

OAK LEAVES

*The Magazine of the
Mid-Warwickshire Association*

Autumn 2011



No. 78

in support of **National
Trust**



THE FLEECE INN
(See page 5)

THE NATIONAL TRUST
MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

A Voluntary Association of
National Trust Members

PRESIDENT
Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy

VICE PRESIDENT
Graham E. Cooper

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: P.M.Dent

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

B.V.Mash; M.Mears; R.Nabbs; C.Nelson; G.White.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Members who attended our AGM last November will be aware that a number of changes have taken place in our Management Committee, several committee members have been unable to continue, although we were pleased to welcome a new member, Clive Nelson, earlier this year. We still have room for one or two new members, and hope that there may be some nominations at our AGM in November. It is not a particularly onerous commitment, with just four meetings a year, each lasting no more than two hours.

Our current committee has worked hard this year, and have all volunteered to assist in such matters as organising outings, this is part of our programme for our members, and we feel it is an essential part as all the excursions continue to be well supported, necessitating a second trip, or second coach in some cases. Graham White, who was our Excursions Secretary, has brought his invaluable expertise to help where needed, and several trips have been planned for 2012, details are on pages 14 and 15.

Our membership is being maintained, thanks to the efforts of our Membership Secretary, Valerie Grimmer, and David Gilmore who makes contact with new National Trust members.. It was with regret that we received his resignation from Peter Waring, who has been in charge of the computer listings, and this job has been taken over by Archie Pitts, we are grateful for his interest in this. Margaret Pope, who has been a committee member and a great support over many years, also resigned due to ill health, our thanks go to her and our best wishes for the future.

We have been able to donate to various projects of the National Trust, which is, of course, the main reason for our existence, and visitors to Packwood are able to enjoy sitting in the picnic area, under the sun umbrellas which our donation purchased. A further donation has gone to Baddesley Clinton, and is to be used for new curtains in Henry Ferrers' bedroom, we will be told in due course when these are ready.

Next year, 2012, sees the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Mid-Warwickshire Association, and we hope to have some celebrations to offer you. More details in the next issue of "Oak Leaves".

We would be pleased to welcome other members onto the Management Committee, particularly those who feel they are able to offer talents to fill the gaps left by our changes. Please contact me or other committee members for more information.

We look forward to your continuing support.

Patricia M. Dent

VILLAGE WALK

WOOTTON WAWEN

(by own transport)

On Saturday 10th September 2011

Meet at St Peter's Church at 2.30pm

Wootton Wawen has an interesting Church, with the only Saxon work on any scale in Warwickshire, it has memorable architecture and fascinating monuments. Wootton Hall, east of the church is a stone Palladian building of 1687 incorporating a house of an earlier date. The Bull's Head Inn is a picturesque timber-framed building, probably of the 16th century. The making of wooden hurdles was a village craft.

Conducted tour of the church and village,
followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall
(Sandwiches, scones and jam and home-made cakes)

Tickets £7 each

From Miss J. Johnstone

(see booking form)

Please apply by 3rd September and include sae.



MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Invite you to an

ASPARAGUS SUPPER

At the Fleece Inn,

Bretforton, Near Evesham, WR11 7JE

(using own transport)

On THURSDAY 17th MAY 2012

7pm for 7.30

Tickets £15

The Fleece Inn is a half-timbered medieval farmhouse, which originally sheltered a farmer and his stock. The inn was first licensed in 1848. Following a fire several years ago, it has now been restored to its former glory, with witches circles, and precious pewter collection, it has developed a reputation for traditional folk music, morris dancing and asparagus. We shall be eating in the medieval thatched barn.

The menu will consist of home-cooked ham and asparagus, with vegetables, followed by a sweet and tea or coffee. More details will be in our Spring 2012 magazine.

Bookings may, however, be sent in now to secure a place, as numbers are limited.

PLEASE NOTE : This evening is using own transport.

See booking form on separate sheet.

