



THE FRIENDS OF KENWOOD

Newsletter No. 106
June 2011

CARING FOR KENWOOD

The last 6 months have been extremely busy at Kenwood. The English Heritage staff have worked on the feasibility study for a major project with the working title of 'Caring for Kenwood'.

Locally based architects Carden and Godfrey, led by Ian Angus, were appointed by the project manager Ann Towers to undertake this task, whilst various overseeing project boards, teams and sub groups were set up.

The first stage was a full condition survey of Kenwood, and part of this was the hiring of the huge 'cherry picker' (shown below) to survey the state of our Kenwood roof.



The survey actually showed that the roofs (especially the Service Wing area) were in a worse condition than was previously realized and many known and previously unknown defects were highlighted.

The pictures above are examples of the condition of the Brewhouse colonnades and also the roof (a problem all Friends are aware of!)

Sub groups have been formed to review all the aspects of the project that would affect the workings of Kenwood.

For example, Senior Curator Cathy Powers is reviewing what will happen to the Art Collection during the project.

Verity & Paul have worked on ensuring that the Brewhouse will continue to trade during the project – and it will. The feasibility study for the external repairs has been done. Work (subject to consents being granted) on the Service Wing will get under way this autumn. We are delighted that catering will continue at Kenwood throughout the project.

Work is being done on feasibility for an interior re-presentation project which we hope will take place during the time of the external work and details of this will be shared.

This project is very much **OUR** project. It will make Kenwood look wonderful again and whilst there will be disruption, it will have been very much worthwhile once finished. There will be plenty of opportunities for the Friends to get involved whether in fundraising, volunteering to help with the collection's cataloguing (see plea from Cathy in this newsletter) or coming on a 'hard hat' tour of works once we are underway. These are very exciting times ahead for Kenwood!

Paul Griffiths, Head of Visitor Operations, London

THE GARDENS OF ENGLISH HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Many Friends enjoyed a Private View in the Orangery on 21 January, in the company of the exhibition's curator and English Heritage representatives. The beautiful book which accompanies it, by Linden Groves, is still on sale in the shop.

VISIT TO THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

Which London art gallery do you think of visiting when you have spare time? Probably not on your list, although it should be, is the Guildhall Art Gallery.

Our January visit took in the potted history of the City of London. The Guildhall Art Gallery re-opened in 1995, after a 50-year closure. The building was destroyed in the Blitz in 1941 only weeks after the most important paintings had been removed to safety.

The rebuilt Gallery has high ceilings so that the Lord Mayor's guard can raise their lances. But also it houses one of Britain's largest historical paintings, the *Defeat of the Floating Batteries at Gibraltar* by John Singleton Copley 1792.



This measures a monumental 18' x 25', takes up an entire wall, and was commissioned by the City in 1783 to celebrate the British victory over the French at Gibraltar in 1782. It was rolled up for safety in 1941 and so it remained until it was restored and re-hung in the new gallery.

Next we moved to the Victorian galleries which contain such well-known pieces as Millais' *The Woodman's Daughter*, Leighton's *The Music Lesson*, and Rossetti's *La Ghirlandata*.

Many of these paintings were bequeathed in 1902 by Charles Gassiot, a City port and sherry importer.

And finally, we descended to the excavated remains of the Roman amphitheatre,

uncovered at the time of rebuilding the Gallery in the 1990s. The

archaeologists excavated the site as a standard dig and only as their excavation time was about to expire did they realize they had discovered an amphitheatre. A real treasure underneath a house of other treasures, and our



visit closed with a reminder of the incomparable history which is the City of London. The Guildhall Art Gallery has a collection of some 4,000 paintings, which date from the 17th century to the present day, many with a focus on London. It is open every day, and free on Fridays. Do go!

VISIT TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

An afternoon was scarcely enough to absorb the rich historical and artistic heritage of Westminster Abbey, despite the brilliant efforts of our guide, John Colmans who distilled his considerable knowledge into two hours. Starting in the Nave, the first information John gave us was that the elegant crystal-glass chandeliers in the Nave were given by the Guinness family. We heard the story of how the tomb of the Unknown Warrior came to be buried here, near which rests a slab of green marble commemorating Winston Churchill. Immediately to the right is the 13th century Coronation Chair, now being restored. Wherever we looked and trod, there were monuments to the great and the good, some audaciously ornate, like the one designed by William Kent for Isaac Newton which obscures the view into the Choir and others more modest, like the stone cartouche memorial to Henry Purcell. We glimpsed the holiest monument of all to St Edward the Confessor, raised up in the Sanctuary at the end of the Choir, and surrounded by tombs of medieval kings. However, the most stunning of all, is the Henry VII Chapel, with its intricate fan-vaulted ceiling, its delicate carvings of saints and Tudor emblems, pristine clean and dazzling, and finally the tomb of Henry himself with his wife, Elizabeth of York in gilded bronze.

This popular visit will be repeated on 11 October at 11.00 am.

CURATORIAL NEWS

Recent acquisition: Portrait of *William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield (1705-1793)* by Jean-Baptiste Van Loo (1684-1745)

This portrait (1738) is an excellent example of Van Loo's work with Murray being unusually depicted in informal attire, without a wig and wearing velvet gown, waistcoat and hat.

The painting was purchased from Sotheby's and 100% funding was awarded by the London Historic House Museum Trust fund within the Art Fund.

Window Seats for Adam Library Designed by Robert Adam, made by William France, c.1768

It is hoped that the work on the two seats will be completed by March 2012 following a careful analysis of the work needed. The Friends of Kenwood will meet part of the cost. (see our last Newsletter for the intriguing story behind the recent discovery of one of the seats.)

CALLING VOLUNTEERS

supporting Caring for Kenwood Project

Two days a month – June to December 2011

English Heritage needs volunteers from the Friends to help record all the books in the Lecture Theatre and Adam Library.

Volunteers will join the NADFAS book teams who will provide the training introduction and support. The first Monday and Thursday of each month will be dedicated to writing a unique accession number in the upper right-hand corner of the flyleaf, while checking that the information on the book's paper record is correct for title, author and location. Vital work to ensure accurate tracking of the books through the project.

An interest in objects, careful and thoughtful handling, reasonable eyesight, and the time to commit – would be a fantastic help, so please contact cathy.power@english-heritage.org.uk if you would like to join the group.

NEW TREASURER

We are delighted that Ken Solomons has volunteered to replace Clive Moss as our new Treasurer and thank him for coming forward.

FRIENDS OF KENWOOD Annual General Meeting 2011

The 34th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Iveagh Bequest took place at Kenwood on Sunday 17 April 2011. It was attended by Council members, about 60 Friends, and representatives of English Heritage.

In her report to the meeting our Chairman, Christine Mathez-Davey, highlighted Friends' various activities during the year. She said there had been a very encouraging 10% increase in Life Members and that a further two Corporate Benefactors had been signed up, bringing the total to seven. Christine paid tribute to two Council Members who were standing down from the Council: Clive Moss who had given sterling service as Treasurer for 13 years; and Louise Court, our Landscape Forum representative and website co-ordinator. Finally, she thanked the Kenwood staff for their continued help and support and the Council members for all their hard work throughout the year.

Membership Secretary, Helen Payne, reported that the membership figure stood at a total of 651 people representing a net increase of just under 1% over last year. This figure is after taking account of an on-going exercise to remove from our records 'dormant' Honorary Members.

The financial report given by Clive Moss, his last as Treasurer, showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £3,125 for the year, and a balance sheet surplus of £28,837. As predicted at the 2010 AGM, the presentation of long-outstanding (and often requested) printing

invoices for payment in the latter part of 2010 had reduced an otherwise healthy surplus for the year.

Reports by Paul Griffiths, Head of Visitor Operations and Senior Curator Cathy Power, and a presentation by Council Member Louise Court, centred on the latest developments of the major project 'Caring for Kenwood'. It was emphasised that the benefits of membership would continue throughout the project, and that involvement of the Friends in various ways was planned.

The election of Officers and Members of the Council for 2011/13 was held. Nine of the existing Council Members were willing to stand again and were re-elected; no other nominations had been received.

The proposal to increase membership subscriptions was accepted.

New Membership rates

The new membership year begins on 1 June 2011,

and membership will cost:

Single annual membership	£18
Joint annual membership	£27
Associate (u-18s & full-time students)	£6
Single Life Membership	£300
Joint Life Membership	£400

If you would prefer to pay by standing order, please contact Helen Payne, Membership Secretary, either by emailing info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk, or by replying to the membership renewal letter you receive with this Newsletter.

Over the coming months, we shall be starting to work on facilities to enable you to renew - and new Friends to join - by Direct Debit.

Check our next Newsletter and website for progress!

LECTURES JUNE 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011

For details of lectures, visits and other activities please read the enclosed Events folder.

Sunday, 19 June

CAMILLE SILVY: PHOTOGRAPHY'S LOST PIONEER

Mark Haworth-Booth

Sunday, 25 September

ZOFFANY

Dr Martin Postle

Sunday, 23 October

THE SPHINX REVEALED: A FORGOTTEN RECORD OF PIONEERING EXCAVATIONS

Patricia Usick

Sunday, 13 November

ART AND REVOLUTION: RUSSIAN CULTURE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Dr Rosamund Bartlett

Sunday, 4 December

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

Angela Thirlwell

This Lecture will be followed by our Christmas Party

FORTHCOMING TOURS, VISITS AND AUTUMN DRINKS

Garden Tours led by Paul Jackson, Head Gardener

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**

Thursday 21 July 2011 at 9.15 am
BLETCHLEY PARK

Tuesday 27th September 2011 at 2.00 pm
SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM

Tuesday 11 October at 11.00 am
WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Please complete a booking form for **each** tour and visit

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

KENWOOD CONCERTS

Friends of Kenwood are entitled to a discount of £1.50 per ticket. To book discounted tickets, please phone See Tickets on 0844 412 2706. The booking reference is Friends of Kenwood and you will need your membership number and 'valid until' date. There is no restriction on the number of concerts. To see the concert programme go to <http://www.picnicconcerts.com>.

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