



## Who we are...

Kings Weston is a unique and special place. Treasured for centuries, its former fame has been largely forgotten. Even within Bristol there is little knowledge of the nationally important house and landscape outside its immediate neighbourhood. From the peace and seclusion of Kingsweston Hill to the walks through Penpole Wood or the spectacular views from Shirehampton Park, the estate has been enjoyed by the public for almost four hundred years.

It is no exaggeration to put the house, designed by the eminent English architect Sir John Vanbrugh, amongst the country's greatest buildings. Although threatened several times during the Twentieth Century by demolition or redevelopment, it has survived largely intact. However, since the Second World War the landscaped park and gardens have fared less well; succumbing to the pressures of housing development, suffering from poor maintenance, and the loss of some important features. Eclipsed by nearby Blaise Castle Estate, the landscape at Kings Weston is now neglected and in need of attention before more is lost forever.

The Kings Weston Action Group has been set up to protect the Kings Weston Estate, fight for its future, and protect its past. We are an active group of volunteers formed from local people and users of the park and with interest and support from architectural and landscape historians across the UK. Our intention is to help forge a new future for the estate, to conserve and enhance the park in equal measure, and secure the park as a first-class green space for everyone to enjoy.

We want to work closely with Bristol City Council, English Heritage, the National Trust, and groups with shared interest in our ambitions to undertake the following:

- **Promote the historic importance of the house and park across the city**
- **To take direct action to undertake maintenance and conservation work**
- **Work with the City Council to inform new plans for conservation, maintenance and enhancements.**
- **Monitor the condition of the grounds, historic house and garden buildings**
- **Identify and apply for funding to achieve our goals.**

This exhibition hopes to convey just a glimpse of the fascinating history of Kings Weston and the people who created it. It is our ambition to generate new interest and understanding of the importance of the house and park, and we hope that what we present here will be an apt introduction for the first-time visitor, and offer a new perspective to those more familiar with the place.

We are very grateful to the Bristol Port Company for kindly supporting this exhibition.

