

# Country House Comfort & Convenience

## Weald of Kent & Sussex

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**One of a series of unique, small-group, tours, staying in good quality hotels and led by the key experts in the field, exploring the impact of technology on our great country houses and the people who lived and worked there.**

**Led by Dr Ian West**

**3 nights, half-board in 4 star accommodation - from £695 per person**

**( Includes about £85 of entrance and special tour fees. Discounts for NT & AIA members )**

During the late 18th and 19th centuries a variety of technological innovations were becoming available to enhance the comfort and convenience of domestic life but, far from urban centres, the great Country Houses had to be self-sufficient in the provision of gas, electricity, sanitation and water supply if they wished to make use of them.

Subsequently, the decline of many country houses, together with their being donated to the National Trust and their opening to the public, has meant that less alteration has taken place than in domestic property and evidence survives of the impact which these innovations had on the buildings, landscape and social structure.

For a number of years Professor Marilyn Palmer and Dr Ian West have been studying the technology in a wide range of country houses, examining both the physical remains and the historical evidence and trying to place them in the wider context of the effects they had on country house servants as well as house owners, families and guests.

Heritage of Industry is delighted to have secured Prof. Palmer and Dr West to lead this series of unique tours where they will guide us through some of these grand residences, help us to understand some of the fascinating artefacts still to be seen and explain how they changed the lives of those who lived there – both above and below stairs.

Unlike coach company tours, which rely on the normal house guides, our expert leaders working in conjunction with the Collections Managers give a unique insight to these properties. In most cases we secure access to the properties early in the day when the houses are not yet open to the public so that we will have the place to ourselves for the duration of the tour and in certain cases have been granted permission to see areas not normally open to the public.

At each property, after our special tour, we try to make time for you further to explore the house and gardens.

The Wealden area of West Kent and Sussex is famed for its densely-wooded landscape, with deep valleys, picturesque villages and historic market towns. The area is also rich in country houses, from medieval castles to 20th-century neo-Gothic fantasies. This tour offers the opportunity to enjoy the full range of such properties, including unique access to many areas not normally open to the public, to explore the remains of historic building services and understand how these shaped the development of the houses.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1

The tour begins at our hotel in Tunbridge Wells.

Dinner will be served in a private room after which there will be a talk by Ian West: "*An Introduction to Country House Technology*"

### Day 2

In the morning we will drive to **Petworth** (NT) for a private tour with the head curator.

Petworth contains some of the National Trust's finest works of art, but is also noted for its large, detached service wing, that includes one of the most impressive country-house kitchens in Britain. Our tour will take us through the underground passageways that link this to the main house (normally not accessible due to roosting bats), containing more unusual evidence of the owners' adoption of the latest technology. Other remarkable survivals are the unique three-chamber ice-house and a massive electricity generator house.

Lunch is available in the café on site (own expense).

After leaving Petworth, we will visit **Coultershaw** to see the restored working water-powered pump house, dating from 1782, which supplied water to the Petworth Estate.

After a group dinner in a private room the evening is at leisure.

### Day 3

In the morning we will travel to **Nymans** (NT). Nymans is well known today for its magnificent gardens, created from 1890 onwards by Ludwig Messel, a German Jewish émigré, and his wife Anne. Their modest house was transformed in the 1920s by their son, Leonard, turning it into a massive Gothic-style mansion, which was largely destroyed by fire in 1947. A small portion was rebuilt but the rest survives as towering ruins, like some medieval abbey. We will have a rare opportunity to explore these ruins and see the 'skeleton' of the house and its services. Another of Nyman's secrets is one of its two electricity generator houses, built inside the earlier timber Riding House, to which we will be allowed unique access..

Lunch is available in the café on site (own expense).

