



South West Area Tour to Hertfordshire
Five Nights at the Cheshunt Marriott Hotel
(based on two people sharing)

Thursday, 28th June to Tuesday, 3rd July 2018

Tour Price : £505 per person**

To include all coach travel, five nights dinner, bed & breakfast,
portorage and entrance to various venues.

Daily Itinerary:

Thursday, 28th June

The first leg of our journey will take us to **Bekonscot Model Village and railway**, the world's oldest and original model village, opening in 1929. With over 80 years of history, a huge model railway, 1.5 acres of well-tended gardens and the finely detailed model buildings make it appealing to all ages. This will be our lunch stop.

Friday, 29th June

Bletchley Park is our visit today. Bletchley Park was the central site for Britain's codebreakers during World War Two, run by the Government Code and Cypher School; the German secret codes were broken here. Many radio amateurs were involved in the interception and decoding.

Saturday, 30th June

Hatfield House is the home of the 7th Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury and their family. The Estate has been in the Cecil family for 400 years.

Superb examples of Jacobean craftsmanship can be seen throughout the House. The elaborately carved staircase, dating from 1611, is one of the finest examples of its kind in existence. The King James drawing room has always been the

principal reception room in the House. It takes its name from the life –size statue of James 1, presented by the King himself which stands above the mantelpiece. It is made from stone, painted to look like bronze.

The chapel, consecrated in 1614 is still in use for worship. The stained glass window, showing Old Testament scenes, was made in 1610 by the glass-painters Richard Butler of Southwark, "Lewis Dolphin, a French painter" (probably Louis Dauphin) and Martin van Bentheim of Emden, Holland.

The gardens are extensive and very beautiful. Also there is an exhibition "Tanks, Tribunals and Tragedy", the Story of a Great House in the Great War.

The Coach House Restaurant provides lunches or teas/coffee and pastries etc.

Sunday, 1st July

Our first visit today will be **Hitchin Lavender** with around 25 miles of lavender rows. As well as growing lavender they also grow sunflowers and have a wildflower area. There is a 17th century barn where coffees/teas and light lunches are available.

After lunch we will visit **St Pauls Walden** which is a notable landscape garden, laid out in the early 18th century covering above 50 acres. The original house was built about 1720; the house and gardens were designed by the owner, Edward Gilbert. His grand-daughter, Mary Eleanor Bowes married John Lyon, Earl of Strathmore. The property still belongs to the Bowes Lyon family. It was the birth place and childhood home of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Monday, 2nd July

Today our venue is **Woburn Abbey** the historic home of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford for almost 400 years. There are over 250 works of art displayed in more than twenty rooms. The gardens were inspired by Humphry Repton and in all there are 28 award winning acres. The Duchess' tea rooms offer light lunches, tea and cakes.

Tuesday, 3rd July

Regrettably the visit on our homeward journey has had to be altered due to an overbooking by Dorney Court, but once the luggage has been packed away we will make our way to **Chenies Manor House and Gardens** in Buckinghamshire. This will also be our lunch stop.

Chenies Manor was formerly known as Chenies Palace and was owned by the Cheyne family having been granted manorial rights in 1180. The manor remained in their possession until 15th century.

This brick manor house forms the core of the present day structure which was built by Sir John Cheyne in around 1460. The house was visited by Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.

Extensions to the original house were carried out in the 16th century by John Russell, later 1st Earl of Bedford to whom the property passed through marriage.

The 4th Earl of Bedford relocated the principal family seat from Chenies to Woburn Abbey; Chenies then became a secondary home.

Throughout the centuries the gardens have undergone many transformations but it was Mrs Elizabeth MacLeod Matthews who was responsible for rescuing the gardens since the late 1950s.

The gardens which are divided into a series of compartments combine colour themes with beautiful and imaginative plant associations. They won the Historic Houses Association and Christie's Garden of the year 2009.

Tour Price:

The tour price is £505 based on two people sharing. Where available, single rooms carry a supplement of £22 per night. The price includes all coach travel, five nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Cheshunt Marriott Hotel, admission to Bekonscot, Bletchley Park, Hatfield House, Hitchin Lavender, St Pauls Walden, Woburn Abbey and Chenies Manor together with a small charge for the driver's gratuity.

PLEASE NOTE: The right to amend the venue or alter the order of itinerary is reserved. The information given was correct at the time of printing this itinerary.

Members living outside the Taunton area contact Mary Ginger:

(☎ 01823 490527) regarding their travel arrangements please.

A non-refundable deposit is required by **1st February 2018** the balance Will be due and payable not later than **18th May 2018** please.

Please note: if you are going to be away when payment is due will you be so kind as to let me have a post-dated cheque for this date please. I have a deadline to keep with the hotel and failure to pay on the due date could result in our losing the booking or a penalty to be paid.

NO FURTHER REMINDERS WILL BE SENT

Slip to be sent with balance, please return to Mary Ginger, 16 Church Close,

Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton, TA3 6HA

I/we enclose a cheque for £.....made payable to The Arts Society SW
(not to me personally)

In respect of the balance re the tour to Hertfordshire

Name:

Address
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Telephone no Mobile no

Email address

Name of Home Arts Society