

The Friends of Osterley Park



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Trust**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 124 Spring 2022 £1 (free to members)



Rubens portrait of George, Duke of Buckingham, purchased by Francis Child and now housed in the National Gallery.



Dear Friends,

Spring has arrived at Osterley Park and House. We have, however, been through some very difficult weather conditions which closed the park for several days. Since then there has been recovery from the damage caused by the storms and Osterley is open again and welcoming visitors. For the January coffee morning Douglas gave a talk on online snippets of Osterley, in February Andy Eddy gave an update on the park and gardens, and in March Douglas spoke on kilts and tartans. The coffee morning on 26th April will be followed by the AGM. The AGM papers feature later in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Douglas for arranging coffee mornings over the last few months in my absence due to illness and also to Peter Bush, who has joined the committee and will organise future coffee mornings.

We are pursuing projects which have been on our list for some time, for example, Mike Doran on behalf of the Friends of Osterley Park Committee has been working on Hounslow Council's redesignation of lost local footpaths that connect with those of Osterley Park. And Susan Parsons has taken on board the purchase of new ramps for the house.

Our newsletter has been so important as a link with our members at a very difficult time for all of us. Mike and Douglas have appointed a new Newsletter Editor, Sonia Sharma, who will produce our newsletters from the June edition. Once again we thank Kim Mamtora who not only did the 2020-21 newsletters but kept going after standing down due to work pressures until we got Sonia as a replacement.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

John

100 Club

Douglas Craik

The 100 Club is a private lottery for members of the Friends. A subscription of £12 buys one number for a year. Half the subscription is a donation to the house and the other half funds the prizes for the four draws per year, always a £100 prize and a second prize of £40-£50 (depending on how many subscribers we have). The first draw in 2022 will be at the AGM, so still time to buy a number (£12). Just send a cheque (payable to 'Friends of Osterley') to me.

2022 Holiday: Lancaster

Thursday 18 - Tuesday 23 August

Douglas Craik

Bookings for this holiday have been steadily coming in, over 24 to date. Still plenty of spaces, call or email me for a booking form.



There are likely to be a few changes in the programme as opening times and days have changed in the post-Covid reopening (as at Osterley). So far, I am substituting Houghton Hall with Brockholes Nature Reserve and Village, possibility of an Osprey sighting. Next month I am going back up to Lancaster to recheck all other places are OK.

Membership update

Keith Rookledge

The new membership year starts on 1st April 2022 and thank you to those who have already renewed.

Paying by standing order or bank transfer provides a convenient way to remit your subscription and saves us a cost in paying in your cheques. If you want to start a standing order you can do this online. Please contact me if you do not have the necessary form which you need to send to your bank.

With the new subscription year, we are essentially back to normal with coffee mornings, coach trips and London visits now in full swing. Elsewhere in this newsletter are full details and they are also on our website.

Prime Paintings at Osterley in 1782 Margaret Friday

This spring I am writing about the magnificent collection of artists who graced the Long Gallery, Breakfast Room, plus Mr and Mrs Child's bedroom and Dressing Rooms. The collection began with Francis Child, founder of the Bank, who purchased the Rubens portraits of George, Duke of Buckingham when he was in Europe in 1697.

The newsletter cover image is a colour sketch made by Rubens and is now in the National Gallery.

