

# The Friends of Osterley Park

In  
support  
of the



**National Trust**

## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 104 Spring 2017    £1 (free to members)



Photo John Stacey



## from the Chairman

John James

I am writing this report on the first day of Spring. There are many signs of Spring at Osterley Park, particularly the daffodils and buds on the trees, but in particular the sight of new born calves in the field next to the main drive. As Andy Eddy, Head Gardener said, we have had an actual winter with spells of cold weather and frost, with the ground frozen for quite a few weeks at a time, so that hopefully plants will be flowering at the correct time. I hope you were able to see the winter garden, one of the areas on which Andy has been concentrating. There were also displays of hyacinths in old terracotta pots inside the garden house, filling it with their scent. The Friends' regular support for the flower growers is continuing.

In the House, a considerable amount of work has been carried out during the winter by the conservation team, with the help of volunteers, including the cleaning of the Eating Room, Drawing Room, Tapestry Room, State Bedroom and finally the Etruscan Room. The House has re-opened and there has been an encouraging increase in the number of volunteers.

Membership of the Friends has increased since the beginning of the year with seven new members.

The Friends programme this year started with our January coffee morning when Neil Cole, General Manager, outlined the year's calendar, especially with the build up towards Easter. For our February coffee morning, Douglas Craik, our Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, gave a moving talk on Osterley bombs and Blitz bomb disposal. 55 Friends were there, our biggest attendance. In March our talk was by Lyndsey Feeny, Visitor Experience and Marketing, who said that in 2016 Osterley had its best ever membership and visitor figures. This year the focus will be on Robert Adam and his theory of Total Design. There is to be new estate signage, following guidelines which will be applicable to every National Trust site. Lyndsey told us that at Easter Osterley would be hosting *Jurassic Kingdom* with life size models. There will also be Cadbury's Easter Hunt, with the addition of dinosaur eggs. Our next coffee mornings are listed in the diary.

Margaret Friday has arranged London Visits for April to Keats' House, May to Queen's House Greenwich and June to Eastbury Manor

House. For our coach trips, there is a good group going to Leeds Castle in early April and other forthcoming trips are in May to Sherborne Castle and June to Lydiard House.

Our A.G.M. and social will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 7 for 7.45 p.m. when Neil will give us an update on Osterley Park and House. There will also be a quiz and the 100 Club draw.

Douglas has arranged the annual holiday this year in York in August and is already planning the 2018 holiday in Liverpool.

Work on the Pathway Improvement Project is well under way. You will be pleased to hear that the new buggy will be purchased shortly. A plaque has been made to be placed on the buggy, naming it the "Conacher Carriage" in memory of our past Chairman, Ian. It is also planned to purchase two new self-drive battery cars and a donation of £1,500 has been received from the Ealing National Trust towards the purchase of one. I hope many of you will have the opportunity to visit Osterley Park and House and to join us at coffee mornings, London visits and coach trips.



## **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:-

Wed 31st May Ffion George House & Collections Manager

Wed 21st June Christine Diwell: Historic houses in the Borough

Mon 31st July Andy Eddy Head Gardener

If you are willing to do a 30-45 minute talk on any (fairly) relevant subject next year please tell John James.



## **OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP**

**Meet at house family entrance**

Monday 8th.May at 2p.m. until 3-3:30 pm

Henrietta Howard:King's Mistress, Queen's Servant by Tracy Borman

**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.



# Robert Adam - perfectionist at Osterley

## Margaret Friday

For this newsletter John Stacey and Ian Brown are helping us look at the way Adam liked to make design statements repeatedly throughout the house in order to make an over-all image confirming that the house was Robert Adam!

One story tells us that in one of the earliest houses Adam completely designed he requested the owners to hang certain pictures over the fireplaces. When he visited he discovered that his wishes had been completely ignored. Thus he began to design rooms like the Eating Room, Library and the Etruscan Dressing Room at Osterley where there was no chance for the owner to go against his plans for how the finished room should look. Adam put plaster picture frames within the complete design and then commissioned Antonio Zucchi and others to paint pictures for those framed spaces. Perhaps he did not trust Robert Child to follow the complete design as he wished so he gave him no choice!



