



GOODWOOD HOUSE
2016





The Charlton Hunt by George Stubbs (1759). The third Duke of Richmond rides a black hunter at the centre of the painting.

THE CHARLTON HUNT

‘Mr Roper has the reputation of keeping the best pack of fox hounds in the Kingdom’.

(Alexander Pope, 1712).

To eighteenth-century ears, the Charlton Hunt was synonymous with some of the best sport in the country and Mr Roper was its celebrated huntsman. Indeed, it is one of the earliest recorded foxhunts in the world and its fame drew the elite of society, including the Dukes of Monmouth, St Albans and Richmond, the dashing illegitimate sons of King Charles II. Richmond bought nearby Goodwood as a comfortable place to stay and entertain his illustrious friends during the hunting season. His son, the second Duke, shared his love of the chase and when he became Master, such was the success and desirability of the hunt, he decided that membership should be restricted only to those who had been elected. Almost every noble family in the land had a representative at Charlton, including half of the Knights of the Garter. Lord Burlington designed for the members a handsome banqueting house at Charlton where they met after hunting, and many built themselves hunting-boxes in the village.

The most important day in the history of the Charlton Hunt took place on 26th January 1739 when in ‘the greatest chase that ever was’ hounds ran continuously from their first find at 8.15 a.m. until they killed at 5.50 p.m., covering a distance of approximately fifty-seven miles with just the Duke and two others present at the end. When the hunt was moved to Goodwood in the mid-eighteenth century, it was known as the Duke of Richmond’s Hounds and magnificent kennels were built by the architect James Wyatt with an ingenious central-heating system, a century before Goodwood House had heating.

This small exhibition explores the history of the Charlton Hunt and its association with the Dukes of Richmond.



James, Duke of Monmouth by William Wissing. (Private Collection, Photograph © Philip Mould Ltd, London / Bridgeman Images).



Edward Roper, Huntsman of the Charlton Hounds, attributed to Michael Dahl.

THE ORIGINS OF THE CHARLTON HUNT

The Charlton Hunt began in the 1670s and is probably the earliest documented pack of foxhounds in the country. Prior to hunting the fox, deer hunting was hugely popular as an aristocratic sport but it gradually went into decline during the seventeenth century as land was fenced and deer forests were cut down. According to a poem written anonymously in 1737, the hunt was founded by Charles II's eldest illegitimate son James, Duke of Monmouth and his friend Ford, third Lord Grey. The choice of Charlton was no accident. Charlton is a hamlet three miles north of Goodwood and lies in a shallow valley at the foot of the South Downs. To its north spreads the vast Charlton Forest, extending to over 800 acres. In former times it had been part of the extensive tracts of land owned by the Fitzalans, Earls of Arundel. They had a hunting seat nearby at Downley from where they enjoyed the thrilling sport that the area offered. Lord Grey, later created Earl of Tankerville, lived nearby at Uppark where his family probably kept some hounds; it is likely that Grey moved some of these hounds to Charlton.

The only contemporary evidence that survives linking the Duke of Monmouth with the area is a letter from the Bishop of Chichester, Guy Carlton to Archbishop Sancroft. Keen to uphold his allegiance to the king, Carlton refrained from welcoming Monmouth when he visited Chichester in 1679 to the great delight of the populace. He writes how neither the mayor or 'any gentlemen in the country about us hath so much met him in the field to hunt with him since he came, save Mr Butler of Amberley, a burgesse with Mr Garroway for Arundel, and his brother-in-law Roper...' Monmouth's involvement therefore depends on local myth including a manuscript written in about 1810 which states: 'Harry Budd, who had been gamekeeper to the Dukes of Richmond, died at Charlton in the year 1806 aged about 94 having always lived there. He remembered many of the old Charlton hunt and said his grandfather had heard the Duke of Monmouth talk that if he got the crown he would keep his court at Charlton'.

DANGEROUS TIMES

Grey was implicated in the Rye House Plot of 1683, a scheme to murder the king and his brother the Duke of York at the Rye House on the way from Newmarket to London. Having given his captors the slip, Grey fled into exile where he joined Monmouth. Following Monmouth's unsuccessful rebellion and beheading, he managed to obtain a pardon and probably continued hunting at Charlton. However, Mr Roper, mentioned in the bishop's letter, fled the country and went to live in France to hunt with St Victor, a celebrated French huntsman who kept a pack of hounds at Chantilly. It was only after the accession of William and Mary in 1688 that he dared show his head again.



Ford Grey, third Lord Grey (later first Earl of Tankerville) (Private Collection © Look and Learn / Elgar Collection / Bridgeman Images).



George Brudenell, third Earl of Cardigan by Charles Jervas (Courtesy of Deene Park). Cardigan was the first Duke of Richmond's brother-in-law and a keen follower of the Charlton Hunt.

