

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 113 Summer 2019 £1 (free to members)



Fothergilla gardenii

.All flower photo's courtesy of Andy Eddy
(as are the plants)

Chairman's Report

John James



Report to the AGM on Wednesday 8th May 2019

As a charity (for tax purposes) , the Friends' main purpose is to support the work of the National Trust and its programme of conservation and improvement at Osterley Park and House.

During 2018 and early 2019 we certainly did this in many ways. We continued to maintain the buggy which is such an important service for visitors.

There was urgent need in the House to maintain and improve the costume collection.

We decided to give an annual donation which enabled the costume team to order new costumes, wigs and wardrobes.

The Chairman said that Sheila Underwood wished to say a few words on behalf of the costume volunteers. She had been a volunteer for 30 years plus and looked after costumes. She said how grateful they were for the very generous donations. They had started to spend the money which would be for new wardrobes, new wigs, buttons from specialists, including one in York "Duttons for Buttons". Once they had made more costumes they hoped that they could do a presentation sometime next year showing how the money had been spent.

Our annual support of the flower growers continues and is appreciated.

I was delighted to receive an email from Vivian Tobitt, National Trust London and South East Supporter Groups Business Support Contact, wishing us all the best for our A.G.M. and thanking the Friends for our generous donations and continuing support. She said that she knew our donations were the result of a lot of hard work on the part of the committee and the generosity of our members, without whose assistance the Trust would not be able to undertake many of their projects. She gave her warmest thanks to everyone for what had been achieved and wished us all the best for a successful year ahead.

We continue to have monthly coffee mornings, supported by Neil Cole, in the Brewhouse. Six had staff members as speakers. Staff members have contributed to their success as they give us updates.

In January Neil gave us an introduction to the proposed Experience Design project. This is the National Trust's process looking at how a property can deliver its visitor offer and visitor business in the long term. A programme of meetings will take place during the summer, and will culminate in a 10 year master plan.

In March the speaker was Sophie Slater Commercial Manager, in July Ffion George, House and Collections, in particular on the plans for the Made for the Table exhibition during the winter. This was an exhibition of contemporary and historic silver from the Goldsmiths' Company's collection, with a display of Osterley's rarely seen silver collection.

In August Ben Griffiths gave us an update on the work of the rangers. In September Andy Eddy, Head Gardener was our speaker on the proposed renovating of the Grade 1 listed Robert Adams designed Garden House.

In November we had Lyndsey Feeney, Visitor Experience.

There were six talks by our members and guest visitors:

In February Douglas Craik on "planning Friends' holidays",

April, Margaret Friday on her Uzbekistan holiday,

May, Gail Sanderson on "the background to country house visiting 1700 – 1830"

In June the subject was "early volunteering at Osterley Park Part 2", led by Margaret Friday,

October Andrea Cameron was the speaker on "round and about

Osterley", and in December Christine Diwell spoke on "villages that make up the London Borough of Hounslow".

If you would like to give a talk in do get in touch with me.

The Friends' holiday, once again very well organised by Douglas, was to Liverpool in August.

I would like to thank the 2018 Trips Group, facilitated by Douglas – Rita Ford, Margaret Friday, Pat Herod, Angela Lynskey and Barrie Pyle. Trips took place in April to Highclere, in May to Buscot Park, in June to Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House, in July to Henley and Stonor Park, in September to Scotney Castle and finally in October to Fort Nelson and the Portsmouth Museum.

We are grateful to Margaret Friday for once again arranging London Visits, which in 2018 were in April to the Design Museum, in May to Mercers Hall, in June to the Chelsea Physic Garden, in July to Forty Hall, in September to Headstone Manor and lastly in October to Gunnersbury Park.

Our Autumn Reception was held in September and we were fortunate to have as the speaker Megan Tanner, General Manager of Ham. The Christmas Lunch was again well attended, the meal was excellent, as was the wine.

I attended National Trust London and South East Supporter Group Meetings and also the National Trust AGM held once again at Steam in Swindon.

Neil attends part of our committee meetings and gives updates. Committee discussions included purchases for Osterley Park and House, planning Friends' activities, advertising for committee members in REACH, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Friends' website.

Some of you may have received the Hounslow Council Conservation Area Appraisal consultation paper which included the Osterley Park area. Mike Doran, who oversees our Community Links and Publicity, sent a response on behalf of the Friends. If you would like a copy of the response you can email him.

