



Newsletter 128 – June 2022

RELIGHTING KENWOOD



*Mary, Countess Howe, relit
Photograph by Henry Boston-Crayford*

This week (w/c 16 May) English Heritage are undertaking the final phase of the project to replace the dated and failing picture lights in the East and West Wing rooms at Kenwood. The project, which would not have been possible without the generous support of the Friends of Kenwood and the hard work of volunteers in the second-hand bookshop, has already transformed the Dining Room, Music Room and Green Room, with only the Dining Room Lobby left to complete.

Replacing the old picture lights in the four wing rooms had long been on the wish list of Kenwood's curators, past and

present. The traditional hooded lights dated from the time of the last major refurbishment of the rooms, carried out in 1999–2000. Lit using tungsten-halogen bulbs, it required virtually constant maintenance to replace burnt-out lights. In the case of those paintings hung at ceiling height or otherwise made inaccessible by significant items of furniture, this meant specialist art handlers were needed to facilitate bulb replacement. The on-going cost to English Heritage of contracting such specialists meant that bulb replacement could only be undertaken once a quarter, sometimes leaving whole paintings in the dark for weeks or even months. Additionally, after more than twenty years, many of the picture lights in the wing rooms had begun to fail completely; fittings had ceased to work even with new bulbs and in some cases, the luminaires themselves had begun to physically disintegrate.

After a fantastically efficient fund-raising campaign by the Friends of Kenwood, topped up by funds generated through the Kenwood second-hand bookshop, the project to commission and install new picture lights began in late 2021. Leading art lighting specialists, TM Lighting were appointed in November, having previously worked with English Heritage at Apsley House and as lighting partners on the 2019 *Rembrandt #nofilter* display at Kenwood. In collaboration with English Heritage curators and paintings conservators, TM devised an innovative approach to picture lighting at Kenwood using their Slim Light Pro; the first time this ultra-sleek and contemporary picture light has been widely utilised in a historic interior. Following manufacture in Britain, the installation of the new picture lights got underway in the Music and Green Rooms in late January 2022, swiftly followed a month later by works in the Dining Room, including a rehang of the paintings.

The transformative effect of the new picture lights will be apparent to anyone familiar with Kenwood and its masterpieces. Stand in front of Vermeer's *The Guitar Player* and for the first time you'll readily be able to spot the artist's monogram just below the window sill (no torch required!). Or contemplate *Mrs Johnstone as Contemplation* by Henry Raeburn and perhaps for the first time, you'll notice the path leading to a mausoleum in the background - the final resting place of Mr Johnstone, whose portrait Mrs Johnstone is contemplating. The viewer's understanding and appreciation of the painting is transformed by great lighting. But how exactly? TM Lighting's picture lights are specifically designed to address the inefficiencies presented by poor quality lighting and dated technology often found

in historic buildings. They utilise the latest LED technology with a colour rendition (CRI) of 96+, meaning that under the new picture lights, the colours in the paintings appear almost exactly as they would in natural sunlight. Colour temperature - the warmth of light – was also carefully selected to suit the specific environment at Kenwood. Finally, the optics used in TM's picture lights ensure a visually even distribution of light across the whole surface of a painting, allowing previously murky details, like Mr Johnstone's mausoleum, to emerge from the shadows.

In addition to the improved viewing experience, the new picture lights come with other important benefits, particularly in relation to the care and conservation of Kenwood's masterpieces. Many of the materials used to make works of art can degrade over time as a result of exposure to light, so for decades, curators and conservators have had to balance the risk of possible long-term degradation against the need to see the paintings. Thankfully, TM Lighting ensures that it only utilises LEDs that emit light within the visible light spectrum, removing the more damaging portions of the light spectrum, such as infrared and ultraviolet. This helps to prevent fading of certain pigments. Additionally, unlike tungsten-halogen bulbs, LED's emit negligible forward heat, making them optimal for use in the display of artwork because they do not cause fading or other heat damage to paints or dyes.

Last but certainly not least, the replacement of traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED technology has significant energy saving and sustainability benefits. Owing to the high lumen output per watt, LEDs are capable of turning about 70% of their energy into light. This makes them much more efficient than other bulbs, which waste energy by turning it into heat. It takes only a 6 watt LED bulb to produce the same amount of light as a 40-watt incandescent bulb, and the lower temperature makes them safer to operate in a heritage environment. Additionally, the components of an LED and the way that they generate light significantly extend the lifespan of the bulbs by thousands of hours, making them more sustainable than traditional bulbs. One of our key strategic priorities at English Heritage is to minimise our negative impact on the natural environment, focusing on energy reduction, renewables, environmental management and new standards for sustainability. The new TM picture lights installed at Kenwood use only around 300 watts in total, versus the old picture lights, which used a minimum of 1000 watts, making for an energy saving of 70 per cent. The longer lifespan of LED bulbs – around 50,000 hours Vs 1000 hours for incandescent lamps – not only means greater sustainability but also results in less art handling for the installation of replacement bulbs, thereby reducing physical risk to the collection.

