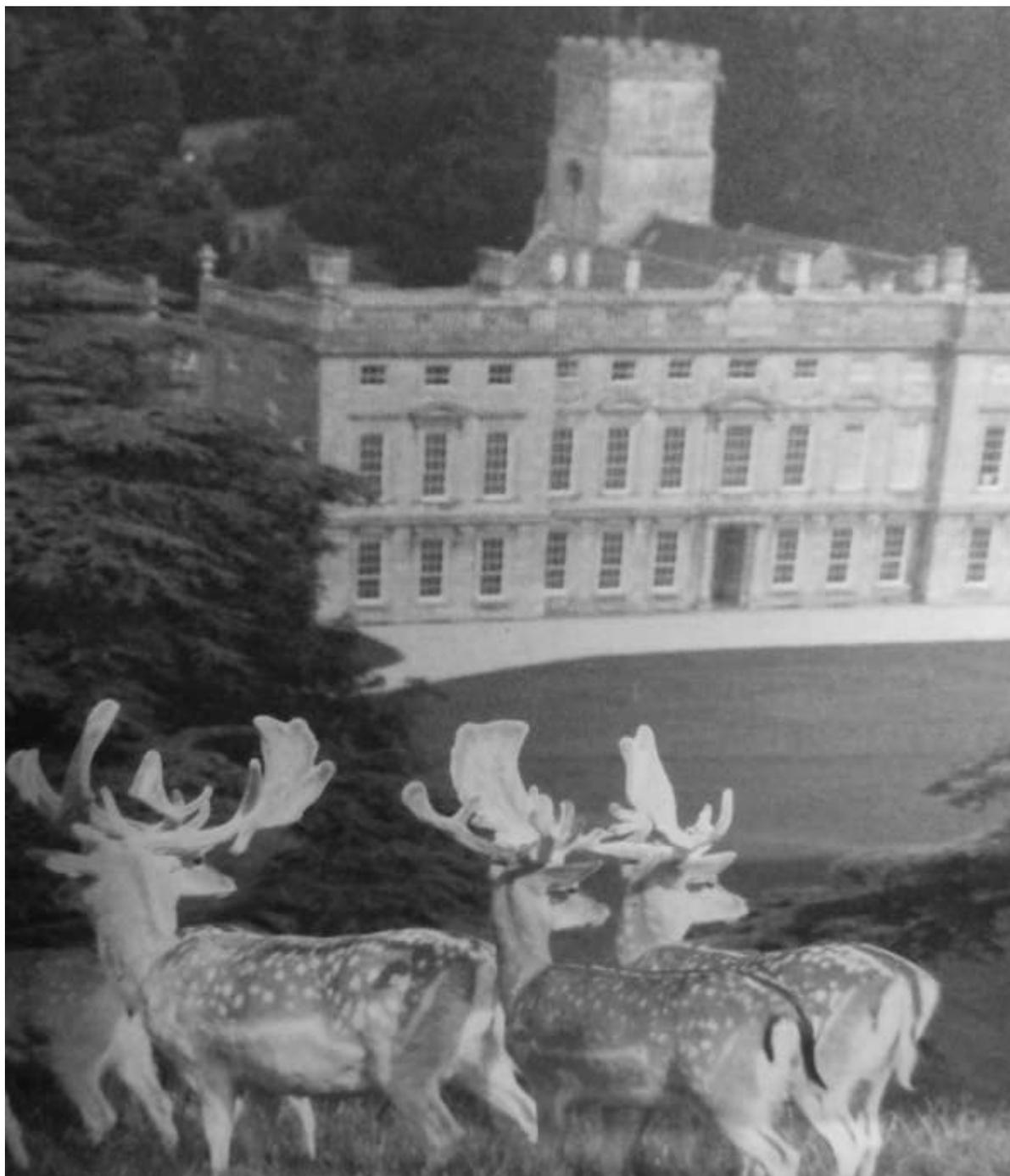


CONTACT

Spring/
Summer
2020

Frome Society for Local Study
Frome and District Civic Society



Deer at Dyrham Park

Officers and Committee of the Society

President: Hilary Daniel

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Vice-Chair:

Post currently vacant

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Chairman of Frome & District Civic Society

Richard Swann** 831256

** Trustee



Frome Society for Local Study

10% discount on book purchases
Please present this token at
Hunting Raven Bookshop
to get a 10% discount on purchases.

