

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

To be held in the Study Base, Osterley Park

At 11.00 on Wednesday, 22 April 2026

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2025
2. Annual Report presented by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee Members
3. Presentation of examined accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025
4. Election of Committee Members
5. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the Accounts

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2025 COMMENCING AT 11.05 IN THE STUDY BASE, OSTERLEY PARK

Present: Management Committee Members: Howard Simmons (in the chair), Peter Bush, John Collis, Yvonne Dias, Mike Doran, Margaret Friday, Margaret Lydamore, Sophie O'Donnell, Susan Parsons and 30 members.

Apologies for absence: Sylvia Bell, Denise Evans, Wendy Holbrook, Marian & David Huffer, Basil Mann, Vik Sharma, Wendy Sim, Sue Smith, Jean Thomas and Sheila Underwood.

1. Welcome

1.1 Howard Simmons welcomed everybody to the meeting and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24 April 2024

2.1 The Minutes of the AGM held on 24 April 2024 had been circulated with the agenda. Proposed by John Collis and seconded by Margaret Prior, the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Annual Report presented by the Chairman on behalf of the Trustees

3.1 Howard advised that the Friends were largely back on track after a difficult year in 2023. Coach trips had been recommenced with four being run to Polesden Lacey, Hughenden Manor, Blenheim Palace and Bateman's. Margaret Friday had led local visits to Mercers Hall, Camley Street Natural Park, Fenton House, a walk from Hammersmith to Putney, a train visit to Rochester, 2 Willow Road and the Bank of England Museum.

3.2 The Friends had continued to enjoy talks at the monthly coffee mornings: Matt Butler, Osterley's Welcome Manager, talked about his role on the property; GM Chris Cleeve spoke of the 2023 achievements and 2024 planning; Christine Diwell about the history of Isleworth in 20 objects; Hannah Wiltshire about her role organising Osterley's events; Jenny Hearn & Judith O'Flynn about the South Wing Project; Margaret Friday on the newly arrived Brinsley Ford Collection; Nicola Carr on her first year as Area Ranger at Osterley; Michael Peacock on the history of Brentford; Rosie Fyles, Head of Gardens at Chiswick House. In December we enjoyed another Christmas Lunch at the Grasshoppers Club. 2025 started with a talk by Howard about siblings, conspiracies, and the Civil War.

3.3 Howard thanked the Committee who had made it happen: Peter Bush, John Collis, Yvonne Dias, Mike Doran, Margaret Friday, Margaret Lydamore, Sophie O'Donnell, Susan Parsons and Vik Sharma.

3.4 Proposed by Sue Kendrick and seconded by Wendy Robertson, the report was adopted.

4. Presentation of Examined Accounts for year ending 31 December 2024

4.1 The Accounts were presented by Sophie O'Donnell; she thanked Susan Parsons who had largely compiled the accounts in 2024.

4.2 Subscription income was slightly down and sadly the Friends had lost a few members. Subscriptions would remain at £10 and £16 which she suggested represented good value for money. The coffee mornings had seen good attendance and contributed a surplus as had the coach trips and local visits. There had been several donations, including one for £1,000 with contributions made to a deep clean of the house following the South Wing Project; the gardeners and the costume makers. Sue Smith and Sheila Underwood had thanked the Friends for their continued support for the costumes.

4.3 On the Expenditure side, operating costs had been very similar to 2023. A major cost continued to be the printing and distribution of the newsletter. She asked Friends to take the colour version electronically as opposed to the black & white printed version many of which had to be posted. Sophie thanked those Friends who hand delivered the newsletters.

4.4 Following previous years' practice, the aim was to break even or make a small loss - this year a surplus of £22. The Supporters Donation Account held by the Trust stood at £45,610.27 at 28 February 2025; this would eventually be used to contribute towards a new buggy.

4.5 Finally, Sophie thanked Linda Foster who had examined the accounts.

4.5 The adoption of the examined accounts was proposed by Christine Craik, seconded by Margaret Lydamore, and agreed.

5. Election of Committee Members

5.1 Howard advised that under the Constitution, at the AGM the Friends elected from amongst themselves the Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon Secretary and Treasurer, although one person might hold two roles) and not less than five other Committee members.

5.2 The AGM unanimously elected:

- Howard Simmons as Chairman
- Peter Bush as Vice-Chairman
- Sophie O'Donnell as Hon Treasurer
- Susan Parsons as Hon Secretary
- John Collis, Yvonne Dias, Michael Doran, Margaret Friday, Margaret Lydamore and Vik Sharma as Committee members.

