

Chelmsford & District NT Supporter Group



in support of **National
Trust**

No 98
Spring 2024

Newsletter

CONTENTS	PAGE
Dates for your diary	1
Evening meetings	1
AGM notice	2
List and date of Outings	2
Chairman's Report	2-3
Alan Arnot	3
Reports on evening meetings to date	4-6
Report on the October outing	6-7
Long Arm of the Lore!	7-8
Details of this year's outings	9-12
Group Holiday outline information	12
Booking form – sent separately	

Dates for your diary

WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 7:45pm

Warley Place - Ellen Willmott's Garden

Talk by Thelma Wilson and Olive Baldwin

Thelma and Olive are known for their knitted goods and they will be talking to us instead on this occasion with their usual enthusiasm.

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 7:45pm

AGM and The Bryan Saunders Collection of woodcarving tools and items he made now at Coggeshall Grange Barn (NT)

By Liz Hartley and Kay Bright

The speakers are volunteers at Paycocks and Kay is also a guide at Paycocks (NT).

WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 7:45pm

Dissolution of the Monasteries – what happened to all those household effects, fixtures, fittings and materials?

Talk by Ken Crowe

Ken Crowe has spoken to us before on several occasions and is from the Southend-on-Sea Museum Service. He is the author of 'Southend-on-Sea, Then & Now' and other books.

The Venue for our meetings from now on will be at Trinity Methodist Church, 46, Rainsford Road, CM1 2XB (opposite the County Hotel). The Meeting starts at the usual time of 7.45pm

C&D NT SG AGM 2024

**AGENDA for the AGM
on Wednesday 13th March at 7:45pm**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the last AGM 9th March 2023 & approval
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 C&G NT SG funding of NT projects
- 7 Election of Chairman
- 8 Election of Committee
- 9 Election of Honorary Examiner of Accounts
- 10 AOB

The paper work associated with the AGM (minuties of last AGM, accounts etc) will be displayed on the screen to save paper

Please regard this notice as giving the official notification of the AGM

The outing dates and places are as follows – see P9 on for more details and the last page for the booking form.

Wednesday 24 th April	Abingdon & Kelmscott Manor
Wednesday 19 th June	At Mary's Bramber & Brighton
Monday 22 nd July	Elton Hall & Peterborough
Friday 9 th August	Mannington Hall
Monday 21 st October	Basildon Park & Henley on Thames

Chairman's Report

All the autumn talks went well. Please see the reports on pages 4 to 6 - Thanks to Janet and Paul Chaplin for the mince pies at the December meeting!

The Chelmsford Cathedral Christmas Market stalls raised £1,540. A real team effort and thanks for everyone's contribution and it was good to see a number of members visiting the tables. Special thanks to Olive Baldwin and Thelma Wilson for their knitted goods and Laurie Boyal for the preserves.

Maurice Austin (MA) has managed our funds and choices for the East of England wish list, and our contributions have been sent to NT National Office at Heelis. Several NT staff have sent appreciative e-mails of 'thanks' which MA has circulated to the committee.

David Simmonds, our past President – continues as a volunteer at Hatfield Forest and also gives talks which raise money for the NT. He will be speaking to Galleywood Horticultural Society at 7:30pm on 22nd February at The Keene Hall Galleywood on 'The Coast of Essex' non-members welcome. On Friday evening 13th September 2024. He will be speaking about Hatfield Forest. to the Wilderness Foundation meeting at the Essex Young Farmers Centre at Whitbread's Barn Chatham Green CM3 3LQ

I have circulated e-mails received around the Christmas period from Midlands & East of England NT staffs' newsletter about NT projects and activities including a video by NT Director General Hilary McGrady. Please contact me if you would like to see these.

Several committee members read the NT AGM notes and reports, prospective candidate's profiles and voted, and later watched some of the AGM.

Most of you will have received the 2024 handbook and I am glad to see on P20 a piece about joining Supporter Groups in England and Wales.

I attended on behalf of C&D NT SG the Excursions Exhibition at Wembley Football Stadium for information about future trips and holidays from the various stands and collected a number of useful brochures and ideas. I enjoyed, with others, a conducted tour of the dressing rooms, many photographs and walk to the pitch side and viewed the interior of the stadium.

