

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 115 Winter 2019/20 £1 (free to members)



Saint Agatha by Carlo Dolci (1616–1687), is the centrepiece of the new 'Treasures of Osterley' exhibition at Osterley Park.



A Happy New Year to you all.

We finished 2019 by once again having a Friends' Christmas Lunch in the Brewhouse, held on Friday 13th December. It was very well attended and there was a good festive atmosphere. Neil Cole and Andy Eddy called in to wish us a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Christmas Lunch provided was very much enjoyed by all. One Friend commented that he had been to several Christmas Lunches this December and that this was the best.

Our autumn coffee mornings featured Andy Eddy in September and in October Virginia Fassnidge on 'Apples in Myth and Legend', which attracted a record number of Friends. In November Ben Griffiths gave a well-illustrated talk on a year of wildlife at Osterley. We concluded our programme of talks with 'Turner's House', by the curator Ricky Pound. Do think of visiting the house.

The Autumn Reception was well attended and our speaker was Neil Cole. The last in our trips programme was a visit to Winchester City Mill and the final London Visit was to Clementi House.

Osterley Park and House certainly had a very busy year, and a successful one. The venue seems to be very popular for filming. This year, film contracts raised £750,000. The raffle, which is always very popular, sold 11,000 tickets, raising £22,000 which goes towards the silver project. We look forward to hearing from John Chu in January at our first coffee morning on 'The Treasures of Osterley – the Rise of a Banking Family'. The exhibition is drawing many visitors.

We are very pleased to welcome two new Trustees in Vik Sharma who has taken on the responsibility for coach trips and Kim Mamtora who will be responsible for newsletters. I would like to thank Douglas Craik for all the work he has done on both trips and the newsletter in addition to his other roles.

We are continuing to plan our speakers for coffee mornings for this year. If any member would be interested in giving a talk please get in touch with me.

We look forward to welcoming Friends to our coffee mornings and events during the year.

John Stacey

Peter Bush

I am sure many members remember John Stacey who was for a long time the photographer for our newsletter and member of the Friends Committee.

John is not able to visit the house and is currently living in Martin House, 1 Swift Road, Southall, UB2 4RP and I am sure he would be very pleased to see any members of the Friends for a chat.

If you are in the area please drop in to see him.

Coach Trips Leader

Vik Sharma

Hello, I am the new organiser of coach trips, you will see details of the spring outings later in this newsletter.

Unfortunately I can't make every outing so to be sure I need a volunteer to be the 'Outing Leader' for each coach trip. This person has to check everyone onto the coach at Osterley Park/Osterley Underground Station and back on the coach when we leave the property visited. Also pay the driver a £25 tip (which will be paid to you in advance by Douglas Craik). The Outing Leader will get their trip for free for doing this.

Can any volunteers for current or future outings please contact me (see back of this newsletter for my details). I would also like to get any suggestions for future trips, just email me or drop me a line.

Happy New Year!

Again we look forward to an enlightening number of events organised by your committee.

Renewal of your membership will need to take place by 1st April 2020 and details are on a separate sheet in this newsletter. Please remember that you could use direct debit, but if you send a cheque it should be made payable to 'Friends of Osterley' NO 'Park' please.

Also the society could save funds if you received your Newsletter by email and printed it yourself. You can add to funds of the Friends of Osterley Park if you return a Gift Aid form if you have not already do so. We get an additional 25% donation from the Government then at no extra cost to you!

One change however has come about with the introduction of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in 2019. The form you sent in for that is valid for 7 years so you will not need to do that for a goodly while.

All you need to do is to remit your subscription. Your committee is quite happy to send you a new membership card, but only if you enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Finally please remember to send all renewal forms to me at 2 West Avenue, Pinner, HA5 5BY.

2020 Holiday to Newcastle

£525 single, £480 double/twin

Douglas Craik

Just a reminder that there is still time to book on our trip to Newcastle from 10th -15th August. Last date to book extended to the end of March, I can take bookings after this but it may cost a little more, depending on train costs. If you have lost the booking form just let me know and I'll send a duplicate.

A draw was held at the Coffee Morning on the 27th September (too late for the last Newsletter). The lucky winners were D Huffer £50 and B Cunningham £100.

The latest draw was at the Coffee Morning on 5th December and the winners were Olive Bray £50 and Sheila Underwood £100, plus a £24 bonus prize for Arthur Spinkins - 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.

