

# Contents

Committee statements	2
Letter from the Chair	3
Association News	4
Input from members wanted	5
AGM Agenda	6
Treasurer's report for 2014/15	7
Summary of accounts 2014/15	8
Programme of outings for 2016	9
Nations 'Ode to the Coast'	20
Diary of events	inner back cover

## **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 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

At the time of writing in mid November winter is nearly upon us and we have been extremely lucky for nature to provide us with an unusually mild Autumn. By the time you read this, I trust that you have all had a pleasant, enjoyable and peaceful festivity. I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year for 2016.

During 2015 we have had lectures in the Spring and Autumn with visits during the Summer period which I trust you have all enjoyed. I am pleased to see that all the visits were well supported and all went ahead as planned. For this I thank the organizers for their devotion and time to ensure success.

I am pleased to report that RNTA has donated £4300 to various local properties during 2015, the details of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I reiterate my plea for the position of Publicity Officer to join the committee. Being on the committee is enjoyable and rewarding. It goes without saying that the more RNTA can publicize our activities the greater our chances are for increasing our membership and subsequently attracting more funds to support National Trust properties locally. Please contact Anne Turner or myself if you are willing to take on this role.

Tony Birch, since joining the committee as Website Editor has done a sterling job in revamping the site to update it with current news. It is only with your support to provide Tony with information can further progress be made. Tony and myself would also appreciate any feedback and /or new ideas you would like to see.

Enjoy our programme for 2016 and I look forward to seeing and meeting you during the year.

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 welcome some additional members.

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

Mrs A Carbury

Mrs B Smith

Mrs E Tompkins

Mrs V Turnbull

Mr and Mrs D Haynes

We hope you will enjoy our programme of events.



### Volunteering

I have been a volunteer with the National Trust since 2000—both at a property and in this Association. I have found both very rewarding, particularly as a single person. I encourage anyone who is uncertain about doing this to consider it. Working together is an extremely good way of getting to know people! Please ask me or any of the Committee if you are interested.

Isobel Palmer

### Christmas lunch at Doddington Hall



Organised by  
Pauline Springett

7 December 2015

## Input from Members wanted

### **NEW ORGANISERS NEEDED**

Visits Planning Meeting

13 April 2016 at 7.30 pm

Our next Planning meeting for 2017 visits will be in the Sports Lounge at Dunchurch Village Hall. To find us enter through the main entrance and turn left towards the kitchen, the Sports Lounge is directly behind. New-comers who are willing to organise or help with a visit are very welcome and There will be plenty of help and advice to get you started.

### **Photographs for the Review of the Year**

**L**ots of you have given me photos taken on the RNTA 2015 outings which I hope you all enjoyed. If any more of you have photos you'd like included, please let me have them on or before the AGM. I like photos with people in and that reflect what impressed you about the day. I like the one on the right as it shows a member examining the menu in anticipation of lunch in the attractive pub.

If you can, either let me have photos on a CD/memory stick or email your photos (preferably not reduced in size) to:

[editor@rugbynationaltrust.co.uk](mailto:editor@rugbynationaltrust.co.uk)

If you are not confident about doing that, I will be very happy to come and

download them onto a memory stick from your computer. *Isobel Palmer*



Photo by Pam Preston ©

Wesley House in Winchcombe

### **RNTA Website**

**T**ony Birch, the Web Editor, is putting a lot of effort into keeping our web site up-to-date and it is really worth a visit. I was most impressed when I had a look at it following our last meeting. Please encourage any of your friends who might be interesting in joining RNTA to have a look at it.

Editor

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

Thursday 21st January 2016

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 2016 are:

Roy DEACON (Chair),

David KNAPP (Treasurer),

Anne TURNER (Secretary),

Patricia DOWNTON (Membership Secretary),

Jean KORTEGAS (Deputy Membership Secretary),

Pam SOUTHERN (Bookings Secretary),

**Vacant (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 19th January 2017**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/15

I am pleased to report to members that the financial position of the Association continues to go from strength to strength. This means that the Committee is in the very fortunate position of being able to respond quickly and positively, to funding requests made by the National Trust at both local and national level.

The accounts for the year show a net surplus of £4,634.89, an increase of £396.22 on the previous year. This is the net result of the commitment, effort and hard work shown by many individuals and groups of members within the Association. 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 highly successful summer programme of trips and visits all continue to make significant contributions to the Association's finances.