AN ARISTOCRATIC FOLLOWING

Roper, who came from Kent, was an extremely able huntsman and according to Alexander Pope had ‘the reputation of keeping the best pack of fox hounds in the Kingdom’. The fame of the Charlton Hunt grew and the nobility and gentry flocked to Sussex to follow the hounds. Among them was the third Duke of Devonshire who galloped his horse down Levin Down and flew over a five-barred gate at the bottom, a daring feat that was long remembered as jumping fences out hunting at that time was practically unknown. Unfortunately, Roper managed to upset ‘The Proud Duke’ of Somerset by hunting too close to his magnificent seat at Petworth. Jealous of the attention that the Charlton Hunt was attracting, Somerset established his own hunt in the hope of luring away some of the fashionable Charlton followers. After months of petty squabbling, Sir William Goring, a local landowner, acted as mediator and Somerset threw the towel in and gave up his hunting. In the 1690s, Charles Lennox, first Duke of Richmond and illegitimate son of Charles II by his beautiful French mistress Louise de Keroualle, started hunting with the Charlton. Aged in his early twenties, he rented nearby Goodwood House as a place to stay when hunting, ending up buying it in 1697. His half-brother, Charles Beauclerk, first Duke of St. Albans joined him in the chase, as did Richmond’s brother-in-law, George Brudenell, third Earl of Cardigan who was Master of the Royal Buckhounds to Queen Anne and George I.

Other well-known figures who rode to the Charlton hounds were the architect Richard Boyle, third Earl of Burlington; Charles Howard, third Earl of Carlisle (for whom Sir John Vanburgh had recently built Castle Howard in Yorkshire); and Thomas Coke, first Earl of Leicester (for whom Burlington and William Kent had designed Holkham Hall in Norfolk). Two grandsons of Charles II, ‘Old Puff’, the second Duke of Grafton and the second Earl of Lichfield, were both keen followers as well as four Beauclerk brothers, grandsons of Charles II through their father, the first Duke of St Albans.

THE DUKE OF BOLTON

By 1721, Roper was getting on in years and took on a joint Master to share the burden of running the hunt, although he still hunted the hounds himself. The person he chose was Charles Powlett, third Duke of Bolton, a wealthy nobleman from Hampshire. The first hound list dates from November 1721 and lists fifteen couple (i.e. thirty) of old hounds in their joint ownership. The breeding of successful hounds was key for the Charlton Hunt to maintain its reputation and various gentlemen, including Roper, developed a crossbred hound from which they bred their own hounds.

In February 1723, Roper died aged eighty-four while out hunting – a fitting end. Bolton was now sole owner of the hounds and the hunt increased in popularity. That same year the first Duke of Richmond died leaving his son saddled with huge debts. Under the watchful eye of his uncle, Lord Cardigan, the young second Duke of Richmond became a keen supporter of the hunt. More leading figures of society flocked to Sussex for the sport, including the first Duke of Montrose. Some of them, including the Dukes of Richmond and Grafton, the Earl of Halifax, Lord Walpole and Lord De La Warr, built for themselves small hunting-boxes where they could stay the night, hunting in those days starting at the crack of dawn.

Meanwhile, Bolton had fallen for the charms of the beautiful Lavinia Fenton, a leading actress who had appeared as the star of *The Beggar’s Opera*. He managed to persuade her to give up acting but only on the condition that he give up hunting. So, in 1729 he resigned as Master of the Charlton Hunt leaving a vacancy that needed filling urgently.



Charles Lennox, first Duke of Richmond by Sir Godfrey Kneller.



Charles Howard, third Earl of Carlisle by William Aikman (© Castle Howard Collection).



Charles Seymour, sixth Duke of Somerset, ‘The Proud Duke’ (© National Trust Images / Matthew Hollow).



Charles Powlett, third Duke of Bolton by Sir Godfrey Kneller (Photograph courtesy of Sotheby’s Picture Library).



Uppark from the South West by Pieter Tillemans. The hounds are probably those of the second Earl of Tankerville who came to live there in 1722 (© National Trust Images / John Hammond).

THE SECOND DUKE OF RICHMOND AS MASTER

In 1722, Lord Grey's grandson, the second Earl of Tankerville, inherited Uppark and established a rival pack of hounds, much to the annoyance of the Charlton Hunt and the detriment of their sport. As a result, the second Duke of Richmond decided to give the 1728 season a miss and travelled to Europe. When he returned home a year later, Bolton had resigned and Richmond's friends encouraged him to take on the hounds as proprietor. From an early age, Richmond had adored hunting, spurred on by his father and uncle Cardigan, and



Bay Bolton with Halmaker Hill and Windmill beyond by John Wootton

living nearby at Goodwood, he was the obvious choice. Reluctantly, Richmond agreed but on condition that John West, seventh Lord De La Warr would be Master in his absence. The aggravation with Tankerville rumbled on until eventually everyone called it quits and a lengthy agreement was drawn up between the two proprietors. It was called the 'Treaty of Peace, Union and Friendship' and was written on a parchment scroll seven feet long and signed and sealed by Richmond and Tankerville with the Dukes of Grafton, St Albans, Bolton and Montrose as



Tapster by John Wootton (1733).

witnesses. In essence, the two parties agreed to merge their packs and share the costs. For the 1730 / 1731 season they took on a third Master, Garton Orme of Woolavington, probably to act as mediator should things get difficult again.

