

We are delighted to bring you news of a 5-day (4 nights) June holiday booking *now*; a series of 6 guided walks between April and September; 2 very different visits in July; a double venue visit in August; and a 3-day (2 nights) visit to “Chatsworth at Christmas” in late November. Full details follow, with itineraries & booking forms

Monday 20 – Friday 24 June: THE OLDE BARN HOTEL, GRANTHAM (Lincs)

Need a holiday? Look no further .. A wonderful opportunity of late availability, exclusive to Oxford Centre NT, has arisen for a holiday based in Grantham, Lincolnshire, home of Isaac Newton, Thomas Paine and Margaret Thatcher. This is an area rarely visited by Oxford Centre and is a chance to see some unknown properties and interesting gardens – formal, wild, walled and historic.

Our base will be The Olde Barn Hotel in beautiful countryside in the Heart of England offering relaxed, comfortably furnished atmospheric rooms and a noted restaurant.

En route we will call at Calke Abbey and return to Oxford via Packwood House. On Day 2 of our holiday we will visit Kedleston Hall, a masterpiece by Robert Adam. For Day 3 our visits are close to the Hotel: Woolsthorpe Manor and Belton House. Then on Thursday, Day 4 we go East to the Gunby Estate and its environs with the opportunity for a short visit to Tattershall Castle, noted for its fine mediaeval brickwork.

We shall be travelling in a Plastow’s coach in accustomed comfort and security, driven by one of their knowledgeable, friendly drivers. In addition, there’s the chance to book for a friend/relative (not necessarily a NT member) sharing the wonderful properties we enjoy so much.

We have until the end of April to take up this late booking and secure this wonderful holiday. Please see the detailed itinerary and Booking Form enclosed.

Booking now!

Booking deadline: Friday 29 April

Organiser: Barbara Plastow

- 1) **Reserve your place by returning your Booking Form to Barbara Plastow asap** (her contact details are on the Airedale Booking Form) and by Fri 29 April latest. Barbara will confirm that the holiday is/is not going ahead – please note that we require min 30 reservations for the Grantham holiday to be viable
- 2) **If the holiday is viable**, payment is then due in full by Friday 6 May – see Airedale’s Booking Form

Guided Walks, April to September

These scheduled walks will be based on National Trust properties within easy reach of Oxford. If you might be interested in joining one or more of the walks and are not already on Jonathan Anelay's list of Walking Group members, please email oxfordcnt@gmail.com with a request to be put in touch with him. He will then send you a detailed description of each walk a week or two beforehand, so that you can decide whether or not to come. Usually there will be more than one walking option, from very gentle to quite strenuous:

- **Monday, 11 April:** two walks on the Sherborne Estate, preceded by an introduction to the estate from the Facilities Manager of the National Trust's Cotswolds Countryside Portfolio
- **Thursday, 12 May:** walks in the vicinity of Nuffield Place, at a time when the bluebells should be out

- **Wednesday, 15 June:** walks from Brill which will take in Boarstall Tower and the Duck Decoy, both of which we will hope to visit
- **Thursday, 14 July:** walks on the Hughenden Estate, planned to take in some woodland to which the public is not generally given access
- **Wednesday, 10 August:** walks from Long Crendon including (hopefully) a visit to the Old Courthouse
- **Monday, 26 September:** walks from Chastleton House

Tuesday, 5 July: DAY VISIT TO LACOCK ABBEY (Wiltshire)

Lacock Abbey was founded in 1232 as an Augustinian nunnery. It was converted in 1539 to a large country house, retaining the 13th century cloisters. The Great Hall is an early example of Gothic Revival architecture, and there is a well-preserved 16th century brew-house and bakehouse in the Tudor courtyard. There are wooded gardens with an orchard, a pond and rose garden.

Many families have lived here, the most famous occupant being William Fox Talbot, whose experiments laid the foundations for photography. Lacock Abbey houses the Fox Talbot Museum. Lacock village is a lovely place to wander around, with its much-filmed timber framed cottages, and its tithe barn.

