

The Friends of Osterley Park

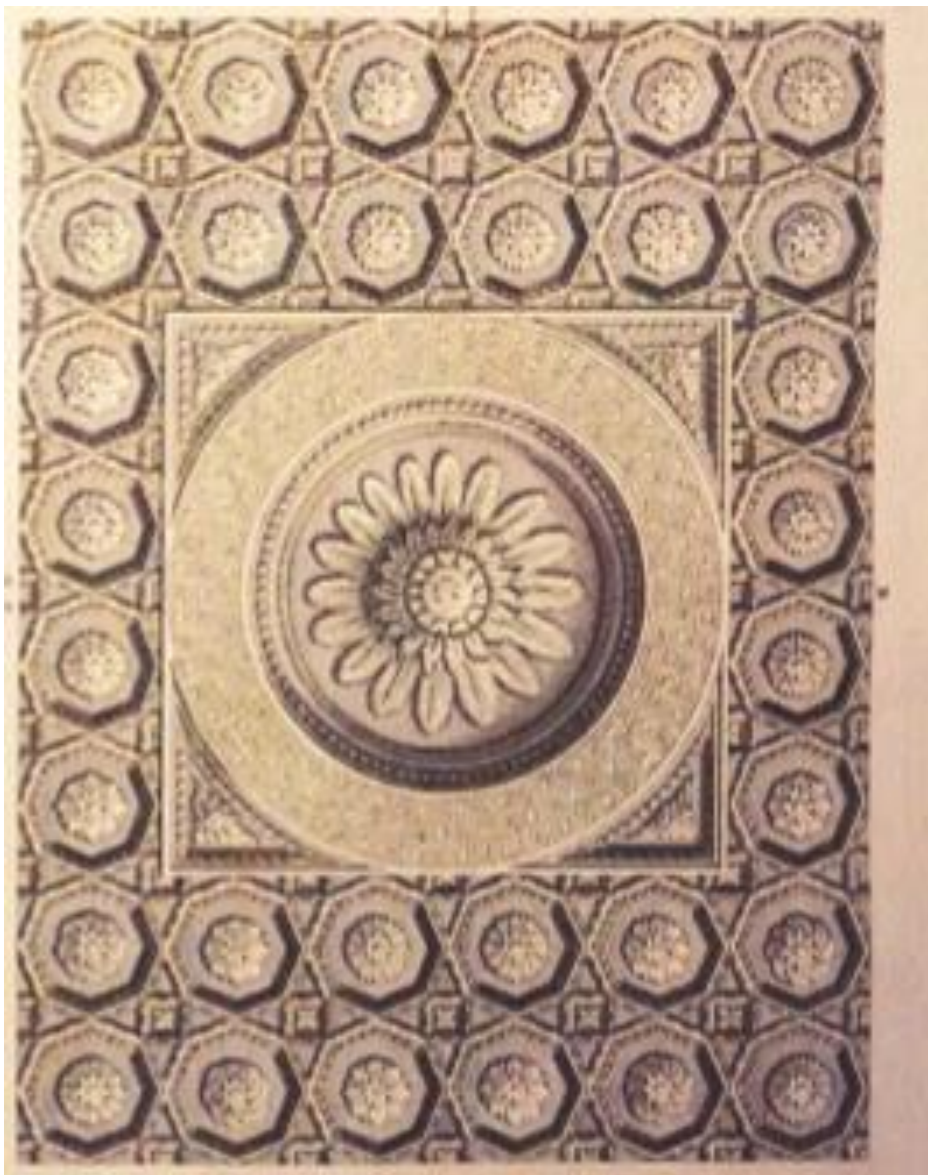
In
support
of the



National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 105 Summer 2017 £1 (free to members)





from the Chairman

John James

Chairman's Report to AGM 2017

Osterley Park and House is a unique country estate, hidden in a suburban location. It is treated by many people as an open park in which to walk, exercise dogs or keep fit by jogging, running or cycling. In 2016 the profile of Osterley Park and House was raised through programmes arranged by Neil and his team

As a charity our main purpose is to support the work of the National Trust and its programme of conservation and improvement at Osterley Park and House. This year has been very active. The Friends, since their formation in 1991 have contributed over £80,000 for various projects. One project that has occupied us is the purchase of a new buggy, which we are now close to finalising. It also gives us the opportunity of naming the buggy after our late President, Ian Conacher, who contributed so much to the Friends and to the property over many years. The buggy provides a very important facility, operated by volunteers, and Doug oversees the contributions given by the public, which help our funds.

