

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 114 Autumn 2019 £1 (free to members)



Mrs Child's Dressing Room

Chairman's Report

John James

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. Certainly in the South East of England the weather has been lovely and now in September continues to give us sunny days.

This is not so welcome in the Home Farm at Osterley Park as the farmer to date is desperate for rain so that their fields can be ploughed. Our gardens are also suffering. If you follow the weather forecast long term it says we could expect the Beast from the East again this winter! The Experience Design project for Osterley Park Stage 1 has been completed. Planning for Stage 2 is under way. Topics being set up will cover commercial, work culture and staffing, experiences and programming and access. This is all leading to providing recommendations for the 10 Year Plan.

The House and Park have had another busy and successful summer. Activities organised by the Osterley team attracted more young people and their parents to enjoy the events programme. Osterley continues to have filming at the House and Park and now that they are open every day the public witness it taking place, as we heard from Judith O'Flynn in her fascinating talk at our AGM.

Following the success of Made for the Table last winter, this winter's exhibition entitled "Treasures of Osterley – the Rising of a Banking Family". It will explore the rise to fame and fortune of the Child family that not only acquired the painting of St. Agatha, which will form part of the display, but also the treasures that they collected from around the globe. The exhibition will open on the 4th November and will run until 23rd February 2020.

The Friends' annual holiday, once again very well organised by Douglas Craik, was to Aberdeen and was greatly enjoyed by all. At the time of writing, coach trips have taken place to the Wimpole Estate, Upton House and Broughton Castle, Coughton Court, Nymans House and Gardens and Chenies Manor House. The last trip is to Winchester and City Mill on the 23rd October.

London Visits, once again ably organised by Margaret Friday started with Charterhouse, Pitzhanger Manor, a City sites walk, Syon Park Gardens and 28 Brompton Square, while the last visit planned is to Clementi House on the 2nd October.

Coffee mornings since my last report have been Ffion George on House and Collections, Margaret Friday on the Baltics, Ben Griffiths on bats and Howard Simmons on the English Civil War, including the Battle of Brentford

TREASURES OF OSTERLEY - The Rise of a Banking Family

Margaret Friday

The special exhibition for this winter will feature some of the magnificent items we have at Osterley, and the Child family members who acquired them. Volunteers are being sought to host the exhibition



Francis Child as Lord Mayor



In the Breakfast Room we begin with Sir Francis Child (1642-1713) the self-made goldsmith and banker and the magnificent silver tray presented to him when he was elected Lord Mayor of London in 1698. This baroque style piece was given to him by the Jewish community Ruslen Tribe of Judah. They presented a silver tray full of sweetmeats

to every new mayor but this one is exceptionally beautiful.

We also find a depiction of Temple Bar, next to Childs's Bank at 1



Fleet Street. This view is from The Strand so the bank would be just through the arch which was the official entrance into the city from Westminster.

Next, we see a selection of coins laid out in date order from the Child family collection which is kept in the silver vault. Sir Francis was a leading

member of the Goldsmiths and was involved in 1697 in stopping the problem of cutting coins thus devaluing them. Matthew Boulton later developed a machine which produced serrated edged coins.

The large iron chest we see is a banker's chest - the sort that would have been found in Child's Bank and ideal for storing and protecting valuables and gold.

In the Library we find items acquired via the East India Company. Sir Francis and his sons Robert (1674-1721) and Sir Francis the younger (1684-1740) were all directors of the East India Company allowing them to acquire, from China, hand-made pieces bearing the family crest. The East India Company was permitted access to Canton market from 1715 so the Childs were well placed to order the amazing things we will see in this exhibition.

The lacquered chairs and table and the coffers all bear the Child family crest granted in 1701 to the Childs of Worcester and London showing 3 eagles and 3 leopards. The cats were part of the Wheeler crest added as Francis Child had married Elizabeth Wheeler in 1671.



These designs would have been sent to China and copied onto the lacquered furniture which was then sent to England. These were made for Sir Francis the younger in the 1720s and certainly graced the house in Lincoln's Inn before being transferred to Osterley when Robert Child, brother to Francis III, sold Lincoln's Inn in 1767. They adorned the family entrance when the 1782 inventory was taken. The entrance led

through to the grand staircase showing off the Ruben's Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham on the staircase ceiling.