Photo Ian Brown

Looking further, when facing the house from the park we see Ionic columns, they appear again as pilasters next to the doors in the Long Gallery and in the library between the shelves. The library was described by Agneta Yorke thus: " Mr Adam has lavished all his taste in ornamenting every part! It is stony white and

thoroughly architectural, like a classical building turned outside-in." The Vitruvian scrolls on the shelves and furniture are repeated on the mahogany baluster of the staircase and around the walls of the stairwell.

Eileen Harris says in *The Country Houses of Robert Adam* that although he is often regarded as an interior designer his principle interest was in architectural planning. This planning Adam said " above all the others the most essential to the splendour and convenience of life". Adam thought of rooms almost as scenery that could be arranged to stimulate the imagination. His vision for a room was a whole including pier glasses, en suite tables, chairs, curtain cornices, sideboards with flanking pedestals, urns, bookcases, commodes and wall furniture including paintings.

The first room designed entirely by Adam, including furniture was the gallery at Croome Court. The next three were at Osterley - namely the

Eating Room, the State Bedroom and the Etruscan Dressing Room. The Eating Room contains many of the options highlighted in Eileen Harris' list. In addition we find that the legs on the chairs match the legs on the grate as do those in the Library and the Long Gallery. The design of the chair backs in the Eating Room reflects the plaster decorations in the walls.



Over Fireplace  
Drawing Room



Over door



On commode

Photos by Ian Brown

In previous newsletters we have explored rams and bucrania in the Eating Room too. We looked at images from the State Bedroom, sphinxes and the griffens in the Drawing Room along with rams. Rams are also found in the Entrance Hall furniture and on the outside balustrade leading up to the Long Gallery doors.



Photos Ian Brown

Of course we know that the family symbol, the marigold appears throughout the house.



From the huge flowers in the soffit outside to those in the Entrance Hall and most impressively in the ceiling and the carpet of the Drawing Room, on mirrors, tables, chairs, in fireplaces and grates, doors, shutters, door handles, and in plasterwork

around almost every room we find the marigold. Robert Adam has excelled in planned design at Osterley.



## Annual Members Quiz, run since 2017

What do you know about the Friends membership and activities in 2016?

At the AGM we will have a short quiz about our membership, points will be awarded for correct answers and (if you listen to Just a Minute) you will know Points mean Prizes. In the case

1st will get a voucher for 6 free coffee mornings, 2nd 4 free coffee mornings, 3rd 2 free coffee mornings, questions are at the back of the AGM paper. Bring your completed answers to the AGM



Entrance Hall Photo John Stacey





Photos John Stacey





## from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was held at the Coffee Morning on the 15th March. The lucky winners were:- Brian Martin £25, Mrs Elizabeth Bamber £50, and Mrs Catherine Jackson £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.

If you see your name in a prize list but don't get a cheque please let me know –one of last year's prizes disappeared (has been replaced)



## Membership Renewal D Craik Treasurer

You should have received your Membership card and (if appropriate) your 100 Club Card by post.

If you haven't yet paid you will get a reminder email after this Newsletter, when you do pay your Membership card and if appropriate 100 Club card will be posted to you.

If you haven't paid by 10/7/17 then there will be a reminder after your July Newsletter.

If you haven't paid by 1/10/17 then there will be no October Newsletter for you!



## Holiday 2017 YORK16-21 August D Craik

Bookings have been quite slow but we now have the minimum 35 (10 after the closing date! Not good for my nerves). I have hired a smaller coach but there is room for 3-4 more so if you would like to join us please let me know as soon as possible. Late bookers will probably be in a separate train carriage from the rest.

**Balance payment needs to be sent to me by 1st July.**



## Holiday 2018

Douglas Craik

The “customers vote” has been for Liverpool.

