

The Friends of Osterley Park



in support of National
Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 125 Summer 2022 £1 (free to members)



Sarah Anne Child Fane Countess of Westmorland

Chairman's Report

John James

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. We have a new editor in Sonia Sharma. We wish her success in producing our newsletters. We are going to send out our newsletters earlier so that the dates fit in easier in a calendar year, especially one before Christmas rather than in January.

Sadly, I have to report the death of John Stacey, a past Trustee, who served on the committee for a number of years. Most of all he was active in so many areas at Osterley Park. Peter Bush has written a tribute to him in this newsletter.

The start of the school holidays in April brought some sunny days and many visitors were encouraged to visit the gardens. Easter was very busy at Osterley Park with families enjoying the grounds and Easter competitions arranged by the staff for young people. In the sunshine the gardens were looking beautiful and the daffodils were lovely when in full bloom, followed by bluebells.

We held our AGM successfully in conjunction with the Coffee Morning on the 26th April and present Trustees (Douglas Craik, Michael Doran, Margaret Friday, myself, Patricia James, Susan Parsons and Keith Rookledge) were re-elected to the committee and the co-opted Trustees Sonia Sharma and Peter Bush were elected. We had an excellent update from Phil Bruss, Lead Ranger, on the storm damage that had occurred in the Spring. On 17th May Peter Mills, a House Volunteer, gave us an inspired talk on the Treasures of Osterley Park. Peter Bush has arranged speakers for the rest of the summer and early autumn and these appear in the diary at the end of this newsletter.

Margaret Friday arranged visits around London, firstly to Watermen and Lightermen's Hall and to the Canary Wharf Roof Gardens. Margaret is hoping to arrange visits to Orleans House in Twickenham, Mercers Hall in October and Gresham College later in the year, now that most properties are open.

Vikas arranged our first trip since Covid19 to The Vyne on 27th April, then to Knole on 18th May. Further visits will be in June to Wilton House and to Kelmscott Manor in July. The visits are listed in the diary. Douglas reports that 32 people have booked for the Lancaster holiday in August.

The next 100 Club draw will be made at the September coffee morning. I urge you to consider joining the 100 Club or for any whose membership of the club has lapsed to renew.

John

100 Club

Douglas Craik

A draw was made at the AGM on 26/4/22 and the lucky winners Christine Dowell (£40) and Jan Ryan (£100).

The 100 Club is a private draw where half of the £12 subscriptions goes to support Osterley Park and House and the remaining £6 goes into a fund that pays out prizes each quarter. There is always a £100 prize and a second one of £30-£50 depending on how many subscriptions we have had. Each subscription gets a unique number and numbered balls are drawn at one of our coffee mornings (if a winner isn't there a cheque goes out by post that day)

If you would like to join (or increase your number of subscriptions) just send me a cheque for £12 for each subscription- maybe YOUR number will come up next time.

2022 Holiday: Lancaster Thursday 18 - Tuesday 23 August

Douglas Craik

By the time this Newsletter reaches you most of my bookings for this (train, accommodation, entry fees) will have been made but it will still be possible to take late bookings but they may be a bit more expensive as I have grabbed all the cheap train tickets.



Any additions are most welcome. I hope all going have paid by now! Information on the 2023 Holiday to Glasgow will be in the next Newsletter.

Membership update

Keith Rookledge

A big thank you for renewing your membership of The Friends of Osterley. Your continuing support enables us to aid improvement of Osterley House and its facilities. We look as if we will have nearly 200 supporters, just like last year.

The renewal process is compiled with timing and to that end we have adjusted the timing of the newsletters so there will be one shortly before the membership renewal date, the 1st of April.

There are a few of you who have yet to renew and with this communication is a reminder note about this. Regrettably this will be the last newsletter you will receive if you do not renew.

Moving on now to the method of paying your subscription. From the point of view of the Friends the most convenient way to pay your renewal is bank direct debit. Many of you use this method already. It is easy to do, just send a form to your bank. Let me know if you want one and I will be happy provide you with one

In addition, it will make things easier. I used to be able to walk to the bank near me. Recently due to its closure I must drive to a branch to pay in your cheque. That branch is closing now, and I have now to drive a longer distance.

So please consider using a direct debit. Of course, if you use online banking, you can remit that way and we are still happy to receive your renewal by cheque.