The convivial Richmond threw himself into his new role and in 1730 purchased the manors of Singleton and Charlton from the second Earl of Scarbrough. These lands included forests and coverts within easy reach of the kennels in Charlton. In the centre of Charlton, he erected a flagpole at the top of which fluttered a flag depicting a yellow fox in a green field. After one season, Tankerville resigned taking half the pack with him, much to Richmond's relief. Meanwhile, Richmond was building himself a smart Palladian hunting-box and more noblemen were flocking to Charlton. All seemed rosy until Richmond broke his leg early in 1732.

Fortunately, Richmond had chosen a good deputy in De La Warr and the latter's correspondence provides an insight into the trials and tribulations of running a pack of foxhounds: troubles with the hunt servants, breeding hounds, buying horses, good and bad days hunting

– all is discussed. Richmond was back in the saddle by November and his new hunting-box was finished.

The cost of running the hunt was considerable. The expenses for 1739 totalled £841, of which £169 were wages. That did not include the expense of Richmond's own hunters, which in 1746 cost him £418, a sum that includes wages for grooms. Five hunt liveries, in the distinctive blue and gold, cost an additional £25. Over the course of eight years (1739-1746) Richmond worked out he had spent £7,180 on the hunt, excluding his horses.



The second Duke of Richmond with a Groom, Hunter and Hounds by John Wootton.



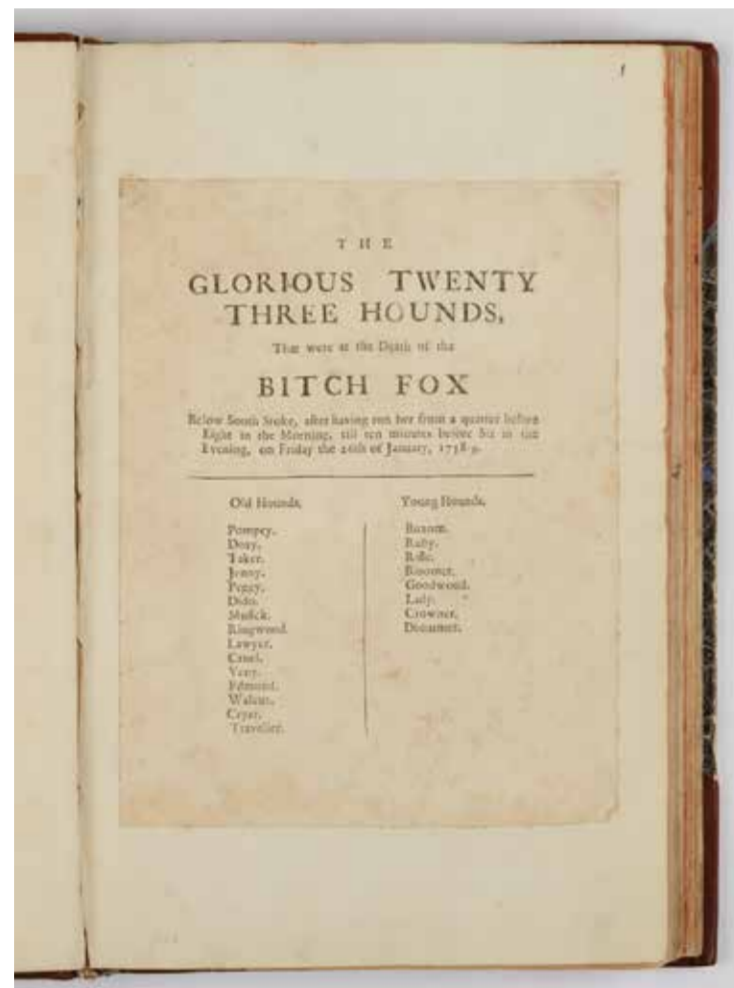
Sheldon with Goodwood House beyond by John Wootton (1743).



The second Duke and Duchess of Richmond by Jonathan Richardson

THE CHARLTON HUNT CLUB

In 1720, the Charlton Hunt followers subscribed to the ‘Great Room’, a domed banqueting house designed by the great architect earl, Lord Burlington. Here, after a hard day in the saddle, the hunt followers could dine in style without having to leave Charlton. By 1738, Charlton’s fame was such that there was a danger of too many people ruining the sport. Therefore, on 29th January 1738, twenty gentlemen from the hunt gathered at the Bedford Head Tavern in London for their annual dinner and it was proposed that they form a ‘regular society’ with a set of rules and a strict membership policy. Anyone proposed had to be admitted by ballot, with only one black ball needed to exclude them. Balloting was to take place in the Great Room ‘betwixt the hours of Four & Eight in the Afternoon’. As proprietor of the hounds, the Duke of Richmond was allowed ‘to bring whoever he pleases from Goodwood to Dinner at Charlton’. The membership was made up of the original subscribers to the Great Room and fifty other members of the hunt. It was the earliest hunt club in this country.