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the combined financial reserves of the Association stood at £14,032.91, an increase of £4,634.89 on the previous year. However, as you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter, donations totalling £4,300 have now been made in support of projects at six properties in the Midlands Region, and a further £1,500 has been transferred to the National Trust Supporter Group Account, the balance of which now stands at £5,000. This will be allocated when projects requesting financial support have been considered and agreed, by the Committee. It is on this basis that there is no immediate need to make a change to the current subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples. Total membership of the Association at the end of the year was 380, a fall of 18 on the previous year.

Finally, I should like to thank Ian Stimson for once again 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 2014/15

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	3,210.00	3,295.00
LESS expenditure on meetings, newsletters, etc.	2,449.56	3,050.22
	<b>760.44</b>	<b>244.78</b>
 <b>INCOME from fund raising</b>		
Trips and Visits	2,100.00	2,211.70
Sales Table	324.00	303.30
Talks given by Members	210.00	320.00
Collections at meetings	676.00	686.27
Bank Interest	1.30	31.35
PC Recycling	32.05	44.80
Refreshments	336.60	282.47
Donations	194.50	114.00
	<b>4,634.89</b>	<b>4,238.67</b>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		
Donations to N.T. Projects		4,300.00
Transfer to N.T. Supporter Group Account		2,000.00
	<b>4,634.89</b>	<b>-2,061.33</b>
Balance brought forward	5,898.02	7,959.35
	<b>10,532.91</b>	<b>5,898.02</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		

## **PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2016**

### **Walk to Frankton, Draycote and Bourton**

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

By car to meet at Friendly Inn at Frankton at 10 am

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

The walk is about 4 miles, hopefully in good sunshine, taking in three attractive villages. Starting from the Friendly Inn in Frankton, we walk towards the village church and take a left turn across fields with great views, including Draycote Water.

Crossing more fields and under the old Rugby to Leamington railway line we reach Draycote village. Going back under the line we walk through Hill Farm and back towards Bourton. We take a right turn towards Frankton and the Friendly Inn where we can partake of their £10 lunch for 2. Menus will be sent to those signing up for the walk and payment will be collected on the day.

### **Oxford: Bodleian Library and Ashmolean Museum**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701)

Supported by Val Brunavs

One of the great libraries of the world, the Bodleian is a working library which is located in a remarkable group of buildings forming the historic heart of the University of Oxford. In our guided tours, we shall explore the Divinity School, completed in 1488 for the teaching of theology, with its elaborately vaulted ceiling and its 455 carved bosses – a masterpiece of English Late Gothic architecture. We shall also see the 17<sup>th</sup> century Convocation House, where Parliament was held in the Civil War, the Chancellor's Court room, and Duke Humfreys's medieval library, still in use today, where generations of famous scholars have studied – including five kings, 40 Nobel Prize winners, 25 British Prime Ministers and writers such as Oscar Wilde, C S Lewis and J R R Tolkien.

Our party will be divided into four groups of 12/13, the first two taking the tours commencing at 10.30 am, and the second two at 11.30 am.

Accordingly, we aim to arrive in Oxford well in time at around 10 am.

There is a variety of places in and around the Bodleian, for the second two groups to find refreshments before 11.30 am, and the first two groups after their tours. The tours last about 1 hour. A short list of suggested eating places for morning refreshments and lunches will be provided on the day. Members can then proceed to the Ashmolean (a short walk from the Bodleian) when they are ready after lunch for a free-flow exploration of this great museum – admission free, except for any special temporary exhibitions. We should be picked up by the coach outside the Ashmolean ready to depart for home by 4.30 pm, arriving back in Rugby around 6 pm.



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

The Ashmolean Museum

### **Webbs Garden Centre and Harvington Hall, Worcs**

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

By coach departing at 9.30 am

Organised by Barrie Bemand (01788 811961)

Supported by Lynne Bemand

We shall leave at 9.30 with our first call at Webbs in Wychbold, near Droitwich—a family business dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup>C. By the end of the century, Webbs seeds had become a household name and were appointed seeds-men to every monarch from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>C, Edward's grandson, William, had taken over the business and involvement in the Wychbold area began with the purchase of Astwood Farm in 1925. There, both agricultural and horticultural seeds were trialled to assess their quality. The garden seeds trials were established alongside the Birmingham-Bristol railway line but by 1937, when the motorcar had become the prime form of transport, Webbs moved their trial grounds to the A38 in Wychbold. In 1937 the famous Webbs thatched building, the floor of which was designed to incorporate wood from all the Commonwealth countries, was completed and became a local landmark .

