

Norfolk Plant Heritage

A regional group of Plant Heritage, the UK's leading garden plant conservation charity

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March 2018

Dear Members

Coach Trip to Wrest Park (English Heritage) and Swiss Garden (www.shuttleworth.org.uk) Bedfordshire – Thursday 6th September 2018

A coach trip has been arranged to visit the above two gardens in Bedfordshire. The cost for the trip is £35 per person. Refreshments will be available for you to purchase yourselves at the respective tea rooms.

Wrest Park

Wrest Park is an exceptional rarity – a magnificent house of the 1830s set in an outstanding restored garden landscape originating in the 17th century. The house itself is remarkable, a near unique example of 19th century English architecture following the style of an 18th century French chateau.

Explore the evolution of the English garden with a stroll through three centuries of landscape design from dazzling parterres and fragrant borders, to sweeping views and woodland walks. It contains one of the few remaining formal gardens of the early 18th century. Wrest Park is a real treat for the senses. Explore the 92 acres of award-winning gardens.

The Swiss Garden and Shuttleworth Collection

The house was built in 1875, designed by the prominent Victorian architect Henry Clutton. Gillows of Lancaster made many of the interior furnishings and there are several examples of 19th century paintings on the walls, produced by artists such as Sir Frank Dicksee, Benjamin Williams Leader, George Vicat Cole and Frank Holl.

The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth was created between 1824 and 1832. It was the project of a wealthy young gentleman, the 3rd Baron of Old Warden Lord Ongley, whose family had bought the estate in the 1690s. When the garden was complete, he threw extravagant parties and even got his servants to dress up in Swiss costume to complete the look. Creating the 'mountainous' effect of an alpine scene in the flat Bedfordshire countryside would have been a particular challenge. Excavated soil was used to create embankments and mounds that give the garden its distinctive appearance. In addition, all of the ponds were intentionally created, after a nearby river was dammed. The style is clearly influenced by medieval groves, with the tall trees in the garden creating a canopy and, in places, natural covered walkways. This clever use of earthworks, shrubbery, trees, paths, little lakes and follies transformed the garden.

The Collection at Shuttleworth Aerodrome. Richard Shuttleworth first landed at Old Warden, after the field and surrounds had been cleared of obstructive trees, on 26th September 1932 – the day the aerodrome was born! The cost to visit the Shuttleworth Collection is not included – you will need to pay for this yourselves.

We will be using Simonds Coaches and will depart their depot at Roswald House, Oak Drive, Diss, Norfolk IP22 4GX, at **8am sharp** and, with a comfort stop en route, envisage arriving at Wrest Park at 10.15am. We will leave Wrest Park for Swiss Garden at 1.45pm, arriving at Swiss Garden just after 2pm. Homeward journey departs Swiss Garden at 5pm and with a comfort stop we envisage arriving back at Simonds Coach

depot, Diss, approximately 7.15pm. **Cars may be parked at their depot and there is no charge. There are toilet facilities at the coach depot in Diss.**

To book a place please complete the reply slip and return to me with a cheque, made payable to Norfolk Plant Heritage, for £35 per person by Friday 30th June. This is also open to non-members for the same price. After this date I will be offering the trip to other gardening groups.

Best wishes

Linda Hall

Linda Hall
Membership Secretary

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Norfolk Plant Heritage

Coach trip to Wrest Park and Swiss Garden, Bedfordshire
Thursday 6th September 2018

Name(s)

Address

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Telephone

Mobile.....

For acknowledgement, either email address ***OR*** include an s.a.e.

email

Please return to Linda Hall, Birchwood, Snow Street, Roydon, Diss, Norfolk IP22 5SB enclosing a cheque for £35 per person made payable to Norfolk Plant Heritage.