



# THE FRIENDS OF KENWOOD

Newsletter No. 107  
December 2011

## FAQs<sup>1</sup> ABOUT CARING FOR KENWOOD

In our last Newsletter, we explained the forthcoming restoration and conservation project English Heritage plans to undertake between 2011 and 2013. We hope the information below will answer some of your questions, and provide you with a good picture of the huge endeavour which is underway.

*How long will the house be shut?* It closes on 31 March 2012 for approximately 18 months and it is planned to reopen in autumn 2013.

*Will the Brew House restaurant remain open?* The Brew House may not be open all the time but English Heritage has undertaken to keep a refreshment facility open throughout the project. Its location may vary slightly. The kiosk down the hill towards the lake will probably reopen for snacks. Current plans are for the Old Kitchen or the Steward's Pantry to be open if the main Brew House restaurant is closed.

*Will the loos always be open?* Yes, and there are loos in the house, for as long as it is open.

*Will the shop stay open?* Yes, at the back of Mansion Cottage; where plants and gifts are currently sold.

*Can dog owners and dogs sit outside the Brew House café once it is closed off?* Yes, dog owners can use the lower part of the walled garden at the café. Bowls of water, chairs and tables will be there as usual.

*What work will be carried out?* Much of the work is critical and structural; while it may not all be visible

at the end of the project (plumbing, electrical, roof repairs, etc.), it is vital for the house's future.

*Mansion Cottage, the little house next to the Brew House, will have an exhibition displaying the restoration progress.*



We hope to arrange a series of 'hard hat' tours to see the work. This will be your chance to see Kenwood in a way never seen before! It will give Friends of Kenwood an opportunity to imagine how construction progressed in Robert Adam's day. Check our website for details of these tours.

*What will happen to the collection?* Some pictures are to be exhibited in the USA in New York, Seattle, Milwaukee and Houston under the auspices of the American Federation of Arts. Other parts of the collection will be displayed elsewhere in London and the UK. As far as we know, the furniture will all go into storage.

*How will the Friends of Kenwood function during the closure?* There will be less change than you think! Our task is to support the work and we will be able to continue our programme of events, monthly lectures and visits.

---

<sup>1</sup> Frequently asked questions

Are there any special events planned before the closure? We are planning a special **Jacobean Celebration Evening on 20 March 2012** and hoping to launch the Suffolk Collection Catalogue.

Where will lectures be held? These will be in the Old Kitchen next to the Brew House. Details will be on our website (do check it for last-minute changes regularly, and also the noticeboards). Notices will be erected at Kenwood on the day.

Where will the AGM be held? Probably in the Old Kitchen but confirmation will be sent to all Friends by post with the AGM papers.

I would like to make a financial contribution to the work of the Friends of Kenwood, how do I do this? We are always delighted to receive such requests! Kenwood has never needed the support of its Friends more than it does now. Donations are especially welcome. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Kenwood and sent to the Treasurer, Ken Solomons at Kenwood House. PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP THE FRIENDS AND TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

Another way of helping would be to make a legacy to the Friends of Kenwood. 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.

## CURATORIAL NEWS

The curatorial and conservation team checked the condition of 1,201 objects for their removal from the service wing before work began. Each item was bar coded and packed. These are now in secure storage. Posters will be displayed showing access during temporary changes.

We have completed 6,102 photographs of nearly 3,000 items, physically auditing and updating records on the database. To support this huge task, a dedicated group of conservation cleaners has also been part of the role. English Heritage thanks the volunteers from the Friends of Kenwood and the NADFAS Book volunteers for their generous support on this project.

Parallel to considering the practical logistics of how to move the collections safely, the details of a touring exhibition have been completed by the American Federation of Arts (AFA). The Vermeer, will however not travel abroad as it is too fragile, and will be shown at the National Gallery.

A key element is the opportunity that the 'Caring for Kenwood' project brings for an interior re-presentation. The curators and historians have

reviewed the historical evidence through extensive paint research analysis and the present condition of the rooms and objects to identify areas for work in the ground floor rooms.

It is an exciting opportunity to present the paintings to their best advantage and Edward Bulmer, Designer, has been appointed to be part of the team to deliver the interior decorative schemes. He will also support the presentation elements for the Heritage Lottery Fund submission paperwork.

The curatorial team of the new East & London region will be involved in the planning and implementation of the new interior presentation at Kenwood. A meeting with the Friends of Kenwood is being planned when English Heritage will discuss the ideas in more detail.

Cathy Power Senior Curator

## REDESIGNED WEBSITE



**Have you seen our redesigned website?**

[www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk](http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk) It's much easier to navigate and is full of interesting pictures of Kenwood's wonderful collection, the house, and the estate. It will make you want to visit right now! Click on the 'History' page to see Repton's 'before' and 'after' sketches of the North Facade. *Our thanks to Gill Hopkins, Vice-Chair and accomplished website designer, for her hard work in its redesign.*

## VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

**21 July 2011**

Many of us had read 'Enigma' or seen the film and were delighted to visit Bletchley Park. Situated just outside Milton Keynes, it was home to some of the most remarkable events of the Second World War. The house originally owned by a wealthy and popular entrepreneur, Sir Herbert Leon, would be an ideal setting for an Agatha Christie drama.