A page from the second Duke of Richmond’s hound book

THE GRAND CHASE

On Friday, 26th January 1739, in the words of Richmond ‘the greatest chase that ever was’ took place. A total of eighteen followers, plus the four hunt servants, comprised the field; including Richmond’s wife, Sarah and three of his cousins, all fellow grandsons of Charles II. The Biddulph brothers, Richard and Charles, were also present as well as Lords Harcourt and Ossulstone, both in their twenties and keen followers of the chase. Keeping an eagle eye on these young bloods was Brigadier Henry Hawley, a severe army officer in his late fifties, who would later find fame as ‘Hangman Hawley’, a sobriquet resulting from his ruthless severity to the Jacobite insurgents after the battle of Culloden in 1746. Meeting at dawn, as was the norm in those days, a fox was found at 7.45 a.m. The chase continued all day until they killed the fox at 5.50 p.m. As the crow flies, they only covered twelve miles, but the distance covered by fox, hounds and followers was a staggering fifty-seven miles. Richmond, Brigadier Hawley and Billy Ives, one of the hunt servants, were the only followers left at the end.

Richmond recognised the significance of the day and immediately ordered his men to measure the distance with a cart wheel, a task that took them two whole days. It was Christened ‘The Grand Chase’ and the hounds who were present at the end proclaimed ‘The Glorious Twenty Three Hounds’ and individually named. On Sunday, 4th February, thirty-six members of the Charlton Hunt gathered in London at the Bedford Head Tavern for their annual dinner, and having waxed lyrical about ‘the greatest chase that ever was’, they proposed that an official account should be written up and circulated for posterity. Thus, the Grand Chase entered the annals of foxhunting history.



Red Robin with Chichester Harbour and Cathedral beyond by John Wootton (1743). The second Duke of Richmond commissioned Wootton to paint six of his favourite hunters.



Sultan with Carné’s Seat beyond by John Wotton (1743).



Grey Carey with Petworth beyond by John Wootton.



Grey Cardigan with Tom Johnson, huntsman of the Charlton bounds, seen through the Archway by John Wootton.

THE HUNTSMEN

Key to the success of the Charlton Hunt was the huntsman. Edward Roper had provided superb sport at the beginning and kept going until he died in the saddle out hunting aged eighty four. He was replaced by John Ware who never lived up to his predecessor's reputation. He lasted for eleven seasons before being dismissed for taking the hounds out while he was drunk, with the result that they killed fourteen sheep. Both the third Duke of Marlborough and his brother, John Spencer, recommended Tom Johnson as Ware's replacement, and so he started in 1735 bringing with him twenty-one couple of hounds thereby introducing new blood lines to the kennel. Known as 'Old Tom', he hunted the Charlton hounds for ten very successful seasons before his death on 20th December 1744. Richmond was so fond of him that he had a marble memorial tablet erected in Singleton Church where he was buried. Johnson was succeeded by John Smith.

THE TWILIGHT OF THE CHARLTON HUNT

Throughout the 1740s, illustrious names were added to the Charlton Hunt rollcall. The ninth Earl of Lincoln was elected in 1742, joining his uncles, the Duke of Newcastle and Henry Pelham, both of whom were subscribers to the Great Room. Newcastle was Secretary of State and a regular correspondent of Richmond. Three of Richmond's nephews, George, Augustus and William Keppel, were elected in 1745, 1748 and 1750 respectively. Both George and William were generals, the latter Commander-in-Chief in Ireland and Augustus was later First Lord of the Admiralty. Henry Legge, who was elected in 1742, later became Chancellor of the Exchequer; while Robert Darcy, sixth Earl of Holderness, who was elected in 1743 later became Secretary of State for the North. William Cavendish, later fourth Duke of Devonshire, became a member in 1745 and was later Prime Minister. The same year, John Lindsay, twentieth Earl of Crawford and the veteran of many continental campaigns, was elected. Another soldier who was elected in the 1740s was John Manners, Marquess of Granby. He was very popular with his troops and public houses up and down the country are named after him. Many Charlton Hunt members fought in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745-6 against the insurgents. Some of them played leading roles, including William Keppel who was in charge of the front line at Culloden.

Richmond family members were always welcome: the day after Richmond consented to James Fitzgerald, twentieth Earl of Kildare marrying his daughter, Emily, he was elected at Charlton.

In February 1748, Richmond made a note of where everyone was billeted in Charlton and the quarters for their horses. There was a total of nineteen members and 143 horses. Throughout the 1740s they enjoyed good sport although often thwarted by bad weather.

Richmond wrote to his wife from Charlton in March 1750, 'I have just come home from an exceeding fine chase ... This finishes the hunting season in Sussex for the time and everybody but myself goes away tomorrow...' Tragically, there was to be no more hunting for the Duke as he died suddenly later that summer, aged only forty-nine.



The Hon. Augustus Keppel, later Viscount Keppel by George Romney.



James FitzGerald, twentieth Earl of Kildare, later first Duke of Leinster by Allan Ramsay.



William Keppel, second Earl of Albemarle by the Studio of Jean Fournier.



The Charlton Hunt by George Stubbs (1759).

