

A Secret to be Discovered :

the Lure of English Houses and Gardens in the Lee of the South Downs

June 10 to 17, 2023

The idea for this immersion in a selection of houses and gardens nestled in the bucolic countryside focused on Sussex and Kent germinated and took root over a pub lunch enjoyed with Deborah (Debo) Gage last April in the little village beside her family's estate, Firle Place. Day and I were on a whirlwind trip in the region to engage our passion for the landscape, gardens, architecture and fine collections. When Debo suggested, why not bring a group here next year to sample some of the splendid houses, gardens and landscapes, we responded, where do we sign! When she added the suggestion of a special evening at Glyndebourne for our group, that was *la cerise sur le gateau*--the cherry on the cake!



Above: Horsted Place, from 1850, our home for six nights; below, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea, 1935. Just two of the contrasts we will encounter!

The itinerary is, we believe, very special and will offer an exclusive and privileged look at the English country house in its many manifestations, of period, scale, and present-day management. We shall visit country estates large and small, from among Britain's greatest and grandest families, to the more modest but no less special, from an insider's perspective. We will sample some of the greatest interiors and collections as well as a rove of some of the most remarkable treasures to be found anywhere in the world, complemented by landscapes and gardens ranging from vast extent and splendor to the most intimate and delicate of scales. We will also visit famed Chichester Cathedral and home to one of Britain's rarest national heirlooms, the set of Tudor panel paintings by Lambert Barnard (1514-1567). With the exception of our final night, six of our seven nights will be spent in one grand country house hotel, Horsted Place, designed by Augustus Pugin (1850), and in the past, the weekend getaway for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. For our final night, we will move to Great Fosters, a Tudor period house with some fine interior details and important gardens, chosen for being minutes from Heathrow and convenient to London for those wishing to extend their stay.

The subject of the English country house and garden is vast, has filled many volumes of scholarship, and seeing the important exemplars could--and has--filled many lifetimes. By focusing our scope on a small region, and within that, selecting our personal favorites as well as places about which we can offer unique insights, we feel the variety and special access to be enjoyed will make possible an understanding of the subject gleaned from our intensive week together! We will experience four of Britain's most important estate holdings (Petworth, Parham, Arundel, and Firle) in both private and public ownership as well as experiencing how life can continue for these enterprises into the twenty-first century. We will visit places of significant artistic and decorative endeavor



SOUTHERN ENGLAND

0 15 30 MILES

- ★ START/END JOURNEY
- OVERNIGHT
- ◆ SITE



from John Nash's Regency Royal Pavilion at Brighton, the Prince Regent's extravagant seaside party palace, Charleston Farmhouse, home of the British Post Impressionist artists Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant as well as nearby All Angels Church in Berwick housing their painted mural scheme. We will tour one of the greatest castles in England (Arundel), whose history spans a millennium and whose architecture spans the original gothic to its nineteenth century revival. Our visit to Arundel will be particularly relevant next year in that the Duke of Norfolk is the hereditary Earl Marshall, most of you will have seen him on television in September movingly breaking his rod of office over the Queen's coffin before her interment at Windsor, marking the end of the Earl Marshalls' service to her during her long reign. Now he serves the United Kingdom's new monarch, Charles III whose coronation he will have the responsibility of arranging on 6 May 2023. Landmarks of garden design start with the great landscapes of nature: the majestic setting of the sweeps of the South Downs that literally take your breath away with an almost spiritual quality linked to their ancient history, immortalized by Hilaire Belloc and Rudyard Kipling. Or the brilliant white chalk cliffs of The Seven Sisters, is one of the most iconic vistas in England. There are the vast estates, then brought into relief by the intimacy of the gardens of Christopher Lloyd, Vita Sackville West, and

William Robinson (Great Dixter, Sissinghurst, and Gravetye Manor). Great Dixter was also the design of Edwin Lutyens (1910-12). In many of the places we will be received by the owners, invited to meals, and meet key experts connected with the collections or the operations. All the while we will be under the spell of our remarkable *cicerone*, Debo Gage!

Our Leader...

Deborah Gage is an art historian, curator, and dealer in fine art and decorative objects. She grew up in Kenya and maintains an important ongoing connection with the country and with wildlife conservation projects there. She has provided expert advice and assistance in acquisitions to a many of the world's leading museums (Tate, National Gallery UK, Chicago, Dallas, Getty, Minneapolis, the Met). When not traveling the world dealing in treasures, she divides her time between London and in East Sussex, where she is the curator at Fyfe Place, her cousin, the 8th Viscount Gage, is the owner. Debo, who has crafted this rich program, will be with us throughout, providing background on the places we will visit. She will be supported by the many curators, owners, and other experts connected with the places we will visit.

