

The Friends of Osterley Park



in support of **National
Trust**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 82 AUTUMN 2011 £1 (free to members)

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Kitchen from Pastry Room

Osterley Park

see article on page 14

Photo: John Stacey

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Property Manager at Osterley Park

Job Description

Sharing our love for people and places, you'll bring Osterley (one of the last surviving country estates in London) closer to community life. At the heart of our exciting London vision, Osterley is a hugely important springboard for raising our profile in and around the capital. That's going to be your challenge – intellectually, practically, logistically. But a challenge you'll relish. In short, you'll set the tone and the direction for Osterley, developing and delivering a property plan that's in line with our regional and national strategy. Working with colleagues at a regional and national level, you will raise the profile of Osterley as a flagship Trust property for London.

An inspirational leader with a commercial mindset, you'll identify and explore new opportunities to maximise Osterley's appeal, while ensuring that we're using our ambitious 'triple bottom line' approach to achieve optimum public benefit, profitability and conservation. Creative in your thinking and operationally hands-on, you'll explore and pilot exciting new ways to reveal and share Osterley's fascinating stories with local people, especially those in urban communities. Creating strong links by effective and confident interaction with West London's highly diverse community is central to this role. You'll focus on increasing revenue and raising vital funds too. That's why we need you to be ambitious and driven, someone who'll look at every available opportunity – and make the most of them. And, importantly, you'll never wait for things to fall into place – you'll make them happen, and inspire everyone around you to do their bit too.

You'll also manage a number of other smaller places, including Blewcoat School, George Inn, St George's Meadow and the 'Roman' Bath. Do great things for us and we'll do great things for you, personally and professionally. We'll give you all the training, support and continued professional development.

Desired Skills & Experience

A self starter, with presence and authority, you'll already have proven experience of multi-site team management. And while your background could be retail, hospitality, leisure/tourism, public service, it's really important that you have the ability to manage a large multi-skilled team – and well. It's also vital that you can show us where you've delivered change and results across a demanding agenda. You'll need to have managed large budgets (of at least £1m) and be confident setting new directions and leading creative solutions.

Provisional interview date: Week commencing 31st October 2011



from the Chairman Ian Conacher

Twenty Years On....

The "Friends" Acting Committee was formed from active members of the National Trust in 1989/1990, ready for when the National Trust took over direct manage-

ment of Osterley Park from the Victoria & Albert Museum, who had leased the property from the Trust since 1949. Letters had been sent to Members of the Trust living in local post code areas, inviting them to join the "Friends", and two to three hundred responded. Our first Chairman was Sheila Chapman, and I was conscripted as Membership Secretary.

In January 1991 the Trust took over direct management, and recruited volunteers to run the property. Thus we had a situation which still persists - "Friends" and "Volunteers", two overlapping sets! In late 1991, Sheila found that family illness made it difficult for her to devote time to Osterley, and dragged me into the chair, where I have had some memorable moments. Highlights have been the Open Air theatre events - great fun, but marred by downpours and aircraft noise - and the coach trips and tours run by Jim Tickle. All our activities have been undertaken with the aim of raising funds for Osterley Park.

The Committee are planning a 21st Birthday event for next year - watch this space! 🍷



in support of **National
Trust**

from the Property

Staff Changes

Please welcome two new permanent members of staff.

Claire Reed, the new Collections and Premises Manager, has worked at Lyme Park as a house steward.

Marie Webb, the new Property Administrator, joins Osterley from Greys Court where she was also a property administrator. She did some part time work at Osterley while she was completing her commitments at Greys Court and started work full time at Osterley from the end of August.

Sadly, we have to say "goodbye" to Sian Harrington, the Property Manager at Osterley who will be leaving Osterley on 17 November after six years here to become Chief Executive at Fulham Palace Trust. It is hoped that her replacement will be appointed in the next month or so (*see inside front cover if you would like to apply*) and Sian intends to return to Osterley to provide a smooth handover. The Friends of Osterley Park, and the Committee in particular, wish Sian good fortune and every success in this new venture. To mark her departure as a gift from the Friends, John Stacey will photograph for her a view of Osterley of her choice.

Sian's farewell party will be on Thursday 17 November from 3pm to 5pm in the Entrance Hall at Osterley. 🏡

Clive Robertson

Clive Robertson died recently at home of heart failure. Clive, though not a member of the "Friends", was a good friend to Osterley Park. Many of you will have met him in his roles, over many years, as a room guide, buggy driver, and batricar volunteer. The funeral was a private family event in Bristol, so sadly no-one from Osterley was able to attend. The family have asked for a tree to be planted in his memory in the ground this autumn/winter and this will be paid for with donations from volunteers and by contributions from the "Friends" and from the Property. 🏡

Sarah Anne

When I visited the House in September, there seemed to be something missing from Mrs Child's Dressing Room (*see right*).....

