

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE

LITTLEHAMPTON OR BOGNOR ~ SANDS OF TIME FESTIVAL

Depart Oxted 9.00am (Route A) for the drive to either Littlehampton or Bognor to spend a day by the sea. The small, ancient port of Littlehampton, situated at the mouth of the River Arun, with its promenade, sandy beaches and funfair is known as a family seaside resort and yachting centre, although some of the old town survives on the east bank of the Arun. Bognor Regis, a seaside resort with a pier and five miles of hard sandy beach, began as a Saxon village, became a medieval fishing hamlet and then, from 1790, developed into a quiet and fashionable seaside watering place. The 'Regis' was added to Bognor after King George V convalesced at nearby Aldwick in 1928. Over this weekend Bognor Regis are holding their popular 'Sands of Time' Festival where you will find something for everyone. At the time of going to print the theme and details of the 2008 Festival are yet to be decided but it is likely to be broadly along the lines of the 2007 Festival which included a marquee of craft based activities such as painting a mug, junk modelling and making a mosaic; traditional beach entertainments such as Donkey rides along the beach; Punch and Judy, a Magic Show and Dance and Pom Pom Troupes, a selection of giant games for you to try – Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes, Twister and more; a sandcastle building competition for all ages and a wide variety of musical entertainment such as Dance Companies, Line dancers, a Jazz Band and a performance by the Salvation Army Band. Last year also saw a display of magnificent Classic and Vintage cars displayed in the grounds of the Royal Norfolk hotel and a craft fair within; and the opportunity to take a ride on an open topped bus. A fun day out for everyone. Return leave: Bognor Pier - 5.00pm
Littlehampton - 5.30pm

Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 7.00pm

Adult: - £17.75

Child: - £11.75

MONDAY 2ND JUNE

SHOREHAM AIRPORT – EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF AVIATION

Depart Oxted 10.30am (Route A) for the drive to Shoreham Airport where there will be time for lunch before our 2.00pm tour of the airport which will commence with a brief introduction to the airport, followed by a more detailed insight into the history of Shoreham, a visit to the Departure Lounge of the 1930's Art-Deco Terminal Building and on to the Airport Fire Station. The tour then takes us to the Municipal Hangar where a large collection of resident aircraft can be viewed, some dating back to the 1940's, others being of self-build construction and, of course, a number of more modern factory built designs. We then pass a number of maintenance and private hangars, which it may be possible to see inside, and also see a selection of private helicopters, charter aircraft and flight training aircraft to view at close quarters. Our tour continues along the westerly taxiway towards the Sussex Police Helicopter Unit, where a detailed explanation is given of the airborne police role over Sussex, in addition to a closer look at the 'new' Notar Explorer helicopter (subject to availability). Throughout the tour our guide will give us an excellent insight into the activities carried out at Shoreham Airport. Following the tour there will be time to return to the restaurant for a cup of coffee/tea before making our way homewards. Return leave 5.00pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 6.15pm.

Cost: - £18.50
(Inclusive of Coach/Guided Tour)

TUESDAY 3RD JUNE

SWANAGE AND SWANAGE RAILWAY

Depart Oxted 7.45am (Route A) for the drive through the New Forest to Sandbanks and the ferry to Swanage with its sandy beach lining the wide sweeping bay. Swanage delightfully combines the charm of a Victorian seaside town with the conveniences and attractions of a modern tourist resort. Nestling at the foot of the Purbeck Hills at the eastern end of the Purbeck peninsula this unique stretch of coastline has joined the ranks of the Great Barrier Reef and the Grand Canyon as one of the wonders of the natural world. A settlement existed here as long ago as 877 and Swanage was mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Swanwick and Swanic. One of the oldest parts of the town you can visit today is the spring fed Mill Pond with a Mill House dated 1734. The Victorian era saw Swanage come alive and transform from a small quarrying town to a popular seaside resort. Many of the Barges taking stone to London returned with unusual gifts from local benefactors. The Wellington Clock Tower, which stands close to the Lifeboat House, once adorned the southern approach to London Bridge, and the Town Hall was built in 1883 but the façade came from Mercers Hall, Cheapside, designed by a student of Sir Christopher Wren in 1670. As you wander, admire the stonework and street furnishings, which, brought from London in the 19th century, are an intriguing feature of this seaside town. This area has captured the hearts of many and enticed authors to put pen to paper. Thomas Hardy and his first wife Emma resided here at West End Cottage in 1875-76 and the Isle of Purbeck was a favourite place of Enid Blyton and some say Corfe Castle was her inspiration for Kirrin Castle and that many of the Famous Five Adventures are based on places in the area. Enjoy the spectacular views, the sparkling blue waters of Swanage Bay, follow a historic trail around the town, browse in the many quaint shops or just enjoy the traditional local fayre. Those who wish may, mid afternoon, join us on a 1 hour round trip to Norden and back on the Swanage Railway. The ride will take us from Swanage Station via Harmans Cross and past the dramatic ruins and beautiful village of Corfe to Norden where there will be a 10 minute break before retracing our steps to Swanage. Return leave 5.00pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 9.00pm.

