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## **The RNTA Database**

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters, and the management of coach trips and other activities of the Rugby National Trust Association. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

### **Trips and Visits**

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite tiring. We often visit places with old and uneven floors, stairs that can be difficult with no lift options and gardens and tours that may involve quite a lot of walking. Always check with the organiser if you have mobility problems. Members who need assistance should bring a companion.

### **Departure Point**

The Committee has made arrangements with St Mark's Church, Bilton for the use of their car park so, *unless otherwise stated*, we depart from there. We try to use as little space as possible, so please park on the side away from the church and as close together as possible.

Association Committee

### **Printer Cartridges and Mobile Phones**

The National Trust has a scheme for collecting used printer cartridges and mobile phones (preferably with charger) that contributes towards fundraising. A collection box will be available at meetings.

## Chairman's\_Letter

Dear Members

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the RNTA Newsletter and a particularly warm welcome to those new members that have joined Rugby NTA and will be receiving this for the first time.

I am writing this at the end of November, the beautiful shades of the Autumn colours of our trees and landscape have now faded and winter is upon us.

During the last year, our Association has been able to raise funds to support local properties. The treasurer's report gives details of the amounts donated and to which properties.

I thank all members of the committee, trip organizers and supporters for their hard work and dedication in making the programme happen. It is on this basis that our Association thrives. However, we would like to hear from anyone who feels that he or she can contribute to the functioning of RNTA. The responsibility for the summer trips is falling on fewer people and new blood is needed and would be very much appreciated.

In addition, a big thank you to all our members for their support and attendance that makes it all worthwhile.

I look forward to seeing you all during 2017 and hope that you enjoy the meetings and outings that we have planned. Please feel free to encourage anyone you think would enjoy our meetings to come along and give it a try.

Roy Deacon

## Association News

We have 344 paid up members currently. This is a healthy number but in the past we have been around 400 so we would like some additional members.

The Association welcomes the following **new members**:

Mrs P A Baker

Ms K A Hanes

Mr M B Jones

Mr and Mrs J Magrath

Ms H Robson

Mr and Mrs D Thomas

Mr and Mrs B Clarke

Mr H Hugo

Mr and Mrs P Letch

Mr and Mrs A Railton

Mr and Mrs N Rose

We hope you will enjoy our programme of events.



### Christmas lunch at Sulgrave Manor



Photo by Mike Sherring-Lucas ©

Organised by  
Pauline Springett

6 December 2016

## **Input from Members wanted**

### *NEW ORGANISERS NEEDED*

#### **Visits Planning Meeting**

Wednesday, 12 April 2017 at 7.30 pm

Our Planning Meeting for 2018 visits will be in the Sports Lounge at the Dunchurch Village Hall. To find us enter through the main entrance and turn left towards the kitchen, the Sports Lounge is directly behind it.

We are looking for new people who are willing to organise or help with a visit. Why not start by supporting the organiser of a visit or getting together with a friend to plan one.

There will be plenty of help and advice to get you started If you need it.

### **RNTA Website**

**T**ony Birch, the Web Editor, is keen to get feedback on our website. He keeps it regularly updated so, if you have any contributions to make, he would be pleased to hear from you.

Please encourage any of your friends who might be interested in joining RNTA to have a look at the site from which they can download a joining form.

Editor

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION  
**30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 19 January 2017

at 2.30 pm in the Dunchurch Village Hall

**Agenda**

**Apologies for Absence**

**Minutes of the last AGM**

**Matters Arising**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Chairman's Report**

**Election of Committee** – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2017 are:

Roy DEACON (Chair),

David KNAPP (Treasurer),

Anne TURNER (Secretary),

Patricia DOWNTON (Membership Secretary),

Jean KORTEGAS (Deputy Membership Secretary),

Pam SOUTHERN (Bookings Secretary),

Mike SHERRING-LUCAS (Publicity Officer),

George BRUNAVS (Meetings Secretary/ Vice chair),

Pauline SPRINGETT (Visits Co-ordinator),

Malcolm TENNANT (Sales Table),

Tony BIRCH (Web Editor) and

Isobel PALMER (Newsletter Editor).

