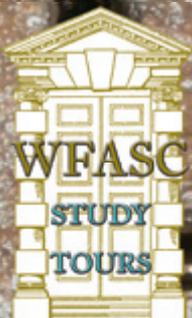


Wessex Fine Art Study Tours

*DELIGHT
&
DIVERSITY:*

*THE COUNTRY HOUSES
and
GARDENS OF DORSET
June 11 ~ 17, 2023*

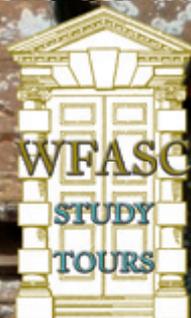


Organiser:

Barbara Peacock MA, FRSA

Reservations and Enquiries: Tel: +44(0)1962 771579

Email: wfac-tours@wfac.co.uk www.wfac.co.uk





Forde Abbey

DELIGHT AND DIVERSITY: The Country Houses and Gardens of Dorset

Dorset is one of the most unchanged and rural of English counties, with a richly diverse landscape of rolling downs and secluded valleys, open moorland and deep woodlands, still redolent of the world of Thomas Hardy. Hidden in remote valleys lie enchanting mediaeval and Tudor gentry manor houses and elegant Georgian mansions, often still the homes of the descendants of the original builders. Some are key buildings in England's architectural history. Our tour will focus on private houses of all periods, many with outstanding gardens, and all enhanced by the beauty of the local stone.

The county has a remarkable concentration of mediaeval and Tudor manor houses. **Fiddleford Manor** c.1380 has the finest mediaeval manor house interior in Dorset, whilst spectacularly sited Tudor **Mapperton Hall** has been described by Country Life as England's finest manor house. Elizabethan **Wolfeton Hall** has remarkable Renaissance interiors, whilst battlemented **Lulworth Castle** is a fantasy Jacobean hunting lodge, built as a castle to entertain aristocracy and royalty. **Forde Abbey** is one of the most outstanding houses of the Commonwealth period, with magnificent plasterwork and woodwork. **St Giles, Wimborne**, ancestral home of the Earls of Shaftesbury, is a key early classical house (c.1650) showing the influence of Inigo Jones. Beautifully sited **Creech Grange** and **Smedmore House** have important 18th century interiors. **Milton Abbey** still retains its magnificent 15th century Abbots's Hall, whilst in the late Georgian period. Sir William Chambers remodelled the abbey buildings to form a grand country house. The enchanting neighbouring thatched model village of **Milton Abbas** was created by 'Capability' Brown. **Kingston Lacy**, an innovative Restoration house (1663-5), remodelled in the 1830s by Sir Charles Barry, has an outstanding collection of paintings and furniture, whilst **Minterne** (1904-6), a sophisticated Arts and Crafts house, brings us into the 20th century.

Important gardens include the Italianate Edwardian gardens of **Mapperton** (Garden of the Year award 2020), the beautiful gardens of **Forde Abbey**, the Georgian landscape of **St Giles**, the Victorian gardens of **Kingston Lacy**, the Himalayan gardens of **Minterne** and Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's magical garden of **Shute House**. Both **Milton Abbey** and **Lulworth Castle** are set in magnificent 'Capability' Brown parks.



Mapperton



Creech Grange



Minterne



St Giles south drawing room



Kingston Lacey



Forde Abbey



Mapperton



Wolfeton

© Chris Bedwell

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Sun June 11 The programme will begin in the afternoon (approx. 3.00 pm) at **** Plumber Manor Hotel, near Sturminster Newton, Dorset (see Practicalities). We will visit **Fiddleford Manor** (*English Heritage*) close by. Built c.1375- it has spectacular mediaeval roofs and is an excellent illustration of the layout of a mediaeval house.

Mon June 12 Forde Abbey (*Mrs Alice Kennard*) In c.1650 the former Cistercian monastery was acquired by Sir Edmund Prideaux, who transformed the abbey into one of the most richly decorated and impressive houses of the Commonwealth period. **Mapperton House** (*The Earl and Countess of Sandwich*), a glorious Tudor house, with important Elizabethan and Jacobean interiors.

Tues June 13 Coffee, in the picturesque village of **Corfe Castle** overlooking the dramatic ruins, followed by a visit to romantic **Creech Grange** (*Mr Norman Hayward*). Built in the Elizabethan period, Creech Grange was partially remodelled by the important Dorchester architect, Francis Cartwright c.1740. After lunch we visit Georgian **Smedmore House** (*Dr Philip Mansell*), spectacularly sited close to the sea.

Wed June 14 We visit **Wolfeton Manor** (*Captain and Mrs Nigel Thimbleby*), an important Elizabethan house with outstanding Renaissance decoration. Thence to **Minterne House** (*Lord Digby*), a fine Arts and Crafts house (1904-5) with unchanged Edwardian interiors. We finish the

day at **Came House** 1750s-60s (*Mrs Alexandra Norton*), the Palladian masterpiece of Francis Cartwright, with splendid Rococo interiors and furniture by the eminent London firm of Vile and Cobb.

Thurs June 15 Wimborne St Giles (*The Earl of Shaftesbury*) The ancestral home of the Ashley-Cooper family, who became Earls of Shaftesbury, is of national importance. Its recent restoration has won many awards. The fine 18th-century landscape has one of the finest Shell Grottoes in Britain. Jacobean **Lulworth Castle** (*Mr James Weld*), built c.1608 as a hunting lodge in the form of a fantasy castle, was for centuries the seat of the Roman Catholic Weld family. The adjacent late 18th-century family **Chapel of St Mary** was the first free-standing Catholic church to be built since the Reformation, disguised as a garden pavilion.

Fri June 16 Morning visit to the gardens of **Shute House** (*Lady Suzy Lewis*), Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's masterpiece. Built for Sir Ralph Bankes 1663-5, **Kingston Lacy** (*National Trust*), is the most important surviving work by the gentleman architect, Sir Roger Pratt and contains a wonderful collection of Old Master paintings.

Saturday June 17 Milton Abbey (*Milton Abbey School*). Privileged access to Milton Abbey, remodelled in 1771-5 by Sir William Chambers and James Wyatt for Lord Damer; its magnificent mediaeval Abbot's Hall survives. 'Capability' Brown laid out the beautiful park and designed the delightful model village of **Milton Abbas**.

TOUR LECTURES

The tour will be led by Barbara Peacock MA FRSA, founder of Wessex Fine Art Study Tours in 1982. She has since led numerous successful tours in Britain and overseas. Her particular interest is the country house and its associated historic landscape. She lectures internationally for organisations such as the National Trust, the Art Fund, The Arts Society and is a tour lecturer for Art Pursuits Abroad.

The Earl of Shaftesbury will give a lecture on the restoration of St Giles House during our visit and Lord Digby will lead the tour of Minterne House.

Evening Lectures:

From Local to National: Architecture in Dorset, 1500-1900 by Dr Timothy Connor, FSA. Dr Connor is an architectural historian, specialising in the historic buildings of Dorset. He will also lead our tour of Wolfeton House.

Kingston Lacy: The Story of a Gentry House 1660-1860 by Barbara Peacock

PRACTICALITIES

The charming Plumber Manor Country House Hotel**** near Sturminster Newton, Dorset is the perfect base for our tour. Dating from the 1600s, it is run as a luxury country house hotel by the Prideaux-Brunes, the same family who built it 400 years ago, and is still very much a family home. Beautifully situated in quiet Thomas Hardy country, it is surrounded by beautiful gardens. The rooms are large and stylishly decorated, some overlooking the river and garden. The Hotel is known for its excellent restaurant and is listed in the Good Food and Good Hotel Guide. See plumbermanor.co.uk

NOTE: The Hotel has only 16 rooms, of which there are a limited number of single rooms (doubles as singles). Thus early booking for single rooms is advised.

The nearest station is Gillingham on the Waterloo line. Participants coming by train will be returned to the station by coach at the end of the tour, which will finish in the early afternoon of June 17, 2023.

The 7-day tour will cost **£2695 per person** in a twin-bedded or double room, **£350 single supplement**. This will include hotel accommodation B/B/D for 6 nights, most lunches, some coffees or teas, all coach transport, entrance fees and gratuities, the services of the lecturers and an illustrated course booklet.

Please note: The course is limited to around 20 participants.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Cancellation charges are as follows:

56 days or more before start of course - loss of deposit
55 - 43 days before start of course - 50% of the total
42 - 29 days before start of course - 60% of the total
28 - 22 days before start of course - 85% of the total
21 - 0 days before start of course - 100% of the total

It is a condition of booking that you arrange travel insurance to protect yourself against loss. In the unlikely event of cancellation by WFASC we undertake to refund you in full within 14 days all monies paid to us in course fees. In the case of *force majeure* no refunds can be made.



BOOKING FORM

(PLEASE USE **BLOCK LETTERS**)

I/We wish to attend the 2023 Summer Study Course and would like to reserve accommodation in a **single/shared** room.

I/we enclose a cheque for **£300 per person** (a non-returnable deposit) made payable to: **WESSEX FINE ART STUDY COURSES**,

OR, I am or we are paying £_____ into the following account:
Wessex Fine Art Study Courses, Account no.76898668

Sort Code: 30-99-71

Reservations should be sent to: WFASC Enrolments,
Church Cottage, Beauworth, Alresford, Hants SO24 0PA
or scanned and emailed to: wfasc-tours@wfasc.co.uk

[1] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other (please include first name).....

Address:

.....

.....

Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

Email:.....

[2] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other (please include first name).....

Address:

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Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Signature:

Date:.....

How did you hear about this course?

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Please indicate if you wish to receive details of future courses and to be on our mailing list: Yes No

Please indicate if you are a member of: The National Trust
English Heritage The Art Fund Historic Houses

More photographs at www.wfasc.co.uk