In the afternoon we will drive to the **Salomons Estate**. Our visit to the estate, now in private corporate ownership and mostly inaccessible to the public, is arguably the highlight of the tour. The house, known as Broomhill, was built by the banker and MP David Salomons in the 1850s. His nephew and heir David Lionel Salomons was more interested in science than banking, and transformed the house into a technological showpiece from the 1870s – it was probably the first house in Britain to have electric lighting (predating Cragstone in Northumberland). Salomons published some early reference books on electricity and on motoring, and built one of the finest sets of motor houses in the country. The large theatre, where the public could watch scientific demonstrations from a gallery, still contains much original 19th-century electrical equipment. Salomons also built a state-of-the-art stable block in 1894. Access to some of these unique features may be slightly restricted by corporate events taking place on the day, but this promises to be very special visit.

After dinner in a private room, Ian will talk on "*Technical aspects of Country House Technology*"

### Day 4

In the morning we will first visit **Bateman's** (NT), a Jacobean manor house bought by Rudyard Kipling in 1902 and another property with important evidence of early electricity generation. Amongst the many improvements the writer introduced was a hydro-electric plant housed in a water mill on the estate. Remarkably, this plant has survived and has been restored.

Our second visit is to **Scotney Castle** (NT) where we will arrive in time for a slightly early lunch (own expense)

Scotney Castle offers two houses for the price of one: a 14th-century moated castle and a 19th-century mansion, designed by Anthony Salvin. The castle was occupied until the new house was completed in the 1840s, and survives as the most dramatic garden folly. With our focus on domestic services, the two houses provide an amazing contrast in levels of comfort and convenience.

After the visit the coach will return to Tunbridge Wells railway station and then our hotel where the tour ends.

### **OUR GUIDE**

Dr Ian West graduated in Engineering before joining the gas industry. He became a Chartered Engineer and held a number of engineering and senior management posts before leaving industry to study Industrial Archaeology at Birmingham University's Ironbridge Institute, where he obtained his MA. He did his Doctoral studies in the University of Leicester's School of Archaeology, researching the impact of artificial lighting on early factories. He is an honorary visiting fellow at the University of Leicester and has given numerous papers and lectures on utility industries, domestic technology and other aspects of industrial archaeology.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

The 4\* Spa Hotel describes itself as *“being set in 14 acres of picturesque grounds close to the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells, the spa town from which its name is derived, our hotel first opened its doors to guests in 1880 and has since built a reputation for style, sophistication, relaxation and fine dining. Originally built in 1766 as a country mansion, The Spa Hotel has a long-established history in the town, and with its recent refurbishment it offers a stunning location to stay”*

All rooms are en-suite, have TV, telephone, tea making facilities and wi-fi is available throughout the hotel.

**Note: The hotel is unable to offer us any twin bedded rooms for these dates.**

### **TRANSPORT**

The tour starts at our hotel in Tunbridge Wells on the Monday evening and ends there after a drop off at the railway station by about 15:30 on the Thursday afternoon.

As we expect group members to come from many different locations we leave you to make your own travel arrangements to and from Tunbridge Wells to suit your own convenience and use of alternative departure points.

Travel during the tour will be by luxury, air-conditioned mini-coach.

Detailed joining instructions will be supplied in good time.

## **COST**

The cost of the tour is £695 per person sharing, single supplement £125. The single supplement reflects the additional charges made by the hotel for single occupancy.

There is a discount of £50 per person for National Trust members. NT membership cards must be carried with you. *If you're not an NT member and want to visit at least one other NT property during the year it would be worth your while joining.*

*In addition Heritage of Industry is pleased to offer a discount of £10 per booking to any paid-up member of the Association for Industrial Archaeology at the time of the tour.*

In organising these very specialist and unique, small group, tours we do not enjoy the same economies of scale which are available to us for our larger group tours. Nevertheless we believe that the cost represents excellent value for money and compares very favourably with other specialist operators.

