

OAK LEAVES

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION of the NATIONAL TRUST

Spring 2013

No. 81



Spring flowers: the parterre at Charlecote Park

‘© National Trust/ Charlecote Park’

**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

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Betty Mash; Margaret Mears; Roy Nabbs; Clive Nelson; Margaret Tomlinson

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

You will not be reading this until the Spring, but I am writing it on New Year's Eve 2012. I am still wishing you a Happy New Year, because it does not matter when in the year you receive the wish. I am reflecting now on the losses and achievements of 2012 and am hoping that 2013 will be better for all of us. Apart from other considerations, I am hoping that the weather will be bracing and pleasant without the excesses of the past year, and especially without the heavy rains which seem to have fallen almost incessantly.

2012 brought its problems for the Association, since there were departures from the Committee, and especially when Patricia Dent moved away significant gaps were left in our organisation. However, we have been very fortunate. Chris Rhodes has taken on the editorship of this Newsletter. Gerry and Nan Rooney have agreed to be Joint Programme Secretaries. This is marvellous news and, better still, I think they will enjoy taking on these important posts, which is an added benefit.

That leaves the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship to be filled! I have been drafted in to look after matters, but that cannot go on for much longer. There must surely be someone from our number who would like to have a go. It would not be necessary for the new incumbent to take on the post *ad infinitum*. The Chairman ought to be able address the audience at the Royal Spa Centre and to guide the occasional Committee Meetings besides being on hand to say a few words at various social occasions. If you would like to give it a trial, or if you know of someone else you think might be suitable, please do let me know. After all, if I can do it, I am sure anyone can. I never thought years ago that I should be able to address a meeting, but just a little confidence can grow and, believe me, it is a possibility.

The contributions made by the other Officers and Committee are very much appreciated and all this helps to make our Association the success it is. Please continue to support us all you can by attending the events and bringing your friends.

GRAHAM E COOPER

Vice-President.

2013 SPRING LUNCHEON

At St. Francis Parish Centre, Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV6 2GF

Saturday 23rd March 2013

The menu will consist of hot main course, followed by desert, tea and coffee. The price includes a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Andrew Hamilton will give an illustrated presentation on the book "**Meet at Dawn, Unarmed**" which he wrote with Alan Reid to describe his forebear Robert Hamilton's experiences in the Great War.

Tickets £16.50

Please refer any queries to Clive Nelson, 28 The Gardens, Kenilworth CV8 2DX (01926 858335) or e-mail nelson20@virginmedia.com. Applications for tickets should be made to Julia Johnstone using the form below:

National Trust Mid-Warwickshire Association

Spring Luncheon: Saturday 23rd March 2013-01-24

To Julia Johnstone, 57 Almond Avenue, Leamington Spa CV32 6QD (01926 424841)

Please reserve places at £16.50 each. I enclose my cheque dated 1st March 2013, payable to Mid Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, and a stamped addressed envelope.

Name Telephone

Address.....

Please indicate whether you require a vegetarian option YES/NO Name/tel. No to be contacted in case of emergency

EVENING MEETINGS 2013

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 Mid Warwickshire Association is £3

WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH

Dr Gillian White makes a return visit and takes us into the fascinating world of **NICHOLAS HILLIARD and the ART OF THE MINIATURE.**

WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL

We can cast our eyes to the heavens for a talk on astronomy by Andrew Lound, who will enable us **TO SEE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.**

WEDNESDAY 1st MAY

From reality to **THE MYTHS AND LEGENDS of the BERMUDA TRIANGLE** – all will be explained by Captain William Wells. This is an entertaining but serious look at the many legends surrounding the area. We explore why and when it was designated the "Bermuda Triangle" and what may have caused its reputation for many strange and inexplicable happenings to both ships and aircraft within the Triangle area.

