

The Friends of Osterley Park NEWSLETTER



Issue 141 Summer 2026 £1 (free to members)



Christine Craik with Dennis Ahem, Welcome Manager, and the new buggy

Chairman's Report

Howard Simmons

Dear Friends

Since our last newsletter, the new buggy has been formally christened in the name of the late Douglas Craik – see the picture of Christine Craik on the front page with Dennis Ahern, Welcome Manager, who was very involved in its purchase, and a group photo of the support association donors at the inauguration on page 6.

As you can see from the photos below, the bluebells at Osterley have been superlative this year – a combination of the hot summer in 2025, a wet winter and a dry sunny Spring.



The gardens are coming to their best and looking very colourful – definitely worth a visit.

Our visits have started this year both in London and by coach. A plea to please book early and give all the information needed upfront. This is particularly important for coach trips as we can't wait until the last minute to get the appropriate sized coach – these have to be confirmed many weeks out. The Committee members who organise our visits give a lot of their time and could do without the large number of emails having to be sent to elicit the desired information.

Howard

Report of the AGM held on 22 April 2026

Susan Parsons

The minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The Chairman's report was presented and the examined accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025 were presented. The membership subscriptions for 2027 will remain as £10 for one person and £16 for two people at the same address.

The AGM elected:

- Howard Simmons as Chair
- Peter Bush as Vice-Chair
- Sophie O'Donnell as Hon Treasurer
- Susan Parsons as Hon Secretary
- John Collis, Yvonne Dias, Michael Doran, Margaret Friday, Margaret Lydamore and Vik Sharma as Committee members.

At the first Committee meeting following the AGM, the following roles were confirmed:

Chair – Howard Simmons
 Vice-Chair – Peter Bush
 Hon Treasurer – Sophie O'Donnell
 Hon Secretary – Susan Parsons
 Membership Secretary – Yvonne Dias
 Local visits – Margaret Friday
 Coach bookings – Margaret Lydamore
 Coach trips – Vik Sharma
 Coffee mornings – John Collis
 Website/Community/Publicity – Mike Doran
 Newsletter Editor – vacant

From the Interim General Manager

Collette Hamilton

Summary of the presentation to the Friends on 22 April 2026

The National Trust launched a new Strategy in 2025 for the next decade. The three key areas were:

1. **To restore nature – not just on Trust land, but everywhere.** One example was Porlock Vale where a river catchment area has been created covering seven hectares with a huge surge in wildlife. Beavers had been re-introduced at Holnicote. Closer to home, the Langham Ponds and Meadows at Runnymede had 27 damsel and dragon fly species.
2. **To end unequal access to nature, beauty and history.** In Northern Ireland, the beaches at Port Stewart Strand had been made more accessible with the provision of beach wheelchairs, walking frames and beach mats. Locally, the West London Regional Park had been launched at Osterley on 2 March with Ealing Council, Hounslow Council, the Canal & River Trust, Environment Agency, the Mayor for London and the Trust. £1 million had been awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to Ealing Council (ring-fenced). The park would follow the River Brent for 13 km improving access to two million people in West London. The video shown is available at [Introducing the West London Regional Park Partnership](#)
 Osterley was one of three Trust properties (along with Blickling and Dyrham Park) hosting Journeys – a collaboration with Karun Thakar showcasing highlights from his renowned textile collection; Osterley would have Punjabi baghs and Phulkaris (wedding garments) – detail contained on page 5.
3. **To inspire millions more people to care and take action.** The Trust was Europe's largest conservation organisation supported by a large number of volunteers. Heritage open days were held annually. Osterley was part of the Blossom Campaign with more trees and hedgerows being planted across London, and also the London Cycling Festival where a photography exhibition would be installed on the railings by the lake. Osterley would host Hounslow's cycling mela event on 16 June.

Friends commented that, with the proliferation of large tower blocks being built across West London, it was imperative to protect the green land. Whilst there were many Asian visitors to Osterley, it would be good to attract the neighbouring West Indian community. Collette advised that Osterley was working with different communities to improve access and with school groups to encourage visits; Matt Butler had been appointed as Senior Community Manager to foster this. Following the recent visit of the Whitton Big Band, Osterley was hoping to attract more live music.