Annual Subscriptions from 1st January 2020

Single Membership: £10.00

Joint Membership: £15.00

Life Membership Single: £100.00

Life Membership Joint: £150.00

CHEQUE PAYMENTS

The Treasurer asks that all cheques should be made payable to "Frome Society for Local Study" or "FSLs."

The bank does not normally allow cheques made out to individuals to be paid into the Society account. The preferred method of payment is by standing order to FSLs, and a form is available from Sheila Gore or may be downloaded from the FSLs website, www.fsls.org.uk

FROME TOWN WALKS 2020

Frome Town Walks are organised by the Frome Society for Local Study and take place on the second Sunday in May*, June, July, August and September, and the first Sunday in July during the Frome Festival. They start at 2.30 pm outside the Round Tower in Justice Lane and are designed to give an understanding of the development of the history and economy of the town from its foundation in 685 AD by St Aldhelm, through the middle ages to the present day. There is special emphasis on Frome's listed buildings with their broad range of religious and vernacular architecture.

The guides are Cliff Bawden, Alastair MacLeay and Janet Millar. Arrangements for special town walks should be made with Alastair MacLeay on 01373 836 595 or through info@fsls.org.uk These can cover different areas of Frome such as Fromefield, Trinity, Keyford etc or a specific interest such as architecture or industry.

Copies of the Frome Heritage Trail (£3), Frome Street and Place-Names (£6) and the Buildings of Frome (£9) will be available to buy.

Regular Frome Town Walks are free, except for those during the Frome Festival and specially organised walks; all contributions and donations are most welcome and will be given to support the Frome Festival. The dates of the regular walks in 2020 are as follows:

10 May*	14 June	5 July
12 July	9 August	13 September

*Arrangements for 10 May depend on the Local History Festival

The Society needs to recruit more guides. Therefore, if any member is interested in volunteering for this role, please contact Alastair MacLeay to discuss. Full training will be given.

Report from the Chair

It seems amazing that I have been Chair of the Frome Society for Local Study for nearly a year as the time seems to have passed quickly. It has been a busy year for the Society with new Committee members, grants dispensed to various projects including those for Black Swan, Rook Lane Arts and the Weavers and Spinners, sponsorship of a lecture by Dr Madge Dresser, 'Statues, Slavery and Empire' and the erection of a commemorative plaque to Mr Singer on the site of his former foundry at the top of Cork Street. In addition, a successful luncheon including a local history quiz compiled by members, David Lassman and Mick Davis was enjoyed by 83 members. Twelve enjoyable and memorable day trips were undertaken during the spring and summer, whilst another fine season of lectures is still being appreciated.

Accounts show that the current subscriptions of about £3,500 per annum plus gift aid barely covers the cost of hiring the Assembly Rooms for our Saturday lectures £1,164, the cost of the speakers for these lectures about £900, the printing of the annual Yearbook £1,400 *Contact* £330 plus postage costs of £160. When Margery Hyde resigned as Secretary in 2018 there was no volunteer for this role so the Society employs Lorraine Johnson to do the administration including taking the Committee Minutes, dealing with any correspondence as well as editing *Contact*.

Regular Society activities not covered by our annual income are installation of commemorative plaques, subsidised Society events such as an annual meal, and grants to organisations in the town, to name the regular ones. As members and Trustees of the Committee we take our responsibilities as custodians of the Society seriously and want to continue to give our loyal and valued members a good service but are concerned if we continue to subsidise all the Society activities mentioned in this report, we might be shortening the longevity of the Society. We are proposing to raise our subscriptions for the first time for many years from £10 pa for a single member and £15 for a couple to £15 pa for a single and £20 as a couple. At this year's AGM we shall be asking members to approve this recommendation, which we propose to implement in January 2021.

The Committee and I value the Frome Society and are proud that it has been in existence for over 60 years and want to ensure it survives for future generations to continue to learn about the history of our great town and the surrounding area and to enjoy participating in Society activities.

