

The Friends of Osterley Park

In
support
of the



National Trust

NEWSLETTER

Issue 98 Autumn 2015

£1 (free to members)



Photo by Douglas Craik

Apologies that this photo is not of normal quality but John Stacey's superior picture was unavailable



from the Chairman John James

I write this report during the first week of September, following a very wet August all round the country, especially the north of England and the West Country. We had two weeks' holiday in Dorset - the wettest for many years! We still enjoyed our return visits to Max Gate and Kingston Lacy.

The school holiday programme at Osterley Park has been well attended and given young people and their parents an opportunity to enjoy the facilities and the surroundings. To date visitor numbers are very encouraging, on track to the target of 66,300 visitors for the year. You will have seen that the stable yard is undergoing a major refurbishment programme, costing £80,000, while the new garden entrance project is progressing. During the summer Osterley Park hosted their second annual 10K run. 580 runners in total took part and our local M.P., Ruth Cadbury, officially started the event.

Osterley Park will be used for filming over the coming months. This is encouraging as there has been very little over the past year.

There have been a number of staff changes over the year. Most recently Mel, the Catering Manager, has resigned after 15 years' service. We join Neil in thanking her for her contribution to Osterley Park over such a long period.

Our coach trips have again proved very popular with visits to Dyrham Park, Hever Castle, Avebury Manor, Kent and Sussex Railway and Bodiam Castle. Margaret Friday has taken groups on London visits to most interesting places such as Leighton House, Fenton House and Charles Dickens' House. A highlight of the summer programme was the holiday in Glasgow in August, which was a great success and is reported on elsewhere in the newsletter. Many thanks to Douglas Craik for the excellent arrangements he made. Douglas is already planning the 2016 holiday.

Coffee mornings continue to be popular. In June Isaac Rocke, Sports Development Officer gave an interesting talk on his plans for leisure

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and sporting activities during the year. In July Jeremy Dalton, the Head Ranger, gave us an update on trees and their diseases. In late August Ian Grierson, the new Osterley Events' Manager, told us about his background, most recently with Historic Royal Palaces, and gave an overview of events that had taken place during the summer (this coffee morning was very well attended with standing room only!). We are looking forward to our next coffee morning on Wednesday, 14th October when Andy Eddy, Head Gardener, will be the speaker. There is then a change of speaker for Tuesday, 24th November when Peter Bush will give an illustrated talk on "Baalbeck and Palmyra".

I am still searching for someone to take over the role of Membership Secretary from me. If anyone is interested, do please get in touch.



COFFEE MORNINGS BREW HOUSE
10:30 FOR 11:00 UNTIL 12:00-12:30

Members £3

non-members of the Friends £4



Our programme of coffee morning talks continues at roughly 6 weekly intervals. All are welcome and it is a chance to catch up on the latest news from other Friends and staff

The next ones are:-

Tue 24th Nov 2015 Peter Bush - "Baalbeck and Palmyra"

Tue 26th Jan 2016 Neil Cole - General Manager's briefing

The **provisional** dates for next year are in the diary

Three of our planned NT staff speakers have resigned shortly before the relevant coffee morning. I think this is a co-incidence.



from the 100 club

Douglas Craik

A draw was made at the Autumn Reception on the 30th September. The lucky winners were:- £15 Denise Evans, £25 John Buchan, £50 Gillian Webster, and £100 Jeff

Shaw.

All members of the Friends can purchase one or more "shares" in the 100 Club. Half of the money pays for the 3 or 4 prizes won at each of the four draws per year and the remainder goes to the house.

Temple Bar

Margaret Friday

On the cover John has a photo of the painting of Temple Bar in the mid-18th century by John Collett which was returned to the house in 2010 by the 10th Earl of Jersey. The original chain or bar, present from 1293, became a gate built to mark the entrance to the City of London. It was named Temple Bar because of the closeness of the Temple Church in The Inns of Court. Sovereigns entering the City were presented with the City of London's pearl covered Sword of State by the Lord Mayor symbolising the City's loyalty to the Crown.