Outline Itinerary

Day 1, Saturday, June 10, 2023
Arrival London

Private or group transfers from London or airports to Horsted Place, Uckfield.
Wine Estate tasting and picnic lunch (for early arrivals).
Coastal walk along Seven Sisters;
Welcome dinner at hotel.

Note that circumstances may necessitate changes in this itinerary, and certain visits and locations may require substitution.

About the Places...



Horsted Place (August Pugin, 1850), just outside the East Sussex county town of Lewes, will be our home for the rest of the week.



Rathfinney Wine Estate: For early arrivals, there will be the chance to enjoy a picnic lunch at Rathfinney Wine Estate just outside Alfriston. Since this family-owned vineyard was established a decade ago, it has been sweeping the boards with their prize-winning wines red and white wines, and as the result of the recent awarding of a PDO for Sussex, their ambition is to become one of the largest sparkling wine producers in the world. So that in future when you go to a bar in London, New York, Beijing or Tokyo ... you will be able to order a glass of champagne.... or a delicious glass of sussex!



The Seven Sisters: We will leave the vineyards for a restorative brisk walk along the coastal downland path, where the River Cuckmere meanders before reaching the English Channel.

Day 2, Sunday, June 11

Today's explorations will take us to the neighbouring county, Kent, and will feature two extraordinary gardens, Sissinghurst and Great Dixter (not to mention the house at the latter by Edwin Lutyens): both gardens are seen and enjoyed at their very best in the month of June! En route, for something different we will stop to visit the modernist De la Warr Pavilion in Bexhill on Sea.



Sissinghurst Castle and Garden: This gem in the Weald of Kent was created by Vita Sackville-West, poet and writer, and her husband Harold Nicolson, author and diplomat. It is among the most famous gardens in England and is designated Grade I on Historic England's register of historic parks and gardens.



Great Dixter Gardens: Great Dixter was built in 1910–12 by architect Edwin Lutyens, who combined an existing mid-15th century house on the site with a similar structure brought from Benenden, Kent, together with his own additions. Subsequently Great Dixter was the family home of gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd – it was the focus of his energy and enthusiasm and fueled over 40 years of books and articles. Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett and the Great Dixter Charitable Trust



The De La Warr Pavilion: Is a grade I listed building, located on the seafront at Bexhill on Sea. The Modernist and International Style building was designed by the architects Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff and constructed in 1935. In 2005, after staving off the earlier threat of becoming a pub and following an extensive restoration, the De La Warr Pavilion reopened as a contemporary arts centre, encompassing one of the largest galleries on the south coast of England. Aside from being notable as the first public modernist building in Great Britain, it was also the first to use a steel structure.

Day 3, Monday, June 12

Today will be spent close to home, visiting Firle Place, and by way of contrast a modernist house, Cattlegate, (where we will have lunch), Charleston Farmhouse, and Berwick Church. There will be a return to Horsted Place in the afternoon and then dinner at the Star in Afriston.



Above: Firle: Home of the Gage family for 500 years, Firle Place is a country house that dates from the time of Henry VIII, but which was substantially remodelled during the Georgian period. Firle Place is very much a family home, which provides the perfect setting to house an exemplary collection of works of art, fine furniture and porcelain of national significance.



Left: One of a pair, The Melbourne Cabinets by Thomas Chippendale, with the Sevres Melbourne Service displayed inside.

Right: The Palladian Drawing room, showing a portrait of Thomas, 1st Viscount Gage (c. 1695-1754), and below one of the rare George II gilded console tables, each supported by a fox, attributed to John Boson.

Below: detail of the console table





Cattlegate: Rare example of a Walter Gropius designed house in England.



Charleston Farmhouse: It was the country home of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant who moved there in 1916, in time their paint-brushes escaped their easels so that in effect the whole house became a work of art, it is the only remaining intact their decorative style. Charleston was also the gathering place of artists, writers, poets, composers, musicians and so thus encompasses an artistic, cultural and intellectual focus for over half a century of English 20th century life.



