

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 102 Autumn 2016 £1 (free to members)



New Greenhouse— Photo John Stacey





from the Chairman

John James

in our summer newsletter we paid tribute to the life of Ian Conacher. His Service of Remembrance was well attended and his family arranged a gathering in the Brewhouse at Osterley Park, an appropriate venue, to celebrate his life. There were many photographs and items of memorabilia on display. Ian's departure marked the end of an era during which he gave devoted voluntary service to the Friends of Osterley Park.

Since late July our summer has been glorious, so different to the time last year when we had one of the wettest August months for years. This year the gardens at Osterley Park have been so amazing and full of colour. Andy Eddy, Head Gardener, and his team have had a busy summer. He commented that in his eleven years at Osterley he had not had such a wet June; it made the summer planting so much easier to manage. The flower picking garden in the Tudor Walled Garden which the Friends support, maintained by Lesley Orton and her team, benefited from the unusual early summer rain. All the flowers they grow are authentic 18th century and are cut for arrangements in the House in a selection of vases; they create a special atmosphere throughout the House.

Our programme of events has gone well. Our coach trips have been to well known venues, Mottisfont, Arundel Castle, Petworth House and Park, Stoneleigh Abbey and Waterperry Gardens and Hughenden Manor, all well attended. Our thanks to the Trips Group for organising the visits on our behalf – a great deal of research and planning goes into their work. Margaret Friday has organised some excellent London visits to Charlton House, St. Katharine Docks, Parkstead House Roehampton and to Gresham College. We are so lucky to benefit from her wonderful knowledge of London. Douglas Craik again planned a very successful summer holiday which he has reported on in this newsletter. Once again our thanks to him for all the work he puts into planning and organising the holidays.

Coffee mornings were well supported. We had good presentations from Osterley staff: Sophie Slater Commercial Manager on a catering "taster session", Ian Grierson Events Manager on plans for events for families during the summer holiday period and Isaac Rocke Sports Development Officer on the sporting activities held at Osterley, in particular the use of the middle lake for water sports. Sadly we are

saying goodbye to Isaac who moves to Birmingham to join Sport Birmingham at City Council. He is leaving a good foundation of sporting activities. He is succeeded by Ed Hewison who has been employed by Disability Snow Sport UK.

Osterley Park and House have had a busy summer, with many visitors. The activities have attracted many families. In addition to the sporting activities, the Play Trail in the Long Walk and Great Meadow has proved popular with young families. The new venture of the Brewhouse “grab and go” coffee shop on holiday periods has been popular and helped with the busy periods in the café. A major external repairs and cleaning programme is taking place at the front of the House, especially in the inner courtyard.

Congratulations go to the following Friends who were presented with long service awards in June: 25 year award Yvonne Homan (Room Guide), Jane Talbot (Room Guide/Events), Ruby Warne (Room Guide) and 10 year award Denise Evans (Room Guide) and Virginia Fassnidge (Ranger/Bookshop).



Sports in the Park from Isaac's presentation



Bigger Buggy for visitors

Douglas Craik



Treasurer and Buggy Driver

Plans are in hand for the Friends to purchase a new larger (8 seat) replacement buggy with improved "rain proofing". This will run from next year.

It will be named the "Conacher Car" in memory of our first President.

This provides a service for visitors (particularly those with mobility difficulties) currently between the Stableyard and the Disabled car park, but hopefully next year this will be extended to the front gate.

We also pay for the annual maintenance of the buggy.

This service is well appreciated and donations easily meet the annual costs for the buggy and self drive buggies.

The drivers are all volunteers and most days are covered but there is an occasional shortage of drivers particularly at weekends. This is a really interesting role as you are the first (and last) contact for many visitors, and you are sitting down! Shifts are 10:00 to 13:30 and 13:30 to 17:00, if interested please contact the House staff or Rangers.



Self-Drive Buggies

Douglas Craik

We currently have 3 self drive buggies that are very popular with visitors with walking difficulties (particularly the double one) but the buggies are very elderly (up to 23 years old) and are becoming unreliable. The Friends are in discussion with the buggy co-ordinator Ron Simpson and house staff on the way forward but we would be particularly keen to obtain one or more new double buggies.

I have been unable to find a source of these, if you spot one anywhere please try to get the maker/suppliers name and let me know.



OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP

Meet at house family entrance

Monday 1 pm UNTIL 3-3:30 pm

14th November 2016

Alison Weir's: The Marriage Game

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.



2016 Holiday to Plymouth

Douglas Craik

This year's holiday had a few "challenges". Our coach to Reading took an "interesting" route and the Reading Station staff announced changed platforms for most trains. However once we did find the right platform they helpfully loaded all our cases into a luggage van making the journey much easier (once we evicted a few passengers in our reserved seats).

On arrival we visited Saltram (a Robert Adam "modernised" house) then to the University where check-in was administered by students, one of whom got a bit lost taking some of us to our rooms.

The biggest problem of this holiday was the installation of Wi-fi routers with intense flashing green and red lights all night. Why they were in some bedrooms is a complete mystery. The next morning a quick discussion with some builders produced some thick sticky grey tape that soon made the lights disappear. Hope the University didn't mind. Once we found the underground dining room we enjoyed a high standard of food and excellent catering staff. Each meal had more options than the previous one and several people who had intended to eat out switched to eating in.

Over the next four days we visited 6 more NT properties ranging from massive Tudor houses to the 20th century home of the D'Oyle Carte family, plus a boat trip, a (surprisingly) interesting visit to the National Aquarium and a fascinating tour of the Royal Citadel, an active Royal Artillery base (many of our group were disappointed that there were no strapping gunners in residence, they had either heard we were coming or were on exercise). Our very enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide was Jane Gibson, she would appreciate any photos taken by the group in the Citadel (via me).

We had a surprise encounter with our Chairman John James his wife Pat and sister-in-law at Coleton Fishacre, he said he was holidaying nearby but I wonder if he was checking up on our behaviour.

We were very lucky with the weather, generally sunny and warm, there was one sharp shower on a day the group was split in two and only one half of us were really affected.

Our last day was meant to be a visit to the Gin Distillery and the Mayflower Museum but a demob spirit led several sub-groups off on their own thing and traffic problems meant the coach couldn't pick us up exactly as intended leading to a later departure to the Rail Station than

planned. There was also a lively discussion over who had railcards and tickets. However we did get the train with nearly 3 minutes to spare! Luggage was again loaded for us and squatters evicted from our seats. Great West Rail had changed their timetable from when I booked so we arrived at Reading 20 minutes earlier than expected—to discover our coach to Osterley was in the car park known as the M4.

The independent spirit continued in evidence and half a dozen of the group made their own way home by train (see plans for next year). Three collections were made by the group, one for the drivers (we had 4 drivers, but the last one did half the total driving and I wonder if he passed any on to the others), one larger one for the catering staff who were amazed at this and decided to pass it on to their favourite charity (Mustard Tree Cancer Support), and one for me, for which very many thanks, I used it to visit York.

On 3 days we split into two sub-groups and I must also thank Sandra Hunkin for her considerable help and expertise in leading one of these.

COFFEE MORNINGS BREW HOUSE

10:30 FOR 11:00 UNTIL 12:00ish

Members of Friends £3 (2017 £4) others £4 (2017 £5)

The small increase in cost next year reflects that we pay the house £2.50 per head for tea, coffee and biscuits.

Our programme of coffee morning talks continues, all are welcome and it is a chance to catch up on the latest news from other Friends & staff.

The next ones are:-

Wed 30th Nov Jeremy Dalton (Ranger)

Tue 17th Jan Neil Cole (General Manager)

We are increasing the number of coffee mornings next year to roughly one a month. About half of these would be updates on the property from members of the House and Park staff and we would like to add to this talks on related subjects that will hopefully be of interest to many members of the Friends.

We can of course hire external speakers but this will be at some cost.

Many will recall Margaret and Peter Bush's fascinating talk on the ancient ruins in Baalbeck, Lebanon and Palmyra, Syria.

Douglas Craik and Margaret Friday are lined up for next year.

We are sure many of our members have knowledge that would be of interest to us all-so please let John James know if you are willing to give a 30-45 minute talk sometime next year **we need 3 volunteers (Diary)**



THE NEW GLASSHOUSE IN THE WALLED GARDEN

Margaret Friday

As 2016 is officially the Year of the Garden it is very appropriate for us to look at our new glasshouse in its historical context. I have written this article with the help of John Stacey and head gardener at Osterley - Andy Eddy. This new glasshouse has been built on the site of the original Victorian greenhouse in the Walled Garden. There were extensive hot-houses in this Walled Garden in the past. The glasshouse was designed in consultation with heritage groups because of the proximity to the Grade 1 listed Stable Block. It is needed to grow the plants for Mrs. Child's restored Pleasure Grounds around Robert Adam's semi-circular Garden-House, the Walled Garden flowers used by the flower volunteers to adorn the house and for plants which are sold outside the bookshop. Plants from the Walled Garden are used in the soups and quiches served in the Stable Block tea rooms. Osterley is one of the few places you can eat in London where the vegetables are grown on the premises! The cover picture shows the outside of the glasshouse with the centre photo showing us the interior through the open door. The building is 10 metres long and 3 metres



Photos Above
John Stacey
Below Andy Eddy



wide with two growing zones of 5 metres each divided by a central internal door.

The building was done by Alitex - a company which has helped the National Trust replicate other Victorian glasshouses using modern technology. Ours has modern toughened glass, aluminium construction, automatic opening roof vents, and an underground reservoir system which takes rain from the roof which is circulated using a hand pump for watering the plants. Modern blinds have been fitted on the south side to shade plants in the summer.

In "The Child's Guide to Knowledge" by a Lady, published in 1873 (47th edition) we find in answer to When were green-houses introduced in England? "In the reign of William III; they are mentioned as a very curious contrivance to raise and preserve tender plants. Hot-houses are described as a luxury for the rich used for raising pineapples." William III, the Dutch king reigned at the time Francis Child established his bank and became Lord Mayor of London in 1698. The Great Greenhouse or Orangery was built in 1764. It was 90 feet long and 20



Photos

Above by
John
Stacey

Left by
Andy
Eddy

Head
Gardener



Photos

Above by
John
Stacey

Left by
Andy Eddy
Head
Gardener

feet wide but burned down at the end of WWII when a blackout curtain caught fire. We do however have a complete window which was saved along with the Robert Adam plans for the heated building. In 1782 oleanders, yuccas, myrtles and an Alexandrine laurel were growing there. An example of a very fine Orangery can be seen next to Kensington Palace where it serves as the tea rooms today.

We know that the Adam garden-house was built in 1780 and two years later contained 45 lemon and orange trees in tubs. It was a hot-house and the back wall contained a stove to keep the garden-house heated throughout the winter. This heating arrangement can still be seen today. Glasshouses from the eighteenth century were heated with water-pipes running underground from a boiler in the garden. Here at Osterley the little brick building with the chimney in the Walled Garden was used for this purpose. *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* by Jennifer Davies, BBC 1987, describes the heating boilers in use at Chiltern Gardens. The boiler was kept stoked every night and the hot water piped around the glasshouses, the cooler water on return to the boiler house forced the hot water out around the building once more. She says this method became popular in the 1830's. We know that Osterley had an amazing collection of exotic plants well before then as after the death of Sarah Child the Trustees asked permission to sell the collection of pot plants at Osterley. Mr. Grimault prepared a list of these *A catalogue of a collection of scarce and valuable stove, greenhouse and hardy plants at Osterley ...which will be sold at auction 11th June, 1794.* As Robert Child had requested in his will of 1782 the house and grounds had been kept up by Sarah just as they had been in his lifetime. Thus the plants in the sale would have been fine examples of the scarce and valuable plants of time.

Horace Walpole said that the up-keep of the gardens at Osterley cost £1,400 per year. The head gardener at Osterley was paid more than the Butler. In 1787 William Deighton, Head Gardener received £47/5/- and James Allen, Butler only £42 per year thus Deighton was recognised as a very important person to the Child family who served them by providing excellent fruits, flowers and vegetables for the large town house in Berkeley Square as well as Osterley, the party house where the Child family showed wealthy Londoner's how to have a good time enjoying the best of everything. Do visit the Walled Garden to see the fine glasshouse which serves us today.



Holiday 2017 YORK16-21 August Douglas Craik **£525 - £75 deposit by 1st February 2017** **Balance by 1st July.**

Those on the Plymouth holiday please note there are quite a few changes from the pre-recce plan I handed out then.

