

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

Art and Beauty in Holland Park - Sambourne House and the Leighton House Museum on Thursday 29 Sept 2016

This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough.

Description We shall visit two architectural gems in Holland Park devoted to the high aestheticism of the Victorian era. In the morning we take a guided ‘costume’ tour of the home of the Sambourne family at 18 Stafford Terrace led by a representative of the household in period costume. After lunch we walk to the nearby Leighton House Museum, a temple to art and beauty where the artist and collector Frederick, Lord Leighton lived and worked for some 45 years. He stood at the centre of the Holland Park Circle of artists and served as President of the Royal Academy.

From 1875, **Sambourne House** at 18 Stafford Terrace was the home of Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne (right), his family and servants. The house is barely changed and provides a rare example of what was known as an 'Aesthetic interior' or 'House Beautiful' style. The Aesthetic Movement of the late nineteenth century advocated the use of foreign or 'exotic' influences in the decoration of the home. This can be seen by the various Japanese, Middle-Eastern and Chinese objects throughout the Sambournes' home. After the deaths of Linley and Marion Sambourne, the house was preserved by their descendants. In 1980 it was opened to the public by the Victorian Society. This organization had been inaugurated at 18 Stafford Terrace in 1958 by the Sambourne's grand-daughter, Anne, 6th Countess of Rosse. In 1989, its ownership passed to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



(Above. Two of Sambourne's Punch Cartoons. Below: a 'House Beautiful' interior at Sambourne)



The **Leighton House Museum** has a collection of 76 oil paintings by Leighton (right). These range from the small and loosely-painted colour sketches that he produced as part of the process of making his pictures, through to large-scale finished works produced for exhibition at the Royal Academy. (Below: Bianca by Leighton.)



(Below: interior of Leighton's 'House Beautiful')



Where and when to meet: We meet at Pret a Manger on your left in the arcade just as you emerge from the platforms at High St Kensington Station

Getting there Travelling by car is not advised. Take the District or Circle Line to High St Kensington (1 on map). We shall walk to Sambourne House (2 on map) from Pret A Manger taking about 7 min. After the costume tour, we go on foot to lunch at The Britannia (3 on map) some 150 m south down Allen St on the right. This should take no more than about 5 min. After lunch we walk to The Leighton House Museum (4 on map) in Holland Park Road taking some 11 min

Lunch: We take lunch at The Britannia ('Pub Beautiful', below) where tables will be reserved for us.



Timetable (times approximate)

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| 10:30 – 10:50 | Assemble at Pret a Manger at High St Kensington Station |
| 10:50 | Depart on foot for Sambourne House at 18 Stafford Terrace |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Guided costume tour of Sambourne House |
| 12:30 | March purposefully to the Britannia for lunch |
| 12:30 – 14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30 | Depart for Leighton House Museum |
| 14:45 – 16: 30 | Guided tour of Leighton House Museum & private viewing |

Size of party: 12 – 30

Cost: £25 for entries and the two guided tours. Pay for your own travel, food and drink

Contacts: Before the day, contact Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk or on 020 8398 0766. On the day try 07930 171 307.

Late arrivals: Call 07930 171 307 and use the map and the timetable to catch us up.

Map:

- 1: High St Kensington Station and Pret a Manger;
2. Sambourne Family House at 18, Stafford Terrace
3. The Britannia half way down Allen St (though addressed oddly as 1 Allen St)
4. Leighton House Museum

