

Detail of rose familie
vase, Long Gallery
Osterley Park
see article on page 14
Photo: John Stacey

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The Friends of Osterley Park



in support of **National
Trust**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 90 AUTUMN 2013 £1 (free to members)

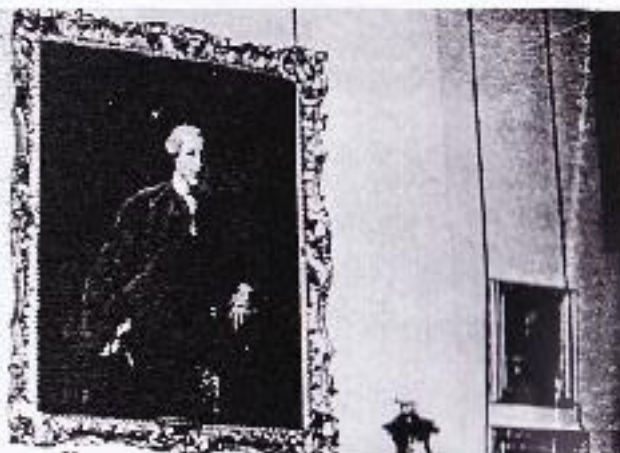




The Friends of Osterley Park

in support of National Trust

Photo: Neil New Kington



COFFEE MORNING

10.30AM FOR 11AM

TUE 22 OCT

CLAIRE REED

The Jersey Loan

TUE 26 NOV

ELIZABETH KAYE

(PROPERTY ADMINISTRATOR)

Old Brewhouse, Osterley Park

Jersey Road,
Isleworth TW7 4RB

Tickets at the door

Friends: £3

Non-members £4

Tea / Coffee
and biscuits



from the Chairman

John James



I am writing this during the first few days of September when we are already experiencing a touch of autumn's approach. Although it is warm and sunny during the day, we have chilly mornings and evenings and sunset is now around 7.30 p.m.



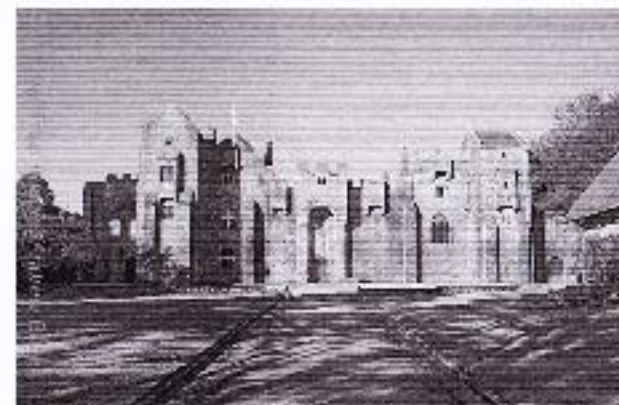
Andy Murray at Wimbledon
Photo: Tim Schofield

Since the end of June (the second week of the Wimbledon Championships) we have had a glorious summer. After a late spring our gardens, parks and countryside have been in bloom, with better harvests for the farmers and fruit growers in most parts of the country. National Trust properties have had good numbers of visitors, especially during the school holidays.

We experienced this recently on holiday in Devon, visiting Compton Castle (*see below*), where we were given a warm welcome by volunteers and exchanged experiences of the National Trust. They were selling raffle tickets, as are the staff and volunteers at Osterley. I do hope you have all bought raffle tickets at Osterley, if not please do think about it.

I am so pleased that we have been able to continue Jim Tickle's legacy of regular visits to National Trust properties and other places of interest. I would like to

(Continued on page 4)



thank the trips' team who have been so enthusiastic in planning visits this year and are now planning 2014. The team are led by Douglas Craik, with Patricia Barrett, Peter Bush, Margaret Friday, Pat Herod, James Law, Angela Lynskey, Barrie Pyle and John Stacey. They are also planning a holiday for Friends in September 2014. I hope that you will consider joining a trip if you have not already done so, and encourage your friends to come as well.

