

The Friends of Osterley Park

in support of 
National
Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 83 WINTER 2011/2 £1 (free to members)

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View on the Roof
Osterley Park
see article on page 14
Photo: John Stacey

Printed by:
Colormax (West Ealing)
020 8566 1155



Friends of Osterley Park

Situation Vacant

Tickle Tours—Tour Leader

Description of Role

Would you like a little effort to make a big difference?

Tickle Tours are looking for one or more people to take on the role of tour leader on the coach trips that have proved so popular for so many years. Sharing our love for people and places, you'll count 'em all out



and you'll count 'em all in. Working with Jim Tickle, experienced coach tour organiser for well over thirty years—fifteen of them with the Friends, you will be his eyes, ears and mouth on the coach trips, making sure that people know what's going on, when they have to be back at the coach and that no-one gets left behind.

Perks of the role include a guaranteed place on the coach and the option to help Jim choose places to visit—where would you like to go this year?

Desired Skills & Experience

No previous experience required as you will be working among people who have been on Tickle Tours for many years and who will know the ropes themselves. More important are a friendly face and a winning smile, an ability to keep calm but to be assertive when necessary, and attention to detail.

Do give Jim a call on 020 8894 4174 for more information or to make an application. If you know someone with whom you could share the role, that would be great. 📞



from the 100 Club

The third draw of this competition was held at the Volunteers' Preview for the Christmas opening on Saturday 3 December.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

- £10 Mr G Burgess Osterley
- £20 Mrs P Daniel Northolt
- £40 Mr S Morgan Ickenham
- £60 Miss J Wye Twickenham
- £100 Mrs H Lyell Isleworth



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 final draw of this year's competition will be held at one of the Volunteer training days in February 2012.

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

Please welcome the new Property Manager, **Neil Cole**, who will also be responsible for the smaller London NT properties Blewcoat School, George Inn, the "Roman" Bath and St George's Meadow. His first day in the office was 3 January. He joins Osterley from English Heritage where he worked for eight years as Head of Visitor Operations for the East of England, and had direct experience of managing historic properties, including Audley End House and Gardens.

Please also welcome **Verity Postgate** who started as Weddings and Functions Coordinator in September.

Rebecca Millam left in October to work for an estate agent.

Congratulations to **Alice Springate**, now on maternity leave, who gave birth to a baby boy, Henry, on 7th November. 🏠

Filming at Osterley

Did anyone else watch the BBC mini series "Great Expectations" just after Christmas? The beautiful Estella came rushing out of her home and passed through a portico that you will all have recognised



to find that the man she had married, Bentley Drummle, was dead of an accident from ill-treatment of a horse. Osterley played the part of a house belonging to a man "next heir but one to a baronetcy" and "of rich people down in Somersetshire." 🏠

2012 Opening Hours

The 2012 opening hours reflect the continued push to be open longer during the season in line with other National Trust properties and with the expectations of visitors.

For the peak season, 2 May to 2 September, the House will be open until 5pm with consequent extension of the opening hours for the garden, café and shop to 6pm

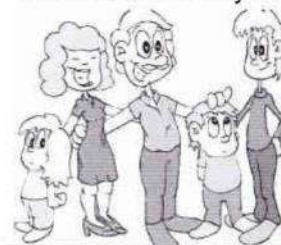


Aware of the concerns that this would raise for volunteers, Claire Reed, Collections and Premises Manager, arranged a meeting for Monday 9 January to discuss the implications for volunteers and to gather feedback. The Brewhouse was full for this meeting, possibly about 40 or more volunteers.

The main concern for room guides was obviously the need to be on duty from 12noon to 5pm, possibly standing for much of the time. Claire will investigate reinstating chairs with backs in each room for the use of guides and also for any visitors who appreciate a bit more back support than is provided by the benches.

It might be possible to cover the whole day by making sure that people were given enough time out—perhaps a lunch and a tea break with the lunch/tea cover itself requiring a mini-shift. Another option might be a shift system with the first shift from 12noon to 3pm and the second shift from 2pm to 5pm.

The possibility of guided tours for periods in which less volunteers were available was discussed but tours work best at the beginning of the day whereas one issue for Osterley volunteers appears to be the end of the day and wanting to avoid travel in the rush hour.



