



Newsletter number 114 – June 2015

## A NEW STRUCTURE FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE

On April 1 2015, English Heritage became two organisations.

### **Historic England**

This is a statutory Government service championing England's heritage, giving expert constructive advice on the wider historic environment and awarding grants.

### **The English Heritage Trust**

The Trust is a charity caring for the National Heritage Collection of more than 400 historic properties and their contents. The Trust has been credited with a one-off payment by Government to address the backlog in conservation work. The charity has committed to become entirely self-funding by 2023. Kenwood will come under the care of the Trust.

The Friends were consulted about the proposed new structure. They feel that the separation of the statutory obligations from the care of historic properties is much needed and gives greater clarity and understanding of the role of English Heritage. Securing support for Kenwood will continue to be a priority for English Heritage. Working closely and effectively with the Friends of Kenwood is integral to this. The Friends are looking forward to co-operating with English Heritage as a fund raising partner.

Our website has a link to the English Heritage website that gives more details of the restructuring.

## **VISIT TO THE GARRICK CLUB** **7 January 2015**



We were warmly welcomed into the male bastion that is the Garrick Club and received a fascinating insight into this gentlemen's domain. It was founded in 1831 to provide a venue where "actors and men of refinement and education might meet on equal terms", in other words where the strict social structure of the times could be circumvented.

The opulent building, which houses a unique collection of more than 1,000 paintings, drawings and artefacts relating

to the rich heritage of British drama and related literature and arts, was named after the great actor and impresario David Garrick. Members were drawn from the worlds of acting, writing, music, art and the entertainment industries, as well as aristocrats, and included such luminaries as Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Irving, Elgar and Millais. More recent celebrities like Yehudi Menuhin, Richard Briers, Donald Sinden and Tom Courtney appear on the members' roll.

We learnt of the subterfuges and skills sometimes used by actors: the stuffing of tights to produce the shapely calves much prized in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; 'lifts' on shoes to give short actors height; the adjustment of the stance and style of wig to change the atmosphere and also to 'sign' the plot to the enormous audiences present in an era before amplification. Garrick once used a hidden mechanism in his wig to stand the hair on end at a particularly terrifying moment! Theatre goers ate during the show, occasionally aiming food at acts which displeased them, and would call for the 'snuffer', with no heed of the performance, to extinguish guttering candles on stage. We saw paintings of scenes from plays with actors in role, and portraits of almost everyone of note who has graced the British stage. This visit was a fascinating insight into many aspects of the theatre world and a splendid opportunity to appreciate a glorious collection of theatre memorabilia.

**Early morning private view of the  
Exhibition SARGENT: PORTRAITS  
OF ARTISTS AND FRIENDS  
31 March 2015**

The lucky 'winners' of our ballot gathered early outside the Gallery. We were very fortunate to be guided by Richard Ormond, Curator of the

Exhibition, Council member of the Friends and above all Sargent's great-nephew. Richard's enthusiasm and knowledge were a delight as he recounted short anecdotes of some of the seventy or so portraits and showed us his grandmother in a landscape. Furthermore he had met Rose, one of the enchanting little girls in the painting below - *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*, when she was an old lady.



John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) painted portraits of artists, writers, actors, and musicians, many of whom were his close friends. Because these works were rarely commissioned, he was free to create images that were more radical than those he painted for paying clients. These are the pictures selected for the Exhibition. Later in life Sargent turned to landscape painting with equal success.

Richard Ormond has devoted a significant part of the last ten years to producing the substantial Catalogue Raisonné of Sargent's work (with co-author Elaine Kilmurray), and the Exhibition is just a fraction of the overall undertaking.

We are enormously grateful to Richard for making such a privileged visit possible for our Friends and Benefactors, and also to the National Portrait Gallery for their warm welcome.

## VISIT TO SPENCER HOUSE

6 April 2015

Thirty Friends met at Spencer House for a tour of this magnificent private palace overlooking Green Park. Our knowledgeable guides Jenny Mitchell and Helen Tozer led us through nine sumptuous rooms. The house dates from 1756 following the marriage of the wealthy young First Earl of Spencer to Georgiana Poyntz. It was to be a centre of hospitality, arts, love and beauty and these attributes are reflected in the design.



Classical symbols of love and hospitality abound on door handles, friezes, furniture and allegorical paintings. Many of the artefacts are original, especially in the Painted Room; others are replicas. In 1942 at the height of the war, furniture, paintings, and some architectural features, including chimneypieces, were moved to Althorp the country seat of the Spencer family. In 1985, after a series of tenants, Spencer House was leased to RIT Capital Partners who have carried out an excellent programme of restoration. This has included making copies of the original chimneypieces which remain at Althorp. The immense Lahore ballroom carpet was woven in Turkey in 1993 using natural dyes. It was interesting to learn that when the ballroom floor boards were lifted a layer of sea shells was found. These acted as sound insulation and helped to deter a fire spreading. The present heavy silk curtains were made in Lyon. We spent an intriguing morning envisaging the house when it was once the centre of

lavish hospitality and enjoying a lovingly restored private palace.

