and had worked out a design and a process which allowed good quality tapestries of variable size to be created. The Gobelins manufactory (which derived its name from a family who had set up a dye manufactory on the same site in about 1440) was originally set up in 1662 to supply tapestries to the King of France.



©NTPL/John Hammond

In 1667, this remit was widened as “The Royal Factory for the Furnishings of the Crown” was established to contribute furniture of all kinds as well as tapestries to the decoration and furnishing of the royal palaces such as Versailles (*see left for detail of Gobelins tapestry now at Anglesey Abbey showing*

*Versailles*). The factory was closed in 1694 and reopened in 1699 but only with the tapestry workshops.

The new design that allowed for variation in size was the setting of the main pictures in medallions (*see below two medallions in a tapestry at Osterley*). A tapestry design was copied from a “cartoon” - a full size painting or drawing normally on paper so a different size tapestry of the same picture required a new cartoon. With the use of medallions, the main subjects (painted by famous artists such as François Boucher) could be supplied in a fixed size to fit within a medallion and the remainder of the tapestry could be filled with “alentours” - ornamental surrounds consisting of simulated damask, flowers, animals and the like—whose cartoons could be produced



©NTPL/Bill Batten

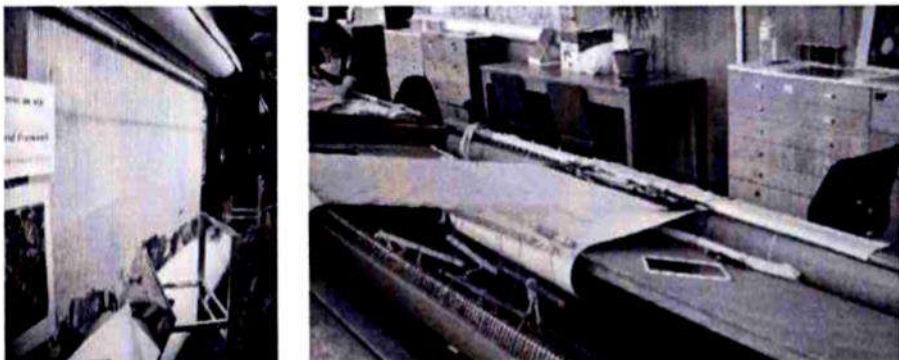
(Continued on page 18)

## Adam's Tapestry Room

(Continued from page 17)

by less prestigious artists.

Another important development was the improvement in the weaving of tapestry in the workshop for horizontal (*basse lisse*) looms



Vertical loom (left) and horizontal loom (right) at Gobelins workshop  
© 2004 David Monniaux under GNU Free Documentation License

under its director Jacques Neilson. Previously, vertical looms were able to produce work of a higher quality than horizontal looms but at a slower pace because the vertical loom weaver had to use his hands to separate the warp threads before the weft (design) threads could be passed through. In contrast, horizontal looms included a foot-operated mechanism to separate the warp threads so that both weaver's hands could concentrate on weaving the design. The improvements in the process meant that horizontal looms could produce as high a quality tapestries as vertical looms but at lower cost.

Good quality tapestries that could be produced to whatever size was required to provide covering of all walls of a room (an English custom not shared by the French according to Eileen Harris) were very attractive to the English. Robert Adam was asked by the Francophile Lord Coventry in 1763 to design a setting at Croome Court for a set of Boucher-Neilson tapestries from Gobelins.

Might the Scots origin of the Gobelins director, Jacques Neilson, have made it easier for Adam to work with him? Eileen Harris argues that Neilson would be unlikely to have any contacts in Eng-



land or Scotland as he had entered the Gobelins manufactory in 1728 at the age of 14. My own opinion is that Neilson may not have had Scots contacts but the evidence is that he considered himself Scots, see for example (left) the bagpipes in the

alentour which room guides at Osterley mention to visitors as showing Neilson's Scots background.