Claire will put together some options which are both workable and take into account the concerns of the volunteers and bring them to the pre-season training sessions. The peak season is a few months away so there is still time to reflect and make decisions. 🏠

Christmas at Osterley



In 2010, I went to the House to watch the staff put the garlands up and around the columns on the Great Stair. My investigative journalism therefore led me to take part in one of the days advertised in the volunteer newsletter for actually making the garlands.

I arrived on the afternoon of 30 November 2011 to find that the first garland was already half made. Each garland is made up of many sprays (see above) of foliage. The foliage supplied by the gardeners was holly, box, yew, cedar pine and *danae racemosa*. The latter is a slow growing shrub which means that the amount cut to form our garlands for three weeks of opening have made holes which will take years to grow back!

Each spray is tied onto a rope—this job involves two people (see right—hand in corner holding rope) as one has to hold the rope taut so that the spray can be tied as close to the previous spray as possible to leave no gaps.



The resultant garlands (see left) are so luxuriant that they are very heavy to carry. You may note that each spray is made out of only four of the five available types of foliage. Less holly is used than other foliage—providing some inherent decoration and also sections of the garlands which are less prickly to allow the garlands to be carried. 📷

Restoration



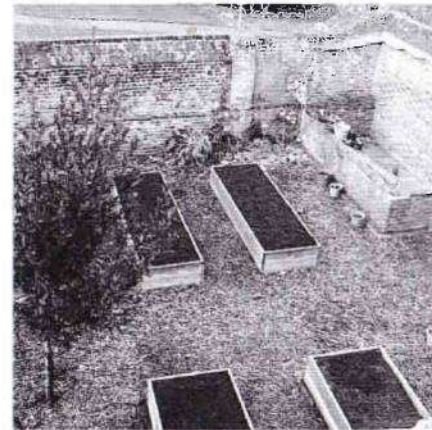
Some very exciting projects are going ahead at the House this year.

Tim Martin, range specialist, started work before Christmas on restoring the Eagle range (see left) in the main kitchen with the aim of being able to cook in the House next season!!

Meanwhile, the portable organ (see right—handle on left side just visible!) - well, portable if you have enough servants—has been restored and it is hoped it will be played this coming season. Do you know anyone who could volunteer to play the organ? 📷



Community Kitchen Garden



The community kitchen garden project is up and running for the second year. The Alzheimer's Society and Worple Primary have both paid their first visits to the Garden and tidied the place up ready for the spring planting. Thanks go to the Osterley and Wyke Green Residents Association for their donation of £100 towards the garden this year. 📷

Audley End House

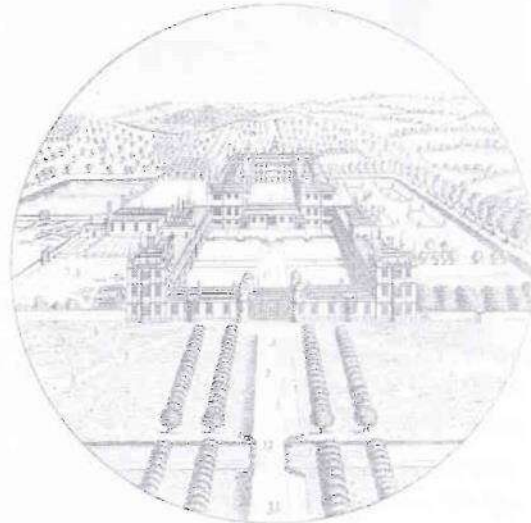
Wei Hei Kipling

Audley End House is largely an early 17th-century country house just outside Saffron Walden, Essex, south of Cambridge, now owned by English Heritage.

Like Osterley, Audley End House (see right "in its splendour") played host to Elizabeth I. In addition, James I visited and Charles I owned the House for a while to use as a base while he was attending the races at Newmarket.

Despite the appearance of an early 17th century building, a substantial amount of building work was carried out in the 18th century by John Griffin Griffin. This gentleman inherited Audley End House and its desmesnes (though not her title) from his aunt the Countess of Portsmouth in 1762. She had purchased the House in 1751 when it was in such a bad state (and reduced in size from its splendour) that the purchase price was £3,000. Griffin, in his turn was to spend—on one calculation about £72,000 between 1763 and 1797—on rebuilding and extensive restoration and on the grounds surrounding the house.