THE MOVE TO GOODWOOD

Richmond's death stunned the Charlton hunting community, so much so that the hunt was disbanded. It was not until his son, the third Duke of Richmond, came of age in 1757 that hunting resumed once again. Helped by Sir John Miller, a neighbouring landowner, a new pack was assembled with hounds from Lords Granby, Chedworth, Eglinton and Newburgh, Mr Taylor, Edward Gibbon and Norton Pawlett. Nine of these hounds were descended from Mr Roper's Promise, so the bloodline with the old Charlton Hunt was maintained.

In 1759, the young Richmond commissioned George Stubbs to paint the Charlton Hunt and two other sporting scenes on the Goodwood estate. At the centre of the large hunting scene, Richmond is mounted on a splendid-looking black hunter with his brother, George, close by. Sir John Miller gallops towards them and Captain Jones, the Duke's gentleman of the bedchamber, jumps a five-bar gate in the foreground. They are dressed in the Charlton Hunt colours of blue and gold and attended by hunt servants in the Richmond livery of yellow and scarlet. The lower half of the painting is filled with some of the hounds that would have been known personally to Richmond.

Although Richmond provided good sport, foxhunting was taking off in other parts of the country. Many of the sportsmen who had once frequented Charlton, now moved to hunt with the more fashionable shire packs, leaving family, close friends and locals to hunt with the Duke.

Having built a magnificent new stable block at Goodwood between 1757 and 1761, Richmond moved his attention to the hounds, which were by now known as the Duke of Richmond's hounds. His architect, James Wyatt, designed luxurious kennels in a prominent position near Goodwood House. They were completed in 1790 and the hounds moved from the old kennels in Charlton to Goodwood, never to return.

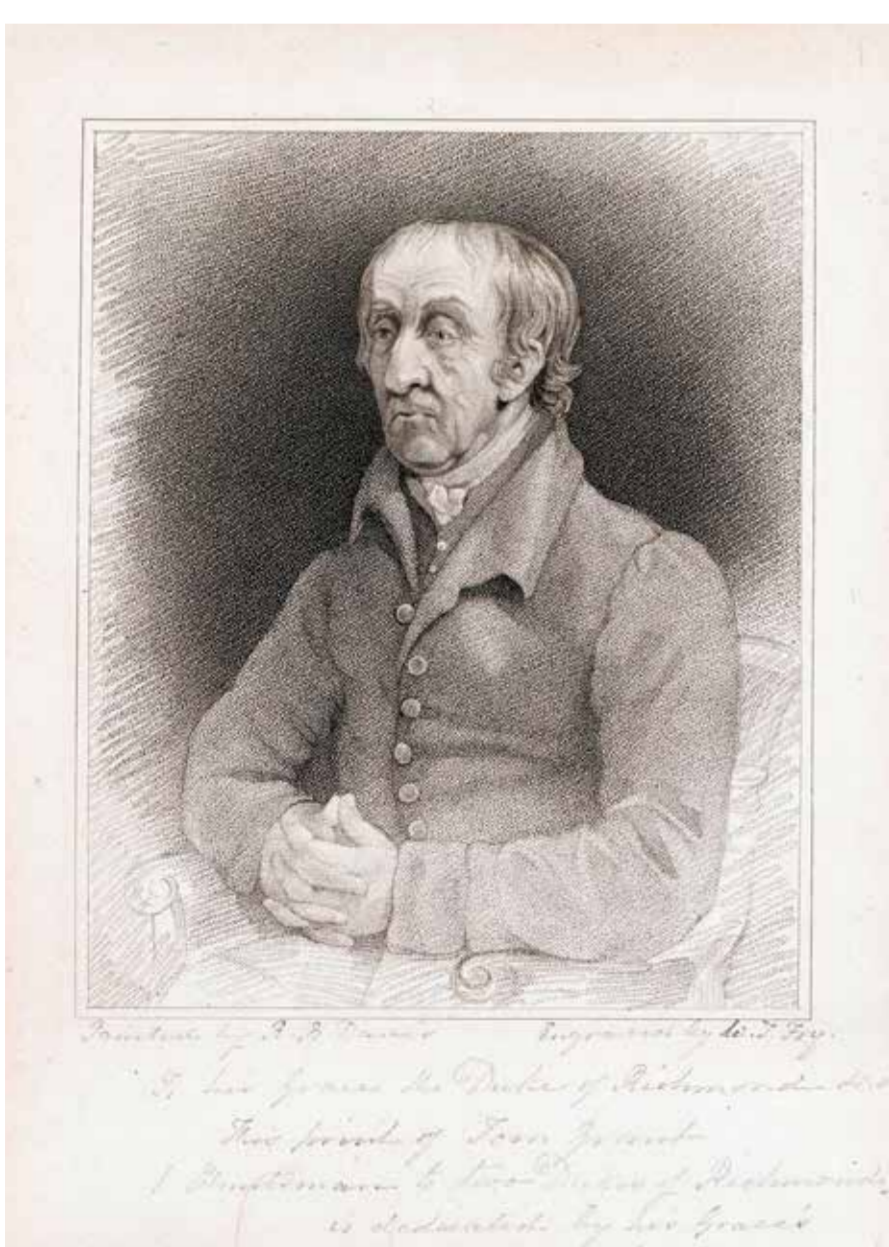
After the third Duke of Richmond's death in 1806, the hounds were inherited by his nephew, the fourth Duke. Duties abroad kept him from Goodwood, so in 1813 they were given to the Prince Regent who installed them with the Royal Buckhounds at Windsor. Tragedy struck nearly ten years later when the whole pack was destroyed at Brighton having contracted rabies – the same fate that the fourth duke himself had suffered in 1819. Meanwhile, the old Charlton country was hunted by Lord Egremont from Petworth.



