



Useful contacts

**Chairman /
Membership
Secretary**

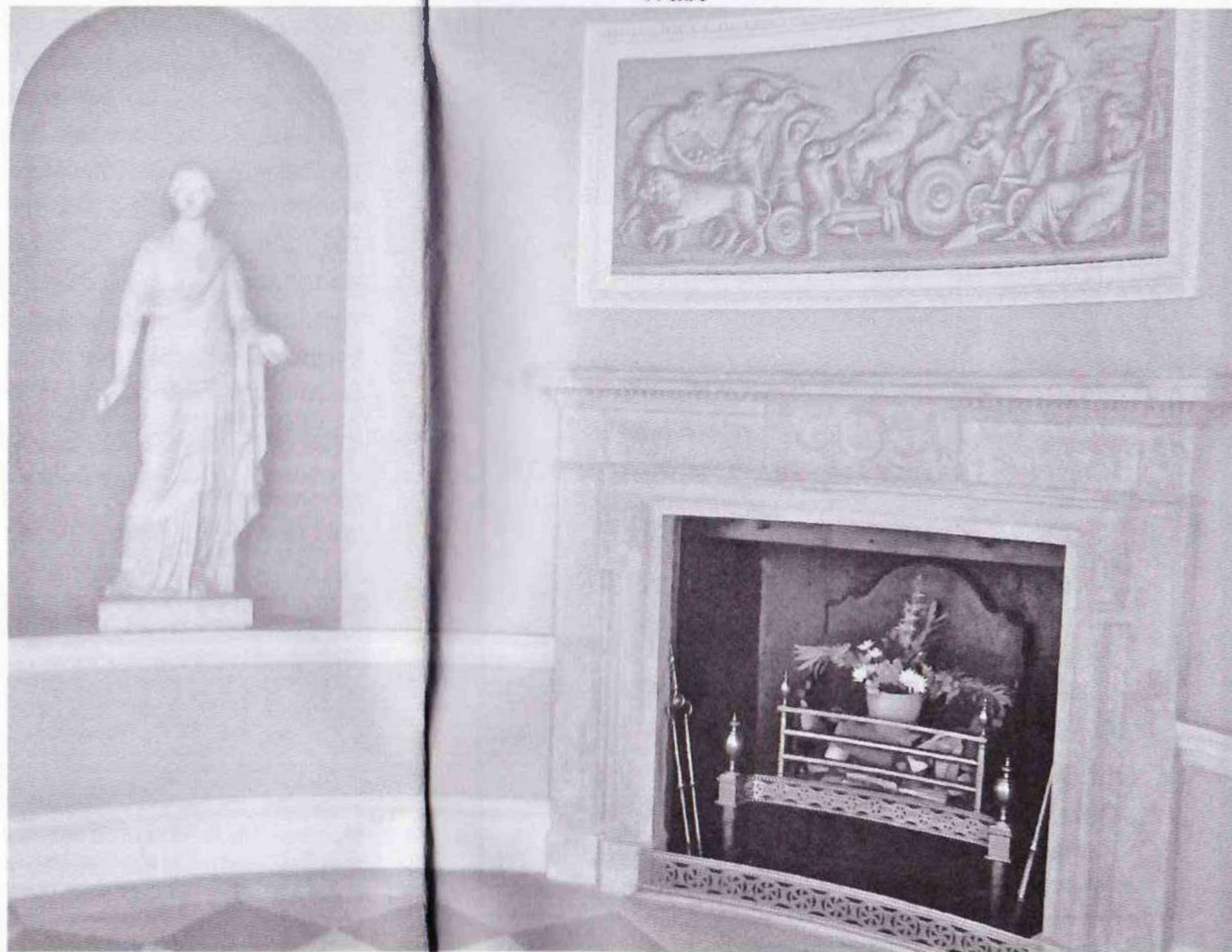
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North Apse, Entrance Hall
Osterley Park
see article on page 14
Photo: John Stacey

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020 8566 1155





TUE 26 FEB
JOHN STACEY

“Osterley
through My Lens”

3rd draw 100 Club

TUE 9 APR
JEREMY DALTON
HEAD WARDEN

“Threats to
London’s Trees”

Tea / Coffee and biscuits

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



Tickets £3 at the door

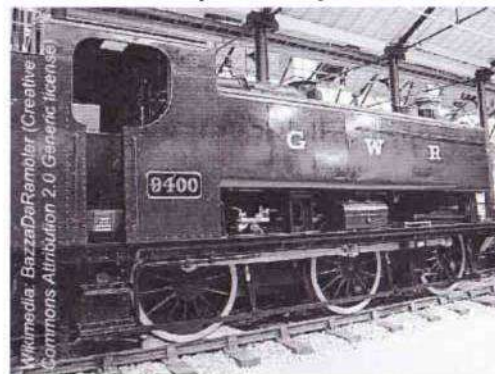


from the Chairman John James

A Happy New Year to all Friends of Osterley Park. 2012 was a very special year. 2013 promises to be a challenging year for everyone.

