

Newsletter number 117 December 2016

THE DAIRY AT KENWOOD



The three Swiss chalet style buildings of the Dairy to the west of Kenwood House were built by the Second Earl of Mansfield in 1794-1796. Landowners were interested in agriculture and often built small model dairies. Nearby Fitzroy House and Farm also boasted a modern dairy.

Aristocratic ladies enjoyed supervising the making of cream and butter. Lady Louisa Mansfield and Lady Southampton of Fitzroy House were rivals – competing who could make the most butter from a number of cows. There are also records of a recipe the Duke of Wellington sent her: his ‘receipt for the making of butter’.



Over a number of years the Dairy fell into disrepair. The Kenwood Dairy Restoration Trust played a crucial part by raising funds for the restoration of the Dairy by English Heritage in the Caring for Kenwood project completed in 2013. This was a tremendous achievement.

The Creamery still has its Georgian tiles and many original features including a black marble fountain in the centre. The small octagonal tea room has an elegant ceiling and *chinoiserie*-style woodwork. (photo by kind permission of KDRT). Under the Creamery is a hidden ice-house which stored ice from the Thousand Pound Pond.

The Restoration Trust’s great success meant it could fund the purchase of examples of an 1820s Spode Iron Stone tea service for display in the Creamery. An inventory exists showing that similar items were in use until the 1890s.

A special visit for Friends has been arranged on Wednesday 8 February 2017. The Dairy can normally be visited on the first Sunday of the month from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm.

CURATORIAL NEWS

Loans:

Romney’s Emma Hart ‘*The Spinstress*’ is at the National Maritime Museum until 17 April 2017. The NMM has lent us Reynolds’ early portrait of Commodore the Hon. Augustus Keppel, 1749.

Conservation:

Jan Baptist Weenix’s *Family in a Mediterranean Seaport* continues undergoing conservation and cleaning.

John Constable’s *Hampstead Heath with Pond and Bathers*, 1821, has been cleaned, conserved and returned to Kenwood.

One of the Adam Torchères from the Adam Staircase has been consolidated in preparation for it being lent to Sir John Soane’s Museum.

Other news:

The 2nd phase of essential conservation work in

Lady Mansfield's Bedroom on the first floor has begun.

Jerzy Kierkuć-Bieliński along with the Marketing team, has started a series of Facebook Live streams on De Jongh's *Old London Bridge, 1630*.
Dr Jerzy Kierkuć-Bieliński



GEORGE LEVY MEMORIAL

George Levy was the founder of the London Historic House Museums Trust (now dissolved) and founder in 1977 of the Friends of Kenwood. An Atlantic Cedar at the end of the Lime Avenue was planted in his name and a brass memorial plaque commemorated his work until 2012, when it was stolen. Replacement plaques were also stolen, and we finally commissioned a stone memorial. A few months after it was installed, over New Year 2016 the Atlantic Cedar blew down! Fortunately, another well-established Atlantic Cedar can be found just along from where the original tree was, just opposite the Handkerchief tree, so the memorial stone can now be found there, a little away from the path, amongst a small grove of trees. Let us hope it will be left in peace, as a fitting marker to the enormous contribution George Levy made to the enduring preservation of Kenwood House and its grounds for all visitors to enjoy.

VISIT TO RANGER'S HOUSE AND ENGLISH HERITAGE CONSERVATION STUDIO

Tuesday 12 July

One July morning, a flurry of Kenwood Friends ventured south of the river to explore the

delights of Ranger's House, in Greenwich Park. Built c.1710, nowadays this mansion is home to almost 700 works of art collected by diamond magnate Sir Julius Wernher (1850-1912). We were fortunate to enjoy a private tour.

The treasures range in size from Bergonzoli's marble, *Loves of Angels*, to tiny carved ivories. Medieval, Byzantine and Renaissance decorative art is well-represented. Portraits by our old friends, Reynolds and Romney, were greeted with murmurs of recognition. The quirkiest item is undoubtedly an owl-shaped coconut shell.

After coffee and cake, we had a rare opportunity to see conservation work being carried out on two of "our" paintings; the Constable sketch of *Hampstead Heath with Pond and Batbers* and Jan Weenix's *Family in a Mediterranean Seaport*. In the former, it was pointed out that the sky had been 'filled in'. The painting has since returned to Kenwood and is an absolute delight. After moistening with a cotton bud, the Weenix revealed the burgundy hue of the boy's jacket, previously a dense brown, and there are other surprises in store on this one. It was a fascinating insight into the conservation process.

