

**SOANE TRAVELS: Derbyshire, “Prince Among Counties” Tour
May 12-19, 2007**

Sponsored by Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Daytime Attire: Comfortable Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Smart Casual

Depart London by private motorcoach at 8:45 am from The Capital Hotel, 22 Basil Street, located in Knightsbridge, London. Our British guide, David Brown of the National Trust, will join us as we step on to our private motorcoach. Our first stop of the day will be Soane’s **Moggerhanger Park**, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire, an 18th century residential masterpiece with a park designed by Humphrey Repton in 1792. We will be greeted by architect Peter Inskip for a private tour and lecture on the extensive restoration of the building, which he has directed.

A three course luncheon will be served at Moggerhanger park.

We will then make our way to Derbyshire with a stop at **Locko Park** (1729), near Derby, the home of Mr. & Mrs. David Palmer. Locko Park is a large stone mansion approached through a pair of 18th century lodges and an ornately landscaped park with a lake designed probably by William Eames, a student of Capability Brown, in 1792. The interiors are a series of elaborate 18th and 19th century designs.

After our private tour at Locko Park we will check in to the **Marriott Breadsall Priory**, Morley, near Derby, a resort hotel, for a three-night stay. The hotel was once one of the great private estates of Derbyshire and has its origins in the 13th century. It now consists of the historic central block dating from 1802 with later Neo-Gothic additions from 1861. The hotel is situated in a park-like setting with lush grounds, gardens and a private golf course.

This evening, the group will come together at 7:30pm for dinner in the hotel’s restaurant.

Sunday, May 13, 2007

Daytime Attire: Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Smart Casual

Our day begins with a morning tour of the National Trust's **Sudbury Hall**, near Uttoxeter. Begun in the early 17th century, Sudbury was not completed until well into the late 17th century and is based on an E-plan. Interiors are lavish and contain carvings by Edward Pierce who is best known for his bust of Sir Christopher Wren and his later work at Chatsworth. Sudbury is well-known today for its interiors by John Fowler of Colefax and Fowler, and is considered by Martin Wood, author of the recent book on Nancy Lancaster and a forthcoming book on John Fowler, to be the designer's finest work.

Our next stop is a private tour of **Catton Hall**, near Barton-under-Needwood, designed by James Gibbs and William Smith of Warwick in 1741. Catton Hall is the home of Mr. & Mrs. Robin Nielsen and contains lavish Rococo interiors and stuccowork, housed behind a plain but stately brick facade. The finest room is the former Great Hall, that now serves as the dining room. The house contains Stuart portraits and a Wright of Derby.

Lunch today is in a local restaurant

In the afternoon, we will visit the grand Palladian **Melbourne Hall**, Melbourne, for an exterior and garden tour. The composition of the formal gardens make them appear larger than they are as they divide into three avenues, leading downhill by grand stairways, to a magnificent basin, culminating in an elaborate wrought-iron arbor. Designed in the 1690s by George London and Henry Wise, gardeners to the English crown.

Our last stop of the day will be a private tour at **Calke Abbey**, near Melbourne, where Andrew Barber, regional director of the National Trust, will be our guide. The house was designed in 1701-3 and contains interiors designed by James Gibbs and carried out by Francis Smith of Warwick. The house will be a unique experience since it is crammed with three centuries of possessions, including imported embroidered Chinese silk bed-hangings that remained in their packing cases from the 1730s to the 1980s, when they were found to be in pristine condition. They were first displayed at the Treasures of Britain exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

We will stay on a Calke Abbey for a private dinner and then return to the Breadsall Priory Hotel in the evening.

Monday, May 14, 2007

Daytime Attire: Smart Casual – Ladies, please NO POINTED HEELS

(per special requirement of one of the homeowners)

Evening Attire: Smart Casual

The day begins with a morning visit to the National Trust's **Kedleston Hall**, near Derby, often called Derbyshire's most splendid Georgian house. Begun in 1759 by Lord Curzon and designed by Mathew Brettingham, it consists of a central block with quadrant colonnades based on Palladio's Villa Mocenigo. By the 1760's Lord Curzon commissioned Robert Adam to complete the designs and interiors. Interior decorative plasterwork is by the renowned Joseph Rose. The Great Hall at Kedleston is considered to be one of England's finest 18th century creations and is 67 feet long by 37 feet wide and 40 feet high with Nottingham pink alabaster columns and generously coved stucco ceilings. Our tour will be conducted by site manager Simon McCormack. Members of the Curzon family still occupy the west wing of Kedleston Hall.

A brief visit to the historic Derby Cathedral in Derby will conclude the morning.

We will have lunch at the nearby **Kedleston Inn**.

Our next stop is **Radburne Hall**, near Derby, for a tour by the owner Mrs. Chandos-Pole. The house was thought to have been designed in 1739 by William Smith of Warwick for its owner, German Pole. The house contains some of the original paneling from an earlier 17th century house on the site, along with fine rococo interiors and Joseph Wright of Derby portraits. The house was restored in the 1950s by architect Frank Scarlett with fine interiors by John Fowler. The Fowler interiors remain today.

Our last visit of the day is to the privately owned **Meynell Langley**, near Derby, a late 18th century house remodeled in the early 19th century. Its two-storey façade is composed of stone, nine windows across with a portico of coupled Ionic columns. We will have afternoon tea with the owners.

Dinner tonight is back at the Breadsall Priory Hotel in the **Morley Room**, the historic drawing room of the estate and executed in the Neo-Gothic style.

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Daytime Attire: Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Smart Casual

Check out and departure from the Marriott Breadsall Priory Hotel.

Today we will begin with a private tour of **Hardwick Hall**, near Mansfield, conducted by Andrew Barber, regional director of the National Trust. The property consists of two houses, Old Hardwick Hall and New Hardwick Hall. Bess of Hardwick was born at Old Hardwick shortly after 1520 and she lived in the house until her marriage to her cousin in 1544. She later married Sir William Cavendish, treasurer to the chamber of the king. She was successful in convincing her wealthy husband to give up his many properties in other counties, enabling her to build on a grand scale at Hardwick. Bess married two other times and the latter husband was richer than the previous one. As Bess was widowed four times by wealthy men she inherited a vast fortune with which to fuel her building passion.

In the 1590s, before the death of her fourth husband, Bess began rebuilding her family home Old Hardwick by adding two wings and a six-story tower. After her husband's death and now much wealthier, she was able to lay those plans to rest and begin a new and more magnificent country house, New Hardwick Hall. Bess was in her seventies when the foundations were laid. The project took seven years to complete and she died in 1608, eleven years after moving in. The building is based on an H-Plan and consists of six massive towers, embellished on the balustrades with her initials ES. Hardwick Hall has more window space than actual wall space and was said to cause King James I great jealousy. It is thought that the building was designed by Robert Smythson. The collections at Hardwick include a large number of period needlework and textiles.

Lunch today is in the National Trust Tea Room at Hardwick Hall.

In the afternoon we will make a nearby stop at the impressive ruin of **Sutton Scarsdale Hall**, Sutton Scarsdale. This was a 17th-century house remodeled in 1720 by Francis Smith of Warwick for the fourth Earl of Scarsdale. The house was transformed into one of the grandest houses in the county. The structure consists of a giant two-story facade with colossal fluted and paired pilasters surrounding the focal point of a pedimented entrance way flanked by colossal engaged columns. One can still see traces of ornate plasterwork in some of the rooms. The estate fell into disrepair in the 1920s after the interiors were stripped and sent to America where they were purchased by the Philadelphia Art Museum, where they can still be seen.