Please look at our up-to-date website and as webmaster Keith Otter is retiring, we need a new volunteer(s) as webmaster. www.ChelmsfordNTgroup.org.uk

We are all very sorry to hear of the death of Alan Arnot former Treasurer and active member of C&D NT SG and the support he gave to his wife Jackie during her decade as Chairman, now our President. He was also a former Chelmsford Mayor, Chair of City Twinning, Member of Chelmsford Civic Society and of Chelmsford u3a.

Chris Bellamy – you can contact me at Chairman@chelmsfordntgroup.org.uk

Our former Treasurer Alan (Al) Arnot sadly died on 3rd January, after over 12 years of Prostate Cancer treatment. But this wonderful lease of life should encourage any men to have their symptoms checked. He was able to enjoy those extra years with his family all his friends in the various groups to which he belonged, especially the National Trust meetings, outings and holidays which we enjoyed together.

He appreciated your company!

God Bless

Jackie

Visit our web site at WWW.ChelmsfordNTgroup.org.uk for up-to-date information on evening lectures and outings.

Reports on Evening Meetings to date by Shirley Deering

Meeting report 11th October 2023

Our new season of evening meetings began on Wednesday, 11th October, with a talk by our old friend, Tony Tuckwell, entitled “Three Men Without a Boat”. Beautifully illustrated with his own stunning photographs, Tony gave a detailed account of how he and two friends (both called Mike) had walked the 184 miles of the Thames-side footpaths during 2007 to 2009.



Tony and his friends walked to, and through London. Tony was a mine of information about every town and village they passed through. Everyone had some royal, historical or literary association. Likewise, Tony was just as informative about every bridge, lock and weir. The weirs were originally constructed by monks living in the monasteries bordering the Thames, of which not a trace now remains.

Some of the bridges Tony showed us are works of art in themselves, others are feats of engineering, but very few combine the two qualities! At Datchet the bridge built in 1927 replaced one designed by Prince Albert, while bridges built by Brunel and Wren still survive. Some famous landmarks from a different perspective included Eton College and Tate Modern, and Tony found the view of Windsor Castle particularly impressive. There are many fine houses near the Thames, some once lived in by famous or infamous people. One was once a favourite venue for successive Princes of Wales, for entertaining their respective mistresses. A house at Mapledurham claims to have been the inspiration for Toad Hall, but, as two other residences make the same claim, who knows! A very interesting and entertaining evening, made extra special by Tony’s impressive knowledge of history.

Meeting report 8th November 2023



On the evening of 8th November members were delighted to welcome speaker Chris Parkinson for a return visit. Chris last spoke to the Group on 12th December 2012, when his talk had a Christmas theme of stained- glass windows in Essex depicting nativity scenes. This evening his talk was on the development of stained glass from the twelfth century to the present day, with an emphasis on Essex churches, particularly those in and around Chelmsford.

Chris told us that “stained glass” is not an accurate title in many cases, and many church windows are of painted glass. He explained the different techniques involved and how a variety of colours were produced. Features in a scene would be outlined in black paint, then the picture filled in with colour. Much medieval glass appears to be brown as the paint has absorbed corrosion from metal around the window. A yellow stain was invented when it was found that silver on glass turned yellow when heated to a high temperature in a kiln.

Not a lot happened between eleven hundred and fourteen hundred. In the fifteenth century church windows started getting bigger, a trend which continued into the next century, with churches wanting more light. By the second half of that century much coloured glass was being produced by an enamelling process. There are many examples of this in Essex churches, much of it having been imported from the continent.

By now the reformation had taken hold and the administration of church life was no longer under monastic control. The turmoil following the English Civil War also brought change in church life. Again, a long period when nothing really happened. In the nineteenth century came the Gothic revival, with artists like Pugin and Edward Burne-Jones designing windows. Modern windows are unlikely to portray religious images, they are more likely to commemorate the military or industrial history of the area, with pictures of aircraft and coal mines. Chris Bellamy thanked Chris Parkinson for his detailed and beautifully illustrated journey through the history of stained glass windows in Essex churches.