In the past we have had a social programme of different activities, but recently the introduction of coffee mornings has brought our members to the property on a more regular basis. Our thanks go to all the past and present staff members who gave presentations – Lyndsey Feeney, Andy Eddy, Sophie Slater, Ian Grierson, Isaac Rocke, Ffion George and Jeremy Dalton, and of course Neil, who also attends our committee meetings. I would like to thank Neil for continuing to allow us to use the Brewhouse for our coffee mornings and meetings.

Our membership numbers are very healthy, with a regular flow of new members. Inevitably we do lose Friends, sometimes when they are no longer able to visit the property, but quite a few who move away from the area do continue to remain as members and enjoy the newsletter. The Friends' last two annual holidays have been well organised by Douglas. They do take a lot of research, preparation and time. In 2016 the holiday was based at Plymouth University. On arrival a visit was made to Saltram, and over the next four days the group visited six more National Trust properties, and were involved in such activities as a boat trip, a visit to the National Aquarium and a tour of the Royal Citadel. As we were on holiday in Devon at the same time, we were able to surprise everybody by greeting them on their arrival at Coletton Fishacre.

Our visits to other properties over the past year have been well attended. Once again our thanks to the group of Friends who organise the trips (led by Douglas, with Patricia Barrett, Peter Bush, Rita Ford, Margaret Friday, Pat Herod, Angela Lynskey and Barrie Pyle). They have done a great deal of research to ensure that all runs smoothly. Coach trips went to Kentwell Hall, Mottisfont, Arundel Castle, Petworth, Stoneleigh Abbey, Waterperry Gardens and Hughenden Manor and Long Melford and Melford Hall.

Likewise Margaret Friday has once again found a host of places to visit in London, including Boston Manor, Charlton House, St. Katharine's Dock, Parkstead House, Gresham College and Banqueting House.

I continue to represent the Friends on the National Trust London Centres Associations and Friends Groups Local Networking Forum and we exchange newsletters with other groups. At the time of preparing my report, the National Trust are reviewing their relationship with supporter groups and how to improve their profile and make the general public aware of their existence. We are special in our role as we support a property and there are very few such supporter groups.

The Friends Autumn Reception on the 28th September also marked our 25th Anniversary. We were fortunate to have as our speaker Emily Burns, Assistant Curator, Van Dyck, at the National Portrait Gallery.

Mike Doran has continued to update the Friends' website which he established. He also keeps the committee informed about the Osterley Neighbourhood Forum.

Our thanks to Douglas for editing the newsletter, and once again to Margaret Friday for her articles in the four newsletters in 2016: firstly on the Osterley Ice-House, secondly, both the Spirit of Place Osterley and the Stable Block with Clock Tower (these for the 100th edition of the Friends' newsletter which was in colour), thirdly griffins, goats and oxen, and fourthly the glasshouse in the walled garden. Photos for the Ice-House were by Ian Brown, while photographs for the other articles were by John Stacey.

We continue to have serious concerns about committee membership. We currently have just one over the minimum required by the constitution and some members have multiple roles. Several other National Trust Associations are at risk of imminent closure just because of a lack of committee volunteers. The committee meets six times a year at 11 a.m. in the Brew House and mainly discusses future Friends' support

(Continued from page 3)

to Osterley and future activities. If you are interested and would like more information just have a word with me (as I am Chairman, Membership Secretary, Coffee Morning Organiser and Newsletter Delivery Organiser) or with Douglas (as he is Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Holiday Organiser, Coach Group leader and 100 Club organiser)!

Finally my thanks to my fellow Trustees, Douglas Craik, Mike Doran, Margaret Friday, Patricia James, Joan Mound and John Stacey for their contributions over the year to the success of the Friends, and to Neil for all his support.



Osterley's Multi-Purpose Pathways and Cycle Skills Area

On the 16th June the official opening of Osterley's Pathway Project took place. The trails have been made possible with generous support from Sport England and The London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Autumn Reception Wed 13 September 17:00

We have gone for an earlier time this year so members can find their way in and home in the light.

Cars can still be driven up to the Stableyard

Jim Foy, Assistant Director Operations
National Trust London & South East
Regional Update



from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was held at the AGM on the 17th May. The lucky winners were:- Albert Neale £25, Marion Innes £50, and Philip Taylor £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)

THE TEMPLE IN PALMYRA Margaret Friday AND THE OSTERLEY DRAWING ROOM CEILING

For this newsletter we look at the Drawing Room ceiling and the classical temple which inspired it. The Temple to Bel (the Sun God) at Palmyra in Syria was, when dedicated in 32 AD, the largest temple on earth. It was destroyed in an explosion in August 2015. One writer Simon Mills has written "There are echoes of Palmyra around the world - is that all that will be left?" In this article I shall mention other "echoes" which can be seen nearby at West Wycombe and Stowe but I feel ours is the finest.

Palmyra was an ancient city in Syria captured by the Romans and later part of the silk road leading from China to Venice.

Robert Wood having visited Syria published *The Ruins of Palmyra* in 1753. It contained illustrations of the temple including this remarkable ceiling probably drawn by his draftsman Giovanni Borra. The first European visitors to Palmyra, the ancient Roman/Asian city, home of Zenobia who stood against the Romans, included artist G. Hofstede van Essen in 1691. His painting, our first of the town, is in the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam. An English clergyman William Halifax, chaplain in Aleppo, accompanied the visitors and describes the Temple as inhabited.



Original Photo of Palmyra southern niche ceiling

and clusters of grapes cut in stone so bold, so lively and so natural, in any place"

inspired other visitors to see Palmyra. He was awed by the zodiac ceiling calling it "a most exquisite piece of workmanship". It was in the inner sanctum - where our sun ceiling is - that the ancient Palmyrenes worshipped their deity Bel and Halifax paused for quiet

reflexion.

The Child family would have found this a perfect depiction for their Elizabethan mansion just being transformed by Robert Adam. It is full of suns and marigolds - the Child family bank is at the Sign of the Marigold in Fleet Street and shows a golden sun shining down on a golden marigold. The ceiling is full of suns and marigolds and for the Child family who used Osterley to entertain not just friends but also prospective bank clients, this was perfect. Adam was working on the Drawing Room in 1765 but may have been inspired to make this choice of ceiling by Francis Child before his death in 1763.



West Wycombe Ceiling

Adam and Wood had travelled together in Europe so were aware of each others' work. There is a painted ceiling based on Wood's drawing in the church at West Wycombe Park and another in the hall of the house both painted by Giovanni Borgnis for Sir Francis Dashwood. Borgnis' son Pietro painted the Etruscan dressing room here at Osterley. The ceiling in West Wycombe house was not completed until 1770. Dashwood was influential in helping Samuel and his son Francis Child III, find constituencies when they stood for Parliament.

He may have introduced Francis Child to Robert Adam. Francis Dashwood is better known as founder of the Hell Fire Club.

Our Drawing Room ceiling is a close copy of the original deeply coffered ceiling in the southern niche of the Temple to Bel. It differs as the centre roundel has been extended to an oval to fit Robert Adam's rectangular Drawing Room. Adam's original plan shows one fewer line of octagonal coffers but these coffers proved to be too large and heavy looking for the Osterley ceiling so Adam made the coffers smaller and added another row to use the space. See centre page picture of the splendid ceiling. He also added the red frieze and completed the room by designing a carpet to reflect the ceiling. The Adam drawing for the carpet can still be seen in the house.



Osterley Ceiling and carpet

In the 1990s at the Temple to Bel at Palmyra was a notice that there was a copy of the ceiling at Osterley Park House! Some other houses claim to have earlier copies, however they are not close copies of the original ceiling as shown in drawings by Wood. Borra who worked with Wood, made copies of some ceilings from the Palmyra designs at Stowe. Several of these ceilings, said to have been made in 1760, have lost much of their original plaster. Room use at Stowe changed many times over the years made to plans by William Kent, Vanburgh, and Gibbs. Later Borra, Blondel, Robert Adam and Thomas Pitt were asked to submit designs. When the house became a school the house was closed to the public except for State Rooms opened during the school holidays. The grounds have been looked after by the National Trust for many years.

The house is still a school it is being carefully restored with help from the World Monuments Fund.

Simon Mills again writes "Explorers and writers on Palmyra over three centuries have been united by a desire to understand the past and by a sense of the haunting beauty evoked by Palmyra's unique fusion of Hellenistic and Eastern artistic styles. More than 300 years of enquiry have forged a shared heritage - a deep sense of value common to generations....It may well be that the memory of these sites now outlives the ruins."

Our ceiling here at Osterley is still the closest copy I have seen of the Temple to Bel which I visited in 1992. Since the destruction of the original building in Palmyra in 2015, I believe the Drawing Room ceiling at Osterley is the best example of this amazing classical temple ceiling from Palmyra, and a beautiful expression of our shared heritage with this Silk Road city. When you are next in the house come and admire.

West Wycombe House and Park and Stowe House and Gardens are National Trust properties.

Simon Mills is a Fellow in History at The University of Kent.



