

PROGRAMME  
OF EXHIBITIONS  
& EVENTS



# CAPABILITY FESTIVAL 2016



*Celebrating 300 years of Capability Brown in our local landscapes*

The Capability Festival has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is produced in partnership with heritage and arts organisations from the Borough and surrounding area, including;

Connaught Opera  
English Heritage  
Garrick Estate  
Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare Trust  
Historic Royal Palaces at Hampton Court Palace  
Kew Gardens  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames  
London Parks and Gardens Trust  
Museum of Richmond  
Orleans House Gallery  
Pamela McHutchon (Blue Badge Tourist Guide)  
Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust  
Richmond Local History Society  
Strawberry Hill House  
Syon Park  
The Thames Landscape Strategy

Please find a complete list of festival venues at the back of this brochure.



## WELCOME

2016 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716 - 83) and will be celebrated throughout Britain by a series of exciting events, with many important gardens opening to the public.

Known as the 'father of the landscape garden', Brown was nicknamed 'Capability' on account of his ability to utilise the naturalistic 'capabilities' and potential of the landscape. Capability designed over 260 gardens all over the country and he is the best known English 18th century garden designer. Catering largely for the changing tastes of the aristocracy, Brownian gardens are instantly recognisable with their vast expanses of sweeping lawns, large lakes, garden buildings, carriage ways and clumped areas of wilderness. They formed an intrinsic part of a much wider development in the aesthetics behind landscape design, which began in early eighteenth-century England with garden designers Charles Bridgeman (1690-1738), Alexander Pope (1688-1744) and William Kent (1685-1748).

Brown became Head Gardener of Hampton Court Palace in 1764 at the age of 48 and moved with his family to Wilderness House. From his base at Hampton Court, Brown was responsible for designing a number of key gardens in our local area including Syon Park, Garrick's Temple, Kew Gardens and Richmond Gardens as well as being inspired and influenced by local poets and artists including Alexander Pope. We welcome everyone to explore Brown's cultural context, and join us in celebrating his important impact on our local area.

Lord Nicholas True, Leader of the Council  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Cover: *A View of Kew Gardens during the reign of George III, newly landscaped by Capability Brown, Undated, William Woollett*





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## EXHIBITIONS

### The Arcadian Thames Garden Trail

Throughout 2016

Between Hampton and Chiswick, the Arcadian Thames is widely thought to be the cradle of the English Landscape Movement. Follow the Thames Landscape Strategy's new trail and visit thirty historic gardens along this iconic stretch of the River, covering parks, royal palaces and working communities, to see the view that inspired Brown, and in many cases was inspired by him also.

Pick up a copy of the trail for free at Orleans House Gallery, or find it online at [www.thames-landscape.org.uk](http://www.thames-landscape.org.uk)

### Celebrating Our Gardens in 2016

Throughout 2016

Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey

Capability Brown was employed as Chief Gardener at Hampton Court Palace and lived onsite at Wilderness House from 1764 to 1783. Join in as the Palace celebrates its world-famous gardens with new interpretation and a range of events, talks, family activities and installations throughout the year.

Free with entry to the Palace, for more information please visit [www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)

### Capability Now

13 February - 19 June

Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham

An exhibition illustrating Brown's vast contribution to the development of the English Landscape Garden at a local and national level; a style characterised by its informal and naturalistic appearance, as opposed to the ordered, symmetrical, and geometric gardens that came before. The exhibition features contemporary artists from across the UK, showcasing their interpretations of Brown's works and ideas in a range of media.

Open 10am - 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday  
Admission free.

### A Collector's Collection: Dr Shirley Sherwood Selects Botanical Art

1 March - 31 May

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

Dr Sherwood - described by the BBC as a 'driving force behind the revival of interest in botanical art' - has chosen drawings and paintings which represent plans by Horace Walpole for his garden at Strawberry Hill, and those he would have seen in the fashionable gardens of his time.

Open 11am - 5.30pm, Sunday to Wednesday  
Admission free.

Opposite: *View of Syon House from Kew Gardens, 1795*,  
J.C. Stadler after J. Farington



### **The Empress and the Gardener**

27 April - 4 September

Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey

For the first time since they were created more than 200 years ago, this exhibition will bring together more than 60 views of Hampton Court's gardens drawn by Brown's surveyor, John Spyers, and later sold to the Russian Empress Catherine the Great.

