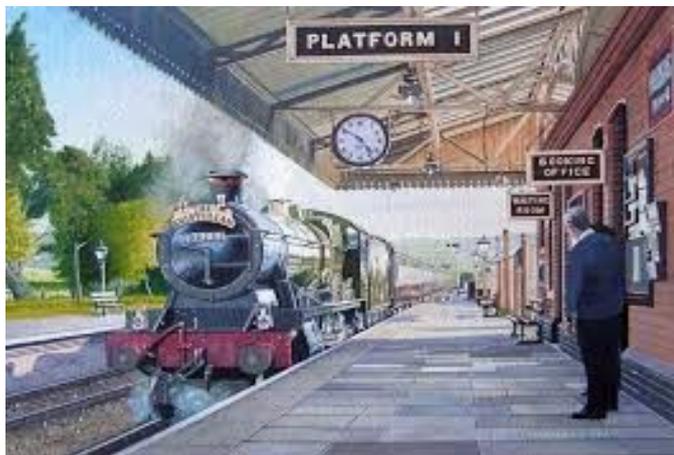


Stoneygate Conservation Area Society

Members' Coach Trip: Wednesday 10th July 2019

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Heritage Railway



The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway is a volunteer-operated heritage railway offering a round trip of 28 miles. It uses part of the main line route of the former Great Western Railway from Birmingham to Cheltenham which used to run via Stratford-upon-Avon. It now operates steam and heritage diesel trains between Cheltenham Racecourse and Broadway, through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Cotswolds. The line commands wonderful views of the nearby villages, across to the Malvern Hills and beyond. The Company raised £1.38 million to extend

northwards to Broadway and completed the project in 2017–18. In the foreseeable future, the GWSR will begin working on plans to extend a further 6 miles (9.7km) to Honeybourne.

We will board the train at Cheltenham Racecourse from where we will pass gently through the picturesque Cotswold countryside, over the River Isbourne and through the 693 yard Greet Tunnel to

Toddington Station, the HQ of the GWSR and home to its Locomotive Departments. After disembarkation we will split into groups of around 20 and enjoy an escorted tour of the repair and maintenance sheds. These are working environments where volunteers manipulate very heavy items (a large express engine without its coal tender can weigh in at 80 tons!) and they can be sooty and steamy.

If this doesn't appeal, the railway has a lovely and interesting shop or you could start lunch a little early at the Flag and Whistle Café with a most extensive menu that averages 300 diners a day! Shed visitors (each

making a minimum £2 donation to the volunteers' buckets) should wear sensible shoes. They will join the rest of us for lunch and then it's back to the bus for a short ride (1.5 miles) to Stanway House.



Stanway House



Stanway is an outstandingly beautiful example of a Jacobean manor house, the land having been owned by Tewkesbury Abbey for 800 years, then for 500 years by the Tracy family and their descendants, the Earls of Wemyss, who still live there. Originally constructed in the late 16th and early 17th century, it is now is a Grade I listed building furnished in traditional Jacobean style. The kitchen court was designed by William Burn in 1859.

The jewel-like gatehouse was built in about 1630. The church and 14th-century tithe barn, the 18th-century water-garden, the specimen trees and avenues, the surrounding villages, farms, parkland and woodland all subtly combine to create an enclave of very English and almost magical harmony.





The gardens are Grade I listed on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The Estate Brewery, an original Elizabethan feature has, with the permission of Lord Neidpath, recently been re-established. Cutsdean Quarry, which is a nature reserve and designated a Key Wildlife Site (KWS), is also part of the Stanway Estate. Thanks to its location, at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment, Stanway has been protected from many changes of the 20th century although the north-east wing, remodelled in 1913 by Detmar Blow, was demolished in 1948. Recently it has seen the gradual restoration of the 18th century water-garden, probably designed by the greatest of British landscape gardeners, Charles Bridgeman. The formal canal, on a terrace above the house, the striking pyramid and eight ponds have been reinstated, and a single-jet fountain, at 300 feet the highest fountain in Britain and the highest gravity fountain in the world, has been added. We are booked in for a 1 hour tour of the interior of this 400-year-old building. Then we meander into the water garden, gaze at the newly restored water wheel and at 15.45 the famous water fountain begins to erupt up to 300 feet! We return to the house for tea and cakes of choice. Finally, we board the coach back to Leicester.



Outline Programme for the Day:

- 08.00 Meet at Glebe Road, entrance to the Botanic Gardens
- 08.30 Board Woods Coach
- 10.30 Arrive at the Cheltenham Racecourse Heritage Railway Station
- 10.55 Board the train to Toddington Station
- 11.45 Arrive at Toddington Station
- Tour of the Sheds/or visit shop/start lunch early (lunch not included)
- 14.15 Reboard the Coach
- 14.30 Arrive Stanway Hall
- Tour of the interior of the House followed by
- c15.45 Time to view the Garden and water features
- Tea & cake back in the Hall
- 17.15 Board the return bus
- 18.45 Arrive back in Leicester



To: Arthur Stafford, 20 Waldale Drive, Leicester LE2 2AR (Tel: 0116-2702017)

Please reserve _____ places for the SCAS members' coach trip on Wed 10th July 2019.

I enclose a cheque (*made payable to 'Stoneygate Conservation Area Society'*) for _____ (£36 per person)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ **Please tick this box if you do not want to visit the Sheds**