Concern was expressed about potential littering, pollution and e-bikes being ridden on the property with an increasing number of visitors. Collette said there was a delicate balance between attracting visitors and where they went. For example, the Ankerwycke Yew was one of the Trust's oldest trees and dogs would have to be kept on leads away from it.

Negative comments were made about the car park machines. The Trust project to replace the machines had been delayed. In the meantime, the remaining machines at Osterley would be nursed.

Some Friends could not see the connection between Osterley and Runnymede. Collette commented both sites were to deliver access. It was hoped to feature Runnymede at a future coffee morning.

Collette thanked the Friends for their continued support during the year.

Membership Renewals

Yvonne Dias

Membership stands at 179. We are delighted to welcome the following five new members who have joined since January 2026: Roger Bamber-Cook, Ian Burgess, Graham Kirk, Sheena Logan and Gillian Simpson-Davies.

Most members have renewed which is great news but there are still a few outstanding. For those of you who may have forgotten to renew their membership, I urge you to consider setting up a Standing Order or pay by bank transfer. Please include your surname / subs as the bank reference. It's important to get the bank reference right as otherwise we might not know what it's for.

Friends of Osterley have their account with Barclays Bank:

Sort Code: 20-02-06

Account Number: 70389315

Alternatively, send us a bank transfer using the above details.

Payment by cheque is a last resort. Please send the renewals form and your cheque payable to the "Friends of Osterley" (do not include "Park") to Yvonne Dias at 84 Spring Grove Road, Hounslow TW3 4BW. 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.

Those of you who paid cash for additional 100 Club shares during the year, might like to consider adding them to your Standing Order for 2027; it would save us a lot of time and energy having to contact you to find out whether you still want them!

Lastly, all your details are kept in strictest confidence and are used solely by the Friends of Osterley Park Committee for the purpose of keeping you informed of our activities and are not shared with any other member or organisation without your consent.

News from Osterley

Hannah Wiltshire

As the weather warms up we look forward to welcoming plenty of visitors to Osterley in the summer months. Many come to enjoy the beautiful gardens, the blooms in Mrs Child's Flower Garden, the scent of roses, and the views across the Great Meadow from the Long Walk. This summer, visitors to the House will be able to see something new, as from 22 May to 1 November the *Journeys* exhibition will be on display.

Journeys is a series of displays developed in collaboration with contemporary collector **Karun Thakar** that will run concurrently at three National Trust houses – Blickling, Dyrham and Osterley – from May to November 2026. Journeys will focus on global textiles from Karun's extensive personal collection. Textiles are a global commodity, traded between cultures for over a millennium. Textiles shape our personal identities and homes: from the clothes we wear to the furnishings we choose, they provide domestic comfort and protection and are a mechanism for cultural or fashionable self-expression. The textile displays will use the theme of 'journeys' to explore both tangible cultural heritage and living traditions. They will enable objects and spaces to resonate in new, beautiful and impactful ways with histories currently unspoken or hard to see, inviting visitors to respond to questions from history.

So what will this look like at Osterley? We will have a display of exquisite Indian wedding shawls, baghs and phulkaris throughout the principal floor. *Baghs* are 19th century cotton and silk embroidered shawls/head coverings, made by young women in the undivided Punjab for their weddings and other ceremonies. Displaying these textiles on mannequins 'en masse' in the principal rooms at Osterley will populate these European, masculine spaces with a very different presence and energy.

Osterley is a site of exquisite craftsmanship and design that draws influences from around the world, including objects traded through the East India Company. Osterley has a large South Asian audience on its doorstep who do not currently come into the house - 36.7% residents in Hounslow are Asian or Asian British. Osterley has already begun working actively with these communities, and this exhibition builds on events and programming including Diwali and Eid designed to be relevant to local South Asian audiences. The display will support Osterley's designation as an 'access' property.

You can also celebrate the spirit of togetherness at Eid Fest on Sunday, 7 June. Five Pillar Events' Eid fairs bring communities together for a memorable day filled with mouth-watering food, exciting entertainment, and a vibrant marketplace showcasing local and artisan brands. On Saturday, 13 June Osterley will be hosting the Cycle Mela.