The project to relight the treasures of the Iveagh Bequest has been a transformative one in so many ways and will benefit Kenwood, our visitors and English Heritage for years to come. None of this would have been achieved without the Friends of Kenwood - THANK YOU!

Louise Cooling - Curator of Collection & Interiors, Kenwood

CURATORIAL REPORT

Displays

London Stone: From Westminster Abbey to London Bridge was extended until 15 May 2022 owing to the extension of the reciprocal loans from Dordrechts Museum (see *Loans Out* section for further explanation).

The Captured Carriage: Paintings from the Wellington Collection opened on 23 March and will run until mid-November 2022. Thank you to the FOK for their generous pledge of support for the display.

As part of the celebrations to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Sir Joshua Reynolds in 2023, two of Kenwood's seventeen paintings by the artist will undergo treatment by the English Heritage paintings conservators. *Master Philip Yorke* (1787) and *Miss Cocks and her Niece* (c.1790) travelled to the English Heritage Paintings Studio in early February. The conservation process will be documented in a film, intended to go on the web.

Research, Talks, Digital and PR

Louise Cooling has been working on several pieces of new digital content, including a long-form article on Frans Hals' portrait of *Pieter van den Broecke*, which draws on new research by colleagues at the Wallace Collection and Rijksmuseum on the life of the sitter.

On 17 February, the PR team hosted an event at the Barber-Surgeons' Hall to share with the media, focussing on news of the *Year Ahead* programme of activity planned by EH. This included announcement of the allocation of the Lady Cohen Collection of Miniatures for display at Kenwood by Arts Council England via the Cultural Gift Scheme. Louise Cooling and Wendy Monkhouse attended the event and took a small number of miniatures from the Collection for journalists and photographers to view.

On Thursday 17 February, the Ham & High published a short piece on the acquisition of the Lady Cohen Collection from Kenwood. The acquisition was also highlighted in the Art Newspaper in late April.

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/04/29/acquisitions-round-up-greek-entrepreneur-dimitris-daskalopoulos-donates-works-international-museums>

<https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/lifestyle/heritage/portrait-miniature-collection-gifted-to-kenwood-house-8685322>

Loans Out

Frans Hals' portrait of *Pieter van den Broecke* returned from the Wallace Collection at the beginning of February and is now back on display in the Dining Room.

The loan of *View of Dordrecht* by Aelbert Cuyp and *A Yarmouth Water Frolic* by John Crome to Dordrechts Museum's *In the Light of Cuyp* has been extended until early May after the exhibition was forced to temporarily close in December due to the Omicron wave.

Upcoming Loans Out

Sir Godfrey Webster by Louis Gauffier will be lent to *A Journey Through Italy, Louis Gauffier (1762–1801)* at the Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France from 6 May 2022 to 4 November 2022, followed by exhibition at a second venue in his birthplace, Poitiers (Musée Sainte-Croix, from October 14, 2022 to February 12, 2023). On return, the painting will go on display at Battle Abbey (the EH property with which it is shared).

Monolith: Empyrean by Barbara Hepworth will go on loan to a major exhibition of Hepworth's outdoor sculpture in the Rijksmuseum Garden between 3 June and 23 October 2022. The exhibition is supported by the Barbara Hepworth Estate and will be curated by Dr Sophie Bowness. The sculpture was removed from the Flower Garden on 2 February and is currently undergoing conservation, before it travels to Amsterdam.

In early September, *Kitty Fisher as Cleopatra Dissolving the Pearl* by Joshua Reynolds will go on loan to *Visions of Ancient Egypt* at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, before travelling to the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, in January 2023, returning to Kenwood in April 2023. Spanning 250 years, this exhibition will explore the enduring appeal of ancient Egyptian motifs in art and design and will highlight how the heritage of ancient Egypt has been re-imagined, re-invented and appropriated for different purposes over time. The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated multi-author catalogue. The painting will travel to the EH Paintings Conservation Studio in April to undergo treatment prior to loan. An exciting reciprocal loan from the SCVA is currently being negotiated.

