

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 101 Summer 2016 £1 (free to members)



Door Frame, Drawing Room, Osterley Park House Robert Adam
Photo John Stacey



from the Chairman

John James

Friends of Osterley Park A.G.M. 2016

This is my fourth annual report to you as your Chairman and on behalf of my fellow Trustees.

I wish to begin by paying tribute to Ian Conacher, our President, who passed away on Friday 22nd April. [at the AGM I made further remarks on this but these are encompassed in the obituary on Page 5]

I was pleased to visit Ian at Atfield House to take him the 100th edition of the Friends' newsletter in colour. One of his many roles had been as editor of the newsletter. The service of remembrance for Ian will take place at Hanworth Crematorium on Friday 20th May at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a gathering to celebrate Ian's life, to be held at the Brewhouse from approximately 12.30 p.m. onwards. The family will be giving flowers for the service, but have kindly asked if anyone wishes to make a donation in Ian's memory, this should be to the Friends of Osterley. If you wish to attend the reception could you please let me know so that I can give the family an idea of numbers. Ian will be greatly missed.

Sadly we lost other members during the year including Audrey Conacher and John Livingston. Just recently we heard also of the death of James Law in January. Many of you will remember him as an organiser of trips. Your committee met regularly over the year and were pleased to have updates from Neil Cole on Osterley Park and House, which had a very busy year.

We are most grateful to the Trips' Group, led by Douglas Craik, with Patricia Barrett, Peter Bush, Rita Ford, Margaret Friday, Pat Herod, Angela Lynskey, John Stacey and Barrie Pyle. There have been visits to the Watts Gallery and Polesden Lacy, Dyrham Park, Hever Castle, Avebury Manor, the Kent and Sussex Railway and Bodmin Castle, Whipsnade Tree Cathedral and Ascott and The Vyne.

London visits were organised by Margaret Friday and visits were made to Leighton House, the James Smith and Son Umbrella Shop, Fenton House Gardens, Charles Dickens House, the Wallace Collection, Greenwich Fan Museum and the Painted Chapel and Hall.

The Friends' holiday was organised by Douglas Craik for the first time and was to his homeland, Scotland, staying at Strathclyde University, Glasgow City Centre Campus Village. Glasgow is one of the finest cities in this country. Doug arranged the travel by train from Euston to Glasgow. Over the week they visited four National Trust for Scotland properties, Pollock

House, Georgian House, Gladstone's Land and Culzean Castle, two Glasgow museums, the Burrell and Scotland Street School, the Battle of Banockburn Centre, the Robert Burns Museum, the Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies. They also visited Edinburgh, which coincided with the Edinburgh Festival. On the last morning a visit was made to Glasgow Cathedral and Provand's Lordship, a 1417 house.

We had regular coffee mornings during the year which again proved popular and we were grateful to have Osterley staff giving talks. In January Neil once again gave us an update on the House and Park. In March Megan Tanner Commercial Manager gave an overview of the portfolio of London properties for which she was responsible. In April Lyndsey Feeney Visitor Experience and Marketing Manager spoke on her role at Osterley. In June Isaac Rocke Sports Development Officer, gave a talk on his plans for leisure and sporting activities during the year. In July Jeremy Dalton Head Ranger, gave us an update on trees and their diseases. In August Ian Grierson, Osterley Events Manager, told us about his background, most recently with Historic Royal Palaces. In October Andy Eddy Head Gardener, gave us an update on the gardens and plans which included the building of the greenhouse in the walled garden. In November Peter and Margaret gave an illustrated talk on their visit to the ancient ruins in Baalbeck, Lebanon and Palmyra, Syria. For our Autumn Reception the speaker was Daniel Duthie, General Manager National Trust Surrey Landscapes Portfolio who gave a fascinating talk on Runnymede and Ankerwycke – a home for Politics and Picnics for over 1000 Years.

We continued to benefit from Mike Doran's computer skills as he established and keeps up to date the Friends' website, which is very informative and promotes all the Friends' activities. Mike also continued his involvement with the Osterley Neighbourhood Forum and the preparation of the Area Development Plan.