In 1971, Richard Webb, great grandson of the original Edward Webb purchased the site with his wife Marigold from his uncle and so began the development of Webbs as both a Garden Centre and Nursery. Today the business is led by Ed Webb, great, great grandson of the firm's founder.

We should arrive at 10.30 am giving us plenty of time to explore the centre. As well as being a very large Garden centre with a varied selection of garden plants, equipment, shops and a café where we can take refreshments (at your own cost) there are the Riverside Gardens which are set out along the river Salwarpe and are arranged with different themes. Hopefully the Wisteria Walkway will be in flower. At 12.15 – 12.30 pm we move on to the Talbot Inn in Chaddesley Corbett for a buffet lunch. Chaddesley is a very attractive village which lay within the estates of Harvington. After lunch we move only a mile or so to Harvington Hall.

This is a moated Elizabethan Manor house dating back to the 13th century. At one time owned by the Earls of Warwick, it was the Packington family who built the present house in the 16th century. Although Humphrey Packington held a post in the household of Lord Chancellor Ellesmere he was a Catholic and equipped the Hall with what is probably the finest surviving series of Priest-holes in the country. Some of them are almost certainly the work of the master builder of hides Nicholas Owen who was captured at Worcester and executed at The Tower of London in 1606.

There are a collection of remarkable wall paintings, drawings and traces of Elizabethan wall decoration in several parts of the house. Fortunately these had all been whitewashed over by 1700 and were not discovered till 1936.

In the late 17th century the house passed through marriage into the Throckmorton family of Coughton Court near Alcester. This resulted in the house being abandoned and partially demolished in 1700. In the 19<sup>th</sup>C it was stripped of most of its furnishings, including the panelling from the Great Chamber and in 1910 the Great Staircase was moved to Coughton Court. Fortunately the house was purchased in 1923 by a Mrs Ferris who presented it to the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The neglect meant that the Hall escaped with only minor alterations and restoration began in 1930 which continues to this day. The Great Chamber was panelled in Elizabethan style oak in 1989 – 1996 and the Malt House restored in 2008-9.

It provides an excellent insight into the world of the Catholic families of the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>Cs and the secret chapels and priests' rooms show the hidden worship of the recusant community.

Here we shall have guided tours in 3 groups with afternoon tea/coffee and biscuits included. The tours last between 1-1½ hours to see all the interior features and do required climbing up uneven stairs and crossing some uneven floors.

We aim to leave for home between 4.30 – 5 pm, arriving back in Rugby at approximately 6 pm.

## Thenford Arboretum and Gardens, Nr Banbury

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016

By car to arrive from 2 pm

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634)

Supported by Alec Springett

Thenford Arboretum and gardens have been the home of Lord Heseltine since 1977. The gardens and Arboretum are only open on specific dates. There are many features including medieval fish ponds, eighteenth-century walled garden, extensive ponds and lakes and a range of features recently introduced, covers some 70 acres in which are planted over 3,500 different types of trees and shrubs. Alongside the house is a new rose garden, designed by George Carter. The Hornton stone used in the building of the walls and stairs echoes the fabric of Thenford House and the cottages in the village. The central feature is an old Venetian fountain head, with the missing metalwork newly recreated from an existing Venetian example, by James Horrobin

The arboretum will be open from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm with admission by ticket only. Members opting for this visit will be issued with tickets in advance together with details of how to find Thenford. On arrival members will be issued with a map and staff will be available to give guidance on parking. There will be tea, coffee and cakes available during the afternoon in the Church Barn, (price not included) and there are adequate toilet facilities. Two weeks before the event we will have to submit a list of names of those coming to the event. Sensible shoes are suggested.

### Special note.

Members who wish to have lunch before starting their visit can be given details of pubs in the Thenford area. Prior table reservation is advisable.



[Water feature in > the walled garden](#)

Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Arley Hall and Gardens, Cheshire

Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Janice Snell (01455 286646)

Supported by Brian and Eileen Sheavyn

Arley Hall and Gardens is a place of great beauty, heritage and tranquillity. Arley has been in the family of the current Lord Ashbrook since 1460 and each generation has contributed to its charm and character. Arley Hall may look familiar, it has provided the setting for several television programmes including: Coronation Street, Our Zoo and the Disney production, Evermoor.

The gardens at Arley have been described by TV presenter Chris Beardshaw as 'one of the best examples, of a garden, that has been designed and maintained by the same family anywhere in Britain'. The jewel in the crown is the double herbaceous border which is not only the earliest but also one of the finest examples of this horticultural art you are likely to see anywhere in the world.