5.3 The Committee would welcome more Committee members, particularly a Newsletter Editor. It was not an onerous job.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of the accounts

6.1 Proposed by Margaret Friday and seconded by Margaret Lydamore, Linda Foster was re-appointed.

The meeting closed at 11.16.

ITEM 2: ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Firstly, thank you to all the Friends for being supportive about the work we do and being passionate about Osterley.

A very big thank you to the Committee members: Peter Bush has continued as Vice-Chairman and has stood in for me on several occasions; John Collis for organising the coffee mornings and Christmas lunch; Yvonne Dias as Membership Secretary; Mike Doran as Website Editor/Community Links/Publicity Links; Margaret Friday for arranging the local visits and her excellent newsletter articles; Margaret Lydamore who takes the coach bookings and for filling in as and when required; Sophie O'Donnell as Hon Treasurer; Susan Parsons our Hon Secretary who has also edited the Newsletter for the last three years; and Vik Sharma for organising the coach trips. I thank them all for their support.

We ran five coach trips in 2025 to Standen (May), Mottisfont Abbey (June), Hinton Ampner (July), Audley End (September) and Petworth (October). These were much enjoyed.

Local Visits were made in 2025 to the Tallow Chandlers Hall (April), Stephens House & Gardens (May), Fenton House (June), a train visit to St Albans (June), Kingswood House (July), a walk in Bloomsbury (August), the Royal Mews (September) and Somerset House (October). Many thanks to Margaret Friday and Sandra Hunkin.

Coffee mornings were held nearly monthly: Andy Eddy, Head Gardener at Osterley talked about new plantings in the garden (March); Chris Cleeve spoke of the Trust's new strategy at our AGM coffee morning (April); Michael Peacock gave the second part of his history of Brentford (May); Georgia Matthews, Visitor Operations & Experience Manager at Osterley, talked about the successful Gorgeous Georgians exhibition and future plans (June); Matti Wooton, Chief Archivist at the V&A Museum (July); Christine Diwell on Isleworth through the ages (August); Michael Peacock again on airfields in the vicinity of Brentford (September); James Marshall on the Centenary of the Great West Road (October); and Bessie White talking about her great-grandfather who was an engineer in 19th century Russia (November). In December we enjoyed another Christmas Lunch at the Grasshoppers Club. 2026 started with a talk by Katie Hintcliffe about Boston Manor House.

Susan and I attended the National Trust's London & South East (LSE) Supporter Groups network meeting in June at Munstead Wood (the home of Gertrude Jekyll designed by Edwin Lutyens, acquired by the National Trust in 2023). The close liaison with the other support associations in LSE is valuable and yields some interesting ideas and practices. Susan presented on committee recruitment talking about the Friends' use of REACH; this stimulated lively discussion with the other support associations many of whom have the same issues.

In November we said goodbye to Chris Cleeve, who left after 4½ years as Osterley's General Manager to pursue a career as a barrister. We have worked closely with Chris on a number of issues and are particularly grateful for his support in the past year in acquiring the new buggy. Collette Hamilton joined in November as Interim General Manager pending the appointment of a permanent GM for the new Osterley and Runnymede portfolio.

A big thank you to the Friends who have helped us reduce significantly the number of cheques paid in and sent out; we haven't had to pay bank charges for cheques but are in a good place if this is introduced in future. We are also very grateful to those Friends who take the Newsletter

electronically saving a large amount in postage (2nd class postage is now 87 pence!). Particular thanks to Sandra Hunkin, Yvonne and Susan who hand deliver newsletters.

As at 31 December 2025, we have 184 Friends, an increase on last year. It is gratifying that we are now back to pre-Covid numbers. However, we can't be complacent and would very much like to recruit new members who would bring new ideas and be prepared to stand for the Committee. If you know of anyone who might be interested in getting more involved on the Committee, please do tell me/any of the current Committee so we can follow up.

Howard Simmons, Chairman

ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF EXAMINED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

A copy of the 2025 accounts is attached with accompanying notes. Our main income comes from membership subscriptions and activities. About 100 subscriptions are made by standing order. This simplifies the collection of income for the Friends and saves members having to remember to renew and post their payment. We would welcome any further payments by standing order for next year's subscriptions.

There are no outstanding cheques from 2025. We are grateful to those Friends who have agreed to take any 100 Club prize by bank transfer. Quicker for you and for us and it saves a trip to the bank!

The total in the Supporters Group Account, held on behalf of the Friends of Osterley Park, at 31 December 2025 was £43,728.27. This will be updated at 28 February 2026 (the Trust's year-end). These funds are held by the Trust in an interest-bearing account which we can use for donations at any time.