Nestled in the lee of the South Downs, St Michael and All Angels in Berwick reflects a ribbon of life in that this church has been the centre for local worship for thousands of years or more. The tumulus upon which this Grade 1 building rests is probably a site of pre-historic origins. Berwick houses one of the most complete series of painted murals by twentieth century artists in a rural church in England. The series were commissioned in 1941 from Duncan Grant, Vanessa and her son, Quentin, Bell.

Day 4, Tuesday, June 13

Today, we will drive to West Sussex, in order to see two extraordinary treasure troves, most especially in the great estate house of Petworth. The current Lord Egremont has graciously extended an invitation us to tour his private rooms and collection, as well as the public rooms maintained by the National Trust.



Petworth House: Inspired by Baroque palaces of Europe, set amidst a fine landscaped deer park and garden nestled in the South Downs, Petworth House displays one of the finest art collections privately and in the care of the National Trust. Petworth House is an extraordinary and surprising place created by just one family over 900 years. The 17th-century building you see today comprises grand state rooms which form the centrepiece of your visit. Designed to display the taste, lifestyle and artistic patronage of generations of Percys, Seymours and Wyndhams, the state rooms offer an expanse of paintings and sculpture, including major works by artists such as Van Dyck, Turner, Reynolds and Gainsborough. Lord Egremont first commissioned Turner to paint views of the house and park in 1809, which developed into a lasting friendship, 20 years later that he was received as a member of the family and given his own painting room with a specially constructed window. The enchantment of the place and the genial exhilaration of Lord Egremont's patronage combined to give an almost miraculous quality to the many paintings and watercolours he made there.



Day 4, Continued

Lady Emma Bernard has invited us to lunch and a private visit at Parham in the afternoon. We will enjoy a delicious dinner at The Pig, revel in its setting in the Southdown National Park and finally return to Horsted Place.

Parham House: Idyllically set in the heart of an ancient deer park, below the South Downs, the Elizabethan house contains a very important collection paintings and furniture and decorative arts. The spectacular Long Gallery is the third longest in England, and is all the more extraordinary for its span of centuries, beginning with its Jacobean wainscot paneling, culminating with its 20th century decorated ceiling designed by Oliver Messel, intended to reflect the family's connection with Sir Joseph Banks. The gardens include a four-acre



Walled Garden with stunning herbaceous borders, plus Pleasure Grounds. Parham has always been a well-loved family home, and only three families have lived here since its foundation stone was laid in 1577. Its tranquility and timeless beauty have changed little over the years. Parham was purchased by the Pearson family in 1922, and has since been lovingly restored and enhanced with its remarkable collection, notably it houses of best collections of 17th century needlework in the country. Now owned by a charitable trust, the house is lived in by Lady Emma Barnard, her husband James and their family.



Day 5, Wednesday, June 14

We will return to West Sussex again for a private visit to Arundel Castle in the morning. The afternoon will be spent in Chichester focusing upon the Cathedral, to include behind the scenes visits to the Cathedral library, Song School and the Bishop's chapel. Also significant works of art including two Romanesque panels known as the 'Chichester Reliefs' as well as a series of paintings by Lambert Barnard (1514-1567), these medieval propaganda pieces comprise the largest surviving secular/clerical Tudor paintings on wood in the United Kingdom. The paintings, dating from ca. 1529-36 represent the past, present and future, and it is that which makes them unique – and a truly amazing survivor given the destruction of so much ecclesiastical art following the destruction of the monasteries during the reign of Henry VIII. Tonight a symphony concert by the Bournemouth Symphony is planned for the Cathedral, and after an early dinner in town, we will attend!



Arundel: One of the largest inhabited and complete castles in England, Arundel Castle is situated in magnificent grounds overlooking the River Arun in West Sussex, and home of the Dukes of Norfolk. Our story begins in 1067 and continues to the present day. Many of the original features such as the Norman Keep, medieval Gatehouse and Barbican survive. Between the 1870s and 1890s the house was almost completely rebuilt and the magnificent architecture in Gothic style is considered to be one of the great works of Victorian England and houses a superb collection of furniture, tapestries and paintings by renowned artists including Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Canaletto.



Chichester Cathedral: Founded in 1075, architectural historian Ian Nairn termed it "the most typical English Cathedral", but uniquely it has double aisles. It also boasts some of the rarest and most important Tudor ecclesiastical paintings in the country, they were recently conserved so are looking fantastic.