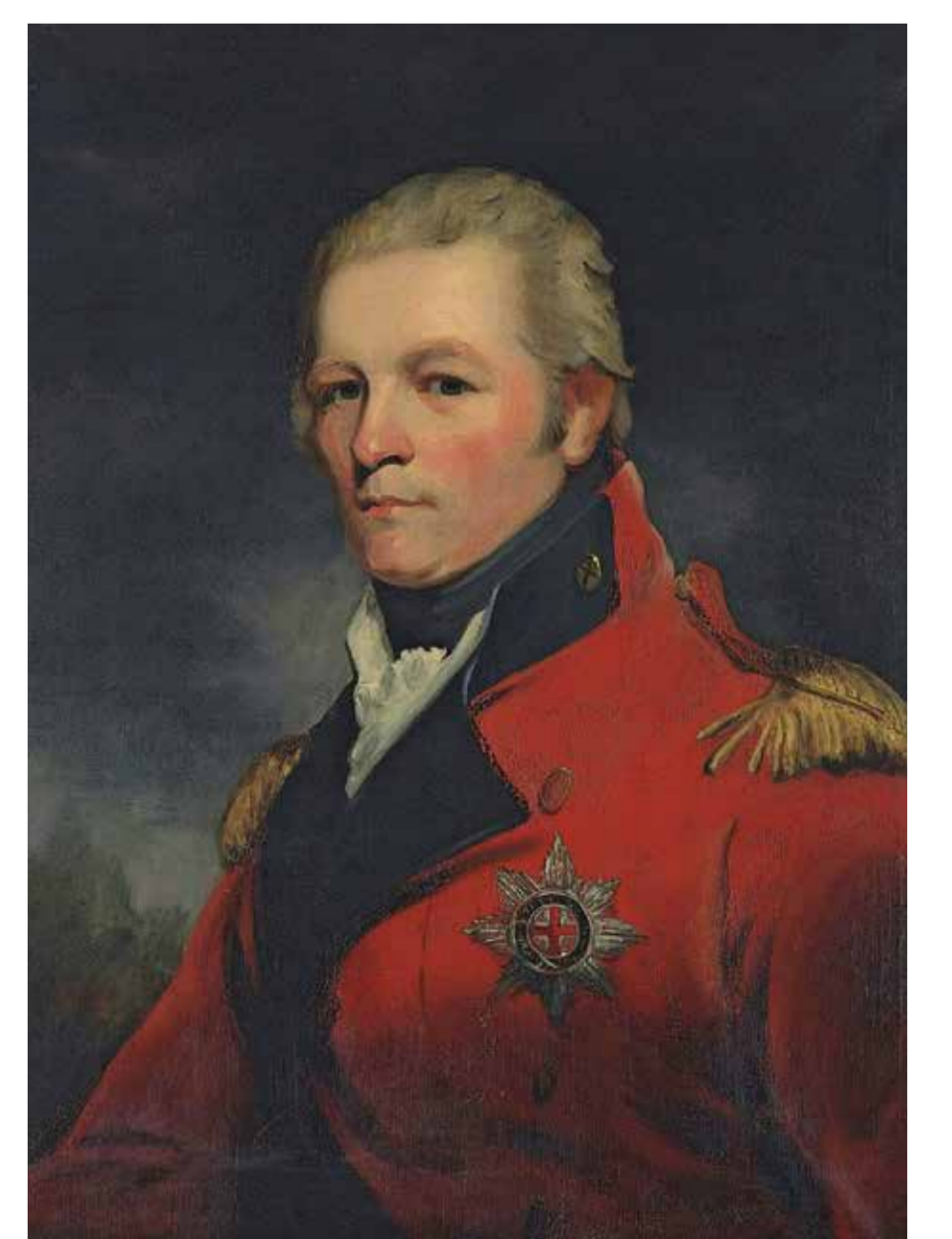
Lady Louisa Lennox wearing the Charlton Hunt colours by George Romney.



Charles Lennox, third Duke of Richmond by Sir Joshua Reynolds.