Bouncing Cheques **D Craik Treasurer**

Please make all cheques out to **Friends of Osterley**

Not Friends of Osterley Park, Our account was opened without the "Park" (long before me) and the bank now refuse these.

If I get an incorrect cheque I will return it to sender but honour the booking in expectation of getting a replacement.



OBEs Following a previous Newsletter's item on OBEs I have learned that Friends' member Pauline Davies also got one in 1998 for

"Improving the competitiveness of U.K. through education and employment policy." So now we have three –is this a TRIoBE? Any more let me know - though it may strain my punning ability.

Mailing Addresses



The most observant of our printed Newsletter readers may notice that your address on the envelope might have changed. The addresses I now use are the official Royal Mail address for your house. Our on-line readers are unlikely to see this!



Osterley Dining Room Ceiling



West
Wycombe
dining room



Stowe Temple Room



OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP

Meet at house family entrance

Monday 17th.July at 2pm:

Philippa Gregory: "A Respectable Trade"

Monday 11th.September:

Miranda Seymour: Chaplin's Girl

2p.m. until 3-3:30 pm

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.



Friends Summer Holiday to York 17-21 August 2017

Douglas Craik

First if you have booked for this adventure I hope you have made your balance payment.

Second our numbers have fluctuated a bit ; up to 35 down to 32 and backup to 37. We have space for up

to 40 so it is not too late to join us if you contact me **immediately**.

The Buggy has landed

Douglas Craik



After having no buggy for 4 weeks when the old buggy finally collapsed, the new one arrived on 6th July.

The process of purchasing this has been a bit extended but we now have a fine 7 passenger vehicle. Pictured is the first driver and first 4 passengers –only 15 minutes after it arrived on site.

The buggy was paid for by the Friends (£15,650) and we have named it the "Conacher Car" in memory of Ian. The plaque on the front says "This vehicle was purchased by the Friends of Osterley Park in memory of Ian Conacher First President of the Friends and a past buggy driver."



Shortly we will have an official naming ceremony with Ian and Audrey's family



Membership 1

Douglas Craik

A few members have not yet renewed their subscription, they will get a separate email after this ihis newsletter. We hope that they will decide to continue as a “Friend”, if payment is not received by October then we will assume they have left



Membership 2

Douglas Craik

On a more positive note we have a number of new members. If you are one please consider if

- You would like your Newsletter to arrive by email in colour rather than B&W on paper, saves postage/print costs and you are less likely to lose it!
 - You would you like to pay your membership by Standing Order (so not having to remember it)
 - You would you like to increase the value of your membership by signing a Gift Aid declaration, this increases a £10 membership to £12.50 thanks to the tax man
 - You would like to join our 100 Club (£12 per number) with 4 chances a year to win a £25, £50 or £100 prize
 - You would like to join one of our activities
 - Coach trips to nearby historic buildings 6 times a year
 - Visits to London historic sites 6 times a year
 - An annual 6 day holiday
- If you do online banking you can book and pay for all these online
- Monthly coffee mornings with talks by Friends and Osterley Staff
 - You would like to join our committee, we are very short of committee members and you can do as much or as little as you want to help the “Friends” run well

For more information on all of these contact John James or me (see back page)



Editors Apologies

Douglas Craik

I managed to make 2 mistakes in the trip booking form concerning the trip to Apethorpe Palace, first asking in April for bookings to be made by 1st January (should have been June), this would require the use of the Tardis. Second having the start time as 09:30, should be 09:00. In my defence I was in New York and working from memory on a smart phone. SORRY

Dinosaurs at Osterley

Douglas Craik



From the 1st to the 17th April Osterley was host to over 3 dozen Dinosaurs. This was the first stop on the Jurassic Kingdom tour of the UK. There is currently an advert, the later part was filmed at Osterley, at www.jurasickingdom.uk which shows the house behind a *Diplodocus* and a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, (may change as the show moves on).

This event during the school holidays coincided with the Cadbury Easter Egg hunt in the gardens, a Bunny Hide and Seek in the house and our usual school holiday activities.

I estimate that we had over 100,000 visitors with over 15,000 cars to these events (mainly the dinosaurs) but over 10,000 visited the house/gardens and over 4,000 took part in the Egg hunt. I was there on 5 days and heard many dinosaur hunters saying they must return again to Osterley. It was a bit disruptive and did stretch the resources at times but it certainly put the house on the map of many people. The tour next went to Birmingham and later to 5 other cities including Glasgow where the tough local cats may beat the dinosaurs up.