Photo: Wei Hei Kipling



We are very grateful to Wei Hei Kipling for organising interesting London Visits, which have proved so popular. Trips so far this year include Bank of England Museum, Thames Police Museum, Geffrye

Almshouses (see almshouse room above) and the Vermeer and Music exhibition at the National Gallery.

Coffee mornings, each with a guest speaker, have been successful, especially John Stacey's talk on "Osterley through my Lens", showing his beautiful photographs. Two more coffee mornings are planned for 22 October and 26 November.

We continued to promote the Friends by having an information stall at St. Mary's Church Osterley Summer Fair and at Osterley Weekend. There was a successful Teddy Bear Parachute Jump in August from the roof at Osterley House. Thanks to Douglas Craik for organising it, and to all those who helped.

The Director General of the National Trust, Dame Helen Ghosh (see right), wrote the following lines in her message in the Summer National Trust magazine: "Every Trust property has its own individual spirit, not just because of its unique history or natural significance. Each one feels different and the people who come to visit value the special things about that particular place and the staff and volunteers who work there feel the same way.... The purpose of the Trust is to look after special



places, for ever, for everyone, and we will only be able to succeed if people love and enjoy those places as much as we do." Her words echo our feelings as members of the Friends of Osterley Park. We love and enjoy the House and Park and our main purpose as stated in the constitution is to support the work of the National Trust and its programme of conservation



and improvement at Osterley. For all charitable organisations membership and volunteering are so important. Do encourage friends and neighbours to become members and also consider becoming a volunteer at Osterley. 

Membership Subscriptions and Standing Orders

Douglas Craik, Treasurer

At the AGM in May it was agreed that the Membership Subscriptions for 2014 will be £10 for one person or £16 for two at the same address. This increase reflects the increased printing and postage costs of the Newsletter.



We now have 69 people paying their membership and 100 club subscriptions by Standing Order and we need to ask you to re-sign the enclosed form with the new rates and return to me for next year's payment. If you haven't previously paid by Standing Order, why not start now?

We have introduced this because we know that those Friends who renew late after reminders have generally just mislaid or forgotten the form and this should make it easier all round. Just complete the enclosed form giving your Bank details and return to the Friends Treasurer. We will pass it to your Bank so future years' payments will happen automatically. Unlike a Direct Debit you can cancel this payment anytime in the future by just telling your Bank. ☺

Gift Aid

Douglas Craik, Treasurer

At the AGM I was asked a couple of questions about Gift Aid so here is a brief summary of the rules. This is an abridged version of the HMRC advice and does not cover all details. Friends of Osterley Park (FoOP) is "a charity for tax purposes" and not an independent charity. Strangely this means it falls under the rules for Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC).

Can I make a Gift Aid Donation?

If the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax you've

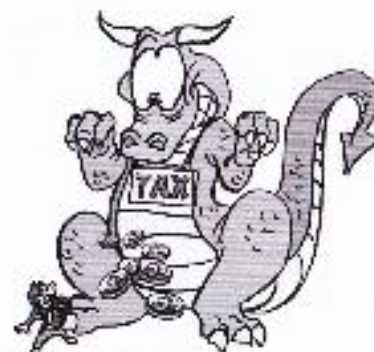
paid is at least equal to the amount of basic rate tax the CASC and any other charities you donate to will reclaim on your gift. You don't necessarily have to be working to be paying tax. Basically if you pay £25 tax you can donate £100.

What is it worth to FoOP?

For a single membership subscription of £10 we can claim back £2.50.

Can I claim a tax reduction?

If you pay higher rate tax (income over £41,450), you can claim the difference between the higher rate of tax 40 and the basic rate of tax 20 per cent on the total 'gross' value of your donation. If you donate £10, the value of your donation is



£12.50 - so you can claim back £25 ($£12.50 \times 20\%$). If you pay top rate tax at 45% (income over £150,000) you can claim more, and are very lucky.

Do I need to declare my Gift Aid to HMRC?

