

# Edgworth and District Horticultural Society

## 4-Day Holiday 2018

### GARDENS OF THE COTSWOLDS

This year we are staying in mainland Britain and heading to the Cotswolds. With so many wonderful gardens to choose from, the itinerary has again taken several evenings of planning. We think we have chosen a really varied and exciting mix of gardens -.. and we hope you do too!



Hotels in the Cotswolds are popular and are more expensive which has made the holiday more costly than most years though slightly less than last year in Ireland. The Waterpark Hotel is beautifully situated amongst many lakes with much local countryside to explore. It has a Spa, health club (with hydrotherapy pool, steam room, sauna), pool and gym.



As usual we will meet our coach in Edgworth / Bromley Cross and this will take us all the way to our destinations (hotel and gardens).

Once again we have planned a busy itinerary with 3 visits on both of our full days and one each on the outward and return journeys. The plan of visits may need adjustment if any garden / owner develops a problem (usually a smaller garden). If this happens there are many beautiful substitutes.



Please also bear in mind that our aim is always to select beautiful and varied gardens /visits and these, like gardens in previous years, may include uneven surfaces, slopes and steps.

*Phil Broughton and Jean Turner*

# Cotswolds 2018

## Edgworth Horticultural Society

21 – 24 July 2018

from £445.00 per person



Rolling gracefully across six counties, the Cotswolds are a delightful tangle of gloriously golden villages, thatch-roofed cottages, evocative churches, rickety almshouses and ancient mansions of honey-coloured stone. If you've ever lusted after exposed beams, cream teas or cuisine crammed full of local produce, look no further.

The booming medieval wool trade brought wealth to the Cotswolds, leaving behind a proliferation of exquisite buildings. In 1966, the region was declared an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). At 790 sq miles, it's England's second-largest protected area after the Lake District. Though it extends from north of Chipping Campden to south of Bath, the bulk of it lies in Gloucestershire. More than 83% is farmland but, even so, around 139,000 people live within the AONB itself.



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### Itinerary

#### Saturday 21 July 2018

We will depart from our local pickup points and begin our journey towards the Cotswolds, stopping en-route at **Croome Court**, the former home of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Coventry. Croome is home to Britain's largest Georgian walled gardens and the meticulous restoration project of the Cronins since 2000. You have free time here to enjoy lunch (not included), visit the Walled Garden or explore the acres of parkland and on-site RAF museum (entrance to the walled garden is included but entrance to the parkland and museum is not included).

This afternoon, we visit the house and gardens of **Rodmarton Manor**, between Tetbury and Cirencester. This is an 'Arts and Crafts' house with a fine eight-acre garden comprising a series of 'outdoor rooms' each with its own distinctive character. The architect Ernest Barnsley started Rodmarton in 1909 and it became a shrine to the Cotswolds crafts movement. The grey gabled house has an intricate garden of lively atmosphere, formal in spirit but with a cottage-garden feel to it. The eight-acre Cotswold garden was originally designed as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today, which each part of the garden having different characters ranging from alpines in troughs, bigger plants in the rockery, lawns, a large kitchen garden and white borders, to the magnificent herbaceous borders which are constantly being re-planted and improved. There are superb vistas throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the surroundings.



We then continue to our accommodation, the 4-star **De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel, Lake 6, South Cerney GL7 5FP (Tel: 01285 601537)**. All rooms are ensuite and include free internet access along with tea and coffee making facilities. The hotel also boasts a swimming pool and sauna. Dinner will be served in the evening.

### **Sunday 22 July 2018**

This morning after breakfast, we will set off to our first visit of the day – **Misarden Park**, near Stroud. Originally designed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the gardens were redeveloped in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Sir Edwin Lutyens in his famous Edwardian style. Herbaceous borders, topiary, shrubs, grass terraces and the newly planted rill and lavender-and-hebe parterre are all contained within a walled garden. The manor house's elevated position allows for scenic views over the five golden valleys of Stroud.

This afternoon, we visit **Painswick Rococo Garden**. This garden is a pleasure ground created in the decadent and fun loving early 18th century. Follies nestle in a hidden valley surrounded by magnificent Cotswolds views. A large Kitchen Garden produced many crops that are used in the garden's own restaurant. During the nineteenth century, the original eighteenth century design was lost as much of the garden was converted to grow fruit and vegetables. Using a painting, by Thomas Robins in 1748, the garden is being fully restored to its eighteenth century character. Its main features are rococco buildings, woodland walks and well-planned vistas. We will enjoy lunch here (not included).



