

# The Friends of Osterley Park

In  
support  
of the  
**National Trust**



## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 103 Winter 2017 £1 (free to members)



Photo John Stacey



## from the Chairman

John James

Happy New Year to you all! Since my last report, the Friends have had a busy autumn. The house and gardens attracted very good numbers, especially during the school half-term and the Halloween Pumpkin Festival. All four nights of 'Osterley After Dark' were sold out. We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an excellent presentation from Emily Burns, Assistant Curator, Van Dyck, National Portrait Gallery on 'Van Dyck, Dobson and the Rise of Self-Portraiture in Britain'. Our regular coffee mornings were well attended, with Ffion George giving us an up-date on the House and collections and plans for the future and, for our last of the year, Jeremy Dalton giving us a talk on the problems which have affected oak trees. A London visit was made to the refurbished Banqueting House and the last coach trip was to Melford and Long Melford.

In the last Newsletter in the autumn I mentioned Andy Eddy's report on the Flower Garden. Since then it has been announced that Lesley Orton has decided to retire as leader of the Garden Team. Lesley is a good example of a true Volunteer, having served 26 years developing and running the garden, learning to grow a wide range of flowers and encouraging likeminded volunteers to join her team on Monday mornings. Andy Eddy organised a surprise farewell party in the Brew House on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Many friends and staff attended to acknowledge her contribution to the Flower Garden over many years. Lesley said that working at Osterley had been both a pleasure and a privilege.

We congratulate Neal Cole and Lyndsey Feeney and their team on winning the 2017 Hounslow Business Award as the Best Business for Marketing and Social Media.

In early December all the scaffolding was removed from the front of the House to reveal the great work done in cleaning, especially the Pediment above the pillars. For Christmas the House installed 'Christmas by Design', which took you through Robert Adam's stunning interiors of Osterley's principal floor on a journey of Christmas traditions. The Entrance Hall was stunning, with Christmas trees filling the Hall on Robert Adam inspired plinths showcasing the different styles that have graced our homes over the years. The journey

through the Long Gallery, Eating Room, Yellow Breakfast Room and the Library was magical, taking you back to Osterley's past celebrations of Christmas. I particularly enjoyed a menu in the Eating Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1934 for the GWR Cornish Riviera Express dining car.

We are pursuing the purchase of a new buggy during 2017. Battery cars are to be replaced, for which there has been a generous donation from the Ealing National Trust Association.

We look forward to 2017 and to a full programme of events.



## **Committee Membership** Douglas Craik

We continue to have serious concerns about committee membership. Over the last few years we have lost 4 committee members and their roles have been absorbed by the "survivors".

We currently have the just one over the minimum required by the constitution and the loss of any one without replacement would put us in a precarious position. Also some members have multiple roles, even together this is not onerous but a spell of illness (or worse) would cause serious problems (for example I do the 100 Club, Vice-Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Holiday Organiser and Coach Group leader).

Several other National Trust Associations are in even more threatened position and are at risk of imminent closure just because of a lack of committee volunteers. You may know that the nearby large and active West Middlesex Association had to close just because of lack of committee volunteers. 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 the property, providing details to Newsletter Editor who arranges payments to be made to Treasurer (both me!). Any new volunteer could shadow an experienced member.

## Our Website Launch

Mike Doran

The Friends of Osterley Park have an easy to use website that was launched last year.

If you are in the online version of this Newsletter, then just hold the <ctrl> key and click on the following link to access the website:

<http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofosterleypark/>

If you are reading the paper version of the newsletter, then type the above link into your internet browser and click.

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.



The website home page is shown in this screen shot.