We do not propose any increase in the subscription rates for 2027.

Many thanks to Linda Foster for 'examining' our 2025 accounts.

Sophie O'Donnell, Treasurer

Friends of Osterley Park
Summary of transactions - 31 December 2025

All amounts in £s			
	31 Dec 2025	Notes	31 Dec 2024
Income			
Membership subs	1,717.00	1	1,592.00
100 Club (net)	566.00	2	522.00
Coffee mornings (net after payment to Osterley)	502.40	3	417.40
Christmas lunch (net)	44.00	4	48.50
Coach Trips (net)	1114.60	5	297.50
London visits (net)	336.50	6	439.73
Donations	168.50	7	1,410.65
Total Income	4,449.00		4,727.78
Donations			
Materials for Gardeners	500.00	8	500.00
Costume makers	700.98	9	485.83
House			1,000.00
Supporters Group Donation Account	6,000.00	10	2,100.00
Total Donations	7,200.98		4,085.83
Expenditure			
Friends Newsletter	347.80	11	363.49
Postage	136.00	12	170.00
Other expenses	53.07	13	85.59
Total	536.87		619.08
Total Expenditure			4,704.91
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	-3,288.85	14	22.87

BALANCE SHEET - YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

All amounts in £s	
Community Account Bank Balance as at 31/12/24	8,537.09
Bank balance as at 31/12/25	5,238.24
Cheques not presented 2025	0.00

Notes to the 2025 Accounts

1. **Membership Subscriptions** - We have seen a small increase in membership this year. We took £1,753 in membership subscriptions in 2025. We have kept membership fees the same as last year; £10 individual, £16 joint. If paid October to December: £5/£8. If paid January to March, covers up to 15 months to following 1 April.
2. **100 Club** - 96 shares were purchased at £12 per share, giving £1,152 total income. 50% of the 100 club goes in the pot for the 100 Club draw. The remaining 50% is donated to the National Trust. Three draws were held in April, August and December.
3. **Coffee mornings** - We held 10 coffee mornings. Attendance has steadily improved and we raised £502.40
4. **Christmas Lunch** - 40 people booked at a cost of £32 per head. We ran the lunch at cost and made a surplus of just £44.
5. **Coach visits** - We organised coach trips to Standen, Mottisfont, Hinton Ampner, Audley End and Petworth. These visits have been very successful and we made a surplus £1,270.60
6. **Local visits** - We organised seven outings to London venues and to St Albans. These made a surplus of £225.
7. **Donations to Friends Account** - We received £168 in donations in donations mainly from Friends rounding up their subscriptions/100 Club amounts. The exceptional £1,000 in 2024 came from a legacy.
8. **Gardeners** - Once again, we donated £500 to support the work of the gardeners.
9. **Costume makers** - The costume makers requested a contribution towards the dry-cleaning costs of their historical costumes; we donated £700.29.
10. **Supporters Group Donation account** - Every year, we transfer our excess into this fund cash flow so it does not appear in the net expenditure for the year. This fund can be used only at our discretion but does allow us to contribute to large purchases such as the new buggy to which we contributed £7,882. This year we transferred £6,000.
11. **Friends newsletter** - The cost of printing the newsletter remains stable at £347; four were sent out during the year.
12. **Postage** - The cost of postage has gone up considerably so we do encourage you all to receive the newsletter by email to keep the postage costs down. This year we spent £136 on stamps.
13. **Other expenses** - Minor costs relating to administration of the Friends: envelopes for newsletters; petrol for drive to Supporters Group meeting.
14. **Excess income over expenditure** - We have been carrying a buffer to cover uncashed cheques from the 2019 holiday to Aberdeen. The monies have not been claimed and we have now written off that debt. We have decided to keep in the current account a year's turnover and therefore have made a larger than usual transfer to the Supporters Group Donation account.

ITEM 4: ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Any member may stand for election as a Committee member. Members shall elect four Officers and not less than five other Committee members to serve for the next year. The Committee members will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

The present trustees: Peter Bush, John Collis, Yvonne Dias, Michael Doran, Margaret Friday, Margaret Lydamore, Sophie O'Donnell, Susan Parsons, Howard Simmons and Vik Sharma are prepared to stand for re-election.

If you wish to nominate anyone to the Committee (including yourself) for the coming year, please send your nomination to:

Susan Parsons
Hon. Secretary, Friends of Osterley Park
c/o 34 Erlesmere Gardens
Ealing W13 9TY

Email: friendsoop.sp@gmail.com

ITEM 5: APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS

Linda Foster is prepared to continue as Independent Examiner.