

OAK LEAVES

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION of the NATIONAL TRUST

Autumn 2014

No. 84



Autumn Fruit at Coughton Court

Photo: National Trust

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: Vacancy

HON.SECRETARY: Julia Johnstone Tel: 424841
57 Almond Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 6QD

HON.TREASURER : Marianne Pitts Tel: 885532

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Valerie.Grimmer Tel: 492226
62 Foxes Way, Warwick, CV34 6AY

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Chris Rhodes Tel: 330057
chriscdmrhodes@aol.com

JOINT PROGRAMME SECRETARIES: Gerry & Nanette Rooney
Tel: 430701

PRESS & PUBLICITY: Marianne Pitts Tel: 885532

WEB SITE: Jill Rooney

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Margaret Tomlinson; Jill Rooney; Derek Booth, Sandra Dear

VICE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

The Mid Warwickshire Association has reached an interesting point in its development. After over 30 years it continues to evolve and although its essential essence is still the same there are some interesting vicissitudes. There is still a need for a permanent Chairman: we are fortunate that Richard Munday has kindly offered to chair the meetings during the final quarter of 2014, but thereafter, the need will present itself again. The Association now has Gift Aid status, which enables you to increase the value your contributions without any need to increase your subscription. This additional income will be most welcome in view of the very expensive hire charge we pay for the Avon Hall at the Royal Spa Centre.

It has been suggested that we consider meeting elsewhere, but there is nowhere to compete with our present venue which is convenient, has near-by car parking and is centrally positioned.

We have some very able and willing Officers who slave away making terrific contributions to the operation of the Association behind the scenes. That "behind the scenes" is one of my favourite phrases, since it demonstrates how our dedicated volunteers, of their own volition, keep matters moving using their own initiatives and this should be very much appreciated by the rest of us, especially if we are unable to offer active help ourselves.

We are continuing our schedule of monthly meetings. We are developing our new web site. There is also an excursion programme. Ideally, we need someone to take charge of the excursions to co-ordinate arrangements and slightly increase their number. Similarly, we are in need of an organiser of other social events, and someone to take charge of distributions, and others to increase the number of raffle ticket sellers.

I hope that the Association will increase in strength and take its rightful place as one of the leading organisations of the area. Its ultimate aim of helping to preserve places of natural beauty and historic interest is laudable, so while enjoying interesting programmes, you can also know that you are helping to promote these objectives.

GRAHAM E.COOPER
Vice-President.

DAVID GILMOUR

We were very sorry indeed to learn of the death of David Gilmour in February. He was a constructive member of the Management Committee from 1993 to 2012 who initiated many practical ideas and helped with the publicity of the Association, contacting local newspapers and submitting reports on its activities. He was instrumental in making contact with new local members of the National Trust inviting them to join the Association. He was an excellent example of a "hands on" member who effectively contributed to the running of our organisation and his contribution was very effective.

EVENING MEETINGS 2014- Spring 2015

*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 £3***

Wednesday 1st October 2014

Bath: A World Heritage City-

Jane Tapley will present a history of the City from Roman and Georgian times to the present day.

Wednesday 5th November 2014

Annual General Meeting followed by a film

Wednesday 21st January 2015

A Legal Flight.

Robin Sankey will describe the history of the court system from 1066 to the European Court of Human Rights. A light hearted presentation by a legal eagle.

Wednesday 4th February 2015

“It’s a funny way to make a living.” Michael Leach explains the basics of his art in a revealing humorous introduction to the realities of professional wildlife filming. This is NOT a technical talk - be prepared to have some illusions shattered.

Wednesday 4th March 2015

Our Victorian Architectural Heritage

Keith Cattell looks at an age which produced a renaissance of skills and a ‘fancy dress parade’ of architectural styles.

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 5th November 2014 at 7.30pm

You are invited to attend the Forty Second Annual General Meeting of the Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, which will be held on Wednesday 5th November 2014 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 22nd October 2014 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 5th NOVEMBER 2014

AGENDA

1. Opening address from the President
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of AGM held on 6th November 2013
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence and Announcements
6. To receive accounts for the year ended 31st August 2014
7. To receive the Management Committee Report for the year ended 31st August 2014
8. To elect Officials:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - 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. Amendment to draft National Trust Constitution
11. Any Other Business: Please inform the Honorary Secretary not later than 22nd October 2014 of any item you wish to raise.