The Friends’ Autumn Reception was held in the Brewhouse on the 3 October. We had a very interesting talk given by Claire Reed, Collections and Premises Manager. Claire’s enthusiasm for her work was evident and her presentation was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

On the 13 November, Douglas Craik and I attended a National Trust Supporter Group Conference at The Vyne. Its purpose was to improve the Trust’s relationship with Supporter Groups and to share the new support arrangements available, the new larger region’s progress and to provide an opportunity for discussion and sharing of ideas. The day was very informative.



The National Trust AGM was held at Steam (see left), the Museum of the Great Western Railway, which is next door to the Trust’s HQ at Heelis. I attended with John Stacey and my wife Patricia. The AGM was very well supported at Steam and other members were able to follow

the proceedings on line. As usual we heard an excellent presentation by the Chairman, Simon Jenkins. The highlight of the AGM was the long standing ovation which the retiring Director General Dame Fiona Reynolds (see page 4 with Simon Jenkins) received in acknowledgement of her outstanding service to the National Trust over the past twelve years. The afternoon session was a review of the Trust’s work over the last ten years with Adam Nicholson, author and son of Nigel Nicolson, the donor of Sissinghurst, and Sophie

(Continued on page 4)

Chairman

Andreae, architectural historian and member of the National Trust's Council. There were also many interesting questions from members

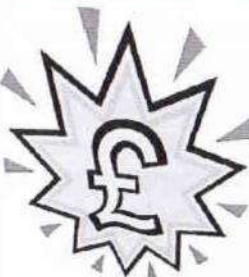
The first aim laid down in the Constitution of the Friends of Osterley Park is to support the work of the National Trust and its programme of conservation and improvement at Osterley Park. The support of the Friends has never been more needed. We held our first Friends' coffee morning in December in the Brewhouse with an interesting and lively talk by Andy Eddy. It is intended to have regular coffee mornings during the year and the next will take place on Tuesday, 26 February with John Stacey "Osterley through my Lens". Other coffee morning dates for your diary are Tuesday, 9 April and Tuesday, 11 June. Our AGM and social will be on Wednesday, 15 May.

We called a group of Friends together, led by Douglas Craik, to plan trips and a possible holiday. I am pleased to announce that the group has taken responsibility for organising trips to National Trust and other properties during 2013. Research is also taking place on a possible holiday in 2013 or 2014. Wei Hei Kipling will again be arranging London Visits during the year.



(Continued from page 3)

from the 100 Club



The third draw of this competition was held at the Friends coffee morning on Thursday 29 November.

Congratulations to the winners who were:

Mr J Robertson £100

Mr B Shephard £60

Mrs F Bernstein £40.

The final draw of the competition will be at the coffee morning on Tuesday 26 February.

Jim Tickle RIP

After a prolonged illness, Jim Tickle was settled into a comfortable nursing home where he died, unexpectedly, of a heart attack on Wednesday 23 January 2013. The funeral was on 5 February.



Ed's note: The news of Jim's death arrived too late during the preparation of the newsletter for us to do anything more than put these photos together. If you have any memories or photos that you would like to share, please send them to me by 13 March for the next issue of the newsletter.

from the Property

Staff news

Elizabeth Kaye is our new Property Administrator to the team, replacing **Marie Webb** who left at the end of 2012. Elizabeth has joined Osterley Park having worked for the last 3 years as the Cultural Project Co-ordinator for the London Organising Committee for the Olympic & Paralympics Games 2012.

Other new arrivals to the Property include **Kate McCormack**, Conservation Assistant in the House, and **Lizzie Fuller**, Assistant House Steward.