In 1702 he purchased the large house in Lincoln's Inn where he hung his collection of 67 paintings. His eldest son Robert went on the Grand Tour having his portrait painted by Michael Dahl in front of the Colosseum in 1712. Portraits of his brothers Francis and Samuel by Dahl are in the house today being on loan from the 10th Earl. Robert was also a keen collector of paintings and statuary, some acquired on his Grand Tour, which he exhibited in the Lincoln's Inn townhouse inviting friends to come and view. The paintings he purchased were by top Italian Baroque artists of the day having recently deceased or still working when he visited, so he was acquiring newly created, richly coloured pictures illustrating his appreciation and taste by showing the finest works of art in his homes. He was the first of the Child family to live at Osterley but died in 1721 before the fine collection of Chinese porcelain bearing the family crest and the lacquered Chinese furniture which he had ordered, arrived from China. His brother Francis received them and they were installed at Lincoln's Inn but now grace the halls at Osterley. Francis II, like his father, was a director of the East India Company, Master of the Goldsmith's Company, President of Christ's Hospital, Lord Mayor of London in 1732 and a City M.P. Being a wealthy man he would have added to the art collection with Rococo masterpieces wishing to fill the rooms at Osterley with significant works of art. He, like his brother Robert, never married. On his death in 1740, his youngest brother Samuel, having worked for the bank for 20 years, inherited. He moved his wife Agatha and four children to Osterley. His two sons Francis III and Robert II would inherit the bank fortune. Samuel died in 1752 leaving his wife Agatha in-charge of the bank until her death in 1763. Francis III first purchase was the very fine library of Brian Fairfax, prominent collector and good friend of the Earl of Burlington, holder of a fabulous collection of items at nearby Chiswick House.

Francis also engaged Robert Adam to transform Osterley into a residence suitable for a wealthy young gentleman. His portrait, wearing a blue velvet suit, was painted by Allan Ramsay in 1758. It now hangs in the Drawing Room. Francis, sadly died of a throat infection just days before his wedding in 1763, leaving his brother Robert to refine and complete the house with Adam, the major architect of the day. Robert sold the now unfashionably located house in Lincoln's Inn in 1767 and purchased a 60 room mansion in Berkeley Square. The paintings at Lincoln's Inn were then moved



to Berkeley Square and Osterley. The Long Gallery was the perfect place to display many of the large paintings in the collection. When Robert died in 1782 an inventory was taken listing a considerable number of paintings by top artists of the Baroque and early 18th century. These included many of the artists I have already featured in the newsletter: Peter Paul Rubens, Carlo Dolci, Anthony Van Dyck, William Dobson, Francis Cotes and Sir Joshua Reynolds. Reynolds did individual portraits of Robert, Sarah and Sarah Anne Child in the 1770s. George Romney also painted the family and these pictures hang in the Drawing Room today. These portraits have been returned to the house by the 10th Earl of Jersey.



The 1782 list included three works by Michelangelo; all pictures of fruit and flowers; Holbein's portrait of Sir Thomas Gresham (see *image left*); three by The Carracci brothers; a Chiari in the Drawing Room; a Domenichino; Titian's White Friar; six landscapes by Gaspard Dughet (there are two hanging in the house today); eight pictures by Luca Giordano were hanging in the Long Gallery and the Breakfast Room, eight Filippo Lauri including Throwing snowballs, Acis and Galatea, Ceres, Woman and child holding bread; Lorenzo Lippi's large picture of Jacob and Rachel hung in The Drawing Room.

Claude Lorraine one of the greatest masters of landscape painting had three paintings here. Maratta, known as the best artist in Rome, had three classically based paintings in the house including Time Struggling with Love. Murillo had three paintings in the Long Gallery: Two Children (see *image on next page*), Black Boy, and one called Card Player. Palma Giovane's Entombment was in the Long Gallery. Three Nicholas Poussin's graced the house and Mattia Preti, called Ca Lebrise had two paintings, Lucretzia and a Roman Charity in the Long Gallery.



Dughet's wooded rocky landscape and Luca Giordano's The Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

Salvator Rosa has four paintings classical and religious in the Long Gallery and two in the Breakfast Room plus two in Mrs Child's rooms. Jacob van Ruisdael has a large landscape in the Drawing Room. Solimena, Angels and Women; Teniers, Man gaming; three of the Van de Velde's sea paintings, and Veronese, Adoration of the Virgin also featured in the principle rooms. There were two Canaletto's showing scenes of Venice in the Long Gallery. Sir Peter Lely's Self Portrait, Mrs Hoare and The Duchess of York were all to be seen. Many of the works I have mentioned were large paintings which were destroyed in the 1949 fire on Jersey. The 9th Earl of Jersey had a disagreement with the borough of Middlesex when he planned to give the house to the National Trust. He knew that they had taken paintings from other houses to hang in their offices. His wish was that all the paintings should remain at Osterley. Middlesex did not agree so the earl had the paintings shipped to Jersey where he and Countess Bianca had taken up residence. Whilst the gallery where they were to be displayed was being prepared, the store where they had been placed caught fire. All of the large paintings including the two Rubens Duke of Buckingham pictures, Van Dyck's Charles I, the almost life-sized Reynolds of Robert Child II and many of the paintings listed in the 1782 inventory sadly no longer exist.