The picture on the cover shows the Temple Bar which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren at the behest of King Charles II, and built in 1672 to replace the wooden structure which stood in the road marking the end of The Strand and the beginning of Fleet Street at the official entrance to the City of London and the terminus of Westminster. It is constructed of Portland stone following classical style with 4 Corinthian pilasters on each side and the statues of Charles I and Charles II on the Westminster side and James I and his wife Anne of Denmark on the City face of the gate. These figures were chosen to confirm the return of the House of Stuart following Oliver Cromwell from 1649-1660. The statues were carved by John Bushnell. Our painting shows Temple Bar from the Strand with a greengrocers and wigmakers shops, a group of mummers dancing to celebrate the May Fair with tinkers, traders and shoppers in the street. There is a print of Temple Bar from the Fleet Street side in the corridor outside the tea room. It is named as Child's Banking House next to Temple Bar and was engraved in the 1850's by Finlay. The painting on which the print is based is by John Bowles and was made in the mid-eighteenth century. It is shown in the *Osterley Park* guidebook by Eileen Harris of 1994. In 1683 Judge Jefferies was literally in full swing as chief justice executing many for their political views. The heads of these seditious characters were often displayed on Temple Bar and it became known as the Traitors Gate of London. On 10th April, 1696, John Evelyn records the execution of Sir William Perkins and Sir John Friend declaring their heads placed on Temple Bar were "a dismal sight which many pitied". After the accession of the Hanovarian kings many Jacobites (supporters of the Stuart kings) were executed for treason. Christopher Layer's head was displayed on Temple Bar for thirty years. "Infancy had advanced into mature manhood and still that head looked repulsively down from the summit of the arch" said the anonymous writer of one booklet published in about 1790 by John Bursill. When the head was blown down by a wind storm an attorney removed it from the street and had it buried in the floor of a nearby pub.

The last heads to adorn Temple Bar were those of Fletcher and Townley

both Jacobites who supported the rebellion of 1745. Their heads were on the gate from 2nd August, 1746 to 31st March, 1772. These scenes could be viewed from Child's Bank, 1 Fleet Street from the time of Francis Child, Lord Mayor of London in 1698, his son Francis Child the younger and his grandson Robert Child who died in 1782.

On August 13th 1729 Child's Bank issued its first printed banknote and it bore a picture of Temple Bar.

In 1731 Child's Bank then led by Francis Child the younger, leased the room over Temple Bar from the City of London for a rent of £20 per year. For many years before Temple Bar was removed it was described as "a bone in the throat of Fleet Street" because it was too narrow to allow traffic to pass easily. The construction of the Royal Courts of Justice with deep foundations undermined Temple Bar causing it to slip and it was feared that the keystone would drop. The building was taken down – all 2,700 stones. The Court of Common Council wished Temple Bar to be reconstructed in the City but no place could be found. In 1880 the brewer Sir Henry Meux acquired the stones at the behest of his wife Valerie, originally a bar maid in one of his pubs, and rebuilt Temple Bar in Theobalds Park his estate, near Cheshunt in Hertfordshire.

Although Temple Bar was scheduled as an Ancient Monument and grade 1 listed building it suffered neglect and was vandalised, but in 1976 Sir Hugh Wontner founded the Temple Bar Trust with the aim of bringing Temple Bar back to the City of London. He, with the help of the City Livery Companies purchased the stones and in 2001 the Court of Common Council with the livery companies agreed the gate should be rebuilt near St. Paul's Cathedral. It was carefully taken down and returned to the City on 500 pallets. Sir Hugh Wontner's persistence was rewarded when the Temple Bar was reconstructed and officially reopened by the Lord Mayor on 10th November, 2004. Robert Finch, Lord Mayor of the City of London, accompanied by the Members of the Court of Common Council and the Sheriffs pushed open each 2.1 ton gate of Temple Bar, assisted by 14 of the stonemasons who had worked for 14 months on the reconstruction of Temple Bar. The Lord Mayor said "It is fitting that the Bar should be placed here as a symbol of London's history together with its modern role. I hope that Temple Bar will continue to bring pleasure to visitors and to act as a symbol of the City's welcome to the world for centuries to come." Information found on The Temple Bar website and The City of London website.