WEDNESDAY 2nd OCTOBER

Philip Aubury will reveal **THE HISTORY OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS.**

WEDNESDAY 6th NOVEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, followed by a talk by Dixie Atkins on **HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES**

WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER

Cymon Snow will talk about **SULGRAVE MANOR**

“HOW TO GET ON IN SOCIETY” *(John Betjeman)*

Royal Leamington Spa is blessed with a wealth of societies and many people are members of all of them or, at least, some of them. There is our own Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, founded in 1972. Of similar appeal is the Leamington Society founded in 1956 and interested in matters affecting the Town. Then there is the Leamington Literary Society for literary subjects, perhaps the oldest active organisation of its kind in the town having been founded in 1912, and the Friends of Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum interested in artistic matters.

Broadly, members of the Societies appreciate the same sort of presentations, comprising fascinating talks, often illustrated, given by people expert in their fields or with special interests. The subjects featured are usually pertinent to each society, or likely to appeal to its members, but always concern matters in which its members are broadly interested. The appeal of the subjects covered is so similar that, sometimes, speakers find themselves appearing at more than one of the societies after reasonable intervals.

However, each Society has its own individual appeal with its own atmosphere and procedures. At least a couple of our societies organise coach excursions to places of interest, and then it may be difficult to remember who organised the trip one is on!

We are indeed fortunate to have at our fingertips so many excellent societies in which to participate, and they have not all been mentioned yet. There is also Warwickshire Local History Society (and many other Local History Societies covering our area), Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society and the Friends of the Warwickshire County Record Office, just to mention a few others.

GRAHAM COOPER

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION

VISIT TO STONELEIGH VILLAGE

Saturday 20th July 2013

**Guided Walk
and afternoon tea**

[Scones, Sandwiches and Cakes].

Meet at the Village Hall at 2.30 pm

Tickets £8.50 each.

Please apply to: Julia Johnstone, 57 Almond Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 6QD by 3rd July.

Saturday 20th July

Stoneleigh Village Guided Walk

Please reserve places@ £8.50 each.

I enclose my cheque dated 1st July 2013 and made payable to "Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust" together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Name

Phone:

Address
.....

Working as a National Trust Volunteer:

After I retired, having given some thought to a range of volunteering opportunities, I decided to try the National Trust at Charlecote Park, initially as a Room Guide. On my first day I was welcomed by a long-serving Guide who gave me a good introduction to the House. But how was I going to remember all the facts I was given? Luckily each room has a folder containing all the relevant information and there are always Guides on hand who are far more knowledgeable and who have the answers.

The management team is continually thinking of ways to promote and improve the visitor experience for Charlecote. The chimney in the Victorian Kitchen was relined and we were able to light the range. This brought the kitchen to life and I now divide my time between acting as a Room Guide and dressed as a cook in the Victorian kitchen. We use a variety of historical recipes cooking Welsh cakes, puddings etc. This has become very popular with visitors and is rewarding for volunteers to see their enthusiasm. One little boy was so excited to see an open fire and asked numerous questions about the flames and charcoal that his mother had difficulty encouraging him to leave to see the rest of the house.

From my experience, the volunteers are much appreciated by National Trust staff and we feel valued and included. At the beginning and end of each season team leaders from the various sections of the property give their reports or suggestions for future development. There is an annual outing to another National Trust property or historical house and a tea party held in the Orangery. One of the benefits that encouraged me to offer my services was the complete flexibility as to which days, how many hours and how often I volunteer. I enjoy the time I spend at Charlecote Park, meeting many interesting people from all over the world who have come to visit a beautiful house and park.

Val Lees

EXCURSIONS 2013

*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, 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 suggest that it will be helpful if you are able 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.

TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2013

**THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM and
THE MUSEUM of CHILDHOOD**

These two London museums offer a contrast of interests. First we make our way to the Geffrye Museum, which specializes in the history of the English domestic interior. It is housed in the Grade I listed almshouses built in 1714 and shows the changing style of the interiors in a series of displayed period rooms from 1600 to the present day. The emphasis is on the furnishings, pictures and ornaments of the urban middle classes of London. In addition there is an eighteenth century alms house as part of the display, showing the building in its original guise as a rest home for the poor. Lunch has been booked for us in the Museum Café.

After lunch, at about 2.30pm, we go by coach to the V & A Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green which houses the UK's National Collection of childhood objects, ranging in date from the 1600s to the present day. As well as toys, dolls, dolls houses, games and puzzles the Museum also has a wealth of objects relating to many other aspects of childhood, including home and childcare, play and learning, clothing, representations of childhood, archival collections and ephemera. Tea cakes and pastries are available (not included in the price) in the Benugo Café on site, before we leave for home.

Organisers: Margaret Tomlinson and Margaret Mears. 7 Wootton Court, Leamington Spa CV32 6UU.Tel:424205

Depart:Newbold Comyn 8.30am

Back about 6.30pm

Cost £28

**THURSDAY 16th MAY 2013 BIDDULPH GRANGE GARDENS
and JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY**

The main attraction of Biddulph Grange is the amazing gardens laid out in 1880 by James Bateman, a contemporary of Charles Darwin. The gardens were laid out to amaze, educate and entertain, and the various themes lead you on a fantasy global journey. There are several flights of moderate steps. Light refreshments and lunches are available.

At approximately 1.15 we shall depart for the 35 minute drive through the Cheshire parkland to Jodrell Bank. Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, built in the 1950s, has always been at the forefront of radio astronomy, and it still maintains its reputation by reporting on new space research and phenomena. In addition to the telescopes, there are many displays for all levels of scientific knowledge, with special displays relating to space and the planets. For the keen gardener there are also 35 acres of gardens with over 2000 species of plants. There is also a comprehensive restaurant and cafeteria. We will leave for home at about 4pm.

Organisers: Derek and Vera Booth, "Leorexden" 4 Bamburgh Grove, Leamington Spa CV32 6RL Tel: 885819

Depart: Newbold Comyn 8.30am Arrive back: 6.30pm approx. Cost £25

TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2013 BOUGHTON HOUSE, NORTHANTS

Built in 1700, and modeled on Versailles for the English Ambassador to France, the house has not changed in three centuries and contains a superb collection of paintings, tapestries, furniture and porcelain. It is the private property of the Duke of Buccleuch and has restricted public opening. We will have it to ourselves.

Around the house there are acres of fine parkland including lawns, lakes, waterways and woods, some of which are 300 years old. The park is being restored to its former glory. There is also a walled kitchen garden with a large herbaceous border. Lunch in the Stable Restaurant has to be booked in advance though you may picnic in the garden. The lunch will be a cold buffet with a variety of salads and bread. It includes tea or coffee. The cost of travel and the guided tour of the house, including coffee/tea on arrival with home-made biscuits will be £28.50, with an additional £10 for lunch.

Organiser: Marianne Pitts, 4 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV31 1BB Tel: 885532.

**Depart: Newbold Comyn 9.15am Cost £28.50 plus lunch if required £10.
Arrive back: 5.30 approx**

THURSDAY 11th JULY 2013

BASILDON PARK and DORCHESTER ABBEY

We travel via Nutcotts Graden Centre at Berringsfield (coffee break) to **Basildon Park** (NT) which is an 18th century mansion restored and brought to life in the 1950's by Lord and Lady Iliffe. The mansion was the Ilifes' country home. It contains important pictures and antiques from the 18th and 19th centuries, and was inspired by the original designs of the architect John Carr. The mansion is surrounded by lovely gardens and parkland.

In the afternoon we visit the magnificent **Abbey at Dorchester** on the side of the river Thames. The mainly Norman Abbey stands on the site of a small church built by **Birinus**, the Pope's missionary, in AD 635, and was important to the spread of Christianity throughout central and southern England.

Basildon has a tea room serving hot and cold lunches, and a "Parlour" for hot and cold drinks and sandwiches. The grounds are ideal for picnics. The Abbey has a great tea shop.

Depart: Newbold Comyn 8.30 am Arrive back: 6.00 approx Cost £17.

Thursday 11th July

Basildon Park and Dorchester Abbey

To: Roy Nabbs, 3 Bamborough Grove, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RL

Please reserve places at £17 each. I enclose my cheque dated 17th June 2013 payable to Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Name

Address

Name/ Tel number to be contacted in case of emergency

Will you board the coach at Newbold Comyn or Spa Centre?

MONDAY 12th AUGUST 2013

TYNTESFIELD

Much work has been done at Tyntesfield since our last visit shortly after the Trust acquired the property ten years ago. The restoration of the House and Grounds became the Trust's largest conservation project. Now the scaffolding has gone and we can fully appreciate the splendour of the House. This Victorian house was lived in by four generations of the Gibbs family, all making their mark and never throwing anything away. The house and estate give evidence of the decline and eventual rediscovery of the family. Also to be admired are the newly conserved walled garden, the chapel and stunning views from different parts of the estate. A restaurant serves food grown on the estate.

Depart: Newbold Comyn: 9.00am Arrive back 7.00pm approx. Cost £18.50

Please return this slip together with your cheque to Graham White, 21 Regency House, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, CV32 4HD. Tel: 01926 330155.

Monday August 12th

Tyntesfield

Please reserve places @ £18.50 each. I enclose my cheque dated July 29th, 2013 and made payable to "Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust" together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Name **Phone:**

Address
.....

Will you board the coach at Newbold Comyn or at the Spa Centre?

Will you take lunch in the Tyntesfield restaurant or as a picnic? YES/NO

This information is required by Tyntesfield because the restaurant is so popular.

Would you like to borrow a wheelchair or electric mobility vehicle? YES/NO

Advance booking for this is essential. In addition, a buggy will meet the coach for anybody who would like a lift from the Coach Park. No booking is necessary for the buggy.

THURSDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

**ANDERTON BOAT LIFT and
LITTLE MORETON HALL**

Margaret Thatcher considered the Anderton Boat Lift to be one of the things that made Britain 'Great' and so important that she instructed that it be brought to full working order. In the past few years it has become a very popular tourist attraction.

The Lift is set in a very attractive park land setting and we will arrive in time to take a ride on the Lift at 12.15 followed by a 30 minute cruise on the River Weaver. There are excellent catering facilities, good access and a lift between the two levels, plus interesting river and canal side walks.

After our cruise we leave the Cheshire salt district and driving through pleasant park land we visit Little Moreton Hall, considered to be one of the finest examples of Tudor domestic buildings in architecture in existence. The Hall has been extensively refurbished during the past few years. Visitors' access and experiences have been greatly improved without diminishing the Hall's secrets or very impressive appearance.

Guided tours are available which start at regular intervals. The Hall has excellent facilities with a restaurant.

Depart Newbold Comyn at 8.15 am and Spa Centre 8.20 am. Return 6.00 pm

Please return this slip together with your cheque Derek Booth, 4, Bamburgh Grove, Leamington Spa, CV32 6RL. tel 01926-885819

Thursday 19th September

Anderton Boat Lift & Moreton Hall

Please reserve places@ £27 each. I enclose my cheque dated 1st September 2013 and made payable to "Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust" together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Name **Phone:**
Address

Name/telephone in case of emergency

Will you board the coach at Newbold Comyn or at the Spa Centre

OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

Members of the Mid-Warwickshire Association will be aware that we make annual donations to support projects in various National Trust properties.

During the past two years our contributions have included:

2012	Charlecote Park	£1,000
	Upton House	£500
	Packwood	£500
	House Croome	£1,000
	Park Moseley	£500
2011	Baddesley	£2,000
	Clinton	£1,000
	Packwood	£3,200
	House	£1,300
	Charlecote Park	£500
	Upton House	£223
	Neptune	
	Croome Park	

Over the last 20 years the Association has donated totals of:

Charlecote Park	£16,524
Baddesley	£5,150
Clinton Upton	£5,450
House	£7,500
Packwood	£6,950
House	£5,500
Farnborough Hall	£1,780
Coughton Court	£720
Neptune	£1,000
Biddulph Grange	£1,223
Hanbury Hall	£1,000
Croome Park	£1,000
Tyntesfield	£750
Rosedene	
Sowden Moseley	

A magnificent total of £53,547!!

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.

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



‘© National Trust/ Charlecote Park’

There are more opportunities for everyone to enjoy Charlecote Park this year with 7-days-a-week opening for the shop and Victorian kitchens for the first time. The house will also be open an extra day on Thursdays, even while the present major rewiring project is being completed. Early spring visitors will see empty rooms, an ideal opportunity to view them from perspectives normally behind ropes and there’s a display of some of our most treasured books which are usually hidden away, including Shakespeare’s Second Folio. There’s plenty of colour in the gardens, particularly as the bulbs come to life in the Parterre. The parkland and restaurant are open every day so there’s always an opportunity for a fresh-air stroll, enjoy watching our fallow deer and perhaps finish with a coffee and cake.



PACKWOOD HOUSE – 01564-782024:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/packwood

Family Fun days: 25th May to 1st June. 11am to 4.00 pm.
Get outside and explore Packwood - how many of the 50 things can you tick off today?

Photo: ‘© National Trust/ Packwood House’

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



Moseley opened for the first time this year in February. The garden looks amazing in spring, due to its quite 'structural' nature such as the knot garden, and if you are lucky enough to come when the snowdrops are out you'll have a real treat. We are open Weekends and Wednesdays 11am-3pm, and open until 5pm after the 16th March.

Later this year we're holding a very special event called the Extraordinary Day in the Life of Moseley Old Hall. For just 70 hours in 1651 Moseley protected the future King Charles II from discovery by Parliamentary soldiers. We're re-enacting those 70 hours each day for 5 days from Saturday 25 May to Wednesday 29 May! It will be an exciting marathon but we're planning it already and are on the look out for any enthusiastic volunteers who want to dress up and join in for a day or even all five.
Photo: Patrick Vasey

Meanwhile all the usual work continues in the house and gardens. After the great achievement last year of restoring our knot garden, we're now working on sorting out the nutwalk and putting in some new woodland planting behind it – including crab apples and old-fashioned wild roses – according to Graham Stuart Thomas' original plans. Currently being worked on by a team of volunteers, we plan to launch some new garden tours this spring to compliment the ever changing garden through the seasons.

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



Several projects have taken place over the winter. The Barn Restaurant has a new floor, a log burner stove, new tables and chairs and an extra 20 seats. The server has been improved and has an extra till. The Barnyard has been resurfaced with a bonded gravel which is both hard wearing and easier for wheelchairs and buggies.

Photo: © National Trust/ Baddesley Clinton

9th Apr- 6th May An exhibition in the house of the work of the Japanese artist Takumasa Ono, the official artist of the National Trust in Japan.

Family Fun days: 25th May to 1st June. 11am to 4.00 pm. Get outside and explore Baddesley-how many of the 50 things can you tick off today?

HIDCOTE MANOR GARDENS – 01386-438333:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote

Bookings and more information on the website or telephone 01386-438333.

UPTON HOUSE AND GARDENS OX15 6BY 01295 670266

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/uptonhouse

House and gardens open everyday except Thursdays from 16 Feb 11am-5pm

16 Feb- 30 July: stunning new display of the '**Cream of our art Collection**' in the Squash Court Gallery. Specially selected by the Head Curator of Paintings for the National Trust, the centre piece is Bosch's Adoration of the Magi.

27 May 1930's Garden Party will be in full swing with music, Pimms on the terrace and our wonderful gardens looking their spring best.

28 June 7pm A wonderful Piano Recital by the up and coming award winning Christina Mc Master with a special of music to suit the style of Upton. 50 seats only!. Booking required 01295 671123.

30 June Warwick School Orchestra. The 80 piece ensemble will be entertaining our guests on the lawn with a magnificent repertoire of music. This is a first for Upton and we all very excited about it.

27 July from 6pm Jazz evening. Bring a picnic and enjoy the gardens at their summer best with friends and family, whilst listening to great Jazz music.

3 & 4 August Millionaires' House Party with 1930s dancing, costumes, drinks and music. A great atmosphere for the whole weekend. Normal admission prices apply, just come and enjoy yourself.

Editor's Notes

The committee is considering setting up a website for the Association so that everyone has easy access to local information and to attract prospective members. We are fortunate in that we have received an offer to set up the site. However, do you think that you have the necessary skills to help with future computer requirements or can you suggest someone else who has, and who may be willing to give some time to it? It is always possible that a young member of your family may be good at this type of operation.

