



Newsletter number 110 June 2013

## GOOD NEWS! KENWOOD HOUSE RE-OPENS AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER

### ENTRANCE HALL RESTORATION APPEAL

*Thank you* to the many Friends of Kenwood who have supported our Entrance Hall Appeal so generously. Numerous people have donated and we are delighted that with your help, we can play such a significant part in the Caring for Kenwood Project. Donations are still coming in, which is absolutely fantastic, and we will continue to be extremely grateful for further donations from you until the House reopens and the Entrance Hall is complete. *Many thanks for showing such wonderful support!*

### RECENTLY FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS



This original historic window seat is currently being upholstered in crimson silk damask, as listed in the original invoice of 1770. It will grace one of the window recesses in the Library.

### “HARD HAT” TOUR

Thursday 28 February 2013

Friends, led by Laura Houlston (Curator, Collections), enjoyed a preview of the re-presentation of the rooms at Kenwood. The treasures of Kenwood are either on tour, or safely stored, leaving the rooms filled with

building material and the sound of hammering. Research into the wall paint of the exterior of the North Front revealed many layers of a sanded paint intended to simulate stone and this effect will be recreated. During winter months a ‘coal’ fire will burn in the Adam fireplace in the Entrance Hall. A chimney board will be in place in warmer weather. The Welcome desk will be replaced by a central purpose-designed hexagonal table displaying leaflets and information. To complete the feeling of a country home a new carpet has been commissioned. Mansfield family portraits will be on display in the hall. Research has unveiled some surprises. The floor of the **Library** has its original northern pine floor boards. Exploration is going on regarding how best to protect them. It was also discovered that the mouldings within the room, including those surrounding the Zucchi paintings, were painted white in the Adam scheme of 1770. Surprisingly, the wrought iron banisters of the **deal staircase** were once blue, similar in colour to that found at Osterley Park.



**Lord Mansfield's Dressing Room** and the south front rooms will feel more domestic in approach. Paintings will be double hung and well lit; there will be yellow damask festoon curtains and a custom-woven carpet.

**The Breakfast Room** will have pale green walls, blue damask curtains and contain Lord Iveagh's desk.



**Lady Mansfield's Dressing Room** will have orange walls and flowery chintz curtains.

Another pleasing aspect will be the addition of black leather sofas for visitors. This glimpse of how the House will look was exciting and we look forward to the reopening.

### **VISIT TO CHISWICK HOUSE**

Thursday 13 September 2012

On a dazzling autumn day a score of Friends enjoyed an excellent visit to this early Georgian villa and gardens in West London. Chiswick House was built in the late 1720s by the third Earl of Burlington, a rich young connoisseur and patron of the arts. The design was his own, assisted by William Kent – whom he had first met, appropriately, on the Grand Tour in Rome. More exactly, it was inspired by Andrea Palladio and his English follower Inigo Jones, both acknowledged with statues flanking the front portico. The special importance of Chiswick House is that it established Palladian classicism as the norm for grand houses in Britain in the eighteenth century. Yet it was not itself intended for habitation, but precisely to exhibit Burlington's taste in architecture, interior décor, furniture, sculpture and painting. This is celebrated in Pope's 'Epistle to Burlington' (1731) which is best known for its recommendation to architects and gardeners to 'Consult the genius of the place in all'. The spirit of the location is not in fact particularly evident in the gardens of Chiswick House, which though very pleasing to explore are quite formal.

But the idea contributed much to the distinctly English 'landscape garden' which emerges in the 1730s – modestly exemplified in the later creation of the lake and meadow at Kenwood itself. Our party at Chiswick House were given a most informative and fascinating private tour by Laurence Rich of English Heritage. I thank Angela Cox for arranging such an interesting and enjoyable visit.