We are based in York University accommodation which is about 2 miles from the city centre. The holiday will include 4 National Trust, 3 Historic Houses Association and 5 other properties, an open top bus tour and boat trip. This holiday is a little more expensive as we are covering more non-NT properties due to a shortage of accessible NT properties that take groups. Members of Historic Houses Association (HHA) and National Art Pass (NAP) get a reduction.

Wednesday 16/8/17 Meet at Kings Cross Station late morning - time



to be confirmed in March. On arrival at York take our coach to Beningbrough Hall (NT), an Italian Palace by John Bouchier, inspired by his Grand Tour. The impressive rooms are a perfect backdrop for the rich collection of portraits on loan from the National Portrait Gallery. Then to the accommodation.

Thursday 17/8/17 This is a day without a coach, after breakfast we will make own way by public transport (Freedom Passes work after 9:30) to York. We will then split into two groups to alternately visit the almost adjacent Merchant Adventurers' Hall (NAP) and a have a guided tour



of Fairfax House.

Fairfax House is an historic 'hidden gem' with a stunning collection furnishing its period rooms, beautiful and complex stuccowork ceilings concealing hidden messages



Merchant Adventurers' Hall has been a meeting place since

construction began in 1357. There are three main rooms in the Hall: the Great Hall where the Medieval merchants first gathered to conduct business and to socialise: the Undercroft which was used as an alms house and the

Chapel. We will then board the York City Tour bus (on open-top if dry) and do 3/4 of the tour route getting off near the Treasurer's House (NT). This was the first house ever given to the National Trust complete with a collection. It has a history spanning 2,000 years, from the Roman road in the cellar to the Edwardian servants' quarters in the attics. We have an area set aside for us to have lunch.

After this we will go to the adjacent York Minster. With vast and intimate spaces, we will experience the beauty of York Minster, one of the greatest European works of art and a masterpiece of glass and stone with a volunteer guide whose wealth of knowledge will bring the Minster to life. We will then reboard a Tour bus to complete our circuit of the city ending near the public bus back to the University, some may choose to stay in York for a time or for your own meal. Seems a lot but the 2 tours and bus tour will each take about an hour.



Friday 18/8/17 Today we go to Castle Howard (HHA). Building of Castle Howard began in 1699 and took over 100 years to complete to a design by Sir John Vanbrugh for the 3rd Earl of Carlisle. His design evolved into a Baroque structure with two symmetrical wings projecting to either side of a north-south axis. The



The crowning central dome was added to the design at a late stage, after building had begun. Half the building interior was destroyed by fire in 1940 but rebuilt for the filming of *Brideshead Revisited* in 1979. Then in a great change of scale to Nunnington Hall (NT) a beautiful Yorkshire manor house, nestled on the quiet banks of the River Rye. With one of the world's finest collections of miniature rooms in the attic.

Saturday 19/8/17 After breakfast we take the coach into York for a one hour cruise, seeing the City from a different angle. Few local properties are open in the morning.



Then we board our coach to Harewood House (reduced group price for NAP)

Edwin Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759 and he wanted nothing but the best for his new home. He employed the finest craftsmen of the time: York-born architect John Carr, interiors by Robert Adam, furniture by Thomas Chippendale and visionary landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Within the House, you can see Renaissance masterpieces, exquisite family portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lawrence and Richmond, as well as a fine collection of Sèvres china. There is a display of costumes from "Victoria" TV series and a surprisingly interesting outdoor Aviary (including penguins!)

Sunday 20/8/17 Off to Temple Newsam (HHA/NAP). This is one of the great English historic country houses. A Tudor-Jacobean mansion, sited on the outskirts of Leeds, lies in 1,500 acres of parkland landscaped by 'Capability'



Brown. Its name refers to the Knights Templar, who once owned the lands. It is famous as the birthplace of Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, and was owned by the Ingram family for three centuries. It was acquired by the City of Leeds in 1922 and developed as a country house museum. The house has been extensively restored and holds some of the most comprehensive collections of paintings, furniture, silver, ceramics, textiles and wallpapers outside London. Then we reboard our coach to Nostell Priory (NT), built on the site of a medieval priory, Nostell has been the home of the Winn family for 300 years. Commissioned by Sir Rowland Winn in 1733, James Paine built the house. Later additions by Robert Adam created exceptional interiors plus Chippendale furniture made specially for Nostell.

