

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 117 Summer 2020 £1 (free to members)



Van Dyck's last self-portrait (1640)



On writing this newsletter today, Monday 8 June, the good news is that Osterley Park and House opened for visitors by booking tickets in advance. New booking timeslots become available on a Friday for visits the following week. Entry and parking is free for National Trust members, but you will need to bring your membership card with you. Non-members will need to pay in advance. The car park, gardens, estate and toilets are open, and so now is the Stables Café for take-aways. The House and retail outlets are closed.

Since our last newsletter it is with great sadness I have to tell you that we have a lost a number of our long-standing Friends who have passed away. Our sympathy goes out to their families and friends. Let us hope that these unprecedented times we have gone through are coming to an end.

Unfortunately I expect it will be quite a while before we are once again able to come together as a group for coffee mornings and trips. At the moment planning dates for the rest of the year is difficult. It is likely that we will not have any events until September. We will not hold an Autumn Reception on Wednesday 9 September. We hope to set a November date for our postponed A.G.M. and to announce this in the next newsletter. At present we also hope to keep to our planned dates in October and for the rest of the year, finishing with our annual Christmas Lunch. All this of course will depend on advice from the government and the National Trust.

I would like to thank those Friends who have renewed their membership for their continued loyalty. Our financial position as explained by our Treasurer, Douglas Craik, will have been severely affected by the cancellation of events we had planned, so your support is even more greatly valued.

On a lighter note, you may have read that at Osterley Park the distinctive call of the cuckoo has been heard for the first time in 20 years.

Please keep safe and take care.

With my best wishes,

John James

100 Club

Douglas Craik

As all our meetings since March have been cancelled, the 100 Club draw due at the AGM in May didn't happen. It is unclear when we will next be able to have a draw, but rest assured your subscriptions are not lost.

If we are able to have a draw before 13 December 2020 (end of the financial year) then there will be extra prizes. If not then the prize element of your subscriptions (£6 per number) will be rolled over into the next year for a even more extra prizes. So don't stop subscribing please.

If you have not yet renewed your Friends membership then include your 100 Club payment with your membership payment to Keith Rookledge. If you have paid your Friends membership and want to purchase a 100 Club subscription, then post the payment (£12 per number) to me - addresses on the back page of this newsletter; cheques payable to "Friends of Osterley".

Due to the disruption recently not everyone has had their current 100 Club numbers confirmed. So a list of all Club members (initial and surname only) who have already paid and their number(s) is on the next page. If you have paid a subscription in the last few days you may not be listed here but will be included in our future draws.

100 Club numbers for 2020/21

Douglas Craik

NAME	1st No.	2nd	3rd No.	4th No.	NAME	1st No.	2nd No.	3rd No.
E Bamber	16				A Lynskey	58		
L Barlow	24				H Mackay	59		
P Barrett	25				L McKay	31		
J Beckett	26				S McMichael	61		
S Bell	27				G Miller	54		
F Bernstein	28				S Mercer	79		
O Bignell	29	82			P Rumsey	87	104	
J Bing	102	103			S Morgan	62	93	
O Bray	30				J Mound	63		
J Buchanan	1				P Mulcaire	64		
P Bush	34	83			A Nimz	8		
J Collis	35				P Osmond	72		
D Craik	37				S Parsons	6	32	
B Cunningham	7	110			R Paterson	66		
P Daniel	38				M Prior	68		
J Derby	39				W Rix-Morton	105		
C Diwell	41	85			K Rookledge	117		
P Elliott	42				S Royal	69		
D Evans	43	86			J Ryan	106	108	
V Fassnidge	44				B Scott	15		
R Ford	47				A Sebastian	70		
M Friday	49				J Shaw	40	48	
A Gregg	50				H Simmons	21	22	73
S Haisman	14	51	88	97	S Singh	3		
J Hazell	99				S Smith	9		
P Herod	111				J Talbot	96		
A Hoskins	81				P Taylor	23	<u>45</u>	92
P Howard	52				M Thorburn	65	67	
D Huffer	53	89			A Tighe	74		
S Hunkin	17				P Timms	75		
M Innes	36				D Tilley	80		
C Jackson	18				S Underwood	11		
J James	55	90	98		M Warman	76		
N Kelly	4	12			R Warne	77		
J Keohane	19				N Wearing	60		
J Kirk	10	33			G Webster	71		
H Lyell	57				E Whitaker	95		

We are entering a new phase of life, 'the new normal', with the current state of things.

Your committee is extremely grateful for the vast majority of you who have renewed your commitment to the Friends of Osterley. With the 'lockdown' situation, we are obviously going to have a significant drop in income as our fundraising activities are severely reduced. No doubt we will resume activities, but slowly.

