

Things To Do Around
HAMBLETON Hall
2020 / 2021





A warm welcome, fresh coffee and some great art, sculpture and ceramics are just 10 minutes from Hambleton Hall.

goldmark

Orange Street, Uppingham, LE15 9SQ

01572 821424

goldmarkart.com

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STEFA HART & CAROLINE FIELD

HAMBLETON DECORATING

Stefa has run a successful interior design business for over twenty years, creating stylish, comfortable & practical interiors. Caroline joined her 10 years ago.

Their work ranges from small scale residential jobs, to large scale projects, and they also work on a consultation only basis.

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

Hambleton Decorating has a marvellous team of builders, decorators, electricians, plumbers, curtain makers and carpet layers with which they work closely.

CONTACT DETAILS:

The Old Hall, Main Street, Market Overton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 7PL

Telephone: 01572 767145 Email: info@hambletondecorating.co.uk

www.hambletondecorating.co.uk

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

The function of this booklet is to help visitors to Hambleton Hall and other friends to make the best of the wide range of activities, cultural resources and shops in our area.

When we opened Hambleton Hall forty years ago, “tourism” was not an activity with which our area was much associated and early visitors suffered “information-underload” in this respect!

Now our local tourism organisation have done a great job in publishing general information but we still see the need for something more exactly adapted to the needs of Hambleton Hall clients.

This region is exceptionally blessed with great houses and their wonderful contents, but in this, the year of the pandemic, a number of them have seized on a good excuse to remain closed. Our thanks to Belton (National Trust) and Belvoir Castle that offer frequent openings by pre-booked ticket only.

Fortunately a lot of good gardens remain open and there is little restriction on our range of outdoor activities, including tennis and swimming on site, and cycling, golf, fishing and birdwatching nearby.

We include a number of shops which guests have enjoyed over the years and some like Goldmark in Uppingham help to fill the cultural void left by the closure of museums and art galleries.

Please let us know about your own discoveries for inclusion in future editions.

Tim Ham

TAYLOR  BAINES

“Bespoke Furniture
& Interiors
hand crafted
in Oakham.”

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Tel 01572 723388

Email paul@taylorandbaines.co.uk

www.taylorandbaines.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. Many of the more distant hunt meets were reached by installing horses and humans on the train at Oakham station. I have recently acquired Walter Marshall's hunting map of the region which shows the wide range of their operations.

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 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.





DAWSON OF STAMFORD

DIAMOND MOUNTERS - GOLDSMITHS - ANTIQUE DEALERS



The shop, in a mediaeval building in the middle of Stamford, has, for some years, been known as the region's best source of fine modern and antique jewellery, silver, etc. Climb the stairs to the mediaeval wool hall on the first floor and you enter an Aladdin's Cave housing some very fine Georgian furniture, clocks, silver etc.

For example: a fine quality engraved glass and silver gilt claret jug, by George Angel, London 1867, a Victorian silver gilt and faceted glass claret jug with applied Griffin finial and a silver mounted, hob-nail cut glass claret jug. Part of our extensive stock of modern and antique silver claret jugs.

Dawson has a gem room on the ground floor and a silver gallery on the first floor and has expanded the showroom to take in the shop next door.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.00a.m. - 5.30p.m.

6 Red Lion Square, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2AJ

Telephone: 01780 754166

Email: dawsonofstamford@hotmail.com

www.dawsonofstamford.com

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 rebec, a crouching demon and many other (mostly decapitated) characters were carved by workers of the same school as those who worked on Canterbury Cathedral.

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

*Market days are Wednesday and Saturday

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

*Guided Walking Tours by Jill Collinge (01780) 729076

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, plus in 2005 Pride and Prejudice.

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.

