

HOCKLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

OUTINGS FOR 2017

Saturday 18th March – Kentish Curios.

We will join the Guide at 10.30 a.m. for morning coffee (included) at Tudeley, and begin our tour at an ancient country church. The Russian artist Marc Chagall was commissioned to design stained glass windows for the church. The result is magical. They are at eye level so that you can go right up to them and see the marks of Chagall's hands. From Tudeley we follow the Medway. We see the Hoppers Hospital, some pretty villages and marinas. We will stop at West Malling for lunch (included). You will see Aylesford Friary and visit the beautiful chapels full of creative modern artwork & ceramics. You can visit the tranquil peace garden or wander down to the river. Time for tea and cakes before we make tracks for home at 4.45 p.m.

Thursday 11th May – Chelsea Physic Garden & Ham House, Richmond. Situated in the heart of London, Chelsea Physic Garden has a unique collection of around 5,000 different edible, useful, medicinal and historical plants. This 'hidden gem' is also a peaceful green oasis in which to enjoy a relaxing stroll. You will be able to buy your lunch here before we leave for Ham House. Ham House is the creation of William Murray and his daughter Elizabeth, the Duchess of Lauderdale. William Murray was educated with King Charles I, holding the role of his whipping boy. They remained friends and in 1626 William was given the lease of Ham House. In 1948 the house was given to the National Trust.

Saturday 1st July – Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire. When we arrive we will buy our lunch in the town of Kenilworth before visiting the Castle, which is one of Britain's largest and most spectacular historic sights. This vast medieval fortress became an Elizabethan palace. It is connected with King Henry VIII and most famously the royal love story of Queen Elizabeth I and her favourite Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Explore what used to be Queen Elizabeth's private rooms and walk in the recreated Elizabethan garden. You will see an exhibition which brings Kenilworth's past to life. Time for tea before we leave.

Thursday 14th September – Euston Hall & Bury St. Edmunds. Euston first appears in the Domesday Book in 1087 as a manor belonging to the abbey at Bury St. Edmunds. The estate, in near ruin, was purchased in 1666 by Henry Bennett, The Earl of Arlington. The property was inherited in 1685 by his daughter and son-in-law, the first duke and Duchess of Grafton. In the 1740's their son decided to remodel the house and the domes were replaced with low pyramid roofs which can be seen today. It remained largely unchanged until the south and west wings were consumed by a disastrous fire in 1902, and although rebuilt, in 1952 the Hall became unmanageable and these were demolished. The Park was designed by William Kent. Several weirs and pools originally designed by Capability Brown, were restored in 2013 to their former glory. The pleasure grounds were laid out by John Evelyn, a celebrated landscape gardener. We will have lunch in Bury St. Edmunds and in the afternoon a Guided Tour of the Abbey Gardens.

Thursday 26th October – Broughton Castle & Sulgrave Manor. Broughton Castle is one of the most beautiful historic houses in Oxfordshire. It stands on an island site surrounded by a 3-acre moat. It has lovely walled gardens within the moat. We will buy lunch in Banbury before going on to Sulgrave Manor. Sulgrave Manor was built by Lawrence Washington, a wealthy wool merchant, in the middle of the 16th Century. The Manor remained the family for 120 years, and it was towards the end of this time that John Washington made an epic voyage to the Colony of Virginia to found a dynasty there which resulted in America's most famous son and the father of the nation being born in 1732. You will hear the story of the house from the guides.

Sunday 3rd & 4th December – Salisbury & Winchester Christmas Markets. This is an overnight stay at the 4* Mercure White Hart Hotel in the heart of Salisbury. A chance to visit the Christmas Markets and, for those who'd like to, Choral Evensong at the Cathedral. Includes a scenic drive through the beautiful Test Valley. For further information please ask Brian for a separate sheet.

We pick up at various places between Rochford and Rayleigh. If you are interested in any of these outings please contact Brian on 01702 204334.