

# The Friends of Osterley Park

In  
support  
of the  
**National Trust**



## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 111 Winter 2019 £1 (free to members)



# Chairman's Report

John James



A Happy New Year to you all.

We again finished our year with a Christmas Lunch in the Brewhouse, held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, which was very well supported. Neil Cole called in to wish us a Happy Christmas. It was a very special occasion, with the chef providing a delicious meal.

Our autumn coffee mornings were all well attended, with Andrea Cameron talking in October on “around and about Osterley”, and in November Lyndsey Feeney on “visitor experiences at Osterley”. Our last coffee morning of the year was on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. We had the largest number of Friends attending, filling the Brewhouse to capacity. The presenter, Christine Diwell, gave a fascinating talk on “the villages that make up the Borough of Hounslow”.

Our last coach trip was in October to Fort Nelson and Portsmouth Museum. Our thanks go to Douglas Craik and Barrie Pyle for providing the transport. Margaret Friday arranged an excellent London visit to the newly refurbished Gunnersbury Park.

Some of you who live in the Osterley Park area of the Borough of Hounslow will have received a notice from the Council regarding an Osterley Park Conservation Area Appraisal Draft Consultation. Mike Doran, a committee member, oversees our community links for us. He responded as a resident and, at the committee's request, also on behalf of the Friends of Osterley Park.

2018 has been a very busy and productive year at Osterley Park and House. This winter has been celebrated by the hosting of the new exhibition “Made for the Table” in collaboration with Goldsmiths' Company. Margaret Friday wrote a very informative article on the exhibition in our Autumn Newsletter, which was printed in colour with illustrations, such as the cover which showed Francis Child's large wine cooler.

A lot of conservation work has been done outside and inside the House, especially the Long Gallery, the basement and the summer garden house. Hallowe'en saw a record-breaking pumpkin festival. There was another great year of sport at Osterley, with highlights being a winter 10K run and the opening of the cycle hire centre.

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Pope Gregory XIII

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR** Editor Douglas Craik

This issue of the News letter is distributed on the 1st of January for those of us who still use the Julian calendar (good old Caesar), for those who have switched to the recent Gregorian calendar it is the 15th .

This change happened over 274 years in 18 steps with Spain switching in 1582, Great Britain in 1752 and Turkey in 1926 (except for the Orthodox churches). What a joy it must have been arranging a multi-national meeting in those years!

For Scots we can have 2 Hogmanay's and two Burns' nights to cover all eventualities.

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## **House Update**

## **Neil Cole General Manager**

Firstly I trust everyone had a very Happy Christmas and New Year. 2018 was a very busy year at Osterley Park & House and 2019 promises to be another busy year too, we have a lot planned in amongst our usual programme of events and activities and as the year unfolds we look forward to sharing all our news with you, via newsletters and coffee mornings.

The support offered by the Friends of Osterley is always much appreciated, annual donations towards the upkeep of the buggy, flower picking garden and house flower teams and the costume department, hugely benefit our offer and audience experience, so a huge thank you to the friends.

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## **Jim Tickle's Bequest**

Many members will remember Jim's efforts over many years to provide Friends' holidays and monthly coach trips until shortly before his death in January 2013.

Jim left a significant bequest to Osterley Park and its use is explained by Neil Cole on page 13



## Coach Trips & London Visits

**Douglas Craik**

April to June coach trips and London visits are advertised in this issue. Details and booking for August to October months will be in the July issue, but dates for these will be in the April issue. In 2018 I went for the cheapest coach available and whilst the early journeys were fine some of the later ones showed this was an economy too far. For 2019 we will be using various more expensive, and hopefully better, companies.



### Coach Trips Team

**Douglas Craik**

We really need a couple more volunteers for the coach team, you get to choose a venue to visit and make arrangements with the venue. I book the coach, make all payments and, of course, take members bookings. As an added incentive from this year team members will not be charged for the trip they organise. If interested please let me know, Barrie Pyle has kindly offered to mentor any new team member for their initial trip organising.