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

**Subscription**

**Any Other Business**

**Next Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 18 January 2018**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2015/16

The accounts for 2015/16 show a net surplus of £3,860.11, a fall of £774.78 on the previous year. This is the net result of a slight decrease in almost all areas of the Association's activities and is an inevitable consequence of a small drop in membership. However, the commitment, effort and hard work of many individuals and groups of members, within the Association continue to raise significant amounts in support of the work of the National Trust at local, regional and national level. In addition to the income from membership fees and the collections taken at meetings, talks given by members, refreshments, the sales table, raffles, printer cartridge recycling and the surplus from the summer programme of trips and visits all continue to make significant contributions to the Association's finances.

As at the 30 September 2016, the total financial reserves of the Association stood at £6,243.02, a fall of £4,289.89 on the previous year. However, as you will already be aware, donations totalling £6,650 were made during the year in support of projects at various properties in the Midlands Region, and a further £5,000 was allocated from our Supporter Group Account. This means that during the year, a total of £11,650.00 was allocated to eight local properties by the RNTA – a fantastic achievement and something about which we should all feel justifiably proud. The properties that received our support were :-

Baddesley Clinton—£1,250, Canons Ashby—£950, Charlecote Park—£700, Coughton Court—£1,000, Farnborough Hall—£2,550, Packwood House (£1,000), Stoneywell—£2,000 and Upton House—£2,200.

It has also been agreed by the Committee that the current subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples will remain for 2017/18.

Finally, I should like to thank Ian Stimson for examining, and approving, the accounts and bank records of the Association. If any member would like a copy of the full Balance Sheet, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Knapp  
Honorary Treasurer

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16

	2015/16	2014/15
<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	3,066.00	3,210.00
LESS expenditure on meetings, newsletters, etc	2,652.91	2,449.56
	<b>413.09</b>	<b>760.44</b>
 <b>INCOME from fund raising</b>		
Trips and Visits	1907.00	2,100.00
Sales Table	231.50	324.00
Talks given by Members	180.00	210.00
Collections at meetings	643.00	676.00
Bank Interest	1.39	1.30
PC Recycling	50.13	32.05
Refreshments	302.00	336.60
Donations	132.00	194.50
	<b>3,860.11</b>	<b>4,634.89</b>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		
Donations to N.T. Projects	6650.00	-
Transfer to N.T. Supporter Group Account	1500.00	-
	<b>-4,289.89</b>	<b>4,634.89</b>
Balance brought forward	10,532.91	5,898.02
 <b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>6,243.02</b>	<b>10,532.91</b>

## **PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2017**

### **Walk from Monks Kirby to Pailton and back**

Wednesday, 3 May 2017

By car to meet at the Denbigh Arms for a 10 am start

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

Supported by Flick Furber

The walk starts from the Denbigh Arms in Monks Kirby. It is about 5miles long and there are no stiles!

Leaving the Denbigh Arms we see the Priory Church of St Edith across the road. This is the grandest village church in the region. We carry on through the village, past the old Post Office and the Revel School. The route goes towards Newnham Paddock Park and we swing to our right to cross a number of fields until we are faced with a wood. Skirting the wood we turn right towards Little Walton and after a very short walk along a lane we cross back into a large field and carry on across around six more fields until we reach a lake on our right. Carrying on we reach the village of Pailton and walk through the village to reach the Ex-Service and Social Club (this is a quaint watering hole if open). However, we keep on through the car park and join an excellent path to Monks Kirby and reach the Denbigh Arms where we will partake of lunch at 2 for £8. Menus will be sent to those who wish to eat.



