

# Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group



in support of **National  
Trust**

**No 86  
Spring 2018**

## **Newsletter**

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### **Chairman's Message**

2017 – 2018 has proved to be yet another successful year for our group. We've had some really interesting talks and outings and I hope you've enjoyed them, I know I have! I want to thank everyone who has supported our events and assure you that every single one of you is important to our National Trust Centre.

Our talks have been interesting and varied, ranging from "Tales from the Smithy", the Pioneer Sailing Trust, The History of Chelmsford High Street (which drew in a large number of non-members), the Gunpowder Plot (which linked in well with the BBC1 programme "Gunpowder", watched by many of us). We were sorry for our de Havilland Aircraft Museum speaker as his journey from London Colney had taken 3 hours due to problems on the M25; his talk was fascinating nonetheless. We were all delighted to welcome Bianca, a beautiful puppy, being trained by the Worboys for Canine Dogs (to those who added another £43.50 to our Group's donation, the Canine Partners Talks Team set a letter of grateful thanks). As I write, we are looking forward to hearing about changes to our Museum, and at the AGM hearing "The fascinating story of William Potter" by one of our popular speakers, John Frankland, with our last talk being "The History of the Handbag".

I'd like to give Paul Chaplin special thanks for arranging our outings once more, each one interesting in it's own way. Al and I were SO sorry to miss the holiday in the Lakes due to my Op, but by all reports those who went had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who supported our magnificent stall at the Cathedral Advent Market. Special thanks must go to Olive and Thelma for their tireless, imaginative knitting and craft work, to Laurie for his marmalade and chutneys, to Beryl for her decorations and Eileen for bits and bobs. Their work meant that we raised a profit of £975.00 to be used on the National Trust Wish List. Amazing! Keith Otter continues to work on our "Chelmsford NT Group" home page and we are most grateful to him for keeping it up-to-date.

Nationally you'll know that in March we have a new Director General, Helen McGrady, this time one who has worked for the Trust for 12 years. We look forward to this.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our committee members for all their hard work throughout the year. Is there anyone who would like to help, either on the committee or by offering to help in a specific area? You'd be welcome!

Best wishes, Jackie

### **Problem Family?**

Perhaps it is best to live and let live, or you might find yourself up the Swanee!

"Good afternoon, Mr Braithwaite, my name is Andrew Curtis, I'm House Manager here at Hollydene Hall. How may I help you?"

"Its about that family you've got living at the head of the lake. They threatened to attack me."

"I'm extremely sorry to hear that, Mr Braithwaite. Please tell me exactly what happened."

"Well, I'd been walking round the lake, then decided to take the Woodland Trail. As I turned away from the lake, to go towards the path into the wood, this big, powerfully built fellow suddenly appeared in front of me. Every time I tried to get past him he dodged in front of me in a most menacing manner. Then his wife came and stood beside him and again, when I tried to get past, they became extremely aggressive".

"I can understand that must have been very frightening for you, Mr Braithwaite. I think the problem's that they were probably being over-protective. They have a young family, and when there is a large number of visitors in the grounds they become concerned for the safety of their children and the protection of their privacy."

"Huh, over-protective! From what I saw of that lot its not them that needs protecting."

"You met the children?"

"Oh yes! These three youngsters came out and stood behind their parents, imitating all their menacing moves and aggressive gestures."

"Very disconcerting, I agree, Mr Braithwaite. May I suggest it is possible you had diverted a little from the designated path and come closer to their home than they were comfortable with. I will have some new signage put up, making the course of the path quite clear, and warning visitors to keep away from the area around the family's home."

"That's not enough."

"I'm sorry, Mr Braithwaite, what more do you think I should do?"

"Send them away."

"Evict them? I don't think that would go down very well with Head Office."

"No, no, just find them a new home, somewhere where they would be less likely to come into contact with the public."

"Easier said than done, Mr Braithwaite. I would need to liaise with several agencies and I cannot see any of them being agreeable to the idea. To be honest, do you think it possible you might be over-reacting?"

After all, they are only swans."