Minutes of the Forty First Annual General Meeting of the Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, held in the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 6th November 2013

The President Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy opened the meeting by thanking the Association for raising money for the National Trust.

Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs John Clink.

Minutes of the fortieth Annual General Meeting have been circulated.

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2013 were presented by the Hon Treasurer Mrs Marianne Pitts. All were in favour that the accounts be adopted. Proposed by Mr D. Booth seconded by Mr C. Beadle.

Mrs M. Pitts proposed that Cllr Norman Pratt be re-elected as the Honorary Inspector of Accounts, this was seconded by Mr Roy Nabbs.

Mrs Pitts appealed to members to join the Association rather than pay a visitors fee.

Mrs Esme Butler suggested that we raise the subscription to £15 to help the Associations finances.

Annual Report - This has been circulated.

Chairman's Observations.

The Vice-President Mr Graham Cooper in his address to the meeting said that we have some dedicated people on the committee. They are:-

Julia Johnstone who has been Secretary since 1979. Our Treasurer Marianne Pitts, who effectively keeps us on the straight and narrow, and also deals with Press and Publicity.

The membership Secretary Valerie Grimmer who does a marvelous job keeping records and staffing the table at the meetings. We were delighted to recruit Gerry and Nan Rooney as Programme Secretaries. Excursions various members, both on and off the committee have arranged trips which have been very popular. We have a very good Newsletter Editor Chris Rhodes.

Roy Nabbs is an excellent committee member. Margaret Tomlinson has proved very good at arranging excursions. Gill Rooney has set up the web site for the Association. Clive Nelson organised a successful Luncheon and distributed literature for a season.

We are extremely grateful to Norman Pratt our Financial Examiner, and to Sandra and Ted Dear who sell raffle tickets at the meetings.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Mears. Margaret had been a hard working member of the committee for many years.

Betty Mash decided to leave the Committee after several years of faithful service including organising the raffle. Clive Nelson and Tony Gulliman have decided not to seek re-election to the committee.

No-one as yet has come forward to be Chairman. If no Chairman is found today, the Vice President said that he would be willing to continue his temporarily assumption of the duty as he had been appointed Vice-President. He would only act as Chair until the end of the season in May 2014, after which the Association would have to progress under new permanent leadership. He had had 35 years experience and it was about time someone else came forward with a new approach and ideas.

Election of Officers

The Management Committee 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
Chairman -
Vice-Chairman -
Honorary Secretary - Miss Julia Johstone
Honorary Treasurer - Mrs Marianne Pitts
Membership Secretary - Mrs Valerie Grimmer
Computer Co-Ordinator - Mr A. Pitts
Distribution Officer
Programme Secretary Mr & Mrs G. Rooney
Newsletter Editor - Mr Chris Rhodes
Web Site - Miss J. Rooney

Not more than six committee members: Mr D. Booth, Mrs S. Deare, Mr R. Nabbs, Mrs M. Tomlinson.

Haidee Williams, Visitor Service Manager at Upton House addressed the meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m

After the interval Dixie Atkins gave a talk about 'The six wives of Henry VIII'.

Management Committee Report 2013-2014

The Management Committee has pleasure in presenting to the Annual General Meeting, this the forty-second Annual Report which covers the twelve month period to 31st August 2014.

We were pleased to welcome to the Committee Mrs Sandra Dear.

We are indebted to Mrs Nan Rooney for arranging an excellent and interesting programme of Speakers ranging from the six Wives of Henry V111 to the Fine Art of Crime. Unfortunately the speaker booked for November, forgot to turn up so we enjoyed a Silent Film, featuring Harold Lloyd.