During the year our communications with you have been through our newsletters, edited by Douglas with contributions from members. I particularly want to thank Margaret Friday who is a regular contributor to the newsletter. Her knowledge and experience are invaluable. We are also most grateful to John Stacey for his wonderful library of his photographs of Osterley House and Park. I would also like to thank other Friends who contributed articles during the year. Many Friends now receive the newsletter in colour by email, which also saves postage.

I represent the Friends on the National Trust London Centres Associations and Friends Groups Local Networking Forum, so we continue our close links and exchange newsletters with other groups. It will be hosted here at Osterley Park on the 20th June.

Finally, my thanks to my fellow Trustees, Douglas Craik, Mike Doran, Margaret Friday, Patricia James, Joan Mound and John Stacey for all their endeavours and to Neil for his support over the last year. I would like to close by thanking all the members of the Friends for their continued support.

Committee Membership Douglas Craik

WHO'S ABSENT?



Is it You?

I recently attended a meeting of Treasurers of about 20 National Trust Associations and Friends groups in the South East of England. I heard that over the last couple of years 4 associations had closed, not due to lack of members (some had more than us) but due to lack of committee members e.g. Croydon & District NT are currently seeking a new Treasurer or they will fold.

Over the last few years we have lost 4 committee members and their roles have been absorbed by the "survivors". This is now a considerable concern because the loss of any more without replacement could tip us over the edge (for example I do the 100 Club, Vice-Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Holiday Organiser and Coach Group leader).

The committee meets about 6 times a year at 11:00 in the Brew House and mainly discuss future Friends activities and support to Osterley. If you would be willing to join us and ensure the future of the Friends please contact John James (our Chairman, Membership Secretary, Coffee Morning Organiser and Newsletter Delivery Organiser).

We are also looking for a volunteer to organise 1 coach trip a year. This involves selecting a destination, doing a recce trip and making booking with property, providing details to Newsletter Editor who arranges payments to be made to Treasurer (both me!)

Friends Summer Holiday We are ready to go in 3 weeks to Plymouth and planning has started for next year's holiday in York. **17-22 August or 10-15 August 2017** depending on missing York races (date not yet announced) Details and booking in next newsletter.

Ian Conacher, 9th July 1927 – 22nd April 2016



John James, with thanks to Paul Conacher for additional information.

Ian was a founder member of the Friends and served initially as Membership Secretary, Editor of the newsletter and Chairman from February 1992 to May 2012. He was appointed first President of the Friends in May 2013 so we were then still able to benefit from

his knowledge of the history of the Friends. During his years of involvement with Osterley Park and House he was instigator of the purchase of the battery cars. Ian and Audrey ran successful Friends' stalls at the annual Osterley Day events. At Christmas Ian organised Carols in the Courtyard. He enjoyed driving the buggy and welcoming visitors. Ian was a steadfast rock to the Friends.

Ian had a long career in engineering, stemming from a visit to an engineering exhibition with his father at the age of nine. He undertook National Service in the RAF as an AC2 and Fitter, in Singapore and Malaysia. He went to Kings College London to study Civil Engineering and enjoyed a long and varied career, working first for a consultancy, then for H J Heinz, where he built and installed production plant, including for Baked Beans and for Tinned Custard.

His interest in aircraft continued with many visits to air shows, and in railways with many visits to preserved lines, engineering and modelling exhibitions. He had a great interest in the Twickenham and District Model Railway Club and was Chairman and Editor of "Single Line Working" magazine. He was very involved in the Scout movement at the 1st Osterley Scouts and was a member of the supporter group and a tester for the car mechanic badge. On his retirement from H J Heinz he became a member of Isleworth PROBUS Club and served on the committee, including a term as President.

Whilst undertaking all of this, he was a father to his growing family and husband to his wife Audrey. He helped set up new homes for both Carol and Paul when they left home, painting, decorating and constructing furniture. And, of course, he was fully supported by Audrey, and supported her in the last years of her life. Ian passed away on Audrey's birthday, the morning after having had a final whiskey with Paul. He will be greatly missed.

