



## Newsletter number 111 December 2013

### Entrance Hall Refurbishment

The Friends of Kenwood have played a vital role in supporting the refurbishment project at Kenwood during the period 2012-13. As you will see when the doors open at the end of November, Kenwood has undergone a number of changes (both inside and outside), intended to provide a more domestic and welcoming experience. The Adam rooms have been redecorated and refurnished using the evidence of bills and a surviving inventory dated 1796, located in the Mansfield archive at Scone Palace.

The Friends voted to focus their support on the changes planned for the Entrance Hall. Originally used as a formal Dining Parlour by the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Mansfield, visitors will now receive a warm welcome with a new rug and gas-effect fire. The 1796 inventory recorded how the 'Great Hall' was furnished with '*An old Wilton hearth Carpet, lin'd with flannel and a mahogany dining table 4 foot 6 inches long with 12 rosewood Chinese pattern elbow chairs and 2 mahogany splat back chairs*'.

The most significant change in the Entrance Hall is the subtle new paint scheme. Consultants Ian and Neilian Crick-Smith of the University of Lincoln, together with consultant Richard Ireland, have reintroduced the accurate blue tones of Adam's original colours on the walls and the delicate greens and purples on the ceiling.

Conveniently, the surviving bill for the Entrance Hall paintwork dated 1773-1774, paid to painter-decorator George Steuart, describes how the ceiling was painted with 'Two Greens purple & ornaments white' – a colour scheme which has been recreated and which is



sympathetic to Bacchus's vine leaves – and Antonio Zucchi's central ceiling painting of Bacchus and Ceres, for which he was paid £43 on October 1773.



The other important contribution made by the Friends to the Entrance Hall at Kenwood, is through their support (together with The Art Fund) for a replacement frame for Charles Jervas's: *Lady Elizabeth and Lady Henrietta Finch*, c.1730-1731. Although

this portrait of Lord Mansfield's wife Lady Betty (Elizabeth) née Finch never hung at Kenwood, in the new picture hang it takes pride of place over the sideboard, surrounded by other portraits of Lord



Mansfield and his family. The curatorial team was keen to replace the plain wooden moulding that had framed this painting since its acquisition. Master frame maker Tom Proctor has made a beautiful new neoclassical frame modelled on an original frame for Lely's

portrait of Sir Heneage Finch, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Nottingham, which was hanging at Kenwood during the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Mansfield's period of occupancy. We would like to thank the Friends for their support and hope that they very much enjoy the new displays.

*Dr Susan Jenkins, Senior Curator  
English Heritage*

### Good news and more good news!

Whilst the House was closed (*re-opening 28<sup>th</sup> November*) its opening hours were shortened but after re-opening it will remain open between 10:00 to 17:00 for all visitors to wander and wonder in its glory. Additionally, the Kenwood shop is offering Friends a 10% discount on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, the day of the Christmas Party. Friends need to remember to bring along their membership cards to claim the discount.

## Entrance Hall Appeal

The response to the Appeal launched in November last year, was really wonderful! Not only have we been able to provide the full restoration cost of £38,000, but we have also helped towards funding a magnificent gilded frame for the Jervas portrait of *Lady Elizabeth and Lady Henrietta Finch* which will hang in the entrance hall. The Friends of the Iveagh Bequest Kenwood's generosity will be permanently acknowledged by being inscribed on a table in the Entrance Hall and on the Donors Board, displayed in The Orangery. On behalf of myself and the Council I would like to thank you all so much for your splendid support.

*Christine Mathez-Davey, Chair*

## Summer Garden Party

The Kenwood Garden Party of 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> August was a fantastic success when the gardens and estate were full of happy people and it was perfect summer fête weather. Visitors could take carriage rides, participate in a dog show, dance to the band on the South Lawn, visit the Dairy and its showcase cattle, bake cakes in the Old Kitchen, or take tea from a porcelain tea service.



*Christine Morgan, FOK Hon Secretary at our stall at the Garden Party*

The Friends of Kenwood stand was in a perfect position under the veranda, next to the cheese stall and opposite the Pimms tent. We congratulate Charlotte Kemp, Kenwood General Manager, and her staff for organising such a successful event.

## New Newsletter Editor

We are delighted to welcome Kendrick Struthers-Watson to the Friends of Kenwood, who has taken over the Herculean task of editing our Newsletter.

## Landscape near the Dairy

By the time you read this Newsletter, the beautifully restored Dairy will have reopened as a 'volunteer hub', and you might have already noticed the large amount of landscaping work which has been going on in the area, clearing low-lying scrub and bushes, reinstating the ha-ha, and creating a new path up to the Dairy which starts where the car park entrance joins the flower garden path through the rhododendrons.



*The Dairy interior*

As part of the Caring for Kenwood project, English Heritage has been giving consideration to the landscape near the Dairy. They wish to open up and restore the view from the Dairy down the hill towards the water. To do this they want to fell the three large copper beeches which stand on the hill immediately down from the Dairy. English Heritage has commissioned computer images to show how this would look, but at the time of writing, these are not yet ready. Once satisfactory images are produced, a consultation will be planned.