Sara Morris, December 2019

2020 SUMMER PROGRAMME NOTES

This year we have arranged a varied programme of outings which we hope you will enjoy.

Bookings: call Pat Eames on **464464** after 9am. If necessary, please leave a message and your phone number. In an emergency on the day call **07493 419398**

- Cancellations must be made not less than 48 hours before the outing. Failure to do so will incur the cost of the coach and possible further costs non-refundable to the Society.
- Any communication must be made to the Society, not to the Coach Company.
- The preferred method of payment is by cheque (payable to FSLs) collected when boarding the coach at the end of the trip. The price shown includes coach fare, entrance fees, guides and gratuities.
- Guests will pay a supplementary charge of £3 and are responsible for their own travel insurance.
- There is always a facility for buying lunch, if not included, or you may prefer to take a picnic.

Pick up points are:

- **FROME RUGBY CLUB** (advertised departure time)
- **BUS STOP OPPOSITE FROME MEMORIAL THEATRE** (5 minutes later)

The Rugby Club offers a large parking area which will accommodate all members who wish to park their cars there before boarding the coach. ***Please park behind the Clubhouse.***

Civic Society news

We are indebted again this year to our dedicated panel of members who met regularly in 2019 to review about 300 Frome planning applications and discuss policy developments by Mendip District Council.

More housing on the horizon

Large scale housing schemes continue to dominate our reviews. In the last two months alone there has been a planning application for 250 houses at Sandys Hill Lane, and public consultations on 70 houses off Little Keyford Lane, 124 houses off Dragonfly Close, plus a further public promotion event for 'Selwood Garden Village' (SGV), a speculative attempt to coerce the public and planning authority into accepting an additional 2,000 plus homes on fields to the southwest of Frome.

Local Plan

The fields and meadows proposed for SGV lie beyond Frome's expansion zone planned by Mendip's Local Plan Part II (LPpt2). This part of Mendip's Local Plan was reviewed by a government inspector in July (2019) and is on the last stage of adoption in April (2020), subject to some amendments or justification of areas designated by Mendip as 'Local Green Spaces' (LGS). The Inspector noted: *'The clear message in national policy is that LGS designation is to be used sparingly, as part of the overall consideration of the planning and development needs of communities and is not a tool to stop development.'*

The inspector has also inverted Mendip's housing allocation cap for new sites, stating: *'it is also necessary for housing allocations to delete the words 'up to' and replace with 'a minimum of'.* As a consequence of this intervention, the developer for the housing site off Dragonfly Close is proposing to extend their site into an additional field to exceed the housing figure stipulated under LPpt2: an example of how Government policy on national housebuilding overrides and undermines locally accountable planning policies. Having completed the Local Plan cycle, Mendip will start a 'Single Plan Review' to review and identify a further increase in housing supply for the District as required by the Government.

Future needs

The well-trodden path of business as usual; local, national and global, for over a generation, is at an end. It is now abundantly clear that the environment cannot support unsustainable development in pursuit of limitless growth. We need to rethink how development is conceived and delivered to support ways of living that are less damaging to the environment. It is frustrating and heartbreaking that the enormous amount of money and resources being invested in Frome through large scale housing developments is squandered on poorly designed, cramped accommodation of 'executive' style, car dominated cul-de-sacs of suburban housing. The same basic 'cookie cutter' approach of the last 40 years continues, unsuited to the needs of a resource constrained society in a climate emergency. Shares in the big housebuilding companies jumped by around 10% after the general election. The shape of new housing will be driven by the existing 'cookie cutter' business models of these companies for the foreseeable future.

Saxonvale

Could this finally be the year to 'get Saxonvale done'? The large area of disused industrial land adjacent to the town centre is due to have an outline planning application decided at Mendip's planning board in February or March. The plan for about 300 dwellings, mostly flats, with just over 4,000sqm of 'non-residential' use, is a long way from the truly mixed development advocated by the Civic Society over the last few years. We are represented on the stakeholders group at Mendip and have argued consistently for improvements to the provision of employment and cultural uses, and reduction in the amount of residential use proposed. As currently configured much of the site will be dominated by 4 to 5 storey blocks of flats with no flexibility for alternative uses or development in future, contrary to Mendip's local plan that seeks to constrain out-commuting from Frome by increasing employment opportunities. As owner and Local Authority, Mendip appears to be disregarding its own policies.

