

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

Visit to Kenwood House and Estate
on 21 April 2016
Private guided tour starting at 10.30am

This visit has been organised by Ken Poulter.

Summary

REMS will visit Kenwood House on the northern boundary of Hampstead Heath. We will have a conducted tour of the house to see the wonderful Adam interior and the Iveagh Bequest of Old Master paintings. After a refreshments break we will then have a conducted tour of the surrounding gardens and estate. The visit will close with an opportunity to have lunch at the Brew House Cafe and to return afterwards to view the collections or to stroll through the grounds and onto Hampstead Heath.

The cost of the visit is £16.



Description

Kenwood House is a former stately home, in Hampstead, on the northern boundary of Hampstead Heath. It is managed by English Heritage, and was the subject of major renovations from 2012 until late 2013.

The original house dates from the early 17th century when it was known as Caen Wood House. In 1754 it was bought by William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield. He commissioned Robert Adam to remodel it from 1764–1779. Adam added the library (one of his most famous interiors) to balance the orangery, and added the Ionic portico at the entrance. In 1793-6 George Saunders added two wings on the north side, and the offices and kitchen buildings and brewery (now the restaurant) to the side.

Lord Iveagh, a rich Anglo-Irish businessman and philanthropist (of the Guinness family), bought the house from the Mansfield family in 1925 and left it to the nation upon his death in 1927; it was opened to the public in 1928. The furnishings had already been sold by then, but some furniture has since been bought back.

The house is also well known for the artwork it houses. Most of the works were acquired by Lord Iveagh in the 1880s–1890s and focus on Old Master portraits, landscapes and 17th century Dutch and Flemish works and British artists. Others were not part of the Iveagh Bequest but were added to the collection after his death because of a connection with Kenwood House.

The estate has landscaped gardens near the house, probably originally designed by Humphry Repton, contrasting with some surrounding woodland, and the naturalistic Hampstead Heath to the south. There is also a new garden by Arabella Lennox-Boyd.

One third of the estate is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, particularly the ancient woodlands. These are home to many birds and insects and the largest Pipistrelle bat roost in London. There are sculptures by Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore and Eugène Dodeigne in the gardens near the house.

Where and when to meet

Getting there - Directions to Kenwood via Tube/Bus

English Heritage strongly recommended that visitors travel to Kenwood by public transport as follows;

Take the London Underground Northern Line to Archway
From Archway Station take the 210 Bus towards Golders Green.
For Kenwood East Lodge alight at Compton Avenue/Kenwood

For further information on travel and car parking please see the Kenwood House web site
www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenwood/.

Where to meet.

We will assemble at the entrance to Kenwood House at 10.25 ready for the start of our tour at 10.30am.

For members arriving early refreshments can be purchased in the Brew House Cafe which opens at 9 am. Toilets are also available.

Lunch

The formal part of the visit ends at 13.00hours but it is hoped that members will stay and have lunch together in the Brew House Cafe in the grounds of Kenwood House. The cost of lunch is not included in the fee for the visit. After lunch members will be free to return to the house if they wish or walk through the grounds and onto Hampstead Heath if the weather permits!

Timetable

Programme	
10:25	Assemble at the entrance to Kenwood House. Refreshments can be purchased in the Brew House Cafe from 9 am for those arriving early.
10:30 to 11:30	Conducted tour of the house and collection
11:30 to 12:00	Break for refreshments
12:00 to 13:00	Conducted tour of the gardens
13:00	Lunch See above.

Afternoon free to return to house or to explore further the grounds or Hampstead Heath.

Size of party: Minimum of 11 and a maximum of 25.

Cost £16.00

Contacts

Before the day: Ken Poulter at kennethf.poulter@btopenworld.com or Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk

On the day: Ken Poulter on 07778 933 663

Late arrivals: Please call Ken who will advise you how to catch up with the group.