We're also hosting some great outdoor theatre this year. Tickets for all these events can be purchased on our website: [Days out with the kids | Osterley Park | National Trust](#)

- 2 August - *A Puppet Zoo Adventure* - a delightful blend of laughter and learning where animals come to life! Join Steph and Layla as they explore the zoo and the animals that need your help! Gia the Gremlin has put a spell on the sunshine, stealing the sunlight so that no-one will ever be happy again! We need to restore the sunshine before it's too late.

- 8 August - DOT Productions returns with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Travel the Yellow Brick Road in the 60-minute family adventure - a fantastical, fun-filled journey bursting with silliness, songs, and theatrical magic for families and audiences of all ages.
- 14 August - Quantum Theatre bring us their production of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny*.
- 5 September - the Three Inch Fools bring us *King Arthur and the Holy Grail*, an epic quest of improbable proportions - an Arthurian adventure packed to the brim with medieval mayhem. Saddle up - things are about to get legendary.

Within the team at Osterley there have been a few changes over the last few months. Will and Mick have joined the kiosk team as Welcome and Service Assistants. Pete from the café has left and the team are recruiting for a new Team Leader. Recruitment for our Area Ranger and General Manager positions is still ongoing.

We're grateful for your support through this time of transition, and look forward to welcoming you to enjoy the summer season.

Donations

Susan Parsons



The new buggy was finally launched on 11 March on a sunny morning at Osterley in the presence of Christine Craik and representatives from our fellow support associations who contributed financially to the buggy: Enfield, Northampton, Richmond, Wembley & District and the Committee of the Friends of Osterley Park— a great joint effort. A plaque has been affixed inside the buggy (to protect it from the elements) reading “In memory of Douglas Craik, Vice-Chair, Friends of Osterley Park and Buggy Driver”. Douglas is very fondly remembered by all at Osterley as a long-standing buggy driver; he would have enjoyed the smooth drive of the new buggy! It’s been a long time coming and Osterley is very pleased to have the buggy to transport our visitors.

This is the third large buggy that the Friends have either purchased outright or contributed to. The first was purchased in 1994. The second was purchased 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.

Other Powered Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) in the Osterley fleet purchased by the Friends are:

- The black Tramper - an all-terrain PMV purchased in late 2023
- The red two seat PMV purchased in 2019
- The red one seat PMV purchased in 2002

The Osterley fleet further includes a variety of outdoor manual mobility aids including a wheelchair and a Mountain Trike. All of these vehicles are available for booking: by phone on 020 8232 5050 or via email on osterley@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.

Other Donations



We make an annual donation to the gardeners. In 2025, this was used to buy some terracotta pots – pictured left planted up with spring bulbs. The 2026 donation is expected to go towards the new fruit trees being planted in the walled garden behind the Stables.

We also make an annual donation to the costume makers (see Howard's piece in the Spring 2025 newsletter - no 136) headed up by Sue Smith and Sheila Underwood and have purchased many different items from mannequins for dress making and a set of stays to miscellaneous buttons, braid.....

Over the years, the Friends have donated in excess of £165,000 to Osterley – not just to the buggies, gardeners and costume makers but for a myriad of other items, most of which are still in use, including:



- The 'Marigold' dinghy used on the lakes, launched in February 2010. The name comes from the address of Child's bank in the 17th century - the sign of the Marygold (pronounced 'Mary' as in the name and 'gold') and was chosen following a competition amongst the Friends. Its first outing is detailed below.
- A bat detector in 2010
- 5 bird pictures and a cabinet for the coin collection purchased in 1998
- 6 stands for the Parade (or Mandarin) jars in the Long Gallery purchased in 1997; the vase to the left dates from 1765-1775 and was made in China.

Marigold to the Rescue – originally written by Alan Rideout, Osterley’s House Steward

The new Osterley lake vessel Marigold was called out at 18:40 hours on Friday, 12 February 2010 for its first operational mission. A dog had swum across to the island on the Middle Lake and become marooned so an emergency call was received from the distraught owner. Head warden (Jeremy) Dalton and Warden (Ben) Griffith were scrambled with Duty Manager Rideout out in attendance and the rescue craft was duly launched into the dark, icy cold waters. It was manned by the head warden and his trusty companion who rowed across to the island by torchlight and captured the hapless animal. Unloading the said castaway onto the dark slippery bank was a bit tricky but the mission was successfully completed and the wayward dog returned to a grateful owner. The Osterley crew then safely landed the emergency craft and returned to base.