One further detail Second class stamp now costs, in old money 13/6p and no doubt will increase again next year. First class is 2p shy of £1!!

A LOVE GIFT ON DISPLAY AT OSTERLEY

Margaret Friday

As this newsletter is published in July it seemed appropriate to feature the silver gilt wedding gift presented to Sarah Anne by John Fane 10th Earl of Westmorland after their elopement. Two pieces, a ewer(NT772315) and a basin,(NT772314) from this fine dressing table set, called a toilet service in the eighteenth century, are now on display in the Yellow Taffeta room. This principal guest bedroom, swathed in rare hand-painted Chinese silk was used by Sarah Anne and her husband when they visited Sarah Anne's mother Sarah at Osterley. (picture of Robert Child and family in 1781) NT773368. An unusual picture for the time as it clearly displays family affection.



Yellow Taffeta bedroom NTPL170062 (left)

Sarah Anne fell madly in love with John Fane, 10th Earl of Westmorland whom she met at a London ball. In his resplendent Guards uniform he stole Sarah Anne's heart. It is said he courted her at Osterley in the Menagerie described by her mother's friend Mrs. Beauchamp Procter as "the prettiest place she ever saw, an absolute retreat and filled with all sorts of curious and scarce birds and a sampan brought from China". The Earl of Westmorland was already known to Robert Child as they met socially. Robert knew that this young 22 year old aristocrat had little money and had loans from Child's Bank. In May 1782 John Fane invited Robert Child to meet him for dinner in town asking him "suppose you were in love with a girl and her father refused his consent to the union, what would you do?" Robert Child's reply set Sarah Anne's fate "Why run away with her, to be sure, take her to Gretna Green." John Fane and Sarah Anne began to plan. When they eloped to Gretna



Green Sarah Anne was only 17 and therefore could not marry in England without parental consent. In Scotland the age was 16 and Sarah suspected that her father might not be too keen on a young aristocrat with little money known as "rapid Westmorland". Robert indeed tried to stop them chasing the couple up the country and inspiring Rowlandson's cartoon "Filial affection or the trip to Gretna Green"

Sarah Anne and John were one of the first famous couples to go to Gretna Green The heiress and the Earl inspired others to dash to Scotland to be married by the famous John Brown alias John Paisley who performed the rites in the Scottish manner and was paid 100 guineas by John Fane. The local Inn was full but the landlord asked Mr

Henderson, an elderly gentleman to give up his bed for the night so they could consummate their vows. Later the inn sold tickets to view the famous room. After a few days the couple went to Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire, country seat of the Earls of Westmorland. Robert Child agreed to an English marriage service which was performed by the Vicar of Nassington at Apethorpe on 5th June, 1782. Sarah Anne's parents did not attend.



Picture of Sarah Anne Fane, Countess of Westmorland with her mother Sarah

Child later Lady Ducie.NT773367. (left)

Robert Child changed his will stating that his daughter would not inherit neither would her eldest son, the future Earl of Westmorland, but one of Sarah Anne's daughters provided she was named Sarah. Sarah Anne had one son and four daughters so her eldest daughter Sarah Sofia inherited her grandfathers fortune including Child's Bank, 38 Berkeley Square and Upton House in Warwickshire. Robert Child died on 28th July, 1782 of a broken heart. Sarah, his widow remarried 9 years later Lord Ducie. Sarah Anne died of a fever whilst living in Dublin on 9th November, 1793 just a few months after her mother. John Fane was

serving as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland at the time. He later became Lord Privy Seal.

This gilded silver set was ordered by John Fane, 10th Earl shortly after his marriage from the prestigious makers Daniel Smith and Robert Sharp. At the time of the elopement in 1782 they were working from the Westmoreland Building in Aldersgate Street, London. These eminent silversmiths made items for the Royal family and prepared exquisite pieces for the aristocracy. They were originally from Newcastle upon Tyne but were working together in London from 1763 to 1788. The set would have been made up of at least 30 pieces including brushes, combs, mirrors, perfume bottles, boxes and pots for make-up, powder, eyebrows, patches and lipstick along with brushes for clothes. It is said to have been one of the last great services made in England. The neoclassical design on the silver gilt shows the coat of arms of the Earl of Westmorland impaled with the arms of the Child family along with fine swags and a cupid riding a seahorse. These reflect the decorations created by Robert Adam at Osterley. The picture below gives an idea of how a complete traditional toilet service would have looked.