The exceptional blue bordered armorial porcelain complete with the red crest dates from the 1720s so may have been ordered by Robert who died in 1721 or Francis the younger who remained director of the East India Company until 1735. The dark blue border shows they were made in Jingdezhen. Bearing in mind that it took up to 18 months for items made in

China to arrive in Britain, the time between ordering and receiving could be 4 years. This armorial porcelain set is one of the rarest and most complete. Only the best guests were served on it, most visitors were served on silver plates.

One of the oldest pieces of furniture in the house is displayed in the Eating Room. This is the French ebony chest with cupids on the doors made in the 17th century and used as a storage place for valuables. The interior revealed when the doors are open, shows a Dutch style dwelling with a black and white courtyard preceding a door. The whole case is filled with doors and drawers. Was this a wedding gift from Francis Child to Elizabeth Wheeler when they married in 1671? Given her background as the daughter and step-daughter of goldsmiths William Wheeler and Robert Blanchard, Elizabeth must have had many pretty pieces of jewellery to keep in this literal treasure chest decorated inside with ebony, ivory, tortoiseshell and mother of pearl. Francis Child ultimately inherited, through his wife, two goldsmiths' fortunes. He may have begun collecting seriously when he purchased a house large enough to house his family of twelve at 42 Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1702. We believe he acquired the two Rubens' portraits of the Duke of Buckingham when he was involved with the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697. Sixty one other paintings were also displayed at Lincoln's Inn.



The Fish Bowls here were made in Jingdezhen between 1695 and 1715. They would have held the gold fish considered lucky by the Chinese - gold fish were given as a present for the birth of the first son or to ensure success in exams etc. Our bowls show pictures from the Chinese court and would have been mounted on stands for easily viewing the fish. The cobalt blue colour is used when making items for the emperor of China. The Japanese Cabinet from Mrs. Child's dressing room (front cover) is listed in the 1782 inventory and is cited as an 18th century "must have" in every great collection. The Japanese lacquer is considerably finer than the Chinese and this one is very refined with beautiful flowers rendered in gold and silver work. Each of the flowers is symbolic: the rose represents unending youthfulness, the peony wealth and the yamabuki feminine charm. Finally, we arrive in the Entrance Hall



where two of our most valuable paintings surviving from the collection of 1782 are displayed. First the William Dobson, first English portrait painter employed by a King (Charles I) with a self-portrait. Originally purchased by Sir Francis Child the elder along with a Van Dyck self portrait.



Next we see the intriguing Carlo Dolci painting of St. Agatha. Dolci was one of the most eminent Florentine painters of the 17th century and it was probably purchased by Robert Child who became quite renowned as a collector who let others come to view his acquisitions. We know he was in Padua in 1707 and had his portrait painted in front of the Colosseum by Michael Dahl in 1712. He was buying paintings and sculpture in London in 1703-4. Bainbrigg Buckeridge dedicated his translation of Roger de Piles *Art of Painting* to Robert Child in 1706 saying that "no gentleman in England has a collection in greater

perfection than yourself". This is your first chance to see this re-acquired masterpiece and I am sure Robert Child would have been delighted that it is on open view to all once more.

from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was held at the Autumn reception on the 18th September the lucky winners were B Cunningham-£100 and D Huffer-£50.

Any member of the Friends can buy a number in the draw for £12 for the full year or a proportional amount for part of year

COFFEE MORNINGS BREW HOUSE

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

Members of Friends £4, others £5

Our monthly programme of coffee morning talks continues and it is a chance to catch up on the latest news from other Friends & staff.

Tuesday 12th November Jeremy Dalton Head Ranger

Thursday 5th December Ricky Pound House Director Turner's House

Tue 4th January Neil Cole General Manager

2020 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.

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

Friends of Osterley Park CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Christmas Dinner is again in the Brewhouse on

Friday 13th December.

Please complete the enclosed form and return to me by 6th November.

Cheque payable to "Friends of Osterley"

OSTERLEY HOUSE BOOKGROUP

Meet in the café Tuesday 2nd November at 2pm:

The book is "Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier

please let the Wendy Sim know if you are coming.

wendyasim@btinternet.com or 020 8979 3834.

HOLIDAY 2019

Douglas Craik

This year's holiday was generally very successful, we had unusually good weather for North-East Scotland. In fact the only weather comments were that it was too hot at times. This is not guaranteed for other years!



Thanks to Colin Prior for this photo of most of the group looking particularly "relaxed" after our whisky tasting at Lochnagar Distillery.

There was a problem with the journey back from Aberdeen as LNER failed to provide a train so we went by coach to Edinburgh and got back to London 2 hours late. Those on the 2nd class part of the train will know there is a silver lining to this, a £50 refund each.

£535 single / £380 in twin or double. Bed and Breakfast



In 2019 the date for our holiday was set by when the Queen would not be at Balmoral. Next year the key date factors are the tides (for the Holy Isle) and avoiding a Saturday in the wild party town of the North.

I am sure some of you would like to be there for the drunken street parties across the city but

rooms are 3 times more expensive on a Saturday than other nights.

Following feedback after Aberdeen we will be again staying in a Travelodge, this time on the riverfront with an adjacent Wetherspoons Apart from the usual country house visits there are 2 special days.

We will visit Hadrian's Wall built by the Romans on behalf of the Scots to keep the English out (or some variation of this) and the Holy Isle.

There were suggestions to visit the Farne Islands but I consulted the local NT staff including an Island Ranger and their view was that there is little to see after mid June.

I don't intend to have a day in Newcastle itself, there is no longer an open top bus tour and I don't know the city well enough to organise our own (unlike Glasgow and Aberdeen). However if anyone wants to miss one of the day trips I will supply a list of historic buildings/museums that are all on a public bus route from near the hotel.

Programme

Monday 10th August



Meet at Kings Cross Station by 10:00 (To Be Confirmed) for train to Newcastle.

On arrival go by coach to Arbeia Roman Fort in South Shields. This has a reconstruction of a fort gateway, a

barracks block and the commander's villa which will make our visit on Tuesday to Vindolanda more understandable.

Transfer to the Travelodge to check in then eat at the adjacent Wetherspoons. or try the culinary delights of the town. (see end of article)

Tuesday 11th August

Hadrian's Wall, with visits to the Roman Army Museum then the nearby famous Vindolanda fort.

The museum has a lot of information about the Roman Army in general and the deployment in Britain. It also features an excellent 3D film that is a good introduction to Hadrian's Wall.



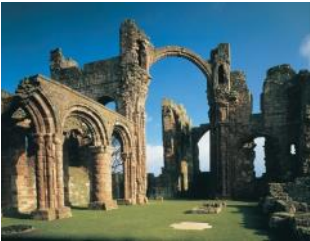
At Vindolanda we will have a conducted tour of this archetypal Roman fort which lies just south of Hadrian's wall and actually slightly predates it.

Then the opportunity to see Vindolanda's greatest discovery.

Delicate, wafer thin slivers of wood that are the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain.

On the way back we will stop at Housesteads, another Roman fort which actually lies on the wall with the wall spreading east and west.

Wednesday 12th August



The Holy Isle and visit Lindasfarne Priory and Castle.

Lindisfarne is one of the most important centres of early English Christianity. Irish monks settled here in AD 635 and the monastery became the centre of a major saint's cult celebrating its bishop, Cuthbert. The ruins now visible are

those of a 12th-century priory, which claimed direct descent from the early monastery.

A nearby old coastguard lookout tower has been transformed into a 360 degree glass observatory to provide a panoramic view of the island.



Lindisfarne Castle was built in the 16th century, for the next three hundred years the fort was home to temporary garrisons of soldiers.

Edward Hudson discovered it in 1901 and the architect Edwin Lutyens dramatically changed the building over the next few years, from a fort to a holiday home.

Gertrude Jekyll designed the adjacent summer flower garden

The Castle and Priory are about a mile apart but a bus runs every 20 minutes. There is no catering in either of these sites but several cafes in the village around the Priory

Thursday 13h August

South from Newcastle, passing the Angel of the North then to Durham for guided tours of the Castle and Cathedral. then on to a free-flow visit to Ormsby Hall.



The Community of Cuthbert arrived in Durham from Lindisfarne in 995 and built an Anglo-Saxon cathedral.

Construction of the Cathedral as we know it today was started in 1093 by Bishop William of St Calais.

The castle is one of Durham's most significant historic buildings. Built on the orders of William the Conqueror in the 1070s, The tour goes into the heart of the historic building.



Ormesby Hall was once home to the Pennyman family. This classic Georgian mansion is surrounded by 250 acres of parkland with a colourful Victorian formal garden .



Friday 14th August

North-westward to Cragside then Wallington Hall



Cragside House was the home of Lord Armstrong - Victorian inventor, innovator and landscape genius.

Free-flow tour of the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity. The gardens include one of the largest rock gardens in Europe

Early afternoon we will head off to Wallington Hall



Sir William Blackett replaced the medieval pele tower on the site, but its ground floor remains as the cellars of the current house.. The new house consisted of four ranges built around an open central courtyard (like Tudor Osterley was) but with a ground floor and attic..

Later his nephew Sir Walter Calverley Blackett remodelled the house into two floors. Subsequently the central courtyard was roofed creating a hall for remarkable huge pre-Raphaelite paintings. Amongst the many figures involved in the recreation of Wallington was Capability Brown.

Saturday 15th August

Visit Washington Old Hall the in the afternoon return to London by 17:00 (TBC)



The ancestral home of George Washington, this small stone manor house reflects gentry life following the turbulence of the English Civil War.

The building incorporates parts of the original medieval home of George Washington's direct ancestors, and it is from here that the family took their surname of 'Washington'.

Accommodation

The Travelodge lies on the banks of the Tyne, some rooms have great views of many of the 7 Tyne bridges. This is a 5 storey modern building with 30 rooms on each of the upper floors. Rooms have either a double bed or twin beds in “accessible” rooms. All have a step-in shower and sealed windows (for quietness) with air conditioning. The breakfast area has over 70 places.

Dinner

As last year the holiday is bed and breakfast. Again there is a Wetherspoons adjacent, however this does not allocate an area for groups so it means that you need to find a table.

There are several other eating places along the quayside, The main streets of Newcastle are a few hundred yards away up a steepish hill where chains like Côte and Carluccios exist.

Booking

Deposit of £100 and booking form by **1st March** to allow train ticket purchase.

Deposits after this cannot be refunded as the tickets will have been bought.

Bookings after this may be a little more if late tickets are dearer.

Balance payment by **1st June** when rooms will be confirmed.

Cancellations after this cannot be fully refunded as we will be committed to the number of rooms. Any avoidable costs (e.g entry fees), will be refunded. Replacements are possible up to last week before trip. Any other late booking may cost more for train ticket and room (but will be as low as possible).

It is essential that you have travel insurance to cover any risk of lost deposit or balance payment in the case that you have to cancel.

Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 12 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton - Lead Ranger
Thu 5 th Dec	Coffee Morning: Ricky Pound House Director Turner's House.
Fri 13 th Dec	Christmas Lunch Brewhouse
Tue 14 th Jan	Coffee Morning: Neil Cole
Tue 11 th Feb	Coffee Morning: Margaret Friday - Greenwich
Wed 4 th March	Coffee Morning: .TBA Staff
Wed 1 st April	Coffee Morning: .TBA
April	Coach Trip TBA
April	London Visit TBA
Wed 6 th May	AGM: 16:30 for 17:00 Brewhouse
Mon 18 th May	Coffee Morning: .TBA Staff
May	Coach Trip TBA
May	London Visit TBA
June	Coffee Morning: Douglas Craik - Paradores
17 th June	Coach Trip Wilton House
June	London Visit TBA
July	Coffee Morning: .TBA
July	Coach Trip TBA
July	London Visit TBA
Aug	Coffee Morning: .TBA
Aug	No coach trip or London visit because of Holiday
Mon 10 th Aug- Sat 15 th Aug	Holiday: Newcastle
Sep	Coach Trip TBA
Sep	London Visit TBA
Sep	Coffee Morning: TBA Staff
Wed 16 th Sep	Autumn Reception: 16:30 for 17:00 Brewhouse

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.

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

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 / Newsletter

Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449
friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com
118 Fairfax Road, Teddington,
TW11 9BS

Coach Trips/London visit bookings

Vik Sharma 07876 498 107
vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk
Twickenham TW2 6HB

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 14th January 2020. Any contributions to the Editor by **30th December**
The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.

No Postage Bookings

Douglas Craik

I am aware of the increasing postage cost for trip bookings.

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 You can also make payment at your bank counter using details in 3. below

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 coach trips.,

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**

Include your name as reference

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