A very well oiled and satisfactory inaugural operation made possible and funded through the generosity of the Friends of Osterley Park.

The then Editor’s note states “I heard later that the dog was a rescue dog called Billy who had not been let off the lead very often. “

Joseph Wilton at Osterley

Margaret Friday

Today we look at the first noted English sculptor, Joseph Wilton, and some beautiful items created by him to adorn Osterley.



Joseph was born in 1722 at Charing Cross in London. His father was a major plasterer and ran a successful ornamental plastering business. He made the ceilings for the new Foundling Hospital. He hoped his son would become a civil engineer, but Joseph decided to become a sculptor. As there were few working sculptors in England at the time Joseph went to Belgium in 1739 to train under Laurent Delvaux but moved to Paris in 1744 to work with Jean-Baptiste Pigalle. Finally, in 1752, he travelled to Rome with friend and fellow sculptor Louis-Francois Roubiliac to learn to carve using statuary marble. He lived in Rome and Florence. Wilton’s sculpture of Roubiliac 1761 is in the National Portrait Gallery. In Rome he met William Locke of Norbury, his first patron and they took the Grand

Tour together. Wilton began to copy classical Greek and Roman sculptures in marble. Many of these were purchased by Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond, for Richmond House. Wilton was the first Englishman to receive a gold medal from the Accademia di San Luca in Rome. In 1751 he went to Florence where he guided many Grand Tourists, including Robert Adam, around Florence and the Medici collections. In 1752 he was elected to the Florentine Accademia del Disegno, being the first English sculptor to study in the great academies of Europe.

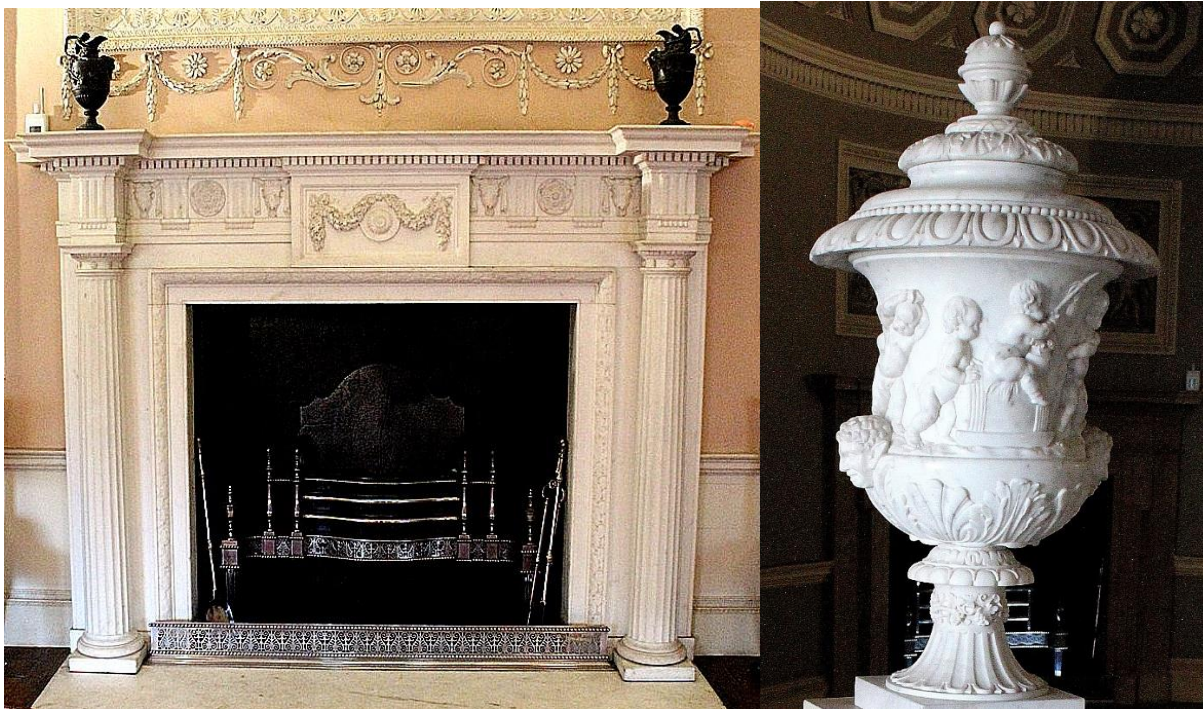
In 1755 Joseph Wilton, William Chambers and Giovanni Cipriani travelled to London together to forward their careers. Wilton linked up with the Duke of Richmond to become co-director of the Richmond House Gallery where he set up a workshop. He began making busts and monuments. In 1761 he entered a competition to design a monument for the war hero James Wolfe. He won and the monument can be seen in Westminster Abbey. The Friends visited Wolfe's home in Westerham, Kent earlier this month. Wilton was then appointed as sculptor to the new king, George III. He made a full figure sculpture of the king to grace Somerset House which was designed by his architect friend William Chambers. In 1766 the king ordered a very large statue of himself on horseback. It was made in lead covered in bronze and shipped to New York city where it stood on Bowling Green until 1776 when it was toppled by revolutionaries. Wilton became sculptor to the empire creating busts and statues of the king and other worthies still on display in Canada, Ireland, the West Indies and all round Britain.