**By Shirley Deering**

### **Report on Evening lectures to date**

Please see our website for the reports given in the Essex Chronicle.

### **Report on the Group Holiday in Grange-over-Sands, September, 2017**

#### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

The rather damp and dismal morning did nothing to dampen the spirits of the record number of members who had signed up for five days in the Lake District, and were gathered in Fairfield Road, awaiting the arrival of the coach. Sadly, one couple had to cancel at the last minute, due to illness, and it was already known that Jackie and Alan Arnot would not be

able to join us, Jackie having undergone a major operation only a week earlier. They were all very much missed and the good news was that Jackie's operation had gone well. Due to the weather and traffic conditions the coach was a little delayed but, as soon as it arrived, Mark, the same driver who had looked after us on last year's holiday, lost no time getting his passengers and their luggage safely stowed on board.

Our major stop of the day was at Moseley Old Hall in Staffordshire. Here Mark's patience and driving skills were truly stretched as he negotiated an incredibly sharp right-hand turn into an almost impossibly narrow lane. After countless manoeuvres, we finally reached the Hall and, not surprisingly, were greeted with the words "You shouldn't have come that way!" They insisted they had sent Paul directions for the "proper" approach, obviously they'd got lost in the ether!

Moseley Old Hall is a farmhouse with small cosy rooms, furnished in Elizabethan domestic style. It's greatest claim to fame is that it is one of the places where Charles II found refuge during his six weeks as a fugitive after his defeat at the battle of Worcester. The knowledgeable guides gave us the full story of the King's escape, and showed us the bed on which he rested, and the cramped space under a cupboard, where he was concealed when Cromwell's soldiers arrived.



We left the Hall by the much easier route and reached Grange-over-Sands in the early evening. The Cumbrian Grand Hotel certainly lived up to its name, being a palatial edifice constructed in the days when the railway was opening up new regions to both business and holiday makers. Many rooms had a view of Morecombe Bay, some even had a small balcony. Dinner in the ornate dining room matched the splendour of the surroundings.

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

We woke to better weather conditions than those of yesterday, and after breakfast were soon on our way to Grasmere. This is the area which gave Wordsworth much of his inspiration, and we visited the Wordsworth Museum, which provides many insights into the life and work of the famous poet. We also visited nearby Dove Cottage. Starting as the home of Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy, it became, over the course of eight years, also the home to Wordsworth's wife, their first three children, and his wife's sister. It must have



been a busy, bustling place, no wonder Wordsworth sometimes took himself off for long walks in the hills.

Shortly after noon we left for the short journey to Sizergh (apparently pronounced SIZER). This medieval house has something of the outward appearance of a castle, but inside it is a warm, cosy family home, with oak panelling and many other examples of fine craftsmanship in all the rooms. One of its greatest treasures is its collection of

Gillows furniture. Sizergh has been the home of the Strickland family since 1239, one of the longest examples of habitation by the same family in the UK. It was a special delight to see everyday items and family photos scattered among the precious antiques.

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Another promising day weather-wise, and after breakfast, we set out on our longest road journey of the holiday, to Coniston Water. On arrival at Gondola Jetty we boarded the Gondola, which is a restored Victorian steam powered yacht, for a short cruise on Coniston Water. Wealthy Victorians enjoyed luxury travel in the vessel's opulent salons. For us latter-day travellers there was the opportunity to watch the gleaming steam engine in operation, but only through a viewing window, to the disappointment of some members who would have liked a more "hands-on" experience.

Cruise over, we re-boarded our coach for the short journey to Hawkshead. The unflappable Mark negotiated the narrow roads with his usual consummate driving skill, though with occasional flash-backs to Moseley Old Hall! Hawkshead has associations with both Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter, Wordsworth having attended the town's grammar school. However, the main attraction is the Beatrix Potter Gallery, a seventeenth century house which once served as an office for Beatrix's solicitor husband. Now every room is filled with objects relating to her life and work, and examples of the artwork she used to illustrate her books.



Moving on again, we visited Hill Top Farm, the property Beatrix purchased with the proceeds from her first book. She took inspiration from the surrounding countryside for many of her other books, and every room at the Farm contains reference to the mini-masterpieces with which she illustrated her stories.

