

The Friends of Osterley Park



in support of **National
Trust**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 86 AUTUMN 2012 £1 (free to members)

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Paving in Stable block courtyard
Osterley Park
see article on page 17
Photo: John Stacey

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The Friends of Osterley Park



COFFEE MORNING

WITH **ANDY EDDY**

HEAD GARDENER AND PARK MANAGER

**“Designing, Planting and Maintaining
an Ornamental Potager/Vegetable Garden
for late summer colour “**

3rd draw
“100 club”

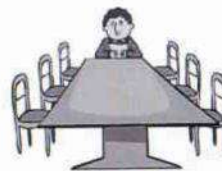


Tea / Coffee
and biscuits”

Tickets £3 at the door

**Old Brewhouse,
Osterley Park
Jersey Road,
Isleworth TW7 4RB**

**Thursday
29 November 2012
From 11am**



from the Chairman John James

The summer of 2012 will never be forgotten, it was so very special. It began with Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June,



two highlights of which were the River Pageant (see left) on the Thames and the service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Then there were the Royal Family engagements through-

out the country and also the Commonwealth. In August we had the Olympic Games in Stratford which became “the greatest show on earth”, followed by the best ever Paralympic Games.

At Osterley, however, the wet spring and summer had its effect on visitor numbers. The Friends' highlight of the summer was the celebration of our 21 years at a reception in the Old Brewhouse, attended by many Friends and Volunteers. Hilary McGrady, Regional Director, London and South East, was our guest speaker (see page

20). We presented Ian Conacher, our President (see right), with a photograph album of Osterley Park and House, compiled by John Stacey, in recognition of Ian's immense contribution to the Friends over so many years, always supported by Audrey. Osterley weekend on 23 and 24 June in a new format was successful and Friends had a presence there with an information stall. We also had a stall at St. Mary's Church, Osterley summer fair “Go for Gold” on the 14 July.



(Continued on page 4)

Chairman

(Continued from page 3)

On the 17 July there was the launch of "Real to Reel" which was a very enjoyable and successful occasion—well worth seeing.

There was a very successful and well attended visit to the Poppy Factory in Richmond organised by Wei Hei Kipling and a trip to Waddesdon Manor organised by James Law.

After I became Chairman at the A.G.M., we advertised for someone to come forward to take on the role of Membership Secretary from me. At the moment I am continuing with this role, but I do hope that a member of the Friends will come forward. If you would like more information about what is involved, do please get in touch.

I was very pleased that Neil Cole, Property Manager, was able to attend our A.G.M. in May. He gave a presentation reporting on achievements during his first few months and outlining plans for the future. A summary of part of his presentation is given at pages 6-7:

Ed's note: Many of you will also have enjoyed the Olympic Torch Relay which came to this part of London in July—our Chairman was one of the runners (see photoshoot below at Osterley) and his torch has been on show in the Strong Room.



from the 100 Club



The second draw of this competition was held at the Autumn Social on Wednesday 16 May.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

£40	Mrs V Fassnidge
£60	Mr J Robertson
£100	Mrs C Jackson

As you know, half of the money from the 100 club is used for prizes whilst the other half is used to fund projects at Osterley.

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:

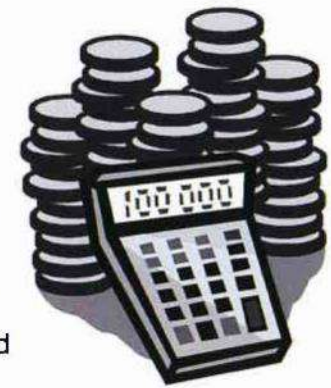
John James (Membership Secretary)
Parkfield Cottage,
Osterley Road,
Isleworth,
TW7 4PF

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 as follows:

- No. 3 Coffee Morning
on Thursday 29 November;
- No. 4 in early 2013
(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".



from the Property Manager

Neil Cole

Summary of Presentation at Friends AGM 16 May 2012

Overview

Key Relationships: Friends of Osterley, Residential Groups – Heston/Norwood Green/Osterley and Wyke Green; Residents; Legacies; Waller Bequest: Garden project and apprentice for 10 years.

Strategies: Osterley Property Business Plan; London Strategy.

National Trust: "Our Vision and Values": Going local; connecting with our local communities; bringing our places to life.

Think long term; love places, inspire people; share our common purpose.

National Trust Key Performance Indicators: Conservation Performance Indicators; Visitor Experience target and volunteers; energy; finance.

The Day to Day Business Objectives:

- ◆ Deliver excellent customer services and overall visitor experience
- ◆ Deliver key National Trust messages and strategies through day to day business, volunteer and local engagement, events and education participation.
- ◆ Maximise income through delivery of targets and control expenditure.
- ◆ Day to day operational management of the property.

This in turn will allow us to:

- ◆ Set achievable short term goals.
- ◆ Set out medium/long term plans to implement, supporting and underpinning the Property Business Plan and London Strategy, for example

Achievements/Changes so far:

- ◆ Delivered 3 volunteer training sessions "start of season"
- ◆ Distributed staff newsletters
- ◆ Tweaked agenda for diary meeting/communication exchange
- ◆ Established Team Briefs format
- ◆ Established Portico steps as main entrance to the House
- ◆ Range working in Historic Kitchen.
- ◆ Potential sign off to move ticket shed location.
- ◆ Removed hedge on main driveway to create sight line to House.
- ◆ Secured funding for Yellow Breakfast Room research/works
- ◆ Access and Interpretation group leading on extending children's play area and implementing new dog walkers' path from car park.
- ◆ Night of the Museum participation.
- ◆ Front gate fixed and hung.
- ◆ Hosted successful Arts Panel visit.
- ◆ Filming Exhibition plans progressing well and launch event to be held.
- ◆ Catering staff training – ongoing.
- ◆ Implement a weekly feedback performance sheet and week ahead targets to all staff.
- ◆ Raffle – importance 2012.
- ◆ Osterley Day into Osterley Weekend – part funded by London Strategy.
- ◆ Open Gardens Weekend participation.
- ◆ Filming Exhibition via London Strategy.



from the Property

Opening Hours in 2013

Ed's Note: The breaking news over the last couple of weeks has been the decision to extend opening hours again. Extracts from Neil Cole's letter to staff and volunteers are set out below and the actual opening times are in the diary on the inside back cover.

...we are now in a position to confirm our decision to open 7 days a week from February Half Term until the 1st November (end of October Half Term). Thereafter, the commercial areas are open 5 days a week and House and Gardens weekends only up until 15th December.



The National Trust prides itself on looking after historic places, spaces and buildings to open them to the nation. In order to share our properties and parks with as many people as possible we have been strongly advised to alter our opening to encourage visits throughout the whole year. As the

Estate Park is currently open 365 days a year we have been asked to focus on extending our opening within the House, Gardens and commercial areas. We have in turn used this opportunity to streamline our opening hours to simplify our offer.

Whilst we are increasing our offer on the previous years we are not following the precedent set by some other Properties in moving towards opening all visitor facilities 364 days a year. We have taken into account the impact upon the House in terms of conservation therefore on Mondays & Tuesdays we will only open the basement floor and offer guided tours of the house.

Osterley Park Opening Hours 2013 (selected) Questions & Answers

Q: 11-5 is a long day for the volunteer team. Will you be expecting volunteers to work for 6 hours?

A: No – those who would like to do so are of course very welcome to do a whole day and there would be 3 breaks factored in to any split shift system. The two options we are weighing up at the moment are a split shift of 11-3 and 1-5 or an option involving guided tours for the first hour 11-12.

Q: How many breaks will be available?

A: If we go for a split shift system then there will be 2x 30min breaks (one for shift one and one for shift 2) and a lunch break in between for those who are doing both shifts.

Q: How do you intend to cope with low light levels in the House at the tail ends of the season?

A: Additional electric lighting will be provided.

Q: By opening longer are you putting the conservation of the house in jeopardy?

A: We carefully monitor environmental conditions and wear and tear on the collection. For example we are allowed 150,000 lux hours per year in our sensitive rooms to adhere to museum accreditation standards. The light levels in our sensitive rooms for 2011 were all well below this with only one room, the Long Gallery, topping the 100,000 mark.

Q: Have we seen additional visitor numbers as a result of the extended opening this year and if not why are we opening longer next year?

A: We are actually down on last year in terms of visitor numbers but this is true across the country and is a national trend. It is felt that it will take 2-3 years for the longer opening hours to truly register with visitors and for the effect to be felt.

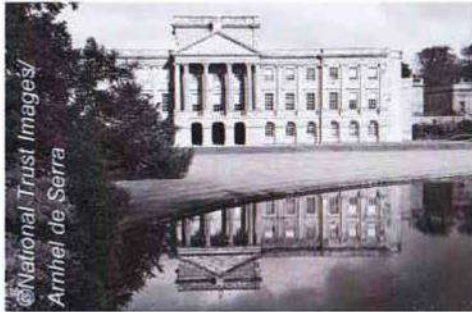


A Passion for Books

Wei Hei Kipling

Claire Reed, Collections and Premises Manager at Osterley, joined Friends for our Autumn Social on Wednesday 3 October and gave a very interesting talk about her own experiences and her plans particularly for the Library at Osterley.

Before coming to Osterley, Claire worked at a number of NT properties—including Dunster Castle, Stourhead and Lyme Park—as a volunteer and as a member of staff. She started as a room guide, became interested in conservation and her studies and work led her to take an interest in libraries and books.



Claire joined Lyme Park (see left) as House Steward but was then asked to work as Acting Collections Manager. In that role, she was involved in an exciting library project which saw the return of the Sarum Missal in 2009.

The Lyme Caxton Sarum Missal (see right) is the sole surviving copy of an exceptionally early printed prayer book, the 'Sarum Missal', published by William Caxton in 1487. The book was owned by the Leigh family of Lyme Park soon after it was published but was removed from the property in 1946. The National Trust was assisted by many other organisations as well as individuals in raising the purchase price to bring the book back to Lyme Park.



The opportunity was also taken to restore the library to its Victorian décor. People were sceptical that a book would have any effect on visitor numbers but interest in the book generated queues outside the house and increased visitor numbers by 10,000—an impressive result.



At Osterley, Claire's attention has been directed towards the fine collection of books sold in 1885 to raise funds to enable the Jersey family to save the House. The main part of this collection was formed by the "Enitre and Valuable Library" of Bryan Fairfax for which the library by Robert Adam was designed in 1766. The Osterley library has, in its time, included eleven Caxtons—although at two different periods, ten

Caxtons have been listed, these have not been the same ten. One of Claire's aims is to trace sufficient of the collection to arrange a loan exhibition of books that used to be here—her experience at Lyme Park suggests that this could be of interest to visitors.

Another possible project might be to produce a facsimile or digital representation of one of the books so that visitors could actually leaf through the book (using turning pages technology). One good candidate for this would be the book on Mrs Child's menagerie at Osterley "Portraits of Rare and Curious Birds at Osterley, Middlesex" (see above and right).

We hope to see some of Claire's ideas come to fruition. 📖



Ed's note: Fundraising coffee mornings for the Friends are being planned with a similar format to the autumn social this year—a member of staff talking about what they do at Osterley with refreshments provided. See inside front cover for details of the first coffee morning on 29 November with Andy Eddy. Tickets £3 on the door. Concerns that some members could not hear Claire's talk have been noted and we will do what we can to improve the situation. 📖



Golden October Osterley Park, London

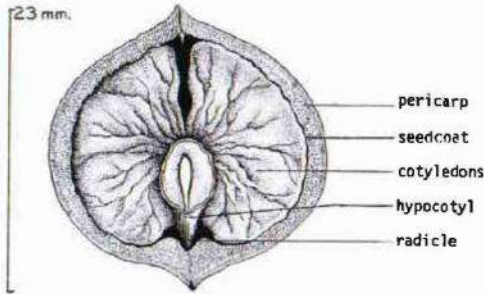
Photo: John Stacey See article on page 14

Golden October

(see photo on centre spread)

Margaret Friday

For the centre spread in this newsletter, John Stacey has given us the exceedingly beautiful photograph of a magnificent tree which shows off its splendour each year here at Osterley. It is a *carya ovata* or American shagbark hickory which originates in Canada and along the east coast of the United States.



Source: Wikimedia USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

The *carya ovata* has edible nuts (see left and below) which are described as sweet and delicious but, as it does not fruit every year, it has never been commercially grown for the nuts. The round hard nuts are eaten by many animals including black bears (see page 16), foxes, chipmunks and rabbits. Deer and squirrels do not like the shagbark and tend to leave it for trees easier to access. Close relatives of the *carya ovata* are the pecan (see catkins below) and the walnut (see page 15).