Monday 21/8/17 After breakfast, check out and put our luggage in the coach then to the city centre for a guided tour of the Mansion House the home of the Lord Mayors of York, started in 1725 this was the first Purpose built residence for a Lord Mayor in the country. Currently it is a building site! But we are promised that by next summer it will be restored to its magnificence with a display of civic silverware rarely seen for a hundred years. We meet our coach to go to the station for our mid-day train to Kings Cross.

General

Accommodation The University is located about 2 miles east of the city centre but there are frequent buses to the city from the University. The single en suite rooms are in 2 adjacent blocks and we have ground and first floor rooms, note no shared kitchen.

The restaurant is a few minutes away across a lake (there is a bridge) and we will have use of indoor and outdoor sitting areas after dinner.



Travel To/From Kings Cross We will meet at Kings Cross Station. Previously tours mainly started at Osterley Station but when going to Glasgow last year many joined at Euston and some made their own way to or from Reading this year. Kings Cross is on a direct tube line from Osterley, for those (like me) on a train line to Waterloo there is a simple change at Vauxhall. There are lifts from Victoria and Piccadilly underground platforms to Kings Cross rail station. For those not happy to tackle the underground I will arrange some sort of shared transport.

Booking

I will acknowledge cheque receipt and include all the information from your booking form for you to check and confirm balance due. Members of HHA and National Art Pass will get a reduced price as this gives free/reduced entry to some properties.

You might choose to eat out at the very many restaurants in York there will be cost reduction. Note Saturday nights are very busy with hen parties from all over Yorkshire (friendly but noisy and crowded) You can take the short public bus trip into town from the University and when the return coach goes near the City centre you can get off there. "Meals out" can be varied when you pay balance, just put in a note of any changes.

The train times will be advised in March (include SAE with deposit) We welcome those not members of the Friends of Osterley Park but ask for a small (£1 per day) addition for all of our outings.

Finally

Bookings after 1st February up to 1st July will be taken but may cost a little more as the Rail Fare is likely to be higher.



Where to in 2018?

If you have any suggestions on where to go next (a university city) put a note in with your holiday booking form.



from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was made at the Autumn Reception on the 30th September. The lucky winners were:- £25 - L Barlow , £50 - Jeff Shaw , and £100 - Wendy Rix-Morton

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

Diary Friends Events and Excursions

Wed 30 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton (Ranger)
Tue 17 th Jan 16	Osterley Overview: Neil Cole
Tue 14 th Feb	Coffee Morning Blitz bomb disposal in West London: D Craik
Wed 15 th Mar	Coffee Morning Staff speaker To Be Advised 100 Club draw
Wed 12 th Apr	Coffee Morning subject TBA : Margaret Friday
April	Coach Trip TBA
April	London Visit TBA
Tue 16 th May	Coach Trip Sherborne Castle
Wed 17 th May	Annual General Meeting 7pm for 7:45, 100 Club draw
May	London Visit TBA
Wed 31 st May	Coffee Morning Staff speaker TBA
21 st Jun	Coffee Morning Volunteer speaker wanted
Jun	Coach Trip TBA
Jun	London Visit TBA
Mon 31 st Jul	Coffee Morning Staff speaker TBA
Jul	Coach Trip TBA
Jul	London Visit TBA
Wed16-Mon21Aug	York Holiday
Wed 30 th Aug	Coffee Morning Volunteer speaker wanted
Wed 13 th Sep	Autumn Reception 5pm 100 Club draw
Sep	Coach Trip TBA
Sep	London Visit TBA
Oct	Coach Trip TBA
Oct	London Visit TBA
Wed 11 th Oct	Coffee Morning Staff speaker TBA
Tue 14 th Nov	Coffee Morning Volunteer speaker wanted
Tue 5 th Dec	Staff speaker TBA 100 Club draw

Coach Trips depart from Lakeside Car park at 09:30 and Bus Stop opposite Osterley Station at 09:30 **sharp**.

Coffee Mornings 10:30 for 11:00

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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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 January 2017.
 Any contributions to the Editor by
20th December 2016.

The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.

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
 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.