

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of



NEWSLETTER

Issue 95 WINTER 2015

£1 (free to members)



Detail: Curtains in the Yellow Taffeta Bedroom. Photo John Stacey

Osterley Park and House Opening Hours 2015

House* Shop & Second hand bookshop

28 Feb -29 Mar	12-4	Mon *	Tue *	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Mar -27 Sep	11-5	Mon *	Tue *	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28 Sep - 1 Nov	12-4	Mon *	Tue *	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
5 Dec - 13 Dec	12-4	●	●	●	●	●	Sat	Sun

*House: Monday and Tuesday 'behind-the-scenes' guided tours and only basement floor open.

Shop also open weekends in November.

Garden and Café

Open all year	10-5 †	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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† Closes dusk if earlier. Closed 25 & 26 December.

Car park and estate

1 Jan - 29 Mar	7-6	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Mar - 27 Sep	7-7.30	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28 Sep - 31 Dec	7-6	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Admission Prices

	Gift Aid/Standard			
	Adult	Child	Family	Group
House & Garden	£11.00/ £9.90	£5.50/ £4.95	£27.50/ £24.75	£8.40
Mon & Tues	£6.00/£4.95	£3.00/£2.45	£15.00/£12.35	£4.20
Garden Only	£4.80/£4.25	£2.40/£2.15	£12.00/£10.65	

Car Parking £5
Coach parking £10



from the Chairman John James

I write this as 2014 comes to a close. We as Friends have had a busy year, which is reflected in the newsletters.

In November I attended the National Trust London Centres Associations and Friends Groups Local Networking Forum at the London Offices of the National Trust. The forum was well attended with representatives from all the London National Trust Associations, National Trust staff from all London properties (Neil Cole and Megan Tanner represented Osterley Park) and South East Regional staff of the National Trust. There was a strong belief that stronger links between all bodies should be encouraged and regular communication, such as the exchange of newsletters and news of events.

Neil was the guest speaker at the National Trust London Centre AGM which I also attended and also spoke at an Isleworth Probus Club lunch, where he gave an inspiring talk.

The National Trust AGM was also held in Swindon at the Steam Museum next door to the National Trust Head Office. Simon Jenkins retired as Chairman and the new Chairman, Tim Parker, was elected.

Neil Cole, General Manager of Osterley Park and House, reflected on 2014 being another significant year. Visitor numbers up to November were recorded at 62,000, showing once more the growth year on year. Activities put on in the Park and House have attracted many people, especially during the summer.

Our last coffee morning of the year was held on Wednesday, 19th November when Kelly Wood spoke to us on “all things Christmas at Osterley”. She gave us an insight into her plans for the Christmas period. Quite a few things she could not tell us as they were secret!

Those of you who came to the House on the three weekends running up to Christmas will I am sure agree it was a marvellous, successful celebration, with carol singing, volunteer dressed in period costumes, baking on the range in the kitchen, beer tasting in the cellar, family photographs on the carriage and Father Christmas in his grotto. The

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House was beautifully decorated. The Christmas event attracted over 2,300 visitors.

On the 13th December the Friends had a stall at the annual Isleworth Christmas Market. The stall was in Isleworth Public Hall and there was a lot of interest in both the Friends and Osterley Park generally. One new member signed up in the first 15 minutes and a number of application forms were taken.

Within the Friends, changes have taken place. Wei Hei Kipling recently announced that she wished to step down from her roles as Editor of the Newsletter and organiser of London Visits. I wish to record our thanks to her for all her efforts over the years. We are grateful to Douglas Craik who has taken over as Editor and to Margaret Friday who will be responsible for London Visits.

Our next coffee morning will be on Tuesday, 27th January, 10.30 a.m. for 11 a.m. in the Brewhouse when Neil Cole will be our speaker. I hope to see many of you there.

A Happy New Year to all the Friends of Osterley Park.



from the Treasurer

Douglas Craik

Membership and Standing Orders

A notice of your membership details will follow in a separate email. Attached with this will be Standing Order, Gift Aid and Renewal forms (you may not need all or any of these).