Thanks are due to Douglas Craik Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, 100 Club organiser, holiday organiser ... the list goes on. Thanks also to Margaret Friday London Visits organiser, and regular contributor of articles for the newsletter. She has sent her apologies for the AGM as she is on a trip to Vilnius, hopefully gathering material for another talk.

As already mentioned, Mike Doran oversees Community Links and Publicity and we value his expertise. We are grateful to Keith Rookledge for his contribution as our Membership Secretary. Joan Mound has given many years of service to the committee and we continue to benefit from her experience.

Patricia James as Honorary Secretary continues to prepare agendas and minutes for the committee.

If you would like to join us on the committee do please contact me.

Report of the AGM held on Wednesday 8th May 2019

The minutes of the AGM held on 16th May 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The Chairman's report (pages 2-4) presented on behalf of the Trustees was accepted.

The certified accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 were adopted.

The following were elected as Trustees: Douglas Craik, Michael Doran, Margaret Friday, John James, Patricia James, Joan Mound, Susan Parsons and Keith Rookledge.

Patrick Howard was appointed as Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

The membership subscription will remain as £10 for one person and £16 for two people at the same address.

A report was given on the 100 Club and the first draw of the 2019/20 season was made.

Elections

In accordance with the Constitution, at their first meeting after the AGM, held on 13th May 2019, the Trustees elected the following; Chair – John James, Vice-Chair – Douglas Craik, Treasurer – Douglas Craik, Hon. Secretary – Patricia James, Membership Secretary – Keith Rookledge.



Membership Renewal

Keith Rookledge

Welcome the new season at Osterley!

You will have already received your membership renewal form with the January newsletter and most of you have already renewed. Thank you for being so diligent!

We are looking forward to the remainder of you sending back your form now, for those who do not renew this will be your last Newsletter PLEASE remember to enclose your Stamped and Addressed envelope for your membership card.

Coming events

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.

Wednesday 28th August Howard Simmons The English Civil War (including Battle of Brentford)

Friday 27th September Andy Eddy, Head Gardener

Mon 14th October Virginia Fassnidge, Apples in myth and legend

2020 Programme

About half of our talks are updates on the property from members of staff.

The other 6 are talks by members or others on subjects that will hopefully be of interest, not necessarily about Osterley itself.

We have 6 members as speakers for 2019.

If you are willing to do a 30-45 minute talk on any (slightly) relevant subject in 2020 please tell John James



OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP

Meet in the cafe

Tuesday 10th September at 2pm:

The book is

'The Countess: The Scandalous Life of Frances Villiers, Countess of Jersey' by Tim Clarke

"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



Nymans



Angela Lynskey

£23

**09:00 Wednesday
14th August 2019**

One of the National Trust's premier gardens, Nymans was a creative retreat for the artistic Messel family.

The garden showcases

year-round colour and interest with rare and unusual plant collections of national significance. A stunning collection of subtly fragrant magnolias can be seen throughout springtime. The Rose Garden, created by Maud Messel in the 1920s, is scented by hints of old-fashioned roses. In autumn dramatic shows of vibrant native tree colour precede the winter's structural form. Discover hidden corners through stone archways, walk along tree-lined avenues, all the while surrounded by the lush countryside of the Sussex Weald. The comfortable yet elegant house, a partial ruin, reflects the personalities and stories of the talented Messel family. The adjoining woodland, with lake and bird hides, has plenty of opportunities to spot wildlife. A small gallery shows changing exhibitions throughout the year.

Chenies Manor House

Rita Ford

£34

**9:30 Tuesday
17th September 2019**

You may have visited Chenies in the spring to see the tulips, but in September the dahlias are equally stunning. We are booked for a private guided tour of the house with tea and scones

before leaving (included).

There are no restaurant facilities so we will stop at Chalfont St Giles on the way for coffee/early lunch break.

As well as the Manor House the adjacent church is also interesting as the family church of the Russell family who became the Dukes of Bedford of Woburn Abbey

City Mills in Winchester.

Barrie Pyle



£23

9:30 Wednesday 23rd October

We will stop on our way at the Anglican Guilford Cathedral. Richard Onslow donated the first 6 acres of land on which the cathedral stands, with Viscount Bennett, a former Prime Minister of Canada purchasing the remaining land and donating it to the cathedral in 1947.