Robert Adam was, of course, one of the foremost architects practising in England at the time and between 1762 and 1767 Adam presented a number of designs to Griffin for Audley House. Drawings made between 1762-1764 included a plan of the kitchen offices, brewhouse offices; a plan of the whole house with the alterations proposed and the new offices; a design of the principal front



Audley End House in Essex, as it was built, splendour
from John Griffin Griffin's plan of a sketch of the house in 1762
http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/audley-end-house/

Public domain art (wikimedia)

of the house; designs of several chimney pieces, cornices, ceilings; a bridge (see below); a monumental building in memory of Lady Portsmouth; and an alteration to the front of the gallery.

As far as the interior of the house was concerned, Adam's main contribution was to remodel and decorate a complete suite of rooms—including a dining parlour, two drawing rooms and also a library—on the ground floor of the south wing. The name of Adam did not make this suite sacrosanct and the rooms were converted to bedrooms and dressing rooms in the 19th century.

In the past 50 years, the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage) have started reinstating the Adam schemes and some of the rooms have been restored to their former glory.

This contrasts with the situation at Osterley where one of the reasons for the interest of the National Trust was the existence of the Adam rooms. Someone once said that while Osterley may owe the building of the Adam rooms to the wealth of the Child family, it may have owed the continuing existence of the Adam rooms to the relative poverty of subsequent generations who did not want to spend much money at Osterley to make changes. 🏰




Audley End in England from Morris's *Courtesy Seats* (1840)
with Adam bridge in foreground

Public domain art (wikimedia)

The Devil amongst the Nine Tailors



Detail from © National Trust / Christopher Warleigh-Lack

If you had descended into Mrs Bunce's room over the Christmas opening, you would have met the "pub" game "The Devil amongst the Nine Tailors" (see above and detail right). The game at Osterley is a version of table skittles in which the aim is to project a spinning top as far to the other end as possible, knocking down as many skittles as possible. According to a webpage on the internet, in 1783, some theatre-goers and tailors rioted at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket over a play that the tailors thought insulting. The Dragoons stopped the riot so enthusiastically that their method was compared to a wooden ball ploughing through Table skittles. After this incident Bar or Table Skittles was often referred to as 'Devil amongst the Tailors'. The Osterley version must have been made after the incident and it is intriguing to see the detail compared with a modern version of the game (see right) 



Detail from NT photo above



Detail from Photo: Mary Maddux (flickr)

Jim Tickle



Wei Hei Kipling

The keen sightseers among you—and many others too—will have noticed that this issue includes an article with information for the next set of London Visits but no corresponding article (not even an Advance Warning) for the coach trips.


Jim regrets to say that there was insufficient response to the request for help in the last issue of the newsletter for him to make any arrangements for April 2012—which

is a pity as he continues to have ideas on where might be interesting places to visit. His latest thought has been to take a coach to Avebury Manor, subject of the BBC programme "The Manor Reborn". He would need to check opening arrangements for the coming season and arrange a date mutually convenient for the property and Graeme, our coach driver, but the idea is there.

Jim has two main concerns:

1. In view of his current state of health, he may be able to join coach trips but he is unwilling to commit to be the tour leader co-ordinating things on the day; and
2. Recent coach trips have not been filled to capacity. Is this because people are getting older and less likely to go out, the economic climate or the choice of destinations?

A "Situations Vacant" for the tour leader is set out on the inside front cover. If you are interested, please contact Jim. If there is no interest, then there will be no trips.

As to the capacity of the coach, please do vote with your feet. 