Normally only if you claim Higher Personal Allowance, Married Couple's Allowance or tax credits or you pay higher rate tax and want the extra tax relief. In these cases you will almost certainly be making an SA100 short tax return already, the total you have Gift Aided to all charities goes in Box 5 Page 4.

What now?

If you have not already signed a Gift Aid declaration but think you are eligible then please sign the form with this Newsletter and return to me. At present 94 members have signed up.

Anything else on Gift Aid?

HMRC have recently changed their rules so we need the First Name of donors, for a few people who signed the previous form we are not certain of this and they will have a form with this newsletter to update our records. ☺

John Robertson

John James

John Robertson (on the right with Ian Conacher) passed away on 27 August 2013. He and Betty had moved a few years ago to Nantwich in Cheshire to be near their family. John was a founder member of the Friends of Osterley Park and started the 100 Club. Both he and Betty were very active in the Friends. John's other interests in the community were with Osterley Scouts and Osterley and Wyke Green Residents' Association. 🏠



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:

B Martin £20

M White £60

O E Bignell £100

As you know, half of the money from the 100 club is used for prizes whilst the other half is used for projects at Osterley. There are still two draws to come. Membership is available for £6 per share for the rest of the competition. If anyone wishes to join or increase their holding in the 100 Club, please send your cheque 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. Please note that the 100 Club is a private lottery and so shares can only be allocated to paid up members of the Friends. 🏠

Para-teddy bears!!!

Douglas Craik



Many thanks to the Friends and volunteers who turned out to run the Parachutists enlistment table (see left) on 4 August: Patricia Barrett, Christine Craik, Suzanne Dawson, Margaret Friday, Joan Mound, John Stacey, Sue Smith, Sheila Underwood and Gillian Webster.

Special thanks to Ed Whitaker for rescuing several Teddies from the wisteria and window ledges, and very special thanks to Kelly Wood who made at least 30 trips up the Tudor stairs delivering Teddies to the roof.

Photos from ground by Sheila Underwood, edited John Stacey



We raised £260 and created a great deal of fun and enjoyment for several hundred visitors. 🏠

from the Property

Staff changes

Neil Cole is delighted to announce that **Carla Malcolm** has been appointed Assistant Warden. Carla has been an active volunteer and seasonal member of the retail team at Osterley and her experience will be invaluable.

Judith Evans has moved to Chartwell to 'act-up' as House Manager until November.

After 3 years at Osterley Park, **Karina Swann**, VE & Marketing Manager is leaving for pastures new. We are sure you will join us in wishing Karina every success for the future. Neil is currently advertising the post as Karina's last day will be 25 October. 📧

Opening Hours 2014 (see back cover for 2013 hours)

House*, Garden, Stables café, shop and second hand bookshop 2014*								
1 Mar—4 Apr	12 - 4**	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5 Apr - 30 Sep	11 - 5**	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 Oct - 31 Oct	12 - 4**	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Garden and Stables café 2014								
1 Nov - 31 Dec	12 - 4**	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Shop and second hand bookshop 2014								
1 Nov—14 Dec	12 - 4						S	S
House 2014								
29 Nov - 14 Dec	12 - 4						S	S
Park & Car Park 2014								
1 Jan - 4 Apr	8 - 6	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5 Apr - 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: Basement floor only open every Monday & Tuesday 1 Mar to 31 Oct. Last Entry one hour before stated closing time. **Café opens one hour earlier. Park and Car Park open 25 and 26 Dec and 1 Jan 11am - 4pm.								

Happy 10th wedding anniversary

On 17 August 2013, Osterley Park and House played host to the Earl and Countess of Jersey's tenth anniversary party. The current Lord and Lady Jersey have a very close connection to the house and were delighted to welcome their guests to their family's former pied-a-terre for a night of celebration.



