

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY WEEKEND 2018 11th – 14th

DERBYSHIRE

Friday 11th May - Depart 8am from Dews, 9am Huntingdon

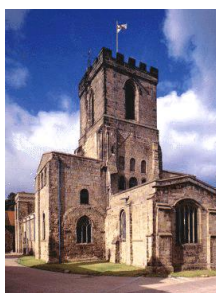
Friday arrive **Calke Abbey** 11.30am



The un-stately home and country estate. With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story.

Discover the tales of an eccentric family who amassed a vast collection of hidden treasures. Visit the beautiful, yet faded walled gardens and explore the orangery, auricula theatre and the kitchen gardens. Escape into the ancient and fragile habitats of Calke Park and its National Nature Reserve.

Depart **Calke Abbey** 2pm arrive **Melbourne Parish Church** 2.15pm



The story of Melbourne is a long one, much of it unknown. There was a church here when the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086. We know nothing of that church, but, with important Anglo-Saxon remains nearby at Breedon and Repton, it was possibly a substantial building. Two well-known people have their place in the Melbourne story. Thomas Cook, the founder of modern tourism, was born here in 1808; and in 1837 Lord Melbourne, Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister, gave his name to the small Australian settlement which is now a great city.

Mystery surrounds the building of this notable church. One long-held theory suggests the first Bishop of Carlisle built it. When King Henry I (reigned 1100~1135) founded the diocese in 1133, he presented the church at Melbourne to Adelulf (or Aethelwulf), its first bishop. Since Carlisle was not a safe place to be at that time because of constant border warfare, it has always been assumed that Adelulf sought safety here in his southern base when Carlisle was captured by the Scots in 1136, and that he built himself a church worthy of his status.

Depart **Melbourne** at 4.30pm for our Hotel, **Copthorpe Hotel** arrive 5.45pm

Copthorpe Hotel, Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4SU tel:01142 525480

Saturday 12th May

Depart **Hotel** at 9.00am for **National Tramway Museum**

Ride the Trams Unlimited tram journeys calling at various stops along the mile long track

Indoor Exhibitions: A journey through the history of trams, taking in horse, steam and electric trams. Period Village Scene - step back in time along our recreated period street including pub and shops.



Depart **Tramway Museum** at 1pm for **Bakewell**

Arrive **Bakewell** at 1.45pm, afternoon in Bakewell



Perhaps best known for its unique and delicious Pudding, Bakewell has many more tempting treats to offer - ranging from shopping and specialist markets to relaxing strolls and special events.

Legend has it that the town's famous Pudding was created by mistake by a local cook in the mid-19th century. Today her delectable 'jam tart that went wrong' can be sampled at various bakeries and cafés and posted virtually anywhere in the world!

Thinly disguised as 'Lambton' in Jane Austen's literary classic Pride and Prejudice, Bakewell is the ideal place for an interesting town walk. Visit The Old House Museum - one of the oldest buildings in Bakewell - for a fascinating insight into the town's past, or feed the ducks during a riverside stroll. Perhaps best known for its unique and delicious Pudding, Bakewell has many more tempting treats to offer - ranging from shopping and specialist markets to relaxing strolls and special events.

Idyllically situated on the banks of the river Wye, the biggest town in the Peak District National Park's mellow stone buildings, medieval five-arched stone bridge and quaint courtyards are a magnet for painters, photographers and sightseers alike.

Depart **Bakewell** for **Hotel** at 5pm

Sunday 13th May

Depart **Hotel** at 9am for **Cromford Mill**

The Mill was the first water-powered cotton spinning mill developed by Richard Arkwright in 1771 in Cromford, Derbyshire, England, which laid the foundation of his fortune and was quickly copied by mills in Lancashire, Germany and the United States. It forms the centrepiece of the Derwent Valley Mills, now a World Heritage Site. The mill structure is classified as a Grade I listed building, it was first classified in June 1950



History - Following the invention of the flying shuttle for weaving cotton in 1733 the demand for spun cotton increased enormously in England. Machines for carding and spinning had already been developed but were inefficient. Spun cotton was also produced by means of the spinning jenny but was insufficiently strong to form the warp of a fabric, for which it was the practise to use linen thread, producing a type of

cloth known as fustian. In 1769, Richard Arkwright patented a water frame to use the extra power of a water mill after he had set up a horse powered mill in Nottingham.