TALKS PROGRAMME 2011-2012

Our meetings are held on Wednesday evenings, normally the first Wednesday of the month in the Avon Hall of the Royal Spa Centre, and start at 7.30pm **Guests are welcome, the admission price for non-members of the Association is £2.50**

WEDNESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2011

ROME AND ITS FOUNTAINS is the subject of Keith Holmes' talk, the fountains of Rome are some of the city's best-loved features. Every day thousands of people stand in wide-eyed amazement at the Trevi, a giant of a fountain situated not in a grand piazza or adjoining a palazzo, but in a tiny square at the junction of three roads – the *tre vie*. Besides Rome's grand historical sights and famous fountains, Keith reveals some hidden gems – fountains tucked away in quiet piazzas, others with a fascinating history and the *nasoni* that slake the Roman thirst to this day.

WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is followed by an interesting and colourful illustrated talk **THE HISTORY OF HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN** by the Head Gardener Glyn Jones. American Lawrence Johnston created this fantasy of garden rooms, rare trees and shrubs, herbaceous borders and unusual plants from around the world.

WEDNESDAY 30th NOVEMBER

Every year we spend time mulling wine, stirring puddings and decorating our homes for Christmas, but just where do all these customs come from? This illustrated talk by Michael Leach on **THE NATURAL HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS** shows how our love of Christmas trees helps to conserve owls. It uncovers the true character of our favourite Christmas bird, the robin, and most interesting of all it reveals just how it might be that reindeer come to fly!

WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 2012

18th and 19th CENTURY LONDON PLEASURE GARDENS were a source of entertainment, Vauxhall and the Ranelagh Gardens provided music and a place for people to meet and walk, eat and drink in the supper boxes decorated with paintings by Hogarth and others. The Prince of Wales went often, and many of the nobility and gentry. Other pleasure gardens were opened following their success. Musician and lecturer Helen Lerner shows slides with music to bring these places to life for us.

WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY

BESS OF HARDWICK and HARDWICK HALL Dr Gillian White will tell us Bess's own story in the first part of this talk, and Hardwick Hall in the second part. Bess of Hardwick is one of the most fascinating women of the 16th century. Four times married, she became wealthier with each husband and climbed the social ladder to become England's premier countess. A friend of Elizabeth I, sometime gaoler to Mary Queen of Scots, and grandmother to a potential queen, Bess moved in and out of the pages of Elizabethan history.

WEDNESDAY 7th MARCH

Peter Preece came to us at short notice in 2006, when our speaker was taken ill. We so enjoyed his presentation that we asked him back to give another of his natural history talks. **EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY** looks at the lifestyles of herons and kingfishers, rare mitten crabs and other wildlife in Britain and Europe.

WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL

Elizabeth Horton tells us about **THE AGE OF ADORNMENT**, which covers the history of jewellery in all its many forms, materials, styles and uses, from precious gems to the humble beechnut, via all the products of the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter: pique, silver, pinchbeck and much more. The Horton Collection of 19th century jewellery, the most comprehensive in private hands, was relocated to the Rochester Museum, Kent, in 1996, and the most popular items are now shown in this illustrated talk.

WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY

To celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee next month, we are pleased to welcome Dr Barry Twigg. The overwhelming majority of people in the United Kingdom not only believe that the current Monarch has carried out her duties in a most outstanding way over an extraordinary sixty-year reign, but also believe that the monarchy remains relevant to the nation and to the other countries of which the Queen is Head of State, and to the Commonwealth now and in the future.

The Monarchy as an institution has been changing and modernising throughout the Queen's reign. **SIXTY YEARS OF MARVELLOUS MODERN MONARCHY** – not only refers to the magnificent model of a constitutional monarch which we have, but also to the ways in which the Monarchy has been developing over the years. It also looks towards the future. It also makes reference to the very small but vociferous republican movement in this country and counters the arguments which they put forward.

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.....