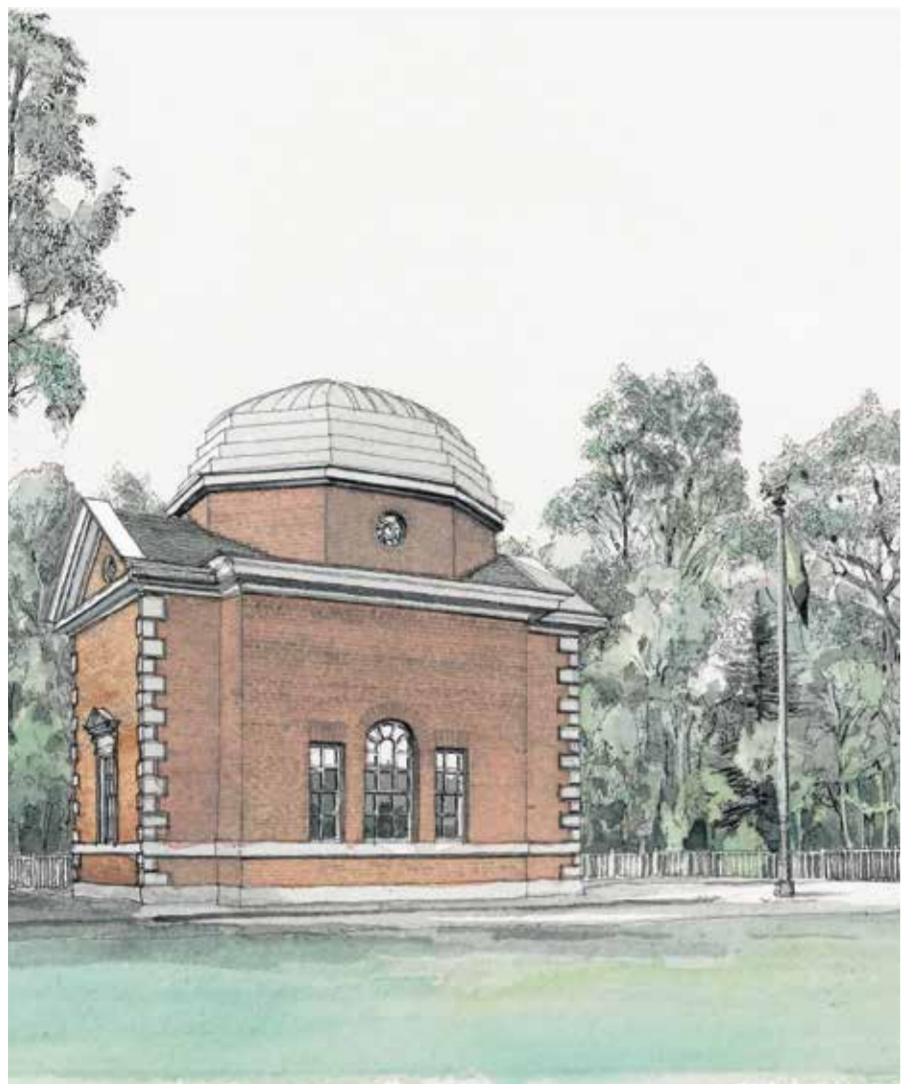
Tom Grant, huntsman to the third and fourth Dukes of Richmond after R. B. Davis.



Charles Lennox, fourth Duke of Richmond by John Hoppner.

THE GREAT ROOM

The gentlemen of Charlton built for themselves a banqueting house in Charlton to replace ‘a small Dark Cell’ where they had been meeting. It was designed by the ‘architect earl’, Lord Burlington and is described in the poem given to the second Duke of Richmond in 1738:



An imaginary drawing, by Paul Draper, of the Great Room in Charlton.

*‘...then Boyle, by instinct all divine began
is this an edifice for such a band?
I’ll have the honour to erect a room
Shall cost Diana’s train but such a sum;
They all agreed, and quickly paid it down,
And now there stands a sacred Dome, confessed
The finest in the Country, most admired.’*

The building was probably of one storey, possibly with a raised ground floor, surmounted by a dome (see artist’s impression) and was completed in 1723. Burlington went on to design a London house for Richmond and the Council House in Chichester. There has been some suggestion that the Great Room (and its predecessor) was used as a covert meeting place for Jacobites, however nothing conclusive has been proved.



Richard Boyle, third Earl of Burlington by George Knapton (Chatsworth House, Derbyshire © Devonshire Collection, Chatsworth / Reproduced by permission of Chatsworth Settlement Trustees / Bridgeman Images).



Fox Hall in Charlton from the south-east.



Fox Hall from the north-west.

Middle:
Map of the village of Charlton, from a volume attributed to Yeakell and Gardner, circa 1777-8. Fox Hall is ‘L1’ looking down an avenue ‘L4’. The Great Room is almost certainly the grey square just below ‘Y4’ and opposite Fox Hall. The Fox Inn is ‘D1’ to the right of the Devonshire / Harcourt hunting-boxes ‘C2’.

FOX HALL

Hunting usually commenced at dawn in the eighteenth century, which meant staying in Charlton the night before. The Dukes of Grafton, St Albans and Devonshire all had small hunting-boxes built for them in the village. Devonshire shared a double-fronted one, occupied by him on one side of an arch and Lord Harcourt on the other, with William Fauquier lodged in the attic between the two. In 1730, the Duke of Richmond used his winnings from a horse race at Tunbridge Wells to pay for his own hunting-box, probably to the designs of Roger Morris, a pupil of Colen Campbell. It was described in the same poem as the Great Room (or Dome):

*‘A warm but small Apartment, each one has,
the Duke’s alone appears magnificent,
conspicuous, it stands, above the rest
And uniform, & nearest to the Dome.’*

An avenue led away from its elegant pedimented front façade and the Great Room (which had fallen down by the end of the eighteenth century) was almost certainly across the lane in front. It is possible that the Venetian window on Fox Hall echoed one on the Great Room, as the artist’s impression shows.

