



## LECTURES AND OTHER EVENTS FROM NOVEMBER 2012 TO JUNE 2013

Monday 26 November

### **CELEBRATION OF THE BOOK LAUNCH OF THE SUFFOLK COLLECTION by LAURA HOUSLISTON 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm**

At Daunt Books, 51 South End Road, London NW3. Laura will give an introductory talk prior to signing copies of her book. There will also be a glass of wine. To book please phone Sally McCarthy – 07812 136603

**All Sunday lectures begin at 10.30 am, and will be held in the Old Kitchen**

Sunday, 16 December 2012

### ***PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE***

**AUGUSTUS JOHN** Tristan de Vere Cole

There are few more famous 20<sup>th</sup> century British artists than the flamboyant Augustus John, whose personality, like his art, seems larger than life. His youngest son will talk about his father from a unique personal standpoint.

**FOLLOWED BY THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.** The Mansion Gift Shop is offering a 10% discount to Friends of Kenwood on this day.



Sunday, 20 January 2013 **'EN PLEIN AIR': OIL SKETCHES IN FRENCH 19<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURY PAINTING**

Dr Kathy McLauchlan

By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the practice of sketching in the outdoors was well established. This lecture looks at the development of 'plein air' painting and its role in the French landscape tradition from Corot and the Barbizon School to Monet and the Impressionists. Dr McLauchlan is a specialist in French 19<sup>th</sup> century painting and is Course Director for the Victoria & Albert Museum Year Course: 'Rococo to Art Nouveau'.

Sunday, 17 February **MARY KINGSLEY: VICTORIAN LADY TRAVELLER**

Dr Geoffrey Hales

Our lecturer will bring to life the amazing discoveries and adventures of this intrepid traveller in the wilds of Africa. Combining meticulous research with a lively, theatrical presentation, Dr Hales' dramatic monologue is a *tour-de-force*.

Sunday, 24 March **THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN**

Dr Alan Borg

Clerkenwell is home to the Museum of the Knights of St John, the great medieval order of chivalry that was a major philanthropic and political force for many centuries, and survives to this day. Our lecturer, the chairman of the institution, a medieval historian and a former director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, will give us the inside story of the Knights, illustrated with treasures from the recently restored Museum.

Sunday, 21 April **ROYAL DOULTON: A FAMILY HISTORY**

Dr Valerie Doulton

Founded in Lambeth, Royal Doulton became famous for its fine porcelain and richly decorated pottery, and established itself as a market leader during the Victorian era. Our lecturer, a descendant of the founder John Doulton and a Friend of Kenwood, will give us a personal insight into the history of the firm, illustrated with items from her own collection.

Sunday, 19 May **REMBRANDT AND THE CRYING BOY**

Dr Martin Royalton-Kisch

This lecture takes us to the cutting edge of the connoisseurship of Rembrandt drawings, a complex and fascinating subject. Our lecturer is one of the world's leading Rembrandt scholars, and a former curator at the British Museum.

Sunday, 16 June **ROBERT ADAM'S DRAWINGS FOR KENWOOD**

Dr Frances Sands

The highlight of the Friends' visit to the Soane Museum in 2011 was the opportunity to see these exquisite drawings which were being catalogued by one of the curators, Dr Sands. Her lecture covers the early life and career of Robert Adam and shows the great importance of the drawings for the 'Caring for Kenwood' project.

## VISITS 2013

Saturday 19 January at 11.45 am **ST PANCRAS HOTEL**

After generations of neglect and the threat of demolition this historic landmark on the Euston Road has been restored to its High-Victorian Gothic splendour. Designed by George Gilbert Scott, renowned for his church architecture and most famously for the Albert Memorial, no expense was spared to create the last and grandest of railway hotels. The Midland Grand Hotel (as it was called) was fully opened in 1876. Its sumptuous interior recreated the Victorian ideal of medieval grandeur in its vaulting, arched windows and carvings of fruit and flowers, all set off with stunning colour. The greatest glory of the building is the Grand Staircase; a double staircase that spans three storeys to a vaulted ceiling painted with stars. State of the art comforts, including lifts and plenty of flushing lavatories were not sufficient to stave off competition from more modern hotels built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and slowly the Midland Grand Hotel went into decline and closed in 1935.



Its reincarnation as St Pancras Renaissance Hotel began with the campaign spearheaded by Sir John Betjeman in the 1960s to save a building he feared was 'too beautiful and too romantic to survive'. Most fortunately it did and after many years as offices and more sensationally as the location for film, TV and photo-shoots, a plan was devised to re-open the building as a hotel. This was in 1996. The magnificent project was completed in 2011 and the hotel re-opened - a 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural masterpiece with 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities. Our guide, Royden Stock, who has been involved with the St Pancras project since 1996, will tell this remarkable story.

We meet at **St Pancras Renaissance Hotel, Euston Road at 11.45**. The cost is £20 and the tour last about 90 minutes. The nearest tube station is King's Cross St. Pancras.

Wednesday 6 March at 10.30 am **STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE**

Horace Walpole was the youngest son of Britain's first Prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole, a major literary figure of his day, and best remembered today for writing the first Gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto* and for his Gothic fantasy villa, Strawberry Hill. He described it as the 'plaything house' and it started the trend for the revival of the Gothic so enthusiastically adopted by the Victorians. Strawberry Hill was planned with a group of amateur architect friends. It is a



pretend castle derived from designs of medieval abbeys and cathedrals, with meticulous detail carefully recreated on every surface of the building. Walpole wanted a visit to the house to be a theatrical experience: from the gloomy hall, up a staircase of sham grey stone into a sumptuous state apartment, an explosion of crimson and gold. The building was also intended to display and enhance his phenomenal collection of art, antiquities, curiosities and books. Walpole also created a garden for his villa and this too has been restored, including a recreation of his bizarre Shell Bench and the grove of lime trees. After Walpole's death, the villa eventually descended to the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl Waldegrave and the collection was dispersed. However the Countess (who married twice more) enlarged Strawberry Hill and it entered a final phase of glamorous entertainment.

For many years in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the house was empty and much of the fabric of the building had decayed. But a £9 million repair and painstaking restoration has returned the villa to its former splendour, but with twentieth century facilities and display techniques. It is now a stunning place to visit.

We meet at **Strawberry Hill House at 10.30 am**. The cost is £18.00. This includes morning coffee and a guided tour of the house. There are two disabled parking spaces available, but public transport is recommended. The nearest station is Strawberry Hill, a 5-10 minute walk.

**PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE BOOKING FORM (available on our website) FOR EACH OF THE TWO EVENTS ABOVE. ALSO PLEASE BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD**

Tuesday 2 April 2013 **TREE WORKSHOP**

Looking at the Magnolia blossom on Kenwood Estate

Meet 10.30 am at the front of the House

Bettina Metcalfe will show the group at least 8 different species of Magnolia; most of them will hopefully be in flower.

As in previous workshops, the aim of this gently paced stroll is to help sharpen observational skills and enjoy the beauty of early spring. Time permitting, we will also look at other trees.

Bettina's two previous tours were totally fascinating and informative.

Thursday 16 May **SPRING TOUR OF THE KENWOOD ESTATE**

Meet at the front of the House at 10.30am.

Paul Jackson, Head Gardner, will guide us round the on-going projects on the Kenwood Estate. It will also be an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful spring colours. Paul's tours are always very interesting and not to be missed to keep up to date with the changes in the landscape of the Estate.

These Garden Events are free but numbers are limited. Please contact Elizabeth Inglis to book a place either by telephone 020 8450 8802, or email: [efinglis@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:efinglis@dsl.pipex.com),

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