Some of the smaller paintings, like the Romney's were not in the list as they were hanging in the Berkeley Square town house but his portraits of Robert and Sarah Child are in the Drawing Room now.

This extensive group of artists were considered to be the finest of their time from the previous generation and the present time in the 18th Century. The equivalent today would be collecting Turner, Renoir, Monet, Manet, Klimpt, van Gogh, Picasso, Miro, Klee and Banksy. In fact, the 9th Earl of Jersey adapted the large room over the entrance hall to display his collection of Impressionist paintings.



Six paintings were loaned to the Royal Academy for the Great Masters Exhibition held in 1888 by the 7th Earl and his wife Margaret, Countess of Jersey. In the painting of those in attendance the large Ruben's Duke of Buckingham on horseback (*shown on the front cover*), can be seen on the wall. The Earl of Jersey and Margaret, Countess of Jersey both feature in the painting of that event along with all of the others who shared their Great Masters with the world. Several of the paintings pictured in this article can be seen in the house today. When you next come to explore see if you can locate them!

Newsletter dates

Douglas Craik

You may have noticed that this newsletter is earlier than usual. Previously our newsletters were published at the beginning of January, April, July and October. The January one included membership renewal and the April one the AGM papers.

We are now moving to publishing the newsletters at the beginning of March, June, September, and December. The March edition will include membership renewal and AGM papers. We have found that a very early renewal notice often lies forgotten, also publishing in January is complicated by the long break in printers from about 22 December to 6 January. This edition will also have booking details for Coach Trips and London Visits in the spring/early summer. The June edition will have booking details for Coach Trips and London Visits in late summer/early autumn. The September edition will have advance dates/location on the holiday 11 months ahead. The December edition will have holiday details and booking form. We believe this will be a better arrangement than previously.

The Vyne, Hampshire on Wednesday 27th April

- Coach cost per person: **£39**
- Entry for non-NT members: **£13**

Set in a scenic landscape, you can take some time out in sprawling gardens and woodlands. The ancient woodlands reveal traces of history if you know where to look. See if you can



spot the remains of medieval fish ponds and a Second World War munitions storage site. For a chance to see wetland wildlife, you can visit the purpose-built bird hide. For invigorating walks, you can travel the network of paths that run through Morgaston Woods.

Inside the house, you can learn about William Wiggett Chute and his family who lived at The Vyne in the mid-19th Century. Take in historic gems including a pre-Reformation chapel, Tudor oak gallery with 16th-century wood carvings and neo-classical staircase hall. Or immerse yourself in the Victorian chapter of The Vyne's past by dressing up like Victorians in the Housekeeper's Room.



Knole, Kent on Wednesday 18th May

- Coach cost per person: **£36**
- Entry for non-NT members: **£15**

Sitting proudly within Kent's last medieval deer park, Knole offers something for everyone. Originally built as an archbishop's palace, Knole



passed through royalty to the Sackville family, who still live here today. Take in the scale and magnificence of this 600-year-old estate by exploring the grand courtyards and tranquil Orangery or wander the winding paths in the parkland, still populated by wild deer. Inside the showrooms, art lovers will find Reynolds, Gainsborough and Van Dyck to admire. Textiles enthusiasts can marvel at the 17th century tapestries and furniture that make the collection internationally significant.

You can explore the life and loves of former resident Eddy Sackville-West in the Gatehouse Tower and climb the spiral staircase to take in panoramic views from the rooftop.