Thank you Angela Cox for arranging such a pleasant morning.

## LANDSCAPE MATTERS

Many will have noticed the smart new trellis fence along the edge of the Brewhouse garden. We are really pleased this has been reinstated, as virtually every visitor to Kenwood goes past the beautiful Brewhouse garden, which was designed by Arabella Lennox-Boyd. There has been some tree clearance at the back of the garden, which was prompted by a conifer snapping in heavy snow a couple of winters ago.

The area had become quite overgrown, so it has been cleared up a little to allow more light in. There has also been some clearance and thinning of the shrubs and trees along the East Drive and leading down to the Brewhouse. These are mostly holly and we are assured it will thicken up again quite soon. Eleven lime saplings have been planted on the Stable Field, to continue an 18<sup>th</sup> century avenue. Some of the stately trees still standing are from earlier plantings.

At the time of writing, a new interpretation of the viewpoint at the Pagoda site is being developed.. Still in the Brewhouse area, the retail space at Mansion Cottage is doubling in size. If you walk to Beech Mount, through the West Field Gate, you will be able to glimpse a long view of the House and even the Dairy; this has been part of English Heritage's 'Restoring Kenwood's Lost Views' work.

To find out more about the Heath Ponds Project, you can read about it on <http://www.heathandhampstead.org.uk/> <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/ponds-project/Pages/default.aspx>

## CLANDON PARK HOUSE

You may have read about the fire that almost destroyed Clandon Park House, near Guildford in Surrey on 29 April, the



home of the Onslow family since the 1720s. The house, which is one of the country's complete examples of a Palladian mansion, has been left a burnt-out shell. Clandon is of particular interest to the Friends as it is also an Iveagh Bequest. The house was given to the National Trust with an endowment by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Countess of Iveagh. As Lady Gwendolen Onslow, daughter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Onslow, she grew up at Clandon before she married in 1903 Rupert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Iveagh. The fire has destroyed the home and Bequest to the nation of our Patron, Lord Iveagh's great-grandmother.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest took place in the Lecture Theatre at Kenwood on Sunday 19 April 2015. It was attended by 63 Friends.

In her report to the meeting our Chairman, Christine Mathez-Davey, covered our programme of FOK "happenings" during 2014/15, and thanked the Council, Friends, and English Heritage staff and volunteers for their hard work and support.

She also explained the reasons for the move to electronic communication; why

the return to the Lecture Theatre for our Sunday lectures had come about; and gave a resumé of the English Heritage structural changes that came into effect on 1 April 2015.

Treasurer, Ken Solomons, and Membership Secretary, Helen Payne, also presented their reports. Ken mentioned, particularly, the healthy cash surplus in the 2014 accounts (partly because of the move to electronic communication); and that a generous legacy had recently been received from the estate of a former member, Dinah Abel. Helen said that membership and benefactors' numbers were stable; and that it had been possible to hold subscription rates at the current level for the coming year due to cost cutting through the use of email.

The Report of Kenwood's General Manager, Phil Wright, gave details of a strong commercial performance, exceeding visitor number and income targets for the year; the staffing structure; and development of the large volunteer team to meet the operational requirements of the site.

The newly appointed Kenwood Curator of Art Collections, Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski, was introduced to the meeting. His report, amongst other matters, drew attention to the high profile loan of Kenwood's Rembrandt self-portrait (to the National Gallery and then to the Rijksmuseum) for the internationally successful "Rembrandt: The Late Works" exhibition. Some issues were raised by members, in response to individual Reports and in the Members Forum. These included: concern about EH's use of zero-hours contracts for some staff; visitors tripping over the floor rails in the Library; landscape issues including further tree cutting; lack of FOK profile in the House and the effect on membership; and queries about

FOK's enthusiasm for the new English Heritage Trust. The Chairman and Curator responded from the Council's and EH's viewpoint, as appropriate; other queries will be referred to the General Manager (who was unable to be present at the AGM).

**Ten Council** members stood for re-election and were appointed to serve for 2015/16 and 2016/7. Of these the Officers are:

**Chairman:** Christine Mathez-Davey

**Vice- Chairman:** Gill Hopkins

**Secretary:** Christine Morgan

**Treasurer:** Ken Solomons

**Membership:** Helen Payne

The Chairman's report will be put on the Friends' website:

[www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk) .

## CURATOR'S REPORT

A protective 'Eyemat' covering has been installed to protect the 18th century floors including: the Great Room, Antechamber and the Adam Staircase.

Work to relocate the statue 'Flamme', 1983 by Eugène

Dodeigne, from the West Meadow to the Old Sand Quarry will commence in the summer of 2015.

New blinds are being ordered for the Miniatures Room and a new suite of visitor furniture for the Music Room has been acquired.