Adult: - £25.25 **Child:** - £19.25

(Swanage Only)

Adult: - £32.90 **Sen Cit:** - £30.85 **Child:** - £24.75

(Inclusive of Coach/Rail Fare)

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE

KEW GARDENS, KEW PALACE AND SUMMER IN THE TREETOPS

Opening May 2008 is the new, permanent Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway, designed by the architects of the London Eye, which will take you on an amazing journey from tree root to tree top. Firstly, take a peek underground in the amazing Rhizotron and discover what goes on out of sight in and around tree roots, then be transported 18m up to the Treetop Walkway and enjoy a birds-eye view of Kew with some amazing views across the Gardens. (Both installations are fully accessible for people with disabilities). Along the way learn more about how trees work, and their impact on the world around us.

Also new for 2008 is the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, the first public gallery in the world dedicated to botanical art. Kew holds one of the world's greatest collections of botanical art, totalling over 200,000 items, including illustrations of species already lost to mankind for which artwork may be the only surviving record.

Depart Oxted 9.00am (Route A) for Kew Gardens and the recently opened Kew Palace. The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew developed into the fabulous attraction we know today under 'Farmer George' (George III) who was fascinated by horticulture. First used by the Royal Family in 1728, the Palace was finally purchased by George III in 1781 to accommodate his expanding family. After 10 years of closure for conservation and re-presentation work, Kew Palace re-opened in spring 2006 and gives a fascinating insight into the family life of George, his devoted wife and their six wilful daughters. Those who wish may join us on a state of the art audio tour of the Palace, with the remainder of the day at leisure to explore the gardens. See the famous Palm House, with many rainforest species and plants useful to man; the elegant and airy Temperate House holding citrus fruits, tea and other exotic species; the Evolution House with prehistoric sights, scents and sounds; the traditional Japanese Minka house; the Princess of Wales Conservatory with 10 different climatic zones and Museum No. 1, home to the exhibition 'Plants and People'. Wander through Kew's collection of over 35,000 different types of plants and discover inspiration in every corner, or take advantage of the 'Kew Explorer' (*cost not included*) a hop-on/hop-off "train" which circles the gardens all day. The restaurant and shop can be found behind the Orangery. Return leave 4.30pm. Arriving back in Godstone approx. 5.30pm.

Adult: - £27.65 **Sen Cit:** - £26.85 **Child:** - £14.50
(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Kew Gardens only)

Adult: - £32.65 **Sen Cit:** - £31.35 **Child:** - £18.35
(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Kew Gardens and Kew Palace)

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW, ARDINGLY

Depart Oxted 9.00am (Route A) for our visit to Ardingly and the South of England Agricultural/Country Show - the largest in Southern England - an interesting and exciting day out for all the family. Soak up the atmosphere, browse round the multitude of trade stands selling anything from agricultural machinery and tools to clothes, many at bargain prices; visit the food market selling speciality foods - everything from cheese to chocolate, from meats to freshly baked bread, many produced in the local area. Gain inspiration from the extensive craft area - maybe buy a new outfit, that finishing touch to a room or that special gift; visit the W I Market, the spectacular Horticultural marquee with its beautiful floral arrangements, not forgetting the chance to mingle with our farmyard friends, and enjoy the non-stop programme of displays and events in the main ring. Return leave 5.00pm. Arriving back in Godstone by approx. 5.45pm.

