

Things To Do Around
HAMBLETON Hall
2017 / 2018





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STEFA HART

HAMBLETON DECORATING

Stefa has run a successful interior design business for over twenty years, creating stylish, comfortable & practical interiors.

Her work ranges from small scale residential jobs, to large scale corporate projects, and she also works on a consultation only basis.

Apart from on-going projects at Hambleton Hall, Hart's Nottingham & Boodles of St James', recent projects have included houses in London, Scotland, Munich & St Moritz, as well as local country houses and barns.

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www.hambletondecorating.co.uk

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

I rewrite this booklet annually to help our guests to make the most of their stay with us. Thank goodness our area contains no five star tourist attractions. For the discriminating traveller, however, there is a wealth of interest in the towns and villages of the area, the fine country houses and their collections and the outlying cathedral cities. For the energetic there is a wide range of outdoor activities to be pursued.

The production of the booklet is paid for by local shops who advertise in its pages or appear in our register. They are all chosen by me as establishments which I think our guests would like to visit.

As recovery gathers pace there are signs of reinvention in our market towns whose high streets must replace many traditional food shops and others destroyed by the supermarkets.

In addition, some of our most successful outlets such as Top 555 (performance cars), Goldmark (art) and Swans (antiques) have evolved a significant on-line presence, which more than compensates for loss of trade in the High Street.

Uppingham is developing an alternative model in its quiet way. Antiques, the arts, rugs, bespoke shoes, a classy butcher, a purveyor of wood-burners and a traditional hardware store are all thriving there.

In the 33 years that the book has been published, Hambleton regulars have combed the byways of our region for worthwhile visits and shopping possibilities and occasionally belaboured me for including a duffer.

This guide represents my effort to point you in the right direction in as few words as possible.

Have a good time and please let us know about your discoveries.

Tim Han

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Closed

Sunday and Monday

www.oldhousegalleryrutland.co.uk

HAMBLETON HALL

Hambleton Hall was built in 1881 as a hunting box by Walter Marshall. Marshall's fortune was derived from a shipping business, but he came to Rutland to enjoy the foxhunting.

It is hard to imagine today that in Walter Marshall's time Rutland and Leicestershire had something of the atmosphere of a resort area. Melton Mowbray, the Mecca of fox hunting, meant the same to enthusiasts as St. Moritz might to skiers or St. Tropez to beach-lovers in modern times. Hambleton Hall provided an ideal base for hunting with the Cottesmore, Quorn, Belvoir or Fernie hounds and participation in the intensive social activities centred on Melton, Market Harborough and outlying estates and houses.

Some time ago I had the great good fortune to receive, on loan, Walter Marshall's scrap book. This document consists of a compilation of clippings mostly of a scandalous or scurrilous kind reflecting his interest in gossip, divorces, demi-mondaine girls (some revealing their arms and ankles) and spicy tales from the "pink-un".

Marshall remained a bachelor and when he died seems best remembered locally for the excellence of his table and cellar, and the convivial if slightly 'racey' company that he kept.

He left his house to his younger sister Eva Astley Paston Cooper. Although Eva started life as a keen devotee of the chase, from the age of 50 onwards she presided over a salon of bright young things including Noel Coward, Malcolm Sargent and Charles Scott Moncrieff, who dedicated his translation of Proust to Mrs C.

In his autobiography "Present Indicative" Noel Coward describes Mrs Cooper in the following terms: "Mrs Cooper was gay company. Her principal pleasure was to lie flat on her back upon a mattress in front of the fire and shoot off witticisms in a sort of petulant wail."

Mrs Cooper's grand-daughter has suggested that Noel Coward's rather uncharitable remarks about his benefactor were somewhat influenced by the fact that the young Noel was made to spend most of his waking hours here chopping down trees for the good of his health!

After Mrs Cooper's death Lord Trent, Dr. Brockbank and Major and Mrs Hoare enjoyed the house in their turn until the 1970s brought two big surprises. The creation of Rutland Water in 1976 (to provide water for the inhabitants of Peterborough and Northampton) transformed the outside environment. We transformed the inside in 1979/80.

The house has come full circle. As a small hotel and restaurant for discriminating diners and travellers the house has returned to a very similar convivial use to that for which it was built.





www.swansofoakham.co.uk



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MARKET TOWNS

Oakham is the town closest to Hambleton Hall and it retains much charm and character. In the centre is the old market place with its Buttercross and Stocks. Close by “**Oakham Castle**” (accessed via the rear of the market place and now from the Burley Road car park) is an exceptionally interesting building, principally, because it is not a castle. It is part of a manor house built soon after 1180 which once stood inside a powerful defensive ring wall. It is the earliest aisled hall of stone in Britain to have survived more or less complete and the earliest secular building in Britain in which we can still appreciate a scheme of figure sculpture. Musicians, a goat playing the rebeck, a crouching demon and many other (mostly decapitated) characters were carved by workers of the same school as those who worked on Canterbury Cathedral.

The walls of the Great Hall house a large collection of horseshoes of a more or less ornamental character. The collection is believed to have started in virtue of an ancient right vested in Oakham's Lord of the Manor viz. “That the first time that any peer of this kingdom shall happen to pass through the precincts of this Lordship, he shall forfeit, as a homage, a shoe from the horse whereon he rideth, unless he redeem it with money”. Prince Charles handed over his horseshoe in April 2003.

A £2 million Heritage Lottery Fund investment for extensive restoration work has been completed. For more information on this project visit: www.oakhamcastle.org

Oakham Castle Opening Times

The grounds are open to enjoy all year round.

The Great Hall is open

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm

Tuesday, closed term time; open during school holidays

Sunday 12.00 - 4.00pm

Admission free

Housing a rich rural life collection from Rutland, **The Museum** in Catmose Street has grown over the years and amongst its attractions are an informative “Welcome to Rutland” gallery, Visitor Centre and newly constructed friends garden using Rutland plants.

Oakham School, founded by Archdeacon Robert Johnson in 1584, plays an important part in the life of the town with more than 1000 pupils.

Museum Opening Times

01572 758440

www.rutlandcountymuseum.org.uk

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday and Sunday 9.30am - 4.00pm

Bank Holidays - Closed

Admission free

*Market days are Wednesday and Saturday

*Farmer's market 3rd Saturday of month in Gaol Street.

Stamford is one of the most splendid of English country towns with an astonishing number of fine houses and an impressive 11 churches serving its population of 20,000 and was surprisingly undiscovered until spotted as a suitable location for BBC's dramatisation of George Eliot's *Middlemarch* and the film *The Golden Bowl*.

Its former prosperity owed a great deal to the Roman Road Ermine Street (A1) which, from Roman times until the advent of the railways, carried almost all long distance traffic heading North/South. The coming of the railways in the 19th century brought growth to Grantham and Peterborough, but Stamford, served only by a small branch line, experienced something of a recession.

The result is a town still dominated by Georgian and earlier architecture with its mediaeval churches, Georgian theatre, 16th and 17th Century coaching inns and innumerable stone houses of many periods.

The Hospital of William Browne in Broad Street, one of the best surviving mediaeval alms-houses in England, set around a beautiful cloister garden. To preserve peace and privacy for the residents, the ancient parts of the almshouse are normally available to visit by guided tour only. Tours can be booked by phone 01780 763153 / 01780 766567. Guided tours cost £3.50 per head: the minimum price for a guided tour is £30.

Burghley House (q.v. page 16) is on the southern edge of town.

*Market day Friday

*Farmer's market every other week on Fridays

www.stamford.co.uk

Guided Walks for Stamford – contact Jill Collinge – 01780 410780.

Email: jillcollinge2002@hotmail.com

Uppingham is the smallest of the local market towns. Quiet and rather old fashioned it has an air of bookishness largely due, I imagine, to its close ties with Uppingham School, which, like Oakham, was founded in 1584 by Archdeacon Robert Johnson. Uppingham's houses are built from warm, brown ironstone which is quarried locally and they mostly date from the 18th century. Uppingham continues to evolve and now has a significant number of worthwhile Art Galleries and Antique Shops.

*Market day Friday

*Farmer's market 2nd Friday of each month

Melton Mowbray is about 10 miles distant from us to the north west. Somewhat larger than the others it has a rather more commercial air. Melton is worth a visit if you would enjoy seeing the livestock market (every Tuesday). A recent innovation is the "Farmers Market" selling produce and some crafts on Tuesday and Friday, 8.00am – 2.00pm. In addition, on

Saturdays there is a small street market. A small antique and bric-a-brac market is also held on Tuesday and Friday. A visit to one of the pubs where the farmers are celebrating a good deal in the market can be combined with a sampling of the region's chief gastronomic specialities: Melton pie, Stilton cheese and ham. The Samworth Brothers, local pork pie magnates, restored and reopened the distinguished pork pie shop of Dickinson and Morris in Nottingham Street. With an on-site bakery they are turning out some fine pies, Melton Hunt cake as well as Stilton etc.
www.goleicestershire.com/melton-mowbray/

Market Harborough is around 40 minutes from us and a convenient stop en route to Althorp, Kelmash Hall and gardens (q.v. page 14) or home. Taking the B664 from Uppingham will lead you through some beautiful countryside. The King's Army was camped at Market Harborough prior to their defeat by Cromwell's forces at the Battle of Naseby in 1645. Equestrian activities including the founding of the Fernie Hunt and the National Steeplechase held in the 1860s (the forerunner of the Cheltenham Festival) are prominent features in the area's history.

