

# The Friends of Osterley Park



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 132 Spring 2024 £1 (free to members)



Dear Friends

2024 brings a fresh year of exciting activities and visits for our Friends of Osterley Park. We do hope that you will renew your membership; subscriptions are due on 1 April.

Yvonne Dias, a long-standing Friend, has taken over from Keith Rookledge as Membership Secretary. Keith has stood down after six years. I'd like to thank him for his work and wish him well in his new volunteering role involving local history.

Many thanks to those Friends who responded to our December 2023 questionnaire. The results are in – Friends very much value the monthly coffee mornings and London visits. In response to numerous requests, we are recommencing coach trips in 2024. Please support them so they are economic to run.

Since the last newsletter we had another very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Grasshoppers Club (many thanks to John for organising this) and started the 2024 coffee mornings with Xanthe Arvanitakis talking about Chiswick House.

Howard

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## **Farewell**



During the past year, we have said farewell not only to Douglas Craik and John James, but also to the following Friends: Richard Cook, Michael de la Mare, Rita Ford, Joan Hazel, Winnie Maunders, Joan Storkey, David Tilley, Ruby Warne and Barry Williams.

Five Douglas Fir saplings were recently planted at the back of the Long Walk to commemorate the many years of service given to the Friends by Douglas and John.

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## Renewals

Susan Parsons

If you already pay by Standing Order then no action is required unless your contact details have changed, in which case please complete the attached renewals form and either email it to Yvonne Dias at [friendsoop.membership@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoop.membership@gmail.com) or send it to her at **Ms Yvonne Dias, 84 Spring Grove Road, Hounslow TW3 4BW.**

Should you wish to increase the number of 100 Club shares that you buy each year, please add £12 for each additional share to your payment. The existing shares were listed on page 6 of newsletter no 130 issued in Autumn 2023.

As Douglas always said: “paying by Standing Order saves your memory and postage and you can cancel at any time”. If you don’t already do so and you’d like to pay by Standing Order, a mandate is attached for your completion.

If you pay by cheque, please send the renewals form and your cheque payable to the “Friends of Osterley” (do not include “Park”) to Yvonne at the above address. It would be helpful if you could also write on the back of the cheque what it is for e.g. subs/100 Club/donations.

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## Electronic Payment

Susan Parsons

In future, if we need to make a payment to suppliers or to Friends, we will ask for bank details so that we can make a payment straight into your bank account. This will save you having to take a cheque to the bank and the money will be paid into your account earlier. In the past, some cheques have not been cashed promptly or even not cashed at all which

means we've had to allow for accruals in the accounts. We will not keep Friends' bank details on file.

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## News from Osterley

Hannah Wiltshire

We've had a good start to the year, with some good weather over the February half-term bringing in visitors to enjoy campfires on the Long Walk and the Craft Cart in the House. We've also had lots of people enjoying the "Life Below Stairs" tours, and the "At Your Service" installation. These offers allowed us to show off spaces that we haven't been able to open for a while, and to explore the stories of the people who worked at Osterley in 1787.

We've got some large-scale projects going on in the House this year which will affect how it is opening. From 13 March through the Easter period, the North Wing and Basement of the House will reopen with Hidden Histories on display. We'll be displaying items from the collection that aren't usually on display, that speak to the hidden stories of the family that owned the House. We hope to open the Entrance Hall and Long Gallery in late April. The State Apartments are closed for large-scale conservation work to the South Wing exterior this year, and so they won't be open, though we hope to be able to do some conservation in action displays for visitors at appropriate times.

This year the Easter weekend comes early, so we'll be launching our annual Easter activities from 27 March to 14 April. Families will be able to enjoy summer fair themed activities in the garden, with a chocolate egg treat at the end. Once again we'll have 'free-from' eggs available for those who cannot have the standard egg. This allows more people to be able to enjoy the trail, and speaks to our commitment to making everyone welcome. Easter is our biggest weekend in the year, so we're hoping for some good weather to bring the visitors in.