We will have a short break for coffee (price not included) at Norton Canes services on the M6 toll. Traffic permitting we will arrive at Arley Hall at 11.15/30 am. On arrival we will be split into two groups for a guided tour of the Hall – the tour will take approximately one hour. At 1.00 o'clock we will meet at the Tudor Barn

Restaurant for lunch (included).

Members will then have free time to wander the gardens, the grove, the sculpture trail, the plant nursery and the shop. Treat yourself to tea and cake or an ice cream before leaving at 4.15



Arley Hall

Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

pm for our journey home, hopefully arriving back in Rugby by 6.45 pm depending on M6 traffic!

**Special note** : A menu sheet will be enclosed with the booking form for members.

## Walk from Little Brington, Northamptonshire

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016

By car to meet at the Saracens Head pub (NN7 4HS) for 10 am start

Organised by Isobel Palmer (01788 552234 or 07710 552940)

Supporter needed

This is a lovely 4½ mile walk with views over the Northamptonshire countryside starting at the Saracens Head pub. We walk on tracks, bridleways, footpaths and short distances on quiet roads through the villages of Little and Great Brington and the hamlet of Nobottle. It is undulating terrain but no big hills. Much of the walk is across pastureland and arable fields which can be muddy in wet weather. There are a couple of stiles. At one point we can see Althorp House. In Great Brington we can make a diversion to look at St Mary's church where many generations of the Spencer family are buried.

Arriving back at the pub, the Saracens Head offers a walkers' menu which can be ordered on the day before we set off. I hope to have an up-to-date menu beforehand to make things easier for people.

(Althorp House, nearby is open daily in July from 12-5 pm should anyone want to visit while in the vicinity.)



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Middleport Pottery, Burslem

Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

Supported by Flick Furber



Photos from website

The Middleport Pottery is the home of Burleigh. Like many potteries, Middleport had a precarious future until in June 2011 it was acquired by The Prince's Regeneration Trust. Following a £9 million regeneration it is now a major visitor attraction and home to several flourishing crafts and ceramic businesses.

We will leave at 8.30 am and arrive in time for tea/coffee and biscuits (included) and an introductory talk. Following the talk we will split into groups of 10 for the factory tour - groups will follow each other at five minute intervals. The tour lasts about one and a half hours. We will see the whole process of pottery production during the tour which finishes with a look around the inside of the Bottle Oven!

**Please note** the tour includes several steep stairs and there are no seats available. Please do not book in for the trip if you have any worries about stairs. There is an alternative tour available which uses a lift, but we can only accommodate one tour of this nature with a maximum of 10 people. Please indicate if you would like to join this tour. There are a lot of cobbles and uneven flooring so please wear sensible shoes.



Following the tour we will have a soup and sandwich lunch (included). There will then be time to browse the various studios and shops. The shops are very tempting so be prepared to make several purchases! Poole Pottery is based at Middleport and work is done for Denbigh and other makes.

We will leave at 3.30 pm and arrive back in Rugby at around 5.45 pm.

## Highclere Castle, Berkshire

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2016

By coach departing 8.15 am.

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634)

Supported by Alec Springett

Highclere Castle is one of England's most beautiful Victorian Castles set amidst 1,000 acres of spectacular parkland and yes it is the home of Downton Abbey.

The Carnarvon family has lived at Highclere since 1679, and the current castle stands on the site of an earlier house, which in turn was built on the foundations of the medieval palace owned by the Bishops of Winchester for some 800 years.

Today the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl and Countess have opened a new Egyptian Exhibition throughout the cellars of the Castle to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl's achievement of discovering the Tomb of the Egyptian boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun in 1922 with his archaeological colleague, Howard Carter.

We will leave St Mark's car park at 8.15 am and on arrival will be met by a member of staff. You will be issued with a ticket and from then on will be free to visit the castle, gardens, and exhibition in your own time. There is no guided tour in the castle but there are guides in the main state rooms.

The café is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Hot food is available between 12 noon – 2 pm. There is a selection of cakes and sandwiches throughout the day.