Today, Market Harborough is a market town with a mix of individual and high street shops in the many 18th Century buildings. Notable landmarks include the attractive Old Grammar School founded in 1607, the Church of St. Dionysius whose 14th Century broach spire dominates the town, the Union Wharf and Foxton Locks for those keen on water transport history, and our bakery on Church Street.

*Market Hall open Tuesday.

*General Market Tuesday – Saturday 8.00am – 5.00pm

*Vintage, Retro & Antique Market Wednesday 8.00am – 5.00pm

*Farmers' Market in the Square 1st & 3rd Thursday every month.

*Sunday Antiques 9.00am – 3.00pm (closed Easter)

www.goleicestershire.com/market-harborough-and-lutterworth/
www.harboroughmarket.co.uk

LANDSCAPE AND VILLAGES

The hotel is beautifully situated in an area of England relatively unexploited for tourism. The villages, mostly stone, have many of the qualities of their Cotswold counterparts but fewer souvenir shops and tea-rooms. Some look particularly neat and have a number of very similar cottages and these are often 'estate villages' belonging to the major local landowner.

The landscape reflects the historical and contemporary economics of farming as well as the unusual fox hunting possibilities of the area. The nature of the soil and the above average rainfall made stock farming (sheep and cattle) practically universal until the Second War. The oceans of grass, criss-crossed with thorn hedges supplied the world's finest conditions for riding after hounds. The traditional involvement of almost all local landlords in hunting accounted for a great many of our woods, planted or at least shaped with fox hunting in mind.

If you notice a strange wavy formation on many of the pasture fields this is the relic of strip-cultivation. Before about 1740 each 'wave' was a single small holding belonging to a peasant farmer. In the interest of greater farming efficiency the smallholders were bought out, the land put down to grass and enclosed by thorn hedges and rail fences. Between its original enclosure and now, it has clearly remained pasture, for two or three ploughings would have evened-out the waves.



DRIVES

A few suggestions for morning or afternoon drives to explore the area are listed below:

1. Take the road from **Oakham** to **Brooke**, a tiny village around a triangular green. The church has very rare, old box pews, beautiful panelling and an elaborate 17th century monument. It is a typical example of a village church before Victorian restoration changed many of them into more elaborate places. An undulating road runs through very fertile countryside passing through **Ridlington** (whose church has a collection of musical instruments of the kind used by Thomas Hardy's characters in "Under the Greenwood Tree") to **Ayston**. This is a tiny estate village, in the shadow of a big house with a church next to it. From Ayston you can continue to **Uppingham** or return via **Belton** where the church has strange gargoyles, grotesque heads, from which the rain water spouts. On via **Loddington**, another village grouped around a large house to **Launde Abbey**. Here the road goes through a splendid park where the cows have a nonchalant way of standing in the road. The Abbey's cafe is open every day from 10am until 4.00pm and recently recommended for soup and sandwiches. Very occasionally closed for ordination retreats. From **Launde** to **Braunston**, Oakham and back to Hambleton.
2. Alternatively, from Uppingham you can go to **Lyddington**, either by car or on foot. From the south end of the village there is a path clearly marked. Lyddington is a long village stretching along the main street and almost orange in colour from its local building stone. The church is very lofty - a rich mediaeval community's thanks offering - and has a couple of brasses set into the floor. It also has the Bede House next door, originally a residence for the Bishops of Lincoln. The present building dates from 1436 onwards and is open to the public, though it has no furnishings. Return via **Harringworth** (which has a vast railway viaduct as its backdrop) and **South Luffenham**. **Wing** has a turf maze designed as a kind of grass race track on which mediaeval monks used

to perform acts of low-speed grovelling for purposes of penitence. **Lyndon**, is a good spot to park your car on the village green and take a 5 minute walk around the perimeter of Lyndon Hall, a beautiful compact 17th century house. The walk starts by opening a mysterious oak door set in a fine stone wall. Home via **Manton** and **Egleton**.

3. A short expedition to **Exton**, approximately 5 miles from **Hambleton** can be accomplished in half an hour or so. From Hambleton, rejoin the main road, turn right and first left at the top of **Barnsdale Hill**. This takes you down Exton Avenue towards the fine gates at **Exton Park**. Turn right before you reach the gates towards Exton village and stop before the centre of the village, where you will see a sign for Exton parish church. Leave your car and take the 5 minute walk to the church itself enjoying lovely views of Exton Park and the ruins of an ancient house destroyed by fire in 1810. Although the church is the victim of much 19c restoration, inside you will find a very remarkable collection of monuments recently beautifully restored thanks to an energetic campaign led by The Countess of Gainsborough. To quote Pevsner "there are few churches in England in which English sculpture from the 16th to the 18th Century can be studied so profitably and enjoyed so much as at Exton".



ELY - LINCOLN - PETERBOROUGH

A drive to **Lincoln** combining a look round the Cathedral with some shopping and perhaps a bite of lunch is an excellent outing in the winter months when so many country houses are closed.

I go via the A1 north and the B6403 at Colsterworth which soon becomes Ermine Street, the Roman road which was originally built to ford a great marsh to allow the Roman legions to march to Lincoln without getting their feet wet.

The Norman Cathedral, which is the third largest in England, and nearby Castle dominate the city from their vantage points on top of an extremely steep hill. This requires a fairly sustained effort to climb, but is made easier by the many attractive and interesting shops and studios on the way. For an informal lunch, the Wig and Mitre at the top of Steep Hill is the best bet. On the way back to Hambleton Hall, perhaps there may be time to visit Belton House (q.v. page 17) or Doddington Hall (q.v. page 19).

2015 celebrated the 800th year of Magna Carta's sealing.
See www.visitlincoln.com for further details.

Ely (1 hour 15 minutes) a remote fenland town with a most magnificent Romanesque cathedral dominating the flat landscape.

Peterborough (35 minutes) Peterborough Cathedral is one of the most important and best preserved mediaeval buildings in Europe. Because it is in the centre of a modern town otherwise uninteresting to tourists, Peterborough Cathedral has many fewer visitors than it deserves.

Tel: 01733 355315. www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE - SOUTHWELL

Cambridge (A five star tourist attraction at last!). Hambleton is not the most obvious base to visit Cambridge (about 1 hour) but we find that an increasing number of our guests do make the easy drive to spend a day visiting the colleges and perhaps enjoying sung evensong in Kings (5.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10.30am and 3.30pm on Sunday) it is always best to check with the college.

www.kings.cam.ac/events/chapel-services

The Cambridge Visitor Information Centre supplies excellent guides which will make a walk around Cambridge a great deal more interesting.

The Cambridge Visitor Information Centre

Peas Hill, Cambridge CB2 3AD

Tel: 01223 791500

www.visitcambridge.org

Tourist Information Centre

Summer (April to October 2017)

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays 11.00am - 3.00pm

Winter (November 2017 to March 2018)

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm and Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

An enterprising American guest drew my attention to Jim Edes House in Kettles Yard which houses 20th century works by Gaudier Brzeska, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Brancusi, Gabo and others in a very charming domestic setting.

Kettles Yard

Castle Street, Cambridge CB3 0AQ

Tel: 01223 748100

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

Closed for re-development with planned re-opening late 2017.

Heritage Lottery Fund to complete an Education Wing.

www.kettlesyard.co.uk/about/development-plans/

Southwell There are at least two reasons to go to Southwell. England's least known great church and an extraordinarily unspoilt little town. Apparently the site was chosen as a geographically convenient regional headquarters for the diocese of York. The Minster served as HQ for a posse of Canons who divided up a huge territory to the west and North of Southwell between them. Their "Boardroom" (The Chapterhouse) constructed in 1295 is a splendid chamber with wonderful stone carving.

When I visited the Minster I parked outside the door. Not in a car park or on a yellow line. There just wasn't anyone else there. The verger spent 20 minutes showing me around. The Nave is Norman (1108) the choir Early English (1234). Guided Heritage Walks available www.visitsouthwell.com

Why not drive to or from Southwell cross-country through the Vale of Belvoir and perhaps pay a visit to St Mary, Bottesford (q.v. page 14). www.southwellminster.org

Southwell is about 45 minutes north of Hambleton and quite near to Newark, a much improved town with some good antique shops.

NORTHAMPTON

Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland and Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Northampton is not a beautiful metropolis but if any of the above are of interest you could make a detour en route for London or the Cotswolds.

St. Matthew's church is a large neo-gothic Victorian building on your way into Northampton on the Kettering Road, approximately two miles from the centre of town. Call in to see Moore's Madonna and Child of 1943 and Graham Sutherland's Crucifixion of 1946.

78 Derngate, celebrates it's centenary year in 2017, is a medium sized terraced town house formerly owned by a successful Northampton model manufacturer W.J.Bassett-Lowke. Mackintosh was commissioned in 1916/17 to remodel the house and a great deal of his work remains.

www.78derngate.org.uk

Opening Times 2017

Open 1st February to 17th December
Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Open Bank Holiday Mondays

Guided tours daily. Last entry 4.00pm.

