Come and potter around country houses and their gardens, explore the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum and Worcester Cathedral, and experience the nostalgic excitement of a steam-hauled trip on the Severn Valley Railway. Our leisurely tour will be based at the comfortable **** HALLMARK STOURPORT MANOR, a country house hotel set within 23 acres of grounds near Stourport-on-Severn. Bedrooms are en suite with TV, tea making facilities and Wi-Fi. The public areas include spacious lounges; there is complimentary use of the heated indoor swimming pool, sauna and gym.

INCLUDED: Travel by luxury coach throughout, parking at Borwick Memorial Hall, four nights’ dinner bed and breakfast, four lunches, entrance fees (except Dudmaston Hall), Severn Valley Railway tickets, porterage and gratuities.

NOT INCLUDED: Lunch in Worcester, entrance to Dudmaston Hall, morning and afternoon tea/coffee except where specifically mentioned, drinks and personal items, such as newspapers.

ACCESSABILITY: This is not a strenuous tour, walking is over reasonably short distances, although some properties do not have lifts. The hotel does not have lifts, but rooms are on the ground and first floors, and ground floor rooms can be requested.

COST: Sharing a double/twin room: £488.00 per person. Single occupancy: £568.00 per person.

Itinerary

Sunday 9th September 2018

Departing from Borwick Memorial Hall, we break our journey south for a light lunch and private tour of Sandon Hall, Staffordshire, home of the Earls Harrowby since 1776. The present house was completed in 1854, designed by William Burn in the neo-Jacobean style. Not often open to the public, it sits in stunning parkland; members can stretch their legs in the gardens before we continue to our hotel, where we tea and scones await us.
**Monday 10th September 2018**

The morning visit is to the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum, where, after a cup of tea or coffee (included) our visit will be enhanced by a ‘behind the scenes’ talk and a chance to handle some exhibits.

There is then time to explore Worcester further, or for a relaxed lunch (not included today). There is plenty of choice but a new café has just opened close to the museum.

Two minutes walk away is the Cathedral, where we gather for our afternoon guided tour. It is considered one of England’s loveliest, with royal tombs of King John and Prince Arthur, medieval cloisters, ancient crypt and chapter house and magnificent Victorian stained glass. The historic library houses the second largest collection of medieval manuscripts in any cathedral in the UK.

**Tuesday, 11 September 2018**

Boarding our train at Kidderminster, we can relax and watch the lovely countryside, catch glimpses of the River Severn and revel in the smell and sound of a steam locomotive. Our coach meets us at Bridgnorth to take us on to Dudmaston Hall for lunch, an introductory talk and free-flow access to the house and garden. This National Trust property is still the home of the Hamilton-Russell family.

The neo-Palladian house dates from c.1695, by architects William and Francis Smith of Warwick. William Shenstone’s wilderness garden survives from the nineteenth century. Unexpectedly, the classical interior is also the setting for a collection of modern art, which includes works by Ben Nicolson, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. There are botanical paintings, topographical watercolours and eighteenth-century Dutch flower pictures too. A guided tour of the galleries is included.

You will need your National Trust or Art Fund passes – the entrance fee is not included.
Wednesday, 12 September 2018

Madresfield Court is the home of Mrs. Chevenix-Trench and her family; her ancestors, the Earls Beauchamp, have lived here since the twelfth century. We are privileged to have secured our guided tour, as the property is only open to public for a few days a year. The house was rebuilt in Tudor times, and refurbished by P. C. Hardwick in the nineteenth century. The Arts and Crafts Movement interiors are noteworthy; for example, C. R. Ashbee designed the Library, which contains many volumes from Morris’ Kelmscott Press. There are collections of English and Continental furniture, porcelain, painting and objet d’art. There will be time for a short exploration of the delightful formal gardens near the house which are complimented by the rolling parkland with its avenues of lime and yew, together with a gatehouse by N. Shaw.

We then travel the short distance to the Abbey Hotel in Malvern, where we have lunch, which is actually a proper ‘afternoon tea’, as no English tour is complete without it.

We return to our hotel through the Malvern Hills, and after time to relax, you are invited to share a farewell glass of something (complimentary) before our final dinner.

Thursday, 13 September 2018

After checking out of our hotel, a short ride takes us to our last private visit. Hagley Hall, last of the great Palladian houses, and restored after a disastrous fire in 1925, is the much-loved family home of the Viscounts Cobham. Built c. 1754-1760 to the designs of Sanderson Miller, it, and its picturesque parkland, speaks for the artistic achievements of eighteenth-century amateurs, which included James ‘Athenian Stuart’, Henry Keene and Thomas Pitt. Our guided tour introduces us to the house, of which Horace Walpole, always a severe critic, wrote after a visit in 1753, ‘I wore out my eyes with gazing, my feet with climbing and my tongue and vocabulary with commending’.

After a two course lunch in this splendid venue, we complete our journey, arriving at Borwick in the late afternoon.
TOUR ORGANISER
Sue O’Brien. Telephone 015242 21573, Mobile 07768955072, email: suegreenfoot@outlook.com

BOOKING
Please complete a booking form and return to Sue O’Brien, Greenfoot, The Green, Wennington, Lancaster LA2 8NW.

PAYMENT
A deposit of £100.00 is required per person. No places can be reserved without this. It is non-refundable unless your place can be filled from a waiting list or the tour is cancelled.
Payment of the balance is due no later than Friday, 6 July 2018.

INSURANCE
The society recommends that you take out travel insurance.

MOBILITY
Please wear comfortable, supportive shoes with a good grip. Uneven paths and slippery surfaces cannot always be avoided on tours such as this one.
Although seating is available in most venues, please bring a seat-stick if you know you need to sit down while guides are talking.

COACH AND HOTEL
These are provided through Bibby’s of Ingleton Ltd. The company belongs to the Bonded Coach Holidays Group (BCH Group), part of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, providing protection for money paid to them. Please see the website www.bibbys.co.uk for further details.

The Arts Society Lunesdale cannot be held responsible for any personal accident, loss, damage or theft of members’ personal property. Members are covered against proven liability to third parties.
The Arts Society Lunesdale
A Member Society of the Arts Society
The Severn Valley – Art, Architecture and More
9th to 13th September 2018

COST: Sharing double/ twin: £488.00 per person. Single Occupancy: £568.00 per person.

Please complete a form for each person travelling.

Reservation: Name ........................................................................................................................................

Membership number...................................................................................................................................... Entitled to concession?..............................................

Member of National Trust or Art Fund?........................................................................................................

Address................................................................................................................................................................

...........................................................................................................................................................................................................................................

Telephone....................................................................................................................................................... Mobile........................................................................................................................................

Email........................................................................................................................................................................

Room requirements, please tick as appropriate

Single occupancy Sharing, double Sharing, twin Ground floor

If sharing, with whom?........................................................................................................................................

Special dietary requirements.............................................................................................................................

Other special requirements or medical conditions of which we should be aware (this is confidential to the organiser)........................................................................................................................................

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Your travel insurance: Company..............................................................................................................................

Policy number..................................................................................................................................................

Contact details..................................................................................................................................................

Who do we contact in case of emergency?

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Relationship to you............................................................................................................................................

Telephone....................................................................................................................................................... Mobile........................................................................................................................................

A deposit of £100 per person is required to secure your booking. It is non-refundable unless your place can be filled from a waiting list, or the tour is cancelled.

Confirmation of receipt will be by email, or please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Cheques should be made out to LDFAS Trips Account. The balance is due 6 July 2018.

Reservation forms should be given or sent to Sue O’Brien, Greenfoot, The Green, Wennington, Lancaster, LA2 8NW.

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