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Renewal of membership is due on 1st September. It would be appreciated if members could renew before the first meeting of the new season in October. This would save you time queueing in the foyer. Membership is £10. If you are paying at our October meeting, we would request that you fill in the subscription form with your full details, including your National Trust number. When renewing by post would you please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for us to send your new membership card. Membership application forms should be in this magazine, if yours is missing please contact the Membership secretary.

DONATIONS.....

Mid-Warwickshire Association has donated £3,000 this year, divided between Packwood House, where we purchased four sun umbrellas for the tables in the picnic area, (see picture) and Baddesley Clinton, where our donation will provide new curtains for Henry Ferrers' Bedroom - hopefully these will be installed before the next (Spring 2012) issue of our magazine.



OUR WEBSITE.....

Is now in operation, but reaching the information is not as simple as we would like! We have been promised a simpler and more user-friendly address (soon!)

Meanwhile to contact it please go to the following -

www.nationaltrust.org.uk , then click onto "local to you", "west midlands", "supporter groups", "mid-warwickshire association" when you may finally arrive at "Mid Warwickshire Association events" Good luck!

Please detach these four pages and bring to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE NATIONAL TRUST

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

From the Honorary Secretary, 57 Almond Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 6QD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2011 at 7.30pm

You are invited to attend the Thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, which will be held on Wednesday 2nd November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Avon Hall of the Royal Spa Centre, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa CV32 4HN.

You are requested to submit nominations for next year's officials; the nominations should be lodged with me no later than 21st October 2011 on a separate sheet of paper, giving all necessary information – i.e. Name of Nominee; Name of Proposer; Name of Seconder; Signature of Nominee agreeing to be proposed. Send to Hon. Secretary, 57 Almond Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 6QD.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Yours sincerely,

J. Johnstone (Miss) Hon. Secretary

Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust.

The consent of the member to be nominated must be obtained.

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

WEDNESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2011

AGENDA

1. Opening address from the President
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of AGM held on 1st November 2010 (attached)
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence and Announcements
6. To receive accounts for the year ended 31st August 2011
7. To receive the Management Committee Report for the year ended 31st August 2011 (attached)
8. To elect Officials:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President(s)
 - c) Chairman
 - d) Vice- Chairman
 - e) Honorary Secretary
 - f) Honorary Treasurer
 - g) Membership Secretary
 - h) Programme Secretary
 - i) Excursions Secretary
 - j) Press and Publicity Officer
 - k) Newsletter Editor
 - l) Not more than SIX Committee Members
9. To elect an Honorary Financial Examiner
10. Any Other Business: Please inform the Honorary Secretary not later than 21st October 2011 of any item you wish to raise.

Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, held in the Avon Hall, Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, on Monday 1st November 2010

Apologies were received from the President, Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy.

Graham Cooper, the retiring Chairman addressed the meeting. He stated he had held the post since 1979. He paid tribute to everyone on the committee, making special mention of John Labrum and Graham White, who are standing down. He wished the new Chairman, Patricia Dent every success.

Minutes of the Thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting had been circulated. All in favour that they be signed as a correct record. Proposed by Dr J Holiday, seconded by Graham White. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence and Announcements : Letters have been received from Oliver Lane and the Historical Society.

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2010 were presented by the Hon Treasurer Mr John Labrum. The adoption proposed by Mr C.Nelson, seconded by Dr J.Holiday. All in favour.

Annual Report of the Management Committee: This has been circulated.

The Chairman thanked Betty Mash for organising the raffles; Celia and Peter Waring for co-ordinating the walks, both of whom will be standing down, however Peter Waring will continue to act as computer co-ordinator.

Election of Officers: The Management Committee has proposed and seconded the following Officers, who may be announced as elected in accordance with the Association's Constitution.

President- Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy; **Vice President** - Mr Graham E Cooper, proposed by Graham White, seconded by Valerie Grimmer, in view of his loyal and devoted service as Chairman of the Association over so many years. **Chairman**- Mrs Patricia Dent, proposed by John Labrum, seconded by Valerie Grimmer; **Honorary Secretary**- Miss Julia Johnstone; **Honorary Treasurer**- Mrs Marianne Pitts – proposed by John Labrum, seconded by Graham White; **Membership Secretary** – Mrs Valerie Grimmer; **Computer Co-ordinator**-Mr Peter Waring; **Distribution Officer**- Mr Tony Gulliman; **Press and Publicity Officer**- Mr David Gilmore; **Programme Secretary**- Mrs Patricia Dent; Not more than **six committee members**-Mr G.White; Miss B. Mash; Miss M.Mears; Mr R.Nabbs; Miss M.Pope.

To elect the Honorary Inspector of Accounts: Mr Richard Wilsden, proposed by John Labrum, seconded by Graham White.

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Bennett, Property Manager at Charlecote Park, who addressed the meeting on all the events taking place.

Any Other Business. There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

After the interval Sarah Kay talked about "Peeling Back the Layers to reveal what lies beneath at Croome Park".

Management Committee Report 2010-2011

The Management Committee has pleasure in presenting to the Annual General Meeting this the 39th Annual Report, which covers the twelve month period to 31st August 2011.

We were pleased to welcome newcomers to the Committee – Mrs Marianne Pitts, Hon Treasurer, and Mr Clive Nelson.

The Winter Season of talks held at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, were well-attended. The season started off in October with a talk by Dorothy Nicolle about Thomas Telford's Shropshire Legacy. Other talks ranged from Joseph Paxton, the Busiest Man in England, and Imperial Gardens of Japan. We are indebted to Patricia Dent, who always manages to find excellent speakers.

On 11th September members visited the Church at Lower Brailes, followed by afternoon tea provided by the local W.I.

The excursions arranged by different members of the committee were very well supported, on occasions it has been necessary to make more than one visit. The visits have been to Salisbury Cathedral and Mompesson House; Legal London (three times); The National Gallery for the Canaletto Exhibition; Olympic London and Docklands; BBC Television Centre at Shepherds Bush; Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens; and Cheltenham and Stanway House and Water Gardens.

On 19th February a well attended luncheon was held at St Francis Parish Centre in Kenilworth. The guest speaker was Sarah Falkland, talking about her life with the BBC.

A Coffee Morning was held on 7th May at Holy Trinity Church, Beauchamp Avenue, at which guests were entertained by Adrian Moore, the Organist at Holy Trinity.

The raffle remains popular, our thanks go to Betty Mash and her team of helpers.

Membership remains stable. The Committee are indebted to Valerie Grimmer, Tony Gulliman and Peter Waring .

Finally thanks go to David Gilmore for dealing with the Press and Publicity, and to Marianne Pitts for all the work she puts in to dealing with the Association's finances.

We look forward to another successful year ahead when we shall be celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

OUR EXCURSIONS

This last year the excursions have been organised by different volunteers, mainly Committee members, and also other people.

We were pleased to note that support was undiminished, in fact several outings had to be repeated a week later, or two coaches needed to be booked. Our thanks go to each of the individuals who so generously volunteered their time and efforts to organise them and to ensure their success.

Having decided that mid-winter sometimes presented problems with the weather, we started the year's outings in March, with a trip to Olympic London and Docklands, the contrast between old and new was fascinating, and the redevelopment of the area was encouraging to see. The Olympic site was fascinating, although we were too early to enter any of the fine arenas which will be used for competition, it looked very promising. The BBC Television studios at Shepherds Bush were also interesting, although sadly it will also be redeveloped as it is thought it is coming to the end of its useful life, the most interesting part was the news room where an astonishing amount of information is received from every part of the world, and edited and presented in the news bulletins throughout the day – the thinking behind the presentation – as to suitability for the early part of the day, and after the watershed was illuminating. Both of these trips required a second coach to accommodate the many people who wanted to take part.