Save Our Cockeyes!

On a positive note, it has been my good fortune and privilege to work with Mary Canale and Sue Latham in tracing the history of our wonderful Cockey Street Lamps. As part of the project we are hoping to gather a group of volunteers to survey the lamps, enabling an application for their listing, retention and repair. A number of the distinctive street lamps have been removed outside conservation areas in the last couple of years. If you can spare a little time this spring to help with the survey please do contact me. We are hoping for some funding from the Town Council and Frome Society for training and expert advice by Iron Art of Bath.

Richard Swann RIBA, Chair Frome & District Civic Society

F.S.L.S. Biennial Study Tour to North Wales

A five-day tour of North Wales is being planned for Monday 19th July to Friday 23rd July 2021 for a maximum of forty members, at a cost of £425 per person, payable as a £50 deposit and three instalments of £125. Accommodation will be at Bangor University on a half-board basis. All rooms are single en-suite with towels provided. The schedule includes: visit to the Maritime Museum in Holyhead where there is a display commemorating the submarine *Thetis/Thunderbolt* adopted by Frome at the beginning of WW2, gardens and Caernarvon Castle, the Slate Museum, a day in Chester and a visit to Offa's Dyke Museum.

The Society's insurance does not cover individuals, thus you are advised to take out your own insurance cover. The Society will not accept responsibility should you need to cancel your reservation and you will be required to sign a disclaimer to this effect.

Thoughts from our Museum: -Strengthening our partnerships in 2020

Frome is very fortunate in having such a rich and fascinating history, and equally impressive is the community that conserves and protects it. A recent example is highlighted by our celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of John Webb Singer. Working in close collaboration Frome Heritage Museum, Rook Lane Arts and Frome Society for Local Study contributed to the publicity and promotion of the internationally recognised castings made at Singer's Frome factory.

It is particularly noteworthy that Frome Museum and Frome Society for Local Study now share many colleagues to help them operate so effectively. The Treasurer of the Museum, Brian Marshall, is now also Treasurer of the Society; the Exhibitions Trustee at the Museum, Sheila Gore, is now Membership Secretary for the Society; and the Chair of the Museum Board, Bob Cuzner, is now a member of the Society Committee whilst Pat Eames, Jennie O'Kane and Mike Hobbs, have already contributed many years to the running of both organisations.

An important lesson emerges from such collaborations: joint working is productive, positive and fun. In particular, the Museum is embarking on a path of liaison and co-operation with fellow institutions in the Town. All of our institutions, whether specialising in art, science, collections, entertaining, educating or exhibiting, are all vehicles for heightening curiosity, appreciation and deeper understanding. The Museum sees this as part of its mission to closely engage with those at school and in the world beyond.

The Museum welcomes visitors into its iconic Victorian building in North Parade Tuesday to Saturday – free of charge (10am to 2pm, except during closed winter period). However, it also believes it should have a presence outside of its building. One of our Trustees, Barry Edwards, is using his experience as a headmaster to present new and absorbing information about Frome's heritage to school children, not only in the Museum's galleries, but on their school premises. In the future the Museum plans to mount exhibitions and displays at external venues in the Town and perhaps further afield. In turn, we would like to host exhibitions created by bodies from other towns.

Bob Cuzner, Chair of Museum Board of Trustees

SANHS

FSLs is an Associated Society to the Somerset and Natural History Society. This gives Frome Society members almost all the benefits received by individual and joint members of the SANHS. The SANHS website is sanhs.org and current news can also be accessed via their Facebook page. To find out events put on by all the Associated Societies and by the SANHS Interest Groups, such as talks and walks, you need to view the website, sanhs.org/events. Walks are graded from 1-4 in difficulty and the grading of a particular walk is found in the event description on the calendar on the website. Tickets can be purchased through the SANHS office on 01823 272429 or office@sanhs.org but not all events need booking in advance.