Wilton House, Salisbury on Wednesday 15th June

Cost per person (including coach and entry): **£52**



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 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. Built on the site of a 9th century nunnery but now set in 21 acres of landscaped parkland, with water and rose gardens beside the River Nadder and Palladian Bridge.

London Visits

Margaret Friday

Carlyle's House on Friday 22nd April

24 Cheyne Row, Chelsea, SW3 5HL. Meet at **2pm** outside the house. Cost: **£6**



The home of Thomas Carlyle, the noted Victorian writer and thinker from Scotland who moved with his wife Jane, from a remote Scottish village to be nearer the other great writers and thinkers of the day. He wrote several books about heroes, a large history of the French revolution and founded the famous London Library. He knew and was visited by all of the greats of his day including Charles Dickens, John Stuart Mill, Michael Faraday, John Ruskin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry James, Arthur Conan Doyle etc.

The curtains made for the house by Jane have been fully restored and now hang back in her bedroom. There is a small garden where Jane grew flowers, herbs and Thomas grew vegetables. Jane is recognised as one of the best writers of letters in the English language. I am sure they knew Margaret, Countess of Jersey and attended some of her parties at Osterley. Carlyle was annoyed by the noisy people of Chelsea and lined his study with cork so that he would not be disturbed. The house is quite small so we will be able to look around in small groups.



Watermen and Lightermen Hall on Monday 23rd May

16-18 St Mary at Hill, EC3R
8EF. Meet outside the hall at
10.50am. Cost: £18



Our 11am tour will be led by Carol, former head of the company. Clad in her official gown she will tell us the story of the 18th Century building and the Watermen and Lightermen who still train here as they are part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The Lightermen were first noted in 1514. They are not a livery company of the City but provided transport for the City, aristocrats and town dwellers making their way between offices, shops, palaces and pleasure gardens along the Thames. The cost of this private tour is £18. This visit was originally planned for 2020 so we are delighted that we now have a chance to visit this illustrious Hall.



Roof Gardens and Sculptures at Canary Wharf on Thursday 16th June

Meet Margaret at **2pm** outside the main entrance to Canary Wharf station on the Jubilee Line. Cost: **£5**

Margaret will lead this tour aided by Robyn who works at Canary Wharf. We will be looking at fountains, sculptures and finally the amazing Roof Garden which should be splendid at this time of year.



This is your chance to see how modern bankers use art and nature to create a view of the world around them. There are places to sit during the walk and many cafes and restaurants to frequent before or after the tour.

Diary: Friends events and excursions

2022	
Fri 22 April	London Visit: Carlyle's House
Tues 26 April	Coffee Morning: Phil Bruss – Impact of the February Storms. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base AGM (deferred from 2021) at Study Base
Weds 27 April	Coach Trip: The Vyne, Hampshire
Tues 17 May	Coffee Morning: Peter Mills – Hidden Treasures of Osterley. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base
Weds 18 May	Coach Trip: Knole, Kent
Mon 23 May	London Visit: Watermen and Lightermen Hall
Mon 13 June	Coffee Morning: Sheila Underwood & Sue Smith – Costumes. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base
Weds 15 June	Coach Trip: Wilton House, Salisbury
Thurs 16 June	London Visit: Roof Gardens at Canary Wharf
Tues 26 July	Coffee Morning: Judith O'Flynn – Women of Osterley. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base
Thurs 18 Aug- Tues 23 Aug	Holiday: Lancaster
Tues 20 Sept	Coffee Morning: speaker TBA. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base
Mon 17 Oct	Coffee Morning: speaker TBA. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base
Tues 29 Nov	Coffee Morning: speaker TBA. 10.30am for 11am at Study Base

Issue	Published in	Contents
Spring	March	AGM papers, membership renewal, Coach Trips and London Visits in spring and early summer
Summer	June	Coach Trips and London Visits in late summer and early autumn
Autumn	September	Dates/location of next year's summer holiday
Winter	December	Summer holiday details and booking form

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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 June 2022. Any contributions to the Newsletter Editor (editor.foop@gmail.com) by **1 May 2022**. *The Editor may edit contributions as necessary.*