Ian's family have kindly requested that any donations in his memory be made to "Friends of Osterley", cheques to the Treasurer please.



Our Activities

Douglas Craik

We continue with coffee mornings another two London visits (page 11) and two more coach outings (pg 13 and 14). Autumn Reception (Pg 13) There is a second opportunity to book for some of

the events advertised in the last issue. Our first coach trip of the year to Kentwell House was fully booked and our London Visits are proving very popular with 15-30 people booked on each.



OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOK GROUP



**Meet at house family entrance
Monday 2 pm UNTIL 3-3:30 pm**

18th July " The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" by Anne Bronte.

12th September The Duchess" by Amanda Forman

All volunteers, staff and members of Friends of Osterley Park

Please let the Wendy Sim know if you are coming.

wendyasim@BTinternet.com or 020 8979 3834



COFFEE MORNINGS BREW HOUSE



**10:30 FOR 11:00 UNTIL 12:00-12:30
Friends Members £3 non-members £4**

Our programme of coffee morning talks continues at roughly 6 weekly intervals. All are welcome and it is a chance to catch up on the latest news from other Friends and staff. The next ones are:-

Wed 24th Aug Isaac Rocke (Sports)

Mon 17th Oct Ffion George (House and Collections)

Wed 30th Nov Jeremy Dalton (Ranger)

Stoneleigh Abbey - Food

Douglas Craik

The original booking included the option of Tea and Cake. There has been a late offer by Stoneleigh to provide a buffet lunch for our visit. There will be no other catering except for the already advertised Tea and Cake. The lunch will cost £12.50 and MUST be preordered by 1/8/16. If you have already booked and wish to order a lunch in addition to Tea & Cake or in place of Tea & Cake please let me know by 1/8/16 (say if replacing Tea & Cake). Lunch payment to be on the day. There is plenty of room on this trip at present so why not join it?

Griffins, goats and bucrania at Osterley

Margaret Friday

Our summer newsletter is resplendent with beasts on display at Osterley. Since Rams were discussed last year we are moving on to some others to be seen within the house in the designs by Robert Adam and paintings by Antonio Zucchi and Pietro Borgnis. We will begin with the griffin or gryphon - a mythical beast having the head and front legs of an eagle with wings (if female) and the body and tail of a lion complete with clawed feet. This splendid creature is believed to have first been illustrated on cylinder seals in Persia 5000 years ago. The ancient Greeks and Egyptians also portrayed the griffin. It was considered to be the king of all creatures because it combined the eagle - king of the air with the lion - king of the land beasts. Mark Hinchman in *Dictionary of Interior Design* says the griffin "was a decorative device in the shape of a monsterIn antiquity associated with fire and is often shown in friezes with candelabras." James Hall in *Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art* sees the griffin as coming from the ancient East where it guarded the gold of India. Later the Greeks believed the griffin protected the goldmines of the Scythians and Croesus was their king. The saying as rich as Croesus still comes down to us today.

On the Gryphon website James Spaid says "*Gryphons love gold...they hoard it...and woe to the person who tries to steal it from beneath the gryphon's vigilant beak. Symbolically speaking though, gold represents again the sun, the shining circle of gold in heaven*". With these attributes it is easy to see why the Child family would wish to have griffins incorporated in the designs at Osterley - we are back to their own symbol - the golden sun shining down on the golden marigold. How appropriate that the female griffin is shown off in the Eating Room and the Drawing Room (front cover)

Zucchi's painting above the Sideboard in the Eating Room shows a griffin in the ancient architecture. (see centre pages) The design of the plasterwork also includes the front of a griffin but ends in a long tail without the back legs of a lion.

Look at Robert Adam's design for the Drawing Room and you will see the griffins and the Drawing Room mirrors. Golden griffins can be found above the doors and this frieze is matched in the ormolu on the





marquetry commodes bearing Angelica Kaufmann's Sacred and Profane Love.