Meeting report 13th December 2023

On the evening of 13th December members welcomed old friend Charlie Haylock for his fourth visit as a speaker. Charlie called his talk 'An Eccentric Look at East Anglia' and, as befitted the Christmas Season, was a light-hearted look at the speech and customs of the people of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.



Charlie began with a brief history of the invasion and conquest of this region by the Angles and Saxons, from across the North Sea, producing a unique racial mix.

He went on to entertain his audience with a mixture of "shaggy dog" stories, jokes and comical verse, the latter calling for a large amount of audience participation. Of course, it took several attempts before Charlie was satisfied with the level of the sound! To start with, Charlie explained that outsiders just don't understand East Anglian Phraseology and gave two examples of this.

Man walked out of pub leaving his cap on the table at which he'd been sitting. Half a minute later he returned and picked it up. Non-native customer said "Oh, you forgot your cap". "No, I remembered it", said native customer. Man in Writtle asks local "What's the quickest way to get to Chelmsford?" "Are you walking or going by car?" asks local. "By car" replies visitor. "That's the quickest way", says local.

One of Charlie's comic verses involved the genius of a man who could repair anything "with a bit of binder string". Members soon joined in calling out this line at the end of each verse. Similar treatment was accorded to the verses about a man from East Anglia who visited various countries on the Continent and was offered a local dish, such as paella, in each country, but all he wanted was "a nice cup of tea."

Charlie made the point that country people don't travel well but any "townie" who thinks they are slow and stupid and can be taken advantage of will soon find he is the one looking silly. A happy evening, ending with an expression of peace and goodwill to all mankind.

Meeting report Wednesday, 10th January 2023

The evening of 10th January was another "home grown" event, with the speaker being our own Vice Chairman, Paul Chaplin. The title of Paul's talk was the Industrial Revolution, the first 150 years. It came as a slight surprise that Paul talked about the period 1650 to 1800, more of us would have viewed 1650 as at least a hundred years before the start of the phenomenon that came to be called the Industrial Revolution, but Paul made it plain that he



saw the seventeenth century as a pre-dawn for what followed. That century had been a time of great change, incurring political, religious and social turmoil. We had executed the King, endured thirteen years as a republic, only to decide we wanted to be a monarchy after all. But there were great changes in thinking, with scientists like Isaac Newton, making new discoveries every day. More and more of the thoughts of inventors turned to making machines that could do repetitive jobs and undertake heavy labour. Early experiments had shown that the power of steam, if properly contained and regulated, had great potential for powering machinery, but how to produce it in

large enough quantities?

There is no doubt that coal literally fuelled the Industrial Revolution. Wood was too useful and expensive to use in the furnaces need to heat the vast cylinders of water that produced steam to run, for instance, the machinery in cotton mills. The answer was to mine the huge underground resource of coal.

One of the big problems with mines is that they are subject to flooding and many inventors tried hard to design a pump that would clear a mine of water, but their efforts were only partially successful. It was a man called Thomas Newcomen who finally produced an efficient design and soon his pumps were being used in mines all over the country and in other parts of the world.

Another necessity for this new era was a good supply of iron, and using coke in iron production was a brilliant innovation by British engineers. Having invented all this big, heavy machinery, our highly skilled and resourceful inventors had to find a way of installing it in mines, factories and so on. This too, they solved, so changing society for ever.

PS - Boulton and Watt improved the Newcomen engine and created a monopoly by suing anybody who they considered infringed their patents. In 1800 the Boulton and Watt patents expired and steam engine development then leapt ahead hence my cut off date of 1800. Paul

Report on the Autumn Outing 25th October 2023

Weatherwise the last outing of our summer programme got off to a damp and dismal start, though we were rewarded with weak sunshine later. Delighted to see our driver was our old friend Marc, we were soon on our way to our first destination of the day, Eastbury Manor, in Barking.

Arriving early, we were warmly welcomed by the Elliot sisters, Barbara and Pat, whom we had met when they came to talk to us about



Eastbury Manor on the 6th April, 2022. We started with a tour of the outside, then we went indoors, where our party was divided into two groups for a tour of the house, one led by Barbara, the other by Pat. However, there was plenty of swopping about and lively interaction.