If you pay by Standing Order no other action is required.

Those not paying by Standing Order please send payment and Renewal form to **John James** by 31st March or earlier.

If you want to switch to Standing Order, or change your Standing Order for 2015/6 please send it to **John** by the 1st of March to allow the change to be made by your bank.

NB if your bank is the Halifax you will have to take the form to a local branch but let John know you have done this. Don't blame me it is only the Halifax that has recently introduced this rule.

If you haven't previously signed a Gift Aid agreement and you now wish to Gift Aid your membership then please return the form to **John**



Coach Trips

Douglas Craik

This year's trips are launched with this newsletter with articles and booking form for April, May and June. If you have to cancel a trip could you please let me know as there may be a waiting list and it also avoids the coach waiting in case you are only delayed.

NB Because the Lakeside Car Park is hired out to Sky until the end of June parking will be in the main car park as will be the Coach pick-up (unless the House staff come up with a cunning ploy).

The trips are organised by a small team where each person deals completely with one trip so avoiding overloading anyone and also to get a variety of ideas. I would like to thank them for their commitment last year and this, they are (alphabetically) Patricia Barrett, Peter Bush, Rita Ford, Margaret Friday, Pat Herod, James Law and Angela Lynskey .



2015 Friends Holiday

Douglas Craik

BOOK BY 31ST JANUARY

Last year's holiday was greatly enjoyed by 29 Friends and friends of Friends, and we raised

just over £1,000 for the property.

This year's Glasgow based holiday (£500) is from 15th to 20th August and has been covered in the last two Newsletters and has attracted 21 bookings so far with 8 potential ones, but we need a minimum of 30, and preferably at least 36.

If we do not reach 30 by the end of January when I need to formalise the numbers to ensure a place as the University then it **will mean the holiday being cancelled**, in which case I will return deposit cheques to those who booked.

So if you are interested give me a ring or drop me an email as soon as possible and I'll add you to the holiday and send a form out. Priority is for Friends and Osterley Volunteers but we have space for others.

You will have seen that Glasgow suffered a major accident only days before Christmas, for the second year running. I am sure our thoughts are with the family and friends of those involved. We Glaswegians are very resilient and this will not lessen our welcome to visitors.

Chinese Silk and Indian Embroidered Muslin

Margaret Friday

For this newsletter John Stacey shows us a close-up of the beautiful hand-painted Chinese silk which make up the bed hangings and the curtains in the Yellow Taffeta bedroom and the draped dressing-table with its gold embroidered cover also in this room.



This was known as the principal guest bedroom at Osterley. It was the room used by Sarah Ann and her husband the 10th Earl of Westmoreland when they stayed at Osterley following Robert Child's death in 1782. It was the last room created by Robert Adam for Robert Child in 1779.

The bed is satinwood inlaid with rosewood. Cherubs adorn the bed and appear above the windows. The chair backs show quivers of Cupid's arrows.

The 1782 inventory (using the original spelling) describes the Yellow Taffaty bedchamber thus: "a rich inlaid satinwood bedstead with inlaid and gilt cornices, painted taffaty furniture lined with white silk, green silk fringe, tassels. Two pair of painted Taffety window curtains on rods lined with white silk fringed with green silk green festoons and tassels..



A deal toilet table with quilted stuff coat with gold worked muslin cover Jappaned dressing glass and dressing boxes. " These you can see in John's fine picture of the dressing table with the lacquered dressing boxes backed by the curtains.

This painted Chinese silk probably made between 1750 and 1760 was the most lavish and expensive fabric at the time. The silk may have been acquired by the East India Company as Francis III's grandfather Francis, uncle Francis and father Samuel were all directors of the company and his mother Agatha held shares. Directors met regularly and were entitled to attend sales of goods imported by the company.

Many of the items at Osterley were acquired in this way.