Our second animal is the goat. The goat is said to have suckled the young god Zeus but is also linked to Bacchus, god of wine and merrymaking. His associate is Pan with a human body but the back legs of a goat. It is no surprise that we find the goat in the Eating Room but he can also be found on a light fitting outside the Eating Room above the door leading to the area between the Eating Room and the Entrance Hall which was sometimes used for large banquets. This one has three goats heads as does the one Upstairs outside the Yellow Taffeta bedroom - perhaps he signifies his other attribute here - lust. I wonder if there is a story behind this placement?



Our final animal is called in architectural books bucrania or ox skulls. The ox symbol is very ancient and human headed versions with wings and lion bodies were fashioned in ancient Mesopotamia and Assyria. Oxen were the animal of sacrifice in the ancient world but also symbols of strength and power. Their skulls were used in classical architecture in the temple frieze to fill the metopes between the triglyphs and were often adorned with wreaths of fruit or flowers. There are many examples in classical architecture. The Ara Pacis or Altar to Peace in Rome along with several buildings in the Forum and at Hadrian's villa in Tivoli give us many views of bucrania decorated with garlands.



In the Eating Room we find them on the mantel piece and in the painting by Antonio Zucchi on the Long Gallery side of the room depicting a ruined Roman pavilion where people are enjoying themselves. See how the skulls are draped with swags as part of the over-all design. The swaged bucrania also decorate the sideboard and the flanking pair of fluted pedestals containing the chamber pot and the water tap.

In the Tapestry room bucrania appear on the inlaid marble table known as Bossi ware for the Italian inventor who took the secret of how to make this painted look in-laid marble with him.

In the Etruscan Dressing Room our first bucrania appear on the wooden doors painted by Borgnis and their depiction continues around the room beginning in the centre of the fireplace wall.

In this account of mythical beasts, goats and bucrania you will find that I have excluded the Sphinx as there are so many at Osterley that I feel they deserve an article to themselves just as we did for the Ram.

Now we have illustrated some of the amazing creatures you can find in the Robert Adam designs around the house do go and explore. I am sure you will find some examples that John and I have not included in our story.



Gresham College 1740

Long gone

London Visits

Margaret Friday

GRESHAM COLLEGE

Barnard's Inn Hall High Holborn

Wednesday 14th September

Price £10

Meet at Chancery Lane station exit at 11am.

Sir Thomas Gresham was the builder of the original Tudor Osterley House. Gresham College is an independent institution funded from the estate of our founder, Sir Thomas Gresham after his death in 1579. The College have portraits of Gresham and his wife and some items owned by Gresham and which we will be able to see.

We will have an illustrated talk by Valerie Shrimplin about Sir Thomas Gresham, followed by questions.

BANQUETING HOUSE, WHITEHALL



Monday 10th October

Price £8 (£3 for Members of Historic Royal Palaces)

Meet at the house at the Hall door at 11am.

The Banqueting House is the grandest and best known survivor of the architectural genre of banqueting house and the only remaining component of the Palace of Whitehall in London. The building is important in the history of English architecture as the first structure to be completed in the neo-classical style, which was to transform English architecture.

Improvements to Osterley Park footpaths

(extracted from newsletter from Neil Cole to volunteers)

Together with Sports England and other charitable trusts, we want to improve our circuit of pathways for the benefit of everyone who enjoys and cares for Osterley Park. This is part of a wider National Trust investment nationally implementing 10 cycle projects across the country; our project is funded by a combination of Osterley (NT) reserves, Sports England and the London Marathon Charitable Trust. It is envisioned that the new pathways will attract 50,000 users in the first year, existing and new audience, the multiuse paths will be suitable for runners, walkers, mobility buggies and of course cyclists, therefore our language in promoting the pathway improvements do not solely focus on cycling as we feel there are many benefits to all.