Rebecca Leach, originally appointed as support for the Weddings & Functions Business for the summer, has now been appointed to the post full time. 📧

The "Yellow" Breakfast Room

.. Is probably in the middle of an identity crisis. After being painted grey for the Batman filming, it is now being stripped back to its walls. Over the course of a day at the end of last season, Osterley's Buildings and Maintenance Assistant, Daniel Peck, peeled back



the paper and hessian lining the walls. He was assisted by the House Team, Curator Lucy Porten and Advisor on Historic Interior Decoration James Finlay - not to mention fascinated visitors!

Highlights included:

- ◆ The uncovering of a doorframe leading from the Breakfast Room to the Library Passage.
- ◆ 'Graffiti' on the south wall.
- ◆ A yellow coloured paper on the doorframe, east wall and fireplace surround. 📧

Plastic Pots needed

Due to excellent plant sales last year the garden team need more plastic plant pots. If you have any that you no longer require, the team would be delighted to take them off your hands. The pots can be dropped off at the car park hut or left outside the buggy shed. 📧



Osterley Park House Opening Hours 2013

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.								

Coach Trips 2013

Many friends have enjoyed the Coach Tours and summer holiday tours organised by Jim Tickle over more than the last decade. Since ill health forced Jim to give up the week-long tour some time ago and all tours about 18 months ago, we have struggled to meet this need. James Law managed to organise 3 tours this year but found this very stretching.

The Friends Committee has now set up a group to organise tours for 2013 with each volunteer organising one trip. So far we have four volunteers looking at trips and would like to recruit at least two more volunteers so we can organise a tour each month from April to October (excluding August).

I will undertake booking the coach, handling the money and issuing tickets so this will be organised centrally. The role of the volunteer organising a trip is to contact (and, if possible, visit) a destination chosen from a list created by the group; establish access, house tour guide arrangements, costs for non-members and any meal arrangements; and, if possible, act as the tour leader on the day.

We are also looking at reviving the five-day September tour, but this may not be possible this year.

So, if you feel you could take on the role of setting up a one-day coach trip a year, please let John James know – if we get too many volunteers, we could always look at more tours! 🚐

Excursions leave from the lakeside car park at 09:30 and aim to return about 18:30

For more information, please contact:

Ticket availability: Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449

Thu 11 April Ightham Mote / Knole—James Law 020 8741 7527

Thu 9 May Anglesey Abbey—Patricia Barrett 020 8568 9050

Tue 4 June Claydon—Margaret Friday 020 8991 0593
or Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449

Douglas Craik



Ightham Mote / Knole

James Law



On Thursday 11 April, the first coach outing of the new year goes to two very interesting properties in Kent, close to Sevenoaks. The first destination is Ightham Mote (*see left*), lying in the rural Weald of Kent where we will arrive about 11am and aim to leave about 2.15pm after lunch – there is a good restaurant here. Ightham Mote dates from the early fourteenth century and the medieval moated manor house has seen many

changes through its 700-year history. Today, Ightham Mote is a Grade I listed building and a scheduled ancient monument, set within peaceful gardens, with an orchard, water features, lakes and woodland walks. Following a £10 million, 15 year conservation programme, it is now possible to enjoy the Tudor Chapel with painted ceiling, the drawing room with Jacobean fireplace, over-mantel and frieze, as well as the Victorian billiard room, and more recently, Mr. Robinson's apartment.

The second visit will be to Knole (*see below*). The original 15th century house was enlarged and embellished in 1603 by Thomas Sackville, first Earl of Dorset, and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, and has remained essentially unaltered ever since, a rare survival. The 13 state rooms open to the public contain superb collections of paintings, furniture and tapestries. The house will be undergoing extensive refurbishments during 2013 but intends to receive visitors as normally as possible. It will be interesting for us to see this work

in progress, in the relatively short time we will have there in the afternoon, as they close at 4pm. However, the grounds remain open a bit later, so if the weather is good, we can walk around the gardens, before getting our coach home to Osterley. 🚐



Anglesey Abbey

Patricia Barrett



Our second coach trip of the year will be to Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill, Cambridgeshire on Thursday 9 May, leaving Osterley Park at 9.30am.

Anglesey Abbey (see left) was a rundown country house and

desolate landscape but was transformed by Huttleston Broughton, 1st Lord Fairhaven. He recreated the golden age of country house living and a celebrated garden. There is also a working watermill.