Chimney Pots
Photo: Claire Reed,
Editing: John Stacey

Osterley Park, London
See article on page 14

Chimneys at Osterley

(see photos on cover and centre spread)

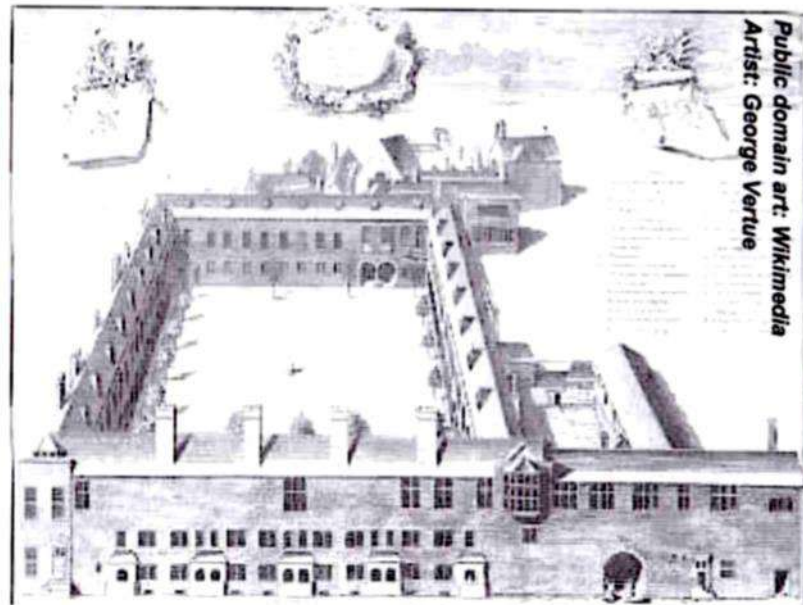
Margaret Friday

For this newsletter, John Stacey and Claire Reed, at some risk have provided us with two splendid pictures of the chimneys, including the named pots on the Osterley roof (see centre spread).



Fireplace at Boyham Castle
© NTPL Matthew Ambrose

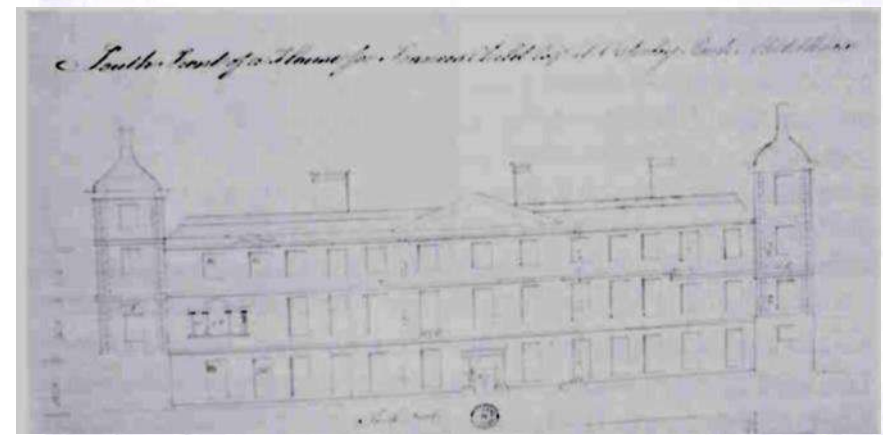
In *Going to Pot: the Great British Chimney* John Chatham states that "We have the richest heritage of chimneys in the world". We have been building chimneys in Britain for almost a thousand years. The first chimneys were installed in castle keeps from about 1200 (see left for example of 13th century fireplace leading to chimney). The word comes to Middle English from Old French *cheminee* and Late Latin *caminata* meaning "having a fireplace".



Public domain art: Wikimedia
Artist: George Vertue

Thomas Gresham's Osterley is thought by Giles Worsley, in his book *Inigo Jones and the European Classicist Tradition*, to have been designed by Henrik van Paesschen, the architect who built the Royal Exchange and Gresham's house (see page 14 below—later Gresham College) in the city between 1561 and 1568. All these buildings had "a regular grid of vertical rectangular windows beneath a hipped roof" which Worsley says was fifty years ahead of its time in England.

In the first edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* published in 1771, the "chimney" is defined as "In architecture, a particular part of a house where the fire is made, having a tube or funnel to carry away the smoke." NT House staff estimate that there were 37 fireplaces in the eighteenth century Osterley Park House. There is a drawing in the Soane Museum (see below—apologies for quality of copy) showing the south front of Osterley Park House in 1760 with the



original front door and the Venetian window still in place. It also shows three chimney stacks which look much like those still in use. The present stacks are made with small Tudor style bricks, not the larger bricks used when Robert Adam refaced the Elizabethan house. The roof at Osterley is essentially flat with only tiny peaked areas running the length of the roof. The chimney stacks are

(Continued on page 16)

Chimneys

(Continued from page 15)

placed on the flat part of the roof. Some have as many as 8 chimney pots but others have only a single stack with no pot.