*Robin Howells*

### **VISIT TO ST PANCRAS HOTEL**

Thursday 23 February 2013

Royden Stock gave us the benefit of more than twenty years working with the St Pancras Hotel project. It was a witty, informative tour of the splendours of the re-born Midland Grand Hotel. There was not a fact he did not know, nor a figure he couldn't recall as we gasped in amazement at the reconstruction of Victorian magnificence and comfort where no expense was spared. What is so clever (and so Victorian) was the way the architect, George Gilbert Scott combined modern building technology - steel and iron - with the appearance of an historic Gothic building inspired by medieval churches and castles. Scott's attention to detail in the carving of capitals and arches is quirky; he teases the viewer with a combination of symmetry and asymmetry. We walked across an internal bridge that on one side provides a prospect of the single-span arch of the train shed and the road-side entrance on the other. But the most breath-taking of all is the Grand Staircase ascending three stories to a painted vaulted ceiling.

### **VISIT TO STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE**

Wednesday 6 March 2013

Thirty Friends enjoyed a tour of Strawberry Hill House. Like Kenwood it has just undergone huge restoration (£9 million) with a quest to return the house to its original eccentric design by Horace Walpole, politician, author, collector and dilettante. From a modest Thames-side dwelling he transformed it into a miniature Gothic castle influencing the passion for the neo-Gothic in total contrast with the 18<sup>th</sup> century disciplined classical style. Many of its features are derived from elements of Gothic cathedrals. All contents were sold in the 1880s –

a similar fate to Kenwood's in the 1920s. However, compared to Kenwood there is the advantage of two contemporary books entitled **A Description of the Villa of Mr Horace Walpole** showing details of rooms and their contents. As at Kenwood, paint and wallpaper samples have been examined. The rooms now boast the original colours and wall coverings of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A feature not sold was the Renaissance glass embellishing the windows. Much of it came from Belgium and Holland.



The house is full of whimsical objects and views. This quatrefoil skylight on the stairs frames a pair of the many amusing chimneys that adorn the house. It was a most enjoyable day out and made even better by the warm welcome and excellent food of the café.

### **TREE WORKSHOP**

Tuesday 2 April 2013

Bettina Metcalfe

Due to the cold weather early this year no Magnolia flowers had opened by the second of April. This did not deter the small group of enthusiasts. The weather was beautiful on the day. Bettina focused on sharpening our observational skills and we looked at the form of the trees, the position of the branches, the differences in bud shape, colour and size. We even enjoyed the lemony scent of the bark on the trees. Bettina showed pictures of the

Magnolia flowers and samples from her extensive collection of dried leaves. Everyone was given a handout encapsulating some of the aspects we had discovered during this enjoyable morning.

## **CURATORIAL NEWS**

### **Loans**

The 48 paintings on tour go to Arkansas Art Centre in June before returning to Kenwood in time for re-opening. Other loans include *Vermeer's Guitar Player* currently on show at the National Gallery in London, and to be included in their exhibition entitled *Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure* (26 June – 8 September 2013). The Suffolk Collection full-length Jacobean portraits by William Larkin and the Lotto Rug were on show at the Holburne Museum in Bath for an exhibition entitled *Painted Pomp: Art and Fashion in the age of Shakespeare* (26 Jan – 6 May 2013) and the National Museum of Wales is borrowing Constable's *A View of Hampstead* and *A Dutch Hoeker at anchor near a pier* by Van der Velde for display. Three items of furniture were lent to the BADA (British Antique Dealers' Association) fair in Chelsea - a pair of Adam pedestals and wine cistern. The objects were displayed against a life-size photograph of the entrance hall chimney wall, and helped to promote Kenwood and the project.

### **'Caring for Kenwood' Project**

Eight rooms on the ground floor will be redisplayed. There are four rooms which will follow the Robert Adam period.

