

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

Walpole's Treasures return to Strawberry Hill On Thursday 10 January 2019

This visit has been organised by George Freeman

When Horace Walpole inherited his fortune in about 1750, he rebuilt Strawberry Hill House in the Gothic Revival manor, (We recently visited it). He also amassed many artefacts which are now known as his treasures. Regrettably most of his possessions were sold in an enormous sale in 1845 and are now owned by many diverse people and institutions around the world.



The guardians of Strawberry Hill House have borrowed back many of these possessions. The house was well documented by Walpole (Descriptions of the Villa) so the curators of the current exhibition knew what items went where.

We have been offered a guided tour of the house and the contents in the morning while the house is closed to the public. (90 minutes)

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=19592352>

Some of the highlights of the exhibition include portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Peter Lely, Allan Ramsay and Van Dyck and miniature portraits by Oliver, Hilliard and Holbein. Also Grinling Gibbons cravat, a lock of Mary Tudor's hair, a marvellous hunting horn and a Roman Eagle on an altar base.

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk The exhibition closes on 24 February

Where and when to meet: The house is at 268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST, adjacent to Queen Mary's University at the river end of the road. We will meet there in the café from 09:30am for tea and coffee for a start at 10:30. Pay for your own refreshments.

Getting there: Cars There is very limited parking at the house so you are recommended to use public transport.

Trains There are two trains an hour from Waterloo to Strawberry Hill station via Richmond and two trains via Kingston. From Strawberry Hill Station, turn left, take the second road on the right, which is signposted, and at its end turn left, and you will come to the main entrance leading to Strawberry Hill House.

Bus The 33 bus (every 10 minutes; Hammersmith to Fulwell) stops outside the house. Alight at "Strawberry Vale". The R68 (every 15 minutes; Hampton Court to Kew) stops nearby. Alight at "Michelham Gardens", walk back a few yards to Waldegrave Road and the house is the first on the left. Both buses call at Richmond station. www.tfl.gov.uk

Lunch: We can lunch in the café at 12.30 or at a local pub in Twickenham, King Street or York Street.

Size of party: 20 min (50 Max)

Cost: £15.00 for the tour and guide.

Contacts: Tony Colclough tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk before the day or call 07930 171307 on the day.

Register and pay on the IOP website. Those of you who are not REMS or have been invited as guests should contact georgefreeman@georgefreeman.force9.net