*Market day Friday

*Farmer's market every other week on Fridays

www.stamford.co.uk

Guided Walks for Stamford, contact Jill Collinge (01780) 729076 or mobile 07712 853854. 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

*Guided Walking Tours by Jill Collinge (01780) 729076

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) together with a Fur and Feather market. The “Farmers Market” selling produce and some crafts every Tuesday and Friday. 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.meltonmowbraymarket.co.uk

Market Harborough is around 40 minutes from us and a convenient stop en route to Althorp, 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.

*General Market Tuesday - Saturday 8.00am - 5.00pm

*Vintage, Retro and Antique Market Wednesday 8.00am - 5.00pm

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

* Sunday Antiques 10.00am - 4.00pm (closed Easter)

www.marketharborough.com

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 from 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Saturday and 10.00am - 3.00pm on Sunday 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 (pre-book) 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.

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. 2018 saw the 900th anniversary.

Tel: (01733) 355315. www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk
(Open for visitors 4th July 2020)



SOUTHWELL

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 (www.southwellminster.org) 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 (Open for visitors 5th July 2020)

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).

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, legacies of an art-loving former vicar.

78 Derngate, celebrated its 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 2020

Pre booked visits only from 4th July 2020

Contact 01604 603407

All visits will be self guided

SOME LOCAL CHURCHES

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. www.stmarysbottesford.co.uk

GASTRO PUBS / RESTAURANTS

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

Hitchen's Barn, Burley Road, Oakham LE15 6DE
(Louise & Neil Hitchen) Telephone: (01572) 722255.

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

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

The Kings Arms, 13 Top Street, Wing, Rutland LE15 8SE
(Kate & James Goss) Telephone: (01572) 737634.

COUNTRY HOUSES

This region is exceptionally well provided with great country Houses and fabulous collections.

All the more depressing to report that many of the finest will not reopen until 2021. Belton House and Belvoir Castle are open but tickets must be reserved in advance. This should guarantee an excellent opportunity to enjoy these great houses and their collections in relative tranquillity.

This year I have added the magnificent collections of the Portland and Harley Galleries at Welbeck Abbey to the list. (see page 17)

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, Tim Parker 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 Hondcoeter 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 2020

House - pre-book advanced ticket only

Please refer to website

Garden, Park, Restaurant and Shop

All year 10.00am - 5.00pm (pre booking only)

Stables Restaurant - 10.00am - 5.00pm

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 houses a wonderful collection and the statue garden is always worth a visit.

Opening Times 2020

Pre booking only

Castle open 11.00am - 4.00pm

Limited days open July and August

September - Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

October - Sunday

November and December - selected days

Please see website for full details

Admission charges apply

ALTHORP HOUSE

50 minutes from Hambleton

The Earl Spencer
Telephone: (01604) 770107
www.spencerofalthorp.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 and Spencer House in London.

The 16th Althorp Literary Festival will take place in Autumn 2020.

Opening Times 2020

August

House and Grounds

12 noon - 5.00pm

Admission charges apply

Please note last entry to the House is 3.00pm

NB: Closed 17th, 18th and 19th July

Please see website for full details

ELTON HALL

35 minutes from Hambleton

Sir William and Lady Proby
Telephone: (01832) 280223
www.eltonhall.com

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, which has been revitalised over the last 35 years.

Private parties by appointment between May - September.

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 Bosworth Garden Centre (01832) 343104 in the grounds of Elton Hall.

Opening Times 2020

Wednesday 22nd July until 26th August 2020

Gardens - July 22nd and 29th

August - 5th, 17th, 19th and 26th

Pre booking only

WOOLSTHORPE MANOR

25 minutes from Hambleton

Former home of Sir Isaac Newton

National Trust

Telephone: (01476) 860338

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolsthorpe-m Manor

Woolsthorpe Manor is a 17c Manor house which is chiefly interesting for its association with Sir Isaac Newton. An ancient apple tree makes the unlikely claim that its fruit inspired the great man.

To get to grips with gravitational theory, the National Trust has a number of exhibits relevant to Newton's life and work.