The Friends website complements the National Trust home page on Osterley Park, and the National Trust Friends of Osterley Park webpage. You can link to both of these from the Friends website. There is also now a Friends page on the National Trust Osterley

Volunteers website – take a look by clicking the following link: <https://myvolunteering.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park/friends-of-osterley>

If you experience any problems in using our website, or have any suggestions for its improvement please email Mike Doran on [mikedoran47@outlook.com](mailto:mikedoran47@outlook.com)



## Changes at Osterley Park Main Gates

As of **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November** the pedestrian gates will remain unlocked and the Main Vehicle Gate onto Jersey Road will automatically close at the Park closing time. These will open automatically at 07:00. Any cars needing to leave the estate after the front gates have closed can do so as they now open automatically to let cars out.

Quite how those on coach trips will get in to collect their cars hasn't yet been established yet, but I am sure we won't have to climb the wall.

## Upgraded Paths



Osterley Lane

From planning application

In the Summer Newsletter (No 101) there was an article on the upgrading of many footpaths around the park to better accommodate children's buggies, self-drive electric buggies, runners and cyclists as well as making these routes easier for walkers. Many members will have attended one of the Trust's briefing on the project or seen the displays in the Park. Inevitably the planning application (00647/B/

P15) process raised a few concerns, mainly about the historic use of Osterley Lane by horse riders. The lane is the only public bridleway in the area, and one of very few in London, and also the only part of Osterley Park that equestrians are currently permitted to use at any time. Following a meeting of NT officers and representatives of the British Horse Society additional clarification has been added to the planning application that seems to meet the concerns raised. However at time of writing formal planning permission has not been given so the works will start, and may complete, later than initially planned.



## COFFEE MORNINGS BREW HOUSE

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

Members of Friends £4, others £5

£2.50 pays for 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:-

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> Feb- Osterley bombs and Blitz bomb disposal Douglas Craik

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Mar- Lyndsey Feeny, Visitor Experience,

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> April –My trip to Iran Margaret Friday

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May - Ffion George, House & Collections Manager

We have coffee mornings once a month (except September). About half of these are updates on the property from members of the House and Park staff and the others on subjects that will hopefully be of interest to many members of the Friends. We have had a very good response from members to the call last Newsletter for speakers and all of this years coffee mornings are filled. If you are willing to do a 30-45 minute talk on any (fairly) relevant subject next year please let John James know.

In this newsletter we are graced with the glorious pictures of some of the sphinxes revealed at Osterley by John Stacey and Ian Brown's beautiful photographs.

The sphinx is described in The Dictionary of Mythology as a monster or fantastic being. The ancient Egyptian sphinx is male but the Greek version is female.

The Greek hero story of Oedipus tells us it is half lion and half woman, the body being a lion and the front a woman sometimes with wings. This creature lived in Thebes and asked humans to answer the riddle "what creature moves on 4 feet in the morning, two at noonday and three in the evening? " Those who gave the wrong answer were eaten. A second riddle asked which sisters gave birth to each other continuously. Oedipus is said to have been the only one to answer the Sphinx correctly thus becoming a hero as the Sphinx cast itself from a rock and died.

Other stories tell of a much more sympathetic Sphinx who guarded Arcadia - the home of the ancient Greek gods and later the Roman gods. In the eighteenth century the Sphinx appears in neoclassical designs in gardens, on gateposts, in interior decorations and on furniture. These Sphinxes are portrayed as the protectors of the gardens, houses and rooms of the owners. The message is look after

my home as you would look after the home of the gods. The first sphinxes that important guests would see at Osterley are the fine marble winged sphinxes in the mantelpiece of the Drawing Room pictured by Ian.

One of the most unusual of Robert Adam designs is the



Photo Ian Brown

golden winged sphinx supporting the chair-arm in our elegant State Bedroom furniture. These are claimed to be they only chairs displaying sphinxes in this way. (centre spread) Golden winged sphinxes also protect the State Bed and appear above the mirror in the room (cover). John's coloured (for those on line) pictures show them off beautifully.





Photos Ian Brown



There are also sphinxes, as Ian shows us in the Etruscan Dressing Room. They progress around the room and are also found in the ceiling. The Romans had acquired the Sphinx from the Greeks but Roman sphinxes tended to be the winged protectors of houses and gardens.

The library ceiling has fine plaster inlays of very elegant lady sphinxes probably chosen because "the sphinx was regarded by the Greeks as a repository of arcane wisdom" says James Hall in his " Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art" 1996. This refers to mysterious things only known by a few. Remember the riddles

that no one could solve until Oedipus came on the scene. As the library is the resting place of knowledge in the house the presence of the sphinx is entirely appropriate.

The gardens here at Osterley were not without sphinxes. The Robert Adam semi-circular greenhouse or garden house as originally drawn were surmounted with guardian sphinxes on the balustrade but these are not now there. Have they vanished over the years or were they not built? I have highlighted some of the sphinxes at Osterley but I am sure that a closer look will reveal many others.

The solution to the two riddles are first - man who crawls as a baby, walks on two legs as an adult but in old age requires a stick (3 legs) to get around and second - the sisters that give birth to each other continuously are night and day. So now you have it - and will not be consumed by the ancient sphinx and can admire the exquisite eighteenth century examples at Osterley.

Information for this article was gleaned from "The Hutchinson Dictionary of Symbols in Art" by Sarah Carr-Gomm, 1995, "The Wordsworth Dictionary of Mythology" by Fernand Compte, 1991, and "Robert Adam, Catalogue of Architectural Drawings in the Victoria and Albert Museum" by Alistair Rowan, 1988, The Time Life "Great Ages of Man, Classical Greece" by C. A. Bowra, `1966 and the James Hall Dictionary.



Photo John Stacey



Photo  
Ian Brown





Photo John Stacey

## 2017 coach trip and visits

Douglas Craik

Over the next few pages you will see out first batch of Coach Trips and London Visits.

Most of the Trips are to no NT properties as we have covered all those in easy travel over the last few years (some more than once).



We are also having to start some trips at 09:00 rather than 09:30 because of the travel distance—so read the trip description and the ticket carefully please.

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## Gongs for “Friends”

Douglas Craik



We have at least 2 members who are holders of the Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.). Our chairman John James, awarded New Year 2003 for services to Lawn Tennis and member Christine Craik, awarded New Year 2017 for services to Occupational Therapy, particularly Education and Mental Health services. It was because Christine was working at the Brunel University Osterley campus when I retired that I decided to volunteer at Osterley Park. She is currently the Editor in Chief of the UK O.T. professional journal so she proof reads the Friends Newsletter for me.

Any other “gong” holders in our membership please let me know.



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## from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was at the Coffee Morning on the 30th November. The lucky winners were:- M Longhorn £25, E Bamber £50, and R Paterson £100.

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.



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## OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP

Meet at house family entrance

Monday 1 pm UNTIL 3-3:30 pm

13th March 2017



**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.

## Leeds Castle

Angela Lynskey

Tuesday 4th April **09:00** at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground Cost **£36 NB Early start due to longer travel time**



Leeds Castle stands as one of the most beautiful and ancient castles in the Kingdom. Rising from its two small islands in the middle of the lake it was built in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century during the reign of Henry1, son of William the Conqueror and for over 400 years became a royal palace.

Its many owners since royal times have added more to its rich history, in the gatehouse there is an exhibition showing the history of the castle from Tudor times to the present day. The castle holds a wealth of artefacts including mediaeval furnishings, English and French furniture, tapestries and paintings.

The extensive grounds hold a Duckery, Wood Gardens where peacocks and swans roam free, an aviary with rare tropical birds, an underground grotto at the centre of a maze, a greenhouse and a vineyard. Do not miss the fascinating Dog Collar museum:- collars ranging from a 16<sup>th</sup> century German iron collar with spikes, ornate Baroque gilt collars, finely chased 19<sup>th</sup> century silver collars to up-to-date modern collars fashioned from tyres, beads and plastic Lunches are available in the licensed Fairfax Hall and snacks and fast food from cafes in the Stable Courtyard.



## Keats' House

Margaret Friday

Wednesday 26th April 11:00 Cost £9

Our first visit this spring is to Keats House. Meet at Hampstead Heath mainline station. To reach it take the H91 bus to Gunnersbury mainline and go to Hampstead Heath mainline - it takes about 25 minutes on the train. I will meet you at the station. We are due at the house at 11.30. If you travel via the underground to Hampstead Station it is about a 20 minute walk or you can take a bus. From Osterley the mainline option via Gunnersbury is the easiest way. We have booked for a guided tour and talk. We need to confirm numbers 3 weeks before the visit so do book in plenty of time. Keats loved his garden and wrote poems about it. As it should now be in full spring bloom we can enjoy it too.

## Sherborne Castle

Pat Herod



**Tuesday 16th May 09:00** at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground  
**Cost £32**

Historic Houses Association members £23  
(remember to bring your card)

**NB Early start due to longer distance to travel.**

The historic castle, which stands a short distance from the market town of Sherborne, was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and has been the stately home of the Digby family since 1617. It reflects a glorious variety of architectural and decorative styles with the interiors exhibiting splendid collections of art, furniture and porcelain. In view in the castle's cellars are Raleigh's original kitchen; a museum featuring relics from the Civil War and a brand new Capability Brown exhibition. The gardens were designed by Capability Brown and extended over 20 acres around a 50 acre lake forming a magnificent landscape. 2016 was Capability Brown's centenary year.

The tea rooms serve light lunches and afternoon teas from a self-service menu. There is seating inside and externally (on the veranda surrounding the Kinkgo Lawn and in the walled garden.



**Queens House, Greenwich**  
**Margaret Friday**

**Monday 22nd May meet at Cutty Sark DLR station (NOT Greenwich) at 11:30 Cost £6**

We will walk up to the Queen's House to view this restored and refreshed masterpiece by Inigo Jones noted as the first classical building in England. I used to be a guide here so will be able to share some stories about the house and the paintings on display. After our visit we can take lunch in a traditional Eel pie and mash shop in Greenwich! They do serve other delicious pies as well. We can also go and have a look at the Painted Chapel by Athenian Stuart - a splendid example of 18th century interior design. Following our visit we can take river transport back to Westminster pier in London. It is next to Westminster Station so getting home should be easy. (£3.25 with Freedom Pass, pay on the day)

## Lydiard House

Angela Lynskey

Wednesday 7th June **09:30** at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground **Cost £29**

Historic Houses Association and National Art Pass members £24 (remember to bring your card)

Lydiard Park lies within Lydiard Tregoze, the village disappeared over 300 years ago and was originally known as Lydiard, a pre-Saxon word meaning settlement. During mediaeval times the manor passed through the Tregoze, Grandison and Beauchamp families and eventually in 1420 passed to the St. John family where it stayed for 500 years. The house was sold to Swindon Corporation in 1943 and after much restoration finally opened to the public in 1955. Because of the neglect and decay of the property before being saved by the Swindon Corporation only the ground floor of the house can be viewed but this has many treasures especially the painted window that has over 100 “quarries” (pieces of glass) depicting animals, satyrs, birds and mermaids. The 16th Century Church is particularly notorious for its life size sculpture of the “Golden Cavalier”. The St John family were Royalists during the Civil War and the sculpture is in a memorial to the eldest son Edward who was killed whilst fighting for his king.



The walled garden is a must to see with the tea rooms that serve cream teas close by the stable block. In the Georgian parkland there is a lake with a Chinese bridge, an ice house and in the woodland there is a “forest” cafe which serves hot and cold lunches, snacks and ice creams.

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## Eastbury Manor House

Margaret Friday



**Thursday 15th June meet at Upney District Line underground at 11:15 Cost £6,** (Includes Tea & Biscuit on arrival and tour) Eastbury Manor House was built by an Elizabethan London merchant and finished in 1573 - just as Thomas Gresham's Osterley. It too is Grade 1 listed. It also

has a walled garden with bee boles. We plan to arrive for 11.30 and have booked for tea and biscuits on arrival. As Eastbury Manor is National Trust our visit and the tour are free. They will make sure there are guides to show us around in smaller groups too. Lunch is also available but we have not pre-booked. At this house we can make comparisons with Osterley helping us to understand how our original house may have looked.