June's trip to Mottisfont was also well received, the roses were beautiful in spite of the wet weather which preceded our trip. A number of people on the waiting list were disappointed, and we may do it again in a year or so. July saw our third trip to Legal London, and August took us to Cheltenham and Stanway House and Water Gardens. Another fine day and a leisurely trip much enjoyed by all.

Happily, a number of people have again volunteered to organise trips for next year, 2012, and our grateful thanks go to them, and to all of you who give us such welcome support.

PMD

EXCURSIONS 2011-2012

Members will be aware that there are fewer excursions this year, at the moment we are relying on several willing volunteers to organize a few outings and excursions for the coming months. If you feel that you would like to join this select band, and will offer to perhaps organize just one outing during the next year or so, please contact the Chairman, Patricia Dent or other member of the Management Committee, and we will be pleased to discuss the matter with you, and ensure that advice and assistance if required, will be available.

Bookings for trips will be dealt with commencing three weeks after the distribution of this Oak Leaves Magazine, and applications will be acknowledged from this date. If you do not hear from the organizers soon after this, please contact the telephone number on each booking form to check that your application has arrived.

The price of the excursion includes the cost of coach travel, the driver's gratuity, the cost of any talk or guided tour and admission to properties which do not belong to the National Trust.

Please remember to bring your National Trust Membership Card for entry to NT properties As before, all excursions will depart from the Leisure Centre at Newbold Comyn, with a further pick-up five minutes later at Newbold Terrace, opposite the Royal Spa Centre.

If, having paid for your excursion, you need to cancel, we must emphasise that it will be your responsibility to find someone else to take your place. The organizers may be able to assist with names and telephone numbers if there is a waiting list, but this cannot be guaranteed, nor can a refund, particularly if certain tickets have to be ordered and paid for well in advance.

The names of the volunteer organisers are on each booking form, so please make sure you address them correctly, but cheques still must be made out to "MID WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST" and enclosed with your booking form, together with a stamped, addressed envelope.

TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

SHIPTON HALL and STOKESAY CASTLE

This excursion is full, but we are including it as a reminder for those who have booked, and also for those whose names are on the waiting list and who may want to enquire as to the possibility of cancellations.

Organiser: Graham White, 21 Regency House, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV32 4HD

Depart: Newbold Comyn 9am

Cost: £30.50 (including lunch) or

Arrive back: 6.30pm approx.

£26 (inc lunch for members of English Heritage)

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER

THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, OXFORD

Our previous trip to the Museum, in February 2010 was very popular, and a number of people had to be disappointed, so please contact us again if you would like to come this year.

The Ashmolean reopened at the end of 2009 after a considerable refurbishment and the addition of 39 new galleries. The coach will drop us off at the museum about 11.30 am, and will pick us up again at 4.30.

Cont.....

THE ASHMOLEAN Cont.....

This will allow plenty of time for lunch and browsing round the exhibits at your own pace, or possibly visiting some of the other attractions nearby in Oxford.

Lunch may be taken at the Ashmolean Dining Room- the Museum's rooftop restaurant (but we would advise advance booking for this as it was full on the previous occasion (Tel 01865 - 553823) there is also a self-service café in the Museum, and many other eateries in the area. There will also be a "Claude Lorrain: The Enchanted Landscape" special exhibition, at an additional cost of £9,(£7 concessions) and tickets may be purchased on arrival. We have not included it in the price as some may not want to see it. The price does include a donation to the Ashmolean. We shall leave Oxford at 4.30pm.

Organisers: Patricia Dent and Valerie Grimmer, 62 Foxes Way, Warwick, CV34 6AY

Depart: 10am Newbold Comyn

Arrive back 6pm approx

Cost £15

TUESDAY 13th MARCH 2012

THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM of ART, BATH

A visit to Bath is always a delight. Situated in Great Pulteney Street, the Holburne is one of the country's outstanding small museums. Recently extended and refurbished, the museum is now more attractive than ever. It contains the treasures assembled by Sir William Holburne and features a fine collection of English and continental silver, glass and majolica, Renaissance bronzes and paintings by Turner, Guardi and Stubbs as well as many other items. After the museum visit you will have the opportunity to explore this lovely city. Lunch could be taken in the Museum tearoom, one of the many restaurants in the city or as a picnic. If this excursion is over- subscribed, we intend to organize a second visit on Tuesday March 20th provided that there is sufficient demand.