Admission charges apply

Tel: 01604 603407

GARDENS

Reception have copies of the Good Gardens Guide listing gardens in the area open to the public and details of the gardens open under the National Gardens Scheme.

For those especially keen on gardens I recommend a drive into Northants to visit three excellent gardens situated in the same area. Cottesbrooke Hall, Coton Manor and Kelmarsh Hall.

Barnsdale Gardens, much closer at hand and very handy for our own bakery (q.v. page 45) was created by Geoff Hamilton some years ago as the backdrop to his TV series "Gardeners World". The gardens consist of some 38 separate small gardens which provide great inspiration for those with gardens of their own of a similar scale. They also have an excellent plant nursery.

Open all year (closed December 24th & 25th) March, April, May, September, October 9.00am - 5.00pm; June, July, August 9.00am - 7.00pm; November to February 10.00am - 4.00pm.

www.barnsdalegardens.co.uk (01572 813200). Admission charges apply for garden visits.

Coton Manor (Open 1st April to 30th September 2017, Tuesday to Saturday and Bank Holiday weekends, 12 noon - 5.30pm, last admission 4.45pm) provides home-made lunches and teas – so you could start there at lunch time. This is the best large garden in our region.
www.cotonmanor.co.uk (01604 740219).

At **Cottesbrooke** the Hall and Gardens are well worth visiting, see entry (q.v. page 15). www.cottesbrookehall.co.uk (01604 505808).

* Gardens only

Kelmarsh Hall is a fine Palladian House of 1728. The gardens have had a major injection of energy in recent years involving the restoration of gardens associated with Nancy Lancaster, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and others.

Hall, Gardens and Tea Rooms open from 2nd April to 31st October 2017. Hall is open for guided tours on Tuesdays, first Sunday each month and Bank Holiday Mondays 2.00pm to 5.00pm. (01604 686543). www.kelmarsh.com

Easton Walled Garden is a new design created recently by Lady Ursula Cholmeley from a very grand garden abandoned in the 1950's.

Open from 1st March to 29th October 2017 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays, and Bank Holiday Mondays 11.00am - 4.00pm. 2nd to 9th July 2017 is Sweet Pea Week.

Haddonstone Show Gardens look more and more impressive each year with structures such as an orangery and a gothic grotto, a new statue walk and great planting overseen by an excellent gardener who makes sure the gardens are worth visiting at all times of year. www.haddonstone.com/visit-haddonstone for more information.

SOME LOCAL CHURCHES

I am a fairly recent convert to the pleasures of visiting churches but there are so many good ones within a stones-throw of Hambleton Hall that I have come round to church visiting as a fascinating pastime - especially in winter when domestic buildings are closed. Here are some favourites.

Exton (St Peter & St Paul) The main point of Exton Church is the remarkable monuments inside including Grinling Gibbon's amazing memorial for the Third Viscount Campden. According to Pevsner "There are few churches in England in which English sculpture from the 16th to the 18th Century can be ... enjoyed so much".

Teigh (Holy Trinity) A very charming and unusual 18th Century Church.

Grantham, Brook St (St Wulframs) Simon Jenkins gives this Church a five star rating for its very fine and tall spire and mediaeval chained library which defeats would-be thieves and borrowers alike by chaining the works to the shelves. Look out for a pair of Peregrine Falcons nesting on the spire!

Brooke (St Peter) Enchanting interior with splendid pews, pulpit, reading desk, screens, etc. dating from the 16th or 17th Century.

Tickencote (St Peter & St Paul) The chancel arch c1160 "a tour de force of shafting and arch decoration wildly overdone and in addition incompetently constructed" Pevsner - Oh well its still standing, unrestored!

Bottesford (St Mary the Virgin) Approximately 4 miles due north of Belvoir Castle, this church houses the tombs of the Dukes and Earls of Rutland and their predecessors from 13th to the 18th Century. It provides a magnificent history of church sculpture, of each age, in one small space. The church is generally open from about 9.00am - 5.00pm. Best to call 01949 842859 to check.

GASTRO PUBS

We are very proud that we have some excellent gastro pubs within 20 minutes drive of Hambleton. The first three are run by ex-Hambleton chefs or hosts.

The Berkeley Arms, 59 Main Street, Wymondham LE14 2AG
(Louise & Neil Hitchen) Telephone: (01572) 787587.

The Marquess of Exeter, 52 Main Street, Lyddington, Rutland LE15 9LT
(Brian Baker) Telephone: (01572) 822477.

The Olive Branch, Main Street, Clipsham, Rutland LE15 7SH
(Ben Jones and Sean Hope) Telephone: (01780) 410355
Handy for Stamford, Grimsthorpe, Belton etc.

The Wheatsheaf, 1 Stretton Road, Greetham, Rutland LE15 7NP
(Carol & Scott Craddock) Telephone: (01572) 812325.

COUNTRY HOUSES

Many of the most important works of art in Britain are still housed in the great country houses scattered about the land. To see great collections in their proper setting has always seemed to me so much more enjoyable than in the city museums. Many of the most important houses and collections have been open to the public for many years. They have inevitably adjusted themselves to the realities of receiving large numbers of visitors and have a slightly institutional air. For that reason I would recommend that guests who are with us on Sundays or Bank Holidays might explore some of the lesser known houses which are only open at these times and retain the feeling of a private house.

COTTESBROOKE HALL

60 minutes from Hambleton

Alastair Macdonald-Buchanan
Telephone: (01604) 505808
www.cottesbrookehall.co.uk

This totally lived-in house belongs to a distinguished whisky-distilling dynasty who keep the house and garden in immaculate shape.

The house is a Queen Anne gem of sensible proportions and contains a uniformly splendid collection of which the highlight is the remarkable collection of British Sporting Pictures.

Cottesbrooke is a bit further from Hambleton than many other great houses but it is well worth a detour especially if you are heading south west towards the M1, Oxford, or the Cotswolds and provides a good base for garden visits (see gardens).

(From Hambleton take the A508 south from Market Harborough and turn right at Kelmarsh for Cottesbrooke).

Opening Times 2017

1st May to 27th September

May and June - Wednesdays and Thursdays 2.00pm - 5.30pm
July, August and September - Thursdays only 2.00pm - 5.30pm
Bank Holidays May - September 2.00pm - 5.30pm

BURGHLEY HOUSE

15 minutes from Hambleton

Mr & Mrs Orlando Rock
Telephone: (01780) 752451
www.burghley.co.uk

Sir William Cecil, the first Lord Burghley was Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I. His administrative and financial expertise must have been one of the foundation stones on which her very successful reign was built. Burghley House is a testimony to his remarkable power. A great Elizabethan palace with a magical roof line of minarets, towers and spires approached through a perfect Capability Brown (i.e. 18th Century park). Miranda Rock, granddaughter of the last Marquess, is currently in charge with husband Orlando. Seven years ago her mother Lady Victoria Leatham's last year was marked by the opening of her splendid "Garden of Surprises" designed by George Carter. This wonderful attraction combining a new garden of great style and beauty with a certain amount of action which will amuse young and old. For example... a hand pump operated by the curious visitor fills a huge transparent tube. Once full the water triggers a release mechanism and fuels a spout which douses the unwary spectator.

Tour the State Rooms at your own pace, hire an audio guide, or approach the many helpful guides with any questions. The enormous collection includes more pictures, ceramics, furniture and tapestries than you can absorb.

"Gruesomely Grubby Gardens at Burghley" Not for grown-ups! Following the success of our Beastly Boring Burghley children's guidebook and tours, they have Gruesomely Grubby Gardens! Families can enjoy spotting sculptures and understanding how they have been made, discover the grubby insects and gruesome animals that live in our Sculpture Garden while all the time exploring the gardens and solving the puzzles inside.

The Orangery Restaurant is well worth considering for a light lunch or afternoon tea. Open from 10.00am - 5.00pm during house opening season, but may be closed on Fridays for private functions, so please call 01780 761989 to check.

Burghley Park is open to the public until dusk.

There is a full events programme throughout the year including garden tours, concerts for all tastes, a film festival and the horse trials.

Opening Times 2017

House and Garden of Surprise

18th March to 29th October
11.00am - 5.00pm

Closed Burghley Horse Trials

31st August to 3rd September

Last admission 4.30pm. Admission charges apply.

BELTON HOUSE

35 minutes from Hambleton, 2 miles from Grantham

National Trust

Telephone: (01476) 566116

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house

Belton forms a perfect contrast to Burghley House and was built by master mason William Stanton between 1685-88. It is as formal, compact and harmonious in its proportions as Burghley is rambling and eclectic. Belton was passed to the National Trust from Lord Brownlow in 1984. We would welcome your feedback as to whether Belton has benefitted from former National Trust Chairman, Simon Jenkins objective to make Trust properties more “user friendly”.

In the past the combination of the blinds and ropes keeping the customers well away from works of art interfered with my enjoyment in some cases. There is some wonderful silver and silver-gilt items on display as well as the fine collection of old masters including two wonderful huge paintings by Hondecoeter of exotic birds etc.

A lakeside walk has also been developed by the N.T. and the splendid boat house has been restored.