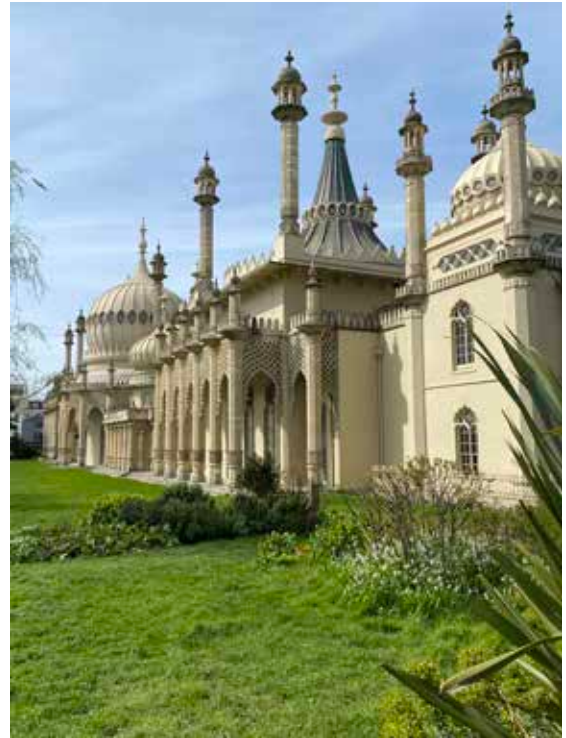
Day 6, Thursday, June 15

Our morning will be spent at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. We will then look into St. Michael and All Angels Church, Brighton, Grade 1 listed and considered one of the finest Victorian churches in the country. It is celebrated for its superb collection of stained-glass windows by the pre-Raphaelites, notably William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones and Rossetti.

Since this evening is our visit to Glyndebourne, where we have tickets to Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites*, we will return early to Horsted Place for a light sandwich lunch, to rest and put on our finery (black tie and evening wear). At Glyndebourne, we will arrive early in to follow the tradition of a walk around the gardens and estate, and a chance to enjoy the collection of Old Master Paintings hanging in the Organ Room, purchased by John Christie, the co-founder of Glyndebourne opera, together with his wife the celebrated soprano, Audrey Mildmay.



Royal Pavilion: Exotic and eclectic seaside palace of the Prince Regent (George IV) transformed by John Nash between 1815 and 1823 into one of the most dazzling and spectacular buildings in the British Isles. It has often been described as 'one of the most fantastic palaces in Europe'. The Mogul exterior can barely pique a visitor's excitement to discover the Prince Regent's dazzling and extraordinary Chinoiserie interior, many of the original furnishings have been loaned back to the Pavilion by the Royal Family.



Glyndebourne Festival Opera: An English country house, the site of an opera house that, since 1934, has been the venue for the annual Glyndebourne Festival Opera, producing some of the best opera in the world.



Day 7, Friday, June 16

Today we will pack our bags and decamp from Horsted Place for our final night together, at Great Fosters, another country house hotel not far to the west of Heathrow Airport. We will visit two gardens on the way, Gravetye Manor, one of the first “wild” gardens laid out by William Robinson in 1885 and the Arts and Crafts Vann Garden. At Gravetye, now a small country house hotel (too small for us to stay) we will have lunch in the restaurant, which has a Michelin star. We will arrive at Great Fosters in time to admire the Tudor interiors as well as take a stroll in the gardens or a dip in the pool. A private farewell dinner will be arranged for us either in a private dining room or in the garden.

Day 8, Saturday, June 17

After a leisurely breakfast, guests may head on their way, either to nearby Heathrow for homeward or onward flights, or to continue their travels independently.



Gravetye Manor: Its most notable owner, William Robinson one of the greatest gardeners of all time, bought the Manor and the one thousand acres in which it stands in 1885, and it was his home until he died well into his nineties in 1935. It was at Gravetye that he realized many of his ideas for the creation of the English natural garden, the style of which is now admired and copied all over the world, but of which Robinson in the nineteenth century was a pioneer. He had worked in many formal gardens in England and France but in his planning, planting and landscaping he sought always to enhance the natural beauty of the gardens and woods.



Vann: Nestled in the Surrey countryside near Godalming, this internationally renowned five-acre garden is formed by a series of “rooms” which surround and complement a family home dating from the 16th century. From the old Cottage Garden with delightfully informal planting in a formal setting, to the robust Pergola of Bargate stone by W.D.Caröe, the Arts and Crafts architect and great grandfather of the present owners, to the Water Garden, laid out and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911, and the newly designed and planted Centenary Garden, Vann offers inspiration to expert and amateur gardeners alike.