Publications

A wide range of the Society's publications are available to purchase. Please see website: www.fsls.org.uk

Frome Festival Lecture

Christopher Joll will give a lecture entitled 'Spoils of War: The Treasures, Trophies and Trivia of the British Empire' on Monday 6th July 2020 at Rook Lane Chapel. Further details and application form enclosed.

2020 FSLs Visits

Thursday 2nd April

Dyrham Park (NT), South Glos.

Get a flavour of 17th C. life as enjoyed by William Blathwayt, Secretary of War to William of Orange, in this magnificent mansion which contains treasures amassed from around the world. Conservation in the house is ongoing and by April it is hoped the 1st floor will have re-opened with behind the scenes tours but they are subject to the availability of volunteers.

The spring borders should be in full bloom with their colourful bulbs and plants. Garden tours are available but ask at Reception on arrival as these cannot be booked in advance. There are also many attractive walks through the parkland where deer run free.

Lockers are provided to store large bags and belongings before entering the house. There is a tearoom, a shop, second-hand book shop plus plant sales. On arrival we will be taken by bus to the house and after tea it will take us back up the hill to the coach to return home.

Cost: NT Members £22, non-NT £38

Depart Rugby Club: 9am

Phone Bookings from Thursday 12th March

Thursday 16th April 2020

S.S. *Great Britain* and the new Being Brunel Museum

We have booked one-hour guided tours of Brunel's S.S. *Great Britain* to discover this great innovation of the Victorian Age. We shall experience the sights, sounds and smells of life on board this wonderful ship which appears to float in her dry dock.

There will be time to visit the Dockside Café before our tours begin at 11am and 11-15am. We shall explore the ship's history by going below decks to 'Steerage' which vividly contrasts with the cabins and dining saloon that are seen on the upper decks.

In 2019 the award-winning Being Brunel/Museum was opened. On show are never-before-seen possessions, artefacts and documents pertaining to Isambard Kingdom Brunel and entrance to this marvellous new museum is included in our visit to the ship. The Dockyard Café offers a wide range of refreshments including home-cooked meals and cakes. On mentioning the FSLs group visit, we can buy the Guidebook at the discounted price of £2-50.

Cost: £23

Depart Rugby Club: 8-30am

Phone Bookings from Wednesday 1st April

Numbers limited to 45

Wednesday 13th May

Bridport Museum, the Street Market and Abbotsbury

Our trip to the charming market town of Bridport will give us the opportunity to visit the museum for a rope-

making demonstration and talk plus an interesting wander around. We can have a leisurely lunch and browse the street market before journeying on to Abbotsbury for our tea. The history of rope making in Bridport dates back to at least medieval times as the area has been suitable for growing both hemp and flax. Our demonstration will give an idea of this ancient craft.

The town boasts numerous listed buildings. In South Street is the Church of St Mary's with its history dating back to Saxon times; there is a monumental brass commemorating Edward Coker, killed during the Monmouth rebellion and a monument to a Knight in chain mail dating from about 1250. The church was improved in 1860. Also in South Street are a Chantry, the Daniel Taylor's almshouses and the more modern Art Deco Electric Palace built in 1926, and the Palmer's Brewery.



After our visit to the twice weekly street market, exploring the town and then taking lunch in one of the numerous outlets, we return to the coach to journey onwards. We will be taking the scenic route to Abbotsbury, seeing magnificent views over Chesil beach and the coastal scenery. After a delicious cream or savoury tea at the Old School House, (included), we will make our way home.

Cost: £24

Depart Rugby Club: 8-30am (short stop at Cartgate Services on A303)

Phone Bookings from Wednesday 15th April NB: Also book your tea with a sweet or savoury scone.

Monday 1st June

Killerton Estate, near Exeter (NT)

Killerton is one of Devon's largest country estates with lots of history, natural history and many acres to explore. Views of Dartmoor can be seen from the grounds and gardens and by walking further afield to the estate village of Broadclyst, you can visit Marker's which is a medieval hall-house; the Clyston Mill and the Old Post Office. A buggy service operates to Killerton House and up the hill to Bear's Hut. The beautiful gardens, redesigned in 2019, are close to the house.

The Georgian house and estate, donated to the National Trust by Sir Richard Acland, holds the Trust's largest fashion collection with annual exhibitions. Students from Devon's universities are invited to add their imaginative degree design work to these exhibitions.