## **It's Membership Renewal Time! Don't delay – renew today!**

Please continue to support us by renewing your membership. We have a choice of ways you can pay. Either by **PayPal** accessed on the Membership page of our website, [www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk), or by setting up a **Standing Order** which, once done, saves you having to remember to renew. This way 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 renewal form and return it to Helen Payne, Membership Secretary.**

**We love email! Please include your email address on the renewal. 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 – for the moment we are holding our subscriptions at current levels:

- Single Annual Membership £18,
- Joint £27,
- Single Life Membership £300, and
- Joint Life Membership £400.

You can support us even more generously by becoming a Rembrandt Friend for £300 p.a. and a Vermeer Friend for £750 p.a. For information, please write to [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk)

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution to the Friends of Kenwood, please contact our Treasurer, Ken Solomons by emailing him or writing to him c/o Kenwood House, NW3 7JR.

You can also help us by making a legacy to the Friends of Kenwood. You will need to direct your gift to our registered charity number 273258.

**Nominate the Friends of Kenwood as your favourite charity for your online shopping!**

You can support us really easily by going to

<http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/kenwoodfriends> Follow the easy registration instructions, then when you buy something online from participating retailers a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Friends of Kenwood. Over 3,000 of the UK's major retailers now belong to this scheme. To date, we have received a total of nearly £100 in these small donations.

### **SUNDAY LECTURES 2015**

21 June, **ARTIST AND EMPIRE**  
Alison Smith (at 10.30am)

20 September, **PIRANESI: FANTASY AND EXCESS**  
Dr Jerzy Kierkuc-Bielinski

18 October, **'WONDERFULLY EXECUTED, BOLDLY CONCEIVED': HISTORY, NATURE AND EDWIN LANDSEER'**  
Dr Justine Hopkins

15 November, **THE HUNDRED DAYS AND WATERLOO, 'The nearest thing you ever saw in your life'**  
Dr Roger Knight

6 December,  
**'DÜRER'S WALK'**  
Dr Joachim Strupp  
Followed by our  
**Christmas Drinks**



**From September the lectures will take place at 11.00 instead of the present time of 10.30.**

Accommodation in the Lecture Theatre is limited, so Friends are advised to arrive early.

### **VISITS 2015**

Monday 29 June at 2.00 pm, **VISIT TO THE HEINZ ARCHIVE AT THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

Thursday 17 September at 8.45 am:  
**HAM HOUSE RICHMOND**  
**Meeting point:** East Gate, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane, London NW3 7JR

**Details and booking forms for these two visits can be found on the Friends website**  
<http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk/>

Thursday 12 November: **GARDEN TOUR WITH HEAD GARDENER, Paul Jackson – 'Blue skies, Autumn colours and the unfolding restoration of the Kenwood Estate'**. Meet 10.30am at the North Front of House.

### **FOR YOUR DIARY**

Tuesday 13 October, evening  
**CONCERT OF WORLD JAZZ**  
performed by the international **Nicolas Meier Group** in the Orangery, Kenwood  
**Details and a booking form for the concert will be sent later.**

## LOCAL EVENTS 2015

### 2015 MIDDLESEX REGION BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS ('BAfM') CONFERENCE

Wednesday 3 June

We are pleased to report that the Day Conference for the London/Middlesex Region of BAfM will be held at Kenwood House.

The Association exists to encourage, inform and advise organisations which preserve our cultural heritage. It is the only national organisation that supports and advises Friends' groups. And, of course, events such as this Conference are a very useful networking opportunity. Such an event needs to have the 'home team' about, and we are grateful to all members of the Council and some extra volunteers among our membership for offering to attend to make the day a success. We would also like to thank English Heritage for making the House and conference facilities available and for all their help on the day.

<http://www.bafm.co.uk/>

**The AFFORDABLE  
ART FAIR returns to  
the Heath 11-14 JUNE**  
– Lower Fairground,  
East Heath Road

Contemporary collections from £40 to £4,000.

**FREE ENTRY FOR FRIENDS OF  
KENWOOD MEMBERS** – it's a good  
benefit! (Valid during public opening



times only) *To take up this offer, simply show your "Friends of Kenwood" membership card to the ticket desk on entry to the fair.*

Opening hours: 11.00 am – 6.00 pm  
(Late View Thursday 11 June, 5.30-9.30pm)

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)



**GROW LONDON 19 – 21  
JUNE** - Lower Fairground,  
East Heath Road

Following last year's success, the second contemporary garden show will take place aimed at design lovers and passionate plants-people.

**FREE ENTRY FOR FRIENDS OF  
KENWOOD MEMBERS** (valid during  
public opening times only)

*To take up this offer, simply show your Friends of Kenwood membership card to the ticket desk on entry to the fair.*

Opening hours: 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

Ticket prices: £10 - £16 (concessions £8 - £14) (without your Friends of Kenwood card) Children under 16: Free

Information: 020 8246 4846

[www.growlondon.com](http://www.growlondon.com)

### **VERMEER AND REMBRANDT FRIENDS**

The Friends would like to extend grateful thanks to the following for continuing to support us as Vermeer and Rembrandt Friends:

Chris Carter; Elizabeth Meek

With thanks to our corporate benefactors

**Aberdeen**

**KILLIK & Co**

**Pentland**

