



St Mary's House, Bramber and Lancing College

Monday 16 July 2018

An exclusive visit to the enchanting historic 15th century timber-framed house, with magnificent gardens, in the picturesque award-winning downland village of Bramber, West Sussex ... a place of fascination and mystery.

Still a lived-in home, there are fine panelled rooms, including the unique Elizabethan *trompe l'oeil* Painted Room. St Mary's has intriguing literary connections ... Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the *The Musgrave Ritual* (a Sherlock Holmes Story).



There are five acres of beautiful gardens, with an exceptional example of the prehistoric *Ginkgo Biloba* 'living fossil' tree, amusing animal topiary, and 'Secret' Garden with original Victorian fruit wall and pineapple pits, beautiful rose garden, terracotta garden, King's Garden, unusual circular English Poetry Garden, landscape water garden and Rural Museum.



Following lunch at The Old Tollgate Hotel in Bramber, we will have a guided tour of Lancing College Chapel, the largest school chapel in the world. The foundation stone was laid in 1868 and built by resident masons of Sussex sandstone. The 70ft deep foundations hold the chapel on its spectacularly eminent site. The crypt was used by the school until the upper chapel was consecrated in 1911. Although this remarkable building, intended by the Founder as a symbol of faith and a challenge to materialism, remains incomplete, it is an architectural masterpiece of the gothic revival with soaring columns and a wealth of stained glass, carvings and tapestries.

The cost of the day includes coach, gratuities, tea/coffee on arrival at St. Mary's House, guided tour of the house and garden, and a conservation and maintenance donation to Lancing College Chapel.

We will travel by coach from the Leatherhead Leisure Centre

- 08.45 Depart from Leatherhead Leisure Centre
- 10.00 Tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival at Mary's, Bramber followed by guided house tour and garden visit
- 12.30-13.45 Buffet lunch* (for speed) to be taken at the Tollgate Hotel (not included in the cost).
*Cost currently £13.00 but discount voucher may be available nearer the time).
- 14.00 Tour of Lancing College
- 16.15 Depart for return to Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

Organiser: Gilly Coombes Mobile Phone 07778 033769 or 01372 274969 or

email interest to png@coombesfm.plus.com

Appropriate payment by cheque payable to "The Arts Society Leatherhead" due at the time of booking (not normally refundable). Lunch details will be confirmed by email (or phone if no email) during June.

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St Mary's House Bramber and Lancing College 16th July 2018

Please complete and return the form with full payment at The Arts Society Leatherhead meeting, or send to: Gilly Coombes 11 Berry Walk, Ashted KT21 1BT.

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... @ £31.00 per person

Name(s): Landline Tel No:

E-mail: Mobile number

I would like to apply for a parking permit at Leatherhead Leisure Centre Please tick if required

Please add name of contact for the day in case of an emergency

Name Contact number: