

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the
National Trust



NEWSLETTER

Issue 118 Autumn 2020 £1 (free to members)



Child's Bank through the ages



Firstly, thank you for your support of the Friends which is needed more than ever so that we can continue our contributions to Osterley Park & House. Today, Friday 11 September, is three months since our previous newsletter in June. Unfortunately the pandemic would seem to be with us for some time to come, so planning for any future events is problematic. Our way of life continues to be restricted.

Patricia and I were able to have a holiday in the first two weeks of August in Torbay. Although there were no Houses open, gardens in National Trust properties and other places such as Powderham Castle and Torre Abbey were open with advance booking. As the weather was so good we were able to visit quite a few places. We have been able to enjoy walks in the Osterley estate and gardens (which are beautiful once again), and have coffee outside in the stables garden and hope that many of the Friends have also been able to visit.

For any Friends who are members of the Ealing National Trust Association, please note that due to the recent increase in the spread of Covid-19, the Association has regrettably decided to cancel the lectures booked for October and November as well as the lunch at Ealing Golf Club on 14 October.

I am keeping my report short as Neil Cole, General Manager, has given us the following comprehensive update, for which we are grateful.

Best wishes,

John

The last six months have been very challenging for the National Trust as an organisation, lockdown, reopening, new guidance impacting on every aspect of our business, and, as well documented in the national press, our finances as an organisation have been significantly impacted. Resilience is definitely a word I feel reflects recent months, and I am sure many of you feel the challenges of the last six months have tested you individually and collectively. However, in amongst ever-changing Government rules and regulations, I am delighted that Osterley Park & House has made very positive strides to reopen and operate in new ways.

To date we have reopened our café, gardens, car parks and wider estate, and throughout the summer we offered cycle hire and canoeing. We plan to reopen the House on Saturday 3 October, for the period October to December, Wednesday to Sunday, and are looking into options to operate the buggy and reopen the shop. In reopening we have operated on a pre-booked system for the gardens, including car parking, which has allowed us to manage visitor numbers and operate safely, ensuring we could monitor safe social-distancing as best as possible (whilst the onus will always be on visitors to respect guidelines).

Whilst it has been great to reopen and bring back some normality to life, unfortunately all staff within the organisation have been part of the 'Reset programme', designed to trim costs while the National Trust seeks a viable future for the organisation. This will, unfortunately, result in staff taking voluntary redundancy or result in job losses. This of course is heart-breaking, and from an Osterley perspective we have built a highly-qualified, professional team, who have successfully grown our offer and engagement, locally and nationally, especially since my appointment as General Manager.

Respecting the process, I cannot offer any insight into the detail, as it is currently live and ongoing into the New Year, but I ask for everyone to be respectful of the National Trust process and the very tough decisions we are currently taking.

House update continued...

Like many organisations, the impact of Covid-19 will unfortunately live on into 2021 and possibly (though hopefully not) beyond, and it is important as an organisation we have a future to continue preserving our past and creating future memories. It is worthy to note the Reset programme is focused on ensuring staff remain in post, however in trimming property structures, it is inevitable some staff will move on. In time, I will share our new structure and focus; I imagine this is likely to be spring 2021.

In light of the above, and current Government advice, we are not able to host meetings, Coffee Mornings etc. at the moment, however I can assure you all we are missing the Friends of Osterley. It's been lovely to see so many of you visit the café, walk the gardens or wider estate and I can only encourage you to continue visiting and say hello, it really does lift our spirits. I will continue to keep everyone updated with news from Osterley, and as always happy to answer any relevant questions you may have.

These are ever-changing and challenging times, however, I can assure you we are doing all we can to try and keep some normality in amongst all of this, and the team at Osterley, staff and volunteers have been really quite exceptional in their approach, willingness, endeavour and enthusiasm.

Cheques cleared

Douglas Craik

Normally banks won't accept cheques written more than six months ago, but some are being more flexible due to the effects of Covid-19.

Eight members have not deposited cheques from the Friends that are over six months old. If you are one of them and our cheque is not accepted by your bank, just let me know and I will cancel it and send you a replacement. You may want to wait until you are ready to go to a Bank or Post Office to do this.

It is gratifying that members are continuing to support The Friends. This is particularly important with the National Trust facing such a massive reduction in income. This enables us to continue to contribute to the upkeep of Osterley.

Membership this year stands at 227 members. We've had very few people declining renewal. Most of these have been contacted and quite often a physical inability to travel to Osterley is the reason. Perhaps you could contact me if you would be willing to help with transport.

Sadly we are aware of people who are no longer with us and in addition, when I tried to contact people, found that there was no response from nine members.

It is nice that we can once more walk in the excellently maintained gardens. Well done to the people involved.

