



HOUSES AND GARDENS IN THE BORDERS AND LAKE DISTRICT

August 2 – 12, 2024

If you like houses and gardens, this is your tour. In August we are offering a tour with special cache taking you inside a number of private homes in the border of England and Scotland and in the Lake District. Additionally we will be spending a few days in Birmingham where we visit the newly installed Gas Hall in the Birmingham Museum with its glorious collection of Pre-Raphaelite works. We will also visit the Birmingham Cathedral where we see the recently conserved stained glass windows. And we'll have a tour of one of the best and most important planned communities – Bourneville built by the Cadburys for their workers.

We will be staying for the beginning of the trip at Naworth Castle (below) the home of Philip Howard which has been owned by his family since the 14th century. We are delighted to be welcomed again by Philip as Naworth is an excellent base for visiting a number of special homes and gardens – some open to the public and others private where we have been invited in by the owners.



Our trip will not be all houses and gardens as we will visit Philip Webb's only church in the small town of Brampton as well as a lovely little church by Pugin in Warwick Bridge and a spectacular church by Sarah Losh on the Green in Wreay. You may even have time for a walk on Hadrian's Wall (below). What a spectacular place to stroll and perhaps have a picnic!



But first in Glasgow we will visit the House for an Art Lover and have tea at Mackintosh at the Willow. Our guide will be Dai Vaughan who with his wife painted most of the work in both locations. And then it is on to Kirkcudbright, the Village of Artists where so many of the Glasgow Girls went. We will stay for two nights at the Selkirk Arms Hotel and then head to Naworth.

And after Naworth it is on to the Lake District and I'm delighted that we will be able to stay for two nights at Broadleys a spectacularly positioned home above Lake Windermere and designed by Voysey. As with Naworth, we will have it to ourselves and have a chance to see what it was like to live there. This is an area of the country rich in history and still vibrant today.

We are so pleased that Dai will still be with us and over the years, though very much an artist, he is also a poet. That is very important to him and also is a major part of the history of the Lake District. He has given us this introduction to that part of our journey:

We couldn't visit the Lake District without mentioning the Lake Poets, as they in large part were the ones who popularised the area. The most important were William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey. Dorothy Wordsworth should also be mentioned as, although not published in her lifetime, she provided much of the inspiration for her brother William's work. Charles and Mary Lamb and Thomas De Quincey also played their part. Keats and Sir Walter Scott also visited, and John Ruskin made his home there at Brantwood, which we'll be visiting.

In 1798 Wordsworth and Coleridge first published their Lyrical Ballads, the preface of which became known as the Manifesto of Romanticism and the start of the English Romantic Movement.

Arguably the most famous poems written in the Lake District are William Wordsworth's The Daffodils, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Kubla Khan, but there are many others and I'll be reading some of these to you while we're there.

But, of course for us the wonderful work of the Arts and Crafts architects, designers and craftworkers will be central to our days here. Windermere is home to Blackwell, designed by Baillie Scott and now one of the most important Arts and Crafts Museums. There are also homes by Lutyens to be visited and gardens by Thomas Mawson. And of course John Ruskin's home on Coniston Waters, Brantwood.



Blackwell Dining Room



Brantwood

We will stay a few nights further south in the Lake District and from here visit sites in Kendal such as Levens Hall and Sizergh Castle as well as the lovely small town Sedbergh, (below) known as one of Britain's 'Book Towns' so there will be time to roam its high street or perhaps venture out into the surrounding landscape.



The next few days are spent in Birmingham, but first we make a stop at the quite unusual and not often visited Giggleswick Chapel which was built in 1901 in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond jubilee. The patron was Walter Morrison the local MP and the architect was Thomas Graham Jackson. The chapel's copper-brown dome – verdigris green until its replacement twenty-five years ago – is a well-known landmark set on its mill-stone grit

promontory. And the interior decoration is not to be missed (below) We then have lunch at a private home.



Then it is on to Birmingham with so many examples of creative and exceptional arts and crafts work. Birmingham was the home of Burne-Jones, so it is no surprise that there is much of his work in the city. And recently his windows in the Birmingham Cathedral have been conserved. The city is synonymous with enlightened municipal government and political reform.

The City Art Museum was built on the profits of the Municipal Gas Works and the newly opened Gas Hall at the Museum has one of the best collections of Pre-Raphaelite art and we will take time to revel in their collection of glass, ceramics and silver.

In the city we'll see other work by Lethaby, Pugin, and Ashton Webb. The tour concludes with a visit to Bourneville built in 1895 as a model workers community for the workers at the Cadbury factory.

We hope you'll want to come along and **please let us reserve a place for you** by contacting us at artsandcraftstours@gmail.com.

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