Adult: - £26.15 **Sen Cit:** - £23.10 **Child:** - £13.95
(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Show)

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND

Depart Oxted 8.00am (Route A) for the drive to the traditional Dorset seaside town of Weymouth, a popular resort with sweeping sandy beaches. When George III dipped his toe into the waters of Weymouth Bay in 1789 he became the first reigning monarch to take up sea-bathing, and thus ensured the future prosperity of this ancient town. The Georgian influence can still be seen along the Esplanade and in the streets behind: terraces of porticoed houses, bow-fronted shops and inns and the elegant St. Mary's Church with its Classical-style clock-tower. The broad promenade curves gently around a sandy beach to the harbour, which took on a new role with the coming of the railway in 1857. On the south side of the harbour, in Trinity Street, are two early 17th-century cottages which have been made into a museum, and an Inn of the same period. The rooms are furnished in the typical style of an Elizabethan sea-dog's house. During the day there will, for those who wish, be a drive onto the Isle of Portland, which shelters Weymouth harbour. A plateau of rock joined to the mainland by a narrow causeway and Chesil Beach. Portland harbour has been a naval base since 1872. Beyond the harbour the limestone rock rises to a height of 496 ft above Portland Bill. At the tip of Portland Bill are two lighthouses, the older of which, built in 1869 is now a bird observatory. Return leave 4.45pm. Arriving back in Godstone by approx. 8.00pm.

Adult: - £27.25 **Child:** - £18.25

MONDAY 9TH JUNE

RIVER THAMES CRUISE AND WINDSOR

Depart Oxted 8.45am (Route A) for Boulters Lock, Maidenhead, one of the liveliest locks on the River Thames to join a boat for a trip down the river passing under Maidenhead Bridge then Brunel's finest railway crossing of the river at the village of Bray. As the river bends to embrace the village the flinty tower of the 13th-century church reminds the boatman of the famous Vicar of Bray - Simon Alwyn - who repeatedly changed his views to keep his living under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I. Once through Bray Lock we pass Monkey Island and Dorney Court before arriving lunchtime in Windsor. Afternoon at leisure to maybe explore Windsor Castle or wander through the picturesque town centre, perhaps to Peascod Street and St. Leonard's Road, with their fishmongers, bakers, delicatessens, boutiques and craft shops. Most of the buildings along the narrow, cobbled streets were put up in the 17th and 18th centuries, but some, like the Three Tuns Hotel, built in 1518, are older. Return leave 5.15pm. Arriving back in Godstone by approx. 6.30pm.

Adult: - £26.25 **Child:** - £16.25
(Inclusive of Coach/River Cruise)

TUESDAY 10TH JUNE

BARNSDALE PLANTS AND GARDENS

Depart Oxted 8.00am (Route A) for the drive to the picturesque town of Stamford, Lincolnshire, where much of the BBC's dramatisation of "Middlemarch" was filmed. Stamford was transformed once more in the summer of 2004 with the filming of Pride and Prejudice. Here will be time for a browse and lunch before driving to Barnsdale Plants and Gardens, Oakham, Rutland, opened in the spring of 1997 as a tribute to the work of Geoff Hamilton. On show are working gardens familiar to BBC2's Gardeners' World viewers as 'The Gardens that Geoff built'. There are thirty nine individual gardens and features that all blend together by the linking borders into one eight acre garden. You will see the two built for 'Geoff Hamilton's Paradise Gardens' series. On the nursery is a wide range of well-grown choice and unusual plants for sale, most of which have been originally propagated from the Barnsdale garden. The staff will be pleased to answer any queries you may have about the plants, or nursery and general gardening problems. Refreshments available. Return leave 5.00pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 8.30pm.

Adult: - £32.15 **Child:** - £19.75
(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Barnsdale)

(Please note that although Barnsdale allows individual RHS and HDRA members free access to the gardens this concession does not apply when they are members of a visiting group)

THURSDAY 12TH JUNE

HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION INCLUDING HIGHLANDS

Depart Oxted 8.15am (Route A) for the drive to the Henry Moore Foundation at Perry Green, Hertfordshire. This seventy acre estate is home to the studios, barns and galleries of the Henry Moore Foundation, gifted to them by Henry Moore. Many of the buildings remain as they were in his lifetime. We are also pleased to be able to include a visit to his home, Hoglands, which is at the same location. Hoglands, a timber-framed farmhouse dating from at least the beginning of the 16th, but with major modifications of the early to mid-17th century, was home to the Moores for almost fifty years. They made fairly minor alterations to the building until 1960, when a large extension was built, incorporating a distinguished reception room and an upstairs annex for their growing daughter. After the death of Henry Moore in 1986 and his wife two years later, the house remained unoccupied before being acquired by the Foundation in 2004. Following major refurbishment Hoglands was opened to the public for the first time last year and is now open only by special appointment. On arrival we shall be greeted with morning coffee before being split into smaller groups for our guided tours of Hoglands, the Studios and Galleries where Henry Moore worked, many of which are just as they were when he sat there, and also of the grounds where many of his works of art are on display. During the day we shall take the short walk to The Hoop Public House for a salad and quiche lunch. Return leave approx. 4.00pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 6.00pm.