Lastly with the 'new normal' we will be relying more on contact through e-mail so if you have changed your provider or recently set up an email account please let us know.

Keep safe!



Email addresses

Douglas Craik

At present we can only really contact members with updates by email. If you haven't been getting my weekly "jokes", please email me at friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com and I will add you to our distribution list.

Note, emails to about half a dozen members are "bouncing" because their inbox is full, perhaps time for a bit of culling (emails, not members).

It has been an incredibly testing and frustrating year for everyone. Out of more than 20 venues reviewed for 2020, eight were shortlisted and trips planned to six from April to October. However, five trips up to and including September have been cancelled due to Covid-19. Unfortunately, all events and excursions for the remainder of the year are cancelled now that the 'rule of six' has been introduced across England from Monday 14 September.

There was a glimmer of hope with the last two trips, where several of our members were very much looking forward to a mini escape by getting on that coach to stretch their minds and legs. Alas, even these had to be called off at the last minute. At least, the weather has been kind to us. I'm hoping 2021 will bring some normality and we can resume our trips from April onward, with the first trips for next year announced in our January newsletter (not too long to go!).

Until then, take care and keep safe.

Holiday 2020 (not)

Douglas Craik

In the July newsletter, I announced that the holiday to Newcastle was postponed until 2021 (see more on this on the next page). This decision was made in mid-June and was a bit of a guess on how things would be in mid-August.

As it turned out, all of the National Trust properties we planned to visit were closed (and still are). They were most of our destinations. Of the others, about half were closed (and some still are) and the others could take only limited numbers. The Travelodge we had booked just re-opened in early August but didn't do breakfast and the local restaurants/pubs were open for dinner but generally had to be pre-booked. Trains were running to Newcastle but with limited capacity.

Overall, we could have got there, not eaten much and not visited anywhere – so maybe it was best that this holiday was cancelled.

The general intention is to go Newcastle and to do much of what was planned for 2020. However it is unknown which National Trust (NT) properties will be open a year from now or when they will be open (statements from NT suggest there will be reduced opening hours for many properties) so it is difficult to do a visit programme at present.

Therefore I have a general description below and actual booking form and final plan will be in the January 2021 newsletter, but if you want to give me an indication that you expect to book I would be glad to hear from you (contact details on back page). 21 people have already done so. I estimate the cost will be about £560/£400 for two sharing but again this will be confirmed in January.

The basic plan is to go by train from King's Cross mid-morning of Monday 9 August, stay in the riverside Travelodge and for individuals to make their own dinner arrangements. There is a Wetherspoons and a Copthorne Hotel next door and many other eating places within a 15 minute walk. Returning Saturday 14 August, mid-afternoon. The holiday will include visits to some or, if possible, all of the following:

Arbeia Roman Fort this has a reconstruction of a fort gateway, a barracks block and the commander's villa which will make our visit to Vindolanda more understandable.

Roman Army Museum and nearby **Vindolanda fort** with a conducted tour of this archetypal Roman fort which lies just south of Hadrian's wall.

Housesteads Roman fort (NT) which actually lies on the wall.

Cragside House (NT) the home of Lord Armstrong, Victorian inventor, innovator and landscape genius. The first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity.

Wallington Hall (NT) the house consisted of four ranges built around an open central courtyard (like Tudor Osterley was) and the central courtyard is roofed creating a hall for remarkable huge pre-Raphaelite paintings.

Durham Castle and/or **Cathedral** with guided tours.

Holiday 2021 (9-14 August) continued...

Ormesby Hall (NT) this classic Georgian mansion is surrounded by 250 acres of parkland with a colourful Victorian formal garden.

The Holy Isle and Lindisfarne Priory and Castle (NT).

Washington Old Hall (NT) the ancestral home of George Washington, this small stone manor house reflects gentry life following the turbulence of the English Civil War.

If not all these places can be visited there will be a day in Newcastle including some of the following:

Bessie Surtees House two five-storey 16th and 17th century merchants' houses, Surtees House and Millbank House, which were combined in 1880.

Laing Art Gallery which has an internationally important collection of art, focusing on British oil paintings, watercolours, ceramics, silver and glassware.

Newcastle Castle the first fortification on the site dates back more than 1800 years. The earliest fortification was the Roman fort of Pons Aelius, built to guard the bridge over the River Tyne as part of Hadrian's Wall.

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art a VERY modern art gallery within the facades of a 1950s flour mill. Even if modern art isn't for you, the view of the Tyne from the 5th floor "box" is fantastic.

Hatton Gallery a Grade II listed building with a modern exhibition space. The Hatton's diverse collection includes over 3,000 works from the 14th to 20th centuries.