Huge thanks are due to the knowledgeable and friendly English Heritage staff who welcomed us.

Christine Nickles, Friend of Kenwood

VISIT TO THE WATTS GALLERY ARTISTS VILLAGE

Wednesday 5 October 2016

We had a golden autumnal day for our visit to this fascinating complex of three contrasting sites dedicated to the culture and creativity of two remarkable artists, George Frederic Watts and Mary Watts.

First stop was the Watts Art Gallery, dedicated to high-Victorian paintings by G.F. Watts. We saw his formidable moral subjects, of which *Hope* is arguably the most famous. Watts believed that the greatest art could 'improve' the mind of the viewer. He was also a sculptor of considerable force as we saw in the plaster casts for the monumental memorial to his friend Lord Tennyson and for the equestrian statue of Cecil Rhodes.

After lunch we walked to the cemetery Chapel, designed by Mary Watts and given to the village

of Compton. This exquisite Arts and Crafts building is steeped in the Celtic culture that so inspired Mary's creativity, and for which local craftspeople were involved and taught skills. The rich terracotta exterior, with its sculptured entrance is a precursor of the wonders that lie within. We marvelled at the complexity of the symbolism, the jewel-like richness of colour and texture, but above all at the tranquillity of the space.

Finally we visited the house, Limnerslease, where the artists lived and worked. We saw Watts's studio, his palette and paintings, complete and in progress, as if he had just stepped out for a moment. But that was not all we could see and enjoy. There were also temporary exhibitions dedicated to artists of the period and to modern arts and crafts. And there is the shop! A day was not enough to absorb everything this enthralling place has to offer.

PARISIAN MAGIC AT KENWOOD

Thursday 13 October in the Orangery



Kenwood House takes on an atmosphere all its own in the evening, with a fire in the grate and the candelabra on the mantelpiece providing a warm welcome. Guests passed through to the Music Room for a taster of calvados, in recognition of the French flavour of the evening, and a glass of wine before the concert. They enjoyed Parisian music played by Nicolas Meier (acoustic guitar) and his musicians. This time he was accompanied by Maurizio Minardi (accordion), Nick Kacal (bass) and the captivating chanteuse Gabrielle Ducombe who sang many memorable chansons – *Sous les Ponts de Paris, Je ne regrette rien* and other boîte de nuit favourites. The accordion added a nostalgic air to the evening. Our corporate benefactors were

also present as was our Ambassador Baron Melvyn Bragg.

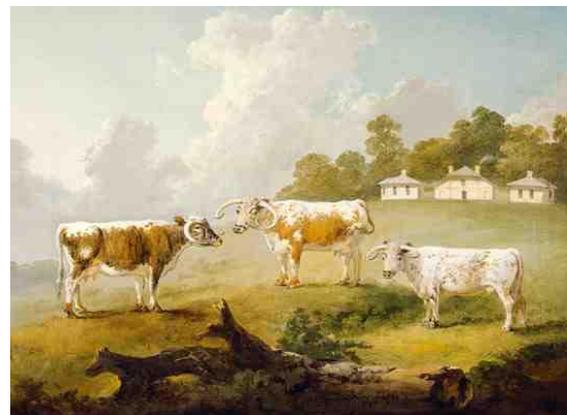
We thank the management of Kenwood, for putting the House at our disposal, and the wonderful staff whose contribution was so crucial in making the event a success. We also thank Searcys at Kenwood House for their very generous sponsorship and support that evening.

SPRING TOUR OF THE KENWOOD ESTATE

Thursday 12 May

About 25 Friends of Kenwood went on a fascinating tour of the estate conducted by the Head Gardener, Paul Jackson. We were lucky to have a sunny day to enhance the views, the first one being the beautiful vista from the veranda to the Dairy. Paul commented that the rhododendrons need regular trimming to keep the vista.

There is a general policy of only planting trees and shrubs available at the time that Humphry Repton assisted in landscaping the grounds. However, we then went on to look at the splendid Handkerchief tree which dates from



after that time. In this area at the end of the Lime Avenue some of the holly has been cleared to allow the planting of periwinkle and hellebores as an enhancement.