Guests were encouraged to walk up the portico steps and enter the house through the Entrance Hall door where the room was lit with white mood lighting to highlight the imagery and motifs on the walls. After a private tour of the house by Claire Reed and Judith Evans, dinner was announced in the

Long Gallery (see above). A 30ft table was made up in the centre of the room with flower displays and battery powered tea lights to set the mood. Unfortunately, the anniversary fell on a day with low cloud which left the Long Gallery extremely dark and therefore the use of our trusty up-lighters which you see every day around the house came in use during dinner.

Catered by one of our trusted suppliers, Party Ingredients, guests indulged in a 3 course dinner with Beef Wellington being served for the main course. Afterwards, there was a moving speech by Lord Jersey to Lady Jersey. Around 10pm, the party then exited through the double doors in the Long Gallery, down the west steps and into their marquee where an array of games awaited including laser clay pigeon shooting! Lord Jersey himself has sent his thanks and said that 'everyone had a great time and were amazed by the location'. Something that all staff and volunteers should be proud of.

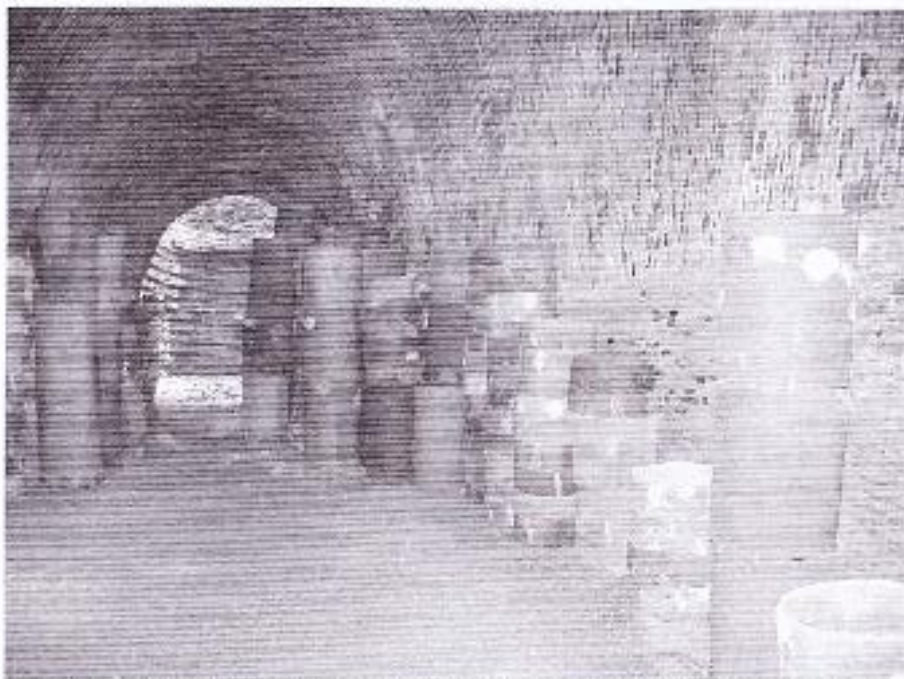
Ed's note: Many thanks to Neil Cole for permission to use this report (edited) from the 'Volunteers' newsletter. 📧



Osterley's Chinese Porcelain Vases

(see photos on cover and centre spread) **Margaret Friday**

This newsletter displays John Stacey's beautiful colour close-ups of two of our six large Chinese porcelain vases. We believe they were made in about 1740 in Jingdezhen, the principal place of manufacture at that time.



Inside large kiln (50' long x 20' high) at museum at Jingdezhen. Saggars (to protect delicate ware during firing) on sides and chimney in rear. Photo: Carol Ventura

Between 1728 and 1756, the man appointed by the emperor to oversee porcelain manufacture was Tang Ying. He had worked and travelled with Emperor Kangxi since the age of 16 and was in his 40s when he was appointed to supervise all things relating to ceramic production. Realising that he knew nothing about making ceramics, he began working with the artisans in Jingdezhen and spent 3 years learning and recording the processes for making and decorating porcelain vases. To quote Fang Lili, author of *Chinese Ceramics*, Tang

Ying "became one with the art of porcelain fully comprehending the humanistic, emotional and technical aspects of the art. The Imperial kilns in Jingdezhen serving the royal families reached their greatest heights...under his guidance and design. The exquisite porcelain vessels produced were the epitome of the collective achievements of ceramics history".