In the current climate, paying for your membership by cash is going to be difficult. Apparently its use has dropped significantly, by up to 60% on all account. At the moment the majority of you pay by cheque; perhaps you could consider paying by Standing Order? It's easy to set up – just fill in the form and send it to your bank. Please do not forget to let us know when you do this.

I have to physically go to the bank normally, but with social distancing it is difficult. I can however go to the Post Office and hand in an envelope with all of your cheques in one go, which they then forward on to the bank. So cheques aren't difficult to bank, it just takes a little longer.

Of course you have to send your cheques to me and again the Post Office has increased postage charges! It goes up year by year.

You can pay online by bank transfer if you'd prefer, details are on the renewal form. Or you can set up a Standing Order, just let me know and I will send you the form.

Regrettably we have a few members who are no longer with us but on the whole our membership is stable.

Keep safe and carry on supporting!



Keeping the current Covid-19 climate in mind, unfortunately, there will be no trips or activities in July and August. The below dates and venues have been pencilled in for September and October, however, we are closely monitoring the situation and keeping abreast with the latest government as well as National Trust guidelines regarding trips and outings.

Given our membership demographics, the Friends committee will further assess each trip in more detail before making any firm commitments. We have therefore included a provisional booking form with more information with this newsletter for the following coach trips:

- **Wednesday 16 September** – Knole, Kent, TN13 1HX (National Trust)
- **Tuesday 6 October** – The Vyne, Hampshire, RG24 9HL (National Trust)

Have a lovely summer. Stay alert, stay safe, stay healthy.

Friends Holiday

Douglas Craik

As the restrictions on travel, hotels and property visits seem to be continuing into August it has very regrettably been necessary to cancel this year's holiday to Newcastle. At time of writing all the properties we intend to visit are closed, the Travelodge is only taking bookings for members of the NHS, the place we intended to eat at is closed for indoor meals (and will have little space for a group with social distancing), the same applies to the train and coach.

All this may change by August but it seems unlikely for there to be sufficient changes to make the holiday practical.

Refunds are being made to those who booked, though some have rolled this over into 2021 when the same holiday will be run at approximately the same date. More details in the October Newsletter.

We had three London Visits planned which we've had to postpone, starting with the 26 March visit to Burgh House in Hampstead. The house has closed down but is very anxious to have visitors when it re-opens. As its rooms are very small I expect we will have to view them on an individual basis - usually I think only six people are permitted in the Art Gallery (just two rooms) at any time. Once we are allowed to assemble I expect they will be able to offer a talk. Depending on government decisions I would hope to visit sometime in the autumn.

For Watermen and Lightermens Hall, which we had arranged for 11 May, their officer and guide will be in touch when they re-open to arrange another date for our visit. This will of course depend on what they are offering their members.

The June visit to Canary Wharf to view the Roof Garden, splendid fountains and amazing sculptures was being led by me so it can take place when people feel safe to travel and walk around outside. Most people who work at Canary Wharf are now working from home. I am sure the privately owned Canary Wharf will announce when it is opening up to visits again.

Other ideas for this year were visits to The Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace and perhaps a walk around St. James's passing club houses, including Almack's where Lady Jersey presided. When fully planned there will be places we can drop in and enjoy.



Canary Wharf roof gardens & sculptures

I should like to take the planned visit to Wilton House, originally scheduled for 17 June, but it may have to take place in 2021 as Vik has sensibly tentatively planned for visits to National Trust properties in the autumn.

In the 1782 inventory of paintings at Osterley, I discovered not one but four paintings by Anthony van Dyck listed. On the cover of this newsletter you will see the *van Dyck oval self-portrait* saved for the nation which was listed as hanging in the Drawing Room to one side of the fireplace, with the *Dobson oval self-portrait* in a similar elaborate frame hanging on the other side. Next door in the Long Gallery on the end wall was the large portrait of *King Charles I on horseback with Duke Des Pernon holding his helmet*. On the long wall next to a couple of Salvator Rosa's paintings was van Dyck's portrait of *Lord Strafford*, a close friend and advisor to Charles I. The last van Dyck simply listed as *Man leaning on a Chair* was in the Breakfast Room. Now we have revealed his paintings at Osterley let's look at how important van Dyck was as a portrait painter in Europe and England.

According to Catherine MacLeod, Curator of 17th Century Portraits in the National Portrait Gallery, van Dyck raised the position of artists from that of artisan to creative genius and became Britain's first celebrity artist. The staid formality of Tudor portraits has gone and we now feel we are in the room with a real person! Oliver Millar in his book *The Age of Charles I* says that van Dyck revolutionised the development of portrait painting in England.