Built in 1560, Eastbury Manor is a perfect example of a Tudor gentleman's country retreat. Little is known about the first owner, Clement Sysley, but it is thought he was something in the legal profession. Whatever it may

have been it must have provided Clement with a handsome salary, enabling him to erect a brick-built manor, with the latest design in windows and chimneys.

Over the years Eastbury Manor underwent many changes, both of ownership and use. In the nineteenth century it was rented out to tenant farmers, part being used as a residence, the rest as workshops and storage. By 1900 it was almost derelict and surrounded by urban housing. Amid increasing demands for its demolition Eastbury was saved by the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, then purchased by the National Trust in 1918.



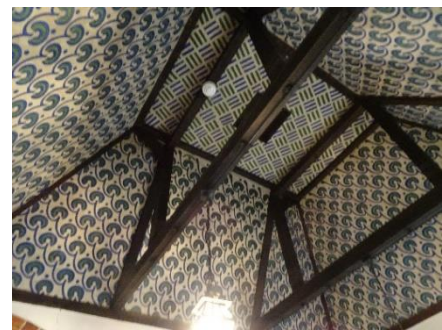
Eastbury Manor is not a house which offers collections of antique furniture, famous paintings or rare ceramics, it has no association with any famous person or historic events, but is valued for its architecture and a surviving example of what would have been the perfect country seat for a gentleman of means.

Leaving Barking at 1pm, we made good time to Bexley Heath and our second destination of the day, The Red House. The house is a “must visit” destination for lovers of the Arts and Crafts Movement.



Built in 1859. It is the only property that William Morris ever actually owned, otherwise living in rented accommodation. William dreamed of making The Red House a centre for the Arts and Crafts Movement, a place where he and his friends in the world of art could live and work together. Sadly, for William Morris, things did not work out as he had hoped and he lived at The Red House for only five years, before returning to Walthamstow, in London. The property is not large – William Morris’ hopes and

dreams had included extending it, and does not include much Morris memorabilia. There is some painted glass in the windows, a few items of furniture and two rooms are papered with reproductions of Morris designs.



Like Eastbury Manor, The Red House was built in what was then a remote, attractive rural location, sadly both are now hemmed in by urban sprawl and quite difficult to access.

Thanks again to Paul, ably assisted by Chris, for all the hard work of planning, organising and receiving these excursions.

Report by Shirley Deering

Long Arm of the Lore!

Never ridicule the past, it might catch up on you!

Alec looked grim as he ushered his brother-in-law into the lounge.

“Graham, I’m going to ask you outright. Are you having an affair?”

Graham looked startled and horrified.

“What? Surely you don’t think I’m cheating on Ruth?”

"I've seen you a couple of times with a very attractive young lady who I did not recognise. Other people have mentioned the same thing.

"I admit I've taken a colleague out to lunch. She is being of immense help to me with a very tricky project I'm working on. I've wanted to discuss certain points away from the office and where we would not be interrupted. That's all our meetings have been, just for business."

"That's not how it looked to me, or to the other people."

"Sorry Graham, you and the 'other people' are putting the wrong connotation on a perfectly innocent situation. I give you my solemn oath I would never be unfaithful to your sister."

"I am delighted to hear it, but, may I suggest that in future you hold your, er, business meetings within the confines of the office."

"Point taken.

Now, let me ask you a question. What is that wooden monstrosity I see standing inside the patio door? Is it meant to be some kind of animal?"

"Yes, it's a crouching cat, about to pounce on its prey. The Haredale Estate is coming up for auction soon. I went to the house sale last week, hoping to buy a small antique for my daughter's eighteenth birthday present, but the house contents were very disappointing. Then I spotted this carved figure and was so intrigued by the story behind it I decided to buy it for myself. Do rather regret it now!"

"Not surprised. Tell me the remarkable tale behind this travesty of art and nature."

"Well, it seems that, in the late eighteenth century, the then Lord Haredale was plagued by a series of cattle thefts from his estate. He blamed a traveller family, encamped in a nearby wood, and, on very little evidence, had the father and adult son put in prison, to await the next sitting of the Assize Court. When they were finally brought to trial they were found guilty, mainly on the strength of sworn testimony given by his Lordship's game keeper, and duly hanged. Of course, the wife and mother protested they were innocent and accused the game keeper of being the leader of the gang of thieves – naturally no-one listened.

