

GREAT COUNTRY
HOUSES & GARDENS
IN
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



8 – 12 OCTOBER 2018

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY

Monday 8 October

Fawsley Hall Hotel

Arrival in time for lunch.

Cottesbrooke Hall

Hosted by Mr & Mrs Alastair Macdonald-Buchanan

Fine red brick and stone Queen Anne house, begun in 1702. The contents of Cottesbrooke Hall include much excellent eighteenth-century English as well as French furniture. Fine English, continental and Chinese porcelain is displayed, particularly in the Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library and China Corridor. The chief distinction of the house, however, is the superb collection of Sporting Art evident throughout the house and known as the Woolavington Collection. There are notable gardens of great variety including fine old cedars, pools, herbaceous borders, stream and wild garden. Winner of the HHA/Christie's Garden of the Year Award.

Tea at Cottesbrooke.
www.cottesbrooke.co.uk

Informal Dinner at Fawsley Hall

Tuesday 9th October

Lampport Hall

An unusual, early-Italianate palazzo designed by John Webb (a pupil of Inigo Jones) in 1654, extended by Francis Smith of Warwick c.1732 for the Ishams, one of the county's oldest landed families. Very fine Rococo interiors. Later work by Burn, 1860s. Outstanding collection of books found in a beautiful Library, with a fine collection of paintings, furniture and porcelain, some brought home from the Grand Tour.

Lunch at Lampport Hall
www.lamporthall.co.uk

Fawsley Hall

Tea and early afternoon with possible tour of the Capability Brown grounds.

Evening Tour and dinner at Deene Park

Hosted by Mr & Mrs Robert Brudenell.

Deene Park is a largely sixteenth-century house incorporating a medieval manor, which has been occupied by the Brudenells since 1514. Built around a courtyard, with important rooms added during the reign of George III, it was the seat of the Earls of Cardigan of whom the most notable was the 7th Earl who led the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in 1854.

The house is the home of Robert Brudenell, his wife Charlotte, and their son William. The house has grown in size as generations have made their own mark through the years, providing the visitors with an interesting, yet complementary mixture of styles. There is a considerable collection of family portraits and possessions, including uniforms and memorabilia from the Crimean War.

Boughton House

Belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry, currently President of The Georgian Group, the house is famed for its beauty, its collections, and the fact it has survived virtually unchanged since the eighteenth century. While possessing a medieval core, its exterior evokes an opulent French chateau, causing it to be termed *The English Versailles*. The gardens, under the hand of the Duke, have been undergoing an innovative restoration programme including the superb water feature, *Orpheus* designed by the noted landscape designer, Kim Wilkie.

Lunch at Boughton followed by a visit to

St Edmund's Church, Warkton

This has an eighteenth-century chancel, commissioned by Mary Churchill, Duchess of Montagu and wife of John, 2nd Duke of Montagu, and designed by the celebrated French artist Louis François Roubiliac. The chancel was purposefully designed to house grand funerary monuments to the Duke and his family and includes a huge east window which floods the space with light. The chancel and the treasures within are key reasons for the Grade I listing of St Edmund's Church, which place it in the top 2.5% most important historic buildings in England. The Monuments constitute one of the finest and most important sets of funerary monuments in the country. Each monument is a masterpiece in its own right and the combined importance of the four sculptures as a collection is an exceptional illustration of the evolution of this artistic style in Britain over nearly a century. In 2014 and 2015 the monuments underwent important restoration work, which the Georgian Group helped support with a grant from the Cleary Fund.

Easton Neston

Private Tour led by James Miller. The house is Grade I listed and was built by William Fermor, 1st Baron Leominster (1648–1711), in the Baroque style to the design of the architect Nicholas Hawksmoor. Easton Neston is thought to be the only mansion which was solely the work of Hawksmoor. From about 1700, after the completion of Easton Neston, Hawksmoor worked with Sir John Vanbrugh on many buildings, including Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace, and often provided technical knowledge to the less qualified Vanbrugh. Hawksmoor's work was always more classically severe than Vanbrugh's. However, Easton Neston predates this partnership by some six years. Restored and revived by Leon Max, Easton Neston is rarely seen by the public, so this visit is a very special part of our Tour.

James Miller, our guide for the afternoon, is an authority on the fine arts and has been involved with Easton Neston for many years. A Director of the Kelmarsh Trust, where we are lunching the next day, he is also on the board of the Rectory Society which represents many lovely Georgian rectories and vicarages across Britain. He has very generously invited us to join him for tea at his home, Boxes Farm, very close to Easton Neston.

Dinner in the Salvin Room, Fawsley Hall

Thursday 11th October

Kelmarsh Hall

Built for the Hanbury family in the 1730s by virtuoso architect James Gibbs and builder Francis Smith of Warwick, Kelmarsh Hall was praised by historian Nikolaus Pevsner as 'a perfect, extremely reticent design, done in an impeccable taste.' One other arbiter of fashion to leave her mark on the Hall was society decorator Nancy Lancaster. Drawn by the house's fine boned structure, her taste for combining comfort with formality set the trend for the twentieth century's Country House look. Her spirit still pervades the house today in the delicate terracotta colouring of the Great Hall, the exuberant Chinese wallpaper and seasonal flower arrangements. We have persuaded the Curator to allow us to see Nancy Lancaster's personal bedroom and bathroom (both in need of restoration) as a taster for what might be achieved with generous donors.

Private Lunch at Kelmarsh in the Music Room

Late afternoon and Gala Dinner at Althorp

Built in 1508 and set within 550 acres of walled park, Althorp has been the home of the Spencer family for 500 years. Today, Althorp contains one of the finest private collections of art, furniture and ceramics in the world, including numerous paintings by Rubens, Reynolds, Stubbs, Gainsborough and Van Dyck. We will be special visitors that afternoon, exploring the wonderful house with their best guide, discovering beautiful interiors and one of Europe's finest private collections of furniture, pictures and ceramics. There is also a magnificent park and gardens. The Stable Block was built by Roger Morris from 1732 in the Palladian style.

Following champagne and canapés, the Gala Dinner will be held in the Marlborough Room.

Friday 12th October

Depart Fawsley Hall for London via Chiswick House.

Chiswick House

Built by the 3rd Earl of Burlington with assistance from William Kent and completed in 1729, Chiswick is one of the finest surviving examples of Neo-Palladian architecture in London. It takes its inspiration from the villas of Andrea Palladio and Vincenzo Scamozzi in the Veneto. Thomas Jefferson visited Chiswick in 1786 and it inspired his own house and garden at Monticello in Virginia. After the house was sold into public ownership in 1929, the Georgian Group was instrumental in saving the house from destruction in the 1940s. We will have a tour of the house which will explore the significance of this important building, focusing on the exquisite interiors which still display a selection of Burlington's impressive art collection as well as furniture designed by William Kent.

Lunch at Chiswick House.



THE
GEORGIAN
GROUP

Georgian Group
6 Fitzroy Square
London W1T 5DX

Registered Charity No: 209934