Open daily 10am–5pm

Free with entry to the Palace, for more information please visit [www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)

### **Capability 300**

1 July - 29 October

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

Following its run at Orleans House Gallery, parts of the Capability Now exhibition will tour to the Museum of Richmond in celebration of the rich history of our local landscapes. The exhibition will be supported by an exciting range of events covering poetry, arts and crafts, film and more.

Open Tuesday to Friday 11am–5pm

Saturday 11am–4pm

Admission free.

### **Brown at Syon Park**

May - October 2016

Visitor's Centre, Syon House, Brentford

Capability was employed at Syon Park from as early as 1754, and worked there sporadically for the next twenty years. He is credited with the creation of two lakes, a pleasure garden and Flora's Column, as well as naturalising the view across the Thames to Richmond Gardens. As one of the best preserved Brownian landscapes in the area, Syon Park will host an exhibition exploring the field and Brown's revolutionary ideas.

Entry will be free of charge daily, please visit [www.syonpark.co.uk](http://www.syonpark.co.uk) for specific dates and more information

Opposite: *A View of the Royal Palace at Hampton Court, 1763, Unknown Artist*



# EVENTS

## Connaught Opera: In An English Country Garden

Dates throughout 2016

Local sites including Orleans House Gallery,  
Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace.

Following the life and times of Capability Brown, Connaught Opera will be touring twenty concerts across England. Singers Maria Arakie and Glenn Wilson, along with pianist Nicholas Bosworth, will be performing music exploring the rich beauty of the English Landscape Garden. Concerts will include access to the sites and gardens, and are aimed at older people, including those living in care homes.

Ticket applications will begin in Spring 2016. Please contact [connaughtopera@maria-arakie.com](mailto:connaughtopera@maria-arakie.com) for more information.

## Botanical Painting at Strawberry Hill

23 April, 10am - 4pm

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

Renowned botanical artist Christabel King will guide you in the art of botanical painting using pencil and watercolour techniques. You will learn how to make preparatory sketches for composition, and apply watercolours using washes and fine brushwork.

Tickets to this event cost £50, and include all art materials, and morning and afternoon refreshments. Advance booking is required, please visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events)

## The Origins of the English Landscape Movement

25 April, 6.30pm

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

To celebrate the CB300 anniversary, Strawberry Hill will hold this introductory talk on Brown's life and work, the development of the English Landscape Movement, its lasting legacy to garden design, and how to recognise a Capability garden.

Tickets to this event cost £8, and advance booking is required. Please visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events)

## The Influences and Aesthetics Behind Brown's Garden Designs

30 April, 2pm

The Coach House, Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham

Brown was a hugely successful businessman who was responsible for designing over 260 of England's finest Georgian parks and gardens. Ricky Pound, curator of Orleans House Gallery's *Capability Now*, will explore the characteristics of a Brownian landscape and the influences that underpinned them. He will consider Brown's relationships, and place him in his historical and geographic context.

Tickets to this event cost £12, and are available from the Richmond Arts Service at Orleans House Gallery. Proceeds will go towards the *Transforming Orleans House* project.



## Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at Kew & Syon

4 May, 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

St Anne's Church Hall, Kew

Brown was appointed by the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland to undertake major landscaping work at Syon House, and later by King George III to redesign Richmond Gardens (now Kew Gardens and Old Deer Park). It is thought that Brownian plantings still remain today, and Chris Sumner and Susan Darling will consider the extent to which Brown shaped these important local landscapes.

Tickets to this event cost £3 for members of the Kew Society, and £5 for non-members. Refreshments will be included. Please book in advance at <http://kewsociety.org/events/>

## A Collector's Collection: Lecture by Dr Shirley Sherwood

4 May, 7pm

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

In the stunning ambience of Walpole's State Apartment, Dr Sherwood will discuss the process of selecting pieces for her exhibition at Strawberry Hill, her love for the artistic recording of plants and flowers, and her experience of collecting in this genre.

