



Arden Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Member Society of NADFAS

A VISIT BY COACH TO WESTON PARK

ON FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

You are invited to join us on our visit to Weston Park near Shifnal in Shropshire.

Set amidst one thousand acres of Capability Brown Parkland, Weston Park is the former ancestral home of the Earls of Bradford. The House has an internationally acclaimed art collection including many portraits from the 17th to 20th centuries with rare pieces such as two portraits of ladies of the Wilbraham family by John Michael Wright, two early portraits by John Constable and two portraits of the same child by Sofonisba Anguissola. Most major English 18th portrait painters are represented and there are a number of portraits by Anthony van Dyck and his workshop. There is a George Stubbs painting of horses and a pair of coastal scenes by Claude Joseph Vernet entitled "Calm and Storm". There is a rare toilet service in silver from 1679, one of only 12 English-made early services left in the country. Many pieces of furniture made for the house by Thomas Chippendale are also on display, and there is a room with tapestries from the Gobelins Manufactory which were made for Weston in the 1760s. The house is surrounded by beautiful formal gardens, woodland walks, lakes and follies.

On arrival at Weston Park we will have coffee/tea and biscuits in The Stables Coffee Shop. This will be followed by a private "Behind the Scenes" tour which will take us through hidden corridors and up staircases not usually seen by the public. Areas to be viewed will include the Victorian Servants Hall, Stewards Room, Middle Drawing Room, Boudoir, Family Staircase and the Music Room.

Afterwards we will have lunch in The Stables, to include home-made soup and a selection of sandwiches with tea or coffee. In the afternoon you will have the opportunity of visiting the art gallery upstairs in the adjacent Granary, revisit the house and/or enjoy the gardens.

The date of our visit is among the last days the house is open before closing for the Winter. This day is a "Free Flow Day" which means that from 1.00 pm the house is open to the public.

The cost for the day to include return coach fare, driver's gratuity, all entrance fees, morning refreshments and lunch, as specified above, will be £37.00 per person.

We will depart from Johnsons Yard at 8.15 am and from the Old Sils at 8.45 am. At the end of the day we will leave Weston Park at 4.30 pm and should arrive back in Solihull for approximately 6.00 pm/ 6.30 pm depending on traffic.

Arden Members will have received full details and an application form by post or email.

Any non-member interested in taking part please contact us by following the contact instructions elsewhere on this website.