Organiser: Graham White, 21 Regency House, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa CV32 4HD.

Depart: Newbold Comyn 8.30am

Leave Bath: 4.45pm

Arrive: Leamington 7.15pm approx.

Cost £18

THURSDAY 19th APRIL

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM and LICHFIELD

The National Memorial and Arboretum comprises 150 acres of trees and 130 memorials of national significance. It is the site of the moving Armed Forces Memorial which remembers those who have given their lives since the end of World War II. There will be time for coffee, the visitor centre and gift shop as well as the Chapel where there is a service every day at 11am which can be attended if wished. A guided tour of the site is included and lasts 45 minutes. After free time the coach will take us into Lichfield to enjoy the town and cathedral, with time for tea, leaving about 5.15pm

Organisers: Margaret Mears and Margaret Tomlinson, 7 Wootton Court, Leamington Spa CV32 5UU.

Depart: Newbold Comyn 9am

Arrive back: Approx 7pm

Cost £19

NEWS from our local NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

Details are correct as we go to print, but it is advisable to check before making a special journey.

BADDESLEY CLINTON – 01564-783294 - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/baddesleyclinton

Heritage Open Day is on Saturday 10th September, 11am to 5pm

Tuesday 13th September, 9.30am to 4pm – **Artist's Masterclass**. Join artist Dianne Greenway for a class in drawing, inspired by the beautiful moated mansion and garden of Baddesley Clinton. Includes coffee on arrival and a light lunch. £30. Booking essential. A second Artist's Masterclass will be on Tuesday 20th and another on 27th, these with artist Carey Moon for painting in watercolours, Arrangements as before.

Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th October – **Hands on the Past** 11am to 4pm. The living history group shows life in Tudor times. Saturday 22nd October 11am to 5 pm. Join us for the launch of the first **National Trust Walking Festival** which runs from 22nd to 30th October.

There is a range of walks on offer with gentle strolls around the lake, ambles round the estate and more stretching walks across the countryside to nearby Packwood House.

Family Fun Days – Halloween – Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October (excluding Monday 24th) Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities. Child £2 (per trail).

Walking Festival -13mile walk taking in Packwood House, the Grand Union Canal and the Heart of England Way – on Sunday 23rd October £5. Booking essential. **Walking Festival-Wildlife Walk** – Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th October, 11.30 to 12.30pm. **Walking Festival – Teddy Bear Toddle** – Thursday 27th October – 11am to 12.30pm. Bring your favourite teddy for a two mile walk with music for the little ones.

Lecture Brunches - Wednesday 12th October to Thursday 17th November (Wednesdays and Thursdays) Autumn lecture brunch series. One hour lectures on a variety of topics, followed by a hearty English breakfast. £15 Booking essential.

Countryside Walks – Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December, 11.30am to 1pm. Start with a warming glass of mulled wine for a guided walk of the countryside around Baddesley. Book.

Christmas Lunches – Thursday 1st to Friday 23rd December (excluding Mondays) 12 noon to 2.30pm. Get into the festive spirit with lunch in our Barn Restaurant, two courses for £12, three courses for £15. Booking essential. Further details of all the above on website.

CHARLECOTE PARK – 01789-470277- www.charlecotepark@nationaltrust.org.uk

10th and 11th September, **Meet the Team** – enjoy an opportunity to speak to the staff and find out more about what they do and how we care for this amazing place. 11am to 4pm, FoC.

18th September, **Falconry Day** – Static display 10.30am to 4 pm, Flying displays

11.30am, 1pm and 3pm, FoC. 24th September, **Walk with the Gardener** - also on 29th

October. Both at 2pm and free of charge. 4th October at 2pm - **Wildlife Photography Walk** £5 - this is not a photography course, but a unique opportunity to take photos.

