

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION Gorhambury, St Albans, Thursday 26 August 2004

This visit has been organised by Kate and Mike Quinton

The Manor of Gorhambury, hidden west of St Albans, contains a house, a garden, the ruins of the Tudor house and wonderful parkland, but no loos. The ruined house was the home of the young Sir Francis Bacon (1568-1626), who proposed the “scientific method” that we still try to use (observe, hypothesise, test and theorise) back in 1620. The Grimston family, that now live in the house (built 1777-1784), came into the ownership by the marriage of Anne Bacon to Sir Harbottle Grimston in 1652. St Michael’s Church, which we shall see in the afternoon, contains a memorial to Francis Bacon and a very interesting clock installed by Lord Grimthorpe. A more detailed résumé can be found at: <http://www.bacchronicle.homestead.com/Gorestate.html>

Gorhambury can provide 3 or 4 guides and so numbers in the party need not be too restricted, although we will need to warn them, if we are likely to exceed 50. The group rate on a Thursday morning is £5.00 per person. (Pay on the Day).

Directions by road: from **M1**: take exit 6; left at roundabout sp St Albans; straight at next roundabout (over M25) sp A405 St Albans **OR** from **M25**: take exit 21A; left at roundabout sp St Albans. **Then** take first exit at Noke Hotel roundabout sp B4630 Chiswell Green; cross double roundabout by Three Hammers pub. After 1 mile turn left at mini roundabout by King Harry pub sp Roman Verulamium. After ½ mile turn right at roundabout sp A4147 St Albans City Centre. After 400yds downhill just after second set of pedestrian traffic lights, turn left into Gorhambury drive, which is opposite the entrance to St Michael’s Street. Continue up drive, past Roman Theatre, through electric gate. Fork left after 1½ miles.

Directions by train: leave from Kings Cross Thameslink, 10.01 or 10.16, and alight at St Albans City, 10.20 or 10.35. The times of trains above are before any changes at end of May. A few of us will be available to collect; please inform David if you require a lift from the station. He will let us know.

The programme is as follows:

11.00am meet on the steps of Gorhambury House.

11.00-12.30 Tour of the house.

12.30-13.15 Look at the garden and remains of Tudor house.

13.15 Move cars to museum car park, 60p all day, pay and display. There is a loo.

13.30 Lunch at Six Bells or one of the other pubs, or visit the little wild life garden, adjacent to the museum, and picnic in the park. There is a sandwich café nearby. The museum costs £2.00 for senior citizens. It is good, but we have not arranged a visit.

14.30 Visit St Michael’s Church.

End the day with “tea” at the Waffle House. Early birds can start the day with coffee there; it is open 10.00am to 6.00pm and has its own free (for a short stay) car park, shared with Kingsbury Watermill. It is at the River Ver end of St Michael’s Street and, because of a one way system, most easily entered by continuing along the A4147 (see Directions by road, above) to the first roundabout and doubling back to St Michael’s Street.