English Heritage know that we are very concerned to preserve the landscape in a non-destructive way which meets their need to exhibit the Kenwood estate as an 18<sup>th</sup> century 'gentleman's park', but which also accommodates a huge annual footfall to a 21<sup>st</sup> century public space where visitors can appreciate the natural landscape. If you have any comments, please contact us at [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk), or write to us at Friends of Kenwood, Kenwood House, NW3 7JR.

## Vermeer and Music: The Art of Love and Leisure - *Private View for Members on 11 July*

During Kenwood's restoration, Vermeer's *The Guitar Player*, was lent to the National Gallery for the Vermeer exhibition from 16 June to 8 September. The Friends were offered fifteen places for an exclusive private view on 11 July which we offered, via a ballot, to our Entrance Hall Appeal Donors. It was a wonderful occasion! We were welcomed by the exhibition Curator, Marjorie Wieseman who gave a short introductory talk before members toured the exhibition at leisure.

The event was enhanced by music of the period performed by The Academy of Ancient Music. The National Gallery set its own *Young Woman Standing at a Virginal* and *Young Woman Seated at A Virginal* alongside *The Guitar Player*.

The exhibition combined the art of Vermeer and his contemporaries with rare musical instruments and songbooks, all imaginatively displayed. 'Our' Vermeer graced the front cover of the catalogue and the banner outside the Sainsbury Wing, the sight of which was an additional pleasure that added to a memorable occasion.

*Christine Mathez-Davey, Chair*

## Visit Reports

### Shakespeare's Globe

Our tour to Shakespeare's Globe on 26 June was engagingly informative. We discovered that it is in fact the third theatre on the Southwark site; a place notorious for less salubrious entertainments such as bear-baiting and prostitution. Based on contemporary drawings and descriptions, the theatre is constructed as faithfully as modern regulations allow, entirely of English oak and with a thatched roof, although the second theatre re-built after a fire in 1613 had a tiled roof. Two impressions are striking on entering the theatre; the richly painted walls and columns of the stage area and the intimacy of the space itself. No microphones are needed to amplify the sound; it carries perfectly to all areas of the theatre. We were treated to a glimpse of the 'lord's box', a brilliantly painted box at one side of the theatre, where aristocratic spectators could both see and be seen. It is clear that the standing audience in the Pit are both audible and visible to the actors all the time and indeed play an integral part in the theatrical experience. The cost of standing in the Pit is £5, the modern equivalent of the 1 shilling Jacobean paid, or a coffee and croissant in the average central London café.

### Museum of the Order of St John

On 25 September 2013 the Friends had a private tour of St John's Gate in Clerkenwell, an atmospheric, near-forgotten piece of medieval architecture and history. The order of St John, also known as the Hospitallers, was founded in the 11th century to care for sick pilgrims in the Holy Land, but really came into prominence after the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099. After its fall in 1291 the Order fetched up in Rhodes and later still in Malta, a bulwark of Mediterranean Christianity, surviving a fierce Ottoman siege in 1565. But after Malta's capture by Napoleon in 1798 the Order was fatally weakened. The Clerkenwell building is all that remains of its massive English priory, built in 1504. Seized by the King's commissioners in 1540, it was the home of Mary Tudor before she became Queen.

In 1703, William Hogarth's father opened a coffee house and served Latin lessons with the coffee. He went bankrupt. In the 19th century it became a pub aptly named Old Jerusalem until, when the Order of St John was revived, the now largely derelict building was snapped up and used as its British headquarters after heavy and sympathetic remodelling by George Gilbert Scott's son John Oldrid. A new modern museum of the Order of the Knights of St John and the St Johns Ambulance displays many of their treasures including Caravaggio's painting of 'The Card Sharps' (c1594). If you missed the trip, the museum is well worth a visit.

### Garden Visit Reports - Tree Workshop

*Monday 23 September*

#### **Crossing the Continents in 400 metres at Kenwood**

Just standing still outside Kenwood House, we were shown to our left a tree from America and to our right one from China, with three European trees, in

cartographical accuracy, in between. Bettina Metcalf gathered us to identify trees of which there are some 30 to 35 species in the foreground before the lake. Behind the lake are darker native trees, the oldest tree, being a Chinese Sophora, dating back to 1753. You can often confirm tree identity by looking at the underside of the leaf, and naturally under the microscope, but much can be identified within a loop of 400 metres at Kenwood!

### Autumn Tour of Kenwood Estate

*30 October 2013*

About twenty Friends of Kenwood were treated to this fascinating tour by the Head Gardener, Paul Jackson. His many years of experience and devotion shone through in his enthusiastic explanation of the importance of keeping the grounds as such a beautiful setting for the house. We were exceptionally lucky because it was the Monday after the storm and this gave the event another dimension as scores of trees were unfortunately damaged.