Opening Times 2017

House

4th March to 29th October

12.30pm - 5.00pm

Garden, Park, Restaurant and Shop

All year 9.30am - 5.30pm (4.00pm winter)

DEENE PARK

35 minutes from Hambleton

Mr & Mrs Robert Brudenell

Telephone: (01780) 450278

www.deenepark.com

Deene Park is no exception to the rule that the houses open least are the most interesting to visit.

It has a beautiful, well kept garden, charming rooms which are very much lived-in, and some wonderful pictures and furniture. The 7th Earl of Cardigan (“hero” of Balaclava and the Charge of the Light Brigade), from whom the Brudenells are indirectly descended, was a former owner of Deene and there are a number of pictures and other artefacts which bear witness to the times of this eccentric figure.

Private visits for groups can be arranged by appointment. On a Sunday a visit to Deene could be combined with Elton, which is nearby.

Opening Times 2017

House and Gardens

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Easter to 1st September

Wednesdays throughout September

12.00 - 5.00pm

Gardens

Tuesdays to Fridays

16th May to 15th September

12.00 - 4.00pm

Last admission 4.00pm

BELVOIR CASTLE (pronounced 'Beaver')

30 minutes from Hambleton

Telephone: (01476) 871001

www.belvoircastle.com

David, 11th Duke of Rutland and his charming wife Emma took over in 1999.

Belvoir has a fantastic site on the edge of a steep escarpment dominating the broad vale to the North. The Manners family was so old, well connected and wealthy even in 1816 when Wyatt built the present castle that one wonders why the design chosen owes so much to swagger and so little to convenience.

Belvoir does of course house a wonderful collection and the statue garden is always worth a visit.

Opening Times 2017

Selected days from March to September.
Normal opening hours 11.00am - 5.00pm

Castle & Garden Tickets:

Adults £15, Children £8,
Family (up to 2 Adults & 3 children) £40

Garden only tickets

Adults £8, Children £5, Family £25

www.belvoircastle.com/events/

BOUGHTON HOUSE

50 minutes from Hambleton

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry

Telephone: (01536) 515731

www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

If you are lucky enough to be here on the right day this together with Grimsthorpe would be my first choice of local 'statelies'. It is more lived in than many others and one might quite easily see a half finished jigsaw on a fabulous Boulle secretaire! In addition to the wonderful collection of pictures, furniture, clocks, tapestries, etc., two features stick in my mind when I think of Boughton - the marvellous old Buccleuch retainers who act as guardians of the family treasures and the incredible state of repair of carpets, curtains and chair covers - many of them in use - on and off - over the past 300 years.

The current Duke is working hard on some ambitious landscaping and landscape restoration projects and I am intrigued to see his "Orpheus" project.

Opened in 2015 The Grand Etang, the long forgotten lake which once dominated the principal approach to the house, has been re-dug and filled with clear spring water in which the magnificent north front of the house is magically reflected for the first time in two centuries.

Opening Times 2017

Gardens, Café and Shop

15th to 17th April and 1st August to 31st daily

House Tours

1.00pm - 5.00pm, last entry 3.30pm

Guided tours from 1.00pm

DODDINGTON HALL

90 minutes from Hambleton

Telephone: (01522) 694308
www.doddingtonhall.com

Doddington Hall is an Elizabethan manor house in mellowed brick crowned with turrets and cupolas, 5 miles south west of Lincoln.

It contains a fine collection of china, tapestries and Stuart and Georgian furniture. The Hall has a splendid farm shop and cafe where you can obtain a very respectable lunch or picnic, (01522 688581).

Opening Times 2017

Gardens Only

12th February to 16th April and October, Sundays only
11.00am - 4.30pm

House and Gardens

16th April to 27th September
Every Wednesday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays
12 noon - 4.30pm

Last admission 4.00pm

ALTHORP HOUSE

50 minutes from Hambleton

The Earl Spencer
Telephone: (01604) 770107
www.althorp.com

Although a bit further than the others, Althorp (pronounced Altrup) is on the way to the Cotswolds and can be on the way to London if you take the M1.

Its collection is quite outstanding concentrating the best items from Althorp & Spencer House in London.

The literary festival is in its 14th year and quite a fixture and this year takes place over the weekend of 5th to 8th October 2017. See website for more events.

Opening Times 2017

May to September (selected dates)

Food Festival 6th to 7th May
House & Grounds 12 noon - 5.00pm

Prices: Adult, £18.50
Senior Citizens, £16.00 Children £11.00, under 4's free
Family £45.00

Please note last entry to the House is 2.45pm

GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE

30 minutes from Hambleton

Telephone: (01778) 591205
www.grimsthorpe.co.uk

Grimsthorpe has been the home of the Willoughby de Eresby family (latterly the Earls of Ancaster) since about 1516 and houses a marvellous collection of pictures, furniture and other works of art. Like many buildings of such antiquity which have been lived in by a wealthy and powerful family, the house combines many architectural styles but Vanbrugh's north front (1724) and the magnificent double cube entrance hall on their own make a visit worthwhile. Stefa was particularly fascinated by the interior decoration of parts of the house especially John Fowler's (Colefax and Fowler) work carried out in the 1950s.

If Grimsthorpe happens to be open when you are here it should be almost first choice. In addition, Grimsthorpe is offering cycle hire which provides a great way to explore the magnificent park at one end of which lies a magical grove of very ancient oaks. The house is also handily placed for our favourite gastropub The Olive Branch at Clipsham (q.v. page 15).

Opening Times 2017

2nd April to 28th September

The Castle is open on the same days as the Park and Gardens
at 12.00 noon. Last admission to castle 3.00pm

Park & Gardens

Open 11.00am - 6.00pm

April and May: Sundays, Thursdays and Bank Holiday Mondays

June to September: Sunday - Thursday inclusive

Last admission to park 5.00pm

ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

25 minutes from Hambleton

Mr & Mrs James Saunders-Watson
Telephone: (01536) 770240
www.rockinghamcastle.com

Rockingham is one of the most attractive villages in our area, and the castle with its spectacular hilltop site is most picturesque. The collection is fascinating and contains some surprises like 20th century English pictures and the teas are delicious.

Rockingham now hosts a very full calendar of events such as falconry, jousting, antiques, kite flying etc. They also have a 'Victorian Christmas', where you can visit and see how the Victorians celebrated Christmas.

Perhaps you will be puzzled, as to why, when the original fortification was built, about 900 years ago it was arranged so as to face due North. Michael Saunders Watson provided me with one answer. Along the wide valley over which the castle keeps watch runs the river Welland. The Danes and Vikings apparently ran their boats up the river and used it as the base for raids on surrounding country.

Opening Times 2017

16th April to the end of May
Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

June to end of September

Tuesdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 12 noon - 5.00pm
Grounds open 12 noon. Castle open 1.00pm

**Please note that the Castle and Grounds
are closed to visitors on all other days unless part of a group booking.**

ELTON HALL

Sir William and Lady Proby
Telephone: (01832) 280468
www.eltonhall.com

35 minutes from Hambleton

Elton Hall owes its origin to a Proby who, like the first Lord Burghley, made himself useful to Queen Elizabeth I. The house is therefore mostly Elizabethan with major 19th century additions.

It is very much lived in and has not been attacked by museumitis which is elsewhere reaching epidemic proportions. Elton's library is of world class and includes Henry VIII's prayer book autographed by the monarch and two of his wives.

Amongst a number of beautiful things, you could not possibly miss a Millais (19c) portrait of a little girl which is to my mind one of the most attractive Victorian portraits anywhere.

Elton has a very worthwhile garden, recently re-planned.

Private parties by appointment between May - September.
Tours from May available by appointment.

On a Sunday, perhaps on your way to London, a visit to Elton could well be combined with Deene which is equally worthwhile and nearby and a visit to the Loch Fyne Seafood Restaurant (01832 280298) and the Walled Garden Centre (01832 280058) in the grounds of Elton Hall.

Opening Times 2017

Hall and Gardens open 2.00pm - 5.00pm

May Bank Holiday, Sunday 29th and Monday 30th
June and July Wednesdays and Thursdays (guided tours only)
August Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays (guided tours only)
August Bank Holiday 28th and 29th (no tours, free flow visitors)



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

WALKS /JOGGING

The walk around the **Hambleton peninsular** starts with a hairpin right turn 200 yards past the Finch's Arms on the Oakham road. It consists almost entirely of a rough road used only by the occasional fisherman. The circular route gives constantly changing views of the surrounding landscape and is strongly recommended. It is possible to shave a little off the distance by cutting home through the park and garden, (approx 1 1/2 hours).

A full circuit of the hides & tracks comprising the **bird watching centre** at Egleton involves around 2 1/2 miles walk.

Details of this and other walks in the neighbourhood are included in a pack in all guest rooms.

I have supplied Reception with details of a walk around **Grimsthorpe Park** which takes you through the magnificent grove of ancient oaks. The shafting sunlight on a dappled fallow buck on a summer evening is a magical sight but don't be late for dinner! (approx 2 hours) cycle hire is now possible there, (q.v. page 20).

The **Bowthorpe Oak**, in terms of girth England's largest, is nearby, approx. 1 mile beyond Carlby on the Stamford - Bourne Road. For a thorough inspection of this wonder pay £2.50 to farmer Mrs Blanchard (01778 590269) of Bowthorpe Park Farm.