In November, John Constable's *Hampstead Heath with Pond and Bathers* will go on loan to the Museo Centro Gaiás (Fundación Cidade da Cultura de Galicia) at Santiago de Compostella as part of the exhibition *Camiños Creativos (Creative Paths)*. The exhibition will span more than 200 years of artistic production, and will explore the relationship between travel and art; specifically, how travelling on foot can play an important role in the artistic process. It will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue. As the Museo Centro Gaiás is an exhibition space without a permanent collection, no reciprocal loan is possible. Constable's oil sketch will be backfilled with a work from the collection at Kenwood.

Wing Room Picture Lighting

Both phases of the Wing Room Picture Lighting project, encompassing the Music and Green Rooms and the Dining Room and Dining Room Lobby are now complete. Owing to the continued presence of the *London Stone* display in the Dining Room Lobby, works to relight the paintings normally displayed in this room were deferred until mid-May, when *London Stone* closed. Works in the Dining Room included the first refresh of the hang of paintings since 2000.

The team involved at Kenwood are delighted with the results of the relighting project and have received very

positive responses from volunteers and visitors. We hope that all members of the FOK are equally pleased! Thank you again for generously funding the project.

Miniatures

The first of the group of miniatures from across the Lady Cohen Collection and Draper Gift have been treated by Alan Derbyshire, with a further group currently undergoing conservation. Case manufacturer Florea are manufacturing a bespoke desk-style display case in which to mount rotating displays. Owing to manufacturing delays, the case is now due for delivery in June 2022.

Louise Cooling - Curator of Collection & Interiors, Kenwood

LANDSCAPE MATTERS

We know how much you value the Kenwood landscape, which was the subject of some of the questions at our April AGM.

South Terrace

Work to resurface the South Terrace remains delayed and is not entirely pandemic-related, having been outstanding for many years. English Heritage know we share their concern about potential damage to the collection resulting from the ingress of dust to the House, as well as the additional risk to the fabric of the building resulting from the passage of overly large vehicles right outside the South front. They have assured us that they are committed to reducing traffic on South Terrace, using smaller vehicles as part of event set-ups, and putting money towards its resurfacing. Conservators have been monitoring dust levels and we hope to learn of their conclusions in due course.

Outdoor Events

The events listed below under *Outdoor Events at Kenwood Summer 2022* are planned for the summer. Part, or all, of the Pasture Ground will be closed off to the general public for a total of 44 days. The Luna Cinema will take up the Flower Lawn for 7 days.

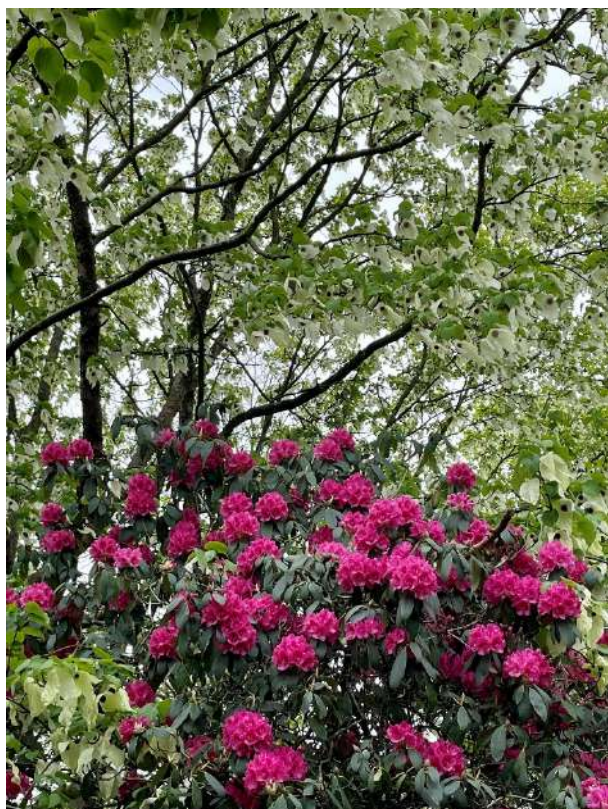
Friends of Kenwood and other local stakeholders attended the public consultation on 22 March in the Old Kitchen; we are very grateful to those of you who came and contributed to a healthy discussion. Our concerns over the holding of large events are well-known to regular readers. Nonetheless, we support English Heritage in their current outdoor events programme because it brings in essential income and raises the profile of Kenwood as a great London landmark. Our long-held wish to improve the recognition of Kenwood as a well-known historic house, Reptonian landscape, and an art gallery of international standing coincides with our views already submitted to the Master Plan process. English Heritage have contractual obligations for 2022; they will reassess their outdoor events programme for 2023 and beyond. Our objective remains to ensure the House, its art collection and the estate are safeguarded for generations to come.

Landscape Work

The Flower Lawn was re-turfed after the damage caused by the wooden chalets placed on it for *Christmas at Kenwood*; it will not be used for the same purpose during Christmas at Kenwood 2022.