### Forthcoming 2014 Visits

Monday 17 February at 11.45am

#### **GOLDSMITHS' HALL**

Thursday 8 May - All day visit: 9.15am to 6.00pm.

#### **THE MARY ROSE MUSEUM, PORTSMOUTH**

Please complete a separate booking form (enclosed) for each visit and bring your membership card to all events.

### Forthcoming Garden Visits

Contact Elizabeth Inglis at:

[gardens@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:gardens@friendsofkenwood.org.uk)

*Wednesday 29 January 2014 - Walk around the Kenwood Estate with Bettina Metcalf.*

*Wednesday 14 May - Garden Tour with Paul Jackson*

*Friday 30 May - Spring walk at Kenwood looking at trees with Bettina Metcalf*

**SEE SEPARATE EVENTS SHEET FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL VISITS AND LECTURES**

### A mug for all seasons

Commissioned specially for Kenwood, this Emma



Bridgewater mug features a Kenwood Estate illustration, wonderfully designed by Emma's husband Matthew Rice. The mug is made of cream earthenware in Stoke-on-Trent, the home of pottery since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Every mug is individually hand-decorated, making each one unique and 50% of the sales will go directly to the Caring for Kenwood project. The mug can be purchased online or at Kenwood from the Mansion Cottage shop.

## LECTURES

December 2013 to June 2014

### Sunday Lectures at Kenwood

Since Kenwood House was closed for refurbishment, we have held our Sunday morning lectures in the Old Kitchen. We have managed to improve the audibility although we can never remove the echo completely as there are not enough 'soft' furnishings to soak it up. The Old Kitchen has the advantage of being far more accessible and convenient for members and most importantly, there is room for everyone who wishes to attend. In the past, we have had to refuse entry to Friends for very popular lectures. The majority view is that we should stay there. So we have decided to do so for the foreseeable future. All Sunday lectures start at 10.30. You may bring your coffee in with you.

### SEE SEPARATE EVENTS SHEET FOR FULL DETAILS

*All lectures will be held in The Old Kitchen and will begin at 10.30 am*



*Sunday 8 December - Garden Cities*

Dr Nicola Smith

**Followed by our Christmas Party**

*Plus: Friends 10% discount in the Kenwood Gift Shop on 8 December*

*Sunday 19 January - A Who's Who at the Elizabethan Court: an album of armour designs at the Victoria and Albert Museum*

Angus Patterson

*Sunday 16 February - The Changing Faces of Fame: From Watts to Warhol, From Garbo to Gaga*

Rob Dickins

*Sunday 16 March - Jean Etienne Liotard*

Dr MaryAnne Stevens

*Sunday 13 April (following the AGM) - Catherine the Great: Empress of all the Russias*

Dr Rosamund Bartlett

*Sunday 18 May - African People in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Art*

Professor David Bindman

*Sunday 15 June - Sargent the Plein-Air Painter*

Richard Ormond

### Volunteers for the Friends of Kenwood

The Events Committee of the Friends organise the activities for our members. On occasion, we should really appreciate some additional help for the events. At recent lectures, we have asked for volunteers who might be willing to do so. We are now compiling a list of volunteers. If you haven't been asked already and would

like to add your name to the list, please contact [visits@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:visits@friendsofkenwood.org.uk). Thank you.

### Benefactors Programme

Friends of Kenwood will be re-launching its new 'Rembrandt' and 'Vermeer' Benefactors scheme in the New Year. We would be delighted if you or anyone you know would like to become a Rembrandt Friend at £300 pa or a Vermeer Friend at £750 pa. The scheme offers both types of these Friends special privileges.

We will also be continuing our Corporate Benefactor scheme, details of which are on the website. Anyone interested in helping to invite new Benefactors should contact: Sally on 07971 406 762

### Give As You Live

Do you shop online? Will you do your Christmas shopping online? Nearly 3,000 of the UK's major retailers, including Amazon, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, and lastminute.com, now belong to this scheme and donate a small percentage of their online sales to charities - to date over £4m. You can support us really easily by going to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com), follow the easy registration instructions then every time you buy something online a percentage of your purchase will be donated to a charity of your choice. Why not give us a Christmas present by making Friends of Kenwood your nominated charity? And remember, it costs you nothing to help us in this way. If you have any difficulty in signing up, why not call Helen Payne on 07775 894146 and she will do her best to assist you.

### Late Membership Renewals

It's never too late to renew your membership, so if you forgot to do so over the summer, please renew now! We really need your help so that we can make a difference to the restoration project currently underway, so please continue to support us. Membership also makes a wonderful present so why not buy a subscription to the Friends of Kenwood as a Christmas present?

To make things easier you can pay in several different ways: by cheque payable to 'The Friends of Kenwood', by standing order or by PayPal. If you choose the standing order method, please contact [info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofkenwood.org.uk) and we will send you the appropriate details. If you use PayPal please go to: <http://www.friendsofkenwood.org.uk/membership.html> and follow the simple instructions to pay online.

### Our Corporate Benefactors

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