Recently it has been suggested that the area outside the Royal Courts of Justice and Child's Bank should be made into a pedestrian precinct. If this happened Temple Bar could be returned to its original location without obstructing traffic and become the official entrance to the City once more.

Chinese fish bowls and lacquer chairs at Osterley

Margaret Friday



Our Chinese porcelain fish bowls were made in Jingdezhen between 1695 and 1715 during the time that Francis Child followed by his sons Robert and Francis were directors of the East India Company. They are painted in under-glaze cobalt blue and feature four scenes from Chinese court life. The cobalt blue colour was only

used in the kilns in Jingdezhen often for making items for the Emperor of China himself.



The Chinese table service with the Child family crest were made around 1720-5 also in Jingdezhen.

Chinese fish bowls are usually mounted on wooden stands but ours have been misplaced. As these fishbowls are not listed in the 1782 inventory for Osterley it is possible that they were in the large house in Lincoln's Inn before being moved to Robert Child's new house in Berkeley Square.

Similar examples to ours can be seen in Portuguese residences of the Kings of Portugal - the Braganza's in the 17th and 18th centuries. Katherine of Braganza was the wife of Charles II and helped introduce tea to England. Their fishbowls in Portugal are mounted on tall wooden bases so that the fish could easily be seen. Perhaps we should explore setting the Osterley fish bowls on stands so we could admire them more easily.

In Chinese legend, the goldfish or carp, (li in Chinese) was magical and would become a dragon after it had leapt over the Dragon Gate in the Yellow River. Those carp that are successful in this great leap cause a flame to descend from heaven which burns off the tail and transforms the fish into a dragon. As the Chinese word for benefit or profit is also li the carp represented good fortune. Carp appear on Chinese New Year cards wishing good luck. Students about to sit exams are sent carp in the hope they will jump the dam of exams and succeed in life. The birth of a son is also rewarded with the present of a goldfish to the child. Pairs of fish are given as wedding gifts to symbolise marital harmony. The general word for fish is yu which also means abundance. Since the goldfish represents success and good luck it seems entirely appropriate that the Child family should own these fine Chinese fishbowls with goldfish representing their good fortune.

Information about goldfish was found in *Gilded Dragons* by Carol Michaelson, British Museum, 1999.

The Chinese lacquer chairs bearing the Child family crest were probably made for Francis Child the younger who was director of the East India Company 1718-19 and 1721-35 and were originally in the Lincoln's Inn

house. The 10th Earl of Jersey has loaned a set of lacquer crested chairs and a table to Osterley. They first came to Osterley in 1767 when the Lincoln's Inn house was sold. At Osterley the table and eight lacquered crested chairs were in the entrance hall downstairs - the family entrance, which leads to Robert Adam's grand staircase designed to show off the Rubens Apotheosis of the Duke of Buckingham.



The Child family crest was granted to the Child's of Worcester and London in 1701 and is described as "*Gules, a chevron engrailed ermine between three eagles close argent; on an escutcheon of pretence, a chevron between three leopards' heads for Wheeler.*" Francis

Child, the elder, married Elisabeth Wheeler in 1671. This design was sent to China to be copied onto porcelain and in lacquer. These would be sent to London when complete but the journey from China could take up to 18 months so patience was required.

Lacquer was carefully made using the sap from the lac tree. Once painted it would be put into the earth in a dark, damp warm place until the lac had set. Lac needs moisture and warmth in order to harden. It would then be polished and the process repeated until the desired glowing lacquered finish was produced. Lacquer makes wood waterproof and insect proof. One of the very first Chinese items to be lacquered were wooden shoes so they kept feet dry and would not rot or be eaten by insects. Here in Britain the splendid appearance and sheer expense of bringing these tables, chairs, trunks and lacquered screens home was offset by the fact that the main import was tea but ships hauling tea needed ballast so these objects helped provide stability for the ship. Many lacquered pieces at Osterley bear the family crest so not just made in China but made for the Child family. This was a splendid way to show off the family wealth and taste.