Refreshments: The Stables Tea Room (National Trust) serves sandwiches and light lunches and there are pubs in the village. Picnics are permitted. (At the time of going to press the courtyard cafe is closed due to Covid restrictions, but let's hope that has changed by July).

Accessibility: The Fox Talbot Museum is on 2 floors but there is a lift to the upper floor. The cloisters have uneven floors and there are steps to the cloister rooms, where family heirlooms are displayed. There is a flight of 16 stone steps to the Great Hall and the 1st floor rooms have restricted space and steps between them. A touch-screen virtual tour is available. The paths through the wooded gardens are unsurfaced.

We will be dropped off from the coach by Visitor Reception, 300 yards from the Abbey

Cost £24

Booking deadline Tuesday 7 June

Leader Cathy Pickin

Departing

Wheatley 8.30 am

Headington shops 9am

Cunliffe Close 9.15

Playhouse 9.30am

Redbridge P&R 9.45am

Monday, 11 July: GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE (Oxford)

It's a real pleasure to offer a tour of the lovely gardens of Green Templeton College - the College with the Radcliffe Observatory as its centrepiece, next to the old Radcliffe Infirmary on the Woodstock Road. The tour will start at 2.30 pm, conducted by the Head Gardener Michael Pirie. It will be followed by a full afternoon tea in College in the Stables Bar (level access, no steps).

MENU

sandwiches: smoked salmon and cream cheese, ham and wholegrain mustard, egg mayonnaise, cucumber

cakes: carrot cake, lemon drizzle, chocolate brownies, scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam

Cost: £20

Booking deadline: Tuesday 7 June

Leader: Jonathan Anelay

Meeting at 2.15 for the 2.30 Garden Tour, before tea

NB max 30 places available

Do spread the word – remember all are welcome, whether or not a member of the National Trust

Wednesday, 3 August: DAY VISIT TO KELMSCOTT MANOR then BUSCOT PARK

William Morris's beautiful country home **Kelmscott Manor** reopens this year after a major 30-month, £6m conservation and refurbishment project (NB it is *not* National Trust). On display is an outstanding collection of possessions and works of Morris, as well as his family and associates.

The coach will drop us off at the Car Park on the edge of the village, from where it's around 10 minutes' walk to the Manor. A free shuttle minibus will be provided for those who would find the walk difficult. Tea, coffee and homemade biscuits will be served in the Tea Room upon arrival. A guided tour of the house will be conducted in small groups lasting 60-75 minutes. Mobility aids are permitted on the ground floor: please note on the booking form if you intend to bring one. For those unable to access the upper rooms, there are illustrated folders available.

The Tea Room will be open after the tour, serving a varied menu of hot and cold dishes, beverages, cakes and snacks. Picnics are not permitted. There is a shop in the historic granary barn offering a wide range of interesting and unique gifts.

The ground floor of Kelmscott Manor, the gardens, the shop, the tearoom and the tea lawn all have step free access.

After lunch, our coach will take us 7 miles from Kelmscott to Buscot Park, where the house, gardens and tearoom will be open. Buscot Park is administered by Lord Faringdon and his family on behalf of the National Trust, but entrance is free to National Trust members (*non-members over 65 £10, or £7 grounds only – otherwise £12 and £9 for youngsters – to be paid at the Ticket Office*).

Buscot Park was built between 1779 and 1783. The house is a dignified example of the late eighteenth-century taste for Italianate country houses, inspired by the architecture of the great Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio. In 1948 Ernest Cook bought the Buscot Park Estate, leasing the house and garden back to Lord Faringdon. The following year Cook gave the house and surrounding 55 acres to the National Trust; he bequeathed the remainder of the estate under his will in 1956 to endow the property. The family collection of pictures, furniture, ceramics and objets d'art, known as the Faringdon Collection, are displayed in the house. This includes works by Rembrandt, Reynolds, Rubens and van Dyck, and among the British artists displayed are some outstanding works by the Pre-Raphaelite artists Burne-Jones and Rossetti.