Monks Kirby  
church

Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## **Newstead Abbey Historic House and Gardens, Nottinghamshire**

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

By coach departing at 9.00 am

Organised by Janice Snell (01455 286646)

Supported by John Snell, Brian and Eileen Sheavyn

The Abbey was founded as a monastic house in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, and to this day has retained much of its medieval character. Lord Byron lived at Newstead Abbey at various times from the autumn of 1808 to the autumn of 1814. Look out for the Byron collection – objects and furniture, letters written by him manuscripts and portraits of Byron and his family and friends.

Lord Byron sold the Abbey in 1818 to Thomas Wildman, who had inherited a fortune from plantations owned by his family in Jamaica. In 1861 it was purchased by William Frederick Webb, an African explorer. On our guided tour you will see many items that belonged to the families who lived in the house throughout the Victorian period. The gardens at Newstead Abbey are there to explore and enjoy, paths meander past lakes, ponds and waterfalls, look out for the Japanese, the Venetia's, the Walled, the Sub-Tropical, the French and Spanish gardens to name but a few.

We arrive at 10.30 am for coffee/tea and biscuits (included). At 11.15 we will be split into groups for our guided tour. The tour takes approximately one hour.

We meet at 12.30 for lunch (included). After lunch members have free time to explore the gardens and perhaps have a cup of tea and a cake (not included) before boarding the coach at 4.00 pm for our journey home, depending on traffic, arriving back in Rugby at 5.45 pm.



## **Avoncroft Museum & Hanbury Hall**

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

By coach departing at 9.30 am

Organised by Barrie Bemand (01788 811961)

Supported by Lynne Bemand

Avoncroft Museum is home to over 30 different buildings and structures which have been rescued and re-built in rural Worcestershire. The Museum is spread over 19 acres of beautiful countryside and includes a wildflower meadow, period gardens, a traditional cider and perry orchard as well as the collection of historic buildings.

In 1967 Avoncroft Museum was opened to the public following the rescue and construction of a medieval merchant's house from Bromsgrove and soon became England's first open-air museum. Avoncroft Museum has continued to rescue historic structures where it has not been possible to retain buildings in their original location. The museum now displays and cares for over thirty buildings that range in date from the 14<sup>th</sup>C Guesten Hall roof of Worcester Cathedral to a post second world-war prefab from Birmingham, covering over 700 years of Midlands history.

On arrival at 10.30 we will have morning tea/coffee (included) then an introductory tour followed by a chance to explore the site ourselves. At 1 pm we have a buffet lunch (included).

At 1.45 pm we depart for the short drive to Hanbury Hall arriving at 2 pm. Here we will have free time to explore the house and gardens. Refreshments at your own expense can be had in the Servants' Hall or Chambers Tearoom. Hanbury Hall was built by the wealthy chancery lawyer Thomas Vernon in the early 18<sup>th</sup>C. From the Norman Conquest onwards, the estate was within the boundaries of the Royal Forest of Feckham. Feckham's royal status was lost in 1629 and local families like the Vernons bought up land to increase their own estates. The building of the Hall started in 1701 and was designed, it is thought, by William Rudhall.

A notable feature of Hanbury Hall, some would say its crowning glory, is the painting of the staircase, hall ceiling, and other rooms by the English painter Sir James Thornhill. They include a small representation of Rev Henry Sacheverell being cast to the furies – this relates to an incident in 1710 when Sacheverell, a Tory, was put on trial for sedition by the Whig Government

Cont. on next page

## Hanbury Hall (cont.)

and dates the paintings to that year. The focus of the paintings around the stairwell is the life of the Greek hero Achilles, as told by a range of classical sources. They are surmounted by a large representation of the Olympian gods on the ceiling.