Great North Museum is largely about the natural history of the world with some concentration on Northumbria and, strangely, Egyptian art and archaeology. Also the detailed history of Hadrian's Wall (again).

Discovery Museum covers the history of Newcastle focusing on the area's maritime, scientific and technological importance to Britain and the rest of the world.

These are all free apart from Newcastle Castle at £8 per person.

Women who made money: Lady Bank Partners

Margaret Friday

This newsletter covers the enthralling story of lady bank partners. It begins with our very own Child's Bank – cited as the first bank in England and the third in all of Europe having been established in 1664 by Francis Child and his partner Robert Blanchard.

The front cover picture shows images of Child's Bank through the ages beginning with a photograph of the bank interior in 1878 unchanged from Sarah Sophia's time as a Senior Partner, then the bank as painted in 1851 whilst Sarah Sophia was there, followed by a portrait of Francis Child founder of the Bank. In the next row we see two pictures of the bank first in 1933 after the bank had been rebuilt in 1880 with no customers but looking much the same as the earlier photograph of “the shop” with clients in 1878. The final image is of course Osterley House and Park drawn about 1780 just before Sarah Jodrell Child took up the post of Senior Partner. The next sketch seems to be someone weighing gold and may refer to the banks beginning as a goldsmiths. The new replacement for temple bar is pictured in 1885 outside Child's new bank building. Sarah Sophia dressed for the coronation of George IV and Senior Bank Partner for 61 years appears next with finally a picture of the bank exterior in 2001 presenting an excellent round-up of the story of Child & Co. as shown on the cover of ‘*Child & Co. A history*’ written by the research group of RBS in 2002.



The very first lady bank partner on record is Agatha Edgar Child, wife of Samuel Child, youngest son of Francis Child, the elder. Agatha was from Redhouse in Suffolk, so from the country. When Samuel's brothers Robert and Francis, both single men, were in-charge at Child's Bank and lived at Osterley and Lincoln's Inn, Samuel and his family resided in Ham.

Samuel Child (1693-1752)



Fleet Street and Temple Bar with Child's Bank in 1753 as Agatha would have seen it.

On Sir Francis Child II death in 1740 they moved to Osterley and Samuel became senior bank partner. When Samuel died in 1752 he had made provision in his will for his wife Agatha to take the role and it seems she was the first lady to do so.

Women in those days were not permitted to go to university but there was a tradition amongst Goldsmiths and silversmiths in the City livery companies to take up their husbands professions when the man became too infirm or died.

Agatha established herself at Child & Company where she made decisions about other partners dismissing two whom she felt were inadequate. Her two sons, Francis III and Robert II joined the partners as they came of age, but Agatha remained in charge until her death in January 1763. Whilst Agatha was supervising the bank continued to flourish. In September Francis died aged 28 and was succeeded by brother Robert who was only 25. Robert sat as a Bank Partner, and an MP until he died on 28 July, 1782.

In his will he ensured that his widow Sarah Jodrell Child became Senior Partner. This was probably inspired by his mother Agatha's successful administration of the bank. Sarah remained Senior Partner until her demise in 1793. When she re-married in 1791 she continued to run Child's Bank. Her new husband was Francis Reynolds, Baron Ducie III. Women of the Child family were independent senior partners not sharing duties with husbands but often passing partnership on to their sons.

Sarah Anne portrayed with her mother, Sarah Jodrell Child, never saw her father Robert's fortune as he changed his will when she eloped with the 10th Earl of Westmorland John Fane. The will stipulated that the second son or eldest daughter of the marriage would inherit. As Sarah Anne only had one son it was the eldest daughter Sarah Sophia Fane who inherited when she came of age.



Sarah Jodrell Child is shown with her embroidery hoop as she was known for her skill in this art. The pole screen she worked can still be seen in the Etruscan Room at Osterley.

Sarah Sophia Child-Villiers, Countess of Jersey, served as Senior Bank Partner to Child's Bank. On taking up the post on 4th March 1806 when she came of age she made the bank's annual year coincide with her birthday on 4th March. Her income from the bank as Senior Partner was £60,000 per year, or in today's money, more than £5 million per year. At the same time as taking on the bank, she inherited her grandfather Robert Child's entire fortune along with houses and lands including 38 Berkeley Square, Osterley and Upton House in Warwickshire and Rochester Castle, making her one of the wealthiest women in Britain. After she married in 1804, George Villiers, 5th Earl of Jersey, added the Child family name to his own becoming Child-Villiers.

Exceptionally, from 1822 there were two titled female Senior Bank Partners drawing more than £5 million per annum; the other being Harriot Coutts, Duchess of St Albans from 1822 until her death in 1837.



Popularly known to London society as Queen Sarah, she entertained lavishly in Berkeley Square and in her country houses.

Sir William Fraser described her as “quick and intelligent with the strongest sense of humour I have seen in a woman taking the keenest delight in a good joke and having a great physical enjoyment.” Her love of dance included her presence on the board of Almack’s, the club in London patronised by the beau monde. Beresford Chancellor noted “her amiable manners, her interest in politics, her admirable genial nature all combined to give her a sort of right to the exalted sphere in which she moved.”

The Bank in 1850 as it would have looked when Sarah Sophia was a partner.

Harriet Countess of Granville jokingly called her “silence” as she seldom stopped talking.

Her sister-in-law Lady Westmorland described her in old age as “brilliant, talkative, gay and beautiful always dressed in the latest fashion in sky blue or rose colour, with flowers in her hair which is not grey – she kept her sight, hearing and memory.”

Sarah appears in literature in Disraeli's *Endymion* as Zenobia and in Lady Caroline Lamb's *Glenarvon* as Lady Augusta. This salacious novel was published in 1830, but is said to have been a response to Lady Caroline Lamb being excluded from Almack’s by Sarah. She also refused entrance to the Duke of Wellington because he was wearing trousers instead of breeches! He was forgiven and became godfather to one of her daughters. Queen Victoria was godmother to her eldest son and one of her daughters married Prince Esterhazy.

Child's Bank is believed to be Tellson's Bank described by Charles Dickens in '*A Tale of Two Cities*' – the story begins "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times" and is set at the time of the French Revolution when Sarah Jodrell Child was Senior Partner.

Charles Dickens would have known the bank from his childhood when he walked down Fleet Street every day to get to the blacking factory where he worked at Charing Cross at the same time Sarah Sophia was around.



Sarah Sophia Child Villiers, Countess of Jersey Senior Partner Child's Bank 1806-1867.

Sarah Sophia did cause some ructions at the bank. The tradition was that bank employees should begin at the bottom and proceed up the company whenever someone resigned or died until they reached the top and became a partner. People were not taken on without doing this making the bank staff extremely competent and knowledgeable. In 1840 Sarah wanted her cousin Vere Fane to be employed at the bank without having worked there first. After a long silence Sarah finally decanted in 1849 and the tradition continued into the 1920s. Vere Fane never joined the bank.

Sarah Sophia lived to be 81 and was described to Margaret Leigh when seen in a bright yellow carriage riding around London as the old lady who had outlived all of her seven children except one! Her husband and eldest son had both died in 1859. When she died in 1867 her fortune and the bank were left to her grandson Victor Albert George Child-Villiers the 7th Earl of Jersey who in 1871 married Margaret Elizabeth Leigh. She did not become a Bank Partner so the tradition of Senior Lady Bank Partner ended with Sarah Sophia.

Much of the information comes from a fascinating book '*Women Who Made Money: Women Partners in British Private Banks 1752-1906*' by Margaret Dawes and Nesta Selwyn.

It may well prove impossible to carry out a draw in front of members (like a Coffee Morning) before the end of our Financial Year (31/12/20).

If so, I will do a draw with some of the Committee (socially-distanced in the outdoors) and announce the result in the January newsletter.

Prizes will be 3 x £100, 3 x £50, 1 x £18.

Ever wonder...

Douglas Craik

Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?

Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that doctors call what they do 'practice'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavour, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why isn't there mouse-flavoured cat food?

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?



Although Burgh House has re-opened, the art gallery is not planning to be open until 2021. The house has an outdoor cafe which is open but seeing the inside of the house as a group limited to six will be difficult. Even my walk around Canary Wharf is barely viable with only five people allowed to attend.

I think the London visits will have to be delayed until a group of us can enjoy. The visit to Wilton House will be re-scheduled for next spring when they are open again.

Diary: Friends Events and Excursions

Please note: due to the coronavirus, all of our events and excursions have been cancelled until at least January 2021. We will continually review the situation and will advise of rescheduled and new events in the January newsletter.

Oct 2020	London Visit: Cancelled
Oct 2020	Coach Trip: Cancelled
Oct 2020	Coffee Morning: Cancelled
Nov 2020	AGM: Cancelled
Nov 2020	Coffee Morning: Cancelled
Dec 2020	Coffee Morning: Cancelled

Coffee Mornings at the Brewhouse

We hope to continue our programme in early 2021. Please see our January newsletter for more information. If you'd like to do a 30-45 minute talk on any relevant subject in 2021, please contact John James (details on back page).

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 & Bookings for London Visits

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

Committee Member

Susan Parsons

Committee Member

Patricia James

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 January 2021. Any contributions to the Newsletter Editor (editor.foop@gmail.com) by **13 December 2020**.

The Editor may edit contributions as necessary.