It is thought that Adam used existing flues and pots to take the smoke from his grand fireplaces. This would make remodelling the old house with the various changes made since its Tudor construction easier. In Cromwell's day, the house was owned by General Waller followed in Jacobean times by Nicolas Barbon who claimed to have demolished a large part of the house. Francis Child's sons, Robert and Francis had copies of rooms created for Charles I and illustrated in *Designs by Inigo Jones* (published by Ware in 1731) repeated here at Osterley. Some work was done by William Hillyard probably for Samuel Child and then for his son Francis.

Francis asked Adam to draw up some plans for altering Osterley in 1761 but these were not constructed. An Adam drawing from 1761 shows the ground floor with Tudor staircase and what appears to be the privy tower at the other end of the corridor. This room was traditionally the privy tower so



Copyright: ©NTPL/Bill Batten

the nineteenth century toilet may just be the latest model available. This section of the house remained mostly unchanged by Robert Adam as it had been finished, probably by William Hillyard, a short time before Adam started work. His ground floor drawing also shows us the rooms under the Long Gallery which included a billiard room, smoking room, housekeepers room, still room and dairy. The roof on this side is still made up of oak beams but that at the present front of the house is made of pine. Parts of the roof combine re-used oak and pine. When Francis's brother Robert inherited Osterley, he invited Robert Adam to bring the house up to date as a luxurious Georgian villa suitable for entertaining.

The law requiring each fireplace to have its own flue and chimney was not passed until 1774 and was not fully instituted until the 1840s. By then, the fireplace and chimney arrangements were already in place for the most part at Osterley. The names were probably applied to the chimney pots when the roof was repaired following the sale of the magnificent library in 1885. The pots are

made of clay which would need to be wet to take up the words. The last room for which Adam designed furniture at Osterley was the Yellow Taffeta Bedroom and one chimney says *Taffeta*. Next to it is the *Dining Room* chimney which makes sense as the eating room (see page 16



©NTPL/Dennis Gilbert

for eating room fireplace) is just below the yellow taffeta room. The *Staff Hall* pot is for the Servants Hall which has a fine large fireplace (see above). Next to it is a fireplace called *Store* – this could have been the room just off the servants' hall on the ground floor where the housekeeper would have kept her pickles and jams. The next chimney pot is for the housekeeper's room – next door to the Still room which has a large enclosed stove in it. The house-



keeper's fireplace appears to have backed on to the Still room oven (see left). The first partly enclosed ovens were introduced in the 1780s but the properly enclosed stove was patented in 1802 by Count Rumford. The enclosed stove made for more efficient cooking as the heat was not lost in the room or up the chimney.

(Continued on page 18)

Chimneys

(Continued from page 17)

Some have queried whether children would have been sent up these chimneys. I think the answer is no. The fireplaces are not large enough to admit a child and the pots on the roof are too small for a child to exit. At least one chimney expert said when he visited Osterley that the appearance of the fireplaces suggested that fires were seldom lit in them. Osterley was, after all a place for summer parties. The Childs had a 64 room townhouse in Berkeley Square where they spent their time during the season which extended from September to April.

Detail from cover

The second picture (see cover) shows eight fine chimney pots and behind them the fine domed lead roof at the top of the tower. The age of the towers has been questioned but this one contains the Tudor stair which is the only one to rise from the ground floor to the roof. Some believe that this was constructed by Barbon but if so it is in a very old fashioned style with its' twisted supports for the banister from the days of Elizabeth I.

The pinnacle (see right) of the tower is topped by what is sometimes called a pineapple but is, I think, a *thyrsus* - the sceptre carried by Bacchus,



Detail from Ciprani's "The Triumph of Bacchus", Entrance Hall, Osterley, Photo John Stacey

god of wine (see left) and a suitable crown for such a house. The *thyrsus* is defined in Sarah Carr-Gomm's book *Dictionary of symbols in art* as a rod intertwined with vine leaves and tipped with a pine cone. The original wooden *thyrsus* on the house were made of elm wood but the most recent replacement was made

from British Columbian pine by Paul Ferguson in 1993/4 replacing the broken one which is on display in the Information Centre in the Stable Yard.