Source: Wikimedia USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Source: Wikimedia Forest Images Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States

The *carya ovata* is deciduous, broadleaved and self-pollinating: the male flowers having yellow-green catkins (see catkins of pecan tree left) while female flowers grow in small clusters at the end of branches. The tree grows to 120 feet high and has bark

which curves away from the trunk giving it the shaggy appearance and popular name of shagbark hickory. It is not commonly found in Britain but is one of the finest looking hickory trees.



Source: Takk (Wikimedia) Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported



Source: Kenpel (Wikimedia) Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

We know that there were American plantings at Osterley from 1785, perhaps including species such as the

magnolia grandiflora (see above) which blossoms along the west front around the perron.

The American plantings are being restored at present (see photos right and below of American Garden in September 2009 & 2011).



American Garden 9 Sep 2009



American Garden 16 Sep 2011

Our Head Gardener and Park Manager, Andy Eddy, says that our grand tree was probably planted around 1885-90.

This date matches particularly well with a sad event in the life of Margaret,

(Continued on page 16)

Countess of Jersey.

Osterley had become available for the use of the Earl of Jersey when the Duchess of Cleveland died in 1883. Margaret and her husband gave the marvellous party that saved Osterley in June 1884. Following the party, the Countess declared that Osterley should become the perfect family home. She later wrote in "Fifty-one Years of Victorian Life" that Osterley "became the joy of my life and a great pleasure to my husband."

In that autobiography, she also writes about the tragic death of her brother Gilbert Leigh. He had been elected MP for South Warwickshire in 1883. In August 1884 he and his friend William Grenfell, later Baron Desborough, went on holiday to America to go black bear hunting. On 14 September, he set out



Photo: Cephas (wikimedia) Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

to hunt on his own and was never seen alive again. William searched for him and his body was discovered in a ravine on 21 September. It seems that Gilbert had fallen from his horse and hit his head, dying instantly. His body finally reached London on 20 October 1884.

Perhaps Margaret had this beautiful tree planted at Osterley in memory of her favourite brother with whom she grew up. He died in September just as these trees would have been glowing with the marvellous colours we see in this picture. Margaret continued to love Osterley and hold parties in the house and grounds and spent many happy years in the joy of her life – Osterley Park House. 🏡

Osterley Stables

(see photo on cover)

Margaret Friday

On the cover of this newsletter, John Stacey has pictured the rather precise paving stones outside the entrance to the stables.

The stables, as written up by Giles Worsley in *Aspects of Osterley*, are almost certainly confirmed as those built by Thomas Gresham and then made even more impressive for the visit of Elizabeth I in 1576. The stables are large and, as Giles Worsley points out,

"Grand symmetrical stables are not a common feature of 16th century England."



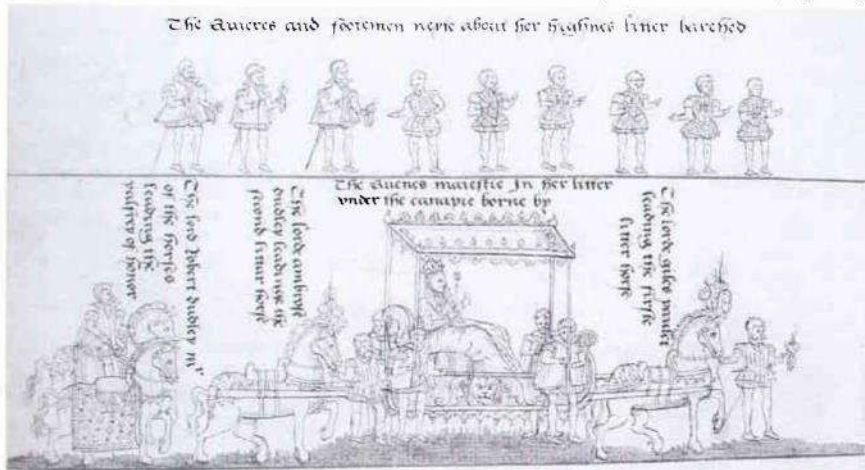
©National Trust Images/Andrew Butler

In the late 16th century, changes were made to stables in England with the introduction of the carriage and the carriage horse. From the 1560s, carriages began to be introduced in England from Germany and the Low Countries. As Sir Thomas Gresham had lived in Antwerp (*in modern day Belgium*) and travelled in Europe for many years, he would have been aware of the carriage and his architect Hans Hendryck van Paesschen would have been familiar with the coach house.