Below is an article outlining the mobility vehicles we have available on property, including the new all-terrain vehicle, the Trampler. I want to extend our thanks for the donation from the Friends that made purchasing this vehicle possible, allowing us to offer a better experience of the gardens to more people.

With so much going on across the property, our volunteers are crucial to ensuring we can offer a brilliant visitor experience every day, whether working front of house or behind the scenes. We're currently recruiting for Buggy Drivers, Events, House Welcome and Room Guide volunteers, so if you or

anyone you know would be interested in volunteering please email [osterly.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:osterly.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk).

Thank you for your continued support for Osterley.

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## Buggies

Susan Parsons

In late 2023, the Friends paid for two replacement batteries for the Customer Courtesy Vehicle which is heavily used by visitors between the car park and house. This large buggy was purchased by the Friends in 2017 and named the 'Conacher Car' in memory of Ian Conacher, a founder member of the Friends, our first President and an early buggy driver.



The latest addition to the Osterley Powered Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) fleet is the Trampler. This is an all terrain PMV, meaning it can go all the way round the Long Walk, which the Friends purchased in late 2023. It joins the two seat PMV that the Friends purchased in Spring 2019 and the one seat PMV purchased in 2002.

The Osterley fleet further includes an outdoor wheelchair, a Mountain Trike self-propelled chair and the MT push. All of these vehicles are available for booking: by phone on 020 8232 5050 or via email on [osterly@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:osterly@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Before anyone takes out a PMV, they are given some tuition at the kiosk and have to demonstrate that they can drive it. A map is provided so that the driver knows which part of the garden and park they can explore.

Sarah Sophia was Robert Child's granddaughter and inherited his huge fortune when she came of age in 1806. She was born on 4 March 1785 as the second child of John Fane and Sarah Anne Child. Robert Child, unhappy with his daughter's elopement with the penniless 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmoreland, changed his will to exclude their son saying the fortune should go to the second child of the marriage. Sarah Anne had one son and four daughters, so the inheritance was thus going to the first daughter, Sarah Sophia. She was recognised as a beauty with a fortune and at the age of 19, on 23 May 1804, she married George Villiers. He became the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Jersey the following year when his father died making Sarah Sophia the Countess of Jersey. In 1806 she inherited the fortune and a place on the board of Child's Bank, a post which had been held by her grandmother Sarah and her great-grandmother Agatha. She changed the bank's annual year to her birthday - 4 March. Sarah Sophia and George had seven children: four sons and three daughters.

Sarah Sophia became a vibrant member of Regency society. Her friends included Lord Byron, the Duke of Wellington, George Greville and Prime Minister Robert Peel who subsequently became her son-in-law. She enjoyed being on the board of Almack's, the London club for those who loved to party and dance. It was said to be more difficult to get into Almack's than into heaven. Sarah Sophia had a casting vote and was able to terminate Caroline Lamb's membership when she wrote unflatteringly about her in the novel *Glenarvon* but later allowed Caroline to rejoin. When Sarah Sophia's good friend the Duke of Wellington turned up clad in the new fashion trousers instead of knee breeches and white silk stockings, Sarah refused him entry as he was improperly dressed! At this time Sarah Sophia was called Silent Sarah as she never stopped talking.

The charming portrait of her (on the front cover) by miniaturist James Holmes used to hang in Child's Bank in Fleet Street. When the bank closed last year, it was decided by NatWest/Royal Bank of Scotland to send the portrait of Sarah Sophia to Osterley, as her only London home still standing. James Holmes painted it in 1834 when she was 49 and dressed in the full panoply of a countess with ermine and pearls. As Sarah Sophia visited the bank often the portrait may have shown off her connections with the aristocracy. The artist, James Holmes, was born in 1777 attending the Royal Academy School from 1796. Following his studies, he began painting portraits in watercolour and teaching watercolour painting. Until 1824 he exhibited with the Associated Artists in Water Colours. He then became a founder member of the Society of

British Artists. He painted George IV both as Prince of Wales and King as well as playing the flute with him. His portrait of Sarah is in oils and gives us a vivid picture of the lady who entertained with zest and gaiety - "few women have played a more brilliant part in society" wrote Henry Greville following her death in 1867 aged 81 at one of her houses in Berkeley Square. Later Benjamin Disraeli wrote of her in his novel *Endymion*, calling her Zenobia. We are visiting Disraeli's home Hughenden this Spring.

Look out for Sarah Sophia's small but resplendent portrait in oils when it comes to Osterley.

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## 100 Club

Susan Parsons



A draw was made at the Christmas lunch. The lucky winners were: Stuart Morgan (£100), Elizabeth Bamber (£50), Pamela Mulcaire (£50), Hilda Lilley (£30) and Lesley Barlow (£28). It was lovely to be able to hand over one of the prizes at the lunch and to speak to others on the phone. I always enjoy making those calls!

The next draw will take place at the AGM coffee morning on Wednesday, 24 April.

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## COACH TRIPS

Vik Sharma

### Tuesday, 16 April - Polesden Lacey, Surrey RH5 6BD

**Trip Cost** (including coach & entry):

NT Members: £30 (Please bring your membership card or you may be charged the full price for entry); All Others: £45

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park): 9:30 AM

Pick-up 2 (bus stop opposite Osterley Station): 9:35 AM

Return (to Osterley Park): Between 4 – 5 PM

**Pease book using the attached form.**



Rich in history, the 1,600-acre estate at Polesden Lacey dates back to Roman times and boasts stunning views over the Surrey Hills. Alongside the house and gardens, it includes two working farms, ancient woodland, historic farmsteads and rolling downland offering a diverse range of habitats for wildlife.

The house is the Edwardian country retreat of socialite, Margaret Greville, and home to her extensive collection of paintings, ceramics and fine French furniture.

Highlights of the gardens include exceptional views, the walled rose garden, herbaceous border, and the Graham Stuart Thomas-inspired winter garden.

The estate boasts rolling downland with views over Surrey Hills, ancient woodlands and wildlife habitats that are home to rare birds and butterflies. Ranmore Common was added to the estate in 1959 and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its rich biodiversity.

**Food & Refreshments** - Coffee shop serving drinks, cakes and snacks to take-away or a bigger menu with indoor and outdoor seating. During peak times visit the Beech Hut kiosk for snacks, hot drinks, and ice cream.

**Accessibility** – There is a courtesy shuttle bus between the car park and house subject to a driver being available.

## **Thursday, 16 May 2024 - Hughenden Manor, Bucks HP14 4LA**

**Trip Cost** (including coach & entry):

NT Members: £28 (Please bring your membership card or you may be charged the full price for entry); All Others: £43

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park): 9:30 AM

Pick-up 2 (bus stop opposite Osterley Station): 9:35 AM

Return (to Osterley Park): Between 4 – 5 PM

Please book using the attached form.





A Victorian mansion that served as the country house of the Prime Minister and statesman, Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield. Most of his furniture, books and pictures remain in this, his private retreat. There are beautiful walks through the surrounding park and Chiltern woodlands and the garden is a recreation of the colourful design of his wife, Mary Anne.

Under Disraeli's care, Hughenden was transformed into a Victorian red-brick house decorated with fanciful pinnacles. The manor was part of a secret World War 2 operation.

The gardens surrounding the house were originally created by Disraeli's wife, Mary Anne. Though altered after her death, the gardens have now been restored to closely match the original design.

There are extensive walks through pleasant woodland near the house with formal Italianate-style gardens with Victorian parterre and classical statuary, including pleasure grounds, apple orchard and walled garden.

Over 600 acres of woodland and farmland set in the Chiltern Hills, with sweeping views over the surrounding countryside. Open parkland with beech, oak and chestnut, soaring kites and resident cows. Parish church with Disraeli's grave. Rare chalk stream.

**Food & Refreshments** - Stableyard café serving hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, sausage rolls and homemade cakes. Eat in or takeaway.

**Accessibility** – There is a courtesy shuttle bus between the car park and house subject to a driver being available. No lift access to the upper floors.

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**London Visits**

**Margaret Friday**

**Friday, 19 April - Mercer's Livery Company Hall – Cost £10 including tea, coffee and biscuits. Meet just before 11am**

Sir Thomas Gresham, builder of Osterley, the Royal Exchange and founder of Gresham College with lectures still taking place today, was known as the most generous philanthropist of his day. His livery company, the Mercer's, was the first set up in London. His 1544 full-length portrait is prominently on display; it was the first full portrait of anyone who was not a king in England. The Mercer's also have the tablecloth he had made with portraits of himself and Elizabeth I when she took lunch in Gresham House. Gresham also donated some silver pieces. Elizabeth visited Osterley in 1673 when it was Gresham's new country house. There are a few steps in the building.

Please use the Fredrick's Place entrance to the Mercer's Hall. Take the Guildhall exit from Bank underground station to Poultry, turn right into Old Jewry and then left into Frederick's Place EC2.

### **Wednesday, 22 May – London Wildlife Centre - Camley Street Natural Park – Cost £10 - Tour at 2pm**

This wildlife centre was built on what had become a rubbish tip but some Londoners saw its potential and established this magnificent centre. It is filled with wildflowers, traditional local plants and wildlife including butterflies, birds, frogs, etc. We have a guided tour from 2 pm but I suggest arriving earlier as the café sells excellent bagels, sandwiches and coffee. We can sit outside and admire the wildflowers whilst enjoying lunch before the tour. London Wildlife also look after Crane Island and were responsible for re-introducing the beavers in Greenford.

Camley Street NP is behind King's Cross station. Take Pancras Road (left hand side of the station), cross Goods Way and walk beside the park until you reach the grand iron gates. Margaret will be in the Café from 1 pm.

**Please note there are separate bookings form for Coach Trips and London Visits**

The coffee mornings for Spring/early Summer are as follows, all at 1030 for 1100 in the Study Base at Osterley Park:

**Thursday, 14 March** – Matt Butler - Welcome Manager at Osterley will talk about his role at the house.

**Wednesday, 24 April** – AGM + speaker TBC

**Thursday, 30 May** – Christine Diwell – The history of Isleworth in 20 objects

**Tuesday, 25 June** – Nicola Carr, Area Ranger

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## **Chairman**

**Howard Simmons**

[howard.simmons50@icloud.com](mailto:howard.simmons50@icloud.com)

**Hon Secretary, 100 Club  
Acting Newsletter Editor**

**Susan Parsons**

[FriendsoOP.sp@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsoOP.sp@gmail.com)

## **Vice Chairman**

**Peter Bush**

[prbush@virginmedia.com](mailto:prbush@virginmedia.com)

## **Treasurer**

**Harsha Khatri**

## **Membership Secretary**

**Yvonne Dias**

[FriendsoOP.membership@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsoOP.membership@gmail.com)

## **Coach Trips**

**Vik Sharma**

[vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk)

## **London Visits**

**Margaret Friday**

07930 697748

[margaretfriday@talktalk.net](mailto:margaretfriday@talktalk.net)

## **Coffee Mornings**

**John Collis**

[collis329@hotmail.com](mailto:collis329@hotmail.com)

## **Committee member**

Margaret Lydamore

[melyd@btinternet.com](mailto:melyd@btinternet.com)

## **Website Editor**

**Mike Doran**

[mikedoran47@outlook.com](mailto:mikedoran47@outlook.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](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/friendsofosterleypark) Back copies of the newsletter are available on the website.

Next newsletter: to be published at end May 2024.

**FRIENDS OF OSTERLEY PARK**  
**APPLICATION/RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2024/25**

Your subscription is due by 1 April 2024

**If you pay by Standing Order no action is required unless your contact details have changed.** If you do not at present pay by Standing Order, a form is enclosed. Using this saves your memory and postage and you can cancel at any time.

If you pay by cheque, please send this form and your cheque payable to "Friends of Osterley" (do not include "Park") to:

**Ms Yvonne Dias, 84 Spring Grove Road, Hounslow TW3 4BW**

Please write subs/100 Club/donation on rear of cheque

Membership (Single £10/Joint £16)	£.....
100 Club (£12 per share)	£.....
Donation	£.....
<b>Total paid</b>	<b>£.....</b>

(1) Forename:..... Surname: .....

2<sup>nd</sup> member if applicable

(2) Forename..... Surname.....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Tel No: .....

Email address: .....

(This is used to advise of any "Friends" events. It is not shared with any other organisation including the National Trust.)

If you want a membership card please include a stamped addressed envelope.

Quarterly Newsletter will be sent by email. Existing Friends receiving printed copies will continue to receive them. This costs the Friends about £7.50 per year per addressee.

It is agreed that my/our membership details, including address, phone number and email address may be held on a computer, accessible only to designated Committee members of the Friends of Osterley Park and in compliance with GDPR.

Signed(1) ..... Signed(2).....

## FRIENDS OF OSTERLEY PARK - STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To:	The Manager
Bank Name:	
Bank Address:	
Please pay:	Barclays Bank, 7 Station Parade, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 2PH
For the credit of:	The Friends of Osterley Sort Code: 20-02-06 Account number: <b>70389315</b>
Amount of payment:	£
Date of first payment, frequency and repeat date	Commencing on 1 April this year and thereafter every year on the first day of April until further notice
Reference:	Your surname then forename

### Account to be debited

Name(s) on the account:	
Account number:	
Sort code:	
Signature(s):	
Date:	

This mandate supersedes all previous standing orders to The Friends of Osterley.

Please complete all sections using **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Please return this mandate to your bank.

Should you wish to cancel this mandate, it is your responsibility to contact your bank. The Friends of Osterley cannot arrange to stop the payment.

# Friends of Osterley Park

## BOOKING FORM – COACH VISITS - SPRING 2024

**To book** send form to **Margaret Lydamore**, 27 Swyncombe Avenue, Ealing W5 4DR or email: [melyd@btinternet.com](mailto:melyd@btinternet.com)

### To pay

- Cheque to “Friends of Osterley” (do not include “Park”). Send to Margaret Lydamore. If you want printed confirmation, please include S.A.E.
- Bank transfer to Friends of Osterley, sort code 20-02-06, account no 70389315, put your name and visit as the reference.

Non-members of Friends of Osterley Park are welcome but we ask for an additional £1. Non-members of NT will have to pay entry. Bookings cannot be refunded unless there is a waiting list. Substitutes can be made.

If you want to be picked up for a coach trip opposite Osterley Underground

### *Coach Trips*

tick here  
↓

Date	Destination	Cost NT Member	No. of places	Total Cost	
16/4/24	Polesden Lacey	£30			
16/5/24	Hughenden Manor	£28			

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### *Not a member of the Friends*

Extra for non-Friend event	£1		£
<b>TOTAL</b>			£

Name .....

Mobile number .....

email .....

Name of second person .....

# Friends of Osterley Park

## BOOKING FORM – LONDON VISITS – SPRING 2024

**To book:** send form to **Yvonne Dias**, 84 Spring Grove Road, Hounslow TW3 4BW or email [friendsoop.membership@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoop.membership@gmail.com)

### To pay

- Cheque to “Friends of Osterley” (do not include “Park”). Send to Yvonne Dias. If you want printed confirmation please include S.A.E.
- Bank transfer to Friends of Osterley, sort code 20-02-06, account no 70389315, put your name and visit as the reference.
- By cash at a coffee morning or the event (as long as you have booked)

Non-members of Friends of Osterley Park are welcome but we ask for an additional £1 per visit. Non-members of NT will have to pay entry to NT properties. Bookings cannot be refunded unless there is a waiting list. Substitutes can be made.

### *London Visits*

Date	Destination	Cost	No. of places	Total Cost
19/4/24	Mercer’s Hall	£10		
22/5/24	Camley Street Natural Park	£10		

### *Not a member of the Friends*

Extra for non-Friend event	£1		£
<b>TOTAL</b>			£

Name .....

Mobile number .....

email .....

Name of second person .....