

# THE EAST INDIA COMPANY AT HOME, 1757-1857

## FEBRUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Basildon Park from Jones' Views of the Seats of Noblemen and Gentlemen (1829).

On **8 February 2012**, *The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857* project team gave a presentation entitled 'Domestic Subjects: The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857' as part of the Histories of Home seminar series at the Institute of Historical Research, London. Each of the team members spoke about the project and how it has developed in its first six months. Margot discussed the project more generally, where the idea initiated from and how far the project has progressed so far. Helen discussed the historiography of country house history and the place of the globally inflected country house within it. Kate discussed a case study she is developing about ivory chairs and the politics of recognition, while Ellen discussed how her PhD research explores the imagined homes of Scottish East India Company officials. We hope to have a podcast of the presentations and discussion available soon—and will alert affiliates when we do. Over dinner after the event, Amanda Vickery (author of *Behind Closed Doors* and chair of the IHR presentation) challenged us to start Tweeting about the project. As you can see from <https://twitter.com/#!/EICatHome>, we have accepted the challenge. If you're on Twitter, please help us to spread the word.



The Team after the IHR Talk

On **24 February 2012**, Kate and Ellen attended the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' event at Olympia in Kensington. While there, they met with representatives of FIBIS, The National Archives of Scotland, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Kent Family History Society, Berkshire Family History Society, Yorkshire Family History Society, the Guild of One Name Studies and the Federation of Family Historians. Thanks to all for your welcome, information and advice!

During **February** we released the first project case study – Swallowfield Park – to Project Associates to get your feedback and comments. We are very grateful to all those Associates who got in touch with us about the case study and we are now working to incorporate the suggestions you made and correct the mistakes you found so that we can release the case study to the public in March.

Kate is continuing to research Basildon Park, Berks and the family of Sir Francis Sykes. On **13 February** she met with Sir John Sykes, a descendent of Sir Francis to discuss the family, house and relevant sources. It was a very useful meeting!

On **2 March 2012**, *The East India Company at Home* project is hosting a short study day for a small number of Project Associates at the British Library. The aim of the meeting is to bring together some of the Associates we have met over the last six months to discuss how far the project has come, where we are going and the methodologies we are employing. We'll be updating you on this event on the website and in the next newsletter.

On **1 July 2012**, Margot will begin her new job as Chair of Modern British History at University College London. *The East India Company at Home, 1757-1857* project and project team, including Helen, Kate and Ellen, will move to UCL with her. Watch this space for information on our new web-address and contact details.