The pastel painting of Sarah Anne, commissioned from Francis Coates in the 1770s,



which normally hangs above the fireplace had been taken away for conservation because of the mould on it. Removal of the mould will improve the appearance of the painting and will help to reduce the risk of further mould growth. Even dead mould can cause problems because the spores can still grow in appropriate conditions and breakdown of the mould causes the red-brown spots often seen in old prints.

The volunteer who told me about this was expecting the painting to be returned within the next week so it should be back by now. 🏡

Library Books



NT book curator Mark Purcell has been organising a new collection of books (part of the Norris Collection) onto our library shelves. By a very fortunate coincidence, the collection includes a rare copy of the catalogue for Osterley's original library. Some of the books (*see left*) removed from the library were in temporary storage in the corridor of the Childs' family suite. 🏡

Benches

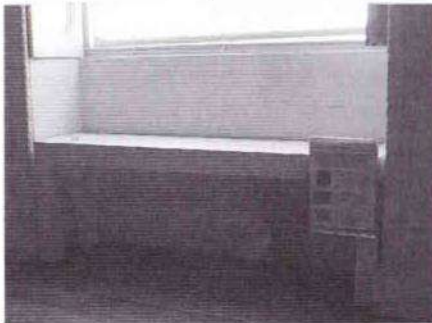


Those of you in the House in September may have seen or heard tell of a visitor who came around taking photographs—not of the beautiful Robert Adam furniture, or the wonderful artefacts from China and the far east—but of the benches (see photos on this page).

Well, *you* would have probably worked out that it was the Editor of this newsletter taking photos to illustrate the next issue but the volunteer guide in the Gallery was very bemused and even mentioned it to a passing member of staff.

The significance of the benches is, of course, two-fold.

There has always been concern about the need to provide seating



in the House so that members of the public can have a rest and so avoid the temptation to sit on the fine John Linnell chairs. This has been exacerbated by the provision of audio-visual guides which encourage people to stay in a room for a

while who could then use a seat (and free up passing room for people walking through, particularly in the State Rooms).

And the money for the materials for the benches was given by the "Friends"! - so do enjoy a rest on a bench when you are next passing. 🏡



The Ferrari Rotavator



Perhaps more of an off-road vehicle than a formula one racing car—to some eyes, it may not look as exciting as a Ferrari motor car but this Ferrari rotavator (see above), bought by the "Friends", has been very useful for digging over beds



and so keeping the weeds down until the right season for planting. It has been particularly useful for the beds in the ornamental vegetable garden. The gardeners are very grateful—much easier than a spade or even the previous small rotavator. 🏡

Bishop Henry Compton

Wei Hei Kipling

Fulham Palace is today operated jointly by the Hammersmith and Fulham Council and the Fulham Palace Trust with the Trust being responsible for the operation of the Museum and Education Service. The Council and the Trust are working together to revive and restore this complex.



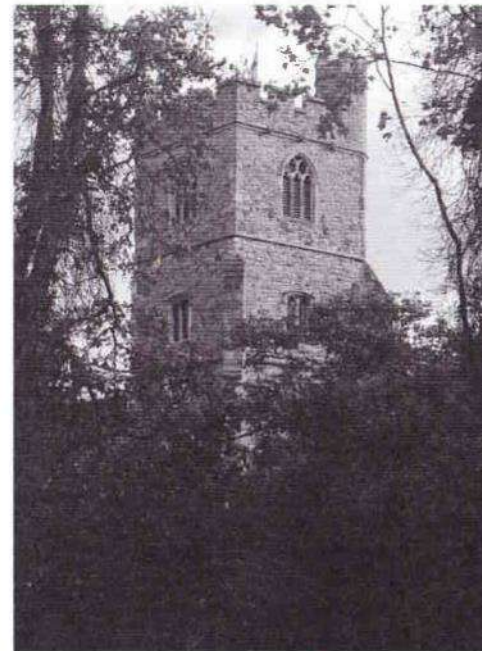
Fulham Palace has been a summer residence of Bishops of London from at least the 11th century and their main residence from the 18th century until 1975. The west courtyard (*see above*) is of the early 16th century and is described by Pevsner as having “an unassuming domestic atmosphere.”

Perhaps the Bishop of London of most interest to “Friends” is Henry Compton, Bishop of this diocese from 1675 to 1713 whose dates overlap with Sir Francis Child (the elder) living from 1686 to 1702 in Fulham at Holly Bush House overlooking Parsons Green which belonged to his wife’s family. The son of an earl, Compton


seemed at one time destined for a military career and this interest would have chimed with Sir Francis’s interests as an officer in the London Militia. Both men held important office in the City of London—Sir Francis was Lord Mayor in 1698 and MP for the City of London 1702-5. Both also were involved at Christ’s Hospital—Sir Francis on the Committee while Compton seems to have written a book of prayers for the use of children at the school.

Both held positions at Court—Sir Francis as Jeweller in Ordinary to William and Mary 1689-97. Compton’s Court responsibilities were more onerous—he was dean of the chapel royals under James II which gave him some influence over the education of James’s daughters, the princesses Mary and Anne. Having kept in touch with Mary following her marriage to William of Orange, Compton was one of the group who invited William to intervene militarily in England and so started the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

...and both died in 1713 and were buried in the churchyard of All Saints’ Fulham. That church is now primarily a late Victorian building but the Tower (*see below*) was built in the fifteenth century and



so would have been familiar to both of them.

Mrs Sarah Child, wife of the Robert Child who brought Robert Adam to Osterley, also had interests in common with this Bishop of London. One of his favourite pastimes was gardening and he was responsible for bringing rare trees from Virginia, such as the magnolia, and having them planted in the grounds of Fulham Palace—successfully for the first time in Europe. 

Jim Tickle

Wei Hei Kipling



I spoke with Jim on 17 October and he sounded in good spirits—looking forward to his short break away with friends up north in the Lake District (*see above*).

As you know, Jim has not been in good health—most recently, he has had two spells in hospital (which haven't helped him) and missed the trip to the Vyne on 4 October. He does not feel that he

can maintain his current role of organising the coach excursions for the "Friends", particularly insofar as it relates to being committed to attending and sorting out each excursion on the day. He would be willing,



so long as he is fit, to do the behind the scenes work of making the bookings and sorting out the tickets if someone else (perhaps on a rota) could be the tour leader on the day. If you would be interested in taking on this role, please phone Jim on 020 8894 4174. 📞

Jim - get better soon!

from the 100 Club



Since the first draw in May 2011, sufficient further shares have been bought—either new people buying shares or existing members increasing their holding—for the Treasurer to announce an increase in the number of prizes. As well as the prizes at the first draw of £100, £40 and £20, the

100 Club can afford additional prizes of £60 and £10.

As you know, half of the money received by the 100 Club is available for projects at Osterley while the other half goes into the prize fund—so the more shares that are bought, the more money available for prizes and the greater the amount raised for Osterley.

The second draw of this competition was held at the Autumn Social on Tuesday 4 October.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

- £10 Mrs L Barlow Ealing
- £20 Mr P Howard Osterley
- £40 Ms M Cooper Norwood Green
- £60 Mr C Prior Isleworth
- £100 Mr B Martin West Ealing

There are still two draws to come and membership is available for £6 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.

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

No. 3 just before Christmas;

No. 4 in early 2012 (probably February or March).

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



1920s cooker in the kitchen,
Photo: John Stacey

Osterley Park, London
See article on page 14

The Kitchen at Osterley

(see photos on cover and centre spread)

Margaret Friday

For this issue of the newsletter, John has given us two interesting pictures of the kitchen.

On the cover, we see a view of the kitchen taken from the pastry room looking along the wall which gives access to the scullery.

Recently, questions have been asked as to whether the current position of the kitchen was its original position. We know that the main entrance to the house in Thomas Gresham's house was on the centre of the south side looking out toward the lake (as is the present kitchen).

The columns and door forming the main entrance to the original house, as seen in the Robert Adam drawing of the south side in 1761 (shown in *Aspects of Osterley* p.9), were placed at the entrance to the stables (see right) when Adam remodelled the house. However, we do not know the location of the kitchen in Gresham's house.



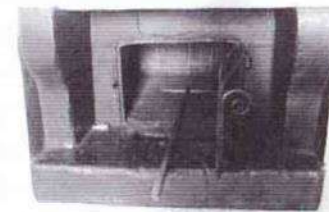
A study carried out in 2010 by architect Ian Bristow suggests that the kitchen in the pre-Adam house might have been under the Eating room (where the still room now is near the spiral staircase). The location of the dining room in the Gresham or Barbon house is not known. Adam did not show the kitchen in his plans as this was not



relevant to his designs for the principal floor and the guest bedrooms upstairs. Much of the area below stairs remained clad in the dark oak panelling of the 16th and 17th centuries. The built-in cooking oven in the still room (see left) is enclosed and this sort of closed range, where all the smoke goes up the chimney, was first introduced in 1802.