Carol Ventura visited the Jingdezhen Ceramic History Museum where porcelain is still made in the traditional manner using wood-fired Qing dynasty shaped kilns (see page 14) to fire the vases after they have decorated. She wrote about this in the journal *Ceramic Review* in July/August 2008.

At the time our vases were made, only the Chinese knew how to make porcelain. The soft clays used in Europe did not harden sufficiently to make even simple products such as the tea cup so we imported the Chinese tea bowl which could withstand boiling tea without cracking.

Objects as large as our vases could only be made in China where they used a pure white clay called kaolin mixed with porcelain stone which contained feldspar. This was covered with a clear glaze and fired to 1,280°C causing the clay to vitrify and become translucent and the glaze to turn to glass – unlike objects made from ordinary clay. Many Europeans did not believe porcelain was made from clay because they knew you cannot see through clay but you can see your hand through a translucent porcelain plate.

For information on our vases I consulted the experts – Dominic Gellinek and Rose Kerr of the Oriental Ceramics Society. Rose was curator of the Far Eastern Collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum until her retirement ten years ago and writes extensively on Chinese porcelain and lacquer. Both visited Osterley and were delighted by the beautiful items from China in porcelain and lacquer which they saw in the House.

(Continued on page 16)



According to Rose, large vases, such as those at Osterley, were made in parts and then fired to bring the pieces together. The potters would begin by throwing the base and then making successive parts

which were finally assembled and fired after being placed together on top of each other. The large kilns needed to make such vases were found in Jingdezhen. Like the Ming vases in Shanghai Museum, ours show signs of uneven surfaces and cracking because they were made in sections and then joined together when fired.

The large powder blue vases (see above) may have been coloured using cobalt with the step of lowering the temperature during firing to hold the shade of blue which was desired. Both of these blue vases were gilded: if you look closely, it is still possible to see remnants of the gilding. Dominic felt that their age and over-cleaning may have worn away the gilding. (We do have a fine example of a blue gilded bowl from this

time upstairs in Mr Child's dressing room.) The peony which John has photographed (see centre spread) represents spring. Summer is the lotus, autumn the chrysanthemum and winter the prunus or plum blossom.



Photo: Wei Hei Kipking

The rose famille vase (see cover and page 16 below) has pale colours with many scenes of birds and flowers. Dominic told us that our vases are very early examples of these pale colours which were a favourite with Europeans but were also loved by the Chinese. Here again, the peony – flower of spring – is painted in beautiful soft colours. The rose famille vases are not imperial, i.e. made for the emperor, as they are not the most skilfully prepared but their early production in these soft colours makes them unusual. Rose said that the shape of this vase is a particularly good example of the pleasing porcelain designs with very fine drawings which were being created at this time. The gilding shows slight cracks which would have occurred in the original firing rather than being a result of later damage.

Our most exquisitely made vases are the white ones bearing pictures of the phoenix and finely painted branches of blossoms. These are pictured in the East India exhibition where they have featured the phoenix representing the Empress of China. (see left)

The first company allowed by the Chinese to set up a trading centre in China at Canton, modern Guangzhou, was the British East India Company in 1715. The French and Dutch were not allowed in until 1728 and 1729. This early date coincides with the time that Robert Child, son of Francis Child the elder, was a director of the East India Company. Sir Francis the younger followed him in directing the East India Company and continued to acquire fine Chinese collectables.