In 1768, Joseph Wilton along with Chambers, Cipriani and Robert Adam were founder members of The Royal Academy of Arts. Joseph Wilton, William Chambers and Sir Joshua Reynolds feature in a portrait by Jean-Francois Rigaud representing Painting, Architecture and Sculpture in Britain. Wilton was appointed Keeper at the Royal Academy in 1790 and held the position until his death in 1803. He is buried at St. Mary the Virgin Church in Wanstead. His monuments to his daughters who pre-deceased him are in Chelsea Old Church. His father had died in 1768 so the fortune Joseph inherited meant that he continued to live as a grand gentleman socialising with Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, Joshua Reynolds and his many friends but spending less time creating beautiful works of art.

The Design Encyclopaedia says "he created sculptures that captured the beauty and grace of the human form. His mythological figures, such as Venus and Cupid, were particularly popular and showcased his ability to create works that were both technically impressive and aesthetically pleasing." Looking at the marble vases at Osterley will confirm this.

At Osterley the elegant Eating Room fireplace was designed by William Chambers and carved by Joseph Wilton (see photo below). The Soane Museum have the signed illustration by Chambers, but no one is quite sure when it was made. Some feel it was made before Adam began to work on the house in 1761 when Francis Child was beginning to make changes to the Elizabethan Osterley. Likewise, the fine marble vases in the Entrance Hall (see below). The National Trust current image list does not mention Joseph Wilton although some previous guidebooks credit him. These, along with the black metal vases now in the adjoining corridors are copies of those found in the Medici collections which Wilton was very familiar with and had copied for other patrons. We know they were at Osterley as they are in the 1782 inventory, but when did they arrive? Margaret Whinney in *English Sculptors 1750-1830* says Wilton's finest work can be compared to Michelangelo. It is splendid to see

the skill of Wilton, most influential British sculptor of the eighteenth century, on display at Osterley.



Photos by Dick Flute

Booking Coach Trips and Local Visits

Margaret Lydamore

Please read the following instructions carefully, and be sure to do exactly as you are asked, giving ALL the information requested. Otherwise the organisers are involved in a lot of unnecessary follow-up emails. Unless you tell us otherwise, we'll assume that you are a National Trust member (or a volunteer); **if you are not, you must tell us.** You also need to tell us if you have membership of another association whose property we might be visiting, but please note that membership of Historic Houses does NOT give you free access to a HH property if you are visiting with a coach tour.

We cannot emphasise enough that, with coach trips in particular, you **must book early**. There are a number of arrangements to be made for a group visit, both with the property and with the coach company, and these have to be concluded well in advance. Our coach trips are costed with quite narrow margins, and we cannot afford to book a large coach if we are not going to fill it. For our summer trips, we are trying out a new coach company which is slightly cheaper than our previous one, so we have been able to reduce prices a little. However, it only runs 35-seater coaches, so we need as close to this number as possible. In future, if by four weeks before the trip we do not have enough bookings to make it viable, then it will be cancelled. If this happens, then refunds would be made, but they cannot be given otherwise unless we have a waiting list.

Whether you are using a booking form or sending an email you need to give **at the outset ALL** the information requested, ie your pickup point (Osterley Car Park or the bus stop opposite Osterley station) and your contact information including a mobile number in case we need to reach you on the day.

While forms are attached, we would encourage you to book by email and make payments by bank transfer, thus saving postage costs. Please email Margaret Lydamore (for coach trips) at melyd@btinternet.com or Yvonne Dias (for local visits) at friendsoop.membership@gmail.com **giving all the requested information**, but wait for confirmation of a place before making a transfer. Most visits have an upper limit.

When making payment, please specify which trip/visit it is for. Bank transfers:

Name of Payee: **Friends of Osterley**
Sort Code: **20-02-06**
Account Number: **70389315**
Your reference: **name of trip or visit***

***Reference** - Please mark clearly what the payment is for e.g. 'Lauderdale', 'Ightham'. If booking for more than one coach trip/visit please use 'coach' and/or 'local'. This ensures that our Treasurer knows which cost centre to allocate your payment to so that our accounts are accurate.

Payment by **cheque** is a last resort. They should be sent to either Margaret or Yvonne as appropriate – address on the attached forms.

Please note that an extra £2 is charged for non-members of the Friends of Osterley Park.

Accessibility - A gentle reminder that when you book outings for yourself or anyone else, please consider the nature of the venue and work out whether you can manage without assistance. Not all properties or places that we visit are fully accessible and many do not have lifts. The outing organisers cannot act as carers, so if you have any mobility or other health issues that mean you will require assistance, please bring someone with you to help.

Please keep your Newsletter and booking forms safe in case you need to refer to them later.

Coach Trips

Vik Sharma

Tuesday, 14 July – Ightham Mote, Kent TN15 0NT

Trip Cost (including coach & entry): NT Members: **£30** (please bring your membership card to avoid paying the full price on arrival). All others **£49** (£30 coach + £19 entrance fee). £2 extra for non-Friends.

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park): 9:15

Pick-up 2 (bus stop opposite Osterley Station): soon after 9:15

Return (to Osterley Park): 5-5:30 PM



Ightham Mote is a wonderfully atmospheric, moated medieval manor - the sort of place that feels like it's been lifted from a storybook. The National Trust invites you to explore around 700 years of history under one roof, with layers of architecture and personal tales from past owners woven into the rooms and courtyard.

Tucked into a quiet, hidden valley, the setting is as much a draw as the house. The gardens span 14 acres of pleasure grounds, orchard, water features and lakes, with woodland edges and plenty of calm corners for a gentle wander. Beyond, the wider estate offers country views and walking trails in the Kent Downs landscape.

Accessibility - The property includes an accessible garden route (including around South Lake), ground-floor access in the house and two accessible toilets.

Café & Shop - The Mote Café serves hot and cold food/drinks; there is a popular second-hand bookshop in the Coach House.

Website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/ightham-mote>

Thursday, 10 September – Penshurst Place, Kent TN11 8DG

Trip cost to include coach and group entry: **£40**. £2 extra for non-Friends. (Membership of Historic Houses will NOT give you free entry as you are part of a booked coach tour)

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park): 9:15

Pick-up 2 (bus stop opposite Osterley Station): soon after 9:15

Return (to Osterley Park): 5-5:30 PM



Penshurst Place is a classic Kent great house with a truly memorable centrepiece: the medieval Baron's Hall, completed in 1341, with its soaring timbered roof. Still cared for by the Sidney family (since 1552), it's also rich in Tudor links - Henry VIII used it as a hunting lodge - making it a rewarding visit for history lovers.

The gardens are made for unhurried strolling with friends: 11 acres of formal, walled beauty, divided into “rooms” by over a mile of yew hedging. Expect seasonal highlights, from structured layouts to softer borders, plus further wandering in the arboretum and lakes beyond the formal core when you fancy stretching your legs.

Accessibility - The visitor entrance is a short walk along a concrete path from the coach park. There are firm paths, uneven in places, in the grounds and the lawns can also be uneven. There is frequent seating in the grounds. In the house, there are 5 steps to the Toy Museum on the ground floor and a staircase with handrails to the upper state rooms.

Café & Shop - The Porcupine Pantry Café is open daily for cakes, drinks and light lunches, as is the Gift Shop.

Website: <https://www.penshurstplace.com/>

Wednesday, 7 October – Snowhill Manor, Gloucestershire WR12 7JU

Trip Cost (including coach & entry): NT Members: **£30** (please bring your membership card to avoid paying the full price on arrival). All others **£48** (£30 coach + £18 entrance fee). £2 extra for non-Friends.

Pick-up 1 (from Osterley Park car park): 8.45

Pick-up 2 (bus stop opposite Osterley Station): soon after 8.45

Return (to Osterley Park): 5:30-6 PM



Snowhill Manor is a small Cotswold treasure with a big personality—shaped by Charles Paget Wade (1883–1956), an avid collector who turned the house into a stage for his passions. He gifted the manor and its contents to the National Trust, and it opened to the public in 1952, so today you can browse room after room of quirky, beautifully arranged objects.

Outside, the mood shifts to intimate charm. The garden was created after Wade bought Snowhill in 1919, transforming a farmyard into a series of Arts-and-Crafts-style “garden rooms,” designed with help from architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott. It’s packed with colour, structure and little surprises—ideal for a relaxed wander and plenty of photo stops.

Accessibility - Access to the garden from the main car park and cafe is a 500 yard hilly walk, but there is a buggy run by volunteers which can take you to the manor (dependent on the availability of volunteers). Paths in the garden can be steep and sometimes uneven. In the house, only 3 ground floor rooms are step free; the upper floors are stairs only. This is a typical Cotswold manor house!

Café & Shop - There's a welcoming café for hot/cold drinks, snacks and light meals (indoor and outdoor seating), plus a shop and a second-hand bookshop.

Website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/gloucestershire-cotswolds/snowhill-manor-and-garden>

Local Visits

Margaret Friday

Tuesday, 16 June – Train visit to Colchester – Cost £19

Colchester was the first capital of Roman England before Boudicca burnt it down. It has a medieval castle and several museums so there is much to see.

From Liverpool Street Station take the mainline train to Colchester Town station (about 1 hour 10 minutes) to arrive before noon. Please purchase your own return ticket, from £17.30 return with Senior Railcard. It's a 10 minute walk to the information centre where we will meet our Colchester guide, who will show us around this area where the castle and museum are. At 1 pm we will stop for lunch. Our guide will meet us again at 2.30 for an historically focused tour of the city centre. After 4 pm you will be free to further explore Colchester or make your return to London.

Cost: £19 includes our guide

Not included: train ticket; lunch, entrance to castle and museums

Wednesday, 8 July – Lauderdale House, Waterlow Park, Highgate Hill, N6 5HG - 2pm - cost £8

Lauderdale House, like Osterley, is Elizabethan but has undergone many changes. They have preserved from the 16th century a fireplace and some ancient beams which we will see. Our guide will show us around the house which is now used as a community centre and art gallery.

The closest tube station is Archway and the house is a 10 minute walk up Highgate Hill – or take a 263 or 41 bus, both stop outside Lauderdale House.

The house has a small café so if you arrive early you can have lunch before our 2 pm tour; please advise Yvonne when booking if you intend to do so.

Tuesday, 11 August – Walk from Temple to St Martin-in-the-Fields – 2pm – cost £5

Meet Margaret outside Temple tube station – if you arrive early you can have lunch in the café next to the station. We will set out at 2 pm and Margaret will show you around beginning with the sculpture park and proceeding through the Temple Inn of Court and exiting near by Child's Bank. We will explore St Clement Danes and St Mary Strand, now in a pedestrian area. We leave by walking through Somerset House and entering Embankment Gardens. After exploring the gardens we make for St Martin-in-the-Fields where we can relax and enjoy drinks or a meal.

The walk is about a mile; there are places to sit along the way.

100 Club

Susan Parsons



The first draw of the year was made at the AGM on 22 April. The lucky winners were: Sandra Hunkin (£100), Sylvia Bell (£50) and Howard Simmons (£30).

The 100 Club is a private lottery and shares can only be allocated to paid-up members of the Friends. Half of each £12 share is used by the Friends to fund projects which benefit Osterley; the remaining £6 goes into the prize fund.

The next draw will take place at the coffee morning on Thursday, 27 August. If you'd like to buy share(s), these are £12 each and will be included in the August and December draws. Please contact Susan Parsons at friendsoop.sp@gmail.com

Coffee Mornings

John Collis

**10.30 for 11.00 in the Study Base at Osterley Park.
Friends £4, Others £5**

The coffee morning dates for the Summer are as follows:

Thursday, 28 May – Howard Simmons will talk about local historic links with the Americas.

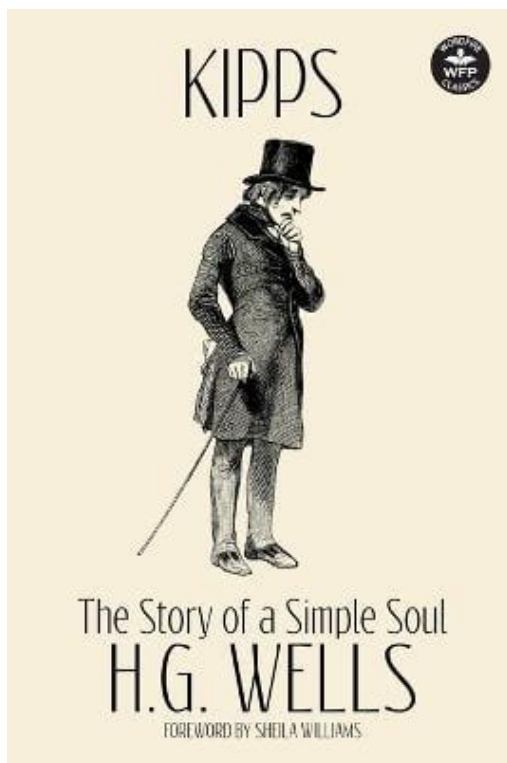
Tuesday, 23 June* – Christine Diwell will talk about Turner's association with the Isleworth area.

Wednesday, 29 July – Ian Molesworth, Munstead Wood. Acquired by the Trust in April 2023, it is the home and garden of Gertrude Jekyll, one of the Britain's most influential horticulturalists. Sir Edwin Lutyens designed the Arts & Crafts house for her.

Thursday, 27 August – Andy Eddy, Head Gardener at Osterley, will talk about what's happened in the garden in the past year and plans for the new community orchard.

*This will be followed by a Behind the Scenes tour of the House. This will involve at least two flights of stairs! As space is limited, please advise Susan Parsons at friendsoop.sp@gmail.com as soon as possible if you would like to attend. Whilst there might be space available on the day, priority will be given to those who have booked in advance.

Osterley Book Group



The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9 June** at 2pm. Orphan Artie Kipps, an apprentice to a draper, discovers that he is the grandson of a wealthy gentleman and inheritor of his fortune.

New members welcome. Please contact Wendy Sim for details: Wendyannsim@hotmail.com

Volunteering at Osterley

The National Trust was founded by volunteers; its chairman, governors and council are still all volunteers; and in its properties volunteers typically outnumber staff by at least 5 to 1. At Osterley some 360 volunteers support the running of the property, spread across most departments from Maintenance to Guiding via Gardens, Rangers, Business Services and others. Volunteer teams run the Bookshop, operate the courtesy Buggy and research the property's archaeological heritage. Despite the well-publicised recruitment difficulties experienced by all organisations which rely on volunteering, Osterley continues to attract consistent interest from would-be volunteers. In the first four months of this year we handled 85 enquiries and applications, 40 of which have so far led to new volunteers joining the Osterley team with more interviews taking place each week.

At the time of writing, volunteer roles on offer are Room Guides, Visitor Welcome and Buggy Drivers – but we'll always try to find the right fit for anyone who applies.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, a good way to start is an email to the Osterley Volunteering Team at Osterley.volunteering@nationaltrust.org.uk – every enquiry gets a prompt and friendly answer.

Your Committee

Chairman Howard Simmons howard.simmons50@icloud.com	Vice Chairman Peter Bush prbush@virginmedia.com
Hon Treasurer Sophie O'Donnell sophie@oldclots.org.uk	Hon Secretary, 100 Club Susan Parsons FriendsoOP.sp@gmail.com
Membership Secretary Yvonne Dias FriendsoOP.membership@gmail.com	Coach Trips Vik Sharma vik.sharma@yahoo.co.uk
Local Visits Margaret Friday Margaretfriiday145@gmail.com	Coach bookings Margaret Lydamore melyd@btinternet.com
Coffee Mornings John Collis collis329@hotmail.com	Website Editor Mike Doran mikedoran47@outlook.com
Newsletter Editor <i>Vacant</i>	

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 Back copies of the newsletter are available on the website.

Next newsletter: to be published in late August 2026