A painting (see detail below) at Ham House (above the fireplace in the dining room, see right) shows the first pineapple grown in England being presented to Charles II by his gardener John Rose .



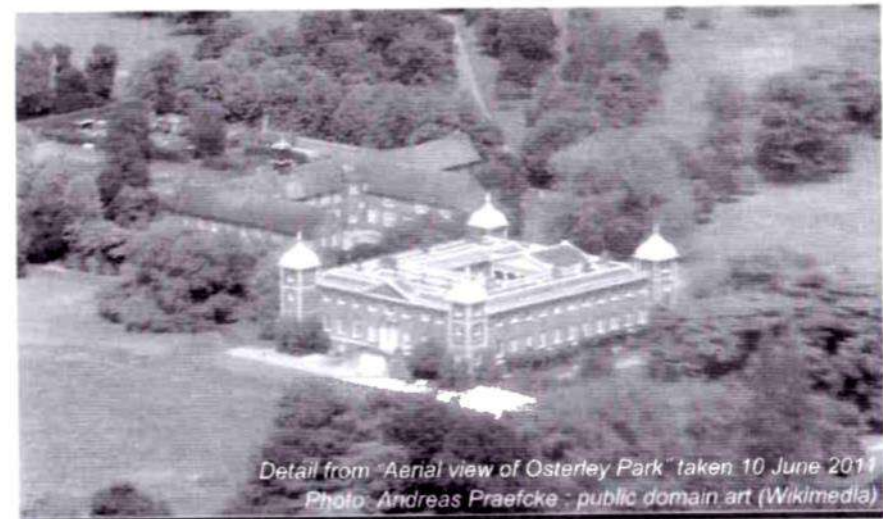
©NTPL/John Hammond



Public domain art: wikimedia
Artist: Hendrik Danckerts

Have a closer look at our roof-top symbol - what do you think it is?

There are sometimes guided tours of the Osterley roof. The views are excellent and just looking at the chimney stacks and pots is an experience not to be forgotten. Next time you hear of a tour go and see for yourself - I think you will be delighted.



Detail from "Aerial view of Osterley Park" taken 10 June 2014
Photo: Andreas Praefcke - public domain art (Wikimedia)

London Visits 2012



Wei Hei Kipling

Our first London Visit of 2012 is to the **College of Optometrists** in February. Optometrists are primary health care specialists trained to examine the eyes to detect defects in vision, signs of injury, ocular diseases or abnormality and problems with general health. The College is located in

a Georgian House with a modern extension opposite Benjamin Franklin's House which some of you visited last November. In addition to a 1 1/2 hour tour of the building and meeting rooms in which you will learn more about the College, there will be an opportunity to visit the Museum. No refreshments although there are cafes nearby. Cost: £7 (£5 to College, £2 to "Friends"). **Please book by Sunday 19 February.** Meeting arrangements: Friday 24 February 2012; 1.45pm at Embankment tube station to walk to the College of Optometrists, 41-42 Craven Street WC2N 5NG for 2pm tour.

Hogarth's House (see right), built around 1700, was the country home of the great painter, engraver and satirist William Hogarth (1697 - 1764) from 1749 until his death. The



Photo: Patche99z Public domain art - Wikimedia

House closed to visitors for refurbishment in September 2008 and the opening was delayed due to a fire in September 2009. The

House reopened in November 2011 with the structure and the interior of the house refurbished and new displays about the Hogarths, their lives and others who have lived in the house. The second floor has been transformed into a museum with a viewing area where Hogarth's prints can be seen at close quarters. Because of the small size of the House, guided tours are not offered. A Private Viewing of the House has been arranged for Tuesday 27 March from 10.30am with simple refreshments and a member of staff to introduce the House and to answer questions. Cost: £9 (£6.50 to House, £2.50 to "Friends"). **Please book by Sunday 18 March.** Meeting arrangements: 10.30am at Hogarth House, by Hogarth Lane, Great West Road, W4 2QN. Suggested public transport routes: Tube—use Turnham Green (District Line); Rail: use Chiswick (South West Trains) and Bus—use 190 (Hammersmith - Richmond). Parking is available in the Hogarth Business Park (turn off almost immediately after leaving the Hogarth Roundabout going west and the parking spaces are on your right adjoining the House) or at the Chiswick House car park, about 200m further west.