### The Wimpole Estate

**Angela Lynskey**

**Tuesday 9th April 9:30**

**Cost £20**

Wimpole is not just a house but a whole estate with Georgian Hall, an active Home Farm, walled kitchen garden and acres of parkland with miles of walks. I doubt there will be time for many walks during our day but there is more than enough to keep us occupied during our visit,

The Hall -the original building- was designed and built in 1640 by Sir Thomas Chicheley. In the mid 18th century the 1st Earl of Hardwicke and his descendants took on the transformation to a Georgian Manor and created beautiful interiors with sophisticated arches and vaults, it also has a baroque bath house. In 1938 Captain and Mrs Elsie Bambridge bought the house which was almost stripped of all its furnishings, and spent 40 years reclaiming and replacing the original furnishings and returning the Hall to its former glory.

The Home Farm and walled kitchen garden provide all the produce used in the Old Rectory Restaurant and Stable Café and the Farm Café. The Stable Shop has gifts , plants, and second hand books and the Home farm sells home reared meat, eggs, flour and apple juice.



## **London Visit Charterhouse** **Margaret Friday**

**Friday 12th April Cost £13**

**Meet at 1.45** at The Charter House,

Charter House Square, EC1M 6AN. This is about 10 minutes walk from Barbican tube station. There is a coffee shop to the right of the entrance if you arrive early.

Once the largest Carthusian Monasteries in England until their Prior John Houghton refused to recognise Henry VIII and was executed in 1535.

Seized by the king and deconsecrated it was acquired by Sir Edward North who converted into a grand residence from 1545. Elizabeth I stayed on her way into London when she became queen. The Duke of Norfolk renamed it Howard House. James I stayed in 1603 when he travelled from Scotland to take the throne. Both monarchs held court in the Great Chamber.

By 1611 Thomas Sutton, the philanthropist, set up a charitable foundation here providing a school and accommodation for the elderly. Older people are still in residence today and called brothers although ladies also live here. Charterhouse School has moved to Surrey but pupils included John Wesley and William Makepeace Thackeray.

Our guided tour takes us to the Great Hall, Great Chamber, Library, Cloister and several Courtyards and takes about an hour. You may visit the Museum and Chapel free of charge as they are not part of the tour.



## **London Visit Pitzhanger Manor** **Margaret Friday**

**Wednesday 1st May. Cost £11**

**Meet at in the coffee shop at 11:00** Pitzhanger Manor, Mattock Lane, Ealing, W5 5EQ.

The restored interiors should look as they did when John Soane the famous architect and collector lived here. The hall, breakfast room and the magnificent re-painted Chinese room will be a treat to see. We will have a guided tour of the interior. The gardens have also been restored and can be seen from the rooms upstairs. The fine work done here should inspire all of those who knew the house in the past. This visit should be a real treat.





## Upton House & Broughton Castle

Margaret Friday

**Tuesday 14th May 9:00 Cost £34**

Upton House is famous for the excellent collection of paintings on display. It was owned by the Bearstedts from 1927. They spent the money made via Shell Oil on paintings from Bosch to Stubbs and El Greco. The house was adapted to accommodate the paintings and porcelain. There is a fine garden designed by Lady Bearsted and a kitchen garden with a mirror pool. On arrival we will get tea and biscuits. Following the tour there will be a chance to see the gardens and take lunch before proceeding to



Broughton Castle for a 2pm tour. Broughton Castle is the residence of Lord Saye and Sele of the Fiennes family, since 1447 and is rated by Simon Jenkins as one of the best houses in Britain. The house is usually closed on Tuesdays so they are opening specially for us. They will provide us with

tea and cakes served at 3.30pm at a cost of £4.95.



## Coughton Court

Pat Herod

**Wednesday 26th June 9:00 Cost £23**

Coughton Court has been the home of the Throckmorton family since the 15th century and is one of the last remaining Roman Catholic houses in the country to retain its' historic treasures.

From the Tudor court of Henry VII to the gunpowder plot the family has witnessed some of the most defining moments in our history.

The gardens are stunning with a great variety of style and colour. Included is a riverside and lake walk, bog garden and a beautiful display of roses in the walled garden.

There are two churches in the estate,

The Coughton café offers hot and cold meals and from 2:30 onwards, afternoon teas. There is also a stable yard café bar which serves drinks and light refreshments.

## London City Sites Visit

Margaret Friday

Thursday 13th June Cost £5

**Meet at 2pm.** Meeting place will near Sy Pauls cathedral but more detail will be in the April newsletter

Today our look at the City will be led by a member of The Friends of Osterley, Phil Frickers. He is a working archaeologist who is training as a Green Badge Guide for The City of London. Many apply for this course but only a limited number are accepted. One of his themes is Women in the City so this should be a fascinating look around the streets known by many famous people from the past and still to be explored and enjoyed by us today.



## Holiday, Trips, & Visits Insurance

Douglas Craik

The good news is that National Trust insurance cover has been extended to Friends up to 90 years old (from 80). However the less good news is that this is only for death or permanent total disability (max £10,000), or temporary total disability (£150 per week). There is also Public Liability insurance up to £10,000,000. This only applies to members of an NT association which is why anyone on a holiday has to become a member of the Friends. This obviously a very limited cover so **anyone going on a holiday is very strongly encouraged to have personal insurance**, particularly for cancellation (one member who had to cancel a holiday due to an accident successfully claimed on their insurance in 2016).

## Email booking of trips

We offer the option of booking Coach trips or London Visits by email and payment online

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**,
2. I confirm there are spaces available
3. You make a bank transfer to

Name of Payee  
Sort code  
Account number  
Your Reference

**Friends of Osterley**  
**20 02 06**  
**70389315**  
**Trips/your name**





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# Bacchus/Dionysus God of wine at Osterley

Margaret Friday

As this is the season to eat, drink and be merry and our last newsletter featured the Osterley Wine cistern on the cover, I felt that Bacchus at Osterley should be my next exploration. He greets us in the Entrance Hall and then we find him in the eating room. Osterley was **the** party house so we would expect to find Bacchus here.

Bacchus, the Greco-Roman name for Dionysus actually means noisy or riotous god but he is the god of wine, theatre and masks, vegetation, fertility, pleasure and festivity sometimes extending to madness and wild frenzy.

We begin in the Entrance Hall with Cipriani's splendid grisaille portrait called The Triumph of Bacchus riding in his chariot drawn by panthers- his cat of choice (centre spread). Bacchus is accompanied by a Maenad offering him a bowl of grapes and a man with a large bottle of wine. Bacchus and a Maenad carry thyrsus. Maenads are female worshipers of Bacchus. His male followers are Satyrs and Centaurs. The thyrsus is the large staff held by Bacchus. It is a tall stalk of fennel often decorated with vine leaves, grapes and ivy and topped with a pinecone.

Bacchus is portrayed as bearded but young looking, with grapevines in his hair. The trees are festooned with grapes.

Bacchus is the son of Zeus and Semele. She dies when she insists on seeing Zeus in person- but he appears as a thunderbolt, so pregnant Semele is stuck by lightning and dies but her son is rescued by Zeus and sown up in his thigh which is later unstitched to deliver him. Young Bacchus is brought up by Semele's sister Ino who asks her own nursemaid Mystis to look after Bacchus but keep him indoors. She dresses him in fawn skins and he plays with cymbals and rattles but is fond of hitting people so Mystis gives him a fennel stalk. If he hits children with this it will not hurt them or the adults when he goes for their ankles and shins. As he is indoors he is fascinated by torch light. After several fateful deaths Zeus decides that it is too dangerous for any human to bring up Bacchus so he is taken to Mount Nysa to be brought up by seven nymphs who live in caves. He loves to play in the woods. Here his playmates were Centaurs (half man, half horse) and Satyrs led by Seilenos. The elderly Seilenos is the teacher of Bacchus. One of the satyrs, Ampelos becomes Bacchus' best friend.

When Ampelos is killed by a bull Bacchus draped a wild vine, his favourite plant, over Ampelos's tomb. The vine began to climb immediately and was flowering the next day. On the fourth day it bore

fruit much larger, sweeter and juicier than any tasted before. The Greek name for grape wine is “ampelos” so wine is considered to be the child of Ampelos. It was Bacchus who taught mortals how to make wine. These details of Bacchus are found in *Bacchus a biography* by Andrew Dalby published by the British Museum, 2001.

Look at the white marble vases carved by Joseph Wilton before Bacchus triumphal arch to see his story in pictures. The vases are modelled on the



Medici vases, bronze copies of these are at Osterley. Bacchus head with horns is swathed in grape vines and events from his life: being turned into a ram, wrestling with his friend Ampelos, growing the vines, are shown in the carvings on the vases.



