



## LECTURES AND VISITS: DECEMBER 2013 TO JUNE 2014

All lectures will be held in The Old Kitchen and will begin at 10.30 am

Sunday 8 December **Garden Cities**

Dr Nicola Smith

The Garden City movement grew out of Victorian concerns with urban overcrowding and squalor in the wake of industrialisation and population growth. In 1898 Ebenezer Howard proposed a new relationship between town and country, with a planned environment where people could live healthier lives in harmony with nature. This lecture explores the origins and development of the movement and will consider Hampstead Garden Suburb's place in it. Dr Smith is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a director of Art Pursuits UK, a company organising short courses, study days and tours.

**Followed by our Christmas Party**



Sunday 19 January **A Who's Who at the Elizabethan Court: an album of armour designs at the Victoria and Albert Museum**

Angus Patterson

One of the great treasures of the V&A is an exquisite album of armour designs compiled at the English Royal Armoury in Greenwich between 1557 and 1587. It records in vivid detail, notable commissions including armours for the Queen's favourites, Sir Robert Dudley, Sir Christopher Hatton and Sir Henry Lee. The manufacture of armours called for the combined skills of many craftsmen. Their use demanded the skills of the courtier, the soldier, the diplomat, the sportsman, the actor and the daredevil. Angus Patterson is a Senior Curator at the V&A with an expertise in arms and armour and has written extensively on the subject. This album is one of his passions.

Sunday 16 February **The Changing Faces of Fame: From Watts to Warhol, From Garbo to Gaga**

Dickins

Rob

Our

lecturer will show how our perception of the famous and celebrated has been moulded by their portraits. Rob has spent 40 years in the music industry (he was chief executive of Time Warner Europe), and he will share his observations on how fame is portrayed in the work of painters, photographers and graphic artists. The famous have never been so omnipresent as they are today but with all this sensory overload how will they be remembered in the years to come? This is a lecture with dazzling imagery and technical wizardry.

Sunday 16 March **Jean Etienne Liotard**

Dr MaryAnne Stevens

The Swiss-born Liotard (1702-89) was a brilliant pastellist, who moved from the exotic world of Constantinople via Paris and Vienna to London and Geneva. He had several British sitters and patrons and enjoyed a successful cosmopolitan career. Our lecturer is the recently retired Director of Academic Programmes at the Royal Academy, and the curator of many of its show-stoppers, including the recent Manet exhibition.

Sunday 13 April (following the AGM) **Catherine the Great: Empress of all the Russias**

Dr Rosamund Bartlett

This lecture tells the remarkable story of how an obscure German princess married a Russian Tsar, fended off accusations of murder and illegitimacy and rose to become one of the most illustrious monarchs in history. By the time of her death in 1796, she had transformed the Russian Empire into one of the great powers of Europe. To achieve this, she was a ruthless despot. She created a brilliant court and led a scandalous personal life. A peerless collector of art; the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg is a lasting testament to Catherine's legacy. Dr Bartlett is a specialist in Russian literature and music on which she has written extensively. She previously lectured to the Friends on Russian art in the revolutionary years of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Sunday 18 May **African People in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Art**

Professor David Bindman

Kenwood has a particular association with people of African descent because Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate daughter of one of Lord Mansfield's nephews and a black woman, lived in the house and was clearly the object of affection, as is obvious from a portrait of her with Lady Elizabeth Murray. Though there are many paintings of black slaves and servants in the 18th century only a few black people can be identified by their names. Even so the campaigns against the slave trade - to a degree initiated by one of Lord Mansfield's judgements - did lead to recognition of their talents and paintings of a number of them survive by the very best artists of the day, including Reynolds and Gainsborough. Professor Bindman became interested in the representation of non-Europeans in Western Art and is an editor of the multi-volume 'The Image of the Black in Western Art'.