The Chinese porcelain dinner service bearing the family crest were

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made for Francis Child the younger in Jingdezhen in the 1720's. The silk fabric may have been chosen by Francis Child when he had the room upgraded to become the first chamber, second only to the master bedroom. Later when Robert Child had Robert Adam design new furniture for the room it was used for the bed and curtains. As part of one side of the bed is only hung with white silk this may show that there was not quite enough hand painted silk to make a complete set of curtains for the bed. The hangings, tassels and curtains were repaired in the 1920's. The silk design shows birds, flowers and butterflies on a pale yellow ground.

This was copied by the National Trust and sold as a silk scarf in the 1990's. Perhaps it is time to make these scarves available again so we can all enjoy this beautiful decorated silk once more. Since the original "toilet table" today known as a dressing table was no longer in the house when the 9th Earl of Jersey gave the house to the Trust in 1949 it was decided a replica should be made so the Yellow Taffety room would appear as it did in the 1782 inventory.

The carpet around the bed and the dressing table have also been remade. Remaking the gold embroidered muslin was not too difficult as a small piece of the original gold embroidered muslin still existed. The town in India where it was first made was contacted and examples of the fabric sent. The special width of the 18th century muslin was copied and embroidered in gold like the original. The skills required for this fine work are still in use in India today. You can see in John's picture how splendid the replacement looks. Next time you are in the house visit this room which links us so closely with the past and the present.



London Walks

Margaret Friday

Margaret Friday has agreed to take on organising the visits to London properties by public transport (the London Walks).

This was at fairly short notice and the winter months are not the best for travelling round the city, certainly at the time of writing temperatures were little above freezing.

So this year the visits will begin in late April or May.



Dressing Table, Yellow Taffeta Bedroom.

Photo John Stacey



The Summer House Photo John Stacey



Yellow Taffeta Bedroom. Photo John Stacey



The Old Plane Tree. Photo John Stacey

Watts Gallery and Polesden Lacey coach outing

James Law

Thursday 9th April 2015 cost £14

Our first coach trip next season is arranged for Thursday 9th April 2015, leaving Osterley car park at 9.30am. We will visit the Frederick Watts Gallery at Compton, near Guildford in the morning. The standard group entry ticket to the gallery is £7-00 and this will be



payable at the gallery on the day.

There is a cafe at the gallery, so if you choose, you can have morning tea/coffee and biscuits or look around their shop.

Ever since its foundation in 1904, Watts Gallery has continued to be the chief repository of G. F. Watts' work.

When Watts Gallery first opened, the

collection included 109 core works, primarily finished oil paintings and a few sketches, all by G.F. Watts, donated by the artist from his London studio in Kensington. The collection was subsequently enriched by gifts from Mary Seton Watts and Lillian Chapman (née Macintosh, Watts' adopted daughter), and has been expanding

through other bequests and donations as well as new acquisitions. I believe there are in the region of over 200 oil paintings.

As an alternative there is the Watts Cemetery Chapel (free) about 400 yards away.

After viewing the Watts Gallery, we will proceed to Polesden Lacey National Trust property near Dorking. Entry is free for members and currently costs £11.35 for non-members.

This country retreat, with glorious views across the rolling Surrey Hills, was home to the famous Edwardian hostess, Mrs Greville, who entertained royalty and the celebrities of her time.

The house has stunning interiors and contains Mrs Greville's

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Wikicommons Wyrdlight.com



theesotericcuriosa.blogspot.co.uk

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fabulous collection of art and ceramics. The beautiful gardens will just be reawakening in early April, and there is a winter garden in case our seasons play up next spring, always an unknown factor!

The restaurant and coffee shop offer home cooking, snacks, etc., using local produce. Plants are available to buy and there is a second hand bookshop. We will depart Polesden Lacey at 4.30 pm and aim to return to Osterley Park for approximately 6 pm. This visit promises to be the

high point of your week, if you're an art connoisseur.