When you are next at Osterley have a look at the exquisite ewer and basin made as part of a useful and beautiful gift to the bride who eloped to Gretna Green, Sarah Anne from her husband John Fane 10th Earl of Westmorland.

Gift Aid

Douglas Craik

Many thanks to those who have permitted us to claim Gift Aid over the last few years. Following a review with the National Trust we have decided to cease this as changes in rules have made it less clear that one organisation can claim Gift Aid and donate it to another charity.

If you have previously authorised us to claim Gift Aid then there is no need to take any action UNLESS you pay high rate tax and have claimed tax relief on this donation- in which case then just don't claim it in your 2022/3 tax return, no other action is required.

Following this change we will in time revert to the standard NT Association constitution as we had used a variation of this to allow us to claim Gift Aid.

Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire on Thursday 21st July

Kelmscott Manor - This seventeenth-century Grade I manor house on the river Thames— **perhaps the most evocative of all the houses associated with Morris**—contains an outstanding collection of the possessions and works of Morris, as well as of his family and associates.

(<https://www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor/>)



The house was built by local farmer Thomas Turner and remained in the family for many generations. After George Turner died in 1734, the house was let out. The house was originally called Lower House, but became Kelmscott Manor when James Turner (d.1870) purchased 53½ acres of manorial land together with the lordship in 1864. After James died the manor passed to his nephew, Charles Hobbs, who let out the property.

William Morris and family

Kelmscott Manor was the country home of the writer, designer and socialist William Morris from 1871 until his death in 1896. Its beautiful gardens, with barns, dovecote, a meadow and stream, provided a constant source of inspiration for Morris.

Today it is owned by the Society of Antiquaries of London, and is open to the public on Thursdays to Saturdays during the summer.

Described as a 'Heaven on Earth' by Morris, he loved the Manor house and adjoining farm buildings as a work of true craftsmanship, totally unspoilt and unaltered, and in harmony with the surrounding countryside.

Visitors today can still experience the beauty and seclusion that inspired many of William Morris's most important designs and writings as well as influencing his ideas on conservation for both the built and natural environments.

Please note that the café menu is currently limited to teas, coffees and cakes. The café hopes to be able to provide a lunch offer as soon as they are able.

Trip Cost (including coach & entry):

- Historic Houses Members: **£28.00** (Free entry for HH members*)
- All Others: **£39.50**

(* - Please bring your relevant membership cards or you may be charged the full price for entry)

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park):	9:30 AM
Pick-up 2 (bus stop oppo. Osterley Stn):	9:30 AM
Return (to Osterley Park):	Between 4 – 5 PM

Availability & Booking: *Open for bookings - see attached form.*

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury on Thursday 8th Sept

Waddesdon Manor - The Manor's history started as one man's vision, and became something that's enjoyed by thousands of visitors today. **Created as a place to entertain Baron Ferdinand's famous Saturday to Monday house parties.**

(<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/waddesdon>)

Surrounded by views of Oxfordshire and the Chilterns Hills and just an hour from London, Waddesdon: A Rothschild House & Gardens, is an ideal place for a day out with family and friends. Explore the gardens, aviary, wine cellars and



Renaissance-style chateau built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in 1874 to entertain the fashionable world and to house his collection of fine art. Renowned for afternoon teas, Waddesdon continues the tradition of entertainment and hospitality with events celebrating food and wine, and opportunities for you to explore the Manor's history, collections and gardens through changing exhibitions, talks and tours.

Ferdinand wanted the exterior of the house to be in the style of the French Renaissance châteaux of the Loire valley and engaged a French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. In 1883 the completion of the house was celebrated with the first of many house parties. Running water and central heating were provided from the start and electricity was introduced in 1889.

Very little changed until the Second World War when the rooms were emptied to accommodate 100 children, all under 5, evacuated from London, the first and only time that children lived in the house.

Bequeathed to the National Trust

After the war, James Rothschild, with no descendants and increasingly deteriorating health, decided to leave and the Manor, its collections of national importance and 165 acres of garden and park by setting up the largest endowment the National Trust has ever received.

