

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

VISIT TO SOUTHSIDE HOUSE, WIMBLEDON.

Thursday 19th June 2003

This visit has been organised by Rosemary Wells

In 1685 Robert Pennington built Southside House in the Dutch Baroque style, with which he had fallen in love while in exile with the Stuart prince. After his return, with the Restoration, he later fled London and the plague, following the death of his small son, for the remote village of Wimbledon. The house has been connected with the same family ever since. The fortunes of later members of the family increased dramatically through marriage and the cotton trade. The house has associations with royalty, including pearls belonging to Marie Antoinette; with Admiral Lord Nelson and the Hamiltons; with Sir Joshua Reynolds and other famous people. The house, its fine pictures, and other collections of treasures are now managed by a Trust.

More information can be found at <http://www.stringofpearls.org.uk/pearl6/pea6.asp>.

The timetable is:

10.30	Meet at cafe opposite Putney Bridge metro station (District Line; Earls Court - Wimbledon)
11.00	Bus 93 to War Memorial Wimbledon Common
11.30	Southside House visit - 1½ hrs
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch at pubs opposite - "The Hand in Hand" or "The Crooked Billet,"
14.30	Walk across Wimbledon Common, with open woods and heather beds to
15.00	Windmill
15.15	Tea at Windmill cafe if desired. 5 min walk back to main road bus stop

The visit will cost £6.50 per person. There is no limit to numbers.

A possible alternative is to go straight to Southside. From Wimbledon Station (on both metro and main line), cross the road and take a bus up to Wimbledon Common War Memorial (east side of common). It is then a 5 min walk to Southside House, beside King's School on the south/west corner of the common, opposite the two pubs, For cars, some roadside parking is available.