Our schedule indicated that we would return to the hotel earlier than on the other days, giving us some free time to spend in Grange-over-Sands. Paul had, however, teased us with the promise of a surprise treat – alas it did not work out. His plan was for us to visit the house in Coniston which was home to John Ruskin in his final years (with a guided tour and tea and biscuit). Having made all the arrangements, the staff then realised we were a coach party and the house is inaccessible to coaches. We all felt really sorry for Paul, but all enjoyed the free time in different ways, many taking advantage of the opportunity to explore Grange-over-Sands.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Another bright, sunny morning, probably the best day of the week. We boarded the coach for the short journey to Bowness, where there was time to look round before embarking on another "watery" experience, this time a boat trip to Lakeside on Lake Windermere. After leaving the coach we boarded a steam train on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, the time table being planned to connect with the lake cruises. We enjoyed a scenic ride of about three and a half miles in a train made up of 1950's carriages, headed by the steam locomotive. The former Furness branch line is now a family run business and proudly boasts ownership of the last two remaining Fairburn Class 4 MT tank engines. Back at Lakeside we again boarded our coach for the short journey to Holker Hall.

There was not time in one afternoon to do justice to Holker Hall, a magnificent stately home with award winning gardens and breath-taking views. The rooms contain furniture and ceramics by names such as Hepplewhite and Wedgwood, while the most spectacular outdoor feature is the cascade, which leads to a statue of Neptune, created by seventeenth century Italian craftsmen. The day was co-incidentally, my birthday, and I was very touched by the stream of good wishes received throughout the day, culminating in a card signed by everyone and presented at the evening meal, followed by a rendition of "Happy Birthday".



### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

Sadly, our last day, and we needed to be well organised if we wanted our luggage to be taken to the coach by the hotel staff, and had to have our cases outside our rooms by 7am. This was because the staff moving the luggage were also the ones serving breakfast. We appreciated they would not be able to do two things at once! However, it all worked well and by 9am we and our luggage were all on the coach, ready for the start of the long journey home. Unfortunately, that was the last thing that did go to plan that day.

Our first problem was that the section of the M6 on which we planned to travel, had been closed due to an accident. We diverted to the A6 and planned to pick up the M50 later, but that had been closed due to a lorry on fire. After much discussion and consulting of maps by Paul and Mark, the decision was to try a route via Cheadle, but it didn't work too well. Our destination for the afternoon was Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire, which we should have reached soon after mid-day, giving time for a meal and a leisurely look round the property before leaving at 3pm. After several unsuccessful attempts at phoning the house, Paul decided we should abandon the visit and simply stop for a meal at a service station. However, after one last attempt Paul got through to Sudbury Hall, explained the situation, and they said they would keep some hot food for us.

We finally reached Sudbury Hall soon after 2pm, and were able to spend a little over an hour there. The Hall dates from the Restoration period and has murals and elaborate plaster-work by many famous names, also carvings by Grinling Gibbons. One of its treasures is a set of paintings of the mistresses of Charles II, who all looked rather similar (or was that just the effect of the tedious journey?).



We had left Sudbury Hall by 3.30pm, so were almost back on schedule, but further delays awaited us on the A14, simply hold-ups due to the volume of traffic. It was quite dark and somewhat later than we originally expected when we finally reached Chelmsford, but all our sympathies were with Mark, who still had to take the coach back to Colchester.

Many thanks to Paul for organising five wonderful days of lakes, hills, ancient stone cottage, dry-stone walls, sheep and, of course, excellent company. What more could anyone ask?

Report by Shirley Deering

## Report on C&D NT SG outings since the Autumn Newsletter

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

We had a very smooth run into London and we were dropped off outside the Imperial Hotel in Bloomsbury with an hour to spare before our excellent carvery lunch. This gave time for some of our members to explore the area on foot before sitting down for lunch.

After lunch we boarded the coach with Carol our Blue Badge Guide and were skilfully driven around London by Tim with our guide giving us information on the various film locations we were passing. Even if you did not fully listen to our excellent guide the view from the coach was most interesting with so much to see. For example I had never walked or driven past the Channel 4 studio which has an impressive steel 4 outside the building. There were many other interesting sights to spot such as a pedal bus near Fleet Street! (My apologies to the film buffs for lack of detail!)



After the tour we were dropped off about 4pm at Borough Market which was still busy. We all found somewhere good for afternoon tea. Janet & I found a very exclusive restaurant tucked away and enjoyed tea and scone & jam! We left for home at about 5pm and were lucky to have a good run home. We all agreed it was an excellent day out.

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

This was another meal trip with a difference. Luckily, we had a smooth run to Windsor and Richard our driver parked the coach in the central coach park. This gave an opportunity for a quick look round or a drink before boarding our motor vessel Southern Comfort at 12 noon behind the Windsor sports centre.

The chef cooked a roast dinner on board so that it was ready to serve at about 1pm. It was



an excellent meal and the skipper gave a very informative commentary as we cruised upstream to Bray dining. To add interest to our trip we passed upstream through Boveney Lock with Windsor Race Course on the left bank. We passed many river bank dream homes before turning round and returning to Windsor. The sight of the now defunct Bray Studios which was the home of Hammer Films Productions until 1966 and was in use until 2012 was rather gloomy and haunting. The site will soon be re-developed.

Some of us went up on deck, it was a beautiful December day, and the sun came out warming our backs. Then back inside for coffee. We cruised into Windsor before turning round and back to our mooring.

On our way home we visited the Magna Carter memorial which was unveiled in 2015. If you get the opportunity, it is well worth a visit.

## Still to Come

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGENDA for the 2017/18 AGM on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7:45pm</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Apologies for absence</li><li>2. Minutes of the last meeting</li><li>3 Matters arising</li><li>4. Chairman's report</li><li>5. Treasurer's report</li><li>6. Centre funding of NT projects</li><li>7. Election of President</li><li>8. Election of Committee</li><li>9. Election of Honorary Examiner of Accounts</li><li>10.AOB</li></ol> <p>All communication concerning the AGM to the Chairman Jackie Arnot please.</p>
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**Following the AGM on  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 we have a talk  
by John Frankland on the  
fascinating story of William  
Potter  
You may not have heard of  
William Potter but that does  
not matter!**

**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL  
EVENING MEETING  
The story of the handbag by Sarah  
Shehadeh**

**From Ancient history, through to  
pockets and modern handbags.  
With a display from 1800 to date.**

## Supporter Group Holiday – Centred on Tiverton, Devon

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	We travel by coach with comfort stops on the journey visiting Montacute House during the afternoon before arriving at our hotel
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Less travelling today – we will visit Knightshayes in the morning and Killerton in the afternoon
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	We take a tour of the north coast visiting Lynmouth and Lynton and then Arlington Court.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	We visit Powderham Castle near Exeter and then spend the later part of the afternoon in Exeter
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Depart for home visiting Barrington Court in the morning before proceeding for home.

Please see booking form on last page to send for an information pack. Each pack will be numbered in order of request and will be issued on a first come basis. We will need a minimum of thirty-five people. **The cost of the holiday is £440 per person and single room supplement is £86 for the first 5 and £120 for the next 6.** Insurance through Kings Coaches as a guide will be in £28 – see details in the information pack.

## Summer Outings

**Conditions: Please read the following conditions carefully.**

Booking Lists will open on a first-come, first-served basis after the posting of this newsletter.

Please send the following to Paul Chaplin, 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, CM1 2GE:

- a stamped addressed envelope for **each** outing
- Complete and return the form on the last page
- a cheque payable to 'Chelmsford & District National Trust' to cover the **deposit of £5.00 per person for each outing (One cheque for all outings requested)**

At the time of going to press we have not been on all the recce's. Prices may change slightly if we spot an opportunity we think you shouldn't miss! Prices quoted are for a senior citizen rate including hire of coach, drivers' tip, entrance fee(s) and at this stage, the deposit.

To check your place, lists will be available at the AGM and the April meeting, or telephone 01245 260113.