There has been a lot of hedge-height reduction over the past year around the estate; see if you can identify some of it! While the Head Gardener and her team work to maintain the shape of the designed 18th century landscape, they also aim to strike a balance with conservation of the valuable natural habitat of the Kenwood estate. English Heritage and all representatives on the Landscape Forum recognise the importance of keeping precious resources for wildlife as well as perpetuating the survival of key historic landscape features.

Towards the end of the summer, there are plans to prune the Portuguese laurel above the Bath House and the Brew House in the same way that the section the other side of the steps down to the café was pruned. There is an added complication on this side because of the substantial plane tree, whose roots run under the end of South Terrace.



Rhododendron and handkerchief tree

The island rhododendron beds on the Flower Lawn are coming round slowly with a reasonable display this spring; those plants which have not rejuvenated will be replaced in the autumn. They have responded better on the Inner Circuit. Beech Mount has been cleared so that there is now a view of the House and the Dairy. This was important as it is one of Kenwood's 18th century landscape views. It's worth walking up there to have a look.



Fallen weeping willow

In our December newsletter, we reported on the fallen weeping willow near Farm Cottage which needed to be removed, this has been postponed due to lack of funds.

Looking ahead towards the end of 2022, autumn and Christmas seasonal activities will resume, including *An Audience with Father Christmas*. Last December, Pines & Needles sold Christmas Trees at West Lodge car park and we hope they will return this year.

Bookings are already being taken for the next instalment of *Christmas at Kenwood* (2 December 2022 – 1 January 2023). There will be a whole new trail this year! Kilimanjaro, the promoters, are offering Friends of Kenwood a 10% discount on ticket purchase. You have to claim your discount by 30 September 2022 using the code CHRISTMAS10.

If you are an English Heritage member, you can claim a 25% discount. Find out how to claim by contacting English Heritage.

<https://christmasatkenwood.com/>

Hampstead Heath News

The licensing scheme for professional dog walkers permitting them to walk up to 4 dogs at any one time on the Heath is now in force.

The 7 boards on the Heath and at Kenwood which aim to raise awareness of the Heath's biodiversity will remain in situ for another year. They are part of an initiative by the Heath & Hampstead Society and the City Corporation to mark the 1871 Hampstead Heath Act.

Hampstead Heath is a charity despite being run by the City of London. It is a vital resource for us all. To encourage Heath users to share the aspirations of the Heath Vision, there is a donations page where you can donate to specific projects:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/hampstead-heath/donate-to-hampstead-heath>

This year's *Community Fun Day* will be on 12 June from 12.30 – 5pm and centred around the Parliament Hill Bandstand. Check out the Heath Hands website for more details or if you would like to find out more about Heath Hands. Heath Hands are volunteers who help out at Kenwood and all over Hampstead Heath. They have a long-standing lease on Kenwood Dairy. You will often see them around the estate and are really important for helping keep the Kenwood estate looking so spectacular throughout the year. They are currently looking for Wildlife Interpreters, Session Leaders and Youth Volunteers.

Thank you to all our members for your regular feedback about all aspects of Kenwood House, its world-class paintings collection, and the estate.

VISIT TO HABERDASHERS' HALL

21 March 2022



The Haberdashers are one of the 'Great 12' livery companies, so, not unexpectedly, Friends heard much that will have been familiar from tours about other historic companies that have shaped the City of London. Yet there were several notable differences.

Item: a beautiful, modern hall completed in 2002, the fourth hall in the company's 700-year history and designed by Sir Michael Hopkins - qv Portcullis House and Westminster Underground station, Glyndebourne Opera House, Mound Stand at Lord's, velodrome on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and extension buildings at Henrietta Barnett School – so he has form. The company's Archivist exemplified the painstaking quality of construction by pointing to the choice of unique, handmade bricks bound with traditional lime-based mortar. A respectful mingling of the old and the new that speaks to how Haberdashers wish to be seen these days.

Item: a veritable oasis of calm, the hall nestles off-street in the heart of Smithfield. It perches above a college-style layout that is monastic and quasi-medieval in atmosphere, yet strikingly contemporary in its effective use of space. Perhaps this explains why they relocated from busy

Gresham Street? Across the street rise the still impressive remnants of a once mighty Augustinian priory founded in the 12th century, better known today as the parish church of St Bart's the Great. This is the priory that established Bart's Hospital in 1123 - this country's oldest hospital still on the same site - so a sense of duty, faith, responsibility, community, continuity and charitable welfare may be said to pervade Haberdashers Hall as well.

