

HLHS PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR KENT MAY WEEKEND 2020 15TH MAY TO 18TH MAY

I am delighted to say all is good for May 2020. I have had the final costings and the price is as stated in my previous letter. It will be £380 per person sharing a room, £460 for a single room with a discount for National Trust membership of £36 per person and English Heritage of £10 per person.

If you would like to join us, please send you deposit of £50 per person to me by the end of November 2019. The balance will be due by the end of February 2020. I will let you know how much you owe before that date.

We will be staying at The Danes Hotel, Hollingbourne, Nr Maidstone, ME17 1RE

Tel: [+4401622528565](tel:+4401622528565)

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

FRIDAY 15TH MAY

DARWINS HOUSE

With its unique place in the history of science and evolution, Down House, the family home of world-renowned scientist Charles Darwin, is a must-see. Stand in the study where Darwin wrote 'On the Origin of Species', stroll through the gardens that inspired him, and discover his and wife Emma's newly recreated bedroom which overlooks the gardens. Let Sir David Attenborough take you on an interactive multimedia tour around the house and discover how the great man developed his ground-breaking theories.



RIVERHILL HIMALAYAN GARDENS



The gardens at Riverhill were first established in 1840 by John Rogers, Ed's great-great-great-grandfather, he was one of the first members of the Royal Horticultural Society, a contemporary of Charles Darwin and a patron of the plant collectors of the day. Rare species of plants were brought back to Riverhill from the Himalayas by the great plant collectors and many still thrive today. The gardens are renowned for their fine collections of rhododendron, azaleas and specimen trees as well as the woodland bluebells, The Rose Walk and sensational views to the Weald of Kent. The restored Walled Garden is a bold and contemporary design with grass-sculpted terraces, reminiscent of the Himalayas, a formal kitchen garden, borders containing summer flowering hydrangeas, peonies, allium, and perennials and an impressive water feature. Sculpture by world-class British artists, set against many striking natural backdrops, can be found throughout the gardens. The Edwardian Rock Gardens have been rediscovered having lain forgotten for 70 years. Admire the recent restoration as we re-open these atmospheric pathways amongst 200 tonnes of local stone transported here by horse and cart over 100 years ago.

Rhododendron & Azalea Extravaganza

May

Come and view our renowned collection of Rhododendrons and Azalea's in full bloom, with some of our varieties dating back to 1908.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

SCOTNEY CASTLE

The history of Scotney Castle

Scotney Castle has a long and rich history dating from 1137 and holds some interesting stories about the last inhabitants of the castle, the Hussey family, as well as a former Prime Minister too.



Country house, romantic garden, 14th century moated castle - all in a beautiful wooded estate. Relax in our picturesque garden with the glorious backdrop of our fairy-tale castle. Venture into the wonderful woodland and parkland with over 770 acres to explore. Discover the delights of our Victorian country mansion with its secrets and stories.

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM



Established in 1858, and with more than 600,000 artefacts and specimens, Maidstone Museum represents one of the best and largest collections in the south east outside of London. Our collections are outstanding in their diversity and quality, with some of national and international importance. The work of collectors, staff, and benefactors over the years has created an overwhelmingly rich and diverse collection of far greater than regional significance.

There is plenty to discover among the Fine & Applied Art, Human History, and Natural History groups, with some collections comparable to those at national museums. In fact, Maidstone Museum has been compared to a small Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, and Natural History Museum rolled into one, right at the heart of the Garden of England.

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

SMALLHYTHE

Ellen Terry's early 16th-century house and cottage gardens

Built in the early 16th-century when Smallhythe was a thriving shipbuilding port, Smallhythe Place was later purchased by renowned Victorian actress, Ellen Terry, in 1899. A year after her passing in 1928 her daughter, Edith Craig, transformed the house into a museum which now displays a fascinating personal and theatrical collection that reflects Ellen's extraordinary career and unconventional private life.



Smallhythe Place includes a colourful cottage garden, a vintage tearoom and a charming 17th-century thatched Barn Theatre. Ellen's legacy is kept alive today with a diverse programme of productions in the theatre and garden that are performed throughout the year.

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS A BECKET, CAPEL



A Thomas À Becket connection

Becket himself is said to have preached in this small Norman Wealden church. The tower was partly rebuilt after a fire in 1639. Inside, the crown-post roof is striking and there are some interesting fittings. Most significant however, are the extensive medieval wall paintings which cover most of the nave, depicting amongst others Cain and Abel and Christ's entry into

Jerusalem. Discover more about the wall paintings in this church.

MONDAY 18TH MAY

CHARTWELL

Family home and garden of Sir Winston Churchill

Chartwell was the much-loved Churchill family home from 1922 and the place from which Sir Winston drew inspiration until the end of his life.

The rooms remain much as they were when he lived here, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of a great statesman, writer, painter and family man. New to 2019, is a new exhibition to give unique insight into the life of Churchill through 50 Objects.



The hillside gardens reflect Sir Winston's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, the kitchen garden and the Marycot, a playhouse designed for his youngest daughter Mary.

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO BOOK FOR THE TRIP TO KENT IN MAY 2020.

I enclose a deposit of £50 per person.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POSTCODE _____

TEL _____ MOBILE _____

EMAIL _____

ROOM Single/ Twin NT Membership Y/N EH Membership Y/N

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS _____

Return to Rosemary Smith, 16 Dovehouse Close, Godmanchester, PE29 2DY