Cost: - £36.75

(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to and Guided Tour of the Henry Moore Foundation and One Course Lunch)

(Please be aware, that whilst there is not a great deal of walking involved, a reasonable amount of time will be spent standing outside whilst learning about the various artworks. Please therefore wear comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather on the day).

FRIDAY 13TH JUNE

WINCHESTER AND MOTTISFONT ABBEY GARDEN

Depart Oxted 8.30am (Route A) for the drive to Winchester where you will be free to explore and find lunch before journeying on to Mottisfont Abbey Garden. Once a 12th-century priory, Mottisfont Abbey is now a handsome house set in glorious grounds along the River Test. See the famous drawing room decorated by Rex Whistler, in outstanding "trompe l'oeil" style and see if you can tell where his work begins and ends. With its famous walled gardens, tranquil riverside walks and unrivalled setting, Mottisfont is the perfect place for an idyllic day out. Stroll through glorious landscaped grounds with sweeping lawns and magnificent plane trees, enjoy enchanting walks alongside the fast-flowing River Test; discover magical walled gardens housing the world famous National Collection of Old Fashioned Roses, spectacular at this time of year. Within the grounds you will see the spring or 'font' from which its name is derived. Refreshments available. Return leave 4.45pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 7.00pm.

Adult: - £30.80 **Child:** - £19.10

(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Gardens)

(NT Members less Adult: £7.50 Child: £3.75 but **must** bring card)

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

CYGNET HATCHING AT ABBOTSBURY SWANNERY & ABBOTSBURY SUB TROPICAL GARDENS

Depart Oxted 7.00am (Route A) for the drive to Abbotsbury Swannery where for over 600 years this colony of friendly mute swans has made its home. Sheltered by the famous Chesil Beach, this ancient and special site provides protection for hundreds of nesting swans and their broods. Arriving in time to see the 12.00 noon feeding we shall be taken on a guided tour during which we shall see hundreds of fluffy cygnets, many around the pathways so please tread carefully! Early afternoon we take the short drive to nearby Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens. Established in 1765 by the first Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden to her nearby castle, the gardens have developed into a magnificent 20 acre garden filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world. Many of these were introductions to this country, found by the plant hunting descendants of the Countess. Since the great storm of 1990 many new exotic and unusual plants have been introduced and the garden is now a mixture of formal and informal, with charming walled garden walks and spectacular woodland valley views. Refreshments available at both venues. Returning leave 4.30pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 8.30pm.

Adult: - £42.25 **Child:** - £29.35

(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Swannery/Guided Tour and Gardens)

MONDAY 16TH JUNE

BRIGHTON, HOVE OR WORTHING

Depart Oxted 9.30am (Route A) for the drive to either the fashionable resort of Brighton with its 3 miles of beachfront, the Royal Pavilion, built for the Prince of Wales in 1787, the narrow twisting Lanes - brick-paved passages lined by 17th-century fishermen's cottages, now mostly antique shops, and its extensive shopping areas; to Hove, with its Regency terraces with bow fronts and tall pilasters, broad lawns and a refined air; or drive on to Worthing, a small fishing village until in 1798 Princess Amelia, youngest daughter of George III, came to stay, so giving Worthing the royal seal of approval, resulting in rapid building creating the centre of today's resort. Return leave: Worthing - 5.00pm

Hove - 5.20pm

Brighton - 5.30pm

Arriving back in Godstone by approx. 6.45pm.

Adult: - £14.50

Child: - £12.00

TUESDAY 17TH JUNE

GUILDFORD AND RIVER CRUISE WITH CREAM TEA

Depart Oxted 9.00am (Route A) for the drive to Guildford, the County town of Surrey, which nestles in the gap in the North Downs carved by the tranquil and picturesque River Wey. Here you will be at leisure to see the medieval Guildhall with its ornate gilt clock which dominates the cobbled High Street, and browse in the extensive High Street and shopping centre. Mid afternoon we board 'The Alfred Leroy' an all-weather tripping boat modelled on the commercial barges that plied the river in years gone by, for a 1½ hour cruise southwards on the 300-year old River Wey and Godalming Navigation, during which you will see the Water Meadows, Saint Catherine's Ferry (used by the pilgrims en route to Canterbury in days gone by) and pass through Saint Catherine's Lock to Shalford and return, whilst enjoying a traditional Cream Tea. Return leave 4.30pm. Arriving back in Godstone approx. 5.30pm.

