



# THAMES & SOLENT NEWS

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## Bringing Osterley to Life



**T**WO years ago we announced that the grand neo-classical mansion at Osterley Park was embarking on a major programme of revitalisation for visitors. Now you can see the House in a whole new way – thanks to the innovative use of technology.

Created by the great 18th century designer Robert Adam as “the palace of all palaces”, this spectacular show-house in West London has never quite captured the imagination of the

modern visitor. While tens of thousands of people each year enjoy the park and gardens, very few venture inside to marvel at the magnificent interior.

That will all change in 2009, when the House will be brought to life using technology which is a “first” for the Trust. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the house using hand-held digital sets to provide an audio commentary, along with tantalising images to fire the imagination and conjure up images of life above and below

stairs in the Georgian era.

There will even be an interactive version, designed especially for families.

The Trust has brought to life the once bustling Servants’ Hall, using projected images, and the kitchens and adjoining working areas have been dressed with replicas of authentic food preparations. There are dressing up clothes and hands-on fun for children, and a beautifully evocative film in the stables linking the past with the present and showing Osterley in a totally new light.

“We have listened to feedback from visitors and hope that these developments will make a big difference to your visit,” says Property Manager Sian Harrington. “The hand-sets are a real breakthrough for the Trust as they give our visitors a chance to experience an historic house in a completely new way.”

With restoration work continuing to make an impressive difference in the gardens of Osterley, this once overlooked treasure is now set to reclaim its place as one of the

jewels in the Trust’s crown. Osterley Park House and Garden is open from 4 March, Wednesday to Sunday.



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