Designed by Edward Maufe and built between 1936 and 1961, with an interruption during and after the 2nd World War.



Winchester City Mill has stood at the heart of the historic city of Winchester since Saxon times. With a history of over 1000 years, Winchester City Mill is also the oldest working watermill in the country.

A rare surviving example of an urban working corn mill, the City Mill was rebuilt in 1744 and remained in use until the early 20th Century. Having entered the care of the National Trust in the late 1920's, the City Mill was restored to full working order in 2004.

On our visit, we will find hands-on activities and audio-visual displays about milling and the rich wildlife in the area. Or you can take in one of the regular milling and baking demonstrations

SYON PARK GARDENS

Margaret Friday

£12 2pm Wednesday 7th August

Meet just before 2 pm. at the Visitors Centre near the front door to the house. (Arrive early if you fancy some lunch in the adjacent Garden Centre).

Today we visit the gardens for a tour. We will see the magnificent garden house where wedding receptions are held. The pond is floodlit in the

evenings for the delight of those attending. Our special guided tour begins at 2pm. As we know the present Duchess of Northumberland is very keen on gardens - we saw her large cascade garden at Alnwick so now we will see our local garden.



FARINGDON COLLECTION

Margaret Friday

28 BROMPTON SQUARE

£12 1.45 pm Maximum 15

Tuesday 10th September

Meet outside the house at 1.45 for our 2 o'clock visit. Brompton Square is just behind the Royal Albert Hall in Knightsbridge.

This house was purchased by the 2nd Lord Faringdon, Gavin Henderson in 1953. He had the interior redecorated reflecting his trusteeship of the Wallace Collection and a member of the LCC's Historic Buildings Committee. The furniture and interior are exquisite with more than 100 18th- 20th century paintings from the collection at Buscot Park on display. This is his lordship's London home. The house is opening for us with a guided tour and a guidebook .

Only 15 can be accommodated on this tour so please book early

CLEMENTI HOUSE

Margaret Friday

128 KENSINGTON CHURCH STREET

£12 1.45 pm Maximum 15

Wednesday 2nd October

Meet at 1.45 at the house entrance which is in Kensington Church Street across the road from the large St. Mary Abbots church just a few minutes walk from Kensington High Street station where tea and coffee shops abound.

Our tour is at 2 pm. They are opening just for us. Built in 1737 this house reflects the musicians who lived here - including Mendelssohn.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was also a resident. At Osterley we have a fine Kirkmann harpsichord, a square piano and a violin from the 18th century owned by Sarah Anne Child. She was tutored by Piozzi who wrote pieces for her to play saying she was his best student.

This should be a very interesting look at a local house frequented by musicians.

.Again only 15 can be accommodated on this tour so please book early





No Postage Bookings Douglas Craik

I am aware of the increasing postage cost for trip bookings -tips to save money!.

If you book with the paper form and a cheque then **if you include your email address** an S.A.E. is not required, I will email you the tickets. (61p saved)

Or if you do online banking then you can book Coach trips or London Visits by email and make payment online or you can make payment at your bank counter using details in 3. below

1. email friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com with name of trip, the names of trippers, and where you want to be picked up for coach trips. and amount being paid

2. I will confirm if there are spaces available

3. You make a bank transfer to **Friends of Osterley**

Sort code **20 02 06** Account number **70389315**

4. I email you the tickets (£1.22 saved)



from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

The first draw of the 19-20 year was held at the AGM on the 8th of May and the lucky winners were £20 Joyce Bing, £40 Joan Nimz and

£100 Maggie Thorburn.

You may notice that the second and third prizes are less (£40 & £20) than previously (£50 & £25)

Each year the Friends lose and gain a few members, this generally balances out.

However this year we have lost quite a few 100 Club memberships with few gains so the Prize pot is reduced.

We will therefore either have to further reduce the 2nd and 3rd prizes or just have a £50 second prize.

OR perhaps more members would like to join the Club.

The full year cost is £12 (£6 donation to Osterley and £6 to the prize pot).

But if you join now the cost is £9 for entry to the next 3 draws, the first will be at the Autumn Reception

Just send a cheque payable to Friends of Osterley to me (address on back page)

THE AMERICAN BORDER GARDEN AT OSTERLEY

Margaret Friday

For the summer newsletter we are looking at our American Border and how it came to be.

