



## KENWOOD EVENTS PROGRAMME

### LECTURES SEPTEMBER 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011

All lectures begin at 11.00 am

### LECTURES AND TWO GARDEN TOURS

Sunday, 25 September

#### **Zoffany**

Dr Martin Postle

Johann Zoffany, the German-born painter, who settled in London in 1760, will be the subject of a forthcoming exhibition at the Royal Academy. Favoured by George III and Queen Charlotte, this exhibition will reveal the full extent of his art, from vivid conversation-pieces to conventional portraits, theatrical pictures and sporting scenes in India. The curator of the exhibition, Martin Postle, deputy director of the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art in London, will give a foretaste of the treasures in store for us from the brush of this brilliant, enigmatic and entertaining artist.

Sunday, 23 October

#### **The Sphinx Revealed: A Forgotten Record of Pioneering Excavations**

Patricia Usick

In 2007 a manuscript and drawing that described early excavations at the Giza pyramids and the Sphinx were rediscovered in the archives of the British Museum, and studied in depth for the first time. Written and illustrated by Henry Salt, British Consul-General in Egypt and a pioneering archaeologist, the manuscript describes the work carried out by Captain Giovanni Caviglia in 1817 at Giza, where he discovered a new passage and chamber in the Great Pyramid, and excavated a chapel with stele and other objects in front of the Sphinx. The work was never published so that the information linking Salt's plans, drawings and text was lost. Our lecturer, Patricia Usick, curator in the Egyptian Department of the British Museum, will bring back to life the story of these important excavations.

Sunday, 13 November

#### **Art and Revolution: Russian Culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Dr Rosamund Bartlett

In no other country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, did art play such an important role in national life as it did in Russia. Before 1917 artists of the calibre of Kandinsky, Malevich and Stravinsky emerged for the first time as leaders of the European avant-garde. This lecture explores the nature of the revolution which took place across the arts in Russia on the eve of the Bolshevik Revolution, and explains what happened under Totalitarianism, when Stalin started subjecting painters, musicians and writers to ideological control in the early 1930s. Our lecturer, Rosamund Bartlett, is a writer, translator and lecturer, and specializes in Russian cultural history, with a particular focus on music and literature.

Sunday, 4 December

#### **Ford Madox Brown: A Pre-Raphaelite Journey from Ghent to Manchester by way of Hampstead**

Angela Thirlwell

Currently honoured with a major exhibition in Manchester and Ghent (2011-12), Ford Madox Brown spent one *annus mirabilis*, in Hampstead where he painted several of his most famous pictures. This lecture will focus on the spirit of place that inspired Brown from Belgium, where he was a teenage art student to the city of Manchester. In his maturity, he was invited to make twelve stunning murals for Manchester's new, iconic Town Hall. The pictures that still speak to us today, such as *The Last of England*, *Work* and *An English Autumn Afternoon* were all painted on sites in Hampstead which we can identify more than a century and a half later. Angela Thirlwell, our lecturer, is the author of two acclaimed biographies of the women in Ford Madox Brown's family circle.

### THE CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL FOLLOW THIS LECTURE.

#### **Kenwood Garden Tours led by Paul Jackson, Head Gardener**

Put on your stout shoes and join us for these fascinating insights into the life of this historic estate.

Wednesday 22 June at 11.00 am: **The Approach of Summer at Kenwood**

Wednesday 19 October at 11.00 am: **A Kaleidoscope of Colour at Kenwood**

These tours start in front of the main door of Kenwood House and take about one and a half hours. Please complete a booking form for each tour.

## FORTHCOMING VISITS

**Thursday 21 July 2011 at 9.15 am**

### **BLETCHLEY PARK**

The Victorian country house which was the centre of British intelligence and secret code-breaking activities in WWII is now a fascinating museum. Until recently, its activities were unknown to the outside world because the men and women who worked there were bound by the official secrets act. Now their activities are revealed. The most famous code-breaker known to us now was Alan Turing, but he and his colleagues built on the work of Polish Intelligence officers working in the 1930s. Their discoveries were generously shared with Britain and France in July 1939.

