



Syon Lodge
201 London Road
Isleworth
Middlesex TW7 5XD

Syon Lodge - Present Day

Introduction

Syon Lodge was built originally as the Dower House to Syon House by the renowned architect Robert Adam on the instructions of the 2nd Duke of Northumberland in 1770 and has been the subject of major renovation works, creating a unique family house.

It is rare to find the range of '21st Century technology' in such an attractive and very special period house. The works have been undertaken by Paul Crowther, great-great-grandson of the founders of the famous 'Crowthers of Syon Lodge' who were collectors and dealers in high quality, high value architectural pieces, many of which have been included within the fabric of the building over the past century.

The House and Lodge Stables

Paul Crowther has spent the last 2 years restoring Syon Lodge to its former glory as a magnificent family house. A team of 50 or so craftsmen have assisted in this painstaking task of restoring what housed the hectic 'offices' of Crowther of Syon Lodge for nearly 80 years; the family business of internationally renowned architectural antiques dealers.

The history of the property is evident throughout.

The original Lodge Stables were converted by adding the 17th century oak Linenfold Jacobean panelling (removed from a monastery) to the unique and spacious, present-day Banqueting Room, which is dominated by a 16th century Tudor stone fireplace carved in relief with St. George killing the Dragon. Stairs lead to a Minstrel's gallery and a self contained Apartment. Concealed doors lead to a fully panelled functional Office.

Once inside the main house, the marble floored hallway leads to the country style Kitchen and Breakfast Room, with every modern appliance neatly concealed behind the rustic wooden fittings. Ample workspace is provided by the large central island and even the Aga has a conventional 'back up' cooker. Also on the ground floor is a Cellar, Utility Room, Coats room, Guest Cloakroom and Study with painted 15th century Flemish panelling.

On the upper ground floor begins the transition between old and new. The formal Drawing Room is panelled and features ornate carvings, above the 18th century marble fireplace with carving above in the style of Grinling Gibbons. Next door is a cinema room with a projector screen which cheekily drops from within a framed picture. A Study, Dining Room and small Library complete this floor.

The first floor is dominated by the Master Bedroom, walk in Dressing Room and Master Bathroom, which has a walk in shower, freestanding traditional bath and LED TV. The further six bedrooms are arranged over the first and second floors and most have an En Suite Bathroom, some with walk in shower and all with concealed storage, as well as the use of another fine panelled Sitting Room and ample loft storage in the roof space.

The centrepiece of most rooms, including the Master Bathroom, is a working antique marble or stone fireplace, acquired by Crowther's over the years.

Paul Crowther has maintained Syon Lodge's original features, ensuring the house is still a historical relic. At the same time, he has created a haven for the modern family, who will be able to enjoy a luxury lifestyle with comfort and security. TV's connect with CCTV, storage rooms have automatic lighting, the sound system extends throughout the house and there is an entry system on every floor as well as five outdoor cameras and garden lighting.

The Garden

The Garden at Syon Lodge was designed by someone who truly thought of everything. Strolling along the York stone paving that surrounds the lawn, one passes two water features, a Pavilion (currently used as a gym), a Rockery complete with waterfall, compost area, greenhouse, vegetable garden, toolshed, children's play area and a BBQ area .

There is an abundance of seating areas around the garden to suit different occasions and moods and many features such as a scattering of Corinthian style columns. The focal point of the garden is a Venetian Loggia, complete with Verona marble columns and marble flooring, and comfortable seating from which to admire the splendid scene. The house has a Summer Kitchen and Shower Room to help keep the outdoors out.

Situated adjacent to Syon House, the autumn months allow the view to extend across Syon Park to the stately home and its surrounding countryside.

Historical Location

Journeying from Central London through Hammersmith and Chiswick we arrive in Old Brentford where the Thames flows within a stone's throw of the High Street, and approached by Ferry Lane, is the actual spot where Julius Caesar crossed the Thames with his army on his way to London, two thousand years ago.

Proceeding westwards along the London Road – the Old Bath Road – after passing Brentford Church and crossing the river Brent we arrive at “Syon Lodge”, Isleworth. This journey, which on horseback or by stagecoach could be accomplished in several hours a hundred years ago, will today take a mere 30 or so minutes.

Several of England's stately homes are within a few miles of “Syon Lodge”. Just behind “Syon Lodge” is the historic Syon House, home to the Dukes of Northumberland, a mansion founded by the Lord Protector Somerset in 1547 and enlarged by Inigo Jones and Robert Adam.

A mile to the West of “Syon Lodge” is Osterley House, built by Robert Adam on the site of an Elizabethan house, of which only the stables can now still be seen. On the left of the route to “Syon Lodge” from the Central London is Chiswick House. Built by William Kent for Lord Burlington from designs by Inigo Jones, this villa is one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in the country.