Sunday 15 June **Sargent the Plein-Air Painter**

Richard Ormond

A dazzling exhibition of Sargent's water-colours in America (2013-14) reminds us of what a gifted landscape painter he was, quite apart from his portraits. Our lecturer, joint-author of the nine-volume catalogue raisonné, has tracked Sargent across the world, and

identified many of the sites where he painted. Drawing on family manuscripts and photographs, Richard brings to life the artist as a compulsive sketcher and the many beautiful places he recorded, chief among them the magical city of Venice.

## VISITS

Monday 17 February at 11.45am **GOLDSMITHS' HALL** The Goldsmiths' Company, one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London, was established as a medieval guild in 1327 to regulate the craft of the goldsmith, testing the quality of precious metals and hallmarking, a function it continues to carry out. It is also responsible for checking the validity of the coinage produced by the Royal Mint known as the 'Trial of the Pyx'. For a Company that deals with precious metals it is housed in a suitably sumptuous building, the third on the site, which opened in 1835. Our tour takes us through the main public rooms, which includes the vast gilded livery hall, emblazoned with magnificent chandeliers. We shall hear about the Company's seven-hundred year history, learn about its functions and ceremonies as well as seeing some of the magnificent plate and jewellery on display.

We meet at the entrance to Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, EC2V 6BN. The cost is £5 and the tour lasts about an hour.

Thursday 8 May All day visit: 9.15am to 6.00pm. **THE MARY ROSE MUSEUM, PORTSMOUTH** Last May, a state of the art museum was opened to tell the story of Henry VIII's flagship, the 'Mary Rose', which sunk in Portsmouth Harbour on 19 July 1545. The ship was discovered in 1971 and some of us may remember seeing film of the nail-biting operation of raising the ship in 1982. After years of research and conservation, the Tudor ship was ready for its after life as a museum of naval and social history. It is also, most importantly, a poignant memorial to the 500 men who lost their lives. Within sight of Nelson's 'Victory', the museum displays the ship's hull and tells the story of the men who sailed in her through the thousands of objects rescued from the seabed. The museum won the British Guild of Travel Writers' top annual tourism award for 2013.

Paul Griffiths, Head of Operations, and formerly at Kenwood has most generously invited Friends to visit the museum, which is already getting booked up for 2014. He will welcome us on arrival and introduce us to the museum. After lunch we shall have plenty of time to see the displays. We are limited in numbers, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We meet at Kenwood at 9.15am. The cost is £45 and includes coach travel, coffee on arrival and lunch. We shall return to Kenwood at about 6.00pm.

Contact [visits@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:visits@friendsofkenwood.org.uk)

## PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE BOOKING FORM FOR EACH VISIT AND BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO ALL EVENTS

### GARDEN VISITS

Wednesday 29 January 2014 **Walk around the Kenwood Estate with Bettina Metcalf**

Meet by the benches on the south side of Kenwood House at 11.00 am

In this participatory walk around Kenwood Estate, we will be looking at bark, buds and tree shape to help us identify trees when they are not in leaf.

Please wear stout footwear and warm clothing as we will be moving slowly and spending some of the time standing still.

The walk is expected to take about 1-1½ hours along the way.

Bettina Metcalfe is a tree enthusiast and an active member of a number of tree groups.

Wednesday 14 May **Garden Tour**

Meet by the benches on the south side of Kenwood House at 10.30 am

Come and join the Head Gardener, Paul Jackson, on a spring time meander around the Kenwood landscape.

Friday 30 May **Spring walk at Kenwood looking at trees with Bettina Metcalf**

Meet by the benches on the south side of Kenwood House at 10.00 am

In this spring walk around Kenwood, we will be looking at trees on the Estate in order to identify them.

Please wear stout footwear and clothing suitable for changeable spring weather.

This walk will provide an opportunity to learn how to identify trees and will be suitable for beginners and those who know a little more. Participants will be able to appreciate the great variety of trees that have been planted on the estate over the years.

Bettina Metcalfe is a tree enthusiast and an active member of a number of tree groups.

Contact [gardens@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:gardens@friendsofkenwood.org.uk)