The father of the traveller family had a younger son who had some skill as a wood carver. She instructed him to carve the effigy of a crouching cat and put it outside the gate of Haredale Hall. Then she put an Ancient Curse on the figure, to the effect that anyone touching it, who had given false testimony, would suffer a withered arm.

His Lordship was very angry when he heard about it and ordered his game keeper to remove the effigy and burn it. So, taking a horse and cart and one of the garden boys to help him, the gamekeeper went to the gate. The boy took one end of the carving, the game keeper reached out to take the other end, but, as soon as his hand touched it, his arm fell to his side, limp and useless, all the sinews and tendons withered.

The terrified boy ran back to the Hall, shouting for help. Some of the servants hurried to the gate and took the gamekeeper to his Lordship, where he made a full confession of his crimes. Lord Haredale had him thrown into jail, where he caught a fever and died a week later. Also, he said the figure must remain in place, and anyone who touched it did so at his own peril.

Graham burst out laughing.

"What a ridiculous yarn! Probably the gamekeeper already had something wrong with his arm, he strained it more trying to lift the carving and the rest was psychological, knowing his guilt.

Alec, you should carry out the original instruction and burn this thing."

Graham stood up and crossed the room to stand by the figure.

"Yes, puss. Its time you were cremated" he said, stretching out a hand to stroke one of its misshapen ears.

As his hand touched the surface his arm fell to his side, limp, shrivelled and useless.

Story by Shirley Deering

This year's outings

Wednesday 24th April

Abingdon on Thames has a claim to being the oldest town in England. There was a neolithic settlement here and archaeological evidence of the town developing on this site for over 1,000 years. Only Celtic settlements in Scotland and Wales are more ancient than Abingdon. It is a delight to visit as there is a wealth of architecture, historical treasures, shopping and the beautiful Thames River for members to explore in time available.

Kelmscott Manor is a limestone manor house, Grade I listed, which dates from around 1570. In 1871 it attracted the attention of William Morris, who took the Manor on a joint 3-year lease with artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who lived there until leaving in 1874. Morris stayed, 'loving it deeply'. The place inspired designs such as Strawberry Thief, his writings, and informed his thinking about society, ecology and building conservation. Today it is owned and run by the Society of Antiquaries of London. Having had a major refurbishment, it is now open to visitors. The Manor House and adjoining farm buildings are unspoilt and in harmony with the surrounding countryside. The interiors offer a wealth of William Morris designs, and the gardens are delightful. Morris was delighted by this "loveliest haunt of ancient peace". In the garden there is a relic of the past that some may remember - an outside 3-seater lavatory. One wonders what topics of conversation were used to pass the time. Not in use today, thankfully!

Guide Price: £54.00 including tour & cream tea

PS Note the theme of William Morris – our last trip in 2023 and our first in 2024.

Wednesday 19th June

St Marys Bramber is an enchanting Medieval timber framed house in the pretty downland village of Bramber, with fine panelled interiors, and five acres of beautiful gardens. The origins go back to the days of the Knights Templar. The present building was constructed in about 1470 by William of Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester, and founder of Magdalen College, Oxford. It was an Inn for pilgrims on the way to the tomb of St Thomas of Canterbury. One owner of note was the Hon. Algernon Bourke who, with his beautiful wife Gwendolene, were the originals for the characters in Oscar Wilde's famous play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In 1946, author and composer Peter Thorogood, and Landscape gardener Roger Linton, purchased St Mary's and embarked on a long programme of restoration of this lovely old house, making it an attraction for visitors and tourists for educational purposes, and added their collection of books, manuscripts, ceramics and furniture.

The Victorian gardens still have their original potting sheds and apple store, a 140ft 'fruit wall', a stove house with heated pits for pineapples. Paddocks, and lovely woodland walks. A Rose-garden was established in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. Two large herbaceous borders were designed and planted by students from Brinsbury College. St Mary's has been included in Sir Simon Jenkin's acclaimed publication, "England's Thousand Best Houses", and is described as a 'shrine to the Medieval in Sussex'. Today the work of restoration, conservation and enhancement is ongoing, with about 40 people currently involved to help make sure that the property is maintained as a special building for the public benefit.