Coach Trips

Douglas Craik

This year's trips are now complete having had 7 very successful trips, The trial of picking up from the bus stop opposite Osterley Station on A4, (as well as from the Osterley Park car park), proved successful and will be continued next year for all trips. Your team of volunteers are hard at work planning next year monthly trips. Information and booking form for the April and May ones will be in the January 2016 Newsletter along with all the dates for 2016.

In line with many other NT groups e.g. Ealing, we have added a condition to booking outings (coach trips/London Visits/Holidays)

If you are not independently mobile (this includes using a stick) then you must have a named person (not the outing organiser) willing and able to give you any assistance required



West corridor with Chairs and Fishbowls Photo John Stacey

Falkirk Wheel

The printed version of the Newsletter has a double page photo in the centre. This on line version has the same photo on one page.

In order to keep the subsequent page numbers the same I insert an additional page of photo's.

In this addition I show the clockwise rotation of the wheel.

Basically the Wheel is a 100 foot long arm pivoted in the centre with a "bucket" at the top and bottom. Each "bucket" holds 600 tons of water, boat(s) and up to 100 people.

When the Wheel rotates over 4 minutes raising the bottom bucket to the top these buckets balance each other so only power to overcome a little friction is needed– about the same as boiling 7-8 kettles!



The Scottish Holiday

Douglas Craik

This years trip was the first I have organised but I used my local knowledge, experience of Project Management and some ex-army skills (not parade ground ones) to plan it.

The weather was exceptionally good and I was slightly relieved that we had some rain one day as I had forecast this as the normal.

Travel Part of the group assembled at Osterley Underground and arrived early at Euston Station where the others joined us, the recommended half hour to load ourselves and luggage proved very necessary.

Accommodation Strathclyde University had the usual basic rooms in groups of six with a kitchen/sitting room (some of us didn't find this for a day or so as it was unadvertised and had no sign on the door). The gardens were of a high quality as was the food with each evening having different 3-4 main courses. The staff were very helpful and cheery even when several of the group locked themselves out of their rooms. The presence of some of the competitors in the World Pipe Band Championships on the first two nights created a bit of a "hum" in the bar late into the evening but fortunately no pipes or drums were involved.

Transport I was surprised that we had 3 different drivers, each for 2 days with different coaches but David, William and Jim proved very competent and helpful. David's father, Michael Kelly, was the Lord Provost



The group at the Burn's Museum



Strathclyde campus



Pollock House



Burrell Museum



Scotland Street School



Culzean Castle



Glasgow Cathedral



Falkirk Wheel



Kelpies



Gladstone's Land



Robert the Bruce

(Mayor) of Glasgow in the early eighties and started the rejuvenation of Glasgow. **Visits** Over the week we visited 4 National Trust for Scotland buildings, Pollock House, Georgian House, Gladstone's Land and Culzean Castle; 2 Glasgow Museums:- the Burrell and Scotland Street School; NTS Battle of Bannockburn Centre, the NTS Robert Burns Museum, the Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies. Our visit to Edinburgh coincided with the Edinburgh Festival with many "interesting" street acts. Seven of the group stayed on in Edinburgh returning by train.

On the last morning many of the group visited Glasgow Cathedral and Provand's Lordship (1417 house).

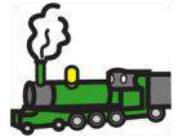
The groups timekeeping was very good over the whole trip!