Item: Haberdashers are an interesting if motley group of tradespeople – once upon a time they were 'sellers of small things' such as buttons, thread, ribbons, pins, needles, hats, zippers, felt, cloth, kidskin gloves, fripperies and mercery of many kinds. Makers and sellers of the very stuff of everyday life.

Item: these days, Haberdashers are less about these trades that mostly left the London area many years ago. Today they focus on philanthropic activities, principally supporting 15 schools around England in the maintained and private sectors. Many Friends will be familiar with the highly regarded 'Habs' girls' and boys' schools in Elstree, for example.

Item: traditions can be good but moving with the times is perhaps better. We learned how the Haberdashers are proud that ten years ago, Deborah Knight became the first female Master of any 'Great 12' company. And it seems that two more female members of the company are close to election as Master in the near future. Who knows, maybe the Mayoralty of the City beckons too, following in the footsteps of several previous male Haberdashers including Sir William Russell, who recently completed an exceptional two-year term of office during the pandemic. (Bonus trivia point awarded to the Archivist for mentioning that Sir William is the half-brother of actor, Damian Lewis).

Item: the fine art collection and interior design of the hall and offices demonstrate an exceptionally good marriage of the traditional and the contemporary. The company owns the only portrait by 18th century master, Thomas Gainsborough that has been with its original owner continuously since 1787 and it has hung in Haberdashers' Halls throughout. Yet, just a few feet away we admired a magnificent banner by contemporary artist, Ann Carrington, commissioned for Lord Mayor Russell and made from traditional London pearly buttons stitched onto a rich blue velvet base.

Now it's time for me to button my beak. Do join us on future visits specially arranged for Friends of Kenwood. Details may be found in the accompanying Lectures and Events sheet, or on our website.



Lord Mayor's Banner by Ann Carrington

VISIT TO APSLEY HOUSE

17 May 2022



Josephine Oxley, Keeper of the Wellington Collection, gave us a very special private tour of the Duke of Wellington's London house, enlivened by nuggets about the 'Iron Duke's' personal life and foibles. We heard how the fabulous art works – paintings, furniture, silver and ceramics – were acquired. Many were gifts from grateful rulers whose priceless art had been looted by Napoleon. Other paintings were commissioned or bought by Wellington, reflecting his taste for Dutch genre pictures in particular.

Among the finest pictures are the two hundred paintings and drawings looted from the Spanish Royal Collection. They were captured after Wellington's victory at the Battle of Vittoria in 1813, as Joseph Bonaparte attempted to remove them. Stripped from their frames and rolled up alongside documents, their importance was not realised – that is until they reached London when they were seen to contain masterpieces, among them four paintings by Velasquez including *The Water-Seller of Seville*. The restored Spanish king told Wellington to keep them.

No-one visiting Apsley House can fail to be astonished at seeing Canova's oversize nude sculpture of *Napoleon in the guise of Mars* holding a gilded figure of Nike (victory), planted at the foot of the elegant Adam staircase. In 1811 when Napoleon saw the sculpture he had commissioned, he refused to accept it, calling it 'too athletic' and it languished unseen in the Musée Napoléon until it was bought by the British Government and gifted to Wellington. This is not the only image of Napoleon at Apsley House; there are several more realistic portraits, that flatter only slightly his diminutive stature.

Benjamin Dean Wyatt extended Robert Adam's original house to include a heavily gilded Regency style Dining Room (with a faintly ridiculous portrait of *George IV in Highland Dress*) and the vast Waterloo Gallery, spacious enough for the annual Waterloo Banquets, that were adorned with the monumental silver-gilt Portuguese centrepiece celebrating Wellington's victories. The Tsar gifted two vast torchères of Siberian porphyry to illuminate the Gallery.

One soon runs out of superlatives to describe the treasures at Apsley House! Josephine's temporary exhibition, *Wellington, Women & Friendship* shows that Wellington's loveless marriage was augmented by close friendships with a series of fascinating, intelligent women, including Angela Burdett-Coutts who proposed marriage to him when he was 78 and she was 33. Still with so much more to see, we walked out of the house into the bright sunshine and many of us vowed to visit again soon.

KENWOOD ESTATE SPRING WALK

5 May 2022



Davidia involucreta, bract

Our two estate walks since the Covid lockdowns have stuck close to Kenwood House, so this time we struck out with the destination of Beech Mount. Crissy's aim was to look at some of the estate's acid-loving plants on this most perfect of spring mornings. We left the Half-Moon Lawn with just a vestige of the tall *Magnolia campbellii* flowers remaining, to look at some of the shrubs edging the Flower Lawn. The Flower Lawn is also known as the 'American Garden'; the natural landscape of Kenwood is enhanced by the top storey of trees and the lower storey of cultivars and rhododendrons. Rhododendrons are, of course, the stars of the estate at this time of year. The two beds in the Flower Lawn which were pruned back so severely last year are mostly beginning to show signs of regrowth. Edging the Flower Lawn, bright pinks and purples provide a striking wall; rhododendron *Cynthia* occurs around the estate. Kenwood's rhododendrons are maintained on rotation so that there is always something to admire.