The house and gardens have been extensively restored and renovated since the 1990s with updated services and creation of exhibition and entertainment spaces on the first and second floors, and the Wine cellars. In 2003, both the aviary structure and aviary garden underwent a 2 year restoration project. With the redecoration of the Aviary in blue and gold, reference to the French and German 18th-century garden pavilions like those at Versailles and Potsdam that probably inspired its design.

Trip Cost (including coach & entry):

- National Trust Members: **£29.00** (Free entry for NT members*)
- All Others: **£42.50**

(- Please bring your relevant membership cards or you may be charged the full price for entry)*

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park):	9:30 AM
Pick-up 2 (bus stop oppo. Osterley Stn):	9:30 AM
Return (to Osterley Park):	Between 4 – 5 PM

Availability & Booking: Open for bookings - see attached form.

Greys Court, Henley-on-Thames on Wednesday 6th October

Greys Court - From a Tudor show house to 20th-century family home, Greys Court has only been inhabited by five families in its long history. The mansion today is a patchwork of styles that hint at the various fortunes and tastes of the occupants.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greys-court>

An intimate family home and peaceful estate set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns.

This picturesque 16th-century mansion and tranquil gardens were home to the Brunner family until recent years. The house exudes a welcoming

atmosphere with a well-stocked kitchen and homely living rooms. The series of walled gardens is a colourful patchwork of interest set amid medieval ruins.

Other buildings from earlier eras include the Great Tower from the 14th century and a rare Tudor donkey wheel, in use until the early 20th century. There is a National Trust shop and tearoom on site.



History

There has been a manor at Greys Court since the 11th century – it was the principal residence of the lords of the manor of Rotherfield Greys near Henley-on-Thames. It lies almost in the middle of the ancient parish and was built on a hillside terrace overlooking the valley to the south.

The current house was built by Sir Francis Knollys prior to Queen Elizabeth's proposed visit to Greys Court in 1574. The house then had a triple-gabled range, built of rendered flint, brick, dressed stone and salvaged materials – much of which is still visible despite many alterations. The re-use of materials indicates that earlier buildings were destroyed to clear the site for the new one.

The house was sold in 1937 to Sir Felix John Morgan Brunner and Lady Elizabeth, who created a lovely garden. The rose garden was designed in the 1950s by Kathleen Letitia Lloyd Jones. In 1981 Lady Elizabeth commissioned the Archbishop's Maze, inspired by Archbishop Runcie's enthronement speech.

The Brunners donated Greys Court to the National Trust in 1969. The house was extensively renovated by the National Trust during 2008-2009. The roof timbers were confirmed to be the originals and have been aged to 1575-76.

Trip Cost (including coach & entry):

National Trust Members: **£26.00** (Free entry for NT members*)

All Others: **£39.50**

(* - Please bring your relevant membership cards or you may be charged the full price for entry)

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park):	9:30 AM
Pick-up 2 (bus stop oppo. Osterley Stn):	9:30 AM
Return (to Osterley Park):	Between 4 – 5 PM

Availability & Booking: *Open for bookings - see attached form.*

London Visits

Margaret Friday

Marble Hill House on Tuesday 19th July

House and garden tour. Meet at the house just before **2pm** outside the house. Cost: **£21 or £5 for members of English Heritage.**



Marble Hill re-opened last month and now prominently features Henrietta Howard who lived and entertained here in the 18th century. Her portrait now adorns the drawing room. Our tour includes the house and gardens which have been replanted in style. Henrietta was mistress to George II but also Lady in waiting to Queen Caroline. She got on well with both of them and was elected "the best King's Mistress" last year after a talk considering the many ladies who

might qualify for this award. She was chosen because she got on with both the king and queen. Her friends included Alexander Pope who helped her plan the garden.



Trinity house, Trinity square on Monday 31st Oct

Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DH. Meet at the house at **1.45pm** for tea and biscuits followed by the tour which will last around 75 mins. Cost: **£20**

The closest stations are Tower Hill on the District Line or Fenchurch Street, a mainline station. Trinity Square overlooks the Tower of London. Today we have a tour of Trinity House. This is the organisation which is still in-charge of the harbours and lighthouses around the coast. Osterley links are through the East India Company merchant ships called Osterley and Sarah Child who after Robert Child died married an Admiral, Lord Ducie in 1791. Samuel Pepys is buried in St. Olave's Church nearby.