The gardens, commissioned by Thomas Vernon were designed and completed in 1701 by George London in the very formal style of the time. They included the parterre, fruit gardens and wilderness. In the late 18<sup>th</sup>C, Emma Vernon swept away the formal gardens. She favoured up-to-date, fashionable 'natural' gardens, inspired by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The National Trust in 1995 recreated some of the original formal gardens near the house, particularly the magnificent Parterre Gardens.

We will leave at approximately 4.30 pm to arrive back in Rugby by 5.30 – 6 pm.

The 18<sup>th</sup>C parterre



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Hellens and The Laskett Gardens, Herefordshire

Thursday, 22 June 2017

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634, 07733148004)

Supported by Alec Springett

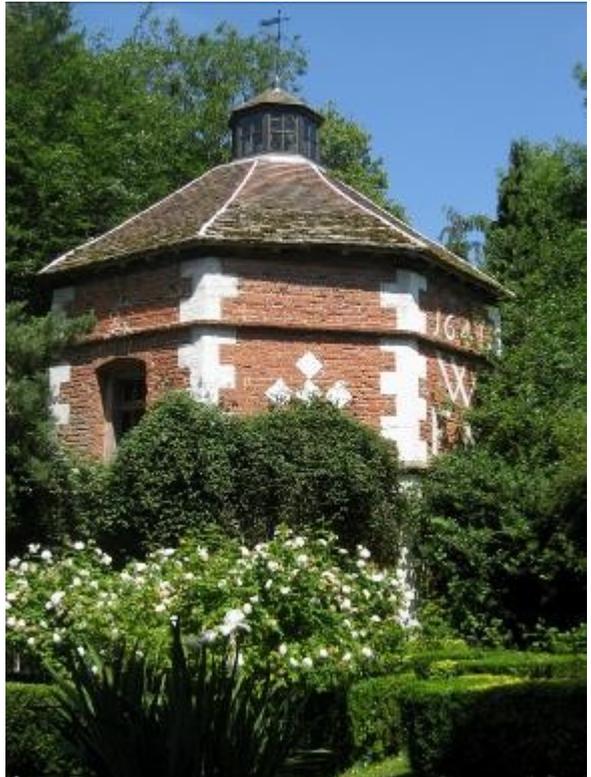
Hellens is one of the oldest historic houses in England and a living monument to much of England's history. It is also a much-loved family home and not a Museum.

In 1057 we know that Harold Godwinson owned the Manor and all the lands around Hellens. Some years after the Battle of Hastings, in 1096 the Manor was granted to the de Balun family who later witnessed the signing of the Magna Carta. Thereafter by marriage, deed or gift, it passed to various families until it was leased to Walter de Helyon who gave his name to the house. It is his descendants who still live in the house.

Dovecote at Hellens

On arrival we will be served tea/coffee in the Tea Rooms (included) and then we will have a guided tour around the house. This will be followed by a buffet style lunch served in the great barn (incl). This will comprise a variety of quiches (including vegetarian), potato salad, coleslaw, green salad, fresh crusty bread and butter, followed by seasonal fruit and cream. Water will be on the tables but members can also purchase home produced apple juice, or red/white wine.

At 1.45 we will depart for a short journey to The Laskett Gardens at Much Birch.



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Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Laskett Gardens (cont.)

The Laskett Gardens are the largest private formal gardens to be created in England since 1945. Over almost four decades the historian, Sir Roy Strong, and his late wife, the designer, Dr Julia Trevelyan Oman, transformed a four acre field into a series of stunning garden rooms, vistas, ascents and descents. These include a rose garden, an orchard, the Colonnade Court, a knot garden, fountains, statuary and parterres. A new vista was created to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a grotto nymphaeum to mark Sir Roy's eightieth birthday in 2015.

On arrival at the gardens we will be given a short introductory talk by the Head Gardener. We will then be issued with a map and an Audio guide narrated by Sir Roy.

We will depart at 4 pm arriving back in Rugby at approximately 6 pm.