With our dedicated guide, we shall spend the day absorbing the atmosphere of war time and austerity Britain. In the morning, we tour the exterior of the wartime buildings and hear what went on in the key locations including the famous code-breaking huts. After lunch, we shall visit the Block B museum which tells the complete Bletchley Park story. It houses the Abwehr Enigma machine, Bombe Rebuild, a Home Front exhibition, the toy collection, the World War II Aviation display and much more besides. The tour will also include a visit to the rebuild of Colossus, the world's first semi-programmable electronic computer. Sometime during the afternoon we shall also have a first-hand account of one evacuee's experience of the war.

Do wear comfortable walking shoes as the morning tour is all outside.

The cost is £38. This includes the guided tours, morning coffee and biscuits, a hot lunch and tea before departure.

We meet at the East Lodge Gate, Kenwood, at **9.15am**. We leave Bletchley Park about 4.00 pm

(We try to keep prices as low as possible, but the sharp increases in petrol prices recently, has impacted on the cost of coach travel.)

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 2.00 pm**

### **SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM**

As the door opens to admit you to the private residence of Britain's most distinguished Regency architect, you step into the past. Soane designed his house not only for domestic comforts, but also to house and display his phenomenal art collection, antiquities, architectural drawings and curiosities. Now restored to its appearance in 1837, the year of Soane's death, the collection is displayed as he left it – eclectic, personal and idiosyncratic. On three floors, including the basement, with an eye to aesthetic arrangements and juxtapositions, rather than any chronological or thematic scheme, Soane gives his visitors the experience of being in a treasure trove. Among these treasures are two sets of Hogarth pictures, a Canaletto, a Turner, Piranesi drawings, Greek vases, medieval stained glass and a massive Egyptian sarcophagus. You can also see Sarah Siddons's death mask and Napoleonic memorabilia. But not least of the pleasures is to see the ingenious way Soane has maximized his display spaces which also provides a sense of mystery.

We shall have an hour to explore on our own, as if we are private guests. Then we go next door where Stephen Astley, Curator of Drawings, will show us Robert Adam's exquisite drawings for Kenwood House.

The house is small, so admission is strictly limited. There are no lifts, but the stairs have hand rails.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

The cost is £5. We meet at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields at **1.45pm**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 11.00 am**

### **WESTMINSTER ABBEY**

Westminster Abbey is steeped in a thousand years of our country's history. A treasure house of paintings, stained glass, pavements, textiles and other artefacts. It is also the place where some of the most significant people in the nation's history are buried or commemorated.

The Abbey has been the coronation church since 1066 and is the final resting place of seventeen monarchs. The present church was begun by Henry III in 1245 and is one of the most important Gothic buildings in the country, with the medieval shrine of St Edward the Confessor still at its heart. There were many additions to the Abbey during the next two centuries, but the final Gothic addition was the construction of a magnificent new Lady Chapel by Henry VII between 1503 and 1519 to replace the 13th century chapel. The Perpendicular architecture here is in total contrast to the rest of the Abbey. One of the best known parts of Westminster Abbey is Poets' Corner, although not originally designated as the burial place of writers, playwrights and poets. Our special guide will walk us through a thousand years of history, architecture and artefacts. It will be a fascinating morning.

We meet at Westminster Abbey at 11.00am. Cost (including Abbey admission charge) is £18.

**N.B. Westminster Abbey does reserve the right to refuse admission if an unexpected event occurs. In that case we shall have an alternative option.**

## STOP PRESS!

**Wednesday 26 October at 6.30 pm**

## CELEBRITY LECTURE WITH DRINKS AND NIBBLES

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

Dr Tristram Hunt MP

This is a very special fundraising event – more details on the enclosed invitation. Cost £25.00 per person



**PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE BOOKING FORM (ENCLOSED) FOR EACH EVENT, ALSO PLEASE BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD Wednesday 26 October**

*Registered charity 273258*