Now we proceed to the Eating Room where we find vine leaves festooning the ceiling along with the thyrsus (cover photo). The corner plaster work shows objects representing Bacchus and the celebrations that surround his



worshipping. drinking cups, wine jugs, Ampelos tomb with vines growing from it and implements for cutting and serving food used by the Maenads and Satyrs during celebrations. The small oblong wall

paintings by Antonio Zucchi show us Maenads and Satyrs celebrating with the god of wine sadly these are too high to view easily.

Currently in the display case we see the black basalt Wedgewood wine server decorated with Bacchus' image.



It usually sits on the mantelpiece but would have been on the table when Robert Child and his family entertained here. In the early days of wine-making wine was drunk straight but later it became the tradition to mix it with water. Here at Osterley occasionally a meeting would be held but the mix of water to wine would be announced in advance so that those present would know the importance of any decisions to be made. Osterley has a large Wine and Beer Cellar on the ground floor next to the door with the

spiral staircase which brought the food from the distant kitchen up to the Eating Room. The Butler was in-charge of selecting and decanting the wines at the many parties that took place at Osterley.

Worshippers of Bacchus held torchlight processions which took them into the woods where they sang, danced often wearing masks and drinking large amounts of wine. Wine miracles were said to occur during these festivities. I hope you have enjoyed the revelations of the god on Wine's presence at Osterley. So now let us drink a toast to Bacchus - cheers, prosit, na zdrowie, lechyd da, salud, slainte, skal, gan bei, cin cin, saude proost, bottoms up and your very good health!

## from the 100 club

**Douglas Craik**

A draw was held at the Coffee Morning on the 10th December. The lucky winners were:- Wendy Rix-Morton £25, Margaret Prior £50, Hazell Lyell £100 plus a £9 bonus prize for Peter Bush -we need to spend all the prize money by the end of the financial year so we have a small extra prize if any money is left.

All members of the Friends can purchase one or more "shares" in the 100 Club by sending a cheque payable to Friends of Osterley for £12 each share to me.

Below you will see information of Membership/100 Club renewal. A few members with high 100 Club numbers will get different new numbers **for draws after 1st April**. Due to members leaving we got into the position of having one member with 100 Club number 135 and no-one having number 5 etc. - I was running out of balls!

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## Membership Renewal

**Keith Rookledge**

Happy New Year to you all!

I am sure that you will continue to enjoy your membership in 2019 as much as you did in 2018!

Membership numbers are about the same in 2018 as it was in 2017. We lost about six members who did not renew for one reason or another but have gained about six.

So your continuing support for the Friends of Osterley Park will be of value. We move forward to 2019 and to more exciting events.

One thought though, when renewing in 2019 please remember to include a stamped envelope of a reasonable size. I have had to perform conjuring tricks with some of the very small envelopes some people use!! Due to the new data protection rules (GDPR) could everyone please send completed form in this year



## Donations to the House

**Douglas Craik Treasurer**

In addition to our regular donations to the Flower Growing garden and annual maintenance of the Buggy the committee have agreed to a request from the Costume Department (largely staffed by volunteers) for a donation of £3,500 for 2 wardrobes, 2 pairs of stays, 2 wigs, 2 costumes and some maintenance. The department has been largely unfunded for some time.

We also agreed to an annual maintenance grant of £500 from next year, in line with our other regular donations.

# Saint Agatha and Tickle bequest Neil Cole

In July 2018 the National Trust were successful at an auction at Christie's London Showroom with the purchase of the **Carlo Dolci (1616-87), Saint Agatha, c. 1665-70**, an oil painting on canvas . The purchase was made possible by contributions from Osterley's gift fund and financial support from the Art Fund as well as a private benefactor. We took the decision to use the full value of the bequest left by Jim Tickle, and I trust you agree this is a worthwhile use of funds. This painting was acquired by Sir Francis Child in Italy in the 1690s and passed down by descent to George Child-Villiers, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Jersey, who sold it in 1934 during a sale at Middleton Park. So it was in the possession of Osterley's most important resident family for at least 237 years. Although it was also displayed in the family's houses in Lincoln's Inn and Oxfordshire (Middleton Park), both of these are now in private ownership, the latter having been converted to flats in the 1970s. Since the picture was at Osterley in 1782 and the National Trust's overriding principle is to display the great show rooms as they were in that crucial period, there can be no more suitable or significant place for its ownership, display and public access. The successful purchase conforms with Osterley's Collections Development Policy (June 2014), which states that our priority should be the acquisition of "indigenous contents listed in the 1782 Inventory (that is to say at the height of the Child family occupation of the house)." Up until this purchase we had only one indigenous painting in our ownership at Osterley – a house that once boasted a rich and historic collection of paintings, particularly in the Long Gallery and Breakfast Room. With the return of several significant paintings in 2013, via the Jersey Loan, we are in a stronger position than ever before to explore the significance of the works once in the collection. With our planned redecoration of the Yellow Breakfast Room (where this painting was listed as hanging in 1782), for the first time since Osterley's acquisition in 1949, we hope not only to recreate the dense historic display (there were 41 paintings in the room at that time) but also to show this wonderful painting so that countless visitors may enjoy it and understand a little more fully the history and story of our house. As yet we have no known date as to when the painting will arrive at Osterley, however we plan to showcase the painting throughout the winter of 2019/20, we will confirm in due course.



## Coming events



### **ABERDEEN Holiday 18-24th July** **Douglas Craik**

LNER have moved their Advance Booking date to later so I can now take bookings up to end March. There are still spaces left, ring me or drop me an email if interested.

Several people have made their own travel arrangements including flying, sleeper and breaking the journey (our cost to them is reduced by £100 in these cases)- so if the long journey puts you off you could consider these options.

## **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 monthly 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.

**Tuesday 12th February** Peter Bush, The Stones of Osterley

**Wednesday 6th March** Lyndsey Feeney -Marketing

**Friday 5th April** Douglas Craik, Friends' Donations to Osterley

### **2019/20 Programme**

About half of our talks are updates on the property from members of staff and the others on subjects that will hopefully be of interest.

We have 6 members as speakers for 2019, If you are willing to do a 30-45 minute talk on any relevant subject in 2020 please tell John James



## **OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP**

### **Meet in the cafe**

Tuesday 12th March at 2pm:

The book is

"The last Tudor" by Philippa Gregory

Please let the Wendy Sim know if you are coming.

wendyasim@BTinternet.com or 020 8979 3834.



***For all volunteers, staff and members of Friends of Osterley Park***



## Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Peter Bush, The Stones of Osterley
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Lyndsey Feeney - Marketing
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Douglas Craik, Friends' Donations
Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Coach Trip: 09:30</b> The Wimpole Estate
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>London Visit:</b> Charterhouse
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>London Visit:</b> Pitzhanger Manor
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>AGM</b> 4:30 for 5:00 speaker Neil Cole
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Coach Trip: 09:00</b> Upton House & Broughton Castle
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Ffion George - House & Collections
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>London Visit:</b> City sites walking tour
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Margaret Friday, The Baltics
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Coach Trip: 09:00</b> Coughton Court
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Ed Hewison - Outdoor Activities
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Jul	<b>Holiday</b> Aberdeen
<b>NO JULY COACH TRIP OR LONDON VISIT DUE TO HOLIDAY</b>	
Aug	<b>Coach Trip:</b> Nymans House & Gardens
Aug	<b>London Visit:</b> TBA
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Howard Simmons TBA
Sep	<b>Coach Trip:</b> TBA
Sep	<b>London Visit:</b> TBA
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Autumn Reception</b> 4:30 for 5:00
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Andy Eddy - Head Gardener
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Virginia Fassnidge, Apples in myth and legend
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<b>Coach Trip:</b> TBA
Oct	<b>London Visit:</b> TBA
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> Jeremy Dalton - Lead Ranger
Thu 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<b>Coffee Morning:</b> TBA

**Coach Trips** depart from Lakeside Car park and Bus Stop opposite Osterley Station at time indicated above

**Coffee Mornings** 10:30 for 11:00 in the Brewhouse.

<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
Summer	July	next 3 coach trips, next 3 London Visits
Autumn	October	next summer holiday booking

### **Chairman**

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

### **Membership Secretary**

Keith Rookledge 020 8866 7017  
 2 West Avenue, Pinner, HA5 5BY

### **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 1st April 2019.  
 Any contributions to the Editor by  
**15th March 2019.**

The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.