

**The Rugby
National Trust
Association**



Spring Newsletter 2024



**Talks Programme
Summer Outings**

www.rugbynationaltrust.org

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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 key activities of the RNTA. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.



Pauline Springett Visits Co-ordinator

After 12 years in this role, Pauline is retiring having done a brilliant job in maintaining a varied programme of visits and Christmas lunches/outings.

She has led many herself, 3 or 4 a year, ably supported by her team of visits organisers.

She will continue as an active supporter of the Association.

Pauline is a hard act to follow but I'm sure there is someone keen to see our programme of visits continue.

Committee Report - Spring 2024

A happy New Year to all our members and we hope you had a good Christmas. Rugby National Trust manages to keep going well, despite concerns about our future, and this is largely due to willing and practical support given by members at meetings, for which the Committee is very grateful. For various reasons, we have had to curtail the Sales Table and been unable to run our raffles for the first two afternoon meetings this autumn but they will be back! Storm Ciaran forced the cancellation of the talk scheduled for 2 November but, otherwise, everything has gone pretty smoothly with a good range of varied and interesting talks.

Another piece of good news is that Alain Foote, a long-standing member, has volunteered to take over management of our website and will be proposed for election as a committee member at the January AGM. We once again thank past committee member, Michael Turner, for caretaking the website in the interim.

However, at the same time we are sad to tell you that Pauline Springett, who has so efficiently and tirelessly been our Summer Visits Co-ordinator for many years, has announced her wish to retire. We cannot thank her enough for her patient and painstaking work and careful attention to detail in this most important role in RNTA. She not only pulled together and sorted all the various trips run by different individual organisers, but ran many visits herself and is running or supporting three this coming summer.

That means that we now need to recruit a new Visits Co-ordinator; and the one other essential committee vacancy is that of Secretary, and we continue to appeal to someone from our members to volunteer for that. The post basically involves dealing with correspondence (not very frequently and mostly from the National Trust itself), drawing up the agenda and taking minutes of committee meetings, so no ultra-professional secretarial skills are demanded.

We are pleased to maintain good audience numbers at talks, and a very steady membership, with very welcome new members joining us. Finances continue to be stable, so as a society catering for your interests in history, heritage and the arts, we seem to be doing well.

Unfortunately, we cannot at the present time really afford to fulfil properly what should be our main purpose of practical support for the National Trust, in particular its local properties. From their point of view, we are not just an NT Association but an NT Supporter group. Our incomes are barely balancing out-goings and, as has been mentioned before, we can only resume making significant profits if more members can help to organise summer visits and other fund-raising activities. We have managed to arrange a few more trips for Summer 2024, but would like to have more; the committee is working at top capacity. So all help will be greatly appreciated.

Cont ...

There is a Visits Planning meeting for 2025 in the Committee Room at Dunchurch Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 10 April 2024.

Please come along to find out more, not only to see how outings are organised but also what role the Visits Co-ordinator involves.

*Compiled by George Brunavs (Talks and Meetings Secretary/
Vice-Chairman) in consultation with other Committee mem-*

Membership Update

Our current membership stands at 252 individuals which has declined over the last couple of years but only slightly. We rely on new members coming in to replace those leaving for reasons such as old age and moving from the area, so we would ask you to encourage your friends to join. Remember that you do not have to be a member of the National Trust to join our association.

We have been able to keep the membership fees unchanged for a number of years at £10 for a single member and £15 for joint membership. If you have not yet paid your subscription for the year 2023/24 we would encourage you to do so.

Adrian Futter,, Membership Secretary

Sales Table

I will be continuing with sales of jigsaw puzzles which are very popular. I am still collecting printer cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling which raise money for us so please bring those along as well. We may reduce the sale of second hand books as they are very heavy to move

Malcolm Tennant

Financial report

Report from the Treasurer for 2022/23

The accounts show a small increase in the reserves at the end of the year but membership numbers have dropped slightly. More members are coming to meetings and raffle receipts are up. A small profit was made on trips and visits. Speakers' fees, hall hire and printing continue to become more expensive.

Thanks are due to Ian Stimson who is willing to continue as the Independent Examiner of Accounts.

We are able to keep membership fees at £10 for a single member and £15 for joint members for the next 12 months.