On route, we plan to visit Saffron Walden (right), a pleasant town with many old buildings plastered and "pargetted" - an east Anglian form of plaster decoration. There is a



fine church, a restored Victorian garden and places for lunch. 🏡

Claydon

Margaret Friday

Tuesday 4 June will be the Friends' first visit to Claydon House. It shares some similarities with Osterley in being a much older house remodelled and embellished to impress – in the case of Claydon, Sir Ralph Verney's neighbours included Lord Temple at Stowe. Sir Ralph employed Luke Lightfoot, a wood carver, in 1756, to transform his house but, after ten years (1770), fell out with him over the enormous expense and Lightfoot's eccentric Baroque style which had become unfashionable. A lengthy court case followed with Lightfoot accused of theft but was settled out of court by Verney. Sir Thomas Robinson, Palladian architect, was employed to finish the project but left the following year. By 1790 Verney had spent

his and his wife's fortunes and was obliged to move to France to escape debtors' prison. (Lord Temple of Stowe shared a similar fate.). The house was left to Sir Ralph's niece who failed to appreciate the baroque and rococo splendour of Claydon and had two thirds of the huge house torn down. Simon Jenkins in *England's*



Thousand Best Houses says Claydon is "the most original 18th century design anywhere"..."swirling foliage interlaces scrolls, temples, bells and birds" ...a stunning monument to a master craftsman and to the waywardness of English taste. Come and see the amazing Chinoiserie (see above) for yourself.

In Victorian times, Florence Nightingale often stayed at Claydon – she was a sister of Parthenope whose husband Sir Harry Calvert owned Claydon. The family gave the house and 392 acres of land to the National Trust in 1956.

Claydon House opens for free flow viewing at 1pm but is open from 11am for 30 minute taster tours which must be booked when we arrive. There is also a free 10 minute talk about the house.

The restaurant has been warned that we are coming and suggests that we drop in for lunch in the Carriage House Restaurant (opens at noon) or tearoom (opens at 11) in small groups. There is also a shop, a second hand bookshop and plant sales which all open at noon, as does the garden, so there is much to look forward to. The restaurant and tearoom are not NT (so volunteer's cards cannot be used). Some people may prefer to bring a packed lunch.

A separate admission charge of £3 (for everyone including NT members) applies to the gardens run by the Verney family. 🏡



The Osterley Entrance Hall

(see photos on cover and centre spread)

Margaret Friday

The grand Entrance Hall at Osterley Park House, the Child family house in the country but close enough to London to entertain London's wealthy residents, was designed by Robert Adam in 1767 for Robert Child to inspire and impress visitors.

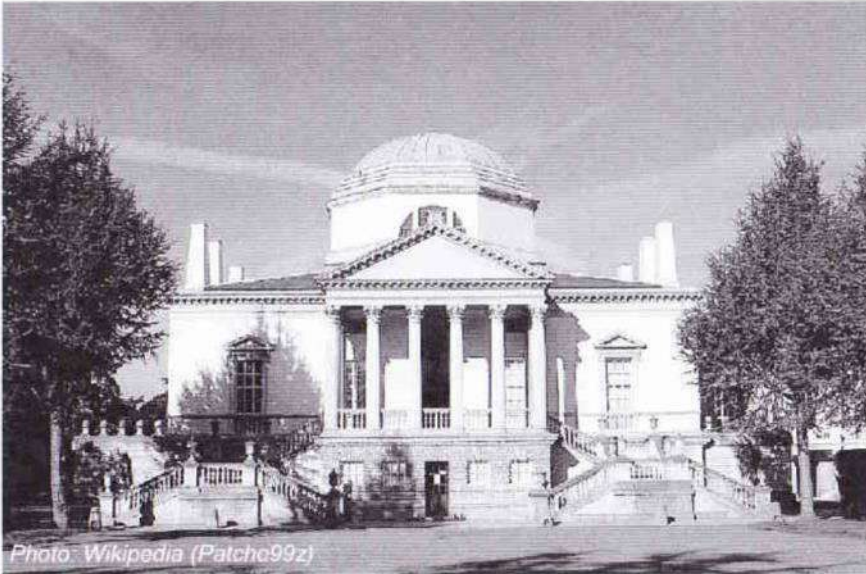
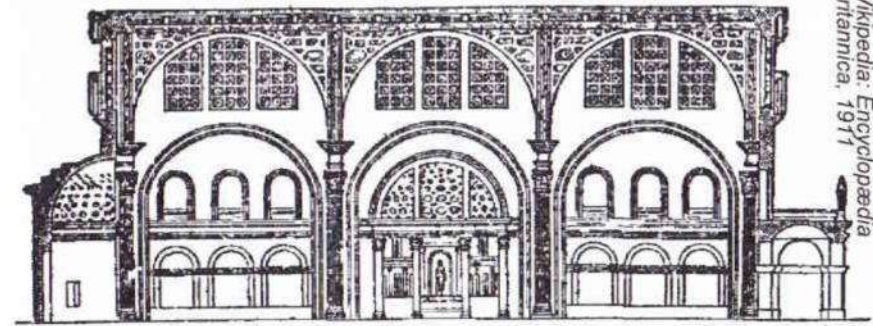