He chose the site at Cromford because it had year-round supply of warm water from the Cromford Sough which drained water from nearby Wirksworth lead mines, together with Bonsall Brook. Here he built a five-storey mill, with the backing of Jedediah Strutt (who he met in a Nottingham bank via Ichabod Wright), Samuel Need and John Smalley. Starting from 1772, he ran the mills day and night with two twelve-hour shifts. He started with 200 workers, more than the locality could provide, so he built housing for them nearby, one of the first manufacturers to do so. Most of the employees were women and children, the youngest being only seven years old. Later, the minimum age was raised to ten and the children were given six hours of education a week, so that they could do the record-keeping that their illiterate parents could not.

The gate to Cromford Mill was shut at precisely 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day, and any worker who failed to get through it not only lost a day's pay but also was fined another day's pay.

Depart **Cromford Mill** at 1.30pm for **Hardwick Hall**

Arrive **Hardwick Hall** at 2.30pm



Hardwick Hall, an Elizabethan masterpiece, the stunning houses and beautiful landscape have been created by a cast of thousands.

It was the formidable 'Bess of Hardwick' who created the new Hardwick Hall in the late 1500's. Bess was born at Hardwick Hall, then a small manor house in the mid 1520s. Her father John Hardwick died when she was 1 year old leaving his family in reduced financial circumstances. Bess did not have an easy life, she married Robert Barlow but was first widowed in 1544, still in her teens, and had to turn to law to receive her widows dower. Her second husband was Sir William Cavendish, 20 years her elder, and in 1555 they moved into Chatsworth House. In 1557 Sir William died and sadly in considerable debt, Bess fought against the confiscation of her lands. She met and married a wealthy man, Sir William St Loe in 1559 and she became part of Queen Elizabeth's inner circle. St Loe died suddenly in London in February 1565 leaving Bess a very wealthy woman. She married Lord Shrewsbury in 1567 but that marriage began to fail and she moved back to Hardwick and began building the new hall in 1590 when her husband died. In the centuries since then her descendants, farmers, gardeners, builders, decorators, embroiderers and craftsmen of all kinds have contributed and made Hardwick their creation. We'd like you to explore and enjoy Hardwick and in the process discover the lives, loves and adventures of the creators of Hardwick.

Duchess Evelyn was the 'Last Lady of Hardwick'. You can discover more about the life of a duchess, her pioneering conservation work and the dramatic changes she made to the east view landscape, in the East Court Rose Garden.

Find out about Arbella Stuart, the granddaughter of 'Bess of Hardwick' and niece to Mary Queen of Scots. She had a strong royal lineage and a realistic claim to the throne after Elizabeth I died. Educated and raised as a princess, but whose desperate attempts to seek freedom ended with her being imprisoned in the Tower of London. Discover about Arbella in the Hall and explore whether you think Hardwick was built as a palace fit for a queen or as a prison for a princess.

Depart **Harwick Hall** for **Hotel** at 5.00pm

Monday 14th May

Depart **Hotel** at 9.30am for **Chatsworth House**, arrive at 11am.



We will spend all day at Chatsworth with a guided tour of the house and a cream tea before we depart for Huntingdon at 5pm.

Chatsworth House is renowned for the quality of its art, landscape and hospitality, and it has evolved through the centuries to reflect the tastes, passions and interests of succeeding generations.

Today, Chatsworth contains works of art that span 4,000 years, from ancient Roman and Egyptian sculpture, and masterpieces by Rembrandt, Reynolds and Veronese, to work by outstanding modern artists, including Lucian Freud, Edmund de Waal and David Nash.

There are over 30 rooms to explore, from the magnificent Painted Hall, regal State Rooms, restored Sketch Galleries and beautiful Sculpture Gallery. In the guest bedrooms, meet an Edwardian lady's maid who will reveal the secrets of her mistress's suitcase of clothes.

Depart **Chatsworth House** for **Huntingdon** at 5pm