Tim Seakins, Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - 2022/23

INCOME	2021/22	2022/23
Membership Fees	2,370.00	2,220.00
Admission to Meetings	853.00	1,104.00
Sales Table	82.12	59.00
Raffles	121.00	207.00
Donations	189.00	133.00
Recycled ink cartridges	51.05	-
Trips and Visits	8473.00	4,043.00
Bank Interest	1.93	30.17
TOTAL	£12,141.10	£7,796.17

EXPENDITURE

Refund to Members	-	30.00
Speakers	648.00	975.00
Hall Hire	783.50	835.70
Printing	636.00	940.60
Postage/Admin Expenses	382.69	339.85
Refreshments	140.00	100.00
Raffle Prizes	72.74	69.63
Trips and Visits	7,628.48	3,788.40
TOTAL	£10,291.41	£7079.18

RESERVES at YEAR END

Nat West A/C 43070566	£8,926.49	£9,358.71*
Nat West A/C 43070574	£2,916.36	£3,170.96
Nat West Business Res A/C 43207758	£3,014.46	£3,044.63
TOTAL	£14,857.31	£15,574.30

* Includes £15 paid in advance for 2023-24

I have examined the accounts and bank records of the Rugby National Trust Association for 2022-23 and consider that, in my opinion, the Income and Expenditure Account, as presented above, gives a true and accurate report of the Association's finances at 30 September 2023

Ian Stimson, Independent Examiner

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION
36^h **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 18 January 2024

at 2.30 pm in the Dunchurch Village Hall

Agenda

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minutes of the last AGM**
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Treasurer's Report**
5. **Chairman's Report**
6. **Election of Committee** – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2024 are:

Vacant	Chair
Tim Seakins	Treasurer
Pam Southern	Bookings Secretary
Vacant	Secretary
Adrian Futter	Membership Secretary
Vacant	Publicity Officer
George Brunavs	Meetings Secretary/Vice chair
Vacant	Visits Co-ordinator
Malcolm Tennant	Sales Table
Isobel Palmer	Newsletter Editor
Alain Foote	Web Editor
7. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**
8. **Subscription**
9. **Any Other Business**
10. **Next Annual General Meeting will be** Thursday 16 January 2025
at 2.30 pm in the DVH

PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2024

78, Derngate, Northampton

Thursday, 9 May 2024

By car or train, assembling at the Visitor Centre, 82, Derngate by 12 noon

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701 mob07885 586165)

Supporter required

This compact terraced house is one of the most important and significant works in the history of 20th century architecture. It is as astonishing and unforgettable now as it was in 1916, when the great Charles Rennie Mackintosh, genius of modern design, converted a simple terraced dwelling for Bassett-Lowke, a toys and model railways manufacturer. It is Mackintosh's last architectural design, and as inventive and forward-looking as his earlier and grander Arts-and-Crafts-cum-Art Nouveau masterpieces like the Glasgow School of Art and Hill House, Helensburgh.

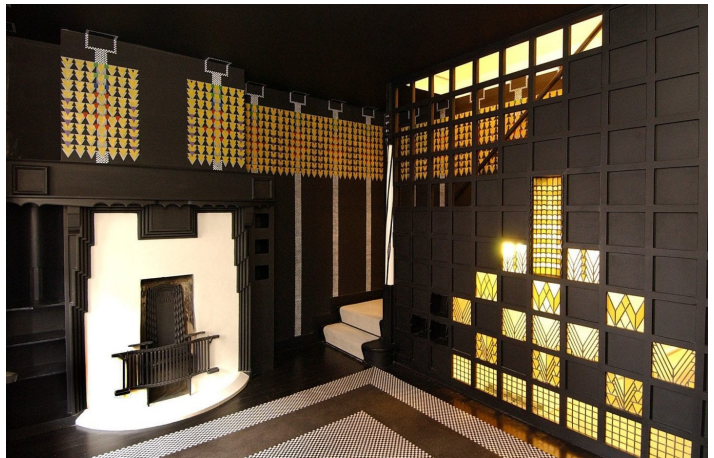
78 Derngate's interiors already herald the Art Deco of the 1920s and 1930s.

We make our own way by car or train to Northampton and are due to assemble at the Visitor Centre at 82, Derngate by 12 noon. We shall be given a guided tour in small groups around the house, which should last about an hour and a half. This will be followed by lunch in their Dining Room, where places will be reserved and there is a very good and varied menu; we pay individually as at any restaurant.

After that, the visit ends, but you may wish to explore Northampton further – the beautiful Guildhall and the Art Gallery and Museum are only 5 minutes walk from 78 Derngate towards the town centre, and well worth exploring. Other notable sights in the centre are the Sessions House, All Saints Church, and the exceptionally spacious market square.

The front room and stairs

(Please note: If more than 24 people choose to take part in this visit, it will have to be organised in shifts: one half of us having the tour before the lunch, and the other ½ having lunch first before the tour.)