Photo by Pauline Springett ©

*There are no tea rooms at Laskett Gardens so members may wish to bring their own drinks with them. Home produced apple juice is available in the small shop which carries a range of items exclusive to the gardens.*

**This visit is not suitable for persons with walking difficulties.**

## **A day out in the Historic Cathedral City of Worcester**

Wednesday, 5 July 2017

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Janice Snell (01455 286646)

Supported by John Snell, Brian and Eileen Sheavyn

This will be a free-flow day out to Worcester – with a couple of organised treats!

Worcester is a lovely riverside city with a vibrant centre where you will discover an interesting blend of old and new, heritage and tradition, a superb range of retail outlets and restaurants. We hope to arrive in Worcester at 10.00 am, for coffee/tea and biscuits (included), at the beautiful Worcester Cathedral. After refreshments the day is yours to do whatever you please. I am sure whatever you chose to do, you will have a great day out.

- *The Cathedral*

Members who wish to look around the Cathedral can do so at their leisure after coffee.

- *Greyfriars' House, Friar Street* (National Trust card needed)

Get away from the hustle and bustle and visit Greyfriars'. Perhaps have a light lunch in the walled garden.

- *The Commandery Museum*

The Museum is located in Worcester City Centre just a three minute walk from the Cathedral and the High Street - at the time of writing entrance cost for seniors (£4.50 not included). Using audio interpretation, the Commandery's long-hidden history comes vividly to life allowing you to explore six chosen periods, enjoying the characters and the atmosphere of the building's colourful past. Maybe call in at MeeMee for a bite to eat. The café is located at the back of the Commandery, alongside the canal, an ideal spot to sit and simply watch the world go by.

We will all meet up at 2.45 pm, at the South Quay and board The Earl for a 45 minute narrated cruise down the river (included) – please note that there are no toilets on the boat.

After the boat trip we move to Brown's on the Quay for a welcome cup of tea and a cream scone (incl).

We board our coach at 4.30 pm and, depending on traffic, hope to arrive back in Rugby at approximately 6.00 pm.

## **Bowood House and Gardens**

Monday 17 July 2017

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

Supported by Flick Furber

Bowood House is a Grade 1 Georgian stately home, near Malmesbury in Wiltshire. The interiors are the work of Robert Adam. The house is set in magnificent gardens designed by Capability Brown and is the home of the Marquis of Lansdowne. He opened Bowood to the public in 1975 describing it as “a wonderful oasis of peace and beauty”.

We will arrive about 11a.m. for tea/coffee and biscuits (included) and a guided tour of the house. The tour lasts about one hour and will be followed by lunch (included) in the Stables Restaurant.

After lunch you may wish to revisit the house and see areas not covered by the tour. However, a visit to the gardens is a must. A walk to the cascade and the temple is also recommended, particularly for those wishing to stretch their legs before the journey home. There is also a well- stocked gift shop which can provide mementos of the visit.

We will leave about 3.30 pm to arrive back in Rugby for 6p.m.



**Bowood-  
House  
and its  
wonderful  
herbaceous  
border**

Photo by  
Isobel Palmer ©

## Lampport Hall and Gardens, Northants

Tuesday, 25 July 2017

By car to arrive at 2 pm

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634, 07733148004)

Supported by Alec Springett

Lampport Hall has been home to the Isham family for over four centuries. Developed from a Tudor Manor House, architecturally the Hall has been worked on by John Webb Smith of Warwick and William Burn. The Hall contains outstanding furniture, books, china and paintings. The 10 acres of gardens have recently been restored. Originally laid out in 1655 by Gilbert Clark, it was the keen eye of Mary, Lady Isham in the 1820s and later the passion of her son, Sir Charles which gave the gardens their present layout.

Our visit will start with a guided tour of the Hall followed by a cream tea (price included), served in the Victorian dining room. After tea members are free to enjoy the gardens. You can also visit the Church and Museum of Rural life.

Members are asked to leave the site by 5.30 pm at the latest.