The Excursions organised by different members of the committee and association were to The Anderton Boat Lift and Little Moreton Hall, London to "God and the Bridge", Ludlow and Hampton Court Gardens, Shropshire, RAF Museum Cosford and Weston House and Park, Burleigh House and Buckingham Palace and the Queens Collection. The visit planned for June to Historic Cambridge and the Fitzwilliam Museum had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

The Raffle remains popular; our thanks go to Sandra & Ted Dear for organising this.

Membership is slightly down. The Committee are indebted Valerie Grimmer, the Membership Secretary and Archie Pitts who acts as computer Co-ordinator. Our thanks go to Chris Rhodes the Newsletter Editor who does an excellent job of editing the newsletter twice a year. Thanks also go to the members who kindly help to deliver the envelopes which helps cut down on costs.

We are indebted to Marianne Pitts for very ably dealing with the Associations finances. Marianne also deals with Press and Publicity. Graham Cooper, The Vice President has taken the chair at committee meetings and the monthly meetings.

We look forward to another successful year ahead.

ROY NABBS

We are sorry to note that Roy Nabbs has indicated his intention not to stand for re-election to the Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting in November. Roy has served for several years as a Committee Member, and although he has not occupied a named post, he has contributed significantly to the running of the Association by introducing extremely capable members to fill important positions and has made useful practical recommendations to various problems and challenges. His various commitments are continuing to take him away from the area from time to time, and health problems, which we trust will be only temporary, have prevented his attending to various commitments in the way he would like to.

So this is a big thank you to Roy, who we hope to continue to welcome to our monthly and other events. GEC.

EXCURSIONS 2014-15

25 September 2014

Buckingham Palace and the Queen's collection

There are still a few places left. We are booked on Johnson's coaches to go to Buckingham Palace, leaving at 08:15. We will have a guided tour of the State Rooms, starting at 11:15 and lasting about two hours. There is a Garden Cafe in the Palace. At 14:30 we are booked for an **optional** visit to the "First Georgians" exhibition in the Queens' Gallery. A ticket for this gives you a one year pass to the gallery and costs an extra £8. Please indicate on the booking form whether you want this and pay accordingly.

The coach will pick us up **at the starting point at 15:30**. ETA at Newbold Comyn 18:30. The cost of travel and the guided tour of Buckingham Palace is **£33.00**,

Please complete and return the Booking Form enclosed with this newsletter.

28th November 2014

Birmingham Hippodrome: The Nutcracker.

We leave Newbold Comyn at 11.30, giving us time for lunch in Birmingham, before the afternoon matinee. Tickets cost £40 per person, and DO NOT include lunch. **Please complete and return the Booking Form enclosed with this newsletter.**

National Trust Mid-Warwickshire Association website

As some of you may be aware, a National Trust Mid-Warwickshire Association website has been set up - <http://nationaltrustmidwarks.org.uk/>. The Programme of Events, latest and past newsletters, our Constitution and useful links to other local places of historical interest can all be found here. Please do go and have a look. If there is anything you would like to see on the website that is not already there, please let us know by emailing us at ntmidwarks@gmail.com

Digital Newsletter Option

We would like to offer members the option of receiving their newsletter digitally. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email in future, please email us at ntmidwarks@gmail.com and we will get this set up for you.

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.

MOSELEY OLD HALL 01902 782808 www.moseleyoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

This autumn and Christmas at Moseley Old Hall will be very interesting as, if all goes to plan, you will be able to view the falling leaves and our wintry landscape from our newly constructed tree platform! We have just (5 June) heard that we have planning permission for a two level tree platform around a large oak tree in Kings Walk Wood. It will be constructed from oak and will feature a scramble frame and be decorated with extra wood from the National Trust's estate at Brockhampton.

Our autumn programme starts with three harvest themed weekends – from the 20 September to the 5 October each weekend we will have either bee-keeping, bread making, jam and chutney making and apple weekend (which is the 4 and 5 October). We also have our annual Pumpkin Festival from the 25-29 October – where you can carve a pumpkin and keep its innards to take home!



Preparations for Christmas begin with our pudding stir on Sunday 23 November, then we make swags for the house (with the help of our visitors) from the 29-30 November. On the 7 December you can help us put them up!