Gaultheria shallon, is an understated plant, known as salal in florists for cut flower arrangements. It's part of the heather family. It has sticky, fine hairs, and in its native north America its edible berries were crushed to make berry cakes. The oak-leaved hydrangea, Hydrangea quercifolia, is wonderfully showy, and although its conical white flower clusters aren't out yet, the leaves themselves are a luscious green. Another acid-loving tree is the snowdrop tree, Halesia carolina, attractive at the beginning of May, with its white bells. But at the end of the Flower Lawn, most stunning in 2022 is the handkerchief tree, Davidia involucrata var. vilmoriniana. The white 'handkerchiefs' are bracts, and the flower itself is just the round pom-pom at the centre. In 2021 it had very few bracts; this year it is the most splendid it has ever been, or so we all agreed.

The views of the House and Dairy from Beech Mount are important as they are two of Kenwood's 18th century landscape views. Brambles and scrub were cleared over the winter, the initial heavy work undertaken by contractors and subsequent extra help came from Heath Hands volunteers. As a result of the clearance, bluebells abound this spring.

It is worth bearing in mind Crissy's resources when walking around the 112 acres of the Kenwood estate: Crissy has 3 gardeners on her team, 2 contractors who do much of the general work, other contractors who are brought in for specific large tasks when needed, and the critical help of about 20 Heath Hands Volunteers. With a footfall of literally millions over the course of the year, it is no mean achievement to keep the Kenwood estate the place of beauty we can all enjoy.

We thank Crissy for an enlightening and rewarding tour. Our autumn tour is sure to look at other plants which love the acid soil of the Northern Heights. We look forward to spotting the difference between the sessile oak whose acorns hang, and the English oak whose acorns are on stalks.

It is such a delight to be able to run these estate walks, which we value all the more since the pandemic, particularly while Kenwood gets back on its feet. Once again, we accommodated a large group and kept a waiting list. There is room for all over time!

FORMULATION OF A MASTER PLAN FOR KENWOOD

English Heritage is in the process of working with consultants to create a Master Plan for Kenwood House. The Master Plan will set out operational, curatorial and marketing objectives for English Heritage at Kenwood for at least the next 5 years. The Friends of Kenwood are committed to this project because we believe this is the best way to ensure the continued protection and promotion by English Heritage of Kenwood, one of its greatest assets. Therefore, we have made a significant financial contribution and are part of the committee overseeing the work and we will be giving significant input into it.

The consultants, Blue Sail, asked for input on certain key issues from our membership via the questionnaire (the deadline for which was 23 May 2022). We are grateful to all of you who submitted your responses to Blue Sail. The views and opinions of local users of Kenwood are important, and we hope will inform the recommendations of the Master Plan, due to complete at the end of September.

FRIENDS OF KENWOOD AGM

1 April 2022

The 45th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood (the Friends of Kenwood) was held online via Zoom on 1 April 2022. It was attended by 29 Friends (including office-holders) and 3 representatives from English Heritage (EH).

The Chair, Dame Jenny Abramsky, reported on the Friends' activities since the last AGM on 25th April 2021. After being shut as the country learned to live with Covid, the House and Estate gradually re-opened with hope for a full opening by Easter 2022.

The Friends have continued to work with the House volunteers, who are vital for the success of Kenwood. The Sunday lectures have continued on Zoom and our recorded talks will form a lasting legacy. The improved website, visible at friendsofkenwood.org.uk and social media has enabled the Friends to reach more people and keep our members fully informed.

The Chair reported the Council has been in intensive discussions with English Heritage about its long-term plans for the House and Estate, particularly as they face substantial financial challenges from the lack of tourism due to Covid. The main source of income comes from the cafes and shops on site.

The Friends have supported English Heritage in a number of ways this year, with the most visible contribution being the funding of the new lighting in four rooms, including the Music Room and Dining Room, for which we are grateful to our members who donated to our appeal, and particularly to The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust, the most significant donor to the project. We are delighted with

the result, and the project has given English Heritage the opportunity to rehang pictures in both wings.

The Friends have also supported curatorial events including the *London Stone* exhibition, the acquisition of the Lady Cohen Collection, the conservation of the Miniatures Collection, and improvements to their display.

The Friends are pleased to be supporting English Heritage in developing a new Master Plan for Kenwood and are contributing a substantial proportion of the cost and will play a central role in developing the vision for Kenwood for the next decade. The consortium, led by Blue Sail, will consult with Friends, volunteers and the wider community and report to the Trustees of English Heritage by the end of September 2022.

The Chairman reported that membership had been steady, with 592 members as at April 2022. The Friends continue to be loyally supported by corporate benefactors (Killik & Co, Pentland Group plc, Julius Baer) and by the Vermeer (Chris Carter) and Rembrandt Friends (Elizabeth Meek, Kip Meek, Jenny Abramsky).

The Treasurer, Ken Solomons, reported a surplus of £60,077 for the year, after three grants had been made to EH: one of £51,000 to cover the picture lighting project in the East and West Wings, £25,000 to cover the conservation and new display of the miniatures collection at Kenwood and £5,000 to fund the London Stone Exhibition.

English Heritage reported that a new General Manager, Emily Hills, joined in June 2021 and a new Volunteer Manager, Michelle Cook, in March 2022. Volunteer recruitment is on-going. Several events are scheduled to be held in the estate in 2022, including the GCE Heritage Live Concert Series (10 - 19 June), Luna Cinema (13 - 17 July), Lord Chamberlain's Men (14 August) and the Financial Times Festival (3 September).

The Acting Curator, Louise Cooling, reported that Lisa Chamberlain had started as the Collections Care Assistant in January. She completed her MA in Heritage Management in 2020, after having been a Historic Properties Steward at Kenwood. Two of Sir Joshua Reynolds's paintings will undergo full treatment by EH conservators, documented on film, in preparation of the 300th anniversary of his birth in 2023. Louise has produced several pieces of new digital content on the Frans Hals portrait of *Pieter van den Broecke*.

The Chair thanked all Council members for their time, expertise and commitment to Kenwood.

The Report, in full, will be available on the Friends' website.

Mala Gole, Secretary, Friends of Kenwood



LECTURES AND EVENTS AUTUMN 2022

Please see the separate Lectures and Events sheet for more details of our lectures, visits and events, or visit our website

Lectures

As it is still uncertain when we can use the Lecture Room again at full capacity, we shall continue to have our lectures transmitted by Zoom at 11am on Sunday mornings. However, should circumstances change, you will be notified in the Friends of Kenwood online news bulletin, where you will also find the link for each lecture.

Sunday 18 September, **Sargent and Spain**
Richard Ormond

Sunday 16 October, **Winslow Homer (1836-1910): An American Original**
Christopher Riopelle

Sunday 13 November, **Windows Should Dream: Stained Glass from Arts and Crafts to Art Nouveau**
Justine Hopkins

Sunday 4 December, **Sex, Shrubberies, Symphonies: London Invents the Pleasure Garden**
Jonathan Conlin

Visits

Monday 5 September, **Bart's Hospital's North Wing**

Monday 3 October (date TBC), **Library and Treasures of Westminster Abbey**

Friday 11 November (date TBC), **Bow Street Police Museum and Courtroom**

Events

Wednesday 5 October, **A Special Members' Fundraising Event**

Evening lecture on Blue Plaques by Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director at English Heritage followed by a Drinks Reception in the Upper Hall.

Saturday 10 December, **Christmas Drinks**

Friends are invited to meet in the Old Kitchen between 12 – 2pm for Christmas drinks.

Autumn Estate Walk

Tuesday 1 November, 10.30 am, **The Changing Seasons at Kenwood**

OUTDOOR EVENTS AT KENWOOD SUMMER 2022

Kenwood Heritage Live Concerts

- Friday 10 June: **James**
- Saturday 11 June: **Rag ‘n’ Bone Man**
- Sunday 12 June: **David Rodigan & the Outlook Orchestra**
- Friday 17 June: **Boy George & Culture Club – and Lulu and Bananarama**
- Saturday 18 June: **Nile Rodgers & Chic**
- Sunday 19 June: **Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds**
- Look for the *Children’s Theatre* on 1 July in Kenwood Kitchen Garden (no details yet available).

Luna Cinema

- Wed 13 July: **The Breakfast Club**
- Thursday 14 July: **Belfast**
- Friday 15 July: **West Side Story**
- Saturday 16 July: **Dirty Dancing**
- Sunday 17 July: **The Devil Wears Prada**

The Lord Chamberlain’s Men

Sunday 14 August: **As You Like It** (on the Half-Moon Lawn)

The UK’s premier touring all-male theatre company

Financial Times Festival

3 September

The Institute of Art and Ideas at Kenwood

17 & 18 September: **How the Light Gets In**

KENWOOD HOUSE OPENING TIMES

Since 1 April, Kenwood has been open 7 days a week, from 10am – 5pm. This is a considerable achievement by English Heritage as they need more volunteers to ensure the house can open.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the existing group of wonderfully loyal Volunteers, please go to the English Heritage Volunteering page or send an email marked for the attention of the Kenwood Volunteer Manager to Kenwood.House@english-heritage.org.uk.