Refunds of deposits will normally be made if we are notified of a cancellation in time to decide whether one or two coaches are required, or if we cannot offer you a place. For later cancellations, deposits will be refunded only if we can fill the place. Refunds of pre-paid tickets can only be made if we are able to fill the place. All refunds will be paid **at the end of the season** in order to minimise the number of transactions needed. **Normally refunds £5.00 or less will not be refunded.** Booking slips will be sent out about three to four weeks before the date of the outing, a viable coach-load at a time. Everyone else will be on the Reserve List and will be contacted in turn, either to be offered a place or be informed that there will not be room.

### Remember:

- To put the dates in your diary, especially the time of departure
- To put the details in a safe place
- That the wearing of seat belts is now compulsory in this country
- Some locations have uneven surfaces
- It is better to wear 'sensible' shoes for comfort and to avoid damaging floors
- Don't be afraid to ask about use of lifts and wheelchairs/buggies

We undertake only to make arrangements for the visits – and we cannot take responsibility for any mishap or loss connected with them. If you wish to see the cover provided by the National Trust's insurance policies, the schedule is available at evening meetings. **Please note: Non NT members are not covered by the Trust's insurance policy and are responsible for their own insurance cover.** All trips will be on luxury coaches, usually with a toilet on board.

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**Kentwell Hall, Gardens and Farm.** The 'Tudor Days' at Kentwell Hall are unrivalled in scale. Visitors are able to immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and smells of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Kentwell is the originator of historical, live Tudor events, started over 30 years ago. We will be able to experience life on a community scale as the entire historic house and estate are transformed into a 16<sup>th</sup> century Manor, with up to 200 inhabitants of all ages, skills and wealth, carrying out a huge variety of daily tasks. There will be music, dancing, plays, pageantry and processions with costumed 'Tudors'. The gardens will be festooned with blossom and spring bulbs in over 10 acres of garden, ponds and woodland. On the farm there will be lambs, chicks and piglets, along with the sheep, cows, pigs, goats and horses. Homemade lunches and teas will be available in the Stable yard.

*Estimated cost: £32.50*

## **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Chiltern Open Air Museum** was founded in 1976 with the intended mission of rescuing threatened historic buildings from the Chilterns to preserve them for future generations. To date 35 buildings have been rescued and re-erected, spanning 2,000 years of Chiltern history and architecture. The buildings include an Iron Age round House, Medieval and Tudor barns, buildings from a working Victorian Farm, a toll house, forge, a tin chapel and a vicarage room. From more modern times there is a prefab, and a Nissan hut. The charity receives no regular funding/grants, but is doing tremendous work with the aid of over 200 volunteers, and has several more projects which will be worked on in due course. The Furniture Factory Tea Room serves jacket potatoes, soup, sandwiches, tea, coffee and Chiltern beers.

**Ascott House and Park.** The House is a rambling Victorian brick and Jacobean half-timbered house, the core of it being an old farm house, thought to date from 1606. It has been much enlarged to make a substantial Edwardian country house, and now houses a fine collection of Chinese porcelain, beautiful furniture, and paintings. It was donated to the NT in 1949 by Anthony de Rothschild, together with the Ascott Collection, and remains the country residence of the de Rothschild family.

The gardens are a mixture of formal and informal, with fountains, sculptures, colourful displays of bedding plants and architectural hedging. The Park is mainly grass land, with many magnificent specimen trees, including oaks, cedars and horse chestnuts. There is a tea room selling light refreshments and lunches.

*Estimated cost £26.50*

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Lampton Hall & Gardens.** The Hall has been the home of the Isham family for over 4 centuries. The members have been very varied, from the Tudor founder, to a blind book collector, a wayward 17<sup>th</sup> century grand tourist, an eccentric Victorian, a Hollywood actor, 'commanding' wives, and dedicated daughters, who have all left their mark. The Hall was developed from a Tudor manor house, and has many fine rooms containing a wealth of outstanding furniture, books, china and paintings. Despite many very difficult times in the past, and years of poor maintenance and varied usage, it is a tribute to the determination of the family, and now the Lampton Hall Preservation Trust, to carry on the restoration

programme of the Hall and Estate, ensuring Lamport's survival for the enjoyment of the visitors. The gardens, as they are today, are the work of Mary, Lady Isham, and later her son, Sir Charles. There are extensive herbaceous borders, and shrubbery walks containing rare and interesting plants. The large walled 'cutting garden' is thought to be the largest in England, and is filled with a vibrant array of colour and variety. Tea/coffee biscuits on arrival.

**Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens.** The Hall was built for the Hanbury family in the 1730's, designed by architect James Gibbs. It was praised by historian Nikolaus Pevsner as, "a perfect, extremely reticent design, done in an impeccable taste". In later years members of the Lancaster family left their mark on the Hall, particularly society decorator Nancy Lancaster, who's spirit still pervades the house today in the delicate terracotta colouring of the Great Hall, the exuberant Chinese wallpaper and seasonal flower arrangements. Her taste was to combine comfort with formality, which set the trend for the 20<sup>th</sup> century's 'Country House' look. The gardens were also largely inspired by Nancy, with the help of Norah Lindsay, a talented garden designer of the day. Geoffrey Jellicoe was responsible for laying out the formal terrace. There is a sunken garden, a 60metre long border, and a triangular shaped walled garden containing fruit trees, vegetables, and 'cut flower' beds, as well as a restored vinery. Light lunches, home-made cakes, and drinks are available in the tea room.

*Estimated Cost: £42.50*

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

**Sissinghurst Castle & Garden.** This world-famous garden, created by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson, needs little introduction. Vita wrote, "The heavy golden sunshine enriched the old brick with a kind of patina, and made the tower cast a long shadow across the grass, like the finger of a gigantic sundial veering slowly with the sun. Everything was hushed and drowsy and silent but for the coo of the white pigeons".

For those who are visiting the garden for the first time it will be a journey of discovery, as each part of the garden reveals itself. For those who have been to see it many times, look out for the rose growing against the wall of the South Cottage. It is called Mme Alfred Carriere, and was the first thing that Vita and Harold planted together, on the day their offer to buy was accepted. In April 1930, Harold recorded in his diary the moment he and Vita decided to buy Sissinghurst – "We came suddenly upon the Nut Walk, and that settled it". Today, the Kentish cob nut trees create a shady haven for birds and visitors alike.

When the White Garden was created, it was Harold who chose the white gladioli, white irises, white pompom dahlias and white Japanese anemones, as well as the famous white roses. The gazebo in the orchard was built in memory of Harold in 1969.

So many of their treasured items, displayed for visitors to admire, capture the essence of the two people who created such a beautiful garden together. Lunches in the restaurant include vegetables grown on site. Hot and cold drinks, and cakes are served all day.

**Great Dixter House and Gardens.** Great Dixter was the family home of gardener and writer Christopher Lloyd. The first glimpse of the house reveals a large expanse of tiled roof and a timber porch, which suggests great age, but in fact it is two older houses with a Lutyens designed addition to the left of the porch. Visitors are able to see the Great Hall, the Solar and the Parlour. Most of the garden structure was also designed by Lutyens. Christopher Lloyd grew to love gardening, watching and helping his mother, Daisy, who introduced him

to Gertrude Jekyll. He developed a style of planting which, to a large extent, tended to break many of the previously accepted rules. He took great delight in mixing plants of all kinds together, putting flowers of clashing colours next to each other, which in his hands somehow 'worked'. He got a reputation for trying other challenging combinations, creating amazing structural statements, and beautiful contrasting foliage arrangements. In all this, he was very ably assisted by a young man, Fergus Garrett. Today, Fergus is Head Gardener, still planting the garden after Christopher Lloyd's style, using new combinations, but essentially still 'pushing the boundaries' as they once did together. The spirit of originality lives on.

Refreshments are on sale in the open-sided loggia, and include baguettes, quiches, teas, coffee and cakes.

