

A VISIT TO BLENHEIM PALACE
WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2015

The programme for the day is as follows:

- 8.15 am. Depart Lidl Store, Maes-y-Coed Road. (*Please park on the perimeter of the car park*)
- 8.30 am. Depart National Museum Cathays Park.
- 9.30 am. Coffee & biscuits at The Compass Inn, Tormarton.
- 10.00 am. Depart for onward journey to Blenheim Palace.
- 11.30 am. Arrive Blenheim Palace.
- 5.00 pm. Depart for Cardiff.

One of England's largest houses, Blenheim Palace was built between 1705 and circa 1722 and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The building of the palace was originally intended to be a reward to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, from a grateful nation for the duke's military triumphs against the French and Bavarians during the War of the Spanish Succession, culminating in the 1704 Battle of Blenheim. Following the palace's completion, it became the home of the Churchill, later Spencer-Churchill, family for the next 300 years, and various members of the family have in that period wrought various changes, in the interiors, park and gardens. At the end of the 19th century, the palace was saved from ruin by funds gained from the 9th Duke of Marlborough's marriage to American railroad heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt. The palace remains the home of the Dukes of Marlborough, the present incumbent of the title being Charles James Spencer-Churchill, 12th Duke of Marlborough (born 24 November 1955). The palace is also notable as the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1975), who is buried in the nearby village of Bladon, 1.7 miles distant.

We have requested a guided tour for our group on our arrival at Blenheim Palace which is 45 minutes. Some members may prefer the 'free flow' system in operation where visitors make their own way through the state rooms with guides available in the rooms for information. Please feel free to decide which you prefer when we arrive. Woodstock is 0.6 miles and has an interesting Market Street.

The total charge for the day, which includes coffee and biscuits, entrance Blenheim Palace and the grounds/gardens, the coach & driver's gratuity is £31.00. To join us please send your cheque made payable to 'Friends of the National Museum Wales' and completed form to; Dorn Swaffield, Lower House Barns, Michaelston-le-Pit, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan. CF64 4HE. Tel: 029 2051 3956. E-mails to "Dorn.swaffield@gmail.com" Should the visit be oversubscribed, a random selection of the applications will take place, and those who are unlucky may receive priority vouchers for a future event. Remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope only if you have no E-Mail address or you want 'Priority Vouchers' for a future event.

.....
To: Friends of National Museum Wales

Visit to Blenheim Palace & The Gardens - Wednesday 18th March 2015.

Name

Address

..... Postcode Tel E-Mail

Please reserve places for the above event.

I enclose a cheque for £..... (£31.00 per person.) and SAE.

I / We shall be boarding the coach at ▲ Museum Steps. ▲ Lidl Store.