A second walk for which a map is supplied involves a 6-7 mile circuit starting at the TV mast above **Barleythorpe** (approx 2 1/2 hours).

Recently a number of clients have much enjoyed walking around most of Rutland water from **Manton to Barnsdale Lodge**. This is not a complete circuit so you will need a taxi from Barnsdale to Manton to rejoin your car. (Approx 7 1/2 miles).

SAILING AND WINDSURFING

www.anglianwater.co.uk/leisure rutlandwatersports@anglianwater.co.uk
With such a large expanse of water, 5 miles in length with a surface area of 3,100 acres, some fine sailing is found on Rutland Water.

Rutland Watersports Centre operates a day sailing centre at Whitwell (01780 460154) (See leaflets on Reception).

They also rent sailing dinghies (from £20.00 - £35.00 per hour).
Rowing boats, canoes and kayaks can be hired which seats 1-6 persons (approx £8.00 per person, per hour).

Beginners courses in sailing and windsurfing can be arranged. Sailing and windsurfing tuition from half day £80.00 per person to £150.00 for full day per person.

Taster sessions available for sailing and windsurfing between £45.00 - £55.00 per person, per hour.

The centre is open from Easter from 9.00am until 1 hour before dusk. They sell chandlery, windsurfing equipment and leisure wear in the shop - Whitwell Watersports Centre.

CYCLING

A bicycle provides an excellent means to tour the quiet parts of Rutland. While there are many miles of traffic free tracks around Rutland Water and the Hambleton Peninsular, at busy periods when these tracks are infested with other cyclists I recommend that you borrow our bike racks and put the bikes on the back of your car, drive to Braunston and cycle around the lanes and gated roads in the area inside the triangle Oakham/Leicester/Uppingham. Electric bikes are also available.

An Ordnance Survey Map showing recommended cycling routes is kept at Reception.

Why not make use of the new cycle hire facility at Grimsthorpe Castle (q.v. page 20) to tour the magnificent park, hire available. Similar machines are available from Whitwell and Normanton. Tel: (01780) 460705 or (01780) 720888.

Open All Year (closed 25th and 26th December)

9.00am - 6.00pm Monday to Friday minimum hire 2 hours, from £14.99.

9.00am - 6.30pm Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays

GOLF

We suggest that you call the club in advance in case matches are in progress. I have given each course a personal star rating to help you make a choice. Naturally access to the better courses is sometimes limited and prior booking is generally essential.

Luffenham Heath Golf Club (4*) (Near Stamford)

www.luffenhamheath.co.uk

Telephone: (01780) 720205 Direct to Golf Club Administration

Pro: (01780) 720298

Green Fees: April to October - Daily - £60.00 (18 holes);
£75.00 (36 holes) £35.00 per round after 4.00pm
November - not Tuesdays - £40.00 (18 holes);
£50.00 (36 holes)
Juniors (under 18 years) £15.00 (18 holes) £20.00 (36 holes)

Visitors can only play between 10.30am and 12 noon or after 2.00pm at weekends or Bank Holidays (please call in advance).

Stoke Rochford Golf Club (4*) (Great Ponton)

www.stokerochfordgolfclub.co.uk

Telephone: (01476) 530275 Clubhouse-Pro Shop (01476) 530218

Green Fees: Monday to Friday £38.00 per round or £50.00 per day
Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays £50.00 per round
or £50.00 per day Saturday Special £25.00 after 2.30pm

No play before 9.00am for non-members or before 10.30am Weekend/
Bank Holidays. Handicap certificates required for non-members.

Juniors 50% discount.

Greetham Valley Golf Club (3*) (9 miles from Hambleton)

www.greethamvalley.co.uk

Telephone: (01780) 460444

Visitors: 18 holes £22.50 weekdays, £27.50 weekends
All day - Monday to Sunday = £35.00
Twilight (after 3.00pm): £22.50 any day
Par 3: £5.00 all week

Rutland County Golf Club (3*) (on the A1 Near Stamford)

www.rutlandcountygolf.co.uk

Telephone: (01780) 460330

Green Fees: Weekdays £18.00 Weekends £23.00 (before 1.00pm)
Guests of Hambleton Hall receive special rates.

Rutland Water Golf Club (3*) (opposite Hambleton Hall)

www.rutlandwatergolfcourse.co.uk

Telephone: (01572) 737525

Now consists of 9 holes par 3 course and additional 18 holes full size course. Ideal for beginners.

Green Fees: 18 holes £20.00 weekdays £25.00 weekends

MOTOR SPORT

Former F1 racing driver Jonathan Palmer specialises in providing small groups with a remarkable driving experience at his circuit near Bedford. A variety of incredibly fast cars are available and Palmer allows drivers far more freedom to drive fast than any similar organisation. Reception has full details and our Restaurant Director Graeme can speak from first-hand experience of this remarkable sport. For those who can enjoy a day without any booze.

RIDING/CARRIAGE DRIVING

Gail Newcombe, Somerby Riding School

Telephone: (01664) 454838 Home: (01664) 454861

Gail's operation is well geared to the needs of our clients and is situated in a very beautiful area well equipped with bridleways. Gail can offer lessons, hacks or 1/2 day rides in which you would get a good look at some of our most attractive county and has now established her new indoor and outdoor menage and cross country course. (Riding hats and boots can be supplied)

FOXHUNTING

Fox hunting in its modern form was developed by Tom Noel at Exton in the early 18th century. The sport has had a profound influence on our landscape, economy and population.

A combination of well meaning but ignorant animal lovers and spiteful toffhatters succeeded in promoting legislation which made the sport illegal in Spring 2005. Local hunts still meet and sally forth with their hounds but **they do not have the intention of catching a fox.**

The repeal of this ludicrous legislation is eagerly awaited in Rutland. Meanwhile we would be delighted to arrange for keen equestrians who have innocent intentions to accompany one of our local packs.

SHOOTING

There are a number of excellent pheasant and partridge shoots near Hambleton which are available by the day for parties of around 8 guns. The hotel will introduce shooting parties directly to the shoot to conduct their own negotiations.

SWIMMING

Inspire2tri are partnered with Anglian Water to provide Open Water Swimming (Whitwell site) throughout the season (May to September), every Sunday 8.00am - 10.30am, subject to water temperature being 11c or above and wetsuits optional at or above 14c! Booking essential, £7.50, wetsuit hire available. www.inspire2tri.com

ROCK CLIMBING

www.rockblok.com

Telephone: (01780) 460060

1st April to the end of October

The Rock Blok is located on the north shore of Rutland Water at Whitwell, adjacent to the cycle hire centre. The four faces of the 8m cliff offer climbing possibilities with various degrees of difficulty. If you are already proficient you can shin up and down at your leisure or you can be taught the basic techniques in a private lesson. There is also an 8m high rope adventure course and a trampoline.

There are daily taster sessions, prices from £6.99 x 2 climbs, £9.99 x 4 climbs. £14.99 2 x climbs and high rope.

Open everyday 9.00am - 6.00pm.

There is an excellent equipment shop next door.

FISHING

Rutland Water is well stocked with both brown and rainbow trout of a good size, pike and zander also available. In order to fish you need:

A rod licence is required and available to purchase online from the Environment Agency.

Day permit £26.00 (maximum 8 fish)

Half day permit (5 hours) £18.00 (maximum 4 fish)

Sporting ticket (catch & release) £22.00

Season Dates: Commence 10th March 2017
Brown Trout 1st April to 30th October
(1 per day)

Rainbow Trout until 31st January 2018

In addition your chances will be improved if you hire a motor boat which can be hired for the day (£27.00 for 2/3 people anyday during the week and £27.00 on the weekend). Telephone (01780) 686441. The Authority allows fishermen to take out a boat alone if you have a mobile phone. Boats, licences, permits, etc. are obtained from the new fishing lodge at Normanton.

You may further improve your chances by securing the services of Rob Waddington (01572 722422) who will act as ghillie, improve your casting or suggest the deadliest fly.

BIRDS

Rutland Water has become a Mecca for birdwatchers because of its large resident population of water birds, waders, glamorous migrants and visitors. (Ospreys, Hobby, Terns etc. etc.)

The starting point for birding is the impressive visitor centre at Eggleton (01572 770651) which can hire binoculars if you do not have your own, and has recently installed a remotely controlled TV camera to spy on nesting birds who think they are nesting in privacy on a remote island.

Open all year, 9.00am - 5.00pm daily. Day permit £5.70 Adult, £4.50 OAP's, Junior/Student £16.00 family. On a recent visit in March with an enthusiastic pal we counted 47 species in a 3 hour stroll around the hides.

If you would like a specialist to show you around we can usually arrange for a warden or voluntary warden to accompany you. They offer a three hour walk for £120.00 for 1-15 people. Contact (01572) 720049.

There is also a smaller visitor centre at Lyndon, which has some lovely walks and one of the hides has an excellent view of the 2011 Osprey nesting site. Open 9.00am - 5.00pm Daily in Summer, 11.00am - 3.00pm Saturdays and Sundays in Winter - weather/volunteers permitting.

HOT AIR BALLOONING

www.virginballoonflights.co.uk

Virgin Balloons (01952 212750) is approved by the Civil Aviation authority and based nearby. For certain meteorological reasons balloon rides seem to happen a bit early (6.30am) or a bit late (6.30pm).