Map of improved pathways at Osterley Park



Friends of Osterley Park Autumn Reception Wednesday 28th September

7:00 for 7:45 Gates shut at 7:30 until end of event
a light buffet, wine and soft drinks will be served

Car parking in the Stable Yard



Van Dyck, Dobson and the rise of self-portraiture in Britain



Emily Burns

Assistant Curator, Van Dyck
National Portrait Gallery

Free for members of the Friends of Osterley Park
£5 for Friend's guests and non-member volunteers
(pay on the night)

Waterperry Gardens and Hughenden Manor Rita Ford

Thursday 8th September 09:30 at Osterley Park or opposite
Osterley Underground Cost £26



Waterperry Gardens was established in 1932 as a school of horticulture for ladies, with the aim of making them into professional gardeners.

Although sold by its founder in 1971 it is still a teaching establishment. As well as the attractive 8 acre garden there is also an interesting country life

museum, a garden centre, a craft/gift shop and a tea-room.



In the afternoon we shall go on to Hughendon Manor which is an example of a comfortable Victorian country house owned by a wealthy gentleman—in this case Benjamin Disraeli, the 19th century prime Minister and favourite of Queen Victoria. Also of interest are the World

War II war rooms in the basement which were used for top secret operations and are very atmospheric.

As an N.T. Property there is also a tea room in the old stables block.

Long Melford and Melford Hall

Peter Bush

Wednesday 5th October 09:30 at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground Cost £21



Long Melford

We will visit Long Melford Village to see the church and have lunch, because the village is small and parking difficult the NT suggest we park the coach at the Hall after the party is

dropped in the village.

Earliest occupation 8300BC. Crossed by 2 Roman Roads. The village is mentioned in the Domesday book. It survived both the Black Death & The Plague. Famous in the Middle Ages for wool and cloth production.

During the second world war it housed many American Air-force personnel and several bombers crashed in the village.

Holy Trinity Church is one of the richest "wool churches" in Suffolk, it was first built in the reign of Edward the Confessor, substantially rebuilt between 1467 & 1497.



Melford Hall.

The hall was mostly constructed in the 16th century and was originally held by the Abbots of Bury St Edmunds. The abbots were evicted at the dissolution and the

manor was given to Sir William Cordell by Queen Mary and remained with various parts of the family until 1786 when it was sold to Harry Parker. Beatrix Potter was a frequent visitor in the 1890s. One wing of the hall was burnt down in 1942 but was later rebuilt. The house was given to the National Trust in 1960.

100 Club

Douglas Craik

A draw was made at the Friends AGM on 11th May 2016

The winners were Sandra Hunkin £25, Jean Derby £50 and Beryl Brown £100.

All members of the Friends can purchase one or more "shares" in the 100 Club. Half of the money pays for the 3-4 prizes won at each of the four draws per year and the remainder goes to the house. Extra shares can be purchased at any time.

Diary Friends Events and Excursions

Wed 20 th July	London Visit: Parkstead House, Roehampton
Sun 7 th –Fri 12 th Aug	Summer Holiday
Tue 16 th Aug	Coach Trip: Stoneleigh Abbey
Wed 24 th Aug	Coffee Morning: Isaac Rocke (Sports)
Thur 8 th Sep	Coach Trip: Waterperry Gardens and Hughenden Manor
Wed 14 th Sep	London Visit: Gresham College
Wed 28 th Sep	25 th Anniversary of the Friends, 7:00 for 7:45
Mon 10 th Oct	London Visit: Banqueting House
Wed 5 th Oct	Coach Trip: Melford & Long Melford
Mon 17 th Oct	Coffee Morning: Ffion George (House and Collections)
Wed 30 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton (Ranger)



Coffee Mornings 10:30 for 11:00

Coach Trips depart Lakeside Car park at 09:30 and Bus Stop

opposite Osterley Station at 09:30 sharp.



Coach Pickup

If you have booked to board the coach at the Car park and decide instead to join at the Underground could you let me know beforehand or the coach driver (number on ticket) on the day please. This avoids us searching for you at the car park.