Photo: Wikipedia (Patcho99z)

Nearby were Syon, owned by the Duke of Northumberland, and the Duke of Devonshire's Chiswick (see above) so Robert Child decided to have Osterley embellished in a suitable manner by the top architect of the day – Robert Adam. Child was said to be the 3rd richest man in England at the time but he was not an aristocrat like his neighbours. Thus it was even more important for a refined example of taste to be displayed at Osterley. In their 1985 guide to the house, John Hardy and Maurice Tomlin say "Osterley was conceived as a Pantheon of the Arts and Sciences". Just stepping into the Osterley Entrance Hall confirms Robert Child's objectives so skilfully displayed in Robert Adam's work and beautifully pictured for us by John Stacey for this newsletter.



Wikipedia: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1971

From the exterior door, we see apses on either side inspired by the Basilica of Maxentius (see above) in Rome. The triumphal arch effect surrounds the fireplaces which bear the Child insignia of an eagle holding an adder. The niches to the south contain statues of Minerva, representing the arts and Apollo god of poetry and music. Above the fireplace (see below) is a grisaille painting by Cipriani of Bacchus, the wine god, thyrsus in hand, arriving in a chariot accompanied by satyrs and maenads.

Photo: John Stacey



The marble statues may have been brought back from Italy by Robert Child's uncle Robert who was in Rome in 1712 where he was painted by Michael Dahl beside the Colosseum. Early guide-books of Osterley say these statues are Roman: some later guides feel the statues were carved here but no sculptor is mentioned. The statues were "repaired" in the 18th century – missing pieces to statues were often restored by Italian artists such as Piranesi. Certainly, many young men purchased large numbers of statues when

(Continued on page 16)

Entrance Hall

(Continued from page 15)



Source: Wikimedia (NPG)

on the Grand Tour: Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington (see left) returned with 878 crates of collectables in 1714 and Charles Townley secured a great many famous statues, including the Discobolus. The Townley collection, as painted by Zoffany (see below, *Discobolus* at bottom left), is now on display in the British Museum.

The stucco panels of Roman arms on the wall facing the entrance are inspired by the arms of Augustus in Rome

known as the Trophies of Marius (see page 17 top). Arms have been put aside thus peace and agriculture can flourish. These may have been made by Joseph Rose, one of the finest stuccoists at Osterley, as they are exceedingly fine works of art.

The large marble vases are inspired by the two smaller metal ones now in the vestibules as these were copies of the Medici and



Source: Wikimedia



Photo: TcikaPanairjode GNU Free Documentation License

Borghese marble vases. It is thought that Joseph Wilton carved the exquisite Osterley vases which show the Triumph of Galatea and The Triumph of Venus although some believe they are Roman or Italian. The smaller metal vases once stood along the west wall between the plaster weapons displays – see earlier Osterley guidebooks 2001 or 1985 for the effect.

Less obvious details in the Entrance Hall concern the floor which contains 365 pieces of Portland stone and red sandstone set to reflect the pattern in the ceiling (see below) and corresponding with the twelve great columns in the portico.



©National Trust Images/Dennis Gilbert

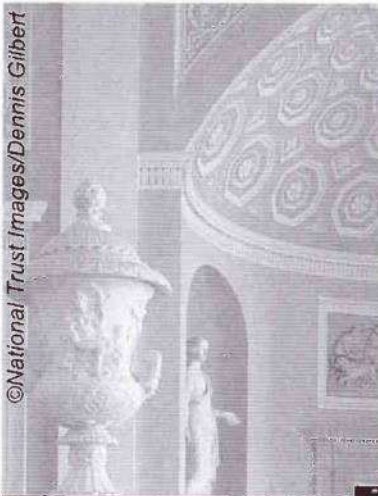
(Continued on page 18)



The portrait in grisaille overlooking this great Hall is Sir Isaac Newton (*see above*), Renaissance man and greatest British scientist of the Enlightenment. This portrait was not included in Adam's original Roman plans for the room so we suppose it was suggested by Robert Child. Robert Adam believed that if a citizen of ancient Rome had entered this room he would have felt at home for it is planned as a Roman vestibulum, serving as the transition from the outside to the interior of a house and usually containing statues,

abandoned arms and flowers. The 1782 inventory tells us there were flower-pots in painted stands in the windows. An account of 1786 says that the Entrance Hall was painted in white and three shades of French grey.

Thus, Osterley Park House Entrance Hall represented the impressive, classically inspired party house where the Child family could display their incredible wealth and exquisite good taste to all their friends.



©National Trust Images/Dennis Gilbert

London Visits

Wei Hei Kipling



Welcome to the new season of London Visits. Noting the interest of many Friends in music, our first Visit of 2013 is to the **Museum of the Royal College of Music**. Not to be confused with the Royal Academy, the **Royal College** is located in South Kensington. The Museum is full of musical treasures dating from the 15th century onwards and our 40 mins tour should give us an opportunity to hear some instruments being played. Cost: £5. Meeting ar-

rangements: Friday 1 March, 10.40am at South Kensington tube station to walk to Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BS for 11am tour.

Opening Up The Soane (OUTS) is a £7 million project to restore, refurbish and improve **Sir John Soane's Museum**. The first phase of work, completed in mid-2012, saw the creation of a new Exhibition Gallery and Conservation Studios on the first and second floors of Number 12. As well as looking at the Museum generally, our visit in March will focus on the exhibition **"Piranesi's Paestum: Master Drawings Uncovered"**. Piranesi was a friend of Robert

Adam's and, more generally, is considered "one of the most vital elements in English architectural development from the beginning of Robert Adam's career till the end of Soane's". Cost: £8 (first £50 to Museum, remainder to Friends). Meeting arrangements: Friday 15 March, 1.45pm at Holborn tube station (exit on Kingsway) to walk to the Sir John Soane Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP for 2pm introductory talk.



Source: Wikimedia (Piranesi)

(Continued on page 20)



Source: Wikimedia Commons—satirical cartoon by James Gillray attacking Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger's decision on 26 January 1797 to temporarily forbid the Bank of England from paying out in gold, having it issue banknotes.

Some of you may know that my husband is transferring to work for the Bank of England and some of you may have been lucky enough to visit the interior of the Bank of England itself. Our visit in April will simply take us to the **Bank of England Museum** for a one-hour presentation giving a brief history of the Bank of England since its foundation in 1694 and describing the main role and functions of the Bank today. **Please note that there must be a minimum of 15 people for us to access the presentation. If insufficient people book, I will review arrangements with those who have expressed an interest.** In addition, you may wish to allow 45mins to visit the Museum itself including an exhibition on "The Hugeneot Legacy." Cost: £3. Meeting arrangements: Wednesday 24 April, 1.45pm at Bank tube station (exit 2) to walk to the Bank of England Museum (entrance to the Museum is in Bartholomew Lane, EC2R 8AH, which is off Threadneedle Street) for 2pm presentation.



The **Thames Police Museum** in Wapping High Street is another of Wapping's hidden treasures not to be missed. The exhibits here tell the story of a time when the Thames was the centre of Wapping life and thieving was rife. Visits last about 60 to 90 minutes depending on questions and the curator usually talks about the history and then invites visitors to look around for themselves. Cost: £6 (expenses of curator and donation to Police Orphans Fund, remainder to Friends).

Meeting arrangements: Wednesday 22 May, 1.45pm at Wapping Overground station to walk to Thames Police Museum, Wapping Police Station, Wapping High Street, E1W 2NE for 2pm visit.