Great Fosters: Originally designed by W H Romaine Walker and Gilbert Jenkins, the gardens are amongst the finest Arts and Crafts gardens in Europe. Framed on three sides by a Saxon moat, the formal gardens of Great Fosters are both extensive and exceptional. Designed to reflect the intricate beauty of a Persian rug, the knot garden is embellished with fragrant beds of flowers and herbs bordered by manicured hedges and topiary. At the heart of it all is the Drake sundial which historians suggest may have been donated by Sir Francis Drake and is believed to date back to 1585.

REGISTRATION FORM

ENGLISH HOUSES AND GARDENS in the Lee of the South Downs, June 10 to 17, 2023

☐ Yes, I/we would like to attend this journey! Tour price is per person \$10,000 double; \$11,500 single.

☐ Please provide upgraded accommodations (\$1,000 per person)

Costs have fluctuated unpredictably this past year due to changes in fuel costs and exchange rates. The above costs are based on market conditions as of December 1, 2022. They are subject to increase should market conditions change.

To register please complete this registration form and send it with a deposit of \$2,000 (per person) by check to Stephen Harby, 718 Cedar Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405-3810. Only written registrations, including appropriate payment will be accepted.

Final payment of balance will be due by March 15, 2023.

Also, please send a photocopy of the picture page of your passport.

Name

Name

Address

City

State

Zip/Postal Code

Home phone

Alt. phone

Email

Please select one of the following:

- ☐ double occupancy with 2 beds (limited availability) ☐ I would like to have assistance booking my flights
- ☐ double occupancy with one bed
- ☐ single occupancy

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Hotels as indicated on the itinerary based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional supplement. We reserve the right to substitute other hotels of a similar quality.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner as mentioned in the itinerary (all meals are included).

Admission to all sites as described in the itinerary.

The handling of no more than two medium size suitcases per person

Private Coach transportation throughout.

Use of personal headset to facilitate hearing of on-site lectures and commentary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

International air transportation to and from London. Incidental expenses such as for telephone calls, fax communications, a la carte orders or items not on the set menus, alcoholic drinks over and above table wine provided at evening meals, laundry, and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

TRIP INSURANCE

In the event participants cancel their trip, all non-refundable payments will be forfeited. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended for this purpose.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with any visas required by host countries.

TOUR COSTS

Costs have been calculated on the basis of charges and exchange rates as of December 1, 2022. Should these change, Stephen Harby reserves the right to make appropriate adjustments to the tour cost.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY

Stephen Harby reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. Itinerary changes made by local travel providers are beyond the control of Stephen Harby and should such changes be made the participant will be bound accordingly.

ITINERARY DEVIATIONS

Stephen Harby assumes no liability or responsibility for any participant deviating from the group tour. Participants arriving and departing independently are responsible for their own transfers.

CANCELLATION

Should cancellation occur prior to 90 days before departure, full refund will be granted less a \$200 service charge; within the following days prior to departure, the specified percentage of tour costs is non-refundable: 60-89 days - 20%; 45-59 days - 30%; 30-44 days - 50%; 29 days or fewer - 100 % Forfeiture of entire tour cost). Cancellations must be submitted in writing; trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. There will be no refund for any tour accommodation, service, or feature not taken, or if participant cancels for any reason while tour is in progress. Any additional costs due to leaving the tour are the responsibility of the departing passenger. In these times of uncertainty in the international realm, we also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, pandemic, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable by Stephen Harby, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. Many destinations may pose a normal risk of political instability, civil unrest, etc. It is assumed each participant has reviewed same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

RESPONSIBILITY

Stephen Harby and /or agents assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, carriage, aircraft, motor coach, or other conveyance or hotel which may be used wholly or in part, in the performance of the tour. Neither will they be responsible or liable for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying or accommodating the passengers; nor for any delays, injuries, damages or losses resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, acts of governments, de jure or de facto, wars whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, terrorist activities, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, or from any causes beyond the control of Stephen Harby, and /or agents. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well being of the passengers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The sole responsibility of the airline used is limited to that set out in the passenger contract evidenced by the tickets. This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Stephen Harby. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by the State of California.

Your signature below confirms that you have read the Terms and Conditions and accompanying itinerary and agree to abide by its contents.

Date

Signature (first participant)

Date

Signature (second participant)