Proceeding to the new planting around the Dairy we saw how the area is maturing, especially with the establishment of wood anemones, fothergillas and lilies of the valley. Encouraging native bluebells and eradicating the invasive foreign ones requires constant vigil.

We then went on to the pasture in front of the Dairy where Paul has a long-term vision of grazing longhorn cattle, as depicted in Ibbetson's painting of the area. Paul displayed photos of a blocked tunnel, now hidden in undergrowth, which once went under Hampstead Lane to link a neighbour on the other side of the road. Another long-term wish would be to restore the rustic bridge leading to the tunnel from the Dairy as it is a documented early 19th century feature in the grounds.

There is a marshy area bordering the pasture where we saw that water-loving plants such as the marsh marigolds are being encouraged. Retiring for well-earned refreshments at the end of the enlightening tour, we were pleased to see that the new native hedgerow border of the pasture is maturing well.
Paul Huggins, Friend of Kenwood

AUTUMN TOUR OF THE KENWOOD ESTATE

Thursday 27 October

Paul Jackson, the Head Gardener, guided the autumn tour this year. He concentrated on autumn leaf colour, and there was indeed a truly impressive kaleidoscope of the painter's palette.



We viewed the autumn colours from both the north and south of the house. The latter view can hardly be equalled anywhere in Britain for the variety of the colouring of the leafage. This included the striking yellow of the fothergilla, the deep purple of the copper beech and the cascading red of the liquidambar.

The tour finished in the meadows by the Dairy where Heath Hands were clearing invasive growth, thus encouraging the four species of

sphagnum moss found in the hollow.
Paul Huggins, Friend of Kenwood

KENWOOD'S HEAD GARDENER

Paul Jackson, Head Gardener, has been at Kenwood for 13 years and will retire in December 2016. The 1 million visitors a year to the Estate do not necessarily realise how he has touched their lives, but every step you take on the Estate is somewhere Paul has walked before you! He knows it like the back of his hand, his expertise is second to none, and his depth of knowledge deserves enormous respect. Add to that his gift of being able to convey his enthusiasm to all visitors and the wonderful Estate walks he regularly shares with the Friends of Kenwood, and it is a winning combination.

We would like to thank Paul for his devotion to Kenwood. He will be greatly missed by us all and we wish him many pleasant retirement hours messing about in boats near Castle Douglas in south west Scotland. Asked what he would miss he replied: *"I'll miss playing a part in driving the restoration of the estate and of course the people associated with that; such as work colleagues Friends groups etc."*

If you are reading this on our electronic newsletter you can look at the lively account Paul wrote on 'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HEAD GARDENER' in our May 2009 newsletter.

LANDSCAPE MATTERS

You might have recently noticed work underway at the viewpoint where the Pagoda once stood. This is a protected view over London. The base is ready to receive the Portland Stone and the new Interpretation Map, soon to be installed for your enjoyment.

The construction part of the Ponds Project on Hampstead Heath is now complete. The affected areas are being re-landscaped which will continue for about another 18 months. You can read about it on the City of London's website. The public consultation about cafés on the Heath has now closed.

The House of Commons' Communities and Local Government Committee has launched an inquiry into public parks. In question is their amenity value and the impact of reduced local authority budgets. While this does not directly

affect the Kenwood Estate, you can read about it at www.parliament.uk.

Spraying has taken place on Hampstead Heath and at Kenwood to combat oak processionary moth. Pheromone traps have identified an increase in male moths.

Heath Hands have been busy around the Kenwood Estate and on Hampstead Heath. In September, they celebrated 100,000 volunteer hours on the Heath and at Kenwood. A party was held at Kenwood to celebrate. They have a new Chair, Dan Braverman.

Kenwood has won the regional competition this summer of *Window with a View*. Our 'view' has been forwarded to the national competition.

SEARCYS AT THE BREWHOUSE AND THE STEWARD'S ROOM

We are very grateful to all who have taken the time to give us feedback, please do keep giving us your views. We will continue to keep you updated with news about The Brewhouse via our regular emails.

HELP US KEEP COSTS DOWN!