## Membership Renewal Douglas Craik Treasurer



Following this month's Newsletter you will get an email about your Friends of Osterley Park membership renewal. If you pay by standing order then no action is required unless you wish to increase your number of 100 Club shares. In this case send a cheque for £12 per extra share to John James (address on back page) and a new Standing Order form for 2018 (to be returned to me) will be emailed to you.

**If you don't pay by standing order please send a cheque and self addressed envelope to John James by 1st April 2017.**

Your Membership card and if appropriate 100 Club card will be posted to you. The email also says if you have previously signed a Gift Aid form, if you have then "thank you", if not and you would like to do so now please let me know.

If you haven't paid by 10/4/17 you will get a reminder email after the April Newsletter. If you don't pay by 10/7/17 then there will be a reminder with your July Newsletter. If you haven't paid by 1/10/17 then there will be no October Newsletter for you!

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### Holiday 2017

August

£525

£75 deposit by

1st February 2017

Balance

by 1st July



YORK16-21

Douglas Craik

**Still time  
to book**

If you have sent a booking before 7/1/17 and not had a receipt letter ring me, it has got lost in the post (or my reply has). Bookings after 7/1/17 should get a letter from me after 5 working days.

We can take bookings up to 1/7/17 but there might be an extra cost depending on later rail fares.

**Holiday 2018** at present I have most suggestions for Liverpool. If you want to suggest somewhere else let me know as planning will begin soon.

## Diary Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Osterley bombs and Blitz bomb disposal: D Craik
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Lyndsey Feeney, Visitor Experience, 100 Club draw
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Leeds Castle <b>9:00</b>
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> My trip to Iran: Margaret Friday
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>London Visit</b> Keats' House
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Sherborne Castle <b>9:00</b>
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> 7pm for 7:45, 100 Club draw
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>London Visit:</b> Queens House, Greenwich
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Ffion George, House & Collections Manager
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Lydiard House <b>9:30</b>
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup> Jun	<b>London Visit:</b> Eastbury Manor House
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Jun	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Historic houses in the Borough: Christine Diwell
TBA Jul	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Apeworth Palace <b>9:00</b>
TBA Jul	<b>London Visit:</b> Georgian Walk Fitzroy Sq
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Andy Eddy, Head Gardener
Wed16-Mon21 Aug	<b>York Holiday</b>
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Early volunteering at Osterley: Arthur Spikins
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Autumn Reception</b> 5pm 100 Club draw
TBA Sep	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>London Visit:</b> 68 Deane Street
TBA Oct	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Sudley Castle <b>CHANGED</b>
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>London Visit:</b> Jewel House, Westminster
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Sophie Slater, Commercial Manager
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> In the Tudor Kitchen: Virginia Fassnidge
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Jeremy Dalton, Head Ranger 100 Club draw

**Coach Trips** depart from Lakeside Car park at 09:00 or 09:30 and  
Bus Stop opposite Osterley Station at 09:00 or 09:30 **sharp**.

**Coffee Mornings** 10:30 for 11:00 **TBA=To Be Advised**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Published 14th of</b>	<b>Contents</b>
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**

John James 020 8232 8683  
 John.james15@blueyonder.co.uk  
 Parkfield Cottage, Osterley Road,  
 Isleworth, TW7 4PF

### **Treasurer / 100 club / Coach trip/ Newsletter**

Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449  
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 118 Fairfax Road,  
 Teddington, TW11 9BS

### **London Visits**

Margaret Friday 020 8991 0593  
 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](http://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 mikedoran47@outlook.com

## **Next newsletter**

to be published 14 April 2017.  
 Any contributions to the Editor by  
**30th March 2017.**

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](mailto:friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com)

with the 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.