The south front rooms will focus on Lord Iveagh's paintings. Furniture and paintings will be rearranged. Throughout the house there will be new interpretation, with information presented to visitors in different ways. The Housekeeper's Room will become an interpretation space and hold information about Dido Belle, as well as stories about the children of Kenwood, and a large dolls' house for people to look at and play with, rearranging Kenwood characters within the house. The Orangery itself will become a family-focused activity area called 'The Growing Space'.

For the Library, changes include the interior colours. Three window seats, one restored and two replicas will be positioned on the south wall as Robert Adam originally intended. A small needlework carpet of the 1790s, a beautiful and rare survival from the period, has been acquired.

A pair of white painted benches designed by Robert Adam and originally made for Kenwood were acquired last summer. Four benches had been sold in the house sale of 1922 and their whereabouts had been unknown until two were recently discovered by a furniture dealer. They are very high quality objects which we are delighted to have secured for display at Kenwood.

We are currently commissioning the making of two plasters for the Library antechamber. There were originally neo-classical life-size plasters in these niches all of which have been untraced since disappearing from Kenwood between 1906 and 1913. The return of sculpture to these niches will give a stronger sense of how the room was originally viewed. **We look forward to reopening the doors for visitors in November.**

### **PLANS FOR THE KENWOOD ESTATE and THE DAIRY**

Those who attended the walk on 16 May around the estate led by Paul Jackson, Kenwood's Head Gardener, heard about some of the on-going work. There are many changes and improvements taking place. You might have noticed that restoration work is underway at the Dairy. Much of the surrounding land has been cleared so that it is properly visible. It will open in the autumn as an 'education and volunteer hub'. To find out more, go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) or the Kenwood Dairy Restoration Trust website, [www.kenwooddairy.org.uk](http://www.kenwooddairy.org.uk)

### **AN EXCITING VOLUNTEER SCHEME!**

English Heritage is looking for enthusiastic people, who have a friendly and approachable manner, to support the public events programme, possibly at weekends or bank holidays. Volunteers will be key to making events enjoyable and fun, as well as helping to

run them efficiently and safely. To find more details of the scheme go to the newsletter page of our website.

To apply for the English Heritage current roles go to: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/volunteering/roles-available>. For further information about volunteering at Kenwood please email [jane.mortimore@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:jane.mortimore@english-heritage.org.uk)

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest took place in the Old Kitchen at Kenwood. It was attended by 81 Friends. In her report our Chairman, Christine Mathez-Davey, said that it had been another eventful year, highlighting the generous support received via donations, a legacy, and our Corporate Benefactors; and the splendid response from members to our Entrance Hall Appeal. The appeal was expected to exceed the target of £6,000, to be added to £32,000 from the Friends' reserves, to cover the estimated cost of refurbishing the Hall. Exceeding our target figure would enable us to contribute to acquisitions as part of the overall 'Caring for Kenwood' scheme. A permanent acknowledgement of the Friends' contribution to the scheme would be set up.

Treasurer, Ken Solomons, and Membership Secretary, Helen Payne, also presented their reports. Reports for English Heritage from Kenwood General Manager, Charlotte Kemp, and Curator, Laura Houlston, included updates on the Caring for Kenwood project; the use of volunteers; and the summer events leading to the reopening of the House and the Dairy in November. Both complete reports can be downloaded on the newsletter page of the website: [www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk).

Amongst other matters, the meeting re-elected the serving Council members for a further 2-year term. The meeting was followed by a lecture:

**THE ROYAL DOULTON: A FAMILY HISTORY** Valerie Doulton.

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! DON'T DELAY – RENEW TODAY!

Please continue to support us and our work for Kenwood by **renewing your membership** as soon as you can. Your membership renewal form accompanies this Newsletter. We now have even more ways you can pay.