The cost includes:

- An itinerary packed with visits to fascinating sites
- 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast
- Luxury air conditioned coach transport to all sites and driver tip
- All entrance and house guide fees (amounting to about £85)
- Uniquely qualified expert guiding and services of an experienced tour manager throughout
- Research for the visit
- Professionally produced, comprehensive tour notes

Excluded are:

- Lunches
- Drinks
- Expenses at the hotel other than dinner, bed & breakfast

All costs are in Pounds Sterling (GBP) and are based on present accommodation, transport costs and taxes. Any change in these may necessitate a price change.

## **CANCELLATION CHARGES, HEALTH & INSURANCE**

Please note that cancellation charges will apply from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and, although these will be modified to the extent that costs are not actually incurred, you are strongly advised to insure against the need to cancel.

Non-UK residents also need to consider medical treatment and repatriation charges in the event of illness etc. Participants who do not have travel insurance must nevertheless accept full responsibility for these eventualities.

## **PASSPORTS, VISAS & IMMIGRATION**

Non-UK residents must ensure that they carry a valid passport for entry into the UK and may need a visa. To check visa requirements visit the UK Border Agency website:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration>

Heritage of Industry cannot be held responsible for any problems with entry into the United Kingdom.

## BOOKING

All bookings should be made online at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk> or on the attached form and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to space availability. Booking is subject to a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 people. Book as soon as possible and **by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019** to ensure a place **but please feel free to enquire after that date if a place is still available**. We will contact you as soon as possible to confirm the booking and to issue an invoice for the balance of the price.

A non-refundable deposit of £70 per person is required on booking. Bookings can be made definite only when the booking details and deposit are received and accepted in writing/email by Heritage of Industry Ltd. The company's standard terms and conditions apply. The balance of the price is to be paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd on presentation of the invoice. All monies paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd will be held, in accordance with government regulations\*, in a customer protection account until the tour is complete so that *your money is safe no matter what happens*.

All payments should be made using your bank's online 'bill payment' facilities. All account details are on the booking form and we would appreciate an email note when payment has been made. Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank are also acceptable. We are sorry that we are unable to accept payment by credit/debit card or PayPal.

**Enquiries about this tour** should be directed to Bill Barksfield, Managing Director, Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN Tel: +44 1235 352275

Email: [bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk](mailto:bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk)

*\* The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 (SI 1992 No. 3288)*



## The Association for Industrial Archaeology

*Promoting the study, preservation and  
presentation of Britain's industrial heritage*

Britain was the first industrial nation and for the last three centuries industry has had a major influence on the society, environment and landscape in which we live; it shaped the country and its remains provide a link with the past that can also serve the future. The AIA is the national organisation for people who share an interest in Britain's industrial past. It brings together groups and individuals with an interest and expertise in identifying, recording, preserving and presenting the remains of the industrial past.

Uniting individuals, local societies, academics and field professionals the AIA:

- Pools knowledge and sets standards for recording
- Represents industrial archaeology by membership of national and international bodies
- Supports local and special interest societies
- Monitors planning applications to alter or demolish industrial sites and buildings

And through its programme of awards and grants it:

- Sponsors research and rewards excellence
- Assists preservation and restoration
- Encourages research and publication

Heritage of Industry Ltd is very pleased to support the activities of the Association and very much hopes that you do too and will become a member.

Apart from the discount available on Heritage of Industry tours AIA members enjoy a range of benefits which are shown on the Membership page of the AIA website where you can also find full details of how to join:

<https://industrial-archaeology.org/membership/>

An AIA member joining this tour will already have recouped nearly 1/3 of the AIA membership fee but more importantly the support members give enables the AIA to continue its work.