Tickets to this event cost £12, and advance booking is required. Please visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events)

## Terry Gough: Walking in the footsteps of Capability

20 May, 1pm

Octagon Room, Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham

Terry Gough, Head Gardener at Hampton Court, will give a talk on Brown's period in the same role over 250 years ago. In conjunction with the exhibition at Hampton Court Palace, the talk will be illustrated with John Spyders' images of Brown's tenure at the palace.

To reserve a free ticket please visit [www.richmond.gov.uk/capability\\_festival](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/capability_festival) or contact the gallery on 0208 831 6000.



## Exploring Arcadian Thames: Discovering Capability Brown

21 May, 2pm

Meet outside the Cricketer's Pub, Kew, and finish in Richmond

Garden historians Chris Sumner and Susan Darling, along with Sally Williams of the London Parks and Gardens Trust, will lead a walk along the Thames towpath from Kew to Richmond to view what remains of Brown's landscapes at Syon on the west bank, and the former Richmond Gardens on the east. Susan will discuss the discoveries she has made about Brown's work during her recent research. Please note that although both will be covered, there will not be time to visit either Kew Gardens or Syon Park on this occasion.

This event is being organised for the Chelsea Fringe by the London Parks & Gardens Trust, in association with The Gardens Trust. Tickets cost £5, payable to the organisers on the day of the walk.





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**‘The Proper Study of Mankind is Man’:  
a symposium for Alexander Pope’s birthday**

21 May, 9.30am - 4pm

Radnor House School, Twickenham

Pope’s famous garden was designed in collaboration with William Kent and Charles Bridgeman, founders of the English Landscape Garden movement. His is thought to have been the first complete garden in the style, and this symposium will include presentations on Pope’s work, friends, and colleagues, with a dramatic piece by award-winning storyteller Giles Abbott. Brown was a pupil of both Kent and Bridgeman, and is thought to have been inspired by Pope in many of his landscapes.

Tickets to this event cost £20, and include a visit to the Grotto, as well as a sandwich lunch and coffee. Available at [www.popesymposium.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.popesymposium.eventbrite.co.uk).

All funds raised will go towards the restoration of Pope’s Grotto.



**Opposite: A View of the seat of the late David Garrick Esq at Hampton, with a prospect of the temple to Shakespeare in the Garden, Undated, Taylor**

**Alexander Pope: A Search for Perfection**

30 May, 1pm & 6pm

Octagon Room at Orleans House Gallery

4 July, 7pm

Twickenham Library

13 October, 7.30pm

OSO Arts Centre, Barnes

Alexander Pope is, after William Shakespeare and Alfred Lord Tennyson, the most quoted poet in the English language. As a Catholic he was prohibited to build a home within the City of London and so settled in Twickenham, Middlesex. As well as a poet, Pope was a visionary who, through his friendships with Ralph Allen and William Kent, became a profound influence on English landscape gardening. In partnership with the Arts Council and Pope’s Grotto Preservation Trust, award-winning storyteller Giles Abbott has created a piece which brings to life Pope, his grotto, art, ambitions and arguments.

Performances will take place throughout the year, ticketing information will be available at [www.gilesabbott.com](http://www.gilesabbott.com). Each performance lasts 45 minutes.



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ENGLAND**



## Capability Brown Royal Gardener – The Man and His Business: Past, Present and Future

6 - 8 June

Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey

Historic Royal Palaces, in conjunction with the University of East Anglia and the University of Sheffield, will host a conference discussing the life and legacy of Britain's most famous royal gardener and pioneering landscape designer. Keynote speakers include: Dr David Jacques (garden historian and historical consultant), Dr Jan Woudstra (University of Sheffield), and Ceryl Evans (CB300 Festival Organiser).

Tickets available at [www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)  
Days 1 and 2: £100 (£75 students) Days 1, 2 and 3: £150 (£100 students)

## Capability!

11 June, 3pm

Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, Hampton

1756, the 'omnipotent magician' Lancelot Brown advises famous actor David Garrick on landscaping. The inexhaustibly frenetic Brown fires his imagination. The result: a sylvan scene, Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare, that Dr Jonson describes as 'a place that makes dying so unbearable'... but where now does Capability himself lie?

This short play is one of a series of historically based plays by local writer Keith Wait, produced annually over many years at Garrick's Temple.

Free admission, no advance booking required.

## Garrick, Brown, and a Hampton Garden 'Laid Out in the Modern Taste'

16 June, 6.30pm

The Octagon Room, Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham

This illustrated talk by Suzannah Fleming explores the extraordinary rise of two tremendously influential figures in 18th century culture. Each possessed a remarkable genius that revolutionised their chosen fields of endeavour; David Garrick for the English stage, and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown for the English Landscape Garden. A contemporary anecdote suggests that Garrick sought advice from Brown in the development of his garden at Hampton - which was described in the 18th century as being 'laid out in the Modern Taste' – yet how much of this was due to the influence of Brown, and how much Garrick?

Tickets to this event cost £15 and will include a glass of wine or soft drink.  
Available to book in advance at [www.richmond.gov.uk/capability\\_festival](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/capability_festival)

Proceeds will go towards the *Transforming Orleans House* project.



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ENGLAND**



## Pope's Grotto Open Days and Alexander Pope: A Search for Perfection

11, 18 and 25 June, 10am - 3pm

Pope's Grotto at Radnor House School

The iconic Pope's Grotto will be open on the mornings of three Saturdays during the Twickenham Festival. On two of these dates, award-winning storyteller Giles Abbot will be performing a shortened version of his dramatic piece at 30 minute intervals. Come along, explore the Grotto and hear Giles' inspirational account of Pope's tale.

Please note that Giles will not be performing on 11 June.  
Tickets for the Open Days and performances will be untimed, and are available at [www.popesgrotto.org.uk/news.html](http://www.popesgrotto.org.uk/news.html)

## Capability Carnival

19 June

Parade leaves from York House at 12 noon, followed by a  
Carnival village at Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham 1 - 5pm

Join in Orleans House Gallery's vibrant celebration of Capability Brown's work in Richmond. A colourful procession of costumes and Carnival props designed by children using Brown's ideas will parade along Twickenham Riverside to a Carnival village on the banks of the River Thames with music, performance, food and activities for all ages.

This event which is part of Twickenham Festival is free and open to all, there is no need to book.

## Katya Lazareva & Calin Andrei: Illumination of Spring Gardens

23 June, 7.30pm

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

The magical – and somewhat edgy – air of London's 18th Century pleasure gardens was largely down to lighting. In the days before electricity, the sight of hundreds of oil lamps illuminating the trees and bushes must have been sensational. Katya Lazareva and Calin Andrei will present a wonderful programme of pieces by Mozart, Bach, Halvorsen (Theme by Handel), Spohr, Kaliwoda and Martinu, which will evoke in your imagination this unique atmosphere.

Tickets to this event cost £16, and advance booking is required.  
Please visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events)

## Follia: 'Into this Enchanted Place...'

30 June, 7.30pm

Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham

Listen to music composed specifically for the 18th Century Pleasure Gardens in Strawberry Hill House's sumptuous Gallery. Popular Baroque ensemble Folia will perform music by Handel, Chilcott, Johan Christian Bach, Abel and the young Mozart. Folia is made up of Elin Harries (soprano), Diane Moore and Johannes Gebauer (baroque violin), Ibrahim Aziz (viola da gamba), and Yeo Yat-Soon (harpsichord).

Tickets to this event cost £16, and advance booking is required.  
Please visit [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/events)





### Poetry Morning: Capability Brown

5 July, 10.30am - 12noon

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

The Museum of Richmond in collaboration with the Libraries Poetry Group, present a morning of poetry inspired by the life and work of Capability Brown. There will be a variety of poems shared, and please feel free to bring along your own.

Free admission, no advance booking required.

### Capability's Birthday

30 August, 11am - 5pm

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

Join us for a drop in family day at the Museum to celebrate the 300th birthday of Capability Brown. See the exhibition, complete our Capability quiz, design your own nature-themed cards, and make Georgian silhouettes using the art materials provided.

Admission free, donations welcome.

### Family Arts & Crafts Workshops: Landscape Gardens

26 - 29 July, 10am - 12noon daily

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

An opportunity for families to join the Museum in exploring their *Capability 300* exhibition and enjoy beautiful landscape scenes. Learn how landscape painters inspired – and were inspired by – the great outdoors, and use the arts and crafts materials provided to paint your own scene.