We have a new take on a tried and tested event and an entirely new event too. Moseley By Candlelight has become a staple in the Moseley calendar – but this year we are changing it slightly to give you the opportunity to eat in the hall yourself – and have it exclusively for your group of up to 10 people. To book you need to call the property direct on 01902 782808. And the new event – is a Christmas Quest – held on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 December - Come with us on a trip round Kings Walk Wood to find the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of Christmas in the past. Sing a carol by the nativity scene, try hot punch by the fire and end it all with a delicious seasonal treat in the house.

Booking is essential with The National Trust's central booking line 0844 249 1895 or online on the website. *Photo: Charles Gibson*

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

Discovering Deer Dates: 24 September 11:00am and 24 September 2:00pm. Price: All Tickets £10 (normal admission fees apply) Booking Essential – 01789 470 277 Join us for a fascinating insight in to the history of deer. Looking back to the hey day of the deer park find out how these magnificent creatures came to be a status symbol and food source for many of the great houses from the medieval period. Look back at how the deer park at Charlecote

evolved and how we manage the herd today. Following medieval records we will learn more about the social history of deer management.

Deer at Dusk Dates: 4 dates between 2 October 6:00pm, 14 October 5:45pm, 18 October 5:45pm and 21 October 5:30pm Price: All Tickets £5 Booking Essential – 01789 470 277 Join our Ranger for a walking tour of the estate. Learn more about the deer park and the creatures large and small that live here. This walk takes place just before the deer start rutting so it is a great opportunity to see our bucks at their finest.

Deer at Dawn Dates: 25 October 6:30am Price: All Tickets £10 Booking Essential – 01789 470 277 Join us, as the sun rises across the estate, for a walk to look at the deer at this special time of the year. As the park wakes this walk will look at our herd of fallow deer. This walk takes place in October which is deer rutting season so hopefully you will see our bucks displaying themselves magnificently. We will finish in the restaurant for coffee at the end of the walk.

Hallowe'en Pumpkin Trail Dates: 25 October to 2 November 2014, 10:30am to 4:30pm Price: All Tickets £2 (per trail, normal admission fees apply) Join us for a trail around the grounds of Charlecote Park. Come and find the Pumpkins and spell our 'spooky' word to claim your prize.

Boundary Walk - part of the NT Walking Festival Dates: 2 November 2014 1:00pm Price: Free event (normal admission charges apply) Join our Ranger and Park Walk Guides for a tour of the estate. We will follow the perimeter of the deer park and access areas normally closed to the public. This event is the only opportunity each year to go in to the deer sanctuary and look across the river Avon directly into 'Camp Ground' located on the other side. Come and see a different view of Charlecote and ask us any questions you may have.

From Park to Plate Dates: 19 November 11:00am Price: All Tickets £25 (normal admission fees apply) Booking Essential – 01789 470 277 Enjoy a two-hour guided walk though the parkland. With our Ranger leading the group you will learn more about the animals, how we manage the parkland and the team who care for it. The walk concludes with lunch served in our Orangery restaurant and a chance to sample our very own venison. After lunch you are free to wander the estate at your leisure before collecting a small sample of park reared hogget and venison to cook when you return home. Booking Essential

Make a Christmas Wreath Dates: 26 November 1:00pm Price: TBC (normal admission charges apply) Join us to make a Christmas Wreath, details, times and prices to follow.

Make a Christmas Planter Dates: 3 December 1:00pm Price: TBC (normal admission charges apply) Join us to make a Christmas planter with seasonal bulbs, details, times and prices to follow.

Father Christmas at Charlecote Dates: 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 December 11:00am – 3:00pm Price: All Tickets £4 (includes a small gift, normal admission fees apply) Booking Essential – 01789 470 277 Bring your family to see Father Christmas in his grotto at Charlecote Park. Spend time with this Christmas jolly visitor, bring him your Christmas lists and tell him in person what you want to find by the mantelpiece on 25 December. Cost includes a small gift. Booking Essential

Christmas at Charlecote Dates: 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 December 12:00pm – 3:00pm
Price: Free event (normal admission charges apply) Join us for some festive fun at Charlecote- See the Great Hall decorated for Christmas- Hear festive music being played outside- See what we're cooking in the Victorian Kitchens- Visit the NT shop for your festive gifts- Children's craft activities.