### DIRECTIONS

The post code is NN6 9HD. If using the A14, take the A508 (Junction 2) and when you meet the A508 turn right towards Northampton. Lampport Village is a turning to the left (the Swan Pub is on the right). On entering the main village street there is an

entrance on your right with swans on the gateposts. The car park is signposted. If you miss the Lampport Village sign you will very shortly find the main entrance to the Hall on the A508.

Please avoid parking in front of the Hall and follow the signs for the car park.

Members should then assemble in front of the Hall.



Entrance gates

Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

**Special Note** Entrance to the Hall is via about 3 steps. There are 2 flights of stairs in the Hall and there are no lifts.

## Watts Gallery and Artists' Village, Compton, Near Guildford, Surrey

Wednesday, 9 August 2017

By coach departing at 8.00 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701)

Supporter required

Watts Gallery and Artist's Village is a unique gem nestled in the Surrey Hills near Guildford. The Gallery was originally created by George Frederick Watts OM, RA (1817-1904) and his artist wife, Mary, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> C. Watts was, in his time, considered to be one of the greatest painters of the Victorian era. A portraitist, sculptor, landscapist and symbolist, his work embodied the most pressing themes of the age, earning him the title "England's Michelangelo".

Around 1890, Watts and his second wife Mary (in earlier years, he had been briefly married to the famous actress Ellen Terry) leased land at Compton and commissioned Arts and Crafts architect Sir Ernest George to build their house and studios, Limnerslease, which proved to be a tranquil haven for them both in their last years. Shortly before his death in 1904, Watts Gallery

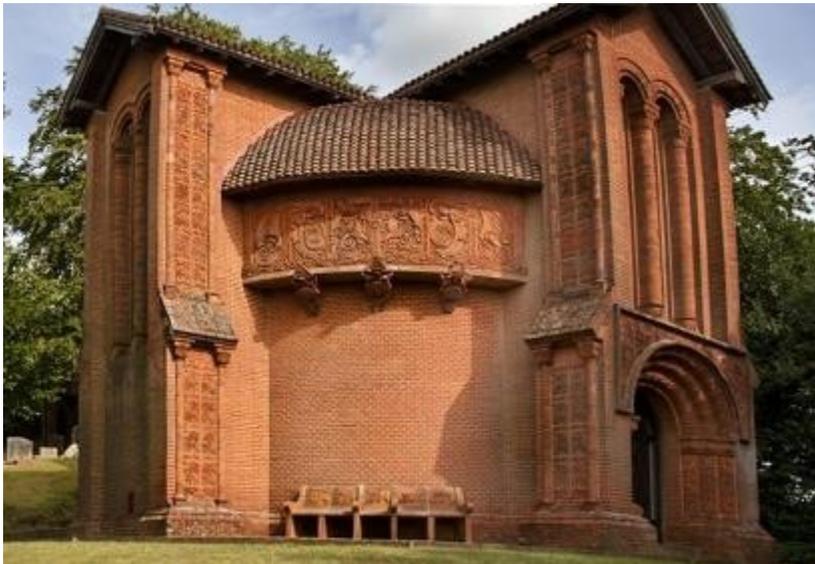


Photo by George Brunavs ©

was opened to the public and Mary had designed the nearby Watts Cemetery Chapel (now Grade I listed) as a memorial in an amazing array of Art Nouveau, Symbolist and Celtic motifs. The Chapel is an absolute "must see".

## Watts Gallery and Artists' Village (cont.)

Two reviews are worth quoting:

"I had no idea that here in Surrey there was a collection of such richness and a story of such depth. That one man and his devoted wife could leave so much – which makes Compton a unique artists' village and Watts one of the most important artists and philanthropists of the 19thC" – Penelope Keith CBE DL.