Douglas Craik



Payments

If you are making more than one payment to the Friends (e.g. Coach tours/London visits/holiday) then one cheque for all is fine, it all goes to the same piggybank

Treasurer

Friends Summer Holiday

We are ready to go in 3 weeks and planning has started for next years holiday in York. Details and booking in the next newsletter

Issue	Published 14th of	Contents
Winter	January	Membership renewal first 3 coach trips First 3 London Visits
Spring	April	AGM papers, membership cards, next coach trips, next London Visits
Summer	July	next coach trips, next London Visits
Autumn	October	Next summer holiday booking

Chairman /Membership Secretary

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Treasurer / 100 club / Coach trip/ Newsletter

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London Visits

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 Margaretfriday@talktalk.net

The 'Friends' website gives you all the current news, meetings, events, publications, and membership information relating to the work of the Friends of Osterley Park in supporting Osterley House and Park.

www.e-voice.org.uk/friendsofosterleypark

If you experience any problems in using our website, or have any suggestions for its improvement, please email **Mike Doran** at mike@mbdoran.wanadoo.co.uk

Next newsletter

to be published 14 October 2016.
 Any contributions to the Editor by
30th September 2016.

The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.



aod

BACCHAE

Adapted by David Stuttard after Euripides
with Tamsin Shasha as Dionysus

EXPERIENCE THE MADNESS OF DIONYSUS!



National
Trust

Open Air Theatre at the National Trust's
Osterley House

7.30pm: July 29th, 30th & 31st
£17 (full price); £12 (concs)



One of the most passionate and intriguing of all Greek tragedies, Bacchae is an exploration of the charisma and potential cruelty of power. When the people of Thebes refuse to worship Dionysus, the god wreaks a terrible revenge.

Tamsin Shasha stars (‘a captivating performance’ Glasgow Herald) in David Stuttard’s ‘lively and pulsating translation’ (Michael Scott, BBC’s The Greatest Story Ever Told) with classical theatre specialists Actors of Dionysus.

“ **Let nothing stop you from seeing them.** ” The Times

“ **An astonishingly tense & absorbing performance.** ”
The Financial Times

Recent reviews of HELEN, Brighton Festival 2016

“ **An inspired piece of theatre, meticulously presented.** ”
The Argus

“ **Astonishing and unforgettable...So many ravishing moments...highly. Highly recommended.** ” Fringe Review

Go to nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house/whats-on
to book tickets for BACCHAE

For more details, please visit us at actorsofdionysus.com or
email info@actorsofdionysus.com



aodtheatre



ActorsOf Dionysus

Additional pages for online readers

This covers topics relevant to those taking the online version of the newsletter.

No Printer

If you do have a printer, if you do online banking then see next page. Otherwise for day coach trips or London walks just send a cheque with SAE and a note of which trips, for how many people and where you want picked up (for coach trips) to Douglas.

For Standing Order and Gift Aid forms drop Douglas an email and forms will be posted out (must have your actual signature).

Printing

From the online view of the newsletter you will be able to print out selected pages– watch that you select only the page(s) you want e.g. Diary. With some systems it may be easier to save the newsletter into your computer and open with Adobe.

Most computers will have this but it is a free, safe program from adobe.com/uk/products/reader.html

Other Questions

Just email me with any questions, if common I will add answers here in future issues.

Any suggestions

Any ideas on improvements to the online newsletter are welcome, just drop me an email.

Online readers

We now have over 50 Friends taking the online Newsletter (about half of those members with email) please encourage others to join us.

Email booking of trips

For Friends who use on line banking we now offer the option of booking Coach trips or London Visits by email, this is quicker and will save you over a pound in postage.

1. email friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com with your names of trippers, name of trip and amount being paid and where you want to be picked up, for example

Jane Smith and Harry Smith, 2 Friends for Vyne = £30 opposite Osterley UG,

Jane Smith and Jill Brown, Friend & guest for Fenton House = £7, at Car Park

Total £39

2. I will email back confirming booking, or very occasionally saying that there is a waiting list.
3. You make a bank transfer to

Name of Payee	Friends of Osterley
Sort code	20 02 06
Account number	70389315
Your Reference	Trips/your name

4. Once transfer received I will email your tickets to you.