From £107.00 per person.





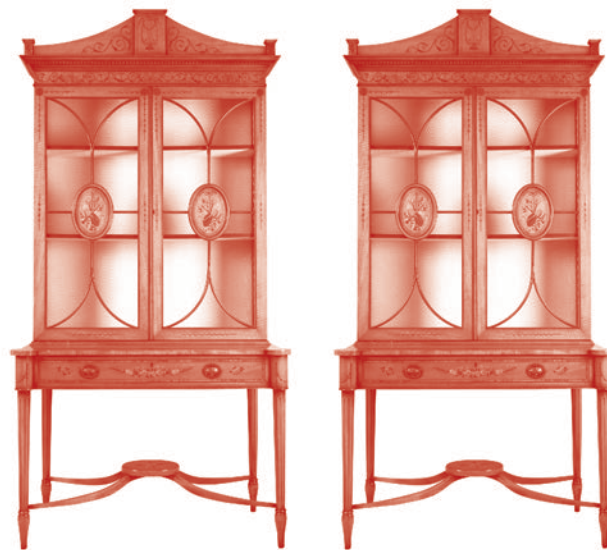
GARNERS

FINE ART, ANTIQUES & INTERIORS



Specialising in sourcing and placing Period Antique Furniture and Beautiful Art in homes throughout the world for over 50 years.

Our extensive show rooms are situated in the Pretty Market Town of Uppingham, just 10 minutes from Hambleton Hall, well worth a visit.



Open: Monday - Saturday 10 - 6pm
Sunday by welcome appointment

www.garnersantiques.co.uk



LAPADA

THE ASSOCIATION OF
ART & ANTIQUES DEALERS

51 - 53 High Street East, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9PY T: 01572 823607 Paul Garner 0772 0292221

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French Beds	Swans
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Jewellery Antique	Swans
Linen, Lace, Textiles	The Old House Gallery • Swans
Oil Paintings	Garners Antiques • Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary) Goldmark Gallery • The Old House Gallery Goldmark Gallery • The Old House Gallery Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary) The Old House Gallery (Contemporary) Dawson of Stamford Ltd • Swans Interiors
Pottery	The Old House Gallery • Swans
Prints/ Maps	Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary)
Sculpture	
Silver	
Watercolours & Drawings	

GENERAL SHOPPING & SERVICES

Architectural Materials	Spencer Architectural
Bakery	Hambleton Bakery
Cars	Top 555
Fashion - Ladies - Gents	Cavells Cavells
Framing	Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary) The Old House Gallery
Gardens/Nurseries	Rasell's Nursery • Haddonstone
Garden Ornaments	Haddonstone • Spencer Architectural
Gifts/Household	Swans
Hats, Shoes & Handbags	Cavells
Interior Design	Hambleton Decorating Spencer Architectural Dawson of Stamford Ltd
Jewellery/Goldsmiths	Heidi Kjeldsen Cavells Outdoor
Outdoor Clothing	Oakham Oriental Rugs • The Rug Studio
Rugs Persian/Tribal etc	Meadows Executive Cars Ltd
Taxi Service	Taylor & Baines
Upholstery & Curtains	Bat & Bottle
Wine Merchants	



ANTIQUES & WORKS OF ART

Furniture and General

SWANS (Antiques, French Beds, Linens, Art Gallery)

27 Pillings Road, Oakham LE15 6QF

Telephone: (01572) 724364

Email: info@swansofoakham.co.uk

www.swansofoakham.co.uk

After some 30 years in the middle of Oakham father and son team, Peter and Tom have relocated their unique Antiques and Interiors business to Pillings Road with over 3000 sq ft of warehouse showroom, offices and workshop all under one roof, plus a customer car park and only 2 minutes drive from the High Street.

The showroom has over twelve separate display areas to show their vast range of English and French 18th to early 20th century furniture and décor items, many of them unique ‘one-off’ pieces.

Still very much specialising in French beds – up to 6’ wide with a full range of complementary furniture.

They also have an enormous lighting section from early 20th century lamps, mainly French and Italian, all rewired to modern standards to some superb chandeliers and wall sconces.

Finally, a great selection of antique garden items, urns, stone troughs, furniture etc at a nearby display area – oh, and over 400 pictures!

The final touch is supplied by Linda who provides a great selection of contemporary bed linen, quilts and fabrics, even a range of cotton nightdresses.

Free delivery within 125 miles.

Website updated daily and a really friendly team! Definitely worth a visit.

Opening Times

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Saturday – 9.00am – 3.00pm

Or anytime by appointment

Tom Scott 07718 758 540

Peter Jones 07860 304 084

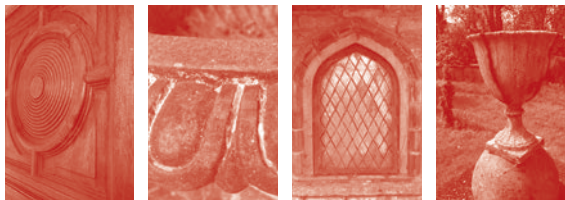


Heidi Kjeldsen



Beautifully Bespoke Jewellery

5 The Maltings, Mill Street,
Oakham LE15 6EA
t: 01572 722666
e: heidi@heidikjeldsen.co.uk
www.heidikjeldsen.co.uk



Spencer Architectural

The Barn, Water Lane,
Stainby, Near Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG33 5QZ

Tel: 01476 860777 • Mobile: 07973 876469

Email: barryrodwell@icloud.com

Furniture and General

GARNERS ANTIQUES

51 High Street East, Uppingham LE15 9PY

Telephone: (01572) 823607

Mobile: 07720 292221

Email: info@garnersantiques.co.uk

www.garnersantiques.co.uk

Garners has been trading in antiques on Uppingham's High Street as long as we have been at Hambleton Hall but recently a big change has been noticeable as Paul Garner and his charming wife Phillipa have been refurbishing the buildings they have recently purchased from the first generation.

The galleries are extensive and contain a large stock of furniture from the 18c to the present day. If you are furnishing a house or looking for the odd piece you will see chests of drawers, dining tables, sets of chairs, clocks and general antiques. An impressive long-case clock caught my eye made by Kipling (London) with a decorative chinoiserie case. I also liked a handsome pair of Gillows card tables and a number of odd chairs some of which appealed for the Hambleton Bar. There are also reproductions and I liked a 6'6" oak and burr-oak circular dining table made by Garners.

Paul Garner has a significant business in oil paintings and stock covers a wide period from 17th to 20th centuries. Amongst recent works I noticed a good stock of 20th century Russian artists.

We are fortunate that Garners are a rare survivor in an industry that has sadly been depleted in the past 10 years.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday by welcome appointment

Modern Jewellery and Antiques

DAWSON OF STAMFORD LIMITED

6 Red Lion Square, Stamford PE9 2AJ

Telephone: (01780) 754166

Email: dawsonofstamford@hotmail.com

www.dawsonofstamford.com

John Dawson's shop, in a fine and ancient building in a central part of Stamford, has over thirty years built a very wide following. Clients come from far afield to enjoy Stamford shopping at its best. On the ground floor you will find a collection of smart contemporary jewellery and watches mixed with an interesting collection of traditional silver items. John's interest in antiquities pervades all areas of his business with a particularly strong antique silver collection, jewellery from the 18c and 19c and upstairs a splendid room housing fine antique furniture, clocks etc.

Dawsons also provide excellent service to clients who need jewellery and silver repaired and restored.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 5.30pm

Oriental Rugs

OAKHAM ORIENTAL RUGS

Mill Street, Oakham LE15 6EA

Telephone: (01572) 724441

Email: mail@oakhamrugs.co.uk

www.oakhamrugs.co.uk

Christian and Fiona Hawker opened in 1993 in The Maltings and their warm welcome and emphasis on service have helped them to make a success of their venture. Fine decorative Persian pieces together with Tribal, Afghan and Caucasian rugs - new as well as old - make up the core stock.

Afghan zeigler rugs are particularly popular with their gentle gold, green and soft blue colours. Christian and Fiona have an impressive array of sizes from small through to full room size pieces.

Fiona and Christian also have an excellent selection of contemporary and designer rugs. Vintage over dyed pieces are becoming very popular, particularly in London. These carpets are produced from hand-picked, high quality vintage Persian carpets, neutralised and over dyed in vibrant colours such as magenta, teal, canary yellow, apple green, fuschia pink, purple and tangerine.

They also offer a cleaning and repair service and have an excellent team of professional restorers who can tackle anything from simple fringe repairs to more complicated re-piling work.

Opening Times

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm



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Saturday: 08:30am - 16:30pm
Sunday: Closed (phones diverted)

Telephone: 01572 774 830

www.top555.co.uk

TOP555 Ltd, Burley Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7AA

email: sales@top555.co.uk

Jewellery / Antiques

HEIDI KJELDSSEN LTD

5 The Maltings, Mill Street, Oakham LE15 6EA

Telephone: (01572) 722666

Email: heidi@heidikjeldsen.co.uk

www.heidikjeldsen.co.uk Twitter: [RockRingLady](#)

Capture a moment for a lifetime...

At Heidi Kjeldsen, a world of mesmerising jewellery awaits - exclusive collections you'll simply adore. Where the finest diamonds, exquisite gemstones and premium pearls are set in timeless designs.