You will find a plant centre, a bookshop and also a shop selling award-winning produce from the estate. During our visit we have a choice of eating in the Killerton Kitchen, which is a highly rated restaurant, or in the two other cafés that are on site.

Cost: NT members £14, non-NT £28

Depart Rugby Club: 8-45am (short stop at Taunton Dene Services)

Phone Bookings from Tuesday 12th May

Thursday 11th June

Old Bowlsh House, Shepton Mallet

The owner of Old Bowlsh House, Mr Ian Keys, will give us a lengthy and interesting tour of his home and his extensive gardens that contain many kinds of roses and also a fascinating industrial ruin but be aware of the uneven stone steps leading up to the gardens. Ian might also show us the local workers' cottages situated in this small and historic part of the town's outskirts.

This Grade II* clothier's mansion is a visible expression of the wealth of a branch of the Strode family and was built as a wedding gift in early 17th C but on earlier Elizabethan foundations. It was modernised c.1770 with a classical Georgian frontage and later had internal additions c.1860. The Jacobean staircase is particularly worth seeing and allows access to explore upstairs. Our afternoon tour ends with a homemade cream tea, (included), before returning to Frome.

Cost: £22

Departure from Rugby Club: 1-30pm

Phone Bookings from Thursday 28th May

Numbers limited to 25

Monday 22nd June

'Mayflower 400' Exhibition, Southampton Old Town

Southampton was the port from which the Mayflower and Speedwell set sail for America. However, they had to put into port at Plymouth for repairs which led to only the Mayflower continuing the voyage. The Tudor House Museum is in the Old Town and close to the city walls where the sea used to reach and where the armies of Henry V left to cross the English Channel to Harfleur before marching to Agincourt. Two centuries later the Pilgrim Fathers left to cross the Atlantic Ocean to colonise part of the eastern coast of North America to be followed in the 19th C. by emigrants escaping poverty to find work and a new home there. The Port of Southampton with its double high tides is as busy as ever with cruise liners and container traffic.

For more than ten years the Tudor House was closed for an entire refurbishment to preserve the building. It

contains artefacts donated by local inhabitants and has important displays showing the social history of the area. We are visiting the Museum this year because it is commemorating the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620. On arrival, we will have coffee, (included), in the Education and Georgian Rooms before Group 1 tours the House, the new Exhibition and the Tudor Gardens while Group 2 has their 'Mayflower Walking Tour', both last about an hour with the groups changing over.

The Museum restaurant cannot cater for us all at the same time for lunch but near the Tudor House are cafés and historic inns such as the Dolphin or Red Lion. After our guided tours we can return to explore further the Tudor House and the interesting buildings and city walls of Old Southampton.

Cost: £22

Depart Rugby Club: 8-30am (short stop in Sainsbury's car park, Salisbury)

Phone Bookings from Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 1st July

Avebury: the Stone Circle and Manor House (NT)

At Avebury, the world's largest Neolithic Stone Circle partially encompasses the pretty village which contains the interesting Church of St James that has Saxon and Norman features with later additions; the Stables and the 17th C. Threshing Barn Museums and the Grade 1 listed Avebury Manor House. The coach will drop us by the Red Lion Inn and we have time to seek refreshments in there or in the Circles Café before we either take a guided walk around the whole Stone Circle or choose the much shorter walk and talk by another guide.



Our tickets give us a free-flow visit to the Manor. This was famously restored and furnished with the help of the BBC for its series, 'To the Manor Reborn' and visitors are encouraged to linger in each room, for instance you can rest in the Sitting Room used by the 1930s 'marmalade millionaire', Alexander Keiller, and perhaps listen to music on the gramophone before moving on to the Kitchen. Then when venturing upstairs we are invited to try out the beds for size and comfort. Later, it is very pleasant to take afternoon tea in the

elegant Manor Tea Room or perhaps eat elsewhere before beginning the house tour. Do explore the beautiful Avebury Manor Gardens where the gardeners are always happy to chat about their work with the topiary, the borders and their kitchen garden.