There are several proofs that the kitchen was where it is now when Adam was re-modelling Osterley.

The bread oven (see right) is built in the style of those used in 1740 to 1750. The original oven was outside: in fact, the 1782 inventory places a "bake house" near the laundry and brewery in the stable block. Bread ovens were often situated away from the



main house because they were kept fired up all the time and, if not watched, could cause the house to catch fire.

The inside window indicated by the shutter on the left side of John's picture shows through to another wall with an outer window some spaces down from the window outline seen here. We know that Robert Adam refaced the Elizabethan mansion in 18th century brick and this can clearly be observed in the kitchen. The windows on the outside of the house are symmetrical and many are simply false windows so that the view from the outside is uniform. The window tax did not stop the Childs from having windows – even fake ones to make the building look perfect.

How did the eighteenth century kitchen look? The 1782 inventory lists a great many items including a long dresser, two tables, a chopping block, cheese toaster, coffee pots, a clock in a mahogany case, an elbow chair, a walnut writing desk with drawers, 8 brass candlesticks, a salt tub, two plate racks, 44 pewter dishes, 11 dozen (133) pewter plates, 8 sauce boats, 17 ladles, 38 French stew pans with covers, 3 baking pans and 7 baking plates, a pair of steak tongs, a large beef fork, a marble mortar and lignum vita



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Kitchen

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pestle and block.

John's picture shows a variety of copper items (see also detail page 15). Much copper is listed in the 1782 inventory for the kitchen including: a copper dripping pan, 3 copper soup pots and covers, 12 copper pudding pans, 18 large copper moulds, 43 small copper moulds and 30 even smaller copper moulds for making exotic puddings. The inventory also mentions 2 copper jugs in the servants' hall. There was also a copper scales with weights and 5 copper coal scuttles. The latter tells us that a kitchen range must have been fitted which used the coal as the large open fire and the earlier beehive shaped brick lined bread oven – the oldest cooking device in the present kitchen – would have been fuelled with wood. The new open kitchen ranges usually burned coal and an iron cin-

der screen was included in the 1782 inventory. The coal pens (see right) outside the kitchen have Elizabethan arches above but the large column supports for the colonnade installed by Robert Adam can also be seen.



The Osterley kitchen did suffer a fire. The Evening Post of Thursday, 4th November, 1779 reported on 2nd November at 3am a fire at Osterley Park House beginning in the flue of a copper chimney in the kitchen. The kitchen and the state room above (Etruscan Dressing Room) were damaged. The fire was put out with the help of the parish fire engines. There had been a fire engine in the stable block since 1755. The 1782 inventory reveals that the downstairs corridor contained "a large engine and pipes and 40 leather buckets". Were these present in 1779 or added following the fire? The kitchen must have been located in its present position at the time of the fire. If it had been where the Still Room is only the Long Gallery or Eating Room would have been damaged as there are no staterooms on that side of the house.



We have evidence at Osterley for a sweet tooth and a love of puddings. In the pastry room from which the first picture is taken, there is a marble top (see left) for rolling out pastries on a cool surface and a half or stable door to keep the room cool. In 1781 the Childs spent £230 on tea, coffee, chocolate and sugar

equivalent today to £15,000. By 1850 a pastry oven (see right) had been added to the kitchen to cook some of these marvellous desserts. The icehouse ensured that Osterley also had the requirements for making ice cream and sorbet. Guests at Osterley could expect to be served the most beautiful and extravagant sweets.



John's picture in the centre spread is of the cooker added to the kitchen in the 20th century.