Whitchurch Silk Mill

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

By coach departing at 9.15 am

Organised by Jan Elliott (01788 811067, 07961 589652)

Supported by Pauline Springett

On the banks of the River Test in the heart of rural Hampshire, Whitchurch Silk Mill is a magnificent Grade II* listed building and the oldest silk mill in the UK still working in its original building. Today, we are weaving for the gift shop, film and TV costumiers, National Trust, historic projects, modern fashion houses and many other uses.



The story of the Silk Mill is a colourful one of boom and bust, loss, rescue, renovations and ultimately survival. The Mill is over 200 years old, still operating using traditional machinery that dates back to its early beginnings. It is now a thriving working museum dedicated to preserving the art of silk weaving for future generations.

We will enjoy a guided tour of the Victorian winding and warping machinery and water wheel. See the looms and machinery in action, the beautiful gardens on the banks of the river Test and the shop selling scarves, ties and giftware made from the mill's exclusive silks - also other irresistible gifts.

Cont...

Whitchurch Silk Mill cont.

Timetable for the day:

- The coach departs from St Mark's, Bilton at 9.15 am with a comfort stop at Oxford, Peartree Services
- Arrive at Whitchurch around 12 noon – 12.15 pm
- A light lunch of sandwiches and cake with tea/coffee will be served (inc)
- We will then form two groups to be taken around the mill and its workings – shadowing each other. There is an exhibition area and a loom where you can try your hand.
- There is a café on site should you wish for further refreshments (not inc)
- Those wishing to stretch their legs, there is a church nearby or a short trail to a further mill and back along the river (leaflet available)
- We depart at 4 pm to arrive back around 6.30 pm

As part of the tour takes place outside, please come prepared for inclement weather.

Trips and Visits

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite demanding . 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.

The church has events scheduled for Wednesdays this summer so we are asked to car-share where possible to reduce the space in the car park we occupy.

Association Committee

Walk from Baddesley Clinton to Packwood House and back (5½ miles)

Thursday, 20 June 2024

By car to meet at Baddesley Clinton car park at 10.50 am for 11 am start

Organised by Adrian Futter (01788 811614, Mob 07743 063248)

The two National Trust properties are only 2½ miles apart and the circular walk between them makes for a pleasant day's activity. The route includes minor roads, farmland and a canal towpath. It is sometimes uneven and can be boggy and muddy in places after rain so suitable footwear is essential. No food or drink is included as part of the cost of the walk.

Baddesley Clinton (B93 0DQ) is roughly 27 miles from the centre of Rugby which takes about 45 minutes by car. We will meet in the Baddesley Clinton car park at 10:50 in preparation to begin the walk at 11:00. I suggest we park at the far end of the car park away from the entrance to the property.

We start by walking back down the entrance road and proceed across some farmland, along a minor road then follow some paths across fields until we eventually arrive at an avenue of trees leading to Packwood House.

At Packwood House you will be free to explore the house and gardens and to buy lunch if you wish. The departure time for the return walk will be decided on arrival but will probably be around 14:00 giving at least 1½ hours to view the property.

The return walk will be by a different route and will include about 2 miles along the towpath of the Stratford-on-Avon canal on a stretch which includes a series of locks. After leaving the canal we will go through a stable yard then cross several fields to arrive back at Baddesley Clinton.

The walk having ended you will be free to return to your car and leave or, if you wish, visit the house and grounds.

NB Don't forget to bring your NT membership card, if you have one. The walk does not require entrance to either property and you won't need a card to access toilets and refreshments at Packwood House. Your NT membership card will, however, allow you to visit both houses and gardens. Furthermore, if you want to access toilets or refreshments at Baddesley Clinton before or after the walk you will need your NT card to enter the property.



Walkers entering the courtyard at Baddesley Clinton

Greys Court, stopping at Waterperry Gardens

Wednesday 26 June 2024

By coach departing at 9 am

Organised by Pauline Springett (Tel 01788 814634)

Supported by Jan Elliott

Set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns, Greys Court is a picturesque Tudor Manor House surrounded by layers of history, intimate walled gardens and glorious woods and parkland. The house is warm and welcoming, unfurling the memories of the Brunner family through the rooms of their comfortable home. Across the perfect lawn a medieval tower and patchwork of mellow brick buildings conceal an English country garden.

We leave St Mark's Church car park at 9 am and travel to Waterperry Gardens for tea/coffee. We continue our journey to Greys Court arriving at approximately 11.30 am. There is a restaurant. Members are asked to indicate whether they wish to have lunch or just cake, teas and coffees. The Group will be split in 3 for a guided tour of the property and for access to the restaurant.