Cost: NT Members £14 Non-NT Members £30

Depart Rugby Club: 9-15am

Phone Bookings from Thursday 18th June

Monday 20th July

St Fagan's Welsh Heritage Museum, Cardiff

St Fagan's Museum is set in the magnificent grounds of St Fagan's Castle and since opening in 1948 there have been over 40 historical buildings from all over Wales that have been restored and rebuilt. These showcase the traditional skills and crafts such as milling, blacksmithing, weaving, farming and the use of clay. All this combined with the recent refurbishments and the additional galleries illustrating the stories of the inhabitants of Wales from Neanderthal times to the present have created a fascinating Open Air Museum.

On arrival at St Fagan's we will be greeted with an Introductory Talk and then we can wander at will to explore the buildings. There are ample refreshment facilities to use throughout our day here.

Cost: £20

Depart from Rugby Club: 8-15am (short stop at a Motorway Services)

Phone Bookings from Tuesday 30th June

Monday 10th August

Shepton Mallet Prison

Set in the sloping cobbled streets of an older part of Shepton Mallet is the Prison which was established in 1645. We have a choice of guided tours; either the longer one which includes climbing many stairs or the shorter tour which will remain mainly on ground level. The guides will give us an in-depth talk with their tours of the Prison, explaining its history and how the penal system changed through the centuries from the very primitive and harsh conditions to the time of its closure in 2013. There is the condemned cell last used in 1945 and we will learn of the American Military using the prison during WW2 and they may mention the 1967 film, *The Dirty Dozen*, starring Lee Marvin, Charles Bronson and other famous actors. Afterwards there is a walk through the hidden back lanes to the middle of the town. We will reach St Peter's Church which is certainly worth a visit before walking on to the Shambles by the Market Cross to choose a place in the town or perhaps in Haskins before the coach returns us to Frome.

Please be aware that the buildings can be cold even in summer so dress warmly.

Cost: £22

Depart from Rugby Club: 9-45am

Phone Bookings from Thursday 16th July

Numbers limited to 40

Thursday 3rd September

A Cultural Visit to Bournemouth

A visit to the beautiful resort of Bournemouth is always a treat and today we are booked into the Russell-Cotes Museum on the cliffs overlooking the sands and pier. This Museum was built in 1901 in the Art Nouveau style as a home for Merton and Annie Russell-Cotes in which they could house their mainly Pre-Raphaelite paintings and their numerous travellers' treasures. They also built the adjacent Royal Bath Hotel. The Museum is now owned by the Borough of Bournemouth and although it contains only a small café, there are many restaurants and bars nearby, including a branch of Harry Ramsden's famous fish and chips emporium and the café on the pier. On arrival we will be given stickers to allow entry to the Museum on a free-flow basis to prevent congestion, thus giving us a choice of looking elsewhere for refreshments before going in.

Peter Clark has been writing a book about places associated with Winston Churchill and on our way home we will stop at Alum Chine. Peter will show us the site of a near fatal accident which befell the eighteen year old Winston; the result of a reckless and foolish prank.

Cost: £20

Depart Rugby Club: 9am

Phone Bookings from Thursday 6th August

Wednesday 23rd September

Winchester: the College and Cathedral

A few years ago some of us were guided through Winchester to reach the River Itchen where it is believed that John Keats composed his 'Ode to Autumn'. We walked through the Cathedral Close to College Street, passing the house where Jane Austen died in 1817 before lingering briefly at the entrance to Winchester College. Today we return to have a guided tour of this oldest of medieval schools for boys. It was founded in 1382 by Bishop William of Wykeham who gave its memorable motto of 'Manners Makyth Man'. Photography is not allowed within the College.

Winchester is a city offering a varied and interesting choice of places to eat lunch. Afterwards we shall meet our guides in Winchester Cathedral who will be giving us a tour lasting about an hour. There will be time after the tour to explore the Cathedral a little more before having tea in either the café inside the Cathedral Close or finding another in the city. We return to the coach waiting south of the Guildhall by Thornycroft's striking statue of King Alfred, (cast c. 1900 at Singer's Foundry).

Cost: £27

Depart Rugby Club: 8-15am (short stop at Sutton Scotney Services on A34)

Phone Bookings from Wednesday 2nd September