Brighton is a seaside resort in the county of East Sussex. Archaeological evidence of settlement in the area dates back to the Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. In the Georgian era it developed as a highly fashionable seaside resort, encouraged by King George IV, who had the Royal Pavilion constructed in the Regency period. Brighton's location has made it a popular destination for tourists, and is renowned for its diverse communities,

shopping areas, and the large vibrant music and arts scene. Having a large LGBT population, it is recognised as the “unofficial” gay capital of the UK!

Guide Price: £36.00

Monday 22nd July

Elton Hall is a Baronial Hall in Elton, Cambridgeshire. It has been the ancestral home of the Proby family since 1660. The Hall lies in a 3,000-acre estate through which the river Nene runs. The building is Grade I listed, and is enchanting, romantic and magical with its Gothic south elevation set at right angles to the classical, French inspired, entrance wing. Successive generations have embellished both the house and collections, which contains many pictures by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Romney, JF Lewis, Landseer, Millais and Constable. The house contains fine French furniture and one of the best libraries in private hands.

There is a Chapel, which is part of the Under-croft, a Marble Hall and main Staircase, a Yellow Drawing Room, an Octagonal Room, a further Drawing Room and a Dining Room. All the interiors are beautifully decorated and furnished.

The Garden was the Historic Houses and Garden of the Year Judges’ Choice Award winner in 2021. The gardens you see today are the work of Meredyth Proby who spent the last 40 years re-designing and re-planting them. They provide a stunning back-drop to the House and contain many unusual plants and shrubs. The Orangery Garden and Orangery were created to celebrate the Millenium.

Peterborough is well known for its historic Cathedral, which is considered to be one of the finest Norman Cathedrals in the UK and Europe. It was established as a Monastery in 654 AD and is famous for being the resting place of Catherine of Aragon. There is a Museum and Art Gallery in the City, as well as Queen’s Gate Shopping Centre, and City Market.

Guide Price: £43.50

Friday 9th August

Mannington Hall Originally built around 1460, this Gothic knapped flint structure, surrounded by a moat, proudly displays its motif chimneys and south-facing turrets. It was sold to Horatio Walpole, the first Lord Walpole, in the middle of the 18th century. Horatio was the diplomat brother of Sir Robert Walpole, known as our first Prime Minister, and the Hall is still a Walpole family home today. This moated medieval structure is shielded by wild woodland and sloping pastures and sits in a valley of Ancient Coppice woods. The streams, lakes and water meadows are full of wild flowers, and are rich in wildlife. There are Hunting Barn Owls, harvest mice, many species of plant and abundant butterflies, as well as kingfishers and otters in the area. In the Chapel Garden Victorian follies surround the ancient ruins of Mannington Church. There is a sensory garden with a water feature and plants selected for touch, scent and colour. We will be given a conducted tour of the Hall and time to look round the garden.

Guide Price: £29.50

Monday 21st October

Basildon Park. To say that this Estate has had a chequered history in the past is something of an understatement! It only survives because of the determination and munificence of Lord and Lady Iliffe. It was designed by John Carr of York, and was built between 1776 and 1783

for Francis Sykes who made a fortune in service with the East India Company. It is built of Bath Stone, with a rusticated ground floor, and a piano nobile floor above, which has large, tall windows to denote the importance of the rooms. Since then, it has passed through numerous owner's hands, and been used for many different purposes, such as a convalescent home in WWI, as a billet for troops during WWII, and a training ground for tank and ground warfare. A Caretaker even stole lead from the roof!

Many of its original fixtures and fittings were sold. The Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York, contains the original Fireplace, Mirrors and Ceiling paintings from the Dining Room at Basildon Park! Gradually, however, the mansion has recovered its previous elegance due to the devoted attention given to it by Lord and Lady Iliffe. They breathed new life into the once neglected mansion by redecorating the interiors, resourcing furniture, paintings and art work. There is a richly decorated Neo-classical Hall where the plasterwork panels and ceiling are all original, as are the heavy mahogany doors. The spectacular Staircase Hall is lit by a clerestory, and the cantilevered stairs lead up to an arched first floor gallery. There is an Octagonal-drawing Room with a heavy Italianate ceiling, and a Shell Room created by Lady Iliffe.