King Charles I on horseback with Duke Des Pernon holding his helmet

“We admire not just the form and grace alone but the art and power of the face. He portrayed the King (Charles I) as a hero and warrior and the Queen (Henrietta Maria) as inspiration for a neo-platonic cult of courtly love.”

He pictures his subjects as stylish and gallant but with character. He shows the king and queen as a loving couple, which they were, often surrounded by their children. Giovanni Bellori, one of the first biographers of van Dyck, wrote:



Man leaning on a Chair

“Peter Paul Rubens was renowned throughout Flanders when there appeared in his school in Antwerp a young man possessed of such noble generosity of manners and so fine a talent for painting that he gave every indication that he would bring it to distinction and add splendour to the dignity and excellence to which the master had raised his profession. This was Anthony van Dyck called the Mozart of painting.”

Who was Anthony van Dyck?

Van Dyck was born in 1599 in Antwerp. At 10 years old he became an apprentice to the artist Van Balen and joined the Guild of St. Luke. The first signed picture *Portrait of a Seventy-Year-Old Man* was painted when he was 14 and hangs in the Beaux-Arts in Brussels. His first self portrait was painted the following year in 1614. He set up his own studio but also began working with Rubens. Van Dyck's supporters wrote to the Earl of Arundel saying van Dyck is almost as good as Rubens but too successful to leave Antwerp. He visited England briefly in 1620. King James I paid him £100 for work he did for him. He moved to Italy travelling to Genoa, Rome, Turin, Milan and Palermo where he was quarantined for several months not leaving until 1625 because of the plague.

He returned to Antwerp in the autumn of 1627. During 1630 he became court painter to Archduchess Isabella in Brussels and Charles I buys his painting by van Dyck *Rinaldo and Armida*.

In 1632 van Dyck finally accepts Charles I request that he come to England. Within months of his arrival King Charles knights him on 5th July. He is appointed as principal artist to their majesties. Sir Anthony van Dyck can mix easily with the aristocracy and thus becomes one of the first artists not considered to be a simple workman. Charles also presents him with a house on the Thames at Blackfriars so that he can visit and view the work. In 1633 van Dyck paints the first large picture of *Charles I on Horseback with Monsieur de St Antoine*.

This is still in the Royal collection. It was a similar King Charles portrait which hung in the Long Gallery in 1782 until removed by the 9th Earl of Jersey in 1949. It was destroyed in the fire on Jersey along with the Rubens *Duke of Buckingham on Horseback* which was displayed at the opposite end of the Long Gallery.



Lady Van Dyck, Mary Ruthven

From 1633 until 1638 van Dyck made many portraits of the king, queen and royal supporters. In February 1640 he married Mary Ruthven, lady-in-waiting to Queen Henrietta Maria and the granddaughter of the Scottish Earl of Gowrie.

Some accounts said the King had persuaded Anthony to marry as the Royal's found his many mistresses an embarrassment. He painted his English mistress - a beautiful courtesan named Margaret Lemon, at least 16 times, usually posed as various of the Greek or Roman goddesses.



Margaret Lemon

Said to be very jealous, she did not like van Dyck's philandering ways and was so annoyed by his behaviour that she threatened to bite off his thumb. As painter this would have made his life very difficult as he would not be able to hold a brush.

He painted a charming portrait of his wife to be. It is at this time that van Dyck paints his last self-portrait, shown on the cover of this newsletter. The clothing is shown very loosely but the face precisely executed looking slightly less certain than all the previous self portraits, perhaps reflecting his ill-health.

Although feeling ill he travelled to Antwerp, Paris, and The Hague but returned to London in late November. His wife gives birth to a daughter, Justiniana on December 1, 1641. The distraught King Charles offered £300 to any physician who could cure van Dyck. His severe illness persuaded him to make a will on December 4th but he died on December 9th just hours after his daughter's christening. He was only 42. The King paid for his tomb in the choir of Old St. Paul's Cathedral and had it engraved with these words in memory of his portrait artist friend: "Who, whilst he lived, gave to many immortal life."

This can certainly be said of the van Dyck portraits owned by the Child family and displayed at Osterley. Through their portraits we feel we know them.



Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Stafford

To while away time when locked up (sorry locked down) I have scanned all* of the Newsletters from number 1 in 1990 to number 93 in 2014. The later ones which I, and now Kim, have done are on the Friends website already. These are in the process of being uploaded to: <https://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofosterleypark/news/>

If you want to go on a wander down memory lane, please look at these (or get a grandchild to download and print out for you).

Over the decades the format changed from A4 to A3-folded to A5 booklet and the printers changed at least six times. The quality of printing and degree of fading also varied a lot, some of the less clear copies are not the oldest! The Newsletter ranged from 1 page of A4 to 18 pages of A4 (36 x A5). This oversize issue is number 89 which had memories of Jim Tickle as a large part of it.