Experience contemporary chic for everyday living, elegant classics dazzling with splendour, or commission a gift for that special person.

Whether you buy with confidence online or visit the Oakham showroom in the heart of Rutland, you'll discover an array of truly beautiful jewels handcrafted with love.

From exquisitely elegant diamond, pearl and gemstone designs to contemporary Murano glass jewellery, every piece is lovingly handcrafted to perfection. Classical in style but with a modern twist, Heidi's bespoke designs appeal to every generation.

As well as unique jewellery to purchase, a host of services include:

- CAD/CAM Design Studio for commissions
- Pearl Restraining
- Resizing, Refurbishing and Repairing
- Independent NAJ Valuations
- Hand Engraving

Though countless customers travel far and wide to visit Heidi in person, her luxury creations are available online - ideal for that special jewellery gift wherever you are.

Within her exclusive collections, you'll discover a beautiful range of rings, earrings, pendants, bracelets, necklaces and cufflinks. Whatever the occasion, you'll find the perfect designer jewellery here.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Online purchasing is also available.

“Bespoke Furniture
& Interiors
hand crafted
in Oakham.”

26–28 Northgate Oakham Rutland LE15 6QS
Tel 01572 723388
Email paul@taylorandbaines.co.uk
www.taylorandbaines.co.uk

Rugs

THE RUG STUDIO

2 High Street East, Uppingham LE15 9PZ

Telephone: 01572 829927

Email: info@therugstudio.co.uk

www.therugstudio.co.uk

Rachel Simpson is an exceptionally knowledgeable buyer and restorer of rugs. She trained as a weaver, spent 6 years in India teaching restoration and now presides over a small and quirky building in the centre of Uppingham.

When I visited, the ground floor was devoted to some very fine contemporary rugs including some designed by the artist Rex Ray and her collection of antique and tribal rugs was housed upstairs.

I was also most impressed to note that like all great carpet dealers she employs a young and cheerful fellow who unrolls the rugs and ties them up again.

This mix of contemporary and antique works very well.

Ceramics, Oil Paintings, Watercolours and Sculpture

THE GOLDMARK GALLERY

14 Orange Street, Uppingham LE15 9SQ

Telephone: (01572) 821424

Email: info@goldmarkart.com

www.goldmarkart.com

A surprising and benign consequence of the growing importance of the internet is the ability of world class specialist businesses to thrive in the sticks. For more than 30 years Mike Goldmark has been building a gallery dealing in contemporary art. These days he holds an enormous stock of graphics, drawings, watercolours and oils by a range of artists which include, Picasso, Matisse, Chagall, Goya, Dürer and from more recent times, Hockney, Frink, Piper, Moore and Sutherland. You could buy a Francis Bacon for a few million but, fear not, plenty of business is still done in the £500-£10,000 price range and the gallery still champions a range of more or less local artists such as Rigby Graham and George Large.

The outstanding ceramics department has developed over the last decade; the shop next door is now Goldmark Pots; and showcasing top ceramic artists from all over the world. For this season Goldmark are showing - amongst others, works by Anthony Gross, Victor Pasmore, Gwyneth Johnstone, David Jones as well as Phil Rogers pots.

The quiet voiced and beaming proprietor is almost always on hand and if you arrive around 1.00pm there is a good chance of being offered lunch - a kind of communal affair featuring Mike's favourite food, our Borodinski Bread!

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm and Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm

THE OLD HOUSE GALLERY

13 Market Place, Oakham LE15 6DT

Telephone: (01572) 755538

www.oldhousegalleryrutland.co.uk

In the prettiest corner of Oakham's market place sits The Old House Gallery, the oldest established gallery in Rutland, first opened in 1977. Potter and proprietor Dick Clarke, a born and bred Rutlander, is the third generation to be trading in Oakham, his enthusiasm for his business comes from a passion for original work in both art and craft.

His painters are mainly local professional artists who include Alan Oliver, Barbara Rae Norridge, Jill Barthorpe and Michael Gibbison. They all have their own particular style which all knit into the particular flavour pot of the gallery. Craft is represented by local wood turner Paul Proctor; potters/sculptors Jan Burrridge, Tishy Budden, Julie Wilson and of course Dick himself!

The net is also cast wider to include Shropshire painter Penny Timmis and even wider to include some of Dublin's top artists Marrie Carroll, Des Murrie and Deborah Donnally. Other Irish talent includes weavers, felt/silk scarf artists, print makers and hedge layer Neil Faulkes who carves amazing wooden spoons from wood he gathers during the laying of a hedge. It goes without saying that Dick enjoys the odd pint of Guinness!

He feels it's important that his gallery reflects the tactile environment of the countryside that he and his artists are inspired by. Dick as a potter is on prolific form, he mixes his own clay body making very usable pots with his beautiful reduction fired ash, iron and dolomite glazes.

Opening Times

Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm & 2.00pm - 5.00pm.

Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm. Closed Sunday and Monday

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GENERAL SHOPPING AND SERVICES

Fashion Shopping

CAVELLS

16 Mill Street, Oakham LE15 6EA

Telephone: (01572) 770372

Email: info@cavells.co.uk

www.cavells.co.uk

Founded in 1993 Cavells has evolved into one of the most successful independent fashion stores in the UK. Cavells provides some of the most stylish and select shopping for men and women outside London.

This spacious store stocks over 100 brands including Weekend Max Mara, Marc Cain, Hudson Jeans (Mulberry), Gant and Ralph Lauren with over 30 brands devoted to footwear and accessories.

At the heart of the store there is a comfortable seating area with complimentary coffee and a table laden with current magazines and daily newspapers, all adding to the relaxed atmosphere that Cavells endeavours to offer.

Visit Cavells for the ultimate shopping experience.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm

CAVELLS SOUTH STREET

The Old Mill, South Street, Oakham LE15 6BG

Telephone: (01572) 772502

Email: info@cavells.co.uk

www.cavellscountry.co.uk

Cavells South Street offers an extensive range of stylish designer country and lifestyle clothing and accessories for men and women.

The large, beautifully designed store offers a fantastic range of leading brands, including White Stuff, Superdry, Levis and Seasalt to name just a few.

The Cavells Country area on the first floor of Cavells South Street offers an extensive selection of the finest country clothing, footwear and accessories. With top brands like Barbour, Schöffel Country, Dubarry, R.M.Williams and many others.

The spacious layout of Cavells South Street creates an ideal shopping environment, with friendly and knowledgeable staff on hand to help.

Cavells South Street has free customer parking, and is situated only 50 metres from Cavells on Mill Street.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm

Architectural Materials

SPENCER ARCHITECTURAL

The Barn, Water Lane, Stainby, Grantham NG33 5QZ

Telephone: (01476) 860777

Mobile: 07973 876469

Stainby is in the middle of nowhere, although only 15 minutes from Hambleton, and the Barn feels quite remote even in the context of Stainby, down a lane which starts alongside the church.

If by chance you are in the process of doing up a house or apartment, you might well find an outing to Stainby worthwhile.

Barry Spencer can hopefully supply all your needs in the renovation of period and old houses. He has been in the business for over 30 years and most items required for the renovation of old homes can be sourced from Barry.

He had 1,500 doors, Elizabethan through to Edwardian, Barry specialises in the supply of good quality York stone from the North of England and new limestone flooring. You will also find stone arches, follies, cobblestones for courtyards, garden steps, roofing tiles and stone garden ornaments.

Barry is available by appointment and always willing to help and offer valuable advice from his years of knowledge and experience.

Advisory service available on-site on an hourly basis.

Opening times by appointment.

Gardens

HADDONSTONE SHOW GARDENS

The Forge House, Church Lane, East Haddon,

Northampton NN6 8DB

Telephone: (01604) 770711

Email: info@haddonstone.co.uk

www.haddonstone.com

Haddonstone has its headquarters a few miles northwest of Northampton in the village of East Haddon. The nation's best known manufacturers of garden ornaments including planters, statuary, fountains, balustrading, obelisks etc, has show gardens and show rooms there where many of their designs can be viewed. The gardens also contain a delightful selection of follies including a temple, a pavilion, an orangery and even a Gothic grotto. New additions include replicas of designs from the Sir John Soane's Museum in London as well as the first-ever portrait bust of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

From Hambleton it can take 50 minutes to drive to Haddonstone, but I expect quite a few guests to make the trip, because it is close to three of our most interesting gardens (Cottesbrooke, Coton and Kelmarsh (q.v. page 13, 14), as well as Althorp and also on route for the M1, providing an alternative route to London and the southwest.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and Christmas

9.00am - 5.00pm and first Saturday of month (April - September)

10.00am - 3.30pm

2017 Weekend Opening:

5th - 6th August (National Garden Scheme)



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A pair of sterling silver chocolate pots, by Philip Hanson Abbott. Hallmarked Birmingham, 1917. From a boxed set, including a set of five Royal Dalton cups and saucers, complete sterling silver spoons, two of which are shown here.

For more details on this or any other items, please do not hesitate to contact us or come and see us, and our collection for yourself.