Adults free, £4 per child, payable with cash on the day.

Please book your place by contacting the Museum at [museumofrichmond@btconnect.com](mailto:museumofrichmond@btconnect.com), 0208 332 1141.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Capability Film Night

28 September, 5pm

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

To complement the *Capability 300* exhibition, join us for a night of Capability-themed film and discussion at the Museum of Richmond. Film to be confirmed, please check the Museum's website for more details.

Please book your place by contacting the Museum at [museumofrichmond@btconnect.com](mailto:museumofrichmond@btconnect.com), 0208 332 1141.

£3 recommended donation.

Opposite: *A View from Richmond Hill*,  
Undated, Haxell



### Capability Brown and the River at Syon and Richmond Gardens

2 October

Syon Park, Brentford

This study day will include talks by Chris Sumner on Bridgeman, Kent and Brown at Richmond Gardens, as well as by Susan Darling on Brown at Syon. Axel Griesinger will speak on Schloss Richmond in Braunschweig (Brunswick), a house built for George III's sister Princess Augusta and based on a design by Brown, and Jason Debney of the Thames Landscape Strategy will discuss the management of views across the River. The day will be wrapped up with a tour from Head Gardener Topher Martyn through the private grounds at Syon.

To book please visit [www.londongardenstrust.org](http://www.londongardenstrust.org)

### Capability 300: Curator's Talk

4 October, 2pm

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

Come and meet the Museum of Richmond's new curator and find out about how exhibitions are put together, and what has been learnt about Brown's life and work in the process.

Please book your place by contacting the Museum at [museumofrichmond@btconnect.com](mailto:museumofrichmond@btconnect.com), 0208 332 1141. £2 recommended donation.

### The Romantics; Poetry Inspired by Nature

12 October, 5.30 - 6.30pm

Museum of Richmond, Richmond

The Museum of Richmond invites you to attend a poetry evening with readings from a variety of Romantic poets. Please feel free to bring along your own works also.

No need to book, £2 recommended donation.

### How the View of the Thames from Richmond Hill Influenced the English Landscape Movement

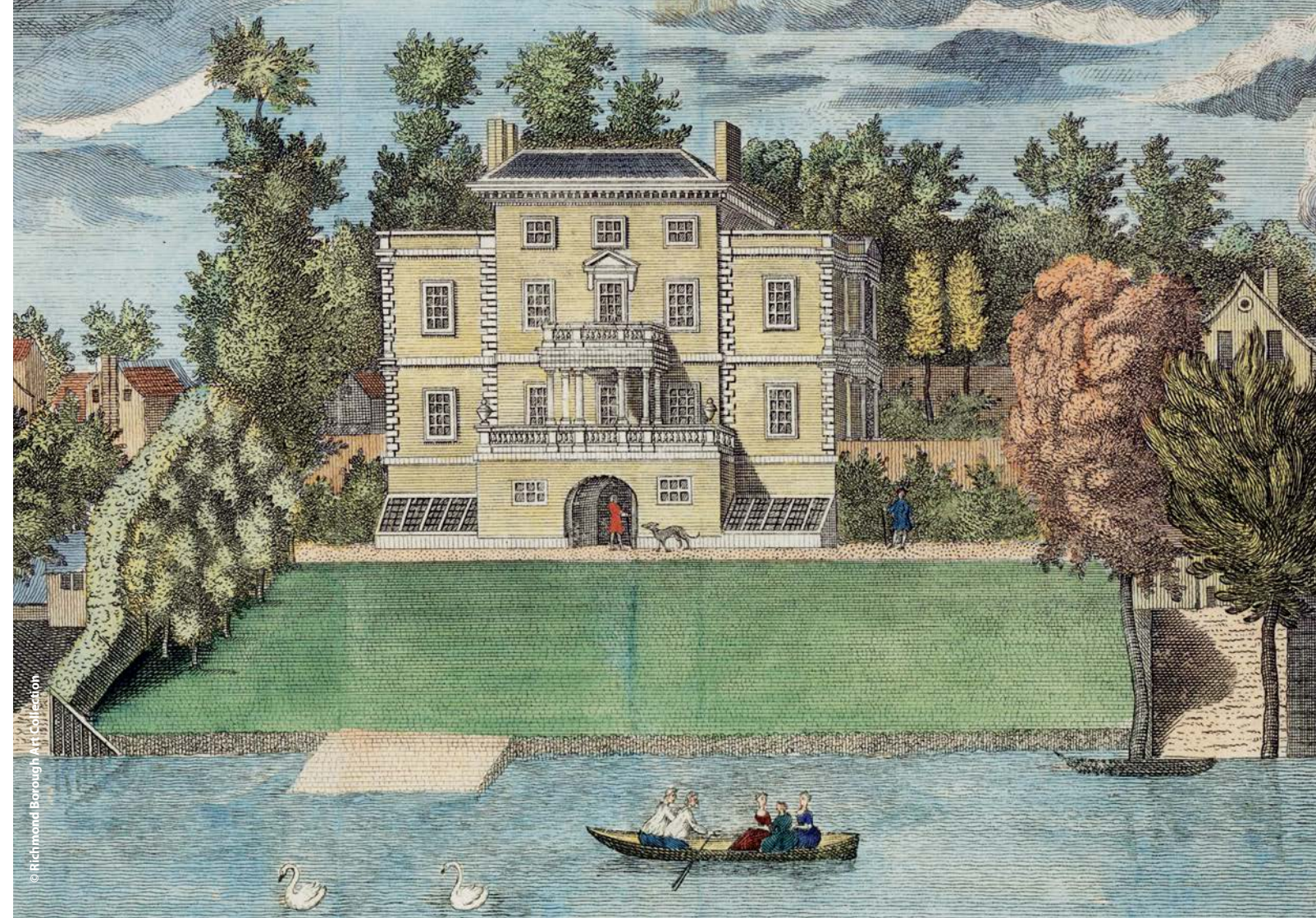
12 December, 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm)