Dyrham Park coach outing Patricia Barrett



Dyrham Park lower park CC BY-SA 3.0 Rwendland

Tuesday 12th May 2015 cost £17 Dyrham Park, near Bath. The house is set in ancient parkland where 185 fallow deer roam freely amongst magnificent trees, breath-taking views abound. (So we will hope for a fine day).

Dating from the late 17th Century the mansion was first owned by William

Blathwayt politician and secretary of state to William III in Flanders.

Rooms are panelled in oak, walnut and cedar. One account states the house contains portraits, tapestries and furniture used by Pepys and Evelyn the diarists.

The original Dutch style and fashion gave way to a very different Victorian style introduced by a later owner. The property was acquired by the National Trust in 1961. There are guided tours of the deer park and the formal gardens.



Hever Castle coach outing **Angela Lynskey**

Tuesday 9th June 2015 cost £27 (includes castle entry)



East House Archive CC BY-SA 2.0

Hever Castle is the 13th Century double-moated castle in Kent where Anne Boleyn was born in 1507 and in more recent times owned and inhabited by the Astor family. The Castle itself was restored and filled with treasures by William Waldorf Astor in 1903. There are exhibitions on the 'Astors of Hever' and also 'The

life and times of Anne Boleyn'.

The gardens are very fine with a topiary, maze and an Italian garden containing statuary and sculpture dating back 2000 years. If you get bored with the castle and grounds you may like to take out a boat on the lake or failing that maybe a browse through the Regimental Museum.

I think there is something for everyone at Hever and as there is a great deal to see and do and there is quite a long journey to get there, we shall only be visiting this one property with the usual comfort stop on the motorway. There are two restaurants and cafés at the castle so if you don't want to take sandwiches you can treat yourself to a slap up lunch!

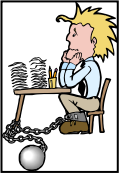


from the 100 club **Douglas Craik**

The last draw in 2014 was made at the Coffee Morning on the 19th November. The lucky winners were:-

£50 Mrs E Robertson, £25 AND £100 Mr and Mrs McMichael– the first time a couple have each won a prize in the same draw.

All members of the Friends can purchase one or more "shares" in the 100 Club. Half of the money pays for the 3 prizes won at each of the four draws per year and the remainder goes to the house.



from the **NEW Editor** Douglas Craik

As you will have seen from the Chairman's comments I am taking over as editor. I am happy to take any contributions or suggestions of items for future issues.

I realise that this issue is fairly soon after the last but we will now have a more fixed timetable to fit with membership renewal and the AGM. I apologise if some of the photo's in the last issue printed copy were a little small– I still have L-Plates on.



Oops! Nobody's purrfect (as my cats tell me) **Last Month's mistakes**

I fear this may be a regular item– errors in the last issue.

The coach trip to Avebury Manor is on Monday 6th July (not Tues 6th). Thanks to the several people who pointed this out.

The last issue was correctly numbered 94 at the bottom of the page but 95 at the top of the front page. I had expected to start doing the Newsletter from issue 95 and took on issue 94 at short notice and so the wrong number crept in. So we will have 2 newsletters headed 95– that should puzzle future editors! If you spot a mistake please let me



The Newsletter by email

We have 40 members of the Friends taking their Newsletter by email which will increase our donations to the Property by approximately £250 per year.

All those whose email address we have will get an email reminder of any Friends events (e.g. Coffee morning, coach trip) about 2 weeks before the event whether you have booked or not—allowing for a last minute booking.

If you have an email address and haven't signed up then just drop me a message. (friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com)



The Newsletter

Douglas Craik

The introduction of the option of the newsletter by email is just the latest of changes in format. The first Newsletter was produced in A4 format in October 1990 and continued like this until issue 45 in June 2002 when it changed to A5 booklet form, the occasional part-colour issues started with issue 50 September 2003. Our President Ian Conacher was the Editor (as well as Chairman) from Issue 12 Autumn 1993 until Issue 65 Summer 2007 when Wei Hei Kipling took over. Surprisingly the first Editor, Scilla McLintock lived in Fairfax Road Teddington –as I do. We have a very good library of back copies but are missing No 2-Winter 1990/1; 56-Spring 2005; 67-Winter 2006/7; 73-Summer 2009; 76-Spring 2010. If anyone has one of these I would like to take a copy, I have little hope for issue 2 but you never know.



The Good Old Days, 20 Years ago

The 1994/5 Winter Newsletter was Issue 16 and was printed on 2 x A3 folded sheets, to give eight A4 pages.

The editor was Ian Conacher.

The key item was about the Friends organising performances of Romeo and Juliet and Macbeth by the Norwich based Albion Shakespeare Company on the 3rd and 4th September. These were done in the stable yard using hired chairs and the travelling company's sets, including tower and balcony. In the Osterley tradition it poured down for the first half of R & J but the 180 audience hung on in. Sunday was better with a "full house".

Work in the House including demolishing toilets at the bottom of the grand staircase and the creation of the volunteers room.

Jim Tickle and Barry Pyle were organising 7 coach trips each year and the volunteer flower growers were led by Lesley Orton– as she does today!

4 Winter Lectures were organised, similar to today's coffee mornings and at a similar cost £2.50. Finally the Friends provided a Christmas Tree in the stable yard and organised carol singing on two Sundays.

Diary Friends Events and Excursions

Tue 27 th January	Coffee Morning: Neil Cole General Manager
Sat 31 st January	Final booking for holiday
Tue 10 th March	Coffee Morning: Megan Tanner Commercial Manager
Thu 9 th April	Coach trip: Watts Gallery & Polesdon Lacey
Wed 22 nd April	Coffee Morning
Fri 1 st May	Balance payment for holiday
Tue 12 th May	Coach trip: Dyrham Park
Wed 13 th May	Annual General Meeting
May	London Visit: TBA
Tue 9 th Jun	Coach trip: Hever Castle
Mon 6 th July	Coach trip: Avebury Manor
Tue 28 th July	Coach trip: Kent & Sussex railway & Bodiam Castle
Sun July/Aug	Teddy Bear parachuting
Sat 15-Thu 20 Aug	Coach holiday: Central Scotland
Tue 15 th Sep	Coach trip: Whipsnade Tree Cathedral & Ascott
Mon 5 th Oct	Coach trip: The Vyne

Coach Trips depart April, May, June from main Car Park then from Lakeside Car park all at 09:30
Coffee Mornings 10:30 for 11:00

Issue	Published 14th of	Contents
Winter	January	Membership renewal first 3 coach trips
Spring	April	AGM papers, membership cards, next 3 coach trips, next 3 London Visits
Summer	July	next 3 coach trips, next 3 London Visits
Autumn	October	Next summer holiday booking

Chairman /Membership Secretary

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Treasurer / 100 club / Coach trip/ Newsletter

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London Visits

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Next newsletter

to be published 14 April 2015.

Included will be a record of your Membership Number and 100 Club shares (if any) and information and Booking Form for the next 3 coach trips and London Walks.

There will also be a separate email document for the AGM.

Any contributions to the Editor by

1st April 2015.

The Editor may edit contributions if necessary.

Additional page for online readers

In this extra final page we will cover topics relevant to those taking the online version of the newsletter

No Printer

If you do have a printer.

For day coach trips or London walks just send a cheque with SAE and a note of which trips and for how many people to Douglas.

For Standing Order and Gift Aid forms drop Douglas an email and forms will be posted out (must have your actual signature).

Printing

From the online view of the newsletter you will be able to print out selected pages— watch that you select only the page(s) you want e.g. Diary. With some systems it may be easier to save the newsletter into your computer and open with Adobe.

Most computers will have this but it is a free, safe program from adobe.com/uk/products/reader.html

Other Questions

Just email me with any questions, if common I will add answers here in future issues.

Any suggestions

Any ideas on improvements to the online newsletter are welcome, just drop me an email.

Coming soon online

For those who do online banking we will introduce booking trips online and making payments by bank transfer in the future.

If you are interested please drop Douglas an email