We will leave Greys Court at 4 pm arriving in Rugby about 6.15 pm.

Please make sure you have your NT membership card with you



The Moon Bridge



< *Dining Room*

Greys Court is featured on the cover of this newsletter

Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire

Wednesday, 10 July 2024

By coach departing from Bilton Church at 9 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701 mob07885 586165)

Supported by Val Brunavs

Bolsover Castle is the third great Cavendish house in Derbyshire after Chatsworth and Hardwick. Its architects were John and Huntingdon Smythson, sons of the great Robert (of Hardwick and Longleat fame). Its position high above the Vale of Scarsdale (now reclaimed from open-cast colliery days) is unforgettable, like a fairy castle visible from afar. Because a fairy castle is what it is, and intended to be, devised by Charles Cavendish, youngest son of Bess of Hardwick, who wanted it to be a palace entirely for pleasure and entertainment, rebuilt in 1613-16 from an old Norman castle. Its series of remarkable rooms all evoke romantic fancies with ornate chimney pieces and panelling; exotic paintings add to the magical atmosphere.

We plan to depart from Bilton at 9 am and arrive at Bolsover at around 11 am. After a welcoming tea/coffee, we can explore the introductory exhibition and watch the film giving an overview of the castle and its history. We will then have guided tours lasting an hour and a half, being split into two or three groups. These will take in the showpiece “Little Castle”, the monumental (ruined) Terrace Building, and the Riding School, created by Cavendish, who was a passionate horseman.

A wide range of hot and cold food is available from the Castle Cafe for lunch to buy individually. Allowing time for further exploration, we shall leave at about 3.45 to 4 pm, do planning to be back for Rugby before 6 o'clock.

Please note that precise timings and full programme for the day will be given on the coach, as they were not completely available from Bolsover by the time this Newsletter went to press.

If you are a member of English Heritage, remember to bring your membership card

The Great Hall >

(Do come to the meeting on 1 February to hear Ian Morgan talking about the castle's history)



Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire

Wednesday, 24th July 2024

By coach departing at 9.45 am

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634 mob 07733148004)

Supported by Jan Elliott

Wrest Park is an English Heritage property. Originally the home of the de Grey family. The gardens at Wrest Park have been restored to their former glory. In 2011 the rose garden and Italian garden were restored and many of the garden paths were relaid. In 2012 the French parterre was completed. In total there are 90 acres of landscape. The French style mansion was built between 1834 and 1839. On the ground floor there are rooms which can be viewed. One is displayed as the Countess's sitting room for the year 1840. The Mansion also houses three fascinating exhibitions giving the history of the site. There are other buildings to explore such as the Orangery, the Bath House, Bowling Green House, Pavilion (built early 18th century), Dogs' cemetery and Chinese Temple and Bridge.



It is possible to have a guided tour of the gardens. This takes 1 – 1½ hours. Anyone wishing to do this please indicate on the separate form. There is an extra charge of £2 per person, payable on the day.

We leave Rugby at 9.45 am. On arrival we will be given a short introductory talk on the coach. Members are then free to explore at their leisure. There is a café with indoor and outdoor seating.

We will leave at 3.30 arriving back in Rugby at approximately 4.45 pm



Please indicate on the separate form if you are a member of English Heritage and bring your card on the day

Dates for your Diary in 2024

Date	Title	Time
18 Jan	RNTA 35th Annual General Meeting Talk—The Life and Crimes of Agatha Christie Speaker: Mark Temple	2.30 pm
1 Feb	Bolsover Castle through the Ages Speaker: Ian Morgan	2.30 pm
21 Feb	A Midlands Canal Miscellany – an Odyssey Through Time Speaker: Roger Butler	7.30 pm
7 Mar	For those in Peril on the Sea - Britain's Lighthouses Speaker: Kate Wills	2.30 pm
20 Mar	Robert Dudley, Elizabeth I, and the Kenilworth Entertainment of 1575 Speaker: Gillian White	7.30 pm
10 April	Visits Planning Meeting All meetings are held at the Dunchurch Village Hall	7.30 pm

Outings

Thurs, 9 May	78 Dergate, Northampton	to meet at 12 noon
Tues, 11 Jun	Whitchurch Silk Mill	9.15 am
Thurs, 20 Jun	Baddesley Clinton walk	to meet at 10.50 am
Wed, 26 June	Greys Court	9 am
Wed, 10 July	Bolsover Castle	9 am
Wed, 24 July	Wrest Park	9.45 am



Compiled and edited by Isobel Palmer

The Rugby National Trust Association 2024

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