We will make a stop by **Edensor Village**, which is a Chatsworth estate model village planned by the fourth Duke of Devonshire. The land that Edensor occupies became the property of the Cavendish family earlier in the 1540s. It wasn't until the mid 18th century when the Duke was making major alterations to the layout of the Chatsworth estate and the roads leading to it that the idea for a model village was formed. While Capability Brown was laying out the new gardens for Chatsworth, the decision was made to move

the existing surrounding houses. During this process the plan was forged for Edensor. It is believed that the concept was finalized and implemented in the 1840s by Joseph Paxton. The village was formed from a combination of transplanted village houses and newly renovated and newly constructed houses. The Dowager Duchess of Devonshire currently resides in the village Vicarage. After our visit we will make a stop at the **Chatsworth Farm Stand** for shopping and perhaps a cup of tea and pastries.

We will check into the **Cavendish Hotel**, Baslow, for a four-night stay in the late afternoon.

The Cavendish has a long history as an inn dating back to the 1700s. In 1830 the property was acquired by the Duke of Devonshire and was refurbished as the Cavendish Hotel by the late Duke & Dowager Duchess of Devonshire in the 1970s. The Duchess handpicked the decor, which has been maintained in the English Country House Style, while public spaces contain fine antiques and paintings from the Chatsworth estate itself. The hotel is set within the estate with all rooms having views out over the glorious park and grounds.

Dinner tonight will be at the Cavendish Hotel followed by a lecture by **Martin Wood**, author of *Nancy Lancaster: English Country House Style* and a forthcoming book on John Fowler.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Daytime Attire: Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Jackets & Ties/ Dressier

The focal point of our day is a visit of the **Chatsworth** estate, Edensor, near Bakewell, with a full tour of the house & gardens before the public arrives. William Cavendish (husband of Bess Hardwick) took possession of Chatsworth in the 1680s and began to remodel an existing Elizabethan structure. Additions continued throughout the entire 18th century creating one of England's grandest country-house compositions. Centered on 35,000 acres, Chatsworth House has been called the "National Gallery of the North". The estate is enriched with not only fine contents of art and furnishings but also with one of the most elaborate garden schemes in all of England located in a 1,000-acre park. The parterre gardens were designed by the king's gardeners, George London and Henry Wise. A full morning will be spent at Chatsworth.

Lunch will be served in the restaurant at Chatsworth

A late afternoon private visit to **Haddon Hall**, near Bakewell, declared the English castle *par excellence* by Nikolaus Pevsner in his book *Derbyshire* and the most perfect English house to survive from the Middle Ages by Simon Jenkins. There has been a structure on the property since the Norman times. Originally owned by Dorothy Vernon, the house passed into the hands of the Manners family in 1567, when Vernon eloped with a Manners. From 1703 until the 1920s, Haddon was left in a slumbering state as the family opted to reside at Belvoir Castle. It was the 9th Duke of Rutland who returned in the

1920s, making this special place a family home once again. The Hall was the site for the recent Masterpiece Theatre adaptation of “Jane Eyre”, as well as a filming of “Pride & Prejudice”.

Following our visit to Haddon Hall we will make our way to **Eyam Hall** (1676), Eyam, near Bakewell, for a tour with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright, descendants of the original builder, Thomas Wright. Elizabethan/Jacobean in style, the house is rich in 17th century rooms and memorabilia. Notice next to the hall fireplace the pair of rare “bacon” settles or seats with cupboards behind their backs used for curing hams near the fire. The Tapestry Room is literally “wallpapered” from floor to ceiling and around doors and windows with woven material. The house is very much in family use and full of many generations of local charm.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright will host a dinner in their private dining room at Eyam Hall before we return to the Cavendish Hotel for the evening.

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Day Time Attire: Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Jackets & ties/ Dressier

Today we will make our way through the picturesque Peak District to **Lyme Park**, near Disley, Cheshire. This noble house belonged to the same family for over 600 years and was given to the National Trust in 1946. The facade is composed of a wide range of architectural styles, from the Elizabethan to the Classical. Palladian facades surround an Italian Renaissance courtyard, which encapsulate the varied interiors within. Lyme provides a stunning and majestic house set within a dramatic park-like setting.