Just to remind you: we no longer post the Newsletter (except to the few Friends who still do not have email) in order to keep our postal costs down. Please take a moment to consider whether you would like to go 'paperless' altogether by setting up a Standing Order for renewal of your membership.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

Please continue to support us and our work for Kenwood by *renewing your membership*. Please encourage your friends to become Friends too, we need lots of support.

SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS OF KENWOOD

We rely entirely on your support to keep our current high profile at Kenwood House. Your donations are always extremely welcome in increasingly challenging times. Kenwood is under the care of The English Heritage Trust, a charity which has to be entirely self-funding by 2023. Our aim at the Friends of Kenwood is to keep Kenwood a top priority of the Trust.

If you would like to make an additional financial contribution to the work of the Friends of Kenwood, please contact our Treasurer, Ken Solomons by emailing him at kssco@aol.com or writing to him c/o Kenwood House, NW3 7JR.

There is another way you could support us, and that is by remembering the Friends of Kenwood in your will. This is something which can make a significant difference to our fund-raising efforts. By giving even a modest gift as a legacy to the Friends of Kenwood you can help protect the future of Kenwood House, its outstanding art collection, and the Kenwood Estate. We understand that this is always a personal matter, but if you enjoy the magnificence of Kenwood, we hope you will not mind us raising the possibility of leaving a bequest. It 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.

We were recently pleased to receive a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dinah Abel, which will be allocated to a specific acquisition or conservation project and recorded in Kenwood's *Book of Donors and Remembrance*.

A further benefit of leaving a gift to the Friends of Kenwood, or any other qualifying charity, is that this amount will not be subject to Inheritance Tax. In addition, if total charitable bequests amount to at least 10% of the taxable estate, then the Inheritance Tax chargeable on the balance is reduced from 40% to 36%.

LECTURES AND VISITS DECEMBER 2016 to JUNE 2017

All lectures begin at 11.00 am in the Lecture Room except on Sunday 23 April . It begins at 11.30 am

Seating is limited in the Lecture Room due to fire regulations.

VISIT

Thursday 8 December 2016

LINLEY SAMBOURNE HOUSE
at 10.45 am

LECTURE

Sunday 11 December 2016

THE EMPEROR AND THE ARCHITECT: SELF-MADE MEN, SIR JOHN SOANE AND NAPOLEON

Dr Jerzy Kierkuć-Bieliński

This lecture is followed by the **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

There is a 10% discount for Friends in the shop after the Lecture.

2017

VISIT

Tuesday 10 January **RODIN AND DANCE: THE ESSENCE OF MOVEMENT** at the Courtauld Gallery
10.45 am

LECTURE

Sunday 15 January **CANALETTO AND HIS LONDON LEGACY**
Dr Pat Hardy

VISIT

Wednesday 8 February **GUIDED TOUR OF THE KENWOOD DAIRY** at 10.50 am

LECTURE

Sunday 19 February **LIVING WITH SWINBURNE**
Tim Burnett

LECTURE

Sunday 19 March **IGTHAM MOTE**
Bernadette Gillow

LECTURE Sunday 23 April **HEPWORTH'S MONOLITH 'EMPYREAN', KENWOOD**

at 11.30 am

Dr Justine Hopkins

The AGM is before this lecture

VISIT

Wednesday 10 May **VISIT TO THE WALLACE COLLECTION** at 10.45 am

LECTURE

Sunday 28 May To be confirmed

LECTURE

Sunday 25 June **VERMEER AND THE ILLUSION OF REALITY?**

Dr Richard Williams

GARDEN WALK

LOOKING AT THE LANDSCAPE WITH FRESH EYES

Thursday 18 May

Meet under the north portico at 10.30 am. This walk is free for Friends of Kenwood; non-members £3.00. Please contact Elizabeth Inglis on 020 8450 8802 or via email efinglis@dsl.pipex.com

FOR FULL DETAILS OF LECTURES, VISITS AND BOOKING FORMS SEE THE EVENTS SHEET ON OUR WEBSITE

VERMEER AND REMBRANDT FRIENDS

The Friends would like to extend grateful thanks to the following for continuing to support us as Vermeer and Rembrandt Friends:

Chris Carter; Elizabeth Meek; David Pears

CORPORATE BENEFACTORS

The Friends extend their grateful thanks to the following for supporting us as Corporate Benefactors:

