



Friends of Fairfax House

YORK

Patron: Lord Nicholas Fairfax

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome to our Newsletter and Programme with its updated look which we hope you enjoy. This is my sixth and final Chairman's Report, normally given verbally at the AGM, now for all the membership.

Like many membership societies, we have difficulties and need to change the way things are run. Introducing modern technology - using email for booking reminders and ticketing. Behind the scenes all accounts, bookings and membership details are now computerised making life easier.

A recent survey showed that nearly one third of Friends' members attended at least one and sometimes several events over a year. This is very encouraging, especially as some events had to be cancelled through lack of support. Competition from elsewhere means choosing the right programme at the right price is challenging. We aim for a variety of enjoyable and interesting events to suit all tastes and pockets. I hope you find the Summer Programme attractive.

This year we have supported an overseas MA Research Student working to fill the 19th century gaps in the history of Fairfax House. It is quite a challenge, but Estée O'Connor will give us a brief review of progress at the AGM, with a longer talk later.

I must thank the Committee for all their hard work, without which we could not support Fairfax House as we do. I am pleased to be leaving the Friends' Committee in good heart, revitalised by new members with the skills to drive it forward, and wish them every success for the future.

I am finally pleased to announce that Lord Nicholas Fairfax, head of our branch of the Fairfax family, has agreed to become our patron.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

'MADE IN YORK' EXHIBITION PREVIEW

Thursday 4 May 2017
Fairfax House, 6.30pm, £12.50

An exclusive opportunity to have a preview of the new Fairfax House exhibition entitled 'Made in York'. The city nurtured some of the great names such as Grinling Gibbons, Thomas Chippendale, Lawrence Sterne, John Goodricke, John Flaxman and Joseph Rose. But behind these icons are some lesser-known pioneers. 'Made in York' rediscovers their rich and eclectic legacy, and the rare objects and often forgotten triumphs that they have left for future generations. Following work on the house climate control systems, this will be the first exhibition to be shown all around the house rather than just in the exhibition room.

Hannah Phillip, Fairfax House Director, will give an introduction to the exhibition and will lead a tour around some of its highlights, before we have an opportunity to look around for ourselves. Hannah and her staff will remain available to answer questions to allow us to get the most from the evening.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided for our refreshment.



To book events use the separate booking form with this Newsletter.

Cheques payable to Friends of Fairfax House and please check you put the right amount in words and figures.

You will be refunded if any events are unavailable.

No tickets will be issued; you will receive confirmation by e-mail (which we prefer please) or by post.

Picture courtesy of Fairfax House

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

VISIT TO TABLEY HOUSE AND ARLEY HALL, CHESHIRE

Tuesday 6 June 2017, by coach, price £40

In early June we will venture across the Pennines, as John Carr did in the 1780's, to see another of his creations at Tabley House in Cheshire. Home to the Leicester family for 700 years it is possibly the finest Palladian house in Cheshire with a fascinating collection of English paintings – once offered to the nation – as well as a chapel with Burne-Jones glass.



Arley Hall

In the afternoon we travel a short way to Arley Hall, to see both the hall and gardens. The house is the home of Viscount Ashbrook and built in the 1830's. The exquisite gardens were designed by television gardener Chris Beardshaw as 'a multitude of visionary delights'.



Tabley House

Coach leaves at 8.30am from Vue Cinema car park, Stirling Road, Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4XY, where ample free parking is available. Our expected return is about 6.45pm. Coffee on arrival will be provided. At Arley Hall you can use the well-stocked cafe or enjoy your own picnic lunch.

Pictures courtesy of Yvonne Metcalf and Marketing, Arley Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

GARDEN PARTY AT BRIDGE HOUSE ELVINGTON

*By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Christopher Bundy
Wednesday 5 July 2017, 2.30pm, price £12.50*



This is a garden designed for retirees, with nearly two acres of mixed borders with shrubs and roses around a wildlife pond – on the river Derwent and sometimes under it!

Travel is by your own transport and we will organise lifts wherever possible. Elvington is on the B1228 from the Hull Road A64

junction near to Grimston Bar. Bridge House (postcode YO41 4AA) is the last house on the right before the bridge, coming from York. Roadside parking is available.

Tea and cakes will be provided plus a glass of bubbly as a finale, and a fund-raising raffle will be held.



Pictures courtesy of Mr & Mrs Bundy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

VISIT TO WELBECK ABBEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Tuesday 29 August 2017, by coach, price £40



This is a special opportunity to join an exclusive day visit to Welbeck Abbey, a fascinating house and home to the Dukes of Portland since the Reformation. Used by the Ministry of Defence as a Staff College from the last war until 2005, it has now been returned to, and restored by, the family who offer very limited access. The house itself is open only 28 days a year, and we are privileged to have been able to book a day exclusively for the Friends.