To make an initial contact, get in touch with Graham Cooper on grahamxcooper@lineone.net or telephone him on 01926 426942.

If you would like to receive future copies of the Magazine electronically as a pdf file, please register your email address with us on chriscdmrhodes@aol.com. Please note that you would then NOT receive a printed copy by post, which has become expensive.

Copy and articles for the Autumn edition of the Magazine should reach the editor on chriscdmrhodes@aol.com by 15th July 2013.

Please note that the views expressed in the Newsletter are personal to the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Society.

MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION DIARY 2013

Saturday 23 rd March	Association Spring Lunch at St Francis Parish Centre, Kenilworth 12.30 for 1pm Contact Clive Nelson Tel: 858335
Wednesday 3 rd April	Meeting – Andrew Lound talks about astronomy “To See the Beginning of Time”
Thursday 23 rd April	Excursion – The Geffrye Museum and the V & A Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood.
Wednesday 1 st May	Meeting – Captain William Wells looks at the “Myths and Legends of the Bermuda Triangle”
Thursday 16 th May	Excursion – Biddulph Grange and Jodrell Bank Observatory
Thursday 18 th June	Excursion - Boughton House, Northamptonshire
Thursday 11 th July	Excursion – Basildon Park and Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 20 th July	Stoneleigh Village Walk and Afternoon Tea
Monday 12 th August	Excursion – Tyntesfield

1st September: Renewal date for Annual Subscription to Mid-Warwickshire Association

Thursday 19 th September	Excursion - Anderton Boat Lift and Little Moreton Hall
Wednesday 2 nd October	Meeting – A History of Birmingham’s Botanical Gardens Philip Aubrey
Wednesday 6 th November	Annual General Meeting and talk by Dixie Atkins on Henry VIII and his six wives

Sir Henry Raeburn at Charlecote

If you were asked which British artist has works hanging in the house at Charlecote and is depicted on a commemorative postage stamp you may assume it to be Gainsborough.

It is however, Sir Henry Raeburn who painted the portraits on the landing of Sir Ewen Cameron and Thomas Williamson-Ramsay. The 5p stamp issued in 1973 commemorating the 150th anniversary of Raeburn's death is one of a 4 value set depicting two British artists and shows a self portrait by Raeburn. (The other artist commemorated is Sir Joshua Reynolds). Raeburn was born in Stockbridge, Edinburgh. Orphaned, he was educated in Herriot's hospital. Aged 15, he was apprenticed to a goldsmith where he adorned jewellery with miniature paintings. Having achieved success with miniatures, he turned to oil painting at which he was self-taught. He was introduced to David Martin, then the leading portrait painter in Edinburgh who provided him with portraits to copy.

One of those portraits was that of Robert Ramsay of Camno shown on the right.

Raeburn married a wealthy widow and this enabled him to travel; first to London where he met Reynolds and hence to Rome on Reynold's advice. There he met the ageing Batoni and an antique dealer who advised him to "never copy an object from memory but, from the principal figure to the minutest accessory, have it placed before him."



Returning to Edinburgh in 1787, he began a successful career as a portrait painter. In 1812 he was elected president of the Society of Artists in Edinburgh and in 1815 a full member of the Royal Scottish Academy. In 1822 he was knighted by George IV and he died in Edinburgh in 1823.



Sir Ewen Cameron (left) of Fassifern was directly descended from his namesake, Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel the 17th chief of Clan Cameron, mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in *The Lady of the Lake*. Sir Ewen in the portrait was born in 1740 and was the great grandfather of Christina Cameron-Campbell who married Henry Spencer Lucy in 1865.

Frank Storr

Extract from CHARLECOTE PARK – PROPERTY FAST NEWS 4/12/2012 with kind permission of the author and editor. The image of Sir Ewen Cameron is a photograph of the painting hanging at Charlecote and is from the NT collections website. The one of Robert Ramsay of Camno was copied from artvalue.com and refers to the portrait being sold at Sotheby's in July 2011. This is Raeburn's copy of an earlier work by David Martin.