We continue to our final visit of the day - **Cerney House Gardens**. Cerney combines the best of the formal aspects of the traditional country house garden with a gloriously organic approach. See a working kitchen garden and orchard, culinary and medicinal herb garden, wild flower bank, 40 acres of woodlands and parkland, all set around a Victorian walled garden with a 19th century conservatory. The house served as a hospital in WWII, and was purchased by Sir Michael and Lady Angus in 1983. Since then the historic gardens have been lovingly restored and extended to create the gardens we see today. Please note there is around a ¼ mile uphill walk to reach the garden.

We return to the hotel where dinner will be served in the evening.

### Monday 23 July 2018

Following breakfast, we will then make our way to **Sezincote**, an Indian-style house with an eastern 'Hindu' garden. The project was inspired by Humphry Repton and led to his 1808 book *Designs for the Pavilion at Brighton*. Repton favoured the style partly for its novelty and partly because neither the Grecian nor the Gothic styles, then popular, were associated with palaces. Sezincote has a temple with a figure of the goddess Souriya, a bronze serpent, Brahmin bulls, a mushroom-shaped fountain, a conservatory with minarets and an unusual curved orangery. Graham Stuart Thomas advised on the planting design. Thomas Daniell, famous as a painter of Indian scenery, designed the Indian Bridge and the Indian Temple. Repton is associated with the project but the only evidence for his professional involvement is some mention of Sezincote in his writing and a sketch for the South Garden.



This afternoon we will visit the unique **Snowhill Manor**. Snowhill is no ordinary manor, as Charles Paget Wade was no ordinary Edwardian gentleman. Mr Wade embodied his family motto 'Let nothing perish', spending his life and inherited wealth amassing a spectacular collection of everyday and extraordinary objects. He bought each because of its colour, craftsmanship and design, restoring the ancient Cotswold manor house to display them. Laid out theatrically, the Manor is literally packed to the rafters with almost 22,000 unusual objects - from tiny toys to splendid suits of Samurai armour. The Manor is surrounded by an intriguing terraced hillside garden designed in the Arts & Crafts style. We will then enjoy lunch here (not included). Please note there is a 500yard walk between the visitor centre and the Manor and Gardens. Please also be aware that in wet weather, exposed stone paths and steps can become very slippery, therefore please wear sensible footwear. Sharp heels are not permitted to be worn in the manor.

Thereafter we will continue to the final visit of the day, to **Mildene** near Moreton-in-Marsh. The garden surrounds a Cotswold stone water-mill, set in a tiny, steep-sided valley and has evolved naturally in classic English 'country garden' style. A millpond, stream, grotto, potager and trompe l'oeil all contribute to the owner's design for surprise, concealment, scent, colour and sense of fun.

We will then return to the hotel where dinner will be served in the evening.

## **Tuesday 24 July 2018**

This morning after breakfast we must check out of the hotel – please ensure any extras are paid before taking your luggage to the coach. Our first visit of the day will be to the **Ernest Wilson Memorial garden**. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of local people, the garden is now a permanent reminder of Ernest Wilson's early years in the town, as well as an exhibit of the many exotic plant species he collected from all over Asia. It's impossible for a keen gardener to visit this Memorial Garden without contemplating the extraordinary ventures that Ernest Wilson endured in order to bring back the many plants that we enjoy

As we begin our journey home, there is still time for one final visit to **Hidcote Manor**, near Chipping Campden. Although among the best known gardens in Britain, Hidcote Manor still has the power to startle. It was begun before World War I by an American, Major Lawrence Johnston, who devised a type of garden that many think of as quintessentially English. It is a garden built up of separate rooms, each connected to the rest but often with blazing contrasts, laid out in a disciplined setting. Everywhere something enticing is glimpsed through an opening, across a pool or framed by a gate. We will enjoy lunch here (not included).



After our visit we will continue our journey back to our original pick-up points - your driver will be able to confirm a more precise arrival time en route.

***WE HOPE YOU HAVE AN ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY***

**Included in price**

- Three nights. dinner bed and breakfast at the 4-star De Vere Cotswold Water Park
- Hotel, South Cerney
- *Comfortable coaching throughout*
- Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager

**Not included (per person) e.g.**

- · Single occupancy supplement   £145.00
- · Insurance       £28.00 (under 65); £56.00 (65-74); £84.00 (75-90)