Existing members of the Club should renew with their membership by 1st April. You can increase your number of shares or join the Club by sending a cheque payable to 'Friends of Osterley' (no 'Park' please) for £12 each share to me.

Coach Trips

Vik Sharma

Blenheim Palace
29th April 2020
9am (£39)



Blenheim Palace is a monumental country house in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England. The palace is notable as the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill. It is the principal residence of the Dukes of Marlborough, and the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace. The palace, one of England's largest houses, was built between 1705 and 1722, and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Designed in the rare, and short-lived, English Baroque style, architectural appreciation of the palace is as divided today as it was in the 1720s. It is unique in its combined use as a family home, mausoleum and national monument.

Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden

28th May 2020

9am (£32)



From medieval fortress to Elizabethan palace, Kenilworth Castle has been at the centre of England's affairs for much of its 900 year history. Today, you can scale the heights of the tower built to woo Queen Elizabeth I and marvel at the mighty Norman keep. Explore the exhibition in the Gatehouse, and imagine the majesty of the Great Hall playing host to medieval monarchs and early Tudor kings.

Wilton House

17th June 2020

9am (£36)



Wilton House is an English country house at Wilton near Salisbury in Wiltshire. It has been the country seat of the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years. As a home to the 18th Earl and Countess of Pembroke, it provides a fascinating insight into British history. The first recorded building on the site of Wilton House was a priory founded by King Egbert c.871. Through the munificence of King Alfred, the priory was granted lands and manors until it became wealthy and powerful.



Burgh House

New End Square, NW3 1LT
26th March 2020
2pm (£5)

A Queen Anne house built in brick by a rich man to show off his wealth. The Camden Art and Local History Museum is

here and at the moment two John Constable portraits of a local Dr. Evans and his daughter are on display. Our guide will tell us about the history collection as well as the house. Rudyard Kipling's daughter lived here in the 1930s and his last visit was to see her here in Hampstead. Our tour begins at **2pm** but the house is open from noon if you would like to have lunch in the cafe first. There are gardens still surrounding the house. The garden terrace is by Gertrude Jekyll. The local community saved this house from demolition and it re-opened, fully restored in 2006. A **£5** contribution is requested for this visit.



**Watermen and
Lightermen Hall**
16 - 18 St Mary at Hill,
EC3R 8EF

**11th May 2020
1.45pm (£18)**

Meet at the Hall at **1.45pm** for a 2pm tour led by Carol, the Assistant Clerk. She, clad in her official gown, will tell us the story of the fine eighteenth century building and the Watermen and Lightermen who still train here today as part of The Maritime and Coast Guard Agency. They were first mentioned in 1514. This is not a livery company of the city but it was essential in providing transport for city for centuries so has become a respected part of the City of London. Our tour will be followed by tea in the hall. Afterwards we may visit the unusual church around the corner which has two names. The price is **£18**.



Roof Garden and sculptures at Canary Wharf

23rd June 2020
2pm (£5)

I will lead you on a visit to Canary Wharf looking at the fountains, sculptures and finally the amazing

Roof Garden which should be splendid at this time of year. I have given tours of this area on several occasions and felt that the Friends should have a chance to see how modern bankers use art and nature to create a view of the world around them. There will be places to sit as we walk around.

Meet at **2pm** at the main entrance to Canary Wharf station on the Jubilee Line. The charge for this walk will be **£5**.

Booking trips by email

Vik Sharma

We offer the option of booking Coach Trips or London Visits by email and payment online, saving postage costs. Please follow these steps:

1. Email me at vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk with the names of trippers, name of trip, amount being paid and **where you want to be picked up** (Osterley Park overflow car park or at the bus stop OPPOSITE Osterley Underground Station).

2. I will then confirm if there are spaces available.

3. You then make a bank transfer to:

Name of Payee	Friends of Osterley
Sort code	20 02 06
Account number	70389315
Your Reference	Trips/<i>your name</i>

Coffee Mornings at the Brewhouse

10.30am for 11am until 12pm-ish

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 and Staff.

Tuesday 11th February: Margaret Friday - Greenwich

Wednesday 4th March: Gemma Hardy - REI project

Monday 20th April: Christine Diwell - From Pauper to Patient - West Middlesex Hospital 100th Anniversary

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 slots for members as speakers for 2020. If you are willing to do a 30-45 minute talk on any relevant subject in 2020/21 please contact John James.



Osterley House Book Group

Stables Café



The Osterley House Book Group meets every other month.