6 Red Lion Square
Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 2AJ

Telephone: 01780 754166
Fax: 01780 764231

Email: dawsonofstamford@hotmail.com
www.dawsonofstamford.com

Nurseries

RASELL'S NURSERIES

Station Road, Little Bytham, Grantham NG33 4RA

Telephone: (01780) 410345

Email: info@rasells.co.uk

www.rasells.co.uk

My friends who are serious gardeners swear by this nursery and I can see their point. Many nurseries are simply retailers of other peoples' plants and sacks of peat. Tim Rasell is a plantsman who grows 80% of his own plants. He stocks a large selection of hardy shrubs, herbaceous and trees - ornamental and fruiting, as well as half hardy seasonal bedding. He and his staff are friendly and knowledgeable, willing to offer advice.

Not only does Rasell's supply quality plants they have planted borders showing off their stock, making it feel you are walking round a garden rather than a nursery. Most of the newly planted items you see around our Hambleton garden came from this impeccable source.

Only 30 minutes from Hambleton it is well worth a visit.

The Tea House At Rasell's

Once you have been round Rasell's gardens and nursery, visit the tea room for light refreshment and a browse through some of their reference books before taking another look around.

Opening Times - Garden Centre

Monday to Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm

Closed January 2018

Opening Times - Tea Room

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 4.30pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm

Closed January 2018

Upholstery and Curtains

TAYLOR AND BAINES, INTERIORS

26-28 Northgate, Oakham LE15 6QS

Telephone: (01572) 723388 Fax: (01572) 759688

Email: paul@taylorandbaines.co.uk

www.taylorandbaines.co.uk

Paul Baines bespoke upholstery and curtain business based in Oakham is descended indirectly from a huge and thriving business, which in the foxhunting boom of the 1880s (when Hambleton Hall was built) kept 140 horses to deliver curtains, carpets, uniforms, furnishings etc all around this area. Nowadays Paul Baines employs the same craft skills to make sofas, arm chairs, curtains etc to order. Many Hambleton clients will have sat on one or other of his masterpieces!

His enlarged showroom on Northgate houses a huge range of pattern books from which you can choose your materials, and his work is just as suited to contemporary as to classical interiors.

Opening Times

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1.00pm)

Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Taxi Service

MEADOWS EXECUTIVE CARS LTD


2 Barleythorpe Road, Oakham LE15 6NR

Telephone: (01572) 722270




Email: bookings@meadowscars.co.uk

www.meadowscars.co.uk

Brian Cooper runs this old established firm (Est. 1926) and has been looking after Hambleton Hall clients since we opened in 1980. The cars, Mercedes, Volvos and VW people carriers are comfortable, air conditioned and well maintained, the drivers smart and knowledgeable. They are very familiar with the area and the country houses, antique shops, etc. which our clients like to visit and equally important, have excellent knowledge of Central London and the airports.



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Opening Hours: Shop- Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm Warehouse- Sunday - Friday By Appointment

Cars

TOP 555

Burley Road, Oakham LE15 7AA

Telephone: (01572) 774830 Fax: (01572) 759750

Email: sales@top555.co.uk

www.top555.co.uk

It's quite a surprise to find an 11,500sq' showroom some half-mile from the centre of Oakham and five minutes from Hambleton. It is filled with gleaming supercars, sports cars, Bentleys, Range Rovers and more. Porsche, Ferrari and Aston Martin have multiple representations at the time of writing and every car is beautifully presented. Most are new or nearly new. Many models have long waiting lists and a shortage of supply.

This unusual resource has been developed since 2001 by the Freimuth family; father Tommy and his sons Charles and Tim. They are on hand to share their enthusiasm and advise on purchase or sale.

Whenever I see from the Hambleton Hall car park that we have an enthusiast for high-end motor cars in the house, I point them in the direction of TOP 555 and their unparalleled collection. Invariably they pass a happy hour in the company of the Freimuths' and their amazing stock.

Opening Times

Monday - Friday: 08.00am - 17.30pm

Saturday: 08.30am - 16.30pm

Sunday: Closed (phones diverted)

Wine Merchants

BAT & BOTTLE

Unit 18D, Oakham Enterprise Park, Ashwell Road

Oakham LE15 7TU

Telephone: (01572) 759735

Mobile: 07809 828662

Email: post@batwine.co.uk

www.batwine.uk

Ben Robson and his wife Emma preside over this unconventional shop specialising in Italian wine, situated in a trading estate on the edge of Oakham (good for parking). Ben indulges a long held enthusiasm for interesting wines from smaller producers throughout Italy. A new section covers a few worthwhile things from the rest of the world with a strong showing from Portugal. His stock is strong on medium priced wines for everyday but still has plenty of room for collectors wines from Barolo, Supertuscans etc.

On a recent visit I particularly noticed some huge bottles that would make great presents, a strong selection of sparklers, Prosecco, Spumante, Franciacorta etc and an excellent selection from Northern Italy.

Bat and Bottle is a very worthwhile address for lovers of Italian wine.

So much for the Bottles. The bats referred to cricket bats rather than Ben's mental health. From time to time he has some single estate handmade cricket bats in the back of the shop!

Opening times

Monday – Friday 9.30am – 4.00pm (it is wise to call first as Ben and Emma can be working away during the week)

Every third Saturday of the month (when it is Farmers Market in Oakham), the warehouse is open 9.30am - 5pm with wines open to be tasted.

Bakery

HAMBLETON BAKERY

Cottesmore Road, Exton, Oakham LE15 8AN

Telephone: (01572) 812995

Email: info@hambletonbakery.co.uk

www.hambletonbakery.co.uk

The bakery opened on September 1st 2008. Head baker Julian Carter was sous-chef at Hambleton Hall for 9 years. Julian's father and many generations of forebears were all bakers and he brings to our own bakery tremendous knowledge and boundless enthusiasm.

We specialise in traditional breads made without baker's yeast using long and slow fermentations. Many clients take home a couple of sourdough or "local" loaves for the freezer.

We also make a range of additive free cakes and savouries including the "Pippin" a little pie that makes a fine snack on your way home.

A visit to the bakery can be fun. Julian is proud of his Artofex mixer and wood-fired oven, and loves to explain the difference between his products and "factory" equivalents.

The bakery now has six shops or you can order our products for collection at Hambleton Hall.

WINNER OF ITV'S BRITAIN'S BEST BAKERY.

BIA BAKER OF THE YEAR

Opening Times

Exton Shop & Bakery - Cottesmore Road, LE15 8AN

Monday to Saturday: 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays: 8.00am - 2.00pm

Stamford Shop - 1 Ironmonger Street, PE9 1PL

Monday to Saturday: 8.30am - 5.00pm

Oakham Shop - 17 Gaol Street, LE15 6AL

Monday to Saturday: 8.30am - 5.00pm

Market Harborough - 12 Church Street, LE16 7AA

Monday to Saturday: 8.00am - 5.00pm

West Bridgford - 101 Melton Road, NG2 6ET

Monday to Saturday: 8.00am - 5.00pm

Oundle - Station Road, Oundle Wharf, Oundle PE8 4DE

Monday to Saturday: 8.00am - 5.00pm

“FAY CE QUE VOUDRAS”

Saint Augustine (354-430 AD) wrote “Dilige et quod vis fac”. “Love - and do as you please”. More than 1000 years later Francois Rabelais (1494?-1553) in ‘Gargantua’ has as a hero of his story the Abbot of Thélème who is rewarded for warlike deeds by the gift of his own Abbey. The motto which the unusual abbot uses for his abbey is “Fay Ce Que Voudras” - “Do as you please” in old French. It is notable that he has cheekily used only the second half of St. Augustine’s precept, the meaning of which might be different without the preliminary ‘Love’ which presumably meant - “Love God” and/or your neighbour.

In 1750 Sir Francis Dashwood, John Wilkes and others restored Medmenham Abbey near Henley and used the place as the headquarters of the Hell Fire Club. Inspired by Rabelais the motto inscribed over the door and fireplace was “Fay Ce Que Voudras”.

Wilkes described the activities of the Hell Fire Club in the following terms:

“a set of worthy, jolly fellows, happy disciples of Venus and Bacchus, got occasionally together to celebrate women in wine, and to give more zest to the festive meeting they plucked every luxurious idea from the ancients and enriched their own modern pleasures with the tradition of classical luxury.”

During the 19th century Medmenham became a popular tourist attraction and some of the more prudish Victorians convinced themselves that the Hell Fire Club were Devil Worshipers, but Wilkes description of their activities seems to have been more accurate.

It is entirely consistent with what we know of Walter Marshall that he should have chosen “Fay Ce Que Voudras” as the motto of his newly built Rutland hunting-box in 1881. He may have read Rabelais, more likely he had visited Medmenham and knew all about the antics of the Hell Fire Club in the previous century.

Marshall, as we know from his scrap-book and his contemporary reputation, was suffocated by the prudishness of the mid-Victorian era, and was inclined to cock a snook at the prevailing morality of his age. “Nunc Hora Bibendi” (“now is the time for a drink”) appears on the sundial on the south front of Hambleton Hall. He could not have chosen a more appropriate motto for his front door than “Fay Ce Que Voudras”.



NOTES





Hambleton Hall, Hotel and Restaurant, Hambleton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8TH
Telephone: Oakham (01572) 756991 Fax: (01572) 724721

email: hotel@hambletonhall.com website: www.hambletonhall.com