There is a particularly magnificent State Bed (c1829) with its original crimson damask hangings, window curtains and a suite of furniture bought at the sale of Ashburnham Place in 1953. There are many paintings and decorative pieces of glass and porcelain, a settee 'attributed' to Thomas Chippendale, and a particularly interesting display of Drawings by Sutherland for his Coventry Cathedral tapestry. All this that you can see today is the result of their dedication to the restoration of this lovely building.

In 1978 the Iliffe's gave the House and Park, with a large endowment for its up-keep, to the National Trust, enabling the House to be opened to the public, giving an insight to the interior of a grand House during both the 18th and 19th centuries, and a rare view of how such houses can be adapted to suit a more modern life-style. It was their wish that "the National Trust will protect it, and its Park, for future generations to enjoy". (It was used as the location for Netherfield Park in the film of Pride and Prejudice in 2005).

Guide Price: £28.50

Thanks to Pat Tate for the research and write up for each of the outings.

Outing Conditions: Please read the following conditions carefully.

Booking Lists will open on a first-come, first-served basis after the posting/sending out via e-mail of this newsletter.

Please send the following to Paul Chaplin, 11 Mace Walk, Chelmsford, CM1 2GE:

- a stamped addressed envelope for **each** outing or send the deposit(s) plus the cost of second-class stamp(s) per outing by bank transfer
- Complete and return the form on the last page by post or by e-mail
- a cheque payable to 'Chelmsford & District National Trust No 2 A/C' to cover the **deposit of £5.00 per person for each outing (One cheque for all outings please) or bank transfer**

At the time of going to press we have not been on all the recce's. Prices may change slightly if we spot an opportunity, we think you shouldn't miss! Prices quoted are for a senior citizen rate including hire of coach, drivers' tip, entrance fee(s) and at this stage, the deposit. **Coaches**

leave from outside the Civic Theatre, Fairfield Road, usually at 8:30am. To check your place, please e-mail or telephone Paul on 01245 260113.

Refunds of deposits will normally only be made if we cannot offer you a place. For later cancellations, deposits will be refunded only if we can fill the place. Refunds of pre-paid tickets can only be made if we are able to fill the place. All refunds will be paid **at the end of the season** in order to minimise the number of transactions needed. **Normally £5.00 or less will not be refunded.** Booking slips will be sent out about three to four weeks before the date of the outing. Everyone else will be on the Reserve List and will be contacted in turn, either to be offered a place or be informed that there will not be room.

Remember:

- To put the dates in your diary, especially the time of departure
- To put the details in a safe place
- That the wearing of seat belts is now compulsory in this country
- Some locations have uneven surfaces
- It is better to wear 'sensible' shoes for comfort and to avoid damaging floors
- Don't be afraid to ask about use of lifts and wheelchairs/buggies

We undertake only to make arrangements for the visits – and we cannot take responsibility for any mishap or loss connected with them. If you wish to see the cover provided by the National Trust's insurance policies, please e-mail Paul Chaplin. **Please note: Non NT members are not covered by the Trust's insurance policy and are responsible for their own insurance cover.** All trips will be on luxury coaches, usually with a toilet on board.



We hope you enjoy this year's selection.

(Please complete the booking form on the last page)

Supporter Group Holiday – Centred on Liverpool From Monday 2nd September to Friday 6th September 2024

The suggested itinerary is below

Monday	Visit Tatton Park
Tuesday	Day in Liverpool – Visit both Cathedrals and Hardman's House
Wednesday	Sefton Park and Speake Hall
Thursday	Second day in the City – river trip and museums and possibly The Beatles' Childhood Homes.
Friday	Visit Dunham Massey on way home

Please see booking form on last page to request an information pack. Each pack will be numbered in order of request and will be issued on a first come basis. We will need a **minimum of twenty-five people** for the holiday to run. **The cost of the holiday is £570 per person and single room supplement is £139.** The cost of the holiday includes the entrance fees to all the places we visit. We will be staying very close to the waterfront in Liverpool After carrying out a recce the itinerary may change slightly. This year Kings Coaches are no longer handling the insurance as this was becoming an administrative burden. It is up to you to make your own arrangements. The itinerary is indicative and will be developed further if we have sufficient numbers.