Given the lowish response this year before I go too far in setting this up could anyone who is interested in this holiday **please let me know as soon as possible**. Cost is likely to be about £500 and we will go in mid August. As I will have then reached 3 score and ten years this is likely to be my last self organised holiday. If any one is interested in taking this on for 2019 I will be happy to mentor. Or we can do as most other NT associations do and use a private company



## Coach Trips and London Visits

We have an additional coach trip and London visit with this Newsletter **please note that for any booking for the imminent Keats' House visit you should ring/email me, payment can follow**

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### **Apethorpe Palace Margaret Friday** **MUST BE BOOKED BY 1ST JUNE**

Monday 10th July Cost £30  
9:30 at Osterley Park or opposite  
Osterley Underground

Access to this now privately owned house is via English Heritage and opens only in July and August each year thanks to its new owner Jean Chrisophe, Baron von Pfetten.

More than £8 million has been spent restoring the house so far. It is of interest to the Friends because this was the home of the 10th Earl of Westmorland and his bride - Sarah Ann Child. The house was a favourite of Elizabeth and James I who insisted that it be commodious for his princely celebrations. The King's Chamber and the Long Gallery and Jacobean State Rooms are still on view today. This is a rare chance to see where Sarah Ann lived with the 10th Earl, a house like Osterley with a long past.

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### **Georgian Walk Margaret Friday**

Tuesday 18th July Cost £12  
Meet at Warren Street tube station at  
11.30.

Ian Porter (a professional tour guide) is providing a bespoke walk for us around Fitzroy Square, designed by Robert Adam and will show us other splendid Georgian houses and squares with gardens in the area.

He will also take us to one of the few Georgian pubs still left in London.

The walk - with places to sit down along the way will take about one and a half hours. We will finish at Russell Square which is on the Piccadilly line.

A nearby pub will be suitable for lunch.

# Bombs at Osterley Park

Douglas Craik



At the very well attended February coffee morning (54, including those standing!) I gave a talk on Bomb Disposal (BD) and Osterley Park bombs. By request, this is an extract concentrating on the Osterley Bombs. Four bombs landed in the wartime park, 2 in March 1941 and 2 probably in November 1940.

At 04:50 on 19/3/41 two 250kg (¼ ton) bombs fell and exploded in the grounds Bomb 1 landed in the woods

just to the east of the causeway almost opposite the lake, the 30 foot diameter crater is still just visible. Bomb 2 landed 50 yards west of Wyke Lodge near Osterley Lane, the crater is not obvious. It is known that 2 other bombs fell in the park one certainly before December 1940 and both probably in November when the heaviest bombing of Heston and Isleworth Borough (which included Osterley) occurred –55 bombs with 5 unexploded. Bomb 3's crater is well known and is next to the long walk due west of the house, this was also a 250kg bomb. Bomb 4 landed in the fields north of the house, now the other side of the M4. This is heavily cultivated and there is no sign of a bomb. It is known that a Royal Engineer team from 725 Section, 2 BD Company dealt with an unexploded bomb in Osterley Park in the first week of December 1940- it must have been this one. It could have been destroyed on site or defuzed (sic) and removed to store in Richmond Park. The online records state that this bomb exploded on 10/12/40 and killed Lt Kenneth Hope and 4 men with one survivor, Jimmy Hulme. This is based on a book which lists all those killed in bomb disposal work in WW2. Because the contemporary records are very limited (partly due to those for 2 BD Company prior to May 1941 being destroyed by bombing) this entry was based on the memories of a BD soldier some 75 years after the event. He recalled that the team attended bombs in Syon Park, Bushy Park and Osterley Park in the same week and he thought the fatal event was in Osterley. Later research proved that it actually was in Bushy Park . If anyone wants the sources of this information let me know.

## Diary Friends Events and Excursions

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
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Apethorpe Palace <b>9:00</b> <b>BOOK BY 1ST JUNE</b>
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>London Visit:</b> Georgian Walk Fitzroy Sq
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Jul	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Andy Eddy, Head Gardener
Wed 16-Mon 21 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 5pm</b> <b>Tour of house 4-5 pm</b> then 100 Club draw
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden
TBA Sep	<b>London Visit:</b> 68 Dean Street
Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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**

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

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

Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449  
 friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com  
 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 July 2017.

Any contributions to the Editor by **30th June 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.