The large 1920s cooker installed at the location of the 18th century great open fire is probably a replacement for a 19th century closed range. In "The Changing Face of Osterley in the Twentieth Century" (published in *Aspects of Osterley*), Anthea Palmer tells us that Cynthia Needham, Lady Jersey to the 8th Earl had the new cooker installed in 1925 when she remarried. The 8th Earl had died in 1923 when his son was only 13. In 1934, the 9th Earl of Jersey and his wife Virginia Cherrill moved to Osterley whilst Lutyens was building a new Middleton House for them in Oxfordshire. Virginia was a movie star and former wife of Cary Grant. The 9th Earl and Countess enjoyed entertaining at Osterley and sent the cook Miss

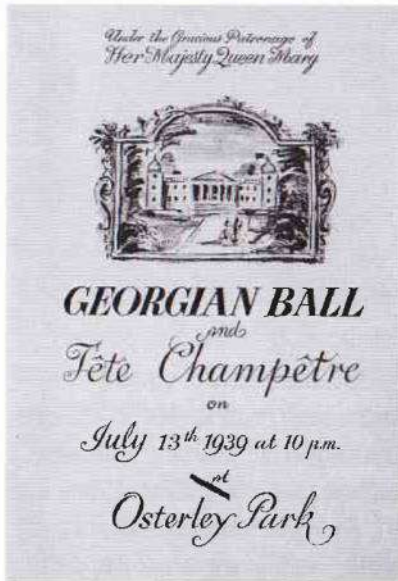
(Continued on page 18)

Kitchen

(Continued from page 17)

Garland to The Savoy Hotel in the Earl's account "to learn a few cookery tricks" - it was not her first visit as when the cooker was new she was sent to be fully trained in its use at the Savoy as they had ovens of a similar size.

A well-staffed house was of prime importance to the 9th Earl, George Victor — he said "I always thought one had to have 12 servants before one could have an egg for breakfast. It worked out something like that in the house. I mean you had a butler, and two footmen, the odd man who had all sorts of odd jobs, probably three or four in the kitchen and five servants....a valet to myself and my wife had a lady's maid".

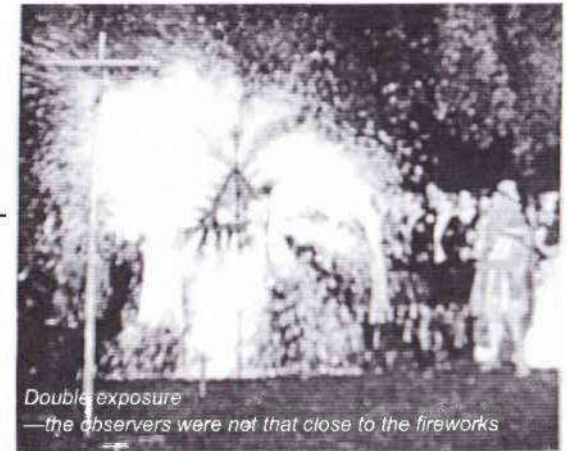


The Georgian Group Ball (see *publicity left*) was held at Osterley on 13th July 1939 with the Earl dressed as Francis Child (see *below*) as he appeared in the painting by Alan Ramsey which hung in the Breakfast Room. *Country Life* said that



the party allowed 'as many people as possible to see one of the most beautiful Georgian houses in existence under conditions approximating to those for which such buildings were largely designed.'

The entertainments included dancing in a white and scarlet marquee, an 18th century beer-garden with bar men and pot boys in period costume, fireworks (see *right*) to Handel's Water music played by musicians dressed as gondoliers from a raft on the lake.



During the party the countess lost a sapphire and diamond bracelet but detectives found it difficult to identify many of those present as they were wearing black silk masks. The story sounds like an Agatha Christie plot. This was the last big party given by the family at Osterley Park House. In 1949 Osterley was given to the National Trust by the 9th Earl of Jersey. The large and lavish parties given over the centuries at Osterley were made possible by this superb kitchen and pastry room containing the latest and most efficient equipment available supplemented by

the best, most expensive and desirable ingredients that could be purchased prepared by talented and well trained cooks and chefs. When next you visit the kitchen, imagine not just the hard work but

the pleasure and delight that the dishes created here gave to all those being entertained at Osterley.

Ed's note: Thanks to the Georgian Group for the cuttings from which these pictures of the Ball at Osterley were taken.



London Visits 2011

Wei Hei Kipling

For the final months of 2011, two London Visits have been organised which, it is hoped, will be of interest to "Friends" for both architectural reasons and also for possible connections with the Child family of Osterley Park.



Photo: Tim Norvell (flickr)

Benjamin Franklin House (see left) is the only residence still in existence of the politician, scientist and general polymath Benjamin Franklin. He lived at 36 Craven Street in London from 1757 to 1762 and then from 1764 to 1775. It is therefore possible that he may have visited Osterley Park, perhaps with Thomas Jefferson who is known to have visited Osterley. Franklin corresponded with members of the informal group *Lunar Society* and so may have known the likes of Josiah Wedgwood and Matthew Boulton.