One was an “extra” with no number (now 40a); one was published without a number but the next one followed the correct numbering and one skipped a number and had the same number as the following one, this is all corrected in the online copies. The number of issues per year ranged from three to five but in most years was four.

Initially these were dated with a month (e.g. June) but latterly with a season (e.g. Summer), this has the great advantage of vagueness. As a project manager I often used seasons, so a project due to end about July was targeted for “Summer” and if it didn’t finish until late September then it was an “Indian Summer”, and in Scotland a project due to finish in “Winter” could run on into early May.

The early issues have what look like hand drawn illustrations but I have one “master copy” and it shows that these were photocopied from books and cut to size then pasted onto the paper page with the typed wording (literally cut and paste – not as it is now on a computer). Some articles seem to have been typed separately from the main body and also stuck onto the master sheets.

From an article in one of the early Newsletters it appears that at one stage they were then printed double sided onto A3 paper and manually folded in half by the editor (at that time Ian Conacher) to give an A4 booklet.

What seems a curious feature to me is that in early issues past events, e.g. completed coach trips, were covered in detail but no information other than place and date was given for future events, the reverse is now true.

I sourced most of the printed copies when I took over as Editor; the oldest from Ian Conacher and the newer ones from my predecessor Wei Hei Kipling, unfortunately none were in electronic format.

The most recent, from issue 94, were available in electronic media (a PDF file) as this is how I have provided the Newsletter to over half our members.

Initially I was 5 copies short of the set, but Margaret Friday came up with 4 of them.

* I am still missing issue 2 - winter 1990 or Spring 1991, if anyone has it please let me borrow it.

Over the 30 years there have been at least seven Editors: Scilla McIntock, Christina Scherer, Ian Conacher (who was also Chairman), Margaret Friday, Wei Hei Kipling, myself and now Kim Mamtora. In many of the late 1990s/early 2000s issues the contributors and editor are not identified. I suppose you were just meant to know.

The quality of reproduction varies a lot, as it does in the printed Newsletters, and I have tried to compromise between too dark photos and too light printing, I believe everything is readable (though you might want to zoom in on some versions) and most photos can be seen.

For “techies” the Newsletters were scanned in from A4 portrait or A4 landscape (for the A5 booklets) to A4 PDFs.

They were then assembled in “Publisher” software (which is how the Newsletter is now produced) and saved as a compressed PDF. The files are quite big in some cases.

The easier route of linking the scanned PDFs resulted in very large files even when compressed.

Tales from the Post Office

Douglas Craik

During the lockdown I have been sending items to those members with email. A mixture of funny videos and jokes including four sets of funny things that happened to me when I worked in the Post Office, an example is below.

If you would like a printed copy of these (10 pages), please send me two 2nd Class stamps (to cover postage and printing) and I will send this to you.

One of my responsibilities was the night mail train from Aberdeen to London and back. The Aberdeen staff got off at Birmingham in the early morning swapping with a team from London and stayed for the day. The next night they boarded the night mail from London and returned to Aberdeen.

One day I got a call from Birmingham hospital to be told that one of my staff had broken his leg and was in hospital.

His wife from Aberdeen and his “wife” from Birmingham were both by his bed - what steps would I like to take? Obviously long ones and away from this personal (not personnel) issue.



Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Please note: due to the coronavirus, all of our events and excursions have been cancelled until at least September 2020. We will continually review the situation and will advise of rescheduled and new events in the October newsletter.

For any proposed trips/walks/coffee mornings, please check that they are taking place by emailing friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com or by telephoning John James on 020 8232 8683.

Sept	London Visit: TBA
Wed 9 Sept	CANCELLED Autumn Reception
Weds 16 Sept (TBC)	Coach Trip: Knole, Kent (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Fri 25 Sept (TBC)	Coffee Morning: Robin Ridsdale - F&B and Retail Manager (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Oct	London Visit: TBA
Tues 6 Oct (TBC)	Coach Trip: The Vyne, Hampshire (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Wed 7 Oct (TBC)	Coffee Morning: Christine Diwell - From Pauper to Patient - West Middlesex Hospital 100th Anniversary (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Nov	AGM (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Wed 11 Nov (TBC)	Coffee Morning: Jeremy Dalton (<i>to be confirmed</i>)
Fri 4 Dec (TBC)	Coffee Morning: TBA

Coffee Mornings at the Brewhouse

We hope to continue our programme later this year. Please see our October newsletter for more information. If you'd like to do a 30-45 minute talk on any relevant subject in 2020/21 please contact John James.

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

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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 in October 2020. Any contributions to the Newsletter Editor (editor.foop@gmail.com) by **13 September 2020**.

The Editor may edit contributions as necessary.