"It is no exaggeration to say the Watts Cemetery Chapel is one of the most beautiful, extraordinary, original, marvellous and magical buildings in the whole of the British Isles" – Lucinda Lambton

Our visit should be a very informative, enjoyable and a full day. We shall leave Bilton at 8 am and after a motorway comfort stop, aim to arrive at Watts Village by 11 am for tea/coffee/biscuits (included). Our party will be divided into 2 groups for the 3 guided tours of the Gallery, Limnerslease and Chapel; each group will visit the 3 places at different times but we will all be together for lunch at the Old Kiln in Watts Village (included). A full timetable for the day for both groups will be issued on departure from Bilton, and we shall be leaving Compton at 4.45 pm, to arrive back in Rugby by 7 pm.

The tours of Limnerslease and the Chapel both involve a 10 minute walk through beautiful woodland and grounds, the one to Limnerslease involving an uphill part; comfortable shoes are advised.

All group visitors receive 10% off in the Shop (gifts, books, homewares, etc).  
Art is for sale in the Pottery Building.

## **Berrington Hall, Herefordshire**

Tuesday, 22 August 2017

By coach departing at 8.45 am

Organised by Aileen Brown (Tel 01788 811106, Mob 07469 628858)

Supported by Isobel Palmer

Berrington Hall is set in beautiful Herefordshire countryside with views towards Wales and the Black Mountains. It was built in about 1778 by Thomas Harley, a wealthy London banker who had links to Herefordshire. He initially commissioned Capability Brown to lay out the park and then asked Brown's son-in-law, Henry Holland to design him a house in the French Neo-classical style. The exterior is rather severe in red sandstone but the interior has elegant delicate decorations carried out by the best London craftsmen. The house passed through various owners but is essentially as Henry Holland designed it. The park was the final project that Capability Brown worked on and there are various walks that can be taken in the parkland. There is also a walled garden containing an orchard with heritage varieties of apples and pears.

We leave at 08.45 and travel to Webbs of Wychbold Garden Centre for a comfort break and members may have coffee (at their own expense). We then travel on to Berrington Hall where we will take a lunch of soup and sandwiches (included). Members will then be free to look round the house, garden and parkland at their own pace.

We will leave at 4.30 pm and expect to be back in Rugby before 6.30 pm.



Photo by Aileen Brown ©

## Dates for your Diary in 2017

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Time</b>
2 Feb	Summer visits programme 2017 and 2016 review 30th Anniversary Celebration	2.30 pm
15 Feb	Secrets and scandals of Canons Ashby Speaker: Laura Malpas	7.30 pm
2 March	A taste of Cornwall Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm
16 March	Worcester porcelain with Royal connections Speaker: Harry Frost, Ceramic Historian	7.30 pm
12 April	Planning Meeting for 2018 Visits	7.30 pm
3 May	Walk from Monks Kirby to Pailton	10.00 am
24 May	Newstead Abbey	9 am
6 June	Avoncroft Museum & Hanbury Hall	9.30 am
22 June	Hellens and The Laskett Gardens	8.30 am
5 July	Worcester	8.30 am
17 July	Bowood House and gardens	8.30 am
25 July	Lampport Hall and gardens (by car)	arrive for 2 pm
9 August	Watts Gallery and Artists' Village	8 am
22 August	Berrington Hall	8.45 am
5 Oct	Talk—Calke Abbey Speaker: Allan Tyler (NT)	2.30pm
18 Oct	Talk—Ferguson's Gang Speaker: Anna Hutton-North	7.30 pm
2 Nov	Talk—The Restoration of Tyntesfield Speaker: Derek Clarke	2.30 pm
15 Nov	Talk—Real Bread Speaker: Paul Raddan	7.30 pm
7 Dec	Talk—Tudor Christmas Customs Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith	2.30 pm



Celebrating

**30 years of RNTA**

Thursday, 2 February 2017 at 2.30 pm

with

Anniversary cake

the Review of 2016 will be expanded  
to show our activities since 1987

Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2017

Printed by Steers Printing