Departing from Lyme Park, we will have a drive-by tour of **Buxton Spa Town**. Buxton, much like Bath, was once a booming resort spa town with its roots firmly anchored in Roman times. Today Buxton is embarking upon an extensive restoration of its historic core, which will include uncovering the buried Roman baths and renovating the Crescent as a luxury spa hotel.

This afternoon we will have a few hours of free time and an independent lunch in the charming and historic town of **Bakewell** nestled in the heart of the Peak District and situated very close to our hotel. Bakewell has several charming restaurants and pubs, antique shops and winding streets filled with charming stone houses.

Our last visit for today is charmingly situated **Tissington Hall**, near Ashbourne, owned since the 15th century by the FitzHerberts. Located at the edge of the hilly Peak District, the Tissington is part of a picturesque setting that also includes a green, church and cottages. The house boasts a melding of 17th, 18th and 19th century interiors and lovely Jacobean architecture (1609). The hall combines Jacobean paneling with 18th century Gothic decoration. An added Edwardian library was designed by Arnold Mitchell and is decorated with a frieze portraying Art Nouveau flora and fauna. We will attend a private dinner at Tissington before returning to the hotel.

Friday, May 18, 2007

Daytime Attire: Jackets & Ties/ Dressier

Evening Attire: Jackets & Ties/ Dressier

Our day begins with a morning visit to **Renishaw Hall** for a private tour of the house and gardens with the owners Sir Reresby and Lady Sitwell. Sir Reresby is the son of Sacheverell, who with his siblings, Osbert and Edith, were described by their biographer, Anthony Powell, “heros to the new generation of dandy writers”. A famous John Singer Sargent portrait of the three hangs at Renishaw Hall. The house was built in 1625 by George Sitwell. The original structure still exists as the core to the current house, which was greatly expanded in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The drawing room and the ballroom in the Regency wing are considered to be the finest rooms in the house although the billiard room renovated by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1909 is of particular interest. The gardens are equally as lavish as the house and were extravagantly refurbished in the 1890s.

Our tour will conclude with a private luncheon with the owners.

The next stop is the romantic hilltop ruin **Bolsover Castle**, Bolsover. The castle has survived as one of the almost untouched expressions in stone of the lost world of the Elizabethan Age. With connections to Bess of Hardwick Hall and the Cavendish family, Bolsover is a must-see while in the Peak District. The surrounding views are breathtaking.

Our last stop is an afternoon tour at **Carnfield Hall**, near Alfreton, hosted by James Cartland, the owner. The once derelict house was purchased in 1987 by our host, who is an antiques collector, broadcaster and conservationist. The Elizabethan/ Jacobean stone manor house, dating from the 1630s and partially classicized in the 1690s, will be a real treat, filled to the rafters as it is with collections and furnishings.

Mr. Cartland will host drinks and canapés at Carnfield Hall. We then return to the Cavendish Hotel where participants may opt for a quiet evening or have a light meal in the town of Baslow at one of the local pubs or restaurants that are within walking distance of the hotel.

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Daytime Attire: Smart Casual

Evening Attire: Dark Suit for men, dressier attire for ladies

Today we will check out of the Cavendish Hotel and depart for London, making a stop en route at **Thrumpton Hall**, near Nottingham, Nottinghamshire. We will have a tour and luncheon with the owner, Miranda Seymore. The hall is a fine Jacobean house (1607) incorporating an earlier manor house and possessing a magnificent carved Charles II staircase and a carved and paneled drawing room. Other rooms contain beautiful 17th and 18th century furniture and paintings. Large lawns are separated from a landscaped park by a ha-ha wall and by a lake.

Our estimated return time to London is 4 pm.

The day ends when the group joins with members of Excursion #2, who will be starting their Derbyshire tour, for a reception at Sir John Soane's Museum followed by a private dinner at the Travellers Club. Participants should gather at the museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, at 6:15 pm. Private coach transportation is provided between the museum and The Travellers Club, however, participants are asked to return independently to their respective hotels.

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Participants return to the United States or take up other travel plans.