Please contact Wendy Sim if you would like more information.
wendyasim@BTinternet.com or 020 8979 3834

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

In this newsletter we review the painting of Saint Agatha by Carlo Dolci originally purchased by Robert Child (1674-1721) and hung in the Lincoln's Inn House until moved to Osterley by Robert Child, (1739-1782) his nephew in the 1760s and displayed in the Breakfast Room. It was sold off but repurchased via Jim Tickle's generous donation in his will which left his assets to the National Trust at Osterley. The Art Fund also helped in the purchase at auction in 2018. The painting is now on display in the Entrance Hall. The first Robert Child in this story was the son of Francis Child (1642-1713). Sir Francis was the goldsmith founder of Child's Bank and Lord Mayor of London in 1698.

We believe it was Francis who purchased the two Rubens portraits of the Duke of Buckingham when he was in Europe working on the treaty of Ryswick in 1697. The Van Dyke Charles I on horseback featured along with the Rubens Duke of Buckingham on Horseback on the staircase at Lincoln's Inn. They were hanging at either end of the Long Gallery at Osterley. The Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham was on the ceiling above the grand staircase created by Adam to show off the Rubens. These three paintings were lost in a fire in Jersey in 1950. A modern copy of Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham adorns the ceiling at Osterley today. We believe Robert Child I had been educated at Westminster College and Oxford University. He travelled around Europe as did every aristocratic young man in order to finish his education. He was of course, not an aristocrat as his wealth came through his father being "in trade". Robert had his portrait painted by the influential Swedish artist Michael Dahl (1656- 1743) posed in front of the Coliseum in 1712. We show a black and white print as the original was also destroyed in the Jersey fire.



Robert was an active member of The Society of the Virtuosi of St. Luke, a dining club whose members were artists, collectors and wealthy connoisseurs with an interest in the arts. Michael Dahl, who settled in England in 1688, was also a member. Child purchased sculptures in Europe which he later sold to Dahl.

We believe that Robert Child may have purchased the Dolci in 1705 when the large collection of paintings owned by Florentine collector Cavaliere Carlo Lorenzo Ughi were being sold. Some of these were acquired by Consul Smith the merchant-patron who introduced many British collectors to Carlo Dolci, Sebastiano Ricci and Rosalba Carriera. Smith left his collection to King George III. The baroque subject matter, designed to inspire a return to Catholicism after the Reformation and the rise of Protestantism was unlikely to have been of interest to Robert Child but according to Charles McCorquordale in his book *The Baroque Artists of Italy* "Carlo Dolci was the most famous Florentine artist of his day." This idea alone would have put his paintings at the top of Child's collection list.

Carlo Dolci (1616-1686) was a very religious man. John Chu author of *Money and Martyrdom* reveals he was known as Carlino because of his small stature and retiring manner. He was inspired by Fra Angelico - the Dominican who painted scenes on the walls of the San Marco convent in Florence. Dolci's vision of purity is evident in his style of precise painting. Germain Bazin in *Baroque and Rococo Art* remarked that Carlo "took refuge in archaism that appeared to disregard the march of time." McCorquordale regards his work as "the exact antithesis of baroque extravagance in his technique." He also notes that his "paranoid concern with detail made him a portraitist of distinction...to include still life detail of great beauty in many of his works." See the portrait of Sir Thomas Baines, an English collector painted by Dolci from 1665.



Sir Thomas Baines, an English collector painted by Dolci from 1665.

Saint Agatha lived in Sicily in the time of the Emperor Decius (249-251AD) when Christianity was banned. Agatha had made a vow of chastity but the governor wished to marry her. When she continued to refuse him she was arrested for being a Christian and placed in a brothel where she was raped and tortured. Her breasts were removed with pincers. The painting shows her trying to staunch the flow of blood just as Saint Peter comes to her aid and heals her. The look on her tear-stained face shows the wonder of her healing and the grace with which she awaits her execution. Sir Robert certainly purchased her as Saint Agatha but by 1782 when Robert, his nephew, died she was listed in the inventory as Saint Veronica. Veronica had seen Christ carrying the cross and saw blood running down his face from the crown of thorns. She took the fine scarf she was wearing and used it to soak up the blood from Christ's brow. This cloth became a holy relic, so paintings of Saint Veronica were also popular. Perhaps Robert Child II preferred this title as he had a wife and a young daughter who might be troubled by the gruesome details surrounding Saint Agatha's sainthood. The Anglican Church does recognise Agatha as a Saint.