In 1940 it was catapulted into the war effort as the Government Intelligence Unit moved from bomb-torn London into its Edwardian splendour. It was soon to become surrounded by Nissan huts and known in espionage style as Station X.

Men and women were recruited in a variety of ways. The enterprise being TOP SECRET could not advertise vacancies. One ingenious method was to look for crossword addicts. A prize was offered and in this way puzzle-solving people were identified.

Hut 11 houses Alan Turing's code-breaking machine – the Bombe operated by Wrens. Decoding a message could take up to 8 weeks in early 1940 but by the end of the war half an hour or so. Today a similar exercise might take just 30 seconds! Three men are credited with a crucial role in code breaking: Alan Turing, Newman and Flowers.

**2 MAY 1945**

**TOP SECRET**

**ON 30/4 THE FUEHRER DIED IN THE HEROIC BATTLE FOR GERMANY IN BERLIN WITH HIS MEN. ACCORDING TO HIS ORDERS GRAND ADMIRAL DOENITZ HAS BECOME HIS SUCCESSOR. THE GRAND ADMIRAL'S ORDER OF THE DAY WILL FOLLOW. THE BATTLE FOR OUR PEOPLE IS BEING CARRIED ON.**

It was exciting to see the original communiqué of the decryption of a German Enigma message sent to U-boats on 2 May 1945 announcing Hitler's death.

We were magnificently guided by Allen Pearce. It was clear that all the Trust staff are enthusiasts. We thank Angela Cox for arranging an absorbing and interesting day.

### **GARDEN TOURS IN SPRING AND AUTUMN**

Such has been the extraordinary weather this year that our late spring tour finished in drizzle and our autumn tour was in glorious sunshine, too early, in late October, for proper autumn colour. Nonetheless, Paul Jackson, with the support of David Gibbons, gave his enthusiastic audience on both occasions a fascinating insight into the range of trees and their distinctive habits, questions of authenticity of plants vis-à-vis 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup>

century landscape gardens in a 21<sup>st</sup> century public park, maintaining significant vistas, as well as discussing the issues of managing an estate with a multiplicity of users.

*The next garden tour will be in late May. The date will be announced early next year.*

### **VISIT TO SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM 27 September 2011**

We had a fascinating visit to Sir John Soane's Museum, which was built by him and left to the nation in 1837 under Act of Parliament. We had time to explore every nook and cranny of the museum, and admire Hogarth's *Rake's Progress* and *Election* series in Soane's ingenious Picture Room, before being escorted to the adjoining building (part of the 'Opening Up The Soane' refurbishment and restoration project). Here we had a special private presentation of Robert Adam's original designs for Kenwood, given by one of the Curators of Drawings, Fran Sands. It was an exciting privilege to be able to view some of Adam's sketches and hand coloured watercolours, and to make the link between his ideas and what was eventually realised at Kenwood. Robert and James Adam's 9,000 drawings in 57 albums entered Soane's collection in 1833. This huge opus is currently being catalogued for the Soane website, and you can already view their travel drawings at [www.soane.org.uk/drawings](http://www.soane.org.uk/drawings) (it's worth a look!)

### **The Celebrity Lecture entitled**

### **FRIEDRICH ENGELS AND KARL MARX IN NORTH LONDON**

by Dr Tristram Hunt MP

26 October

The event raised just over £1,500 and was 'sold out'. We thank Dr Hunt for making this evening so interesting and possible, and for its success.

### **LECTURES DECEMBER 2011 TO JUNE 2012**

Sunday, 4 December

### **FORD MADOX BROWN: A PRE-RAPHAELITE JOURNEY FROM GHENT TO MANCHESTER BY WAY OF HAMPSTEAD**



Followed by our Christmas Party with sherry and mince pies

**WHY NOT BUY A SUBSCRIPTION  
TO THE FRIENDS OF KENWOOD AS  
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!**

Sunday, 22 January

**London Squares**

Todd Longstaffe Gowan

Sunday, 19 February

**Model Wife: Effie, Ruskin and Millais**

Suzanne Fagence Cooper

Sunday, 18 March

**Dickens and London**

Leonée Ormond

Sunday, 15 April **Annual General Meeting**

**Elizabethan and Jacobean Pregnancy Portraits**

Karen Hearn (lecture begins 11.30 am)

Sunday, 20 May

**Giambologna's Bronzes and their Collectors**

Charles Avery

**VISITS 2012**

Tuesday, 10 January at 10.45am

**Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons**

Tuesday, 13 March at 1.45pm

**The Wallace Collection, Hertford House**

**For more details please read the enclosed Events folder. When booking please complete a form and separate cheque for each event.**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS  
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY  
SAVILLS**

**7 Perrins Court, Hampstead, London  
NW3 1QS**

**savills**

**OUR CORPORATE BENEFACTORS**



**Bonhams**



**A VERY SPECIAL EVENING  
A JACOBEOAN CELEBRATION  
WITH WINE, MUSIC  
AND  
DANCING ACCOMPANIED  
BY THE  
NONESUCH DANCE  
COMPANY  
On Tuesday, 20 March 2012**

**A date for your diary**