Finally I would like to thank the group for a generous collection for me which I have spent on whisky, wine and wild, wild women—and squandered the rest. I would also like to thank the holiday makers who have kindly sent me thank-you cards and messages



Holiday 2016

Douglas Craik



My wife and I carried out a reconnaissance visit to west Devon/east Cornwall in July seeing 12 NT properties in 3 days including the wettest

day of the year! The approach to most properties is by narrow twisting lanes. The coach drop off points are close to either the property or a buggy pick-up point. We will be going by train to the holiday location, though no cheaper and only slightly quicker than coach, it means we have a local driver, important in the south west. The Friends last stayed in Cornwall in 2006 and visited nearly all the NT properties in the county and as the University accommodation used then is no longer available I have booked Plymouth University. I have already had five bookings before this advert!

Sunday 7/8/16 Coach from Osterley UG station mid morning to Reading, train to Plymouth (with option of individuals taking same train from Paddington). On arrival early afternoon coach to **Saltram** a Georgian Mansion on the edge of Plymouth with a Robert Adam's Neo-classical Saloon. Then to the city centre University accommodation.

Monday 8/8/16 We will start our holiday with a day in Plymouth, initially to the Mayflower museum then, subject to the weather, have a one hour sail round the bay. On landing we will have a look around the historic Barbican area, with many opportunities for lunch, and on to an afternoon guided tour of the **Royal Citadel** built for King Charles II in the late 1660s to the design of Sir Bernard de Gomme. At the eastern end of Plymouth Hoe overlooking Plymouth Sound, this is an active Royal Artillery Commando base so don't touch anything!

Tuesday 9/8/16

We go to **Lanhydrock**, a magnificent late Victorian country house with gardens and wooded estate
After a devastating fire in 1881 in the Jacobean house was refurbished high-Victorian style, with the best in country house design and planning and the latest mod-cons.

There are beautiful herbaceous borders, a fabulous formal parterre and colourful higher gardens filled with camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons. On to **Antony**, a superb early 18th-century mansion with unique history of a family who became caught up in the

extraordinary events of the English Civil War. It's believed to be one of the finest surviving Queen Anne buildings in the West Country with an outstanding collection of portraits, including works by Sir Joshua Reynolds and a famous painting of Charles I during his trial.

Wednesday 10/8/16 Visit **Greenway**, the Georgian holiday home of the famous and much-loved author Agatha Christie and her family. This relaxed and atmospheric house is set in the 1950s. Next **Coleton Fishacre** the country home of the D'Oyly Carte family, built in the Arts & Crafts style, is imbued with 1920's elegance. The very narrow roads will restrict us to a 24 seat coach so limiting our group size but if there are more than 24 of us then we will use two small coaches. With one group visiting Greenway then Coleton and the other vice-versa.

Thursday 11/8/16 off to **Cotehele** a Tudor house which was the ancestral home to the Edgcumbe family for centuries and is decorated with tapestries, arms and armour, pewter, brass and old oak furniture. Then to **Buckland Abbey**, built by the Cistercians 700 years ago. The Abbey is part museum, part house, and filled with treasures such as the legendary Drake's Drum. The magnificent Great Barn has remained virtually unchanged since it was built.

Friday 12/8/16 Time to return to London, you will return to the place you joined the trip unless you request otherwise. We will leave after mid-day allowing a last chance to look round Plymouth by going by coach to the Barbican where you can have a couple of hours to look around (and have coffee). The exact time of coach/train will be known early June. The South West is not an area I know so you will be spared any tales and music from me (those who went on the Scottish tour this year may well be relieved by this).

There are many restaurants in Plymouth (with a fishy bias) mainly in the Barbican area (30 minute walk or taxi) so again this year there is the option to not take (or pay for) meals in the University every night.

As last year there is a two stage booking process. The initial booking form is enclosed. A second one asking about which meals you want and start points for the holiday (Paddington, Osterley Underground or Reading) will come with booking confirmation. Note your deposit cheque will not be banked before end of January.

Holiday Booking Notes

I would like deposits by **31st January 2016** and balance by **1st May**.

- The initial booking form is enclosed, if you lose it just ring/email me for a replacement.
- Please note the mobility question.
- Note NT membership requirement or a large additional cost.
- Those travelling from Paddington will be together but probably separate from those boarding at Reading.
- We welcome those not members of the Friends of Osterley Park but ask a small (£1 per day) addition for all of our outings.
- When I confirm your deposit booking I will include all the information from your booking form for you to check.
- This can be varied when you pay balance, just put in a note of any changes



The Newsletter - 15 Years ago Douglas Craik

The September 2000 newsletter contained quite a bit about musical events in the park. Over that summer there had been a Jazz Band, a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" and a Glen Miller concert accompanied by the audience dancing in the driveway and followed by a firework display which ran late threatening a rebuke from Heathrow. The R&J performance was described as "a vigorous style.. (which left the writer) wondering whether this really suited a classical tragedy." Sounds like a rather fun loving lot of actors.

There was also notice of two carol concerts in the stable yard at Christmas. Unusually there were two "Osterley Days" this year with both well attended with many local stalls including two run by the Friends raising funds for the house.

Also reported was the start of Allan and Liz Rideout's time at Osterley which lasted about a dozen years. They are now at Batemans but Liz continues to visit the property whilst Alan does his voluntary steward role at St Georges Chapel, Windsor which he has now done for over 40 years.



London Visits

Margaret Friday

This years programme is now complete having had 7 interesting and varied visits. Planning has started for next year. Information and the booking form for the April and May ones will be in the January 2016 Newsletter along with all the dates for 2016.

Diary Friends Events and Excursions

Provisional dates after January

Tue 24 th Nov	Coffee Morning: Speaker Peter Bush
Tue 26 th Jan	Coffee Morning: Speaker Neil Cole
Tue 8 th Mar	Coffee Morning: TBA
Wed 13 th Apr	Coffee Morning: TBA Newsletter distribution
Wed 11 th May	AGM 7:00 for 7:30
Tue 7 th June	Coffee Morning: TBA
Wed 13 th Jul	Coffee Morning: TBA Newsletter distribution
Sun 7 th –Fri 12 th Aug	Summer Holiday
Wed 24 th Aug	Coffee Morning: TBA
Wed 28 th Sep	25 th Anniversary of the Friends, 7:00 for 7:30
Tue 25 th Oct	Coffee Morning: TBA
Wed 30 th Nov	Coffee Morning: TBA

Coach Trips depart from Lakeside Car park at 09:30 and Bus Stop opposite Osterley Station at 09:30 sharp.
Coffee Mornings 10:30 for 11:00



Delivery of the Newsletter Douglas Craik

We have had several ways of providing members with their Newsletter including by email (this coloured version) and by hand by volunteers (we are looking to expand this, any volunteers let John James know).

From July we have added another postage free method:- there will be a coffee morning within a day or so of some of the quarterly publish dates (see above) and individually addressed Newsletters will be available to collect. Yours will of course come by email before this but you might want to take and deliver a nearby friend's one..

The balance will then be posted or hand delivered

Additional pages for online readers

This covers topics relevant to those taking the online version of the newsletter.

No Printer

If you do have a printer, if you do online banking then see next page. Otherwise 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.

Online readers

We now have over 50 Friends taking the online Newsletter (about half of those with email) please encourage others to join us.

Email booking of trips

For Friends who use on line banking we now offer the option of booking Coach trips or London Visits by email, this is quicker and will save you over a pound in postage.

1. email friendsofosterleypark@gmail.com with your names of trippers, name of trip and amount being paid and where you want to be picked up, for example

Jane Smith and Harry Smith, 2 Friends for Vyne = £30 opposite Osterley UG,

Jane Smith and Jill Brown, Friend & guest for Fenton House = £7, at Car Park

Total £39

2. I will email back confirming booking, or very occasionally saying that there is a waiting list.

3. You make a bank transfer to

Name of Payee	Friends of Osterley
Sort code	20 02 06
Account number	70389315
Your Reference	Trips/<i>your name</i>

4. Once transfer received I will email your tickets to you.