We will visit Benjamin Franklin House on a

tour which will take in the original Georgian features of the House and will learn about the comprehensive conservation project that saved this House from dereliction and about its subsequent history. As part of the tour, we will see (and hear) the glass armonica (see right) which Franklin invented.

Benjamin Franklin House is a typical narrow Georgian house with stairs but there will be chairs in every room. No refreshments although there are cafes nearby. Cost: £7 per person (£5 to the House, £2 to "Friends"). **Please book by 30 October.** Meeting arrangements: Monday 7 November 2011: 1.30pm at Embankment tube station to walk to Benjamin Franklin



Photo: staticgirl (flickr)

House, 36 Craven Street WC2N 5NF to arrive at 1.45pm (leaving 2.45pm).

The **Royal Society** was founded in the 1660s with the aim of promoting experiments and discussion in what we would now call scientific topics. Presidents included Sir Isaac Newton (whose medallion is in the Entrance Hall at Osterley) and Sir Joseph Banks of Spring Grove.




Photo: MattfromLondon (flickr)

From the outset, the Society was assiduous in maintaining records of its activities and in collecting material. As a result it now has some tremendous collections of books, of paintings and scientific images, and of artefacts which are treasured by scholars worldwide. To celebrate its collections, the Royal Society will shortly be holding an exhibition "History of the Royal Society Library".

We will therefore visit the Royal Society at Carlton House Terrace for a guided tour to see whatever rooms are not being used for meetings on the day, to learn about the History of the Society and to see treasures from the Library (see below) in the exhibition. Lift access available. No refreshments though there are cafes nearby. Cost £10 per person (£7.20 to the Society and £2.80 to "Friends").



Photo: gelle.dk (flickr)

Please book by 28 November. Meeting arrangements: Wednesday 7 December 2011: 10.30am at Piccadilly Circus (by the "Eros" statue to walk to the Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace SW1Y for 11am tour (45 mins to 1 hour). 



from the Editor

First of all, I must apologise yet again for the late publication of a newsletter—while it is still arguably

Autumn 2011, most of you would have been expecting this newsletter to arrive on your doorstep in September. I must particularly apologise this time because I have managed to set everyone a short deadline to book for the first London Visit to Benjamin Franklin House—the Visit is on Monday 7 November 2011 and they need to know numbers a week beforehand. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I have recently taken on a new volunteer role and I need to work out the balance between my different activities. (It does not help that my computer is intermittently crashing—the problem with doing the whole thing electronically rather than relying on paper cut and paste is that one is more reliant on the technology behaving.) Thank you for your patience.

One blessing of this newsletter role is the opportunity and permission that it gives for me to chat with the Osterley staff and find out the news and the interesting things that have been taking place. I am very grateful for their kindness and assistance.

Ben Griffiths (one of the wardens) told me the other day about an injured bird of prey that



was found in the ornamental vegetable garden in August. Perhaps it had been chasing a small bird or insect and had injured itself in the chase or perhaps it was already injured and had gone into the vegetation to hide. Ben kept it in the flat overnight (of course it was the weekend) and took it to the vet who examined it and would then take it to the animal sanctuary. Ben thinks it may have been a hobby (*see above*) but he wasn't sure. 🐦

from the Diary

“Friends” Events and Excursions

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sun 30 Oct | Booking deadline: for Benjamin Franklin House (7 Nov) |
| Mon 7 Nov | London Visit: Benjamin Franklin House |
| Mon 28 Nov | Booking deadline for the Royal Society (7 Dec) |
| Wed 7 Dec | London Visit: the Royal Society |

For details of London Visits— see pages 20 and 21
See also page 10 for news of Jim Tickle and coach trips



Osterley Park House—a selection

| | |
|---|--|
| 30 Mar to 30 Oct except Mon, Tue | House open 12 to 4.30 Garden open 11 to 5 Café open 11 to 5 |
| 5 to 27 Nov except Mon, Tue | House open 12 to 3.30 at weekends - guided tours Garden open 12 to 3.30 at weekends Café open 12 to 4 (inc Wed—Fri) Shop open 12 to 4 (inc Wed—Fri) |
| 1 to 18 Dec except Mon, Tue | House open 12 to 3.30 at weekends (Christmas) Garden closed Café open 12 to 4 (inc Wed—Fri) Shop open 12 to 4 (inc Wed—Fri) |
| Open on Bank Holiday Mondays Last admission 30 mins before closing | |

Next newsletter due to be published in December 2011.
Any contributions to the Editor by **1 December**.
The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.