(Continued on page 18)

The dinner service (see plate right) with powder blue borders and the Child family crest, granted in 1701 to the Childs of Worcester, was probably made for Robert Child, son of Francis Child and uncle to Robert Child the younger who hired Rob-



ert Adam to transform Osterley. Dominic told us that the plates with the blue borders were made in Jingdezhen – the only source for firings using this colour. These may have been sent to Canton where the Child crest would have been painted on and the plates fired again but Rose Kerr felt this shade of red for the coat of arms may only have been available in Jingdezhen at this early date. The dinner service could then be dispatched to England either direct or via India. This exceptional complete dinner service – the only one known with these blue borders and bearing a family crest – gave the Childs yet another way to show their wealth and their taste in exotic, luxurious and fashionable things from China.

Guests Horace Walpole and Agneta Yorke both commented about the number of items from China to be found at Osterley. Walpole noted 'Mrs. Child's dressing-room full of pictures, gold filigree, china and japan. So is all the house' Agneta says with 'the profusion of rich China and Japan at Osterley – porcelain, lacquer furniture, chintzes, India paper, Decca work and so forth she could almost fancy herself in Pekin'.

When you are next in the Long Gallery, take a closer look at our amazing collection of early eighteenth century Chinese Parade Jars. Their magnificent size and beauty and fine art work still impress today. 🏺

Running at Osterley

Wei Hei Kipling



The 7th Earl of Jersey (see left 1845 to 1915) was said to be "a passionate sportsman who would not employ any servant unless he could play cricket or football." Lord Jersey was an enthusiastic athlete and, in later life, prominent in athletics administration. He won the Eton Mile in 1862 and represented Oxford University in 1865 (coming second in the one mile flat race and also running in the

two mile flat race). He was the inaugural President of the Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) from 1880 until he was appointed Governor-General of New South Wales in 1890. He presented a Challenge Cup to the Amateur Athletics Club—a predecessor of the AAA—which in its time has been awarded for the three mile flat race and the four mile flat race. The modern distance assigned to the Earl of Jersey trophy by England Athletics is the men's 5,000m.

On, Saturday 31 August 2013, 261 runners of all standards

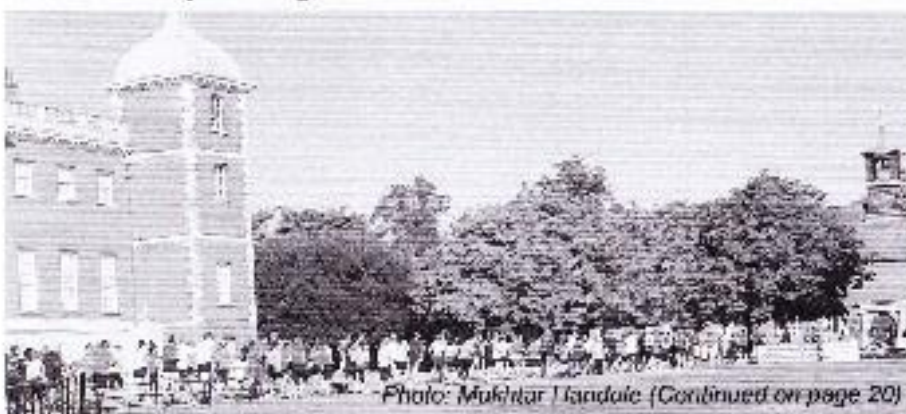


Photo: Mukhtar Handole (Continued on page 20)

made their way to Osterley for the inaugural parkrun at this location. The concept of parkrun is very simple: a free 5km run against the clock which takes place on Saturday mornings (normally 9am in England) at more than 200 locations in the UK and overseas. All of the local parkrun team are volunteers—indeed Geoff Miles, the event director, is a volunteer room guide at Osterley Park. Now that parkrun has started at Osterley, it will take place every Saturday unless there are



Photo: Mukhter Hanjula

exceptional circumstances (eg the event at Gunnersbury Park on 31 August was cancelled because the Park was overfull with people setting up for the Mela on the next day). The first Osterley parkrun took place in lovely conditions for a run: sunny but not too hot with a cool breeze. Many runners enjoyed the attractive location and scenery with the run along the front meadow towards the country house (see above) of particular note. While the three lap course is relatively flat, the mixture of terrains (tarmac, gravel, grass, a short stretch of woodland path with tree roots and low-flying branches) and the occasional tight corners made it technically challenging and some runners did trip over in the wood. For this reason, those of you who venture out to the woods by Osterley Lane will find that some of the tree roots have been painted white (see right).



