

Members' Coach Trip: Wednesday 1st August 2018



JOHN TAYLOR & CO
THE LOUGHBOROUGH BELL FOUNDRY

"Home of the world's finest bells"

John Taylor & Co., now the largest bellfoundry in the world, has been operating from its Loughborough premises since 1839. The business was founded by Robert Taylor in St Neots in 1784 and continues a line of bellfounding on the site which has been unbroken since the middle of the 14th Century.



Taylor's produce cathedral and church bells, chimes, carillons, musical handbells and bespoke work for customers worldwide. Current commissions include a 42" diameter bell weighing 17cwts for the ancient Kanthaswamy Hindu temple at Maviddapuram in Sri Lanka. Taylor's will also be restoring a ring of twelve bells in the north-west tower of St Paul's Cathedral 140 years after first casting and hanging them in 1878.

The tour will cover each stage of production and will include the museum.



PLEASE NOTE: This tour involves a lot of standing and walking over uneven ground. Strong (not fabric) fully enclosed shoes are to be worn (toes, sides and back must be covered with no slits or gaps in the uppers) for the tour of the works – persons not wearing the appropriate type of footwear will be refused entry. This is a HSE & Insurance requirement. Trousers are strongly recommended for ladies. Smoking and consumption of food and drink are not allowed anywhere within the museum or works premises.

Melbourne Hall



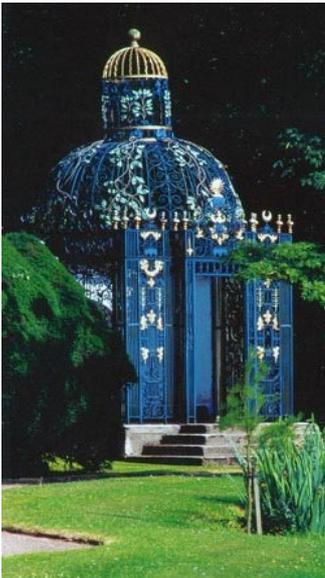
Melbourne Hall in Derbyshire stands in an idyllic setting at the east end of Melbourne village overlooking the 20 acre mill pool. Passers-by get little more than a fleeting glimpse, because its principal aspects are south and east towards the parkland and gardens, while the courtyards and outbuildings separate it from the village to the north and west.

The Hall has a chequered and unusually well-documented history. Originally built as a bishop's palace during the reign of Henry I, by the early 15th century it provided occasional lodgings for lessees including Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor, Thomas Cromwell. Most of the present building is based on a reconstruction of 1595 by Sir Francis Needham who made it his permanent residence.

Each of the following centuries have left their mark and this, combined with the fact that it remains a lived-in family home, accounts for its warm, welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. It is now the home of Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr, Lord Ralph being a direct descendant of Sir John Coke who lived in the Hall from 1629.

The Hall is only open to visitors in August while the family are away so this is an opportunity not to be missed!

NOTE *The Hall's best-known owner was William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, Whig Prime Minister and mentor of the young Queen Victoria but he never made it his home.*



The formal garden, with its broad sweeps of lawn, avenues and unexpected vistas is the best surviving example of an early 18th century English garden in the manner of Le Nôtre. The works were commissioned by Thomas Coke and to one commentator 'are as close to perfection as any in the country'.

Their crowning feature is the wrought iron arbour known as 'The Birdcage' created by the celebrated ironsmith Robert Bakewell in 1706-8 for £120. It was made at a forge in the basement of 'Stone House', which still stands on the south side of the parish church.

Outline Programme for the Day:

- 09.00 Meet at Glebe Road, entrance to the Botanic Gardens
- 09.15 Board Woods Coach
- 10.15 Arrive at the John Taylor Bell Foundry—Tour of working areas and museum
- 12.15 Reboard Coach
- 13.15 Arrive at Melbourn Hall
Cold buffet lunch, tea, coffee and cakes in private rooms (all included)
- 14.30 & Tours of the Hall (in two groups of up to 25)
- 15.30 Free time to look around the gardens
Refreshments available (optional—not included)
- 16.30* Board the return bus (*possibly slightly later, if desired)
- 18.00 Arrive back in Leicester

To: Arthur Stafford, 20 Waldale Drive, Leicester LE2 2AR (Tel: 0116-270-2017)

Please reserve _____ places for the SCAS members' coach trip to John Taylor Bell Foundry Museum & Melbourn Hall on Wednesday 1st August 2018.

I enclose a cheque (*made payable to 'Stoneygate Conservation Area Society'*) for _____ (£40.00 per person)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____