Go to the membership page on the website, [www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk) and click on the PayPal button. **Remember!** You need to email Helen Payne at [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk), to tell her you have paid with PayPal so a new card can be sent. Or you could set up a **Standing Order** which, once done, saves you having to remember to renew, and then your membership cards are sent to you automatically every year. Or of course, you can pay by **Cheque** (made payable to 'The Friends of Kenwood'). **Please complete the form enclosed with this Newsletter and return it to Helen Payne, Membership Secretary.**

We **love** email! Please include your email address on the renewal form if you haven't already given it to us. Help us keep in touch with you better.

If you have any friends who are not Friends of Kenwood, please encourage them to join. Membership also makes a nice present. (It's a snip! Single annual membership is £18, joint is £27, Single Life Membership is £300, and Joint Life Membership is £400).

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution to the work of the Friends of Kenwood, especially at this critical time with the Entrance Hall Appeal remaining 'live' until the House reopens in November, please write to our Treasurer, Ken Solomons via c/o Kenwood House, NW3 7JR or email him at [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk). You can also use the PayPal donate button!

A legacy to the Friends of Kenwood is another way of helping. Leaving a bequest is not complicated and is very tax efficient. If you choose to include the Friends in your will, you will need to direct your gift to our registered charity number: 273258.

## REMBRANDT AND VERMEER FRIENDS

Our new Rembrandt & Vermeer Friends scheme is taking off! If you would like to be an extra special Friend and give us more support on an annual basis, it costs £300 to become a Rembrandt Friend and £750 to become a Vermeer Friend. Benefits include all the normal benefits of membership, plus invitations to special events, advance information, and acknowledgement of your support. Go to the Membership page of the website for more information and an application form, or write to The Membership Secretary by email or post. We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Meek as a special Rembrandt Friend for the forthcoming year.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

We are looking for someone to take over the Newsletter. No sophisticated desktop publishing skills are needed – just a competent Microsoft word user will do. The newsletter is mailed in May and November. If you are interested then please contact Gill Hopkins at [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk). Ideally you would help with the next two issues with a view to being responsible for the newsletter in November 2014.

### KENWOOD CONCERTS GOOD NEWS!

The Summer concerts are returning to Kenwood on the weekends of 23 and 30 August 2013. To see the concert programme and to book go to <http://www.livebythelake.co.uk/>



Some North London postcodes are offered a discount. Check on the above website.

## LECTURES 2013

Sunday 16 June **ROBERT ADAM'S  
DRAWINGS FOR KENWOOD**

Dr Frances Sands

Sunday 22 September  
**TURNER AND THE SEA**

Christine Riding

Sunday 20 October  
**PERCY GRAINGER**

Dr David Pear

Sunday 17 November  
**KENWOOD RE-LAUNCHED**

Dr Susan Jenkins

Sunday 8 December  
**GARDEN CITIES**

Dr Nicola Smith

**Followed by  
our Christmas  
Party**



## VISITS 2013

Wednesday 26 June  
**SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE**

Wednesday 25 September  
**MUSEUM OF THE ORDER OF ST  
JOHN**

*If you wish to reserve a place for these visits, please return  
the booking form.*

## ANOTHER 2013 VISIT

We are hoping to visit **2 Temple Place** in early November, before the next Newsletter is printed. As it cannot be confirmed yet, it will be on the website and information will be sent to members via email. If you do not have email

and are interested in this visit, please contact  
**Angela Cox, 020 8883 6952 after 1 June.**



**AFFORDABLE ART FAIR 13-16 JUNE –  
Lower Fairground, East Heath Road**  
Contemporary collections from £40 to £4,000.

**ENTRY WILL BE FREE FOR FRIENDS  
OF KENWOOD UPON PRESENTATION  
OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AT  
THE ENTRANCE DOORS – it's a good  
benefit!**

Opening hours: 11.00am – 6.00pm Ticket  
prices: £10 - £20 (concessions £8 - £13) (*without  
your Friends of Kenwood card*)

Information: 020 8246 4848  
[www.affordableartfair.co.uk](http://www.affordableartfair.co.uk)

**Our corporate benefactors:**



**Registered charity 273258**