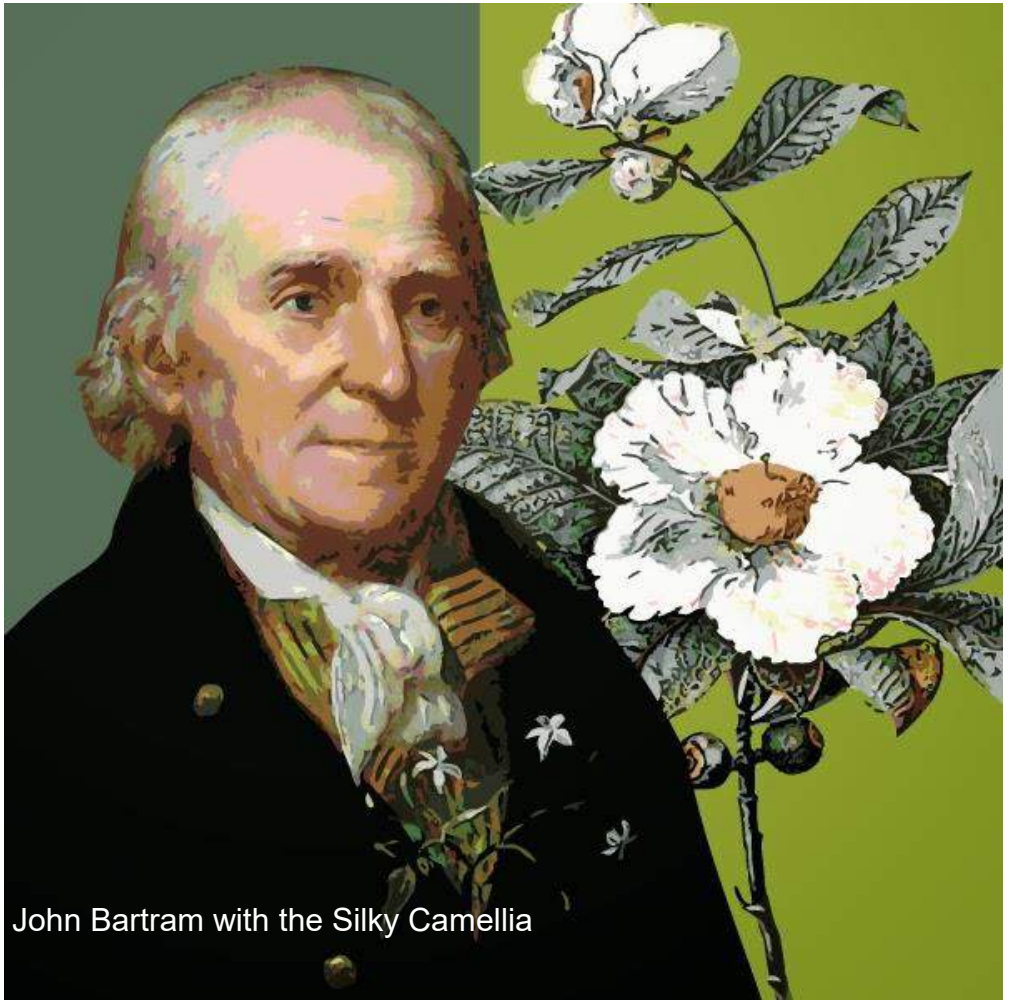
First we have Robert and Sarah Child establishing new and exotic gardens at Osterley. The formal gardens of Uncles Robert and Francis have been made into the natural garden look established by William Kent and Alexander Pope who both lived nearby.

The inspiration for the American plants came from John Bartram of Philadelphia who sent wooden boxes of 100 seeds for 5 guineas from the American colonies initially via his dealer in England, Peter Collinson who helped him set up a trans-Atlantic hub for plant exploration and later directly to gardeners like Sarah Child. These were called Bartram Boxes and measured 3ft by 2 and a half feet with 5 to 12 magnolia seeds and 25 to 30 pine cones. The contents of one which arrived at Painshill Park in Surrey in 1748 are still flowering today.

Bartram was a Quaker born in Darby, Pennsylvania in 1699. He purchased land in 1728 and systematically built the "most varied collection of North American plants in the world". He travelled from Lake Ontario to Florida. John Bartram corresponded with Carl Linnaeus. Friends who visited his garden included Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Bartram was a founder member of the American Philosophical Society. His son William (1731-1823) visited the southern states collecting plants and writing a book called *Travels* published in 1791. In 1765 Bartram was made Royal Botanist in the colonies to King George III and received £20 per year.