8th October – **100 Verses** 12 noon to 3pm – a celebration of poetry with recitals and

opportunities to write your own poems. October 8 & 9; 15 & 16; 22nd & 23rd; 24th and 25th –

Deer Park Safaris Join us on a tractor-pulled trailer ride round the park and see our deer at this special time of the year, and learn about our herd of Fallow Deer. 11am and 2pm, adult £5, child £3. Book early to avoid disappointment.

CHARLECOTE PARK cont....

26th October – 10am. **From Park to Plate** – a two-hour guided walk through the parkland, includes lunch. £25. Booking essential.

27th October , 2 – 3pm, 29th – 11.30 to 12.30; 1 to 2pm; 2 to 3pm. **Park Walk**. Free. Wear appropriate dress for the weather and strong footwear advised.

29th and 30th October – **Hallowe'en Trail** – 12 noon to 3pm Enjoy hunting for pumpkins around the park, see what you can find and maybe win a prize. £2 per trail.

December 3rd & 4th; 10th and 11th; 17th & 18th – **Christmas at Charlecote**. 12 noon to 3.30 Festive Fun at Charlecote – see the House decorated for Christmas; hear festive music played and/or sung; See Father Christmas in his grotto; See what we are cooking in the Victorian Kitchen; Visit the NT shop for your festive gifts. Free apart from £3.50 to see Father Christmas.

COUGHTON COURT – 01789-400777: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughtoncourt

Cheese and Pickle Festival – Saturday and Sunday, 24 & 25th September 11am to 5pm. A celebration of local produce. Stalls, demonstrations, tasters and crafts.

National Trust Walking Festival Saturday 22nd to 30th October, launch on Saturday 22nd 11am to 5pm followed by a range of walks from gentle to more demanding.

Family Fun Days – Halloween Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October (excluding Mon, Tues, Wed.) Ghostly outdoor trail with take-home activities. Child £2.

Gunpowder, Treason and Plot – Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th November, 11am to 4.30pm. Discover the family's connection to this famous event. Activities for all the family. Child £2.

Fawkes Feast – Saturday 5th November 6pm to 11pm. Exclusive black tie event in the dining room at Coughton, Champagne reception, private tour and a seven-course meal served in the Throckmorton family dining room, followed by after dinner speaker. £95. Booking essential.

Winter Festival Saturday 26th November – Sunday 4th December, 11 am to 5pm. Get your Christmas shopping done in our festive market and Coach House shop with gifts and local crafts. Treat yourself to seasonal food and drink in the restaurant, visit our Green Father Christmas and see the house dressed for a traditional Victorian Christmas.

Christmas Lunches Monday 5th to Sunday 11th December. Locally sourced three course lunch and a glass of wine, the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. Must be booked.

Wassail- Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December, 4.30 to 6pm and 7.30 to 9pm. Christmas stories and carols from Birmingham's Crescent Theatre, mulled wine, a roaring fire and mince pies. Adult £23. Child £10. Must be booked. For further details see our website.

PACKWOOD HOUSE – 01564-782024: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/packwood

Garden Talks- every Thursday until 27th October, 3 to 3.15pm. Fifteen minute talks by one of our expert gardening team on a variety of topics, from border techniques to formal hedging.

Walking Festival join us for a range of walks, gentle strolls, adventure walks, including welly walks to explore the parkland, whatever the weather. **Family Fun Days – Halloween**- spooky outdoor trails with take-home activities. Child £2 (trail)

For more details see our website.

