

ARTS & CRAFTS TOURS

GIMSON AND THE BARNSLEYS

SEPTEMBER 7 – 16, 2019

When Mary Greensted first published her major examination of the work of Ernest Gimson and the brothers Sidney and Ernest Barnsley in 1980, it had been over a decade since Lionel Lambourne's Gimson exhibition at the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery— which was opened by Gordon Russell - and over 50 years since anyone had seriously published anything about their work. That book, "Gimson and the Barnsleys: Wonderful Furniture of a Commonplace Kind", was reissued in 1991. And now nearly 30 years later, Mary's new book with a reassessment of their work and their place within the world of the Arts and Crafts Movement, is to be published.

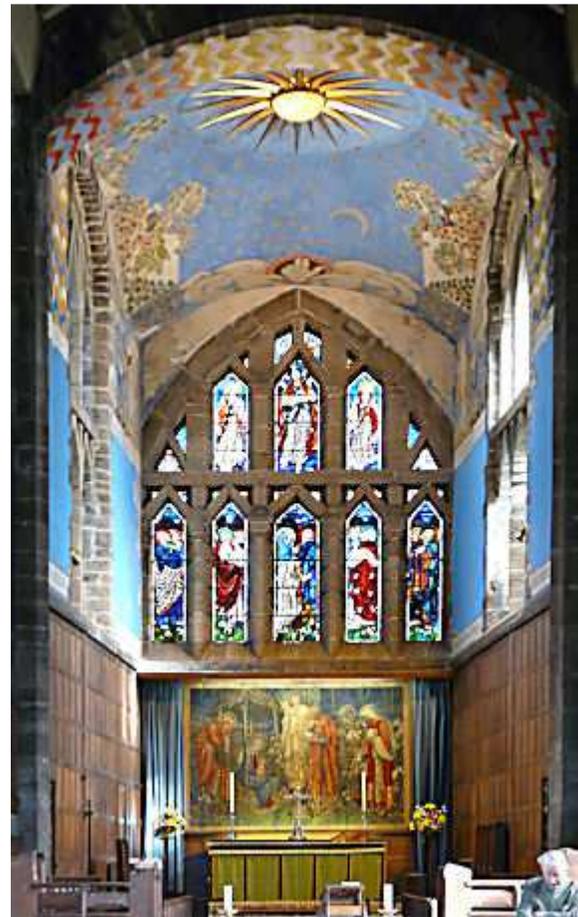
Following several tours to the Cotswolds which looked at the work of C.R.Ashbee, William Morris and his friends, it seems an appropriate time to offer a tour which features the work of these three major architects and designers. This tour, while spending the majority of the time in the Cotswolds, will begin in the north in Greenlaw, Scotland at Marchmont House where the legacy of Ernest Gimson is being carried on by Lawrence Neal. Gimson apprenticed with Philip Clissett and in turn Lawrence's father Neville followed the tradition.



Marchmont House interior staircase and exterior with renovations by Robert Lorimer

Our first two nights we will be staying at Marchmont House, an amazing late-eighteenth century mansion on the Scottish borders enlarged a century ago by Robert Lorimer - the Scottish Lutyens. The house has recently been restored and contains, among its many treasures, a significant collection of Arts and Crafts furniture along with an archive of designs by Ernest Gimson and Neville Neale. Our host, Hugo Burge, the owner of Marchmont House, is establishing a workshop in the stables.

From Greenlaw we head south stopping at Cragside, designed by Richard Norman Shaw who taught all three and then on to the marvelous St. Andrew's Church by E.S. Prior in Roker (below) which has a number of fittings by Gimson. We'll end that evening in Bradford where Gimson executed extraordinary plaster work for the Council Chambers.



Our next evening is spent in Leicester which takes us back to the turn of the 19th century when Ernest Gimson built Stoneywell, a cottage for his own family and which we visit the next day along with a behind the scenes visit to the local museum.



Stoneywell Cottage

And then it is on to the Cotswolds where we stay at one of our favorite hotels, Barnsley House. Not, however named for either of the Barnsleys but is in the charming small village of Barnsley.

While in the Cotswolds we will be visiting Rodmarton Manor, the village of Sapperton where Gimson and the Barnsleys lived, Owlpen Manor where we can see much of their furniture as we can at Hilles House where we will have dinner. And then in Broadway at the Gordon Russell Museum we will have a chance to see a further continuation of their work and traditions.



Sir Nicholas Mander welcoming us to his home, Owlpen Manor

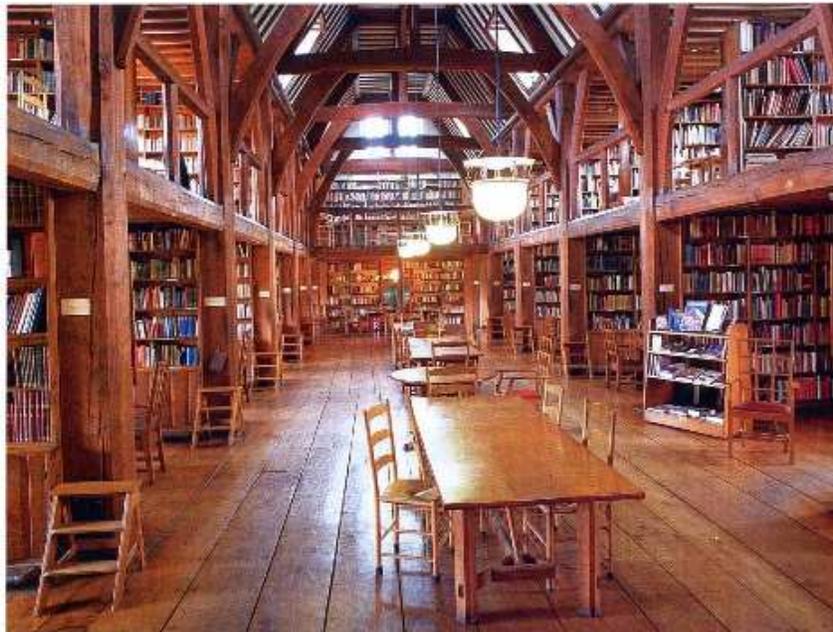
Another of our visits is to Rodmarton Manor, where our host is John Biddulph whose –great-grandfather Claude Biddulph commissioned Ernest Barnsley to design his country home. He and

his wife were passionate about the Arts and Crafts Movement and involved many residents of the village in the building and furnishing of the home all under the direction of Barnsley.



Rodmarton Manor Interior

Our final stay will be in London and from there we will visit Bedales school (the Library is below) and its several buildings with work by Ernest Barnsley as well as going to his workshop, which again attests to the influence he and the others have had which lasts to today.



Bedales Library



The Barnsley Workshop as it was and as it is now.

There will be other visits on this tour, but if you are interested you may want to let us know now to reserve and to let us know if there is something you would particularly like to see.

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