# Heritage of Industry

Journeys into the Industrial Past



## BOOKING FORM

### COUNTRY HOUSE COMFORT & CONVENIENCE ( Kent & Sussex )

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Please book on-line if possible at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk>

Otherwise print out and complete this form in block letters and return it to:

Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN

PLEASE BOOK BY 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 **but please enquire after that date for available places.**

NAME:

TELEPHONE

Day:

ADDRESS:

Evening:

Mobile:

Email:

**I WISH TO BOOK** (subject to availability) ..... place(s)

on Country House Comfort & Convenience (Kent & Sussex), 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The names of the other member(s) of my party are:

There are ..... **National Trust member(s)** in my party

**I am a member of the AIA:** { Yes / No }

Please book the following hotel room(s): ..... Single ..... Double (Twin rooms are not available)

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS** (Dietary etc. Please give details, or any other comment):

**I am making payment of £** ..... non-returnable deposit of £80 each for ..... persons

{ By direct transfer to HSBC, Penn Road, Beaconsfield Branch Code: 40-09-29 Account: 41352261  
BIC: HBUKGB4118D IBAN: GB97HBUK40092941352261 Using reference: *Your surname* }

{ By the enclosed cheque, payable to Heritage of Industry Ltd } *delete as required*

**I heard about this tour:** Previous client / Recommended by friend / AIA / SIA /

Newcomen / Local IA Group / H of I Newsletter or email / Social media / Web search

**Please add my name to the Heritage of Industry emailing list:** { Yes / No }

I have read the terms and conditions which are accepted by me on behalf of all the persons named above. We agree to your maintaining such records as are appropriate to this and other tours and understand that the information will only be released to those involved with the organisation of these tours or used to inform me about other events.

**SIGNATURE:**

**Date:**

# Heritage of Industry

## Journeys into the Industrial Past

### Terms and Conditions

1. Heritage of Industry Ltd undertakes tours on the basis of these terms and conditions, which, read with the booking form and the information accompanying it, set out the full terms of your agreement with Heritage of Industry Ltd ('the Company'). No variation can be accepted unless made in writing and signed by the Company.
2. Bookings can only be made definite when the completed booking form plus the deposit specified on the booking form is received and accepted in writing by the Company. The deposit is not refundable.
3. The balance of the tour price must be received by the Company not later than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour or as specified in the booking arrangements failing which the booking may be cancelled and cancellation charges (equivalent to the amount of deposit) levied.
4. In the event that the booking is made less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then the full amount of the tour price will need to be paid immediately.
5. In the event that you wish to cancel your booking, you must notify the Company in writing. If the notification of cancellation is received by the Company more than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then only the deposit will be forfeit. If the notice is received less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour the following charges will apply: 6 to 8 weeks, 50% of the tour price; 4 to 6 weeks, 75% of the tour price; 4 weeks and under, 100% of the tour price. No refund at all will be given for any cancellation on or after the first day of the tour or for any meals, trips or other facilities not used or taken.
6. The Company will make every effort to operate the tour as confirmed to you. However, the Company reserves the right to cancel or vary any aspect of the tour should this become necessary due to any circumstances beyond the Company's reasonable control such as war, political unrest, industrial action, exceptionally inclement weather or other circumstances amounting to force majeure, or any other circumstances which in the opinion of the Company require the cancellation or variation of the tour. In the event of cancellation, you will be notified immediately and offered either an alternative comparable tour or a refund of all monies paid as appropriate.
7. The Company does not own or operate any of the means of transport you will be using or the hotels, restaurants, buildings or other sites that you will be staying at or visiting. Accordingly, the Company cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any loss injury or damage that may occur or that you or those accompanying you may suffer as a result of any negligence or breach of contract or failure to perform any other duty by any owner employee servant or agent of any such means of transport, hotel, restaurant, building or other site.
8. The Company also cannot accept any responsibility for any loss damage or personal injury howsoever arising suffered by you or those accompanying you whilst on any tour unless such loss damage or personal injury is the direct result of negligence by the Company itself.
9. In the event that you have any complaint in connection with the management or operation of any hotel, restaurant or other premises which are on part of the tour organised by the Company then that complaint should be made immediately to the management of that hotel, restaurant or premises so that the complaint can, if possible, be acted upon immediately.
10. No claim or complaint that you may have against the Company can be accepted unless such claim or complaint is notified in writing to the Company within 7 days from the end of the tour.

May 1999 (Reviewed January 2019)