Just across the river, Ham House is noted for its seventeenth century furniture. Built in 1610, Ham House was home of the Earls of Dysart and the scene of the secret meetings of the Cabal. While on the south side of the river we have magnificent Botanical Gardens at Kew with its tree outside the Dutch House, around which mad King George III chased Fanny Burney.

Touch of history - from Duke of Northumberland to Paul Crowther

Syon Lodge

Syon has an interesting past. King Henry V founded a monastery here in 1394. At that time it was one of the most renovated in the kingdom and the first to incur the displeasure of King Henry VIII – a fate which few religious houses escaped.

In 1770 the 2nd Duke of Northumberland commissioned Robert Adam, the greatest of architects of his age, to remodel the interiors of Syon House and to build an elegant Dower House – “Syon Lodge” - on the northern border of his estate. It was this house “Syon Lodge”, which Bert Crowther bought from the 7th Duke of Northumberland in 1928.

It is a beautifully constructed house by Robert Adam and enriched by his brother James and it still retains many of its original features.

Bert Crowther had initially intended to use “Syon Lodge” as a country home, but he was an inveterate collector and dealer, as was his father before him. Therefore, in no time at all “Syon Lodge” become another abode full of an astonishing range of beautiful antique objects, which in turn drew to “Syon Lodge” royalty and glittering array of the rich and famous.

The Crowthers; 5 generations

The Crowther Story begins in West London in the 1880's. Tom Crowther, a Victorian stone mason, finding his livelihood threatened by a flood of cheap Italian marble work, had the perception to see that there was a demand for Architectural Antiques and began, in a small way, buying and selling statues and chimneypieces.

It was his son Bert, however, who conceived and created the enchanted world of "Syon Lodge" after his father died in 1921. Bert was one of 12 children – 6 boys, 6 girls – at the age of 12 he carved sundials for his father.

Tom Crowther first raised his family of 12 children in a six roomed house in Escourt Road, Fulham and worked in a workshop situated at the back of the house. As he grew more successful he moved his family to a very large Georgian Mansion in Fulham named "The Grange", which dated back to Charles II had been the home of Burne-Jones, the painter and Samuel Richardson, originator of the English novel. It was demolished in the late 1950's.

In the 1900's it was a familiar sight in Fulham and Chelsea to see Tom Crowther and the boy Bert pushing a barrow through the streets to deliver their wares to the builder's yard. He started dealing in Antiques when the ready-made marble ornaments imported from Italy became too great a competition.

Tom's children were successful businessmen. In the city there is a striking reminder of Crowther in the form of wrought iron gates in the forecourt of the College of Arms. Young Bert and his brother Tom sold 300 Georgian fireplaces to the builders of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

By the late 1920's Bert Crowther became weary of the hurly-burly of city life and, like many a prosperous businessman before him sought a peaceful country retreat. His search led him to Isleworth, a small village in Middlesex that had for a hundred years been dominated by the vast estate of Syon Park, home of the Percys, Dukes of Northumberland. The Percys family is descended from William de Percy, a French knight who fought alongside William the Conqueror at Hastings in 1066.

Bert's office had no typewriters, dictaphones, filing cabinets, bell switches or telephones; Bert carried his files in his head. Every object of his vast collection was recorded in his memory. He could tell you at once, without sending for the ledger, the origin or price of any item in his collection. Everyone used to address him as Mr Bert. He was short and dapper, white haired and pink complexioned and spoke with a cockney accent, of which he was very proud. His customary apparel in which he greeted all who came to "Syon Lodge" was an old check sports jacket, sandals, grey flannel trousers, cream shirt and spotted white tie.

Bert Crowther had a deep love for every object which comprised his huge collection. New acquisitions were always pointed out with the pride of a child with a new toy. The things for which he had an especially warm affection he priced highly to lessen the risk of having to part with them. He did not see himself as a businessman, but a collector who, because he was pressurised by people, sold pieces from his collection.

In 1958, when Derek Crowther inherited the business, it employed a highly skilled staff in the restoration and display of the vast range of architectural antique treasures which passed through it. However, having given 45 years of dedication and experience to the business, Derek Crowther decided to retire and closed the company with a heavy heart, and a business which had been in existence for 125 years suddenly was no more.

Since December 2005 Paul Crowther (son of Derek Crowther) has been the proud owner of the fascinating "Syon Lodge" converting it back and restoring it from tired offices to its original use as a magnificent single family house.

Famous visitors

Being the home to some of the world's most famous antiques, the house was no stranger to royalty.

Bert Crowther gave a bust of the Duke of Windsor aged 18 as a present to the Duchess.

In 1953 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth bought here chimneypieces for the Royal Lodge, in Windsor and a life-sized figure of Father Time seated on a pedestal faced with four sundials, for the gardens at Sandringham.