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

NEWS: This year visitors can take a closer look at the work of the Victorian 'Quartet', four friends who devoted their time to writing, painting and restoring the house and estate at Baddesley, where they created a retreat from the modern world.

Find out more about the quartet through the diaries of Baddesley's Victorian owner Marmion Ferrers, Rebecca Dering's commonplace book and a recently discovered scrapbook from Edward Dering's family. Presented as scrapbooks around the house, this will be the first time these letters and sketches have been seen at Baddesley.

Enjoy the tranquil gardens, take a walk around the estate or find a quiet spot to relax. The magic of the moat, the stories of priest hunters and the freedom of the surrounding countryside means there's something for everyone.

EVENTS:

Family Fun Days - Hallowe'en

Saturday 25 October – Sunday 2 November, 11am – 3.30pm, £2
Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities.

Murder Mystery Evening

Saturday 1 Nov, 6.30pm

Look for clues and solve the mystery in the medieval moated manor house and enjoy a three course dinner in the Barn Restaurant. Tickets are £45 and **booking is essential by calling 01564 783294**

Christmas House Tours

Enjoy the house dressed for a traditional Victorian Christmas on one of our Christmas House Tours followed by a festive supper in the Barn Restaurant on selected dates throughout December. To book and for more information please contact the property on **01564 783294**

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

NEWS: The last private owner of Packwood, Graham Baron Ash, a charming, correct and slightly obsessive man, created at Packwood a stage on which he could live the life of an English country gentleman, and where many came to enjoy his perfect version of country house hospitality.

At Packwood he hosted a series of 'Follies' – theatrical entertainments and plays in architectural structures in the gardens, which have now been given a contemporary re-working by artist Hilary Jack who has made three artworks for the new Packwood Follies.

The three unique site specific installations entitled *InsideOutHouse*, *Embedded* and *Hive* are nestled deep within the Bluebell Wood, gardens and wider estate and you are invited to interact with, discover and explore these playful works of art.

EVENTS:

A closer look – evening house tours Sat 17 May and Sat 13 Sep, 7pm – 9pm

A chance to see the house by night and discover the history of the collection with our Conservation and Engagement Manager, Jane Birdsall. Tickets are £12 per person and **booking is essential by calling 01564 783294**

Family Fun Days - *Hallowe'en* Sat 25 – Sun 2 Nov, 11am – 3.30pm, £2 Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities

A Warwickshire Christmas Fair Sat 13 and Sun 14, 11am – 5pm

Browse the gift, food and craft stalls, enjoy Christmas lunch or mince pies in the Garden Kitchen, and hear carols from local choirs and bands.

UPTON HOUSE AND GARDENS 01295 670266 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

Guided walks of historic Edgehill. Event date and time: 27 September & 24 October, 10am – 3pm. Take in the views on two local walks exploring the local countryside around the Ratley parish. Join us on a leisurely stroll admiring the views from the escarpment and exploring the nearby villages or a guided walk around the famous Edgehill battle and village hall to admire the display of related artefacts. Prices: £5 per person. Booking essential on 01295 670266.

Autumn walk in the woods : Sunday 12 October, 12noon – 4pm Event description: Come for a tour in Blackwell's wood and view all the autumn trees and toadstools! Prices: Places limited, timed tickets available on arrival. Normal admission prices apply.

Civil War Camp 25 & 26 October, 11am-4pm Commemorating the nearby battle of Edgehill, come face to face with the sights and sounds of the English Civil War, with 17th century living history and dramatic displays by Fairfax Battalia. Prices: Normal admission prices apply. No booking required.

Halloween Trail 27 October – 2 November (closed Thursday), 11am- 4pm Event description: Family fun for half term. Join Rags the raven for a Trail through the enchanted woods and gardens. Prices: £2 per child. No booking required.

Christmas Market 6 & 7 December 11am-4pm Get into the festive spirit, wander round the Christmas Market with a glass of mulled wine and find the perfect presents for friends and family. Prices: Normal admission prices apply. No booking required.