Opening Times 2020

House open from 3rd September

11.00am - 4.30pm

Gardens open from 2nd November

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday

11.00am - 3.00pm

Café open from 31st October

11.00am - 4.30pm

Please check website for up to date details.

THE PORTLAND COLLECTION MUSEUM AND HARLEY GALLERY

70 minutes from Hambleton

The Courtyard at Welbeck

Telephone: (01909) 501700

www.harleygallery.co.uk

Welbeck Abbey is a great House which was formerly the seat of the Dukes of Portland. The House is now in the capable hands of the last Duke's grandson William Parente who pioneered a novel approach to the provision of public access through the construction of a beautiful Art Gallery.

The Portland Collection formed over some 500 years by the Cavendish Bentinck family and their forbears is now housed in the gallery and comprises outstanding objects from the Welbeck Abbey collection. Wonderful paintings, miniatures, silver jewellery, drawings etc are beautifully shown in the new gallery and the show is refreshed annually with new exhibits from the Abbey's inexhaustible supply.

The Harley Gallery next door is a forum for exhibitions of Contemporary works.

In addition the Courtyard has an excellent Café ideal for a light lunch and a very good farm shop.

Opening Times 2020

Open from 1st August

Tuesday to Saturday 11.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday 11.00am - 4.00pm

Free entry and free parking

www.harleygallery.co.uk

GARDENS

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, www.barnsdalegardens.co.uk (01572) 813200, much closer at hand and very handy for our own bakery (q.v. page 40) 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 and 25th) 9.00am - 5.00pm
Tea Room open 10.00am - 3.00pm (takeaway only)

Coton Manor (Open from 30th May 2020) Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday weekends, 12 noon - 5.30pm, last admission 4.45pm. Café open during regular garden opening times and provides lunches and cakes. This is the best large garden in our region. Admission charges apply. www.cotonmanor.co.uk (01604) 740219.

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

Open until September 2020 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays, and Bank Holiday Mondays 10.30am - 4.00pm.
Autumn Country Market, 6th September 2020.

Haddonstone Show Gardens look more and more impressive each year with structures such as an orangery and a gothic grotto, a 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

Pre-booked visits only.



BURGHLEY HOUSE

15 minutes from Hambleton

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

“Gruesomely Grubby Gardens at Burghley” Not for grown-ups! Following the success of the 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 the Sculpture Garden while all the time exploring the gardens and solving the puzzles inside.

Opening Times 2020

House closed until March 2021

Gardens open until 1st November 2020 (pre booking only)

Parkland open daily 7.00am - 6.00pm

BOUGHTON HOUSE

50 minutes from Hambleton

His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch & Queensberry
Telephone: (01536) 515731
www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

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 2020

Gardens, Parkland

1st August to 28th September 2020

Tickets in advance only

House

Closed for 2020

DODDINGTON HALL

90 minutes from Hambleton

Telephone: (01522) 694308
www.doddingtonhall.com

The Hall has a splendid farm shop and cafe where you can obtain a very respectable lunch or picnic, (01522) 812505.

Opening Times 2020

Hall, Main Café and Restaurant

Closed until further notice

Gardens and Parkland

Open Daily 10.00am - 4.00pm (please check website)

Shops open daily including a
farm shop, bike shop and homewares

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.

Opening Times 2020

Gardens open

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

10.00am to 4.00pm

Pre booking only

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 ½ hours).

A full circuit of the hides and tracks comprising the **bird watching centre** at Egleton involves around 2 ½ 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)

A second walk for which a map is supplied involves a 6-7 mile circuit starting at the TV mast above **Barleythorpe** (approx 2 ½ 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 ½ miles).

SAILING AND WINDSURFING

www.anglianwater.co.uk/leisure

Watersports availability limited. Please see website.

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 £25 per hour). Rowing boats, paddleboards, canoes and kayaks can be hired which seats 1-6 persons (from £10 per person, per hour).

Beginners courses in sailing and windsurfing can be arranged. Sailing and windsurfing tuition from half day £85 per person to £165 for full day per person. Personal tuition from £35 per person per hour for sailing and windsurfing (equipment hire extra).

They sell chandlery, windsurfing equipment and leisure wear in the shop – Whitwell Watersports Centre.

Open April to October, 7 days: 9.00am - 5/7pm*.
November to March, 5 days (closed Tuesday and Wednesday):
9.00am - 3/4pm*.

*Daylight and weather dictates closing times.

CYCLING (Open with restrictions)

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 head off to the unspoilt lanes around Braunston. We have cycles available for hire on-site or a wide selection of machines including electrics are available from Whitwell (01780) 460705 or Normanton (01780) 720888.

www.rutlandcycling.com

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

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.org

Telephone: (01780) 720205 Pro: (01780) 720298

Green Fees - depending upon day:

April to October – from £65

May to September – from £75

November to March – from £40

Visitors are welcome Monday to Friday with the exception of Tuesdays and public holidays. Weekends are subject to availability (please call in advance).

Stoke Rochford Golf Club (4*)

(Great Ponton)

www.stokerochfordgolfclub.co.uk

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

Open with guidelines to follow.

Green Fees:

Monday to Friday £30 per round or £45 per day

Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays £55 per round

Please call the Office Manager to make arrangements for your day's golfing.

Greetham Valley Golf Club (3*)

(9 miles from Hambleton)

www.greethamvalley.co.uk

Telephone: (01780) 460444

Open with guidelines to follow.

Visitors: 18 holes

Summer 1st April to 31st October 2020 £25.00 weekdays
 £30.00 weekends

Winter 1st November to 31st March 2021 £22.50 weekdays
 £27.50 weekends

Twilight Summer (after 4.00pm): £15.00

Twilight Winter (after 12.30pm): £15.00

Par 3: £5.00 all week

Rutland Water Golf Club (3*)

(opposite Hambleton Hall)

www.rutlandwatergolfcourse.co.uk

Telephone: (01572) 737525

Open with guidelines to follow.

Now consists of 9 holes par 3 course and additional 18 holes full size course. Much improved and has wonderful views over Rutland water.

Green Fees: 18 holes £22 weekdays £25 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

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 ½ 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). www.somerbyquestriancentre.co.uk

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.

Traditional fox-hunting was outlawed in 2005 by legislation promoted by well meaning animal lovers (who thought, wrongly the change would be in the foxes' best interest) allied with spiteful toff-haters. 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 - 10.00am, subject to water temperature being 11c or above and wetsuits optional at or above 14c! Booking essential, £8.50, wetsuit hire available. www.inspire2tri.com Telephone (01572) 244224.

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 (purchase online from the Environment Agency.)

Day permit £29 (maximum 8 fish)

or Half day permit (5 hours) £25 (maximum 4 fish)

or Sporting ticket (catch and release) £23

Season Dates: Commence 13th March 2020

Brown Trout 1st April to 30th October (1 per day)

Rainbow Trout 13th March to 31st January

In addition your chances will be improved if you hire a motor boat which can be hired for the day. Telephone (01780) 686800. 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, (01780) 686441.

You may further improve your chances by securing the services of Rob Waddington at Rutland Fly Fishing Adventures (01572) 722422 or (07711) 182853, 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 £6.00 Adult, £5.00 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 two 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 mid-March to early September.

www.ospreys.org.uk/the-lyndon-centre-and-reserve

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 £117 per person.

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Oil Paintings	Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary)
Pottery	Goldmark Gallery
Prints/ Maps	Goldmark Gallery
Sculpture	Goldmark Gallery (Contemporary)
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GENERAL SHOPPING AND SERVICES

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Cars	Top 555
Fashion - Ladies	Cavells
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Gardens/Nurseries	Haddonstone
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	Spencer Architectural
Hats, Shoes and Handbags	Cavells
Interior Design	Hambleton Decorating
	Spencer Architectural
Jewellery/Goldsmiths	Dawson of Stamford Ltd
	Heidi Kjeldsen
Outdoor Clothing	Cavells
Rugs Persian/Tribal etc	The Rug Studio
Taxi Service	Meadows Executive Cars Ltd
Upholstery and Curtains	Taylor & Baines
Wine Merchants	Bat & Bottle



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Opening times:

Monday - Friday: 08:00am - 17:30pm

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

ANTIQUES AND WORKS OF ART

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.

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

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



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- Gemstones

5 The Maltings, Mill Street,
Oakham LE15 6EA

t: 01572 722666

e: heidi@heidikjeldsen.co.uk

www.heidikjeldsen.co.uk

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.

The large, beautifully designed store offers a fantastic range of leading brands, including Ralph Lauren, Paul Smith, Luisa Cerano, Levis and Stine Goya, to name just a few. Cavells also offers a wide range of footwear and accessories including Penelope Chilvers and Mulberry.

The Cavells Country area situated towards the rear of the Mill Street store, offers an extensive selection of the finest country clothing, footwear and accessories. With top brands being Schoffel Country, Barbour, Le Chateau, Dubarry, R.M. Williams and many others.

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

Cavells has created the ideal shopping environment, with friendly and knowledgeable staff on hand to help.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm

PURE BEAUTY @ CAVELLS

An express beauty salon within the Cavells Mill Street store, offering manicures, pedicures, waxing, lash and brow treatments.

An appointment is necessary. Telephone (01572) 757844.

Opening Times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.00pm

Modern Jewellery

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 Restrtringing
- Resizing, Refurbishing and Repairing
- Independent NAJ Valuations
- Hand Engraving
- Bespoke pieces from existing heirlooms

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

Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Online purchasing is also available.



Spencer Architectural

Reclaimed materials and items available for period
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Stock range includes:

Chimney Pots	Garden Items
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Dog Grates & Baskets	Regency Furniture



Yard open for viewing by appointment

www.spencerarchitectural.com

M: 07973 876469 | E: barryrodwell@icloud.com
The Barn, Water Lane, Stainby, NG33 5QY

Home and Interiors

THE RUG STUDIO

Unit 31 Store It, Cherry Holt Lane, Stamford PE9 2EQ

Telephone: (01780) 239594 Mobile: 07588 757796

Email: rachel@therugstudio.co.uk

www.therugstudio.co.uk

The Rug Studio is owned and operated by Rachel Simpson who is well known in the antique rug industry with over 20 years experience. Rachel obtained her Bachelor's Degree in woven textiles and this skill and understanding led to learning the art of restoration in the UK with both Persian and Western dealers before continuing her training in Konya, Turkey. She then went on to teach restoration in India for 6 years.

Production of bespoke items and restoration of old and worn rugs and carpets is a passion for Rachel which she has passed onto her team and ensures customer understanding and confidence in the work carried out with the studio. Rachel believes that when one owns an antique rug to consider yourself a caretaker, maintaining and looking after the piece to the best of one's abilities. With stock in house dating back to the early 19th Century and a large database of contacts to source that special piece from China, Caucasia, Turkey, Iran and India to name a few, Rachel believes with the skill and art-form deteriorating, the art of a true hand knotted rug must be appreciated and understood.

Rachel has recently relocated to Stamford, with the head office located in a small property in the town centre. you will also find The Rug Studio concessions in both Stamford and Holt Antiques Centres. Rachel is also available by appointment either at the studio or at your location, she is always willing to help and offer valuable advice from her years of experience and knowledge.

Facebook: The Rug Studio Twitter: @_TheRugStudio

Instagram: @TheRugStudio

TAYLOR AND BAINES, INTERIORS

26-28 Northgate, Oakham LE15 6QS

Telephone: (01572) 723388

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

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www.meadowscars.co.uk

Architectural Materials

SPENCER ARCHITECTURAL

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

Telephone: (01476) 860777 Mobile: 07973 876469

Email: barryrodwell@icloud.com

www.spencerarchitectural.com

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.

Barry Spencer can hopefully supply all your needs in the renovation of period and old houses. He has been in the business for over 40 years and most items required for the renovation of old homes can be sourced from Barry.

As well as c.1,000 doors, Elizabethan through to Edwardian, Barry specialises in the supply of good quality reclaimed 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. In addition, an interest in antique furniture and interior decor items, has led to Barry sourcing a small range of unique items which are available to purchase.

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.

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

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

Haddonstone.co.uk

Haddonstone is the UK's leading manufacturer of high-quality home and garden ornaments and architectural stonework. Their stunning Show Gardens are set within beautiful walled manor gardens in the idyllic Northamptonshire village of East Haddon. These quintessential English gardens display a vast array of plants, as well as a wide variety of Haddonstone designs in traditional, contemporary and classical styles and are well worth a visit. There are fountains, statuary, sundials, bird baths, as well as beautiful yet practical planters and garden furniture on display. The Show Gardens also feature architectural stonework including an orangery, balustrading and columns.

The Haddonstone Show Gardens are located approximately one hour from Hambleton Hall and close to Althorp, Cottesbrooke Hall, Coton Manor and Kelmarsh Hall. Visitors can also enjoy lunch at the local village gastro pub, The Red Lion (advanced booking is recommended).

Opening Times

Appointments only between Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

Cars

TOP 555

Burley Road, Oakham LE15 7AA

Telephone: (01572) 774830

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 to Friday: 8.00am - 5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday: Closed (phones diverted)

PURE BEAUTY
@cavells

01572 757844

16 Mill Street, Oakham
Rutland, LE15 6EA

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.

With many businesses and individuals now being aware of the environmental impact of their travel, choosing Meadow Executive Cars can help. Who now offset their CO2 emissions by investing in reforestation, renewable and clean energy projects.

THE

RUG

STUDIO

Est. 2000

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Stamford Studio: Unit 31, Store It, Cherryholt Lane Stamford, PE9 2EQ - Open Mon-Thurs, 10am-1pm - or By App
 Shop: St Martins Antique Centre, 23a High Street, Stamford, PE9 2LF - Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10:30am-5pm
 Shop: Holt Antiques & Interiors Centre, Thornage Rd., Holt, NR2 6SU, Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm
 Warehouse: 21 Acton Trading Estate, The Vale, Acton, W3 7QE - Tel 0208 261 7434 , Open Mon-Fri By Appt

Tel: 01780 239594 • Email: info@therugstudio.co.uk • www.therugstudio.co.uk

Wine Merchants

BAT & BOTTLE

Unit 18D Oakham Enterprise Park, Ashwell Road, Oakham LE15 7TU

Telephone: (01572) 759735 Mobile: 07809 828662

Email: ben@batwine.uk

www.bat.wine

Ben Robson and his wife Emma preside over this unconventional shop specialising in Italian wine, situated in a warehouse in an old prison, now 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 small additional selection covers a few worthwhile extras, including some excellent gins. His stock is strong on medium-priced wines for everyday but comfortably includes collectables such as Barolo, Brunello etc.

They ship some huge bottles that would make great presents, a strong selection of sparklers: Prosecco, Spumante, Franciacorta and, quite uncharacteristically, Champagne, which, true-to-form is from a small grower producer. With their excellent selection, Bat & 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 lurking for sale!

In the last couple of years, Bat & Bottle's wine club was shortlisted as IWCs wine club of the year; they were selected as one of UKs 100 small businesses to represent Small Business Saturday and finalists in the Italian Awards for best wine list.

Opening Times

Please call in advance.

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 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.

Advanced online orders may be placed via our website and collected from our Exton shop.

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

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal dotted lines.





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