(Continued on page 18)

Osterley Stables

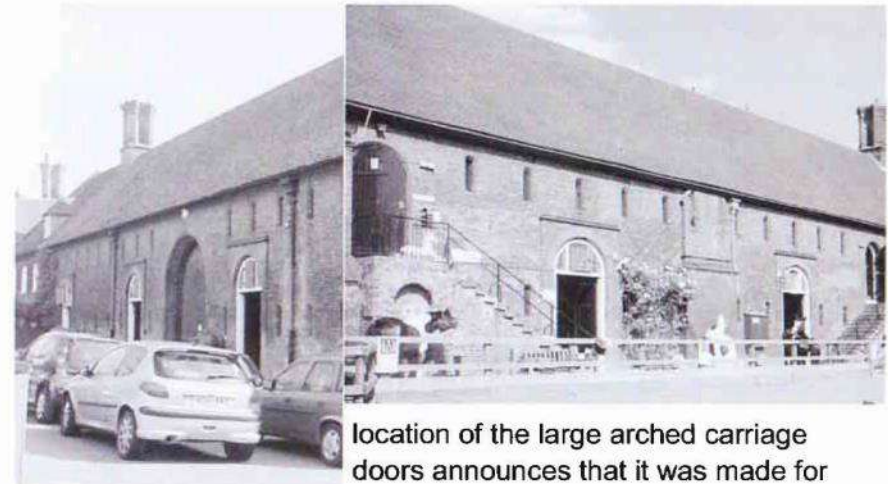
(Continued from page 17)



Source: Wikimedia Drawing of the Coronation Procession of Elizabeth I of England, 1559, from a document in the College of Arms

Although Queen Elizabeth did not use a carriage at her coronation (see drawing of coronation above), she acquired the first royal carriage in 1564. From that time, travel in London and the south east of England began to change. Thames barges slowly gave way to horse-drawn coaches. Travelling by carriage was seen as a more appropriate way for elaborately dressed people to travel. Until that time, the distances that the Queen travelled when she was moving between palaces and great houses would have been covered on horseback or on the River Thames. In 1564, the coach was a new novelty which the Queen and her wealthy courtiers were beginning to enjoy. She employed William Boonen, a Dutchman, as her first coachmen and he was dressed in a red uniform.

The first coach house was built in the Royal Mews at Charing Cross in 1568 with alterations taking place at the mews in Greenwich. The stables built at Hampton Court by Henry VIII in 1537 were extended by Elizabeth I between 1567 and 1570 with places for carriage horses and carriages. These are still in use as stables today and are located close to the entrance to Hampton Court Palace on the main road by Hampton Court Green. They can be viewed free of charge. A plaque (see page 19 top left) above the



location of the large arched carriage doors announces that it was made for Elizabeth I and is dated 1570. The stables (see above right) are located at the back of this coach house arch.

Paving stones (see right) by the Hampton Court stables match the paving fronting the stables in the courtyard at Osterley as shown in John's picture (front cover). If you look above the entrance to the information centre at Osterley, you will



see a large filled-in arch – perhaps the entrance to the coach house. Were the stables at Osterley adapted to make possible the visit of Elizabeth I in that new mode of transport the Royal Coach? I shall close with a quote from Giles Worsley: "Osterley is, after all, the sort of house that sets trends, not follows them." Do take another look at the stable block paving and see what you think.

Ed's note: Photos at Hampton Court taken by Margaret Friday. The paving stones are a buff colour set in a sandy background but the contrast has been adjusted so that the pattern is visible. 🏠

21 years at Osterley

Wei Hei Kipling



Although Osterley Park was given to the National Trust in 1949, the Property was originally run by the Victoria & Albert Museum with the National Trust taking over direct running of the property in 1981. It was at this time, 21 years ago, that the National Trust asked for volunteers and the Friends of Osterley Park was set up.