Visit Father Christmas on Saturdays & Sundays in December. Prices: £4 per child. Normal admission prices apply. No booking required.

COUGHTON COURT 01789 400777 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coughton-court

Coughton Court's annual Cheese and Pickle Festival will be returning this September for its fourth year and promises to be even bigger and better than before.

Join us in a celebration of local produce including tasters, demonstrations, country crafts, live music and dancing. A tantalising selection of cheese and pickle stalls will be available alongside a host of delicious chutneys, breads and olives as well as a selection of chocolate and sweet stalls for those with a sweeter tooth.

Make sure to visit the Coughton Kitchen which will be serving hot food, drinks and snacks, or browse the many treats and gift ideas in the Coach House shop from local ranges of honey, cider and fudge. Normal admission applies.

Cheese and Pickle Festival

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 September, 11am – 5pm

Our annual celebration of local produce, with food stalls, tasters, demonstrations, country crafts and live music.

Family Fun Days – Hallowe'en

Saturday 25 October – Sunday 2 November, 11am – 3.30pm

Spooky outdoor trail with take-home activities. Trail costs £2 per trail

Fawkes Feast

Saturday 1 November, 6pm – 11pm. Exclusive black tie event with a champagne reception followed by a private tour of the house. A seven course evening meal served in the Throckmorton family dining room with an after dinner speaker.

Tickets cost £120 and **booking is essential by calling 01789 400 777 op 2**

Murder Mystery

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November, 7.30pm. Put your detective skills to the test to solve the mystery in a brand new plot, includes a three course supper.

Tickets cost £15 and **booking is essential by calling 01789 400 777 op 2**

Winter Festival

Saturday 22 – Sunday 30 November, 11am – 5pm

Festive shopping in the Coach House gift shop, the house decorated for a traditional Christmas, locally sourced Christmas lunch and homemade mince pies in the restaurant, and at weekends a Christmas Market in the Stableyard.

Wassail

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December, 4.30pm and 7.30pm

Join our long established traditional Christmas Wassail with stories and carols from Birmingham's Crescent Theatre. Mulled wine, a roaring fire and mince pies are included.

Tickets cost adult £26.25, Child £10.50 and **booking is essential by calling 0844 249 1895**

VISIT TO LUDLOW AND HAMPTON COURT CASTLE

Thursday 22nd May 2 visit to Ludlow and Hampton Court Castle.

We boarded the coach at Newbold Common full of anticipation for a lovely day out despite the gloomy weather forecast! The drive to Ludlow was most pleasant, cows grazing peacefully, sheep with their lambs and an abundance of fresh leaved trees cloaking the lanes. On arrival at Ludlow, we were dropped off in the town square where there was a Farmer's Market taking place. Oh, the delights it had to offer! It was nice to see so many local producers, selling their goodies; it is known as a 'Foodie Town'. One had to make some purchases!



Ludlow is a very interesting town with much to explore: the 11th century Norman Castle; a museum that explores the town's geology and history; the church of St. Laurence, which was largely rebuilt in the 15th century.

We left Ludlow at 1.30 and headed for Hampton Court castle, set in 1000 acres of parkland, pasture and woodland. The gardens were a joy to the eye: wisteria



was in full bloom with long tendrils of blossom in mauve and white; beds of roses and alliums; clipped topiary and many architectural features. There is a maze made up of a thousand yews and if you achieve the tower within the maze, you are rewarded with a wonderful view of the gardens and beyond. The organic kitchen garden supplies the conservatory restaurant, which I can thoroughly recommend. All their dishes are made on the premises including the very tempting cakes! After

a visit to the Garden Bothy gift shop, it was time to head for the coach and home.

The weather was reasonably kind to us apart from the last part of the afternoon where brollies were most definitely needed!

The journey back to Leamington Spa was uneventful, thanks to our driver, Bill, who steered us through mounting traffic and reached Newbold Common right on time.

Our thanks go to Graham for escorting this pleasant and enjoyable trip!

Carol Andrews