

The Friends of Kenwood



An invitation to become more involved

The Friends of Kenwood

The Friends of the Iveagh Bequest, better known as the Friends of Kenwood, was formed in 1979.

Our purpose is to inspire visitors to promote and preserve the special qualities of Kenwood House, its collection and estate.



A Special Place

Set in tranquil parkland with panoramic views over London, Kenwood is a magnificent house remodelled in the neo-classical style by Robert Adam in the late 18th century. The brewing magnate, Edward Cecil Guinness, first Earl of Iveagh, bought Kenwood House in 1925 and bequeathed it to the nation in 1929. The house boasts sumptuous interiors and one of the greatest art collections in London with masterpieces of international importance by many famous artists including Rembrandt, Turner, Reynolds, Gainsborough and Vermeer. It houses the Suffolk Collection, with its magnificent full-length Jacobean portraits and stunning costume details.

Outside, in parkland influenced by the great English landscape gardener, Humphry Repton, there are lakeside walks and meandering woodland paths to explore and enjoy.

Our aims are to:

- Provide a forum and voice for friends and supporters, and act as advocate for the Kenwood estate
- Support English Heritage in their management of the Kenwood estate
- Provide a range of social, educational, and fundraising events for members
- Stimulate public interest in the beauty, history and character of Kenwood
- Raise funds for acquisitions, conservation work and other projects
- Encourage high standards in architecture, planning, estate management, conservation, and the visitor experience at Kenwood

We have the support of over 500 individual members.

We now invite you to support us by becoming a Rembrandt Friend or a Vermeer Friend

Becoming a Rembrandt Friend or a Vermeer Friend

You will enjoy the privilege of supporting a great London house, art gallery and landscape and you will receive the following benefits:



REMBRANDT FRIEND £300 p.a.

- Invitations to private views at Kenwood (plus guest)
- Exclusive curator-led annual tour of the house and garden (plus guest)
- Annual reception (plus guest)
- Membership for two of the Friends of Kenwood
- Advance information for lectures
- Priority booking for tours and other Members' events
- Bi-annual newsletter
- 10% discount in Kenwood shop at Christmas
- 10% discount at café
- Acknowledgement of support in our Newsletter and Annual report
- Invitations to exclusive exhibitions in private and public collections and other events

VERMEER FRIEND £750 p.a

All the benefits of the Rembrandt Group, plus:

- Invitation to VIP reception at celebrity lecture
- 10% discount on hire of rooms at Kenwood for one event a year
- 10% discount on hire of rooms at other English Heritage properties for one event a year
- Acknowledgment of your support displayed in Kenwood House

To become a Rembrandt Friend or a Vermeer Friend please complete the enclosed application form or download one from our website.

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The images on this page are just some examples of how we help to support and show our interest in Kenwood.

The period through to 2013 marks a critical and exciting time for the House, as the 'Caring for Kenwood' restoration and conservation project undertakes significant work to ensure the Kenwood estate is preserved for generations to come.



The Friends of Kenwood helped buy this marble bust of Sir John Lindsay 1776, nephew of the 1st Earl of Mansfield, by Michael Foye (1765-1777).

Heneage Finch, 1st Earl of Nottingham, 1666, by Sir Peter Lely. Finch was grandfather of Elizabeth Finch, wife of the 1st Earl of Mansfield. Purchased with the assistance of the Friends of Kenwood in 2007.



The Friends of Kenwood helped buy this original Robert Adam window seat, designed by Adam and made by William France, c1768. It was discovered in New York.

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