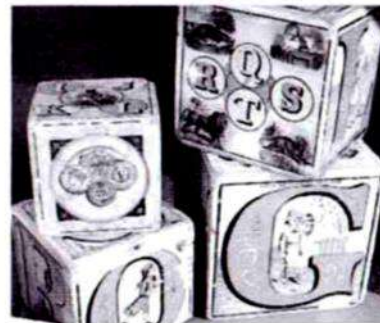


Photo: Kotomicreations (flickr)

For the child in each of us (pun intended), a visit to the **V&A Museum of Childhood** has been arranged for Tuesday 17 April. Depending on the numbers who book, two one-hour tours are on offer: "Childhood Past and Present" looking at 10 iconic objects from the 18th century to the present or "Royal Connection" looking at toys with a royal connection.

Please indicate on the booking form which tour you would like—a majority vote will choose the tour if less than 16 people book. Cost: £10 (£2.10 refreshments, £60 per guide, remainder to "Friends"). **Please book by Sunday 1 April.** Meeting arrangements: 1.45pm at Bethnal Green tube station (at street level—use exit for Museum) to walk to V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA for 2pm tour. 📄



from the Editor

Apologies yet again for the late issue of the newsletter. I hope to do better in 2012.

A more interesting thought is what "Friends" and readers expect to see in the newsletter.

Yes, information about Friends—the London Visits, the socials and (we hope) the coach trips. John Stacey's lovely photographs and Margaret Friday's informative articles.

But what else?

Updates from the House are quite tricky. A lot of the information goes in the Volunteer newsletters (see right) which are sent out each month and I don't want to repeat all of that information as many (but not all—which is the tricky point) of you are volunteers as well as "Friends".

After the "Great Expectations" episode showing the Osterley portico, I was asked if I regularly gave information on filming here. Well, coincidentally, the last two Winter issues have included something about filming but Osterley is used so often for filming that it would be difficult to mention everything and include more than a list.

I quite enjoy doing my own research (when I have time) but I will need to keep track of the latest research at the House. Some of you will be aware of the Research Groups which have been recently set up at Osterley. The informal group is looking "into all things Yellow Breakfast Room related" while another group is co-operating with the University of Warwick to conduct research on the East India Company.

Osterley Park News
Issue 19, December 2011
Deck the halls with crates of Bolli.....

Events 2011

Research Group Updates

Contact us

from the Diary

"Friends" Events and Excursions

- Sun 19 Feb Booking deadline: College of Optometrists (24 Feb)
- Fri 24 Feb London Visit: College of Optometrists
- Sun 18 Mar Booking deadline for Hogarth House (27 Mar)
- Tue 27 Mar London Visit: Hogarth House
- Sun 1 Apr Booking deadline for Museum of Childhood (17 Apr)
- Tue 17 Apr London Visit: Museum of Childhood

For details of London Visits— see pages 20 and 21

See also page 11 for news of Jim Tickle and coach trips

Advance Warning

Wed 25 Apr Concert by Patrick Howard (tenor) and Christine Fisher (soprano) with Billy Rae (baritone) and accompanied by Anthony McCarthy

Osterley Park House—a selection (see page 5)

11 Feb to 4 Mar except Mon, Tue	House open guided tours 12 to 3.30 Garden open 11 to 5 Café open 11 to 5 Shop open 12 to 5 2nd Hand Bookshop 12 to 4
7 Mar to 29 Apr and 5 Sep to 5 Nov except Mon, Tue	House open 12 to 4.30 Garden open 11 to 5 Café open 11 to 5 Shop open 12 to 5 2nd Hand Bookshop 12 to 4
2 May to 2 Sep except Mon, Tue	House open 12 to 5 Garden open 11 to 6 Café open 11 to 6 Shop open 12 to 6 2nd Hand Bookshop 12 to 4
Open on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Mondays Last admission 30 mins before closing	

Next newsletter due to be published in March 2012.

Any contributions to the Editor by **20 February**.

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.