We will have three separate, timed, guided tours of the state rooms of the house and its wonderful collections at 10am, 12 noon and 3pm. There will also be free access to the Harley Gallery which houses the Portland Collection, described by the Daily Telegraph as a ‘gigantic treasure chest stuffed with sparkling loot’. It includes paintings, porcelain, silver and sculpture amongst other things, many by the finest craftsmen and artists including Michelangelo and Van Dyck.

Lunch will be available in the cafe, or you can take a picnic. There is also a renowned Farm Shop selling local produce and a well-stocked Nottcutts garden centre. For the energetic, there is an interesting three mile walk through the estate.



Coach leaves at 8.30am from Vue Cinema car park, Stirling Road, Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4XY, where ample free parking is available. Our expected return is about 6.15pm.

Pictures courtesy of The Harley Gallery, Welbeck Abbey

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY VISIT TO KENSINGTON PALACE, LONDON

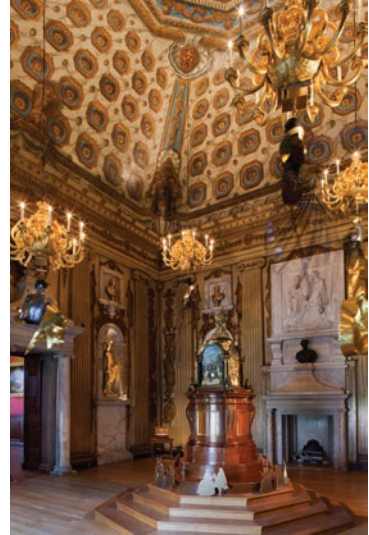
Wednesday 27 September 2017, by rail, price £65

Enlightened Princesses Following on from our AGM talk, a day trip to Kensington Palace to see the exhibition ‘Enlightened



Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte and the shaping of the modern world

Princesses’ which will illustrate fully the talk to be given at the AGM (see sheet with this Newsletter). Described by historian Lucy Worsley as a “mind-stretching exhibition about the brainy Georgian Princesses Caroline, Augusta and Charlotte”, it promises to be a real treat as well as an opportunity to see the palace. This has State Rooms including the King’s Gallery and extensive gardens including the Sunken Garden and Cradle Walk.



Travel by train leaving York Station at about 8.00am and returning about 8.00pm. Group train travel will be organised and so exact timings will be announced later.



The price of £65 includes rail fare and palace entry (normally up to £19). Travel and meals in London will be self-funded. The palace has a cafe and gift shop.

Pictures courtesy of Historic Royal Palaces

THREE CHURCHES VISIT 6 OCTOBER 2016



Appleton le Moors

On a lovely sunny day some 25 members visited three of the finest North Yorkshire moors churches. Our first visit was to St Gregory's church in Cropton, mentioned as far back as the 11th century and with reference to a chaplain in the 14th century. The church was rebuilt in 1844.

Next we visited St Mary's church in Lastingham, where St Cedd founded a monastery in AD 654, with the first church built AD 725. The church is best known for its Norman crypt built, it is thought, over where St Cedd was buried. We were shown around by Father Bill who was Bishop of Peru prior to coming to the five moors churches (although he is no relation to Paddington Bear!).

We finally visited Christ Church in Appleton le Moors, built by Mary Shepherd in 1868 and designed by J L Pearson in French gothic style. Mary was widow of Joseph Shepherd born in the village and who became a very wealthy ship-owner. The church is described as a little gem.

Katrina Lane, her aunt Lorraine, and John welcomed us. They all live in the village and after a very informative talk on the history we enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea. We thank all those involved in what was an enjoyable visit.



Lastingham

Pictures courtesy of Rev Dr H W Godfrey and 'achurchnearyou.com'

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We have welcomed, as new members,
Mr. and Mrs. S Elmer of Scruton,
Lord Nicholas Fairfax of London,
the Honourable Hugh Fairfax of London,
Mr. and Mrs. N Hitchcox of Hay on Wye,
Mr. J Rosenfield of Aviemore,
and *Ms P Thornton* of York.

We welcome particularly those of the above members who have joined following the ending of the *Fairfax Society*.

We are sorry to lose, through resignation, *Miss Arnold* of York and *Mrs. J Van Der Burg* of Upper Poppleton.

We are sorry to hear of the death of *Miss G M Blanshard* of York, *Mr. Brewster* of York, *Mr. and Mrs. Rogers* of Easingwold and *Mrs. Yeomans* of New Brunswick Canada.

(The above apply to end December 2016, since when membership renewals are in progress)

SPONSORSHIP THANKS

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