Another famous pair of paintings by Dolci are David with the head of Goliath and Salome with the head of John the Baptist. Both of these were painted for the Florentine Rinuccini family. The David was regarded as a masterpiece of the time.

Filippo Baldinucci, friend and biographer of Carlinio says that the purity of his soul was reflected in the clarity of his colours and the meticulousness of his technique. To quote his spiritual advisor, "should you want to see Carlinio's conscience - delicate, accurate and diligent as it was - you need only observe the works from his brush."

Judith Hook in her book *The Baroque in England* tells us that collectors were considered to be members of the English aristocracy.



David With The Head Of Goliath, 1692, Oil On Canvas, is a painting by Carllo Dolci +1616-1690

"There was, however, another small group of men who were just as lavish in their patronage: parvenus, self-made men who had made good either in trade, civil service or profits of war and were anxious to demonstrate that they could employ their wealth to create a luxurious environment to rival their social superiors." The Child family could certainly be counted amongst their number. We have Robert Child's handwritten list of the artists who had painted the pictures he owned.

Bainbrigg Buckeridge dedicated his translation of Roger de Piles' *Art of Painting* to Sir Robert Child

in 1706 stating that "no gentleman in England" has a collection "in greater Perfection than yourself, who possess something of several of the best Masters and every Day in your own House (the Ornament of the finest square in Europe) you behold some of the wonders that the hands of Veronese, Guido, Poussin, Maratt, and other excellent artists have produced." Have a closer look at our Carlino Dolci for the painting is indeed so fine that you cannot see a single brush stroke.

Sir Robert Child was exceptional in that he invited visitors to the house in Lincoln's Inn to view his fine and growing collection of painting and sculpture and fine pieces of furniture and porcelain through carefully acquiring pieces which he loved including the pristine Saint Agatha (see front cover image).

Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 11 th Feb	Coffee Morning: Margaret Friday - Greenwich
Wed 4 th March	Coffee Morning: Gemma Hardy - REI project
Thur 26 th March	London Visit: Burgh House
Mon 20 th April	Coffee Morning: Christine Diwell - From Pauper to Patient - West Middlesex Hospital 100th Anniversary
Wed 29 th April	Coach Trip: Blenheim Palace
Wed 6 th May	Coffee Morning: Andy Eddy, Head Gardener
Mon 11 th May	London Visit: Watermen and Lightermen's Hall
Fri 15 th May	AGM: 16:30 for 17:00 at the Brewhouse - Neil Cole
Thur 28 th May	Coach Trip: Kenilworth Castle
Mon 15 th June	Coffee Morning: Douglas Craik - Paradores
Wed 17 th June	Coach Trip: Wilton House
Tue 23 rd June	London Visit: Roof Gardens at Canary Wharf
Wed 15 th July	Coffee Morning: Ffion George - House and Collections
July	Coach Trip: TBA
July	London Visit: TBA
Aug	No Coach Trip or London Visit because of Holiday
Mon 10 th Aug - Sat 15 th Aug	Holiday: Newcastle
Mon 24 th Aug	Coffee Morning: TBA - Friend
Sep	Coach Trip: TBA
Sep	London Visit: TBA
Wed 9 th Sep	Autumn Reception: 16:30 for 17:00 Brewhouse
Fri 25 th Sep	Coffee Morning: Robin Ridsdale - F&B and Retail Manager
Oct	Coach Trip: TBA
Oct	London Visit: TBA
Wed 7 th Oct	Coffee Morning: TBA - Friend
Wed 11 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton
Fri 4 th Dec	Coffee Morning: TBA - Friend

Coach Trips depart from Osterley Park's overflow car park at 9am and bus stop opposite Osterley Underground Station at 9.15am.

Coffee Mornings 10.30am for 11am in the Brewhouse.

Issue	Published in	Contents
Winter	January	Membership renewal, first three Coach Trips and first three London Visits
Spring	April	AGM papers, membership cards
Summer	July	Next three Coach Trips, next three 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

Treasurer / 100 Club

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

Membership Secretary

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

Coach Trips / London Visits bookings

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

London Visits

Margaret Friday 020 8991 0593
margaretfriday@talktalk.net

Website Editor

Mike Doran
mikedoran47@outlook.com

Newsletter Editor

Kim Mamtora
editor.foop@gmail.com

The **'Friends' website** gives you all of 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

Next Newsletter

To be published 20th April 2020. Any contributions to the Newsletter Editor (editor.foop@gmail.com) by **27th March 2020**.

The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.