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

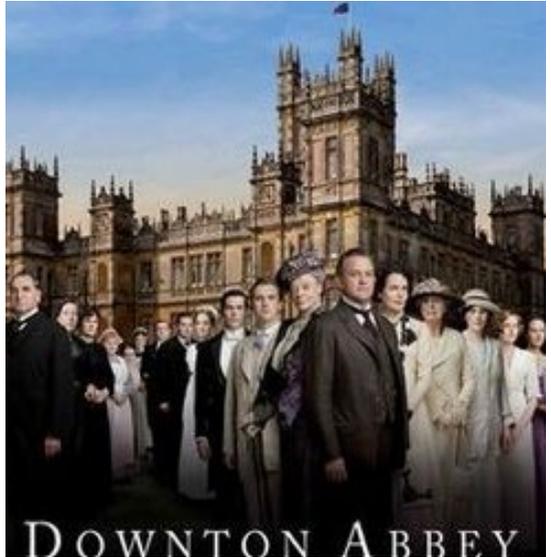


Photo from website

### Special note:

From the coach park to the main area is about a 10 minute walk.

## Stonor Park and Waterperry Gardens

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016

By coach departing at 9.00 am

Organised by Aileen Brown (01788 811106 Mob 07469628858)

Supporter required

Stonor Park has been the home of the Stonor family (the Lords Camoys) for over eight hundred and fifty years. It lies in a narrow secluded valley in the Chilterns and was gradually built between 1200 and 1600. The family has been and still is resolutely Roman Catholic and there is a chapel dating back to the late 13<sup>th</sup>C where Mass is still celebrated every Sunday. Following the Reformation the family was much persecuted because of their religion and became impoverished so that little work was done on the house. In the late 18<sup>th</sup>C the relaxation of some of the punitive anti-Catholic legislation enabled the family to Gothicise the house and redesign the park in the fashionable open style. The 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Camoys decided in 1975 to sell the house and all its contents but it was bought by his son, the present owner, who with the help of other family members has restored and refurbished the property. The current Lady Camoys is responsible for much of the redesigning of both the interiors and the garden.

We leave St Marks at 9.00 am and on arrival at Stonor Park will be served tea, coffee and biscuits (included). The house will be open exclusively for us. We will be shown round in groups after which we will have a Ploughman's lunch (included) in the Tea Room. After lunch there should be time to look at the gardens which slope up behind the house. The house has uneven floors and to reach the first floor there is one flight of stairs up and another down but there are places to rest.

After visiting the gardens we head back along the M40 stopping off to visit Waterperry Gardens which were established in the 1930s as a School of Horticulture for Ladies. Today, they are one of the finest ornamental gardens in the country. Members are free to look around at their own pace and perhaps have a cup of tea and a cake or buy some plants. We expect to leave Waterperry at 4.30 pm arriving in Rugby by 6 pm.



Museum of Country Life  
Waterperry Gardens

Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Southwell Minster and The Workhouse, Nottingham

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

By coach departing at 8.30 am

Organised by Janice Snell (01455 286646)

Supported by John Snell, Brian and Eileen Sheavyn

Join us on a day of contrast, firstly we visit Southwell Minster, then members have free time to either stay at the Minster for lunch, or take the short walk to Southwell Market town, browse the unique shops, then relax in one of the many cafes for lunch (not included). We meet on the coach pick up point at 1.35 pm for the short drive to the National Trust property, The Workhouse. We have a short introductory talk and then an Audio Tour, free time before our journey back to Rugby.

Depending on traffic we should arrive at Southwell Minster 9.45 am. On arrival we have tea/coffee and biscuits in the Minster's Refectory (included). After coffee we make our way to the meeting point for our guided one hour tour of the Minster.

Southwell Minster is one of England's finest medieval churches. For more than one thousand years it has been a place of pilgrimage. Its rural location and stunning but quirky architecture have made it a must see destination.

Southwell is a delightful market town which has much to offer visitors. The town is home to the Bramley Apple and has historical links with Charles I and Lord Byron. Discover the thought provoking story of The Workhouse as you enter the most complete example of its kind in existence. Follow the path trodden by thousands of paupers and imagine what life was like for them during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

***Please note that The Workhouse has several flights of stairs.***

We board our coach and leave at 4.30 pm for our journey back to Rugby, traffic permitting we should arrive back for 6.00 pm.

### **Special Note**

Please remember to bring your National Trust card with you.



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Milletts Farm Centre & Kingston Bagpuize House and Gardens, Oxfordshire

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

By coach departing at 10 am

Organised by Isobel Palmer

Supporter required

The village's suffix comes from the De Bachepuis family who were lords of the manor from the 11<sup>th</sup> C. The De Kingstons later took over and evidently took their name from the village. In the Tudor period, the house was purchased by John Latton and a

moated house was built on the site which, today, may form part of the basement.