*Estimated cost: £29.50*

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

**Wimpole Hall, Park, Garden & Farm.** The original building was constructed between 1640 and 1670, and extended in 1713 to 1721, with other additions and improvements over the years. In 1938, Captain George and Mrs Elsie Bambridge bought Wimpole, almost entirely empty of contents. Over the next 40 years they slowly furnished and decorated the house. They sought out pieces that were once housed at Wimpole, two highlights being the 1780's State Bed, and the exquisite gilded sofas that had been made specially to fit the curved walls of Sir John Soane's Yellow Drawing Room, which was the setting for Queen Victoria's reception in 1843. As well as many beautiful formal rooms, the basements give a wonderful example of life below stairs, where bells would ring among the hustle and bustle, mixed with the smells of food being cooked in the kitchen.

Outside there are the Pleasure Grounds, a Walled garden, a Parterre, Parkland and Woodland Belts to explore. The Home Farm is one of the largest Rare Breed Centres, set in an 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a modern farm yard, containing Shire horses, Longhorn and White Park cattle, pigs, sheep, Shetland ponies and goats. Daily events include pig feeding, meet rabbits and shire horses, and watch donkey grooming. For the more energetic there is an adventure play ground – no age restrictions as far as I know!

The Old Rectory Restaurant serves light lunches or a three-course meal. The Farm café sells drinks and snacks, and the Stable Kitchen provides light lunches, drinks and ice creams.

*Estimated cost: £17.50 (NT property so no entrance fee)*

Thanks to Pat Tate for compiling this information.

## PRESIDENT'S EVENT

**Our President, David Simmonds, would like to invite you to an afternoon at Paycocke's,** Coggeshall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The event will be self-drive (or bus – the 70 bus from Chelmsford goes through Coggeshall!) and will start at 2pm. It will include a talk about the property, which is marking this year the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Paycocke's death and of his Will. As well as Paycocke's, the Grange Barn built in the thirteenth century will be open. Teas will be available later in the afternoon. Places are limited to around 24. Please let David Simmonds know on 01245-250198 or [djsimmonds@aol.com](mailto:djsimmonds@aol.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> March if you would like to attend.

### **Hatfield Forest**

David may also be able to arrange a visit to Hatfield Forest later in the year. This follows last year's popular visit to use the bat detectors that were donated by our Group. A date, time and theme have yet to be arranged, and if you would be interested then contact David on tel 01245-250198 or [djsimmonds@aol.com](mailto:djsimmonds@aol.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> April. Again, this would be self-drive.

Large print copies of the Newsletter are available by contacting Paul Chaplin at 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2GE.  
Tel: 01245 260113.

### **1998 Data Protection Act.**

Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group will hold essential details (Name, address, telephone number and e-mail) for Newsletter distribution, outings and membership. No information is transmitted to any other organisation.

Chelmsford & District National Trust Supporter Group - to prosper the work of National Trust, which is a registered charity, number 205846

Visit our web site at [WWW.ChelmsfordNTgroup.org.uk](http://WWW.ChelmsfordNTgroup.org.uk) for up to date information on evening lectures and outings.

## Booking Form for 2018

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

My travelling companion(s) is/are: \_\_\_\_\_

My NT membership number(s) is/are: \_\_\_\_\_



I/we should like the following places:		No of places	Deposit Sub Total £
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May.</b>	Kentwell Hall		
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June.</b>	Chiltern Open Air Museum & Ascott Park		
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July.</b>	Lampport Hall & Kelmarsh Hall		
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August.</b>	Sissinghurst Castle Gardens & Great Dixter		
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October.</b>	Wimpole Estate		
<b>Saturday Total enclosed</b>			£

If you can include your e-mail address (and or phone number) we can keep you informed on numbers, your placing on the list and any alternative arrangements that may be made.

<p><b>Please send me details and booking form for the NT Holiday to Tiverton</b>          (Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September)</p>	
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**Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for EACH day outing and also one cheque to cover the deposits of £5.00 per person, per outing. Please make cheque payable to: 'Chelmsford & District National Trust'**

Please return this form to:

**Paul Chaplin, 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2GE**

**Email: paulchaplin@talktalk.net**

**Tel: 01245 260113**

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