

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

**Two day "Mini Break" in the New Forest Hampshire
Beaulieu and Exbury Gardens
Thursday 19 May and Friday 20 May 2005**

This visit has been organised by Robert Thorne

The New Forest, covering some 145 square miles, is a refreshing blend of the old and the new. It offers visitors a chance to step off the treadmill of modern life into a calmer, traditional and less stressed world that is quintessentially English. Much of the landscape and traditions have remained unchanged since William the Conqueror gave it his special protection as his hunting forest. There are some 5000 animals depastured in the Forest who graze freely as they have done for centuries and roam the roads. They are owned by the Commoners (Land Users) and their welfare is protected by the Agisters (police) and Verderers (judges).

Beaulieu is a picturesque and historic village nestling on the banks of the Beaulieu River. In its vicinity King Rufus was killed by an arrow whilst hunting in 1100. Located within the present boundaries of the Beaulieu Estate King John in 1202 granted land at Beaulieu, then known as Bellus Locus (beautiful place) to the Cistercian monks for the establishment of a monastery. During the reign of Henry VIII many of the original buildings were destroyed yet much of the beauty and interest remain; the Great Gatehouse which now forms part of Palace House and is the home of the Montagu family, the Monk's Refectory, now the local Parish Church, and the Domus, once the Lay Brothers Dormitory, where beautiful wall hangings tell the story of the Abbey since its foundation.

When it comes to cars, motor cycles, commercial vehicles, memorabilia and motoring eccentricities, the National Motor Museum, one of Beaulieu's most famous attractions, is firmly in the driving seat. There are more than 250 interesting vehicles on show including World Land Speed Breakers (e.g. Blue Bird) and "star" cars such as Uri Geller's "spoon" Cadillac, Del Boys' Reliant and Mr Bean's green mini. Within the museum there is the Motor Works and "Wheels", a sit-in pod ride taking visitors on 100 year journey through motoring history.

Other features on the Estate include extensive and beautiful grounds, picturesque and peaceful Cloisters, walks, overhead rail system, rides in old vehicles and the Brabazon Food Court providing a range of meals and refreshments throughout the day.

Created by Lionel de Rothschild in the 1920's, the tranquil oak wood land Exbury gardens cover over 200 acres of natural beauty and horticultural variety. The gardens slope down to the estuary of the River Beaulieu with many varieties of wild flowers together with world famous displays of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

The Summer Lane Garden is a naturalistic garden consisting of huge swathes of herbaceous perennials and grasses and creates a flowering area with year round interests. It can only be seen from the steam Railway train which journeys around the Northeast corner of the gardens.

The total costs of the Mini Break is £37.00 per person and covers entrance to the Beaulieu Estate, talk and conducted tour of the motor museum, the monorail, Palace House and Gardens, Vintage Bus rides, the James Bond Experience, Wheels' ride, three course dinner at the Beaulieu Road Inn, entrance to and conducted tour of Exbury Gardens. The Steam Engine ride, an absolute must, can be taken at any convenient time at an extra cost of £3.00 per person.

To reach Beaulieu by road exit the M27 at junction 2 and follow the roads signs to the Motor Museum car park on the B3056; a total distance from the M27 of about 14 miles.

For Exbury Gardens take the road through Beaulieu Village and follow the road signs; Distance about 4 miles

For train travellers the 0805 service from Waterloo arrives at Brockenhurst at 0942. Reasonable request for road transport from Brockenhurst station and other Mini Break journeys will be provided for members who have registered their requirements in advance.

A brochure detailing available accommodation and other places of interest (e.g Buckler's Hard) together with local maps etc will be provided to all participants. Numbers are limited to 25

Programme

	Thursday 19 May Beaulieu Estate
10.30-11.00	Assemble at the main entrance to the Beaulieu National Motor Museum
11.00-12.30	Talk and conducted tour of the museum
12.30 onwards	Enjoy at leisure the many other features on the estate
18.30-20.00	Dinner at the Beaulieu Road Inn
	Friday 20 May Exbury Gardens
10.00-10.30	Assemble in the refurbished Mr Eddies restaurant, adjacent to the car park in a reserved area
10.30-12.30	Guided Tour of the Gardens
12.30-13.30	Lunch in Mr Eddies
13.30 onwards	At leisure for further explorations and Steam Railway