

Outings 2019

Sadly the coach company we have used for many years has closed down, so this year we are trying out two new coach companies. This has unfortunately resulted in a slight rise in price. I would be grateful to receive your feedback on the comfort and service provided by these two companies before I plan for 2020. I also want to thank Neil McNamara for organising the outing in June – please apply directly to him – details on the booking form.

Monday 18th and Tuesday 26th February – Kew Orchid Exhibition

These two outings are both full. However, the Orchid Festival is an annual event at Kew Gardens and is always spectacular. It is held in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and provides a warm, vibrant and exotic experience in drab, cold February! If you missed out this year or would like to go again, I am happy to organise a similar trip in 2020 – just fill in the interest slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to me.

Wednesday 1st May – Hole Park and Scotney Castle

Hole Park is famous for its bluebells and we are hoping, weather permitting, to be visiting at the height of its glory. This lovely 16 acre garden has wonderful formal areas with immaculate lawns, specimen trees and extensive topiary, a walled garden, pond, meadow as well as the bluebell woodland areas to explore. Disabled access is good and there is a picnic area, gift shop and plant stall. Tea/coffee and cake has been booked on arrival and is included in the fee. Members of the Historic Houses Association (HHA) will have free entry.

In the afternoon we will visit Scotney Castle. This is a National Trust property dating back to 1137. The house itself is fascinating and there are also the ruins of the original castle to explore. The gardens have many azaleas and rhododendrons and more bluebells so I hope there will also be plenty of colour here. We will be there in time for you to join a free volunteer guided tour of the gardens if desired. NT members will have free entry to both house and garden whilst non-members can choose between house and garden or garden only entry.

Both venues have tea rooms, disabled access and wheelchairs

The fee includes coach travel, drivers tip, morning refreshments and entry fees as appropriate:

Members of both NT and HHA	£19.75
NT members	£26.75
Non NT members visiting Scotney Castle garden	£34.55
Non NT members visiting Scotney Castle house & gardens	£38.85

Thursday 6th June – Hardy's Cottage Plants & Whitchurch Silk Mill OR Laverstoke Mill

We are going to do a double visit with twist of lemon!!!

In the morning we will all visit Hardy's Cottage Plants. On arrival we shall be given tea or coffee prior to being shown around their propagation workshop and other parts of their nursery. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy plants! We will then move on to either:

Laverstoke Mill - now the home of the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, was once a paper mill pioneering the watermark process in the 1700s supplying the Bank of England and the British Empire with Bank Note paper until 1963. Our visit will be a self-discovery experience, culminating in The Mill Bar where you will receive a drink, (non alcoholic if preferred) "on the house". The mill is in a great setting and has been converted to its present use sympathetically with a very modern twist. The catering facility is new this year and offers a good range for lunch or afternoon tea.

Please note Laverstoke Mill is a working distillery so they insist that guests wear suitable footwear. **Please do not wear open-toed shoes or high heels as you will not be admitted.**

OR

Whitchurch Silk Mill, the oldest working silk mill in the UK still in its original building. A gem of industrial heritage in beautiful rural Hampshire by the river test. The Georgian water mill still weaves silk using 19th century machinery. It was extensively refurbished last year and there is a shop and a café on site which offers light lunches and cakes.

Fees for this outing, to include coach travel, drivers tip, entry to 2 venues and tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival at Hardy's Nursery, are:

Hardy's Nursery + Laverstoke Mill	£37.40
Hardy's Nursery + Whitchurch Silk Mill	£29.00

This trip is organised by Neal McNamara so please send applications direct to him and for further information Tel. 01444 451825

Friday 12th July – Leonardslee Gardens

Leonardslee has been closed to the public for the last 9 years and now, under new ownership, it is re-opening in March this year. For those who knew it in the past this will be a long-awaited opportunity to see how the garden has been restored and developed. For those who have never had the chance to see it, this is a beautiful 200 acre estate. It is a Grade I listed garden with wonderful planting, lakes, a rock garden and plenty of wildlife. There is a new café, a gift and farm shop and a Vineyard. As this is a local garden, people are welcome to drive themselves and, if possible, offer lifts to others. However, I am happy to organise a minibus or small coach if there is the demand with the cost being dependent on numbers. The entry fee will be **£9.50**.

Thursday 8th August – Colwood House, Cuckfield Road, Warninglid

We are being offered an exclusive visit to this lovely private garden with proceeds going to local charities. This is a 12 acre garden with so much to see: mature and specimen trees, a formal parterre, rose and herb gardens, a huge terrace and herbaceous border. There is a cut turf labyrinth, forsythia tunnel, water features, statues, a lake with a temple on a small island the list goes on! The pathways are gravel and there are some slopes but generally access is good and by the time we have fully explored, we will be ready for our tea and cake.

There is parking for up to 14 cars and roadside parking in the village, but we will try and arrange shared lifts to minimise the number of vehicles.

Fee is £10 to include refreshments with all profits going to charity.

Thursday 5th September – Wisley Gardens and Flower Show

There has been huge investment in Wisley over the last couple of years. A new Welcome Centre opens this spring to include a shop, plant centre and new restaurant in what is being described as a world class building. A National Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning is being developed which will open up the scientific work that Wisely undertakes, to the general public. So we will be seeing a new face to this great garden. We are visiting when the RHS Flower Show will be running. This gives us the chance to explore all the delights of Wisley and visit the huge number of nursery and garden products stands, the National Dahlia Society Annual Show and exhibitions of Floral Artwork. This is going to be a full day!

As our Society is affiliated to the RHS, we get free entry so the fee for this outing, to include the coach travel and drivers tip, will be **£14.75**.

Application Procedure

1. Application forms can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please complete the specific form and send a separate cheque for each outing
2. I will acknowledge receipt of your application if you are able to include an email address. If this is not possible, I will bring a list to each of the evening talks.
3. Cheques will not be banked until it is certain that an outing is viable.
4. Tickets are initially only open to members of Lindfield Horticultural Society (LHS). If you have friends or family who would like to come on one or more of the outings, you are welcome to enclose a note giving me their names and I will put them on a waiting list for spare tickets.
5. This year I will send out 'virtual' tickets by email if you have provided an email address. If not, I will post tickets to you providing you enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your application. If no envelope is provided, you can collect your ticket from me at any of the LHS events or from my house.
6. Tickets will show the departure and approximate return times. Coach pick up point is always the bus stop by the Lindfield Greengrocers.
7. Ticket price covers the coach travel, the driver's tip and entry to the venues. Unless stated nothing else is included.
8. If you have purchased a ticket based on your membership of the National Trust, RHS, HHA, Kew, Wakehurst or any other organisation, you must have your valid membership card with you on the day. If not, you may be liable to pay the full entrance fee.
9. Once your application has been received and acknowledged, if you then cancel, your fee is non-refundable unless we are able to resell your ticket.

Any problems, queries or comments do please contact me on 01444 483229 or rose.mortenson@gmail.com