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION DIARY

Thursday 1 st September	Renewal date for subscriptions to Mid-Warwickshire Association
Tuesday 6 th September	Excursion – Shipton Hall & Stokesay Castle
Saturday 10 th September	Village Walk and tea, Wootton Wawen
Wednesday 5 th October	First meeting of Autumn season – “Rome and its Fountains”
Thursday 13 th October	Excursion - Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Wednesday 2 nd November	AGM followed by talk “History of Hidcote Manor Gardens”
Wednesday 30 th November	Meeting – “The Natural History of Christmas”

2012

Wednesday 4 th January	Meeting – “18 th and 19 th century London Pleasure Gardens”
Wednesday 1 st February	Meeting – “Bess of Hardwick and Hardwick Hall”
Wednesday 7 th March	Meeting – “Every Picture Tells a Story”
Tuesday 13 th March	Excursion – The Holburne Museum, Bath
Wednesday 4 th April	Meeting – “The Age of Adornment”
Thursday 19 th April	Excursion – The National Arboretum
Wednesday 2 nd May	Meeting – “Sixty Years of Marvellous Modern Monarchy”
Thursday 17 th May	Asparagus Supper at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton, near Evesham.

Future events – dates and details in our next magazine.

June 2012	Excursion to Frampton Court and Frampton Manor, Gloucestershire
July	Excursion to Attingham and Sunnycroft, Shropshire
September	Excursion to London, St Pancras and Dickens Walk
October	Celebration of our Association’s 40 th Anniversary, and First Talk of our Winter Season – “What the Dickens?”

LOCAL PROPERTIES Cont from page 17

HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN – 01386-438333- www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote

Paint the Garden on Thursday 8th September, 10am to 4pm, bring along your own painting materials and let the beauty of Hidcote inspire you to create your own masterpiece. £25 (includes morning coffee and lunch). Friday 9th September – **Portrait Photography Workshop** – telephone for details or contact the website – see above.

There will be a series of **Lecture Lunches** on Thursdays, September 15th, October 6th, 20th and 27th; November 10th and 17th; 10am to 2pm, £22.50 includes morning coffee and lunch, and speakers on a variety of subjects.

Friday 23rd September- **Botanical Art Workshop** – 10am to 4pm, professional artist Celia Crampton will be on hand throughout the day to guide you to create your own striking work of art. £40 includes morning coffee and lunch. Friday 30th September – **Stargazing** 6.30 to 9.30pm – learn about planets, stars and constellations with expert Peter Cadogan. £25 includes a delicious supper in the restaurant. Saturday 8th October – 9.15am to 2pm, **Autumn Ramble with a hearty lunch**. £30 includes morning coffee and lunch. Saturday and Sunday, October 22nd and 23rd – **Apple Weekend** – 10am to 3pm, normal admission applies.

Saturday 29th October – **Pumpkin Trail** – 10am to 3pm, normal admission applies.

Thursday 3rd November – **Hat Making Workshop** – 10am to 3pm, £40 includes morning coffee and lunch. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 25th, 26th, 27th November

The Enchanted Garden – see Hidcote in a different light, make the most of your visit and enjoy tasty treats in the restaurant, or a spot of Christmas shopping in the shop and plant centre. 5pm – 8pm. £6 per adult, £4 child or £18 Family ticket. **Winter Ramble and Festive Feast**, Saturday 3rd December, 9.15am to 2pm. £30 includes morning coffee and lunch. Let your creative side shine by joining one of our **Winter Workshops** – Thursday, Friday and Saturday December 8th, 9th and 10th, (£26) Thursday 15th, (£25) includes morning coffee and lunch. **Santa and Festive Trail**, Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th December - £3 per child (includes entry to garden, trail and photograph).

Garden Autumn and Winter opening times – to 2nd October -10am to 6pm; October 3rd to 30th 10am to 5pm; 31st October to 18th December 11am to 4pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing time. ****Most of the events listed above require advance booking****

Visits we made in 2011



Olympic London - the main arena
under construction

BBC Shepherd's Bush - aerial view



Visits we made in 2011



Stanway House Water Garden - the tallest gravity-fed fountain in Britain and the world at over 165 feet.



June Roses at Mottisfont



London Docklands - The Old



London Docklands - The New