The family garden trade was continued by Bartram's granddaughter Ann and her husband Colonel Robert Carr. Ann made the first lists of plants sold by the family and these were available in London from 1750. The garden grew to contain 1,400 native plants, 10 greenhouses and 1,000 exotic species.

The international seed trade continued until 1850 when the garden became part of railway magnet Andrew Eastwick's estate.



John Bartram with the Silky Camellia



Stewartia
Malecodendron
the 'Silky
Camellia'.
at Osterley



Sassafras Albidum with the newly renovated garden house behind

His greatest desire was to keep the splendid gardens flourishing. The expansion of Philadelphia threatened the gardens but they were purchased by the city in 1891. An original greenhouses from 1760 is still in use! The extensive Bartram Gardens still exist and are run by the John Bartram Association with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. Plants available from the Bartram's in Philadelphia included magnolias, mountain laurels, azaleas, rhododendrons, sugar maples, black gums, vibernums and sumacs.

Having new and previously unknown plants from North America was a attractive and expensive way to show your love of the natural and exotic plant world. The 1832 plan for the garden at Osterley shows the American Border on the exterior of the walled garden along the north side just where it is today. It has been restored with the help of Royal Oak - the American branch of the National Trust.

From North America we also have a rare shag-bark hickory tree and the marvellous magnolia grandiflora with its huge blossoms gracing the back of the house.



Shagbark Hickory' *Carya ovata*.



Magnolia grandiflora

My thanks to Andy Eddy for pictures of the plants in flower at Osterley. Information on John Bartram and the photograph of him came from an article by Robin T. Reid published in *The Smithsonian Magazine*, April 12, 2010 and from the John Bartram Association which runs the gardens today.

Do go and have a look out The American Border and see some of the exotic flowers first grown here from the 1760s by Sarah Child and renewed by her grand daughter, Sarah Sophia, Countess of Jersey in the 1830s with seeds still coming from Bartrams' Gardens in Philadelphia and most recently restored by Royal Oak with Andy Eddy's skilled assistance showing us a long history of fine plants and flowers.

Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Thu 18 th -24 th Jul	Holiday Aberdeen
NO JULY COACH TRIP OR LONDON VISIT DUE TO HOLIDAY	
Wed 7 th Aug	London Visit: Guided tour of Syon Gardens
Wed 14 th Aug	Coach Trip: Nymans House & Gardens 9:00
Wed 28 th Aug	Coffee Morning: Howard Simmons The English Civil War (including Battle of Brentford)
Tue 10 th Sep	London Visit: Brompton Square
Tue 17 th Sep	Coach Trip: Chenies Manor House 9:30
Wed 18 th Sep	Autumn Reception 4:30 for 5:00
Fri 27 th Sep	Coffee Morning: Andy Eddy - Head Gardener
Wed 2 nd Oct	London Visit: Clementi House
Mon 14 th Oct	Coffee Morning: Virginia Fassnidge, Apples in myth and legend
Wed 23 rd Oct	Coach Trip: Winchester City Mills 9:30
Tue 12 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton - Lead Ranger
Thu 5 th Dec	Coffee Morning: TBA
December	Christmas Lunch Date in October Newsletter

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.



Very Early Warning

Douglas Craik

Next years holiday will be based in Newcastle including visits to Hadrian's wall and other Roman sites and the Holy Isle (Lindisfarne Castle and Priory)

This will be from Monday 10th August to Saturday 15 August.2020



The date is set by the tides at the Holy Isle, I assume we would not want to camp out overnight if we went on a week when the tide comes in early afternoon!

Issue	Published 14th of	Contents
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

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The 'Friends' website gives you all
 the current news, meetings, events,
 publications, and membership
 information relating to the work of the
 Friends of Osterley Park in supporting
 Osterley House and Park.

www.e-voice.org.uk/

friendsofosterleypark

If you experience any problems in
 using our website, or have any
 suggestions for its improvement,
 please email **Mike Doran** at
 mikedoran47@outlook.com

Next newsletter

to be published 14th October
 2019.

Any contributions to the Editor
 by **20th September**

The Editor may edit
 contributions if necessary.