This beautiful house is a family home, thought to have originally been built in



Photo from website

the 1660s. The house was remodelled in the Baroque style for the Blandy family in the early 18<sup>th</sup> C in red brick with Stone facings. The entrance hall is dominated by a handsome cantilevered staircase and there is French and English furniture in the elegant panelled rooms.

The house is surrounded by mature gardens and parkland with a collection of rare plants and trees. There is a raised terrace walk which looks over the house and gardens leading to a panelled pavilion.

We will make a latish start for this leisurely day out and travel to Milletts Farm Centre, near Abingdon, a complex of farm shop with café and restaurant, Falconry, Craft Centre and Garden Centre also with a café, where we will stop for free time when lunch can be obtained. The Falconry is home to over 80 birds of prey and puts on a flying display at 12 noon (not inc). There are enclosures with farm and other animals if you want a short walk and a chat with donkeys, goats, pigs, alpacas, etc. There is often a maize maze at this time of year which is good fun.

The coach will leave there about 1.45 pm for the short journey to Kingston Bagpuize House where we will be divided into groups of about 15 for tours of the house. Tea and homemade cake is provided. We will leave at 4.30 pm for our return to Rugby arriving home about 5.45pm.

## The Nation's Ode to the Coast

For National Poetry Day, Dr John Cooper Clark created a modern poem on behalf of the National Trust by writing the first few lines and then inviting our visitors to send their thoughts in via twitter about what makes the coast so special for them. He then created the final poem using the best of the contributions and a film has been made to illustrate it which can be viewed on YouTube.

A big fat sky and a thousand shrieks  
The tide arrives and the timber creaks  
A world away from the working week  
Où est la vie nautique?  
That's where the sea comes in...

Dishevelled shells and shovelled sands,  
Architecture all unplanned  
A spade 'n' bucket wonderland  
A golden space, a Frisbee and  
The kids and dogs can run and run  
And not run in to anyone  
Way out! Real gone!  
That's where the sea comes in...

Impervious to human speech, idle time and tidal reach  
Some memories you can't impeach  
That's where the sea comes in  
A nice cuppa splosh and a round of toast  
A cursory glance at the morning post  
A pointless walk along the coast  
That's what floats my boat the most  
That's where the sea comes in...

Now, voyager - once resigned  
Go forth to seek and find  
The hazy days you left behind  
Right there in the back of your mind  
Where lucid dreams begin  
With rolling dunes and rattling shale  
The shoreline then a swollen sail  
Picked out by a shimmering halo  
That's where the sea comes in...

Could this be luck by chance?  
Eternity in a second glance  
A universe beyond romance  
That's where the sea comes in...  
Yeah, that's where the sea comes in...

## Dates for your Diary in 2016

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Time</b>
4 Feb	Summer visits programme 2016 and 2015 review	2.30 pm
17 Feb	Tudor Easter customs Speaker: Martin Sirot-Smith	7.30 pm
3 March	The villas and gardens of Lake Como Speaker: Keith Holmes	2.30 pm
16 March	Life and times of English and Welsh archers in 14 <sup>th</sup> C and 15 <sup>th</sup> C Speakers: Peter & Joan Hallett	7.30 pm
13 April	Planning Meeting for 2017 Visits	7.30 pm
20 April	Walk from Frankton via Draycote and Bourton	10.00 am
4 May	Oxford, Bodleian Library & Ashmolean Museum	8.30 am
18 May	Webbs Garden Centre and Harvington Hall	9.30 am
11 June	Thenford Arboretum and Gardens	2 pm
22 June	Arley Hall and Gardens, Cheshire	8.30 am
7 July	Walk from Little Brington, Northamptonshire	10 am
11 July	Middleport Pottery	8.30 am
2 August	Highclere Castle	8.15 am
16 August	Stonor Park and Waterperry Gardens	9 am
7 Sept	Southwell Minster and The Workhouse	8.30 am
14 Sept	Millets Farm Centre and Kingston Bagpuize	10 am
6 Oct	Talk—Two Queens and a Countess Speaker: D Templeman	2.30 pm
19 Oct	Talk—Through Wildest Russia Speaker: R Butler	7.30 pm
3 Nov	Talk—The Great Central Railway : Past, Present and Future Speaker: M Riley	2.30 pm
16 Nov	Talk—Britain wildlife diary Speaker: C Ward	7.30 pm
1 Dec	Talk—Ocean Liner Art Speaker: J Taylor	2.30 pm



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Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2016