It would appear that Adam had to learn how to work with Neilson. For Lord Coventry, Adam provided a scheme for "Altering the French Designs of the Tapestry Room in Colour" in which the original rococo elements in the alentours were classicized but these proposals were not included in the finished tapestries. Furthermore, two of Neilson's English customers—William Weddell of Newby Hall, Yorkshire and Sir Henry Bridgeman of Weston Park, Staffordshire—bought their tapestries before they employed Adam so it was not Adam who introduced them to Neilson..

On the other hand, all eight of Neilson's English customers were also clients of Robert Adam. According to Eileen Harris, it may have been the success of the Tapestry Room at Croome Court which encouraged Adam to suggest that Robert Child at Osterley commission medallion tapestries from the same designer in 1772. *Ed's notes: I am grateful to Helen Wyld, Paul Mellon Tapestry Research Curator for the National Trust who spoke to Osterley volunteers in February 2009, for supplying some notes on the Osterley tapestries and for confirming that, despite the reference to "vertical looms" in the current guide book and multimedia guide, the Osterley tapestries were made at the 'basse lisse' workshop headed by Jacques Neilson which used horizontal looms.*

*Readers may wish to note that there are still tapestry workshops on the Gobelins site in Paris today and it is possible to go on a guided tour (in French) but you do need to book beforehand! 🇫🇷*

## Excursions July to Oct '10

Jim Tickle

With five of our monthly day trips already advertised, the visit to **Kingston Lacy** in July is now fully booked, but a few places are still available for the outing to **Wrest Park Gardens** (EH), Bedfordshire on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> August. Details of these two excursions were given in our Spring 2010 newsletter so if you wish to join us, please ring me on 0208 894 4174 to check availability before you send in your booking form.

The September visit takes us to **Broughton Castle** near Banbury in Oxfordshire, the family home of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, whilst in October, the final excursion of the year, will be to **Belton House** (NT) in Lincolnshire, a property that I had hoped to include in our aborted September holiday in Nottingham and the surrounding counties.

We will visit **Broughton Castle** (see right) on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September. The original Manor House, much of it remaining today, was built in about 1300 by Sir John de Broughton. It stands



Photo: StephYo (flickr)

on an island site surrounded by a 3-acre moat. The castle was greatly enlarged between 1550 and 1600, at which time it was em-



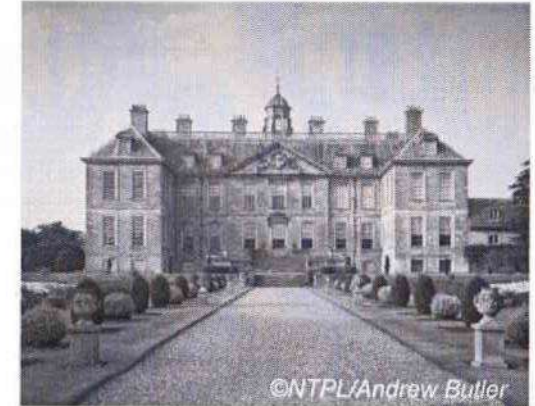
Photo: (flickr) Andrew in Raleigh

bellished with magnificent plaster ceilings (see left), splendid paneling and fine fireplaces.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century William, 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Saye and Sele, played a leading role in national affairs. He opposed Charles I's efforts to rule without Parliament and Broughton became a secret meeting place for the King's opponents. During the Civil War William raised a regiment and he and his four sons all fought at the nearby Battle of Edgehill, after which the Cas-

tle was besieged and captured. Arms and armour from the Civil War and other periods are displayed in the Great Hall. We may also visit the gatehouse, gardens and park, together with the nearby 14<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Mary, in which there are many family tombs, memorials and hatchments. The garden consists of mixed herbaceous and shrub borders containing many old roses. In addition, there is a formal walled garden with beds of roses inside box hedging lined by mixed borders.


**Belton House** (see right), our destination on Friday 1st October, is the perfect English country house. Set in its own extensive deer park, it was designed to impress. Built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century for 'Young' Sir John Brownlow, with family



fortunes founded in law, it is one of the finest examples of Restoration architecture and was for centuries the scene of lavish hospitality. Opulent décor, stunning silverware, imposing paintings and personal mementos convey wealth while retaining a family atmosphere. Delightful gardens, lakeside walks and a luxuriantly planted



©NTPL/John Hammond


Orangery ensure Belton is a pleasure to explore all year round. In the 1930's, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Brownlow was Lord in Waiting to Edward VIII (see left for Portrait of Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, [1894-1972] Belton House, The Brownlow Collection [acquired with the help of the National Heritage Memorial Fund by The National Trust in 1984]) who, during his brief reign before and after the abdication, stayed several times to relax in the peace and relatively quiet haven of Belton House. 

## from the Treasurer

Douglas Craik

### STANDING ORDER

No, not a military drill but an easy way to pay your annual membership to the Friends of Osterley Park. We introduced this option with the 2010 membership renewal and 32 members (joint or single) have taken this up so far.

If you would like to join them and not have to remember to send us a cheque each year then just complete the yellow form that came with the Spring 2010 newsletter and return it to John James (if you have mislaid this then John has plenty more) 




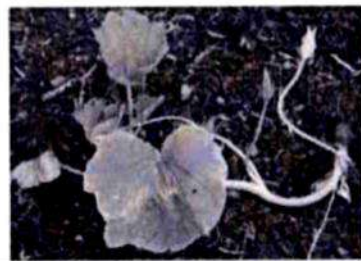
## from the Editor

I must apologise to Andy Eddy and the gardening team for failing to include anything about the lovely

gardens in this issue of the newsletter. I had hoped to put something in, particularly after Andy's talk to the volunteers in April. One problem has been the difficulty of generating interesting small black and white pictures to illustrate any report or comments. Flowers of different colours often look similar in black and white. The planting of the American Border with the plants separate as specimen plants in the 18th century style means that photographs of that area show more soil than plant at the moment.

Another problem is my own lack of expertise. I had hoped to illustrate a reference to the vegetable patch in the walled garden which will generate pumpkins and the like for the Harvest Ball and the Halloween Pumpkin Festival with a photograph—I can tell the dif-

ference between a pumpkin and a courgette. Unfortunately, the plants were only starting to come into flower when I went to take photographs so I am none the wiser. Do you have any suggestions? (see right) 



## from the Diary

### "Friends" Events and Excursions

- Wed 14 Jul Excursion: Kingston Lacy, Dorset (NT)  
(fully booked)
- Thu 5 Aug Excursion: Wrest Park Gardens, Beds (EH)  
(check with Jim Tickle)
- Wed 1 Sep Excursion: Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire
- Mon 20 Sep London Visit: Watermen's Hall
- Fri 1 Oct Excursion: Belton House (NT)
- Mon 25 Oct London Visit: Strawberry Hill

For details of London Visits – see pages 9

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

### Advance Warning

- Wed 20 Oct Autumn Reception—Quiz evening

## Osterley Park House

- Wed 3 Mar House open Wed to Sun  
to Sun 31 Oct 12noon to 4.30pm (last entry 4pm)
- Garden open Wed to Sun  
11am to 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)
- Café open Wed to Sun  
11am to 5pm
- Shop open Wed to Sun  
12noon to 5pm

All open Bank Holiday Monday 30 August

### Advance Warning

- Sat 4 to Sun 19 Dec House open Sat and Sun  
12noon to 3.30pm (last entry 3pm)
- Wed 3 Nov Café and shop open Wed to Sun  
to Sun 19 Dec 12noon to 4pm

**Next newsletter** due to be published in September 2010.  
Any contributions to the Editor by **1 September**.  
The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.