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:-

Mon 31st July Andy Eddy Head Gardener

Wed 30th August Early volunteering at Osterley: Arthur Spikins

Wed 11th October Sophie Slater, Commercial Manager

Tue 14th November in the Tudor Kitchen: Virginia Fassnidge

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

LONDON VISITS.

MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY, THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER
Cost £12 or £8 if you have a National Art Pass



Meet outside the museum on Lambeth Palace Road at 11.30am. Time for a quick tea before the tour begins at 12.00. The 45 minute tour will introduce us to the newly

refurbished museum featuring the history of plants and gardening in England. John Tradescant our first great botanist and plant collector (1570-1658) is buried here. In 1977 the disused St. Mary's Church was rescued to become the Museum of Garden History. Beautifully re-designed it re-opened earlier this year. To delight us there is an exhibition of 16th century fruit drawings called The Tradescants Orchard which has inspired modern artists to contribute. Plants are also on sale. The new restaurant is just the place for lunch.

JEWEL TOWER, TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER.

Cost £8 or £4 if you are member of English Heritage.



Meet at Westminster tube station in the covered area to the right of the exit opposite Big Ben at 11am. We will then take the short walk to the Jewel Tower. We will see the now empty moat which surrounded the building, the little lawn with some interesting notices about the history of this intriguing building. Originally built in 1365 for King Edward III as a secure place to keep the finest things in the Royal Westminster Palace. Over the years its use

changed from store for silver and fine gowns to manuscript store and centre for the department of weights and measures. On the ground floor we can sit and have coffee and be inspired by a small talk about the history. Entrance to the tower is via a spiral staircase but it is well worth the effort. Each floor reveals more of the security installed to keep contents safe from theft and fire and the amazing things once kept here.

Official address; Abingdon Street, Westminster SW1P 3JX

Margaret can recommend a local eatery with dark oak panelling in medieval style nearby.

The Shuttleworth Collection and Swiss Garden

Monday 18th September **Barrie Pyle**

9:00 at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground

Cost £36

The collection and garden are located in Old Warden just off the A1, it is a Charitable Institution dedicated to Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth.

The main components of the site are an aerodrome, a museum of vintage cars and aircraft, the Swiss Garden so called for the chalet at its heart, and a fine café with indoor and outdoor seating allowing viewing of the runway with non-commercial aircraft movement.



The aircraft date from 1903—1950s and the cars from 1930s-40s. This may predate your car ownership but perhaps a parent had one. A drive down nostalgia lane.

The Swiss Garden is an outstanding example of the Regency fashion for creating landscapes in a picturesque alpine style. It is a peaceful, tranquil space, and one which has new vistas revealed at every turn. Within the garden are 13 listed structures, an adjacent woodland sculpture trail and three resident peacocks. It's a delight to explore



Sudeley Castle

Rita Ford

Tuesday 3rd October

9:00 at Osterley Park or opposite Osterley Underground

Cost £35

Sudeley Castle has a long history.

Originally built in the 15th Century it was rebuilt by Thomas Seymour brother of Jane, Henry the VIII's third wife. His sixth wife Katherine Parr lived here after her marriage to Thomas Seymour.

She died in 1548 and is buried in the nearby St. Mary's church. During the Civil War it was one of Charles I's headquarters. It is now owned by the Ashcombe family

Our visit is scheduled for the afternoon and so we shall stop for lunch at Stow-in-the-Wold' a small pretty Cotswolds town.

It is also the home of Scotts the well known catalogue company who have several shops here, so retail therapy is possible!

Diary Friends Events and Excursions

- Tue 18th Jul **London Visit:** Georgian Walk Fitzroy Sq
Phone/email Douglas NOW to book
- Mon 31st Jul **Coffee Morning:** Andy Eddy, Head Gardener
- Wed 16-Mon 21 Aug **York Holiday**
- Wed 30th Aug **Coffee Morning:**
Early volunteering at Osterley: Arthur Spikins
- Wed 13th Sep **Autumn Reception** 5pm
Jim Foy Assistan Director Operations
National Trust London & South East
100 Club draw
No Coffee Morning in September
- Thu 7th Sep **London Visit:** Museum of Garden History
- Mon 18th Sep **Coach Trip:** Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden
- Tue 3rd Oct **Coach Trip:** Sudley Castle
- Tue 10th Oct **London Visit:** Jewel House, Westminster
- Wed 11th Oct **Coffee Morning:**
Sophie Slater, Commercial Manager
- Tue 14th Nov **Coffee Morning:**
In the Tudor Kitchen: Virginia Fassnidge
- Tue 5th Dec **Coffee Morning:**
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

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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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

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 October 2017.
Any contributions to the Editor by **30th September 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

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.