In March 1953 Duke and Duchess of Windsor bought three chimneypieces for their home in Paris.

In 1959 the Duchess of Kent bought an Adam fireplace for her apartments at Kensington Palace.

It soon became evident that whether one wished to buy a fine statue, an elegant chimneypiece or a complete panelled room Syon Lodge was just the place to find it. For many years "Syon Lodge" was the place to visit, from royalty to rock stars.

Amongst many that cherished its beauty were Princess Margaret, Prince & Princess Michael of Kent, Barbara Hutton, Vivien Leigh, Sir John Gielgud, Rudolf Nureyev & Margot Fonteyn, Jane Fonda, Bob Guccione, Michael Douglas, Sir Michael Caine, Sir Elton John, Sir Cliff Richard, Sir Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison, Rod Stewart, Bill Wyman, Pete Townsend, Eric Clapton – and many many more.

Features and strange objects

At Syon Lodge, over the years, one has seen such strangely contrasting objects as:

remaining at Syon Lodge...

- a Loggia of a 17th century Venetian palace
- a massive 16th century Tudor stone fireplace carved in relief with St. George killing the Dragon
- period Linenfold oak panelling
- painted 15th century Flemish panelling
- wooden carving of an eagle in the style of Grinling Gibbons

but long gone...

- part of the White Hart Inn at Cranford, dated back to 1750, was once the office. Bert bought it for 10 shillings
- a section of the original brick and stone Wren Mansion House of 1668
- the classical portico from Pope's villa at Twickenham
- the marble mantel which once adorned the room at Norfolk House in which George III was born
- terracotta griffins from old Temple Bar
- the entire carved and painted interior of a Russian church
- 2 huge red granite boisins (fountains), with carved dolphin head spouts, from Trafalgar Square
- a donkey carriage used by Queen Victoria
- 1957 – the coach last used at the Coronation of King George V
- a Roman sarcophagus of the second century
- an 18th century double life-size lion in Portland stone, which once mounted guard outside old Somerset House
- the treasure chest of the Archbishop of Toledo at the time of the Armada
- one of the balustrades of the destroyed old Rochester Bridge
- 70 lamp-posts from Horse Guards Parade and so much more

Gross Internal Area circa 9,715 sq ft / 904.8 sq m

Accommodation

- Master bedroom, bathroom, dressing room suite
- 6 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 2 shower rooms
- 2 cloakrooms
- Banqueting Room
- Drawing room
- Cinema / TV room
- Dining room
- Study x 2
- Playroom
- Office (with independent entrance)
- Library
- Kitchen; country style with Aga
- Breakfast room with open fire
- Summer kitchen
- Larder; walk-in
- Utility room
- Plant room
- Boiler house
- Cellar
- Excluded from above is a separate self contained 1 bedroom apartment ideal for staff or guests

Outside

- 1.05 acres / 0.4 hectares
- Large front and rear landscaped gardens
- York Stone terraces and paths
- Fountains, rockery, lawns, vegetable garden, outbuildings etc
- Elegant Venetian Loggia complete with Verona marble columns and marble flooring
- Wrought iron electrically operated 'In and Out' entrance gate
- Garden Pavilion
- Custom built BBQ area with York Stone worktops
- iLight scene lighting system to front and rear gardens

Specification

- Fully fitted kitchen with country style hand made wooden units incorporating:
 - Aga oven
 - Siemens microwave
 - Siemens five ring gas hob
 - Siemens oven
 - Neff dishwasher
 - Siemens refrigerator (drinks)
 - Miele refrigerator
 - Miele freezer
 - Miele washing machine
 - Miele tumble dryer
 - Butler sinks (old style)
- Independent gas fired central heating with (zoned) Potterton boiler, separate Andrews water heater and independent boiler to Stables; traditional style cast iron radiators, contemporary white radiators, chrome ladder towel warmers in all bathrooms
- Under floor heating to stone flooring
- Multi room sound and vision control system with Yamaha MusicCast multi room controller and amplifier allowing the broadcast of the same or different music throughout the house
- International TV and satellite systems wired for the distribution of television pictures to be controlled from any TV point
- Cinema room with projector, electric screen and 5:1 surround sound
- CAT 5 cabling throughout for voice and data
- Computer network and wireless system
- Security intruder alarm system designed to allow the resident to feel totally secure whether the occupiers are at home or out
- Video entry system
- CCTV system; cameras and digital video recording system which can be viewed on the in house TV system or via any computer worldwide
- Access and remote system to both pairs of secure entrance gates with further control via the telephone system
- Digital telephone system with in house intercom and paging facilities
- iLight scene lighting system to Banqueting Room

Tenure: Freehold

Price: on Application