The Second-Hand Bookshop in Mansion Cottage near the Brew House café is entirely run by volunteers. It is normally open Thursday – Sunday 12pm – 4pm. It has some fabulous books for sale and is taking donations during opening hours.

YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP DON’T DELAY – RENEW TODAY!

The new membership year begins on 1 June 2022, and membership rates are:

Single annual membership	£25 p.a.
Joint annual membership	£35 p.a.
Associate (u-18s & full-time students)	£9 p.a.
Single Life Membership	£375
Joint Life Membership	£500
Rembrandt Friend	£300 p.a.
Vermeer Friend	£750 p.a.

Please continue to support us and our work for Kenwood by renewing your membership as soon as you can.

You can pay in a number of ways. You can pay by **Direct Debit** or **PayPal**, both available via the Join Us page on our website, <https://friendsofkenwood.org.uk/join-us/>. You can also pay by **Bank Transfer** to our account. All details can also be found on the Join Us page on our website.

The advantage of paying by Direct Debit is that you do not have to think about renewing every year and your cards are sent to you automatically.

Although you can continue to pay by cheque (payable to ‘The Friends of Kenwood’), please note that we would much prefer an electronic form of payment which will help us process your payment more quickly.

If you do not pay by Direct Debit, please also complete the renewal form on the Join Us page of the website, to notify us of your payment.

If you wish to support us even more generously, you might consider becoming a Rembrandt or a Vermeer Friend, all details are also on our website.

We thank all our members for continuing to support the Friends of Kenwood over another difficult year. Your loyalty has been tremendously important to us and we are reassured by your high level of commitment. We need your membership in order to be an effective advocate for Kenwood, and we are encouraged that our members share our ambition to safeguard Kenwood as English Heritage’s greatest asset.

Please do continue to support us, and please encourage your friends and family to join too!

For more instant updates, please keep checking our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts.

Help the Friends of Kenwood when you shop online!

A number of our members already help us by nominating us as their chosen charity when they make online purchases through Amazon Smile and Give As You Live.

If you have not yet joined these schemes, please consider joining now. It is very easy to use and costs nothing.

To sign up for **Give As You Live**, you just have to register at www.giveasyoulive.com/join/kenwoodfriends.

To sign up for **AmazonSmile** simply go to www.smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You use the same account on amazon.co.uk and AmazonSmile so it's very quick to set up.

Once you have registered, both platforms give a small donation to charity each time you make a purchase. It is beneficial to all: Amazon and the UK's major retailers view it as part of their own social philanthropy programmes and we get a few pennies for each purchase.

Thank you very much for shopping online in this effortless way to support the Friends of Kenwood.

To date we have raised just under £600.

SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS OF KENWOOD

We rely on your support to keep our high profile at Kenwood House, and we would welcome any donation you feel able to make. Kenwood is under the care of The English Heritage Trust, itself a registered charity with no government funding. Our aim at the Friends of Kenwood is to keep Kenwood a top priority within English Heritage's national portfolio.

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution to our work, please contact our Treasurer, Ken Solomons by emailing him at kssco@aol.com or writing to him c/o Kenwood House, NW3 7JR.

You can also support us by remembering the Friends of Kenwood in your will. This can make a significant difference to our fund-raising efforts, helping us protect the future of Kenwood House, its outstanding art collection, and the Kenwood Estate. If you choose to include the Friends in your will, you will need to direct your gift to our registered charity number: 273258. It is simple to do and tax efficient.

A further benefit of leaving a gift to Friends of Kenwood, or any other qualifying charity, is that this amount will not be subject to Inheritance Tax. In addition, if total charitable bequests amount to at least 10% of the taxable estate, then the Inheritance Tax chargeable on the balance is reduced from 40% to 36%.

We have recently received an interim payment on a substantial bequest from the estate of one of our long-standing members. We are very grateful for their generosity and we will share the details of this bequest with you once the Estate Account has been finalised.

VERMEER AND REMBRANDT FRIENDS

The Friends would like to extend grateful thanks to the following for their continuing support:

Vermeer Friend: Chris Carter

Rembrandt Friends: Jenny Abramsky, Elizabeth Meek, Kip Meek

CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

The Friends would like to extend grateful thanks to the following for supporting us as Corporate Benefactors:

