

HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY WEEKEND 10TH TO 13TH MAY 2019 BIRMINGHAM AND WARWICKSHIRE

Depart Huntingdon 9am Arrive 11am

Day 1 Friday Forge Mill Needle Museum & Bordesley Abbey

Tour includes coffee on arrival and lunch.

Forge Mill Needle Museum in Redditch is an unusual and fascinating place to visit. This historic site illustrates the rich heritage of the needle and fishing tackle industries. Models and recreated scenes provide a vivid illustration of how needles were once made, and how Redditch once produced 90% of the world's needles.



On the same site, just a very short walk from Forge Mill Museum, are the ruins of Bordesley Abbey - a medieval Cistercian Abbey which has been extensively excavated. Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre, which is set in an original reconstructed 16th century barn, tells the extraordinary story of the Abbey from its development in the 12th century to its destruction in 1538 by Henry VIII during the dissolution.

<http://www.forgemill.org.uk/>

depart at 4pm for Ramada Birmingham Sutton Coldfield
www.ramadasuttonhotel.co.uk

Penns Lane, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield B76 1LH 0121 351 3111

Day 2 Saturday Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

Depart Hotel at 9.45am arrive at 10.15am



The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is built around a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop offering a unique glimpse of working life in Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter.

When the proprietors of the Smith & Pepper jewellery manufacturing firm retired in 1981 they simply ceased trading and locked the door, unaware they would be leaving a time capsule for future generations.

Today the factory is a remarkable museum, which tells the story of the Jewellery Quarter and Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage.

<http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/jewellery>

depart 12.30pm

Day 2 Aston Hall

Arrive 1.00 Time for Lunch



Aston Hall is a magnificent seventeenth century red-brick mansion situated in a picturesque public park on the north side of Birmingham.

Built between 1618 and 1635 for Sir Thomas Holte and home to James Watt Junior from 1817-1848, Aston Hall is steeped in history.

Now a grade I listed building, the hall is restored to its former Jacobean splendour and is hugely popular with visitors of all ages.

Walk through the stunning interiors and see the home that received royalty, was besieged during the English Civil War and inspired an author.

<http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/aston/about>

Depart 4.30pm for hotel

Day 3 Sunday

Depart 9.15am arrive 10.00am

Black Country Museum

The story of the Black Country is distinctive because of the scale, drama, intensity and multiplicity of the industrial might that was unleashed. It first emerged in the 1830s, creating the *first industrial landscape anywhere in the world*.

Beneath the smoke and glare from blast furnaces and forges, Black Country innovation, entrepreneurial and manufacturing skill established the region's supremacy for the making of wrought iron. The Black Country also possessed important hardware and other manufactures distinctive to itself – structural ironwork, chain making, locks and keys, tube manufacture, trap making and many others – which brought fame to Black Country towns across the globe.

Our award-winning corner of the West Midlands is now one of the finest and largest open-air museums in the United Kingdom. After very humble beginnings, a bright idea and 40 years of inspiration, this is twenty six acres worth exploring. Amazing as it may seem, we have created a 'place' – a real and lively place, where once there was nothing and nobody. Depart Museum at 2.00pm arrive Winterbourne at 2.30pm



Winterbourne House and Gardens



A Pioneering History. The house was built for John Nettlefold, a pioneer of early housing reform in Birmingham at a time when the city had a serious lack of decent homes for working people. John and his wife Margaret were from prestigious local families who had made their living in industry. Choosing their house to be designed in the Arts and Crafts style reflected their modern outlook. Winterbourne is a rare surviving example of an early 20th century suburban villa and garden. The house was built in 1903 for John and Margaret Nettlefold, of

Guest, Keen & Nettlefold.

Originally designed as a small country estate with rustic outbuildings and large gardens, Winterbourne followed the style of the Arts and Crafts movement with examples of local craftsmanship throughout the house.

Margaret Nettlefold designed the garden, inspired by the books and garden designs of Gertrude Jekyll. After a period of restoration, the garden was Grade II listed by English Heritage in 2008.

Depart Winterbourne at 5pm for hotel

Day 4 Monday

depart 9.15am arrive 10.15am

Croome



Expect the unexpected. Incredible innovation, devastating loss, remarkable survival and magnificent restoration. All in one place

There's more than meets the eye at Croome. A secret wartime airbase, now a visitor centre, was once a hub of activity for thousands of people. Outside is the grandest of English landscapes, 'Capability' Brown's masterful first commission, with commanding views over the Malverns. The parkland was nearly lost, but is now great for walks and adventures with a surprise around every corner. At the heart of the

park lies Croome Court, once home to the Earls of Coventry with four floors to explore. The 6th Earl of Coventry was an 18th century trend-setter and today Croome follows his lead by using artists and craftspeople in the house to tell the story of its eclectic past in inventive ways, perfect for making new discoveries.

Cream scones and tea will be served before we leave.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome>

depart for Huntingdon 5pm