To access the house, there are 14 steep steps with a handrail, and stairs with handrails to the first floor. There are room guides and information sheets, and a guidebook may be purchased for £3. Access to the Tea Room and walled garden is on the level. The Tea Room serves cream teas, cheese scones, cakes etc.

The gardens were ranked number four in *'the 14 best gardens to visit in Britain'* in Country & Town House magazine. The extensive Pleasure Gardens, including the Four Seasons Garden, woodland walks and Water Garden, are worth exploring, but the terrain can be uneven, and there are steps and slopes.

There are 4 powered mobility vehicles available to reserve in advance, allowing access to more areas of the large grounds. If you are interested in booking one, it is your responsibility to contact the Estate Office (01367 240786) after you receive your ticket confirming your place.

<u>Cost</u> £40 including morning coffee	<u>Booking deadline</u> Tuesday 7 June	<u>Leader</u> Felicity Peacock
<u>Departing</u> Wheatley 8am	Headington Shops 8.30am	Cunliffe Close 8.45am
Playhouse 9am	Parkway P&R 9.15am	

Do spread the word – remember all are welcome, whether or not a member of the National Trust

Have you paid your subscription for 2022? Only £10 for single, £15 for joint membership. Not certain? Check NOW to make sure with Treasurer, Felicity Peacock, 07975 678475, oxfordcnt@gmail.com and consider paying by Standing Order to avoid this happening? Otherwise, this will be the last time we can contact you, which we want to avoid

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Sunday 27 – Tues 29 November: CHRISTMAS AT CHATSWORTH (Derbyshire)

Treat yourself to a pre-Christmas break: enjoy a quick trip to the beautiful Peak District of Derbyshire with a chance to do some Christmas shopping and visit two National Trust properties from the comfort of a first-class hotel. Take a peep at how the aristocracy celebrate: “Christmas at Chatsworth” the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, is a well-known tourist destination and we are very fortunate to have this opportunity to see how the Cavendish family spend Christmas in this sumptuous home.

Our whistle stop tour of the surrounding area includes Ashbourne, Bakewell and Buxton, all towns offering much in the way of interest and history. There will be time to take lunch at one of them before we visit Chatsworth.

Jurys Inn in Derby’s cathedral area promises a warm welcome with good food and comfortable accommodation.

Few National Trust properties with facilities for lunch are open in November but Charlecote and Hanbury Hall fit the bill. It will be interesting to revisit these places in Wintertime. As usual we shall travel in a Plastows coach with an experienced and friendly driver.

Not only is this a relaxing break but a chance to see a beautiful part of England at a different time of the year with a group of like-minded people and start the Festive Season in style! Please see enclosed holiday itinerary for full details.

Booking deadline: Thursday 30 June

Organiser: Barbara Plastow

- 1) Reserve your place for ‘Chatsworth at Christmas’** by returning Airedale’s Booking Form to Barbara Plastow by Thursday 30 June latest (her contact details are on the Booking Form)
- 2) On 30 June**, Barbara will confirm that the Chatsworth holiday is/is not going ahead – please note we require min 30 reservations for this to be viable
- 3) If the holiday is viable**, payment is then due in full by Friday 30 September – see **Airedale’s Booking Form**

Special thanks to Barbara Plastow of Plastows Travel Ltd who (with her booking agent, Airedale) has kindly researched and negotiated two splendid holiday options for Oxford Centre members – both “late availability” offers – with the help and guidance of OCNT member Pam Lee

RIP Di McNeile It is with great sadness that we report the sudden and unexpected death of Di McNeile after a short illness. A long-standing member of the National Trust, Di joined Oxford Centre in 2003 and then Committee in 2011. Always quietly in the background, she was a conscientious and caring Hospitality Manager for us, as well as diligent support to her husband, Rupert, over many years in fulfilling his diverse roles as ex-Chair, one-time Website Manager, Visits Leader, Ticket Secretary and Publicity Group member. Our thoughts and every sympathy are with Rupert and his family at this sad time. Di will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Di’s funeral will take place on **Monday 25 April at 1 pm at St Andrew’s Church, Linton Road, Oxford**. All are welcome at the church.