The **almshouses** at the **Geffrye Museum** have been restored to their original condition and offer a rare glimpse into the lives of London's poor and elderly in the 1780s and 1880s. In addition, the **period gardens** behind the almshouses, based on the design and



planting of urban middle-class gardens since the 17th century, and the **herb garden** will be open for the summer and there will be another chance to visit the period rooms. Cost: £5 per person (£2.50 to almshouses, £2.50 to Friends). Meeting arrangements: Wednesday 19 June, 10.45am at Hoxton Overground station to walk to Geffrye Museum, 136 Kingsland Road, E2 8EA for 11am one hour tour of almshouses and then visit to gardens. If more than 10 people book, some will visit the gardens first and then go onto the 12noon tour of the almshouses. If there is sufficient interest, I may book a group meal at the Geffrye restaurant. **Please book by 15 May.**

(Continued on page 22)



from the Editor

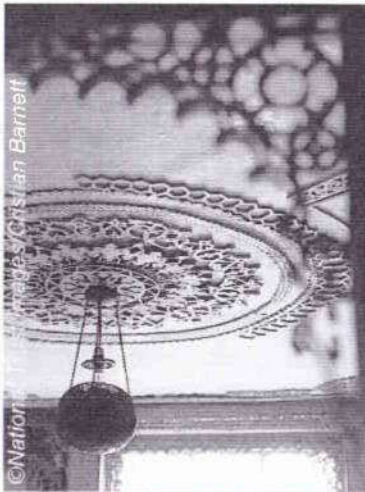
You may have noticed that this newsletter includes some page-wide illustrations in addition to the won-

derful photographs taken by John Stacey. On the one hand, this makes me feel a bit of a fraud because, for the same size of newsletter, I am writing less text and so possibly giving you less news. On the other hand, there is no denying that sometimes a larger photo will be more meaningful—the lovely fretwork in the picture below would be invisible in a smaller picture. 📖

London Visits

(Continued from page 21)

As we go to print, NT booking has opened for **575 Wandsworth Road**, home to Kenyan-born poet, novelist and British civil servant Khadambi Asalache. Over the last twenty years of his life, he decorated the interior of his two-up, two-down, terraced house with hand-carved fretwork and decorative panelling and created a unique and welcoming home which has been saved for the nation as a significant work of art. Due to the size and fragile nature of the house, access will be by guided tour only limited to six people and pre-booking is essential. The house retains the original 19th-century plan. It has narrow doorways, corridors and small rooms with very limited turning space. There area also steep stairways to all floors



and fragile fretwork on all the walls. Cost: £5 (to Friends) - please bring NT cards. Meeting arrangements: Friday 5 April, 1.25pm for 1.30pm tour or 3.25pm for 3.30pm tour at 575 Wandsworth Road, SW8 3JD. Closest stations: train—Wandsworth Road Station 1/8 mile. Clapham Junction Station 1¼ miles; underground Clapham Common Station ¼ mile. Buses 87, 77 and 452, stop directly outside the house or there is limited on-street metered parking in the local area. 📖

from the Diary

“Friends” Events and Excursions

- Tue 26 Feb Coffee morning with John Stacey (see page 2)
- Fri 1 Mar London Visit: Royal College of Music
- Fri 15 Mar London Visit: Soane Museum (Piranesi)
- Fri 5 Apr London Visit: 575 Wandsworth Road
- Tue 9 Apr Coffee morning with Jeremy Dalton (see page 2)
- Thu 11 Apr Coach trip: Ightham Mote / Knole
- Wed 24 Apr London Visit: Bank of England Museum
- Thu 9 May Coach trip: Anglesey Abbey
- Wed 22 May London Visit: Thames Police Museum
- Tue 4 Jun Coach trip: Claydon
- Wed 15 May Booking deadline for Geffrye Almshouses
- Wed 19 Jun London Visit: Geffrye Almshouses

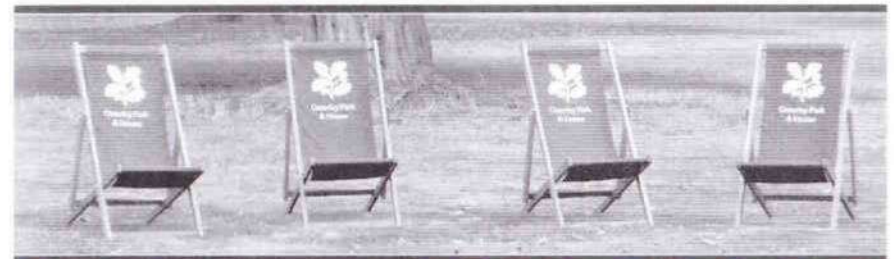
For more information:

London Visits—see pages 20 to 22

Coach trips—see pages 8 to 11 and booking form

Advance Warning

- Wed 15 May Friends AGM and Social
- Tue 11 Jun Coffee morning—speaker tba



Next newsletter due to be published in April 2013.

Any contributions to the Editor by **13 March 2013**.

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.