Hilary McGrady, Regional Director, London and South East, was our guest speaker for the celebratory event (see above) on Wednesday 18 July 2012. During and after an excellent light buffet with wine or soft drinks, Hilary circulated and chatted to Volunteers and Friends.



©National Trust Images/Andrew Butler

In her speech, Hilary celebrated the contribution of Friends and Volunteers to the National Trust: the financial support of the Friends; and the work of the Volunteers. Osterley Park is significant as a green space within London (page 20 below, the Eagle looking across the estate of Osterley Park) and this is an example of the role of the National Trust in encouraging the provision of green spaces. In talking about this, Hilary made reference to the work and writings of Octavia Hill (right), one of the three founders of the National Trust.



©National Trust Images

In her essay "More air for London", Octavia wrote:

"There are indeed many good things in life which may be unequally apportioned and no such serious loss arise; but the need of quiet, the need of air, and I believe the sight of sky and of things growing, seem human needs, common to all men."

I am sure we can also appreciate Octavia Hill's thinking:

I wish we could get the tenants more often into the country. Does it not seem that the quiet influence of nature is more restful to Londoners than anything else?



©National Trust Images/Cristian Barnett

Hilary also commented on some of the new developments within the National Trust – at Nuffield Place (see left, tool cupboard in Lord Nuffield's bedroom), Stowe and Knole.

Thanks must go to Hilary McGrady for joining us for our celebrations and also for supplying the Editor with a copy of the book "To the utmost of her power"—the enduring relevance of Octavia Hill from which the quotes are taken. 📖



from the Editor

I apologised in July 2012 to John Stacey and I can now apologise to the Friends for the poor quality of

the printing in the Summer 2012 issue and in particular the appearance of John's photographs. It was unfortunate that John's photos last issue made use of the subtle effects of light through glass which disappeared in the shadows and blemishes created by the printing process. Furthermore, the deadlines set by the need to send out invitations for the 21st anniversary celebrations meant that I had no time to ask the printer to reprint the order. The printer has appreciated my concern and, if all goes according to plan, there should be a colour photograph in the centre spread.

The importance of the presentation from Neil Cole and the breaking news on opening hours next year meant that I did not have space to mention some snippets of news from the Property in the relevant section so I will indulge myself here.



Who else was amused to note the detection of Batman at Osterley almost as soon as Friends purchased a bat detector for use of the wardens? I remember our treasurer making jokes about Batman and Robin—little did he know how good a detector it would be. One of many pleasing notes about the Real to Reel exhibition on filming was the connection made between Batman and bats (*see above*).



I also hope that you have been able to find an opportunity to enjoy the new tables for the tearoom both in the stables courtyard (*see left*) and in the garden terrace.

from the Diary

"Friends" Events and Excursions

Thu 29 Nov Coffee morning with Andy Eddy (see page 2)

Osterley Park House 2012—a selection

7 to 30 Nov except Mon, Tue	House and Garden closed Café open 11 to 5 Shop open 12 to 5 2nd Hand Bookshop 12 to 4
1 to 16 Dec except Mon, Tue	House open 12 to 3.30 Saturday and Sunday Garden closed Café open 11 to 5 Shop open 12 to 5 2nd Hand Bookshop 12 to 4

House & Garden 2013

16 Feb - 28 Mar	12 - 4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29 Mar - 30 Sep	11 - 5	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Oct - 1 Nov	12 - 4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2 Nov - 15 Dec	12 - 4						S	S

Tearoom, Shop & 2nd Handbook Shop 2013

16 Feb - 28 Mar	12 - 4.30	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29 Mar - 30 Sep	11 - 5.30	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Oct - 31 Oct	12 - 4.30	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Nov - 15 Dec	12 - 4.30			W	T	F	S	S

Park & Car Park 2013

2 Jan - 28 Mar	8 - 6	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
29 Mar - 30 Sep	8 - 7.30	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Oct - 31 Dec	8 - 6	M	T	W	T	F	S	S

House: Only Basement floor open every Monday & Tuesday 16 Feb to 31 Oct: Last Entry 1 hour before stated closing time The Park will be open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day 11am - 4pm.

Next newsletter due to be published in January / February 2013.

Any contributions to the Editor by **1 January 2013**.

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.