



Harkness Fellows Association

# Harkness Events

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## SUMMER EVENT

# SYON PARK

A guided tour of Syon House, the spectacular London home of the Duke of Northumberland, followed by lunch at The Hilton Hotel in the grounds.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Guided tour: 11am – 12.30pm**

**Light lunch in The Hilton Hotel in Syon Park**

Syon is probably the finest Robert Adam interior in the country and one of the last great houses of London. It has been in the family of the present owners for more than 400 years. Full of historic resonances, the House holds a wealth of art by great masters and lesser known, but equally interesting, artists echoing the history of this country over the last three or four centuries. Its splendid Park and Gardens have as their centerpiece the Great Conservatory, one of the finest surviving garden buildings of the early nineteenth century, and beautifully renovated in 1986/7.

Built on the site of a medieval abbey of the Bridgettine Order, the house was remodeled and extended by Robert Adam from 1764 to 1779. The interiors include some of his finest surviving schemes, particularly the Great Hall and the startling Ante Room. The Red Drawing Room, with its sumptuous hangings of crimson Spitalfields silk, has recently been renovated showing the richly coloured detail of the Cipriani ceiling to great advantage. The astonishing Long Gallery was planned by Adam for the particular delight of the ladies “to afford variety and amusement,” and its pleasing muted colour scheme has been left unchanged to give an impression of what it looked like originally. The Upper Floor and Nursery Passage reflect the refurbishments carried out in the 1820s and 1830s and demonstrate how such a grand house was adapted for more modern use by royal guests and by the present Duke and his brothers and sisters when they were children.

**Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to visit a hidden gem:**

**Tickets for guided tour: £10; Lunch at the Hilton: c. £15**

**We will meet at 10.50am at the Visitors' Entrance to the House.**

**Parking:** There is plenty of parking in the main car park adjacent to the Hilton Hotel and the Garden Centre. Public transport is possible, but difficult. For directions and further details please visit the Syon Park website: <http://www.syonpark.co.uk>

**RSVP to [harkness@acu.ac.uk](mailto:harkness@acu.ac.uk) Tel: 020 7380 6704 Harkness Fellows Association c/o ACU, Woburn House, 20-24 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 1HF**

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