

Patron: George
Coventry
(13th Earl of
Coventry)



The Friends of Croome

Dear Friends,

September 2018

Holiday 2019. To Kent and Sussex 19th -23rd May

After our successful holiday to Devon this year we have decided to 'go it alone' once more. We have booked the Royal Victoria Hotel, in Hastings. We had hoped to stay more centrally in Kent but having found the Royal Victoria we are very pleased with its position which is right on the sea front, this is a treat in itself as we live so far from the sea.

Originally named the St Leonards Hotel, the Royal Victoria was built in 1828 by renowned architect James Burton as part of his grander vision to create a new seaside resort. The hotel received the Royal Charter from Queen Victoria, who visited on numerous occasions, and later again from King George V. As the focal point of St Leonards, it became a favourite rendezvous of the Royal Family and establishment. The hotel is now part of the Best Western Group.

The itinerary is still to be finalised as quite a few places will not take firm bookings until next year but what we have in mind at the moment is as follows:

Sunday On our way down we will visit NT Petworth. Just like our park it was transformed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1750s and 60s. Petworth has a rich and varied history waiting to be discovered. The Staterooms have internationally famous paintings by artists such as Van Dyke, Reynolds, Titian and Blake. The servants' quarters by contrast offer a glimpse of life 'below stairs'. You can also stroll in the Pleasure Grounds before visiting the restaurant or coffee shop for lunch.

Monday. Morning visit to Sissinghurst Castle and gardens. Historic, poetic, iconic; a refuge dedicated to beauty. Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson fell in love with Sissinghurst Castle and created a world-renowned garden. **Afternoon** of free time in Royal Tunbridge Wells where you can explore at your leisure. Visit the Pantiles with its shops and wonderful architecture or dive into its history in its museum and art gallery.

Tuesday. A whole day at English Heritage's Dover Castle. The most iconic of all English fortresses commanding the gateway to the realm for nine centuries. Climb the Great Tower, meet the characters and immerse yourself in vivid medieval interiors. Then delve deep within Dover's White Cliffs to witness the drama in the Secret Wartime Tunnels. Roam through centuries of history, from the Romans to the 20th century. In May 1940 the greatest rescue of all time took place, masterminded right here deep within. Operation Dynamo, see and feel the danger and visit the underground hospital and follow the dramatic journey of a wounded WWII pilot, fighting for his life as he is rushed through to the operating theatre.

Wednesday. A day for exploring, in the morning we will visit Rye. Perched on a hill, the medieval town is the sort of place you thought existed only in your imagination. Almost suspended in time, Rye's unhurried atmosphere and enchanting streets draw visitors with their warm welcome. It's small enough to make you feel at home almost straight

away but holds enough secret treasures to entice you to stay much longer. At **lunchtime** we will board a steam train on the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden, where we will enjoy a ploughman's lunch as we steam through the countryside on the 50 minute journey. Our coach will then pick us up at Bodiam Station and take us back to enjoy the rest of the afternoon exploring the Old Town in Hastings

Thursday. On our return journey home we will call in a N.T. Cliveden set high above the Thames. The house is now a luxury hotel but we will take a peak inside by joining a short guided tour. At the Octagon Temple at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire John Profumo met society showgirl Christine Keeler (who died last year aged 75) we all remember it!!!! Cliveden has stunning gardens from the formality of the Parterre with its vibrant floral displays to the quirky statuary and topiary in the Long Garden. We will have lunch here before returning to Croome

The cost of the holiday has yet to be finalised but should be no more than £420 per person, which will include entrance fees some lunches and a tip for the coach driver. There is **no single supplement**.

We very much hope that you would like to join us on what we hope will be a very interesting and varied holiday, with something for everyone.

Just as last year, it will be on a first come first served basis after it has been advertised so it is fair for everyone. No pre-booking.

For booking please send your **completed forms and cheque with SAE** to Carol Atkins:

15 Hillview Gardens, Ryall, Upton-upon-Severn WR8 0QJ

Email caroled65@outlook.com Tel 01684 593707

A non-returnable deposit of £50 per person is required at the time of booking. Cheques made out to **Friends of Croome**

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to enjoying another holiday with you next year

Kind regards

Sue Lloyd

FRIENDS OF CROOME HOLIDAY TO KENT 2019

Booking Form

Name(s)

Address

.....Post Code.....

Tel Numbers Home.....Mobile.....

Email

Contact in case of emergency Name.....

Tel No.....

Insurance details Provider.....

Policy Number.....

Rooms required Single.....Double.....Twin.....

National Trust Number

English Heritage member yes/no

Any Special Request.....

Any Special Dietary Requirements.....

Deposit of £50pp (non-refundable) made payable to **Friends of Croome £**.....

Please return the completed form **enclosing your cheque and SAE to:**
Carol Atkins, 15 Hillview Gardens, Ryall, Upton-Upon-Severn, Worcs WR8 0QJ
Email caroled65@outlook.com Tel: 01684 593707 Mobile 07976 848092

Signed.....Print.....