Photo: Marjorie Kipling

Though I am not aware that we have encountered the circumstances of the Amateur Athletics Club championship in 1868. The location, Beaufort House, had a good track but presented occasional hazards because the ground was shared with a farmer... In 1868, Edward Colbeck, trying for a double in the 880yards and 440yards, collided with a sheep which stood in his way



"presumably amazed at the remarkable performance which the runner was accomplishing." Colbeck broke the animal's leg—and the world record for 440yards with a time of 50.4 seconds, a record which stood for 11 years.



Photo: Marjorie Kipling

Other changes have been made to the event since that first run. The run now starts by the steps of the House so introductions are given from the steps. Most parkruns are started by a whistle so Osterley is probably unique in starting as the stable clock (see left) strikes nine. The numbers have also reduced to the more manageable size of 25-62; while the influx of runners from the cancelled

Gunnersbury parkrun and elsewhere made for an amazing buzz at the inaugural parkrun, the aim of parkrun is to encourage the local community to start or to keep running. A very pleasing statistic is that in the first six events, 39 people have run in a parkrun for the first time here at Osterley.

After parkrun, many of us go to the National Trust café for post-run refreshments and a buzz of conversation. When the weather is good, we can sit at the outdoor tables. The café is kindly opening earlier on Saturdays at 9.30am and staff have noted that parkrunners like cake rather than fruit and granola after their exercise!

Continued on page 22)



from the Editor

I have given a reasonably full report on Osterley parkrun in this issue, partly because it is a very different event from the ones normally reported in this newsletter. Osterley parkrun is also the type of event that, now it has started, will not be continually advertised as it will continue every Saturday morning so long as there are sufficient runners and volunteers. There may be occasional cancellations but mere bad weather is not a sufficient reason!

On the other hand, the newly formed trips' team has been organising trips for 2013 and are now asking for your feedback about what sort of events you would like to be organised in the future. Please take a moment to complete and return the questionnaire. 📧

Running at Osterley

(Continued from page 21)

Many thanks must go to the staff at Osterley Park and Get Active Hounslow for their interest in this parkrun and their on-going support and to the volunteer team led by Geoff Miles for all the preparatory work over the summer. Please note that parkrun would not be possible without volunteers. Do email osterleyhelpers@parkrun.com if you would like to help out. It's a great way to meet people and is thoroughly recommended.



In case anyone is wondering, my home parkrun is Gunnersbury Park. I have however volunteered twice at Osterley and hope to be able to run here sometime soon. I did take part in the trial run (see left) to check out the course and the other arrangements in August.

What makes me smile is the historical connection. I like to think that Lord Jersey would have approved of the use of his grounds for a 5,000m parkrun. 📧

from the Diary

Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 22 Oct Coffee morning: Claire Reed
 Tue 29 Oct London Visit: Fulham Palace
 Wed 20 Nov London Visit: Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising

Tue 26 Nov Coffee morning: Elizabeth Kaye

For more information:

Coffee mornings—see inside front cover

London Visits—see Summer 2013 newsletter pages 32 to 34 or contact Wei Hei Kipling (details on cover)

Advance Warning

2014 London Visit to Kenwood House
 (after restoration and to allow enjoyment of grounds)

Osterley Park House Opening Hours 2013

House & Garden 2013								
1 Oct - 1 Nov	12 - 4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2 Nov - 15 Dec	12 - 4						S	S
Tearoom, Shop & 2nd Hand Book Shop 2013								
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								
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. The tearoom is also expected to be open from 9.30am on Saturdays. For 2014 Opening House, see page 10								

Next newsletter due to be published Dec 2013 / Jan 2014.

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

The Editor may change or reduce contributions if necessary.