CITY CHURCHES WALK with PHIL FRICKERS on Wednesday 14th Sept

Cost: **£7**

As many of you enjoyed member Phil's City Walk some years ago we thought you might enjoy another.

Meet outside Cannon Street main-line station at **11 am**. Look for Phil and Margaret Friday. This walk will take us into several churches where you will be able to sit down to enjoy the interiors and if the weather is inclement we will be indoors. Phil will be giving us an interesting look at some of the most unusual City churches. Some are opening just for us.

John Stacey

Judith O'Flynn wrote: When I think of John Stacey the first thing that springs to mind is him smiling. John volunteered across multiple departments at Osterley, in the House: Room Guide Conservation and costume. With the Gardeners often mowing the grass verges around the House and with the Visitor Welcome team in the Kiosk. And in each of these roles he brought his expansive knowledge and passion for history, a love of people and a roguish charm. John was always quick with a joke and delighted in sharing his knowledge of Osterley with the team. His favourite space in the House was the Strong Room the Silver and coins being a particular interest of his. He also took countless beautiful photographs of the House, collection and Grounds. When in costume as the primary Footman or "old retainer" in green velvet no less he took great delight in referring to himself as "Toby Jug" following a joke made by his friend and fellow volunteer Richard. John Volunteered at Osterley for over 20 years and for those of us who had the pleasure to work with him, he will never be forgotten.

Andy Eddy wrote: John was not only a stalwart volunteer in the garden but also one of the most loved members of the team. His unflinching politeness, flexibility and unquestioning help made him not only one of the most popular but also most valuable. He took over a lot of the weekly mowing round on a Wednesday and could be seen doing the front of Dickie's Border and also around the House and portico steps. We will miss him.

Peter Bush wrote: John helped the National Trust's regional archaeologist investigate areas and structures no longer obvious, such as the Tudor Gardens to the west of today's house, a wall running parallel to the present toilet block and the many ponds and hollows around the estate. A geophysical survey uncovered the shape of the footpaths and beds of the Tudor Garden, and the line of the wall, while an examination of the present ponds and hollows, together with investigation of wartime records of bomb craters helped to elucidate the chronology of the ponds.

In addition to John's volunteering work at Osterley he was a very active member of the Friends joining in meetings, and frequently attending visits and holidays much to the pleasure of others.

John was an active member of the Friends committee where the results of his considerable photographic skills enhanced the articles and reports of other contributors, and were often to be found on the cover of the magazine.

As an artist John was stimulated by the beauty of Osterley throughout the seasons and he has left behind many oil paintings of the grounds all of which evoke the spirit of the place. Few people can have contributed as much as John did in so many ways.

Diary: Friends events and excursions

2022	London Walks	Coach Trips	Coffee Mornings
Tues 19 July	Marble Hill House		
Thu 21 July	Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire		
Tue 26 July	Judith O'flynn. Women Of Osterley		
Thurs 18 Aug- Tues 23 Aug	Holiday: Lancaster		
Thu 8 Sept	Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury		
Wed 14 Sept	City Churches Walk		
Tue 20 Sept	Chris Cleeve General Manager		
Wed 6 Oct	Greys Court, Henley-on-Thames		
Mon 17 Oct	Jenny Louise Kirk -Life as a Queen's Maid		
Mon 31 Oct	Trinity house, Trinity square		
Tue 29 Nov	Vida Radulovic Retail manager		
Dec	Christmas Lunch, to be advised		

Chairman

John James 020 8232 8683
john.james15@blueyonder.co.uk

Parkfield Cottage, Osterley
Road, Isleworth, TW7 4PF

Membership Secretary

Keith Rookledge

07768 596 681
2 West Avenue, Pinner, HA5
5BY

London Visits

Margaret Friday

020 8991 0593
margaretfriday@talktalk.net

Newsletter Editor

Sonia Sharma

editor.foop@gmail.com

Secretary

Patricia James

Treasurer & 100 Club

Douglas Craik 020 8977 6449
friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com

om118 Fairfax Road,
Teddington, TW11 9BS

Coach Trips

Vik Sharma

07876 498107
vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk
50 Montrose Avenue,
Twickenham, TW2 6HB

Coffee Mornings

Peter Bush

prbush@virginmedia.com

Website Editor

Mike Doran

mikedoran47@outlook.com

Committee member

Susan Parsons

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

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	Summer holiday details and booking form
December		