Cost: - £28.45

(Inclusive of Coach/River Cruise/Cream Tea)

FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

WISLEY GARDENS

Enjoy a day of horticultural heaven at one of the world's most cherished gardens.

Depart Oxted 10.00am (Route A) for our drive to the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. World renowned as a centre for gardening excellence, Wisley offers a wealth of inspiration and ideas for keen gardeners and dabblers alike. Set in 240 acres of beautiful grounds, visitors can delight in different styles of planting and garden design in a variety of lovely settings, with its wooded slopes and pinetum, rock garden, herbaceous borders, alpine house, model fruit and vegetable gardens and range of greenhouse displays. The Plant Centre has on offer thousands of plant varieties, together with a wide selection of bulbs and seeds, shrubs and trees, houseplants and garden accessories, something to provide inspiration for every type of garden. Whether you are looking for garden gift ideas, the perfect present for any special occasion or simply want to treat yourself, the Wisley Shop offers a wide range of merchandise including crafts and textiles, china, glass stationery, toiletries, jewellery and fun children's gifts, along with a tantalising range of food and beverages and an extensive collection of books including one of the finest selections of horticultural publications in the world. Refreshments available in the Conservatory Café and the Terrace Restaurant. Return leave 4.30pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 5.15pm.

Adult: - £20.25 **Child:** - £11.50

(Inclusive of Coach/Entry to Gardens)

(RHS Members less: Adult - £6.00, Child - £1.60 but **must** bring card)

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

EUROTUNNEL TO OSTEND

Depart Oxted 6.30am (Route A) for the drive to Folkestone where we shall board the Eurotunnel to Calais and thereafter drive on to the Belgian coastal resort of Ostend. An important port since the Middle Ages, Ostend became a favourite resort of Belgian royalty in the 19th century and developed into a fashionable town with a casino and other elegant buildings. Though no longer visited by royalty, Ostend is still a bustling beach town with excellent fish restaurants and comfortable cafés. The Belgian Expressionist James Ensor lived in Ostend: his former home, which is crammed with curious hats and seashells, is now a museum. Here there will be time to perhaps enjoy a meal or simply soak up the atmosphere of this Belgian seaside town. Arriving back in Godstone by approx. 9.15pm. (Passports Required.)

Cost: - £39.95

(Inclusive of Coach/Eurotunnel Fare)

MONDAY 23RD JUNE

TUTANKHAMUN AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE PHARAOHS

Depart Oxted 10.15am (Route A) for the drive to the Tutankhamun Exhibition being held at The O2 (formerly the Millennium Dome). Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922 the Boy King Tutankhamun has captured the hearts of people around the world. Buried with him were treasures beyond the imagination, a tomb holding the most magnificent treasures of the Golden Age of the Pharaohs, giving us a glittering glimpse into the past. From those fabulous iconic golden artefacts, to the mystery surrounding his death, burial and curse, we are irresistibly drawn to a story that lay buried for more than 3,000 years. The exhibition includes about 130 exhibits from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other Valley of the Kings Ancestors (compared to the approx 50 items that appeared in the first exhibition, only seven of which will be on display this time around). The collection is presented in eleven different galleries, each with its own backdrop and 'thematics'. To enhance your day we have included an audio tour, which, narrated by Omar Sharif, gives an in-depth account of many of the exhibition's most important objects. Refreshments available. Return leave 3.30pm. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 4.30pm

Adult: - £31.65 **Sen Cit:** - £28.85 **Child:** - £21.75
(Inclusive of Coach/Entry/Handheld Audio Guide)

THURSDAY 26TH JUNE

EASTBOURNE

Depart Oxted 9.15am (Route B) for Eastbourne where you can enjoy a day by the Sea and/or visit the Arndale Shopping Centre. Eastbourne is one of the largest resorts on the South Coast, enjoying a wonderful position on the edge of the English Channel. Return leave the Pierhead 5.15pm. Returning to Limpsfield Chart by approx. 6.30pm.

Adult: - £14.50 **Child:** - £12.00

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

ISLE OF WIGHT - DAY TRIP

Depart Oxted 7.15am (Route A) for Portsmouth and the ferry across the Solent to Fishbourne. The Isle of Wight, a mere 13 miles long and 23 miles wide, has 67 miles of coastline, with spectacular scenery, glorious beaches and unspoilt countryside. This diamond-shaped island regularly tops the British sunshine tables. Today we shall take a scenic circular tour with our return sailing being from Yarmouth to Lymington. Arriving back at Godstone by approx. 8.00pm.

Adult: - £36.50 **Child:** - £23.50
(Inclusive of Coach/Ferry Fare)