Inside, the principal (first) floor contained a single room with a bed alcove. Richmond kept the bare minimum in the way of furnishings, really only using it to sleep and breakfast in. A coffee pot, a pair of candlesticks, six teaspoons, a strainer and a cream jug were the only items of silver. Today, Fox Hall is owned by the Landmark Trust who have restored it meticulously.



The south front of the Stables.



The brick courtyard of the Stables

THE STABLES

Just as he was reviving the Charlton Hunt in 1757, the third Duke of Richmond commissioned Sir William Chambers to design a magnificent stable block. He probably met Chambers when he was in Rome on his Grand Tour in 1755. When it was built, it was far grander than the house itself.

The stables are formed of a vast quadrangle entered through an imposing triumphal arch. Positioned at right angles to Matthew Brettingham's pedimented façade on the main house, the exterior is striking in its use of knapped and dressed flint contrasting with soft creamy-coloured stone dressings for the door and window surrounds and the corner quoins. The triumphal arch, with twinned Doric columns and painted timber superstructure, proudly proclaims Richmond's high status and knowledge of Roman architecture. Entering beneath the coffered barrel vaulting, the visitor enters a red brick courtyard with its simple pedimented archways and rhythmical placing of doors and windows. Even the guttering was concealed to preserve the clean lines.

The garden (east) side is centred by a rusticated and pedimented archway beneath a clock turret which still tolls the hour as it would have done two hundred and fifty years ago. The north side was built in brick on the exterior, while looser flint was used for the west. As these two sides were not widely seen, this was an economy.

Originally, there was stabling for fifty-four horses, comprising loose boxes and stalls. The first floor served as accommodation for grooms and servants. In 1799, there were twenty-nine staff in the stables, including eleven grooms.



THE KENNELS

The Kennels were built between 1787 and 1790 for the third Duke of Richmond at a cost of £6,000. The grand classical building was designed by James Wyatt in brick and flint and used the very latest technology, including central heating for the hounds. There was accommodation for the huntsman at the centre and even a two-stalled stable for his horses. The hounds were kept in the long low wings to either side. It lies on a straight vista from Goodwood House and was intended as a spectacular eye catcher with a bastion-like wall and ha-ha protecting it.



The Goodwood Hounds, *circa 1885*.



Hound Lodge, *circa 1885*.

THE GOODWOOD HUNT (1883 - 1895)

For most of the nineteenth century, the area around Charlton was hunted by Lord Leconfield's pack of hounds from Petworth. He decided to relinquish this in the early 1880s and the sixth Duke of Richmond resurrected the Goodwood Hunt, with his son, the Earl of March as Master. The Wyatt Kennels were adapted for accommodation for the hunt servants, while new kennels were built on the other side of the road, modelled on those at Petworth. The opening meet took place on 5th November 1883, as reported in the *West Sussex Gazette*. The aptly named stud groom, Fox, had charge of forty-five horses, while the new kennels housed fifty-five couple of hounds, the larger number of which came from Lord Radnor in Wiltshire.

Sadly, the resurrected Goodwood Hunt only lasted twelve years. The agricultural depression of the late 1880s meant the Duke had to economise and the hunt was disbanded. The only member of the family to hunt after this date was the eighth Duke of Richmond (as Earl of March) until he contracted polio in World War I.

Today, the area formerly hunted over by the Dukes of Richmond is hunted by the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt, an amalgamation of local hunts that took place in 1973. Appropriately, the Kennels is the setting for an annual meet, while the Charlton Hunt is remembered by a meet at Fox Hall.



Earl of March (later 7th Duke of Richmond) as Master of the Goodwood Hunt.



The last meet of the Goodwood Hunt at Molecomb, 13th April 1895.



Countess of March.



Huntsman and whipper-in at the meet at Goodwood House (© Uli Weber).



The field of mounted followers from all over the country (© Uli Weber).

THE CHARLTON HUNT REVIVED

Earlier this year in February, the Charlton Hunt was revived for one special day. At the invitation of the Earl of March, hunt followers from all over the country and the USA met at Goodwood House for a drag hunt using the hounds from the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt. Many wore hunting coats in the original Charlton Hunt blue, while the huntsman and hunt servants were dressed in the Richmond livery of yellow and red. Leaving Goodwood House, they sallied forth over the ancient hunting terrain that had once provided such superb sport. Appropriately, the field stopped for a stirrup cup at Fox Hall in Charlton before continuing the chase.

In the evening a magnificent hunt ball was held in the state rooms of Goodwood House recalling those former dinners held in the Great Room of Charlton. On the following day, some of the followers took part in the Duchess of Richmond's Chase, a race over timber fences through the park at Goodwood, providing a fitting end to a remarkable weekend.



The Charlton Hunt Ball in the Ballroom of Goodwood House (©Uli Weber).



The Duchess of Richmond's Chase (© Uli Weber).