Duke Street Church, Richmond

The view of the Thames from Richmond Hill is one of London's most celebrated beauty spots. Jason Debney, Co-ordinator of the Thames Landscape Strategy, will talk about how this iconic sight influenced the English Landscape Garden Movement, and played a key role in the work of Brown and his peers. The talk will be followed by a Q & A session and Christmas party.

£4 payable on the door (free to Richmond Local History Society members).

Opposite: *The House of the Late Celebrated Mr Pope Fronting the River Thames of Twickenham, 1749, Mason after Heckel*



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# VENUES

## The Cricketer's Pub

79 Kew Green, Kew, TW9 3AH  
Event organised by London Parks and Gardens Trust  
020 7839 3969

## Duke Street Church

Duke Street, Richmond, TW9 1DH  
Event organised by Richmond Local History Society  
020 8891 3825

## Garrick's Temple to Shakespeare

Hampton Court Road, Hampton, TW12 2EN  
07880 790763

## Hampton Court Palace

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU  
020 3166 6000

## The Museum of Richmond

Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond, TW9 1TP  
020 8332 1141

## Orleans House Gallery (the Coach House and Octagon Room)

Riverside, Twickenham, TW1 3DJ  
020 8831 6000

## The OSO Arts Centre

49 Station Road, Barnes, SW13 0LF  
020 8876 9885

## Pope's Grotto at Radnor House School

Cross Deep, Twickenham, TW1 4QG  
020 8891 6264

## St Anne's Church

Kew Green, Kew, Surrey, TW9 3AA  
Event organised by London Parks and Gardens Trust  
020 7839 3969

## Strawberry Hill House

268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST  
020 8744 1241

## Syon Park

Park Road, Brentford, TW8 8JF  
020 8560 0882

## Twickenham Library

Garfield Road, Twickenham, TW1 3JT  
020 8734 3340

## York House

Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA  
Event organised by Orleans House Gallery  
020 8831 6000





For further information about the Capability Festival and specific events, please speak to venues and partners directly, or contact the Arts Service at Orleans House Gallery

Riverside, Twickenham  
TW1 3DJ  
020 8831 6000  
[artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:artsinfo@richmond.gov.uk)  
[www.richmond.gov.uk/capability\\_festival](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/capability_festival)