

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to Cobham Hall, Cobham KENT DA12 3BL: Thursday 16 April 2009

This visit has been organised by Geoff Cockett

Cobham Hall is an outstandingly beautiful red brick mansion which demonstrates an exciting combination of Elizabethan, Jacobean, Carolean and 18th century styles. The Elizabethan wings date from 1584 while the central section, including the magnificent plaster ceiling in the Gilt Hall, was created in the 17th century. The gilding, which gives this spectacular room its name, was part of the redecoration carried out in the 18th century when its now historic Snetzler organ was also added. Many rooms still have their fine 17th century marble fireplaces.

Many English monarchs have enjoyed the splendour of Cobham Hall, from Elizabeth I to Edward VIII. Other famous names associated with the Hall and its estate include James Wyatt, John Webb, who was Inigo Jones's most celebrated pupil, and Humphrey Repton who originally landscaped the gardens. A local Heritage Trust has just completed an £8M restoration of the Classical Garden buildings and the 150 acre parkland, Listed Grade II. The gardens are beautiful at all times of the year but especially so in spring.

Programme

- 12.00 Lunch at The Leather Bottle, Cobham village.
- 13.50 Drive into Cobham Hall estate and park on the far side of the large arch.
- 14.00 Guided tour of the Hall.
- 15.30 End of tour of the Hall. Refreshments including cream teas available.
- 16.00 Guided tour of gardens and see the classical garden buildings (about 1 hour).
- 18.00 Gardens close.

Directions:

From the West: at M25 J2, take A2 signed for Dover, for about 7 miles. Leave by exit slip road signed Shorne/Cobham. At T junction, turn left signed Cobham. In less than a mile take the 1st exit on the roundabout signed Cobham, about 1 mile away. If going direct to the Hall, turn into its drive 25 yards before the roundabout.

From the East: at the western end of the M2, continue on the A2 for about 1 mile before leaving via the exit slip road signed Cobham. At the roundabout take the exit signed for Cobham. If going direct to the Hall, take the exit signed for Shorne and in 25 yards, the Cobham Hall drive on the right.

Lunch. Entering the main but narrow street in Cobham Village from the North, the Leather Bottle is the third pub on the right. It offers a good range of snacks and cooked food. We have to tell the pub what we want to eat for lunch to speed up the service. Reinalt will be sending a copy of the menu to all attendees nearer the time. We have to email the pub with our selections by the 13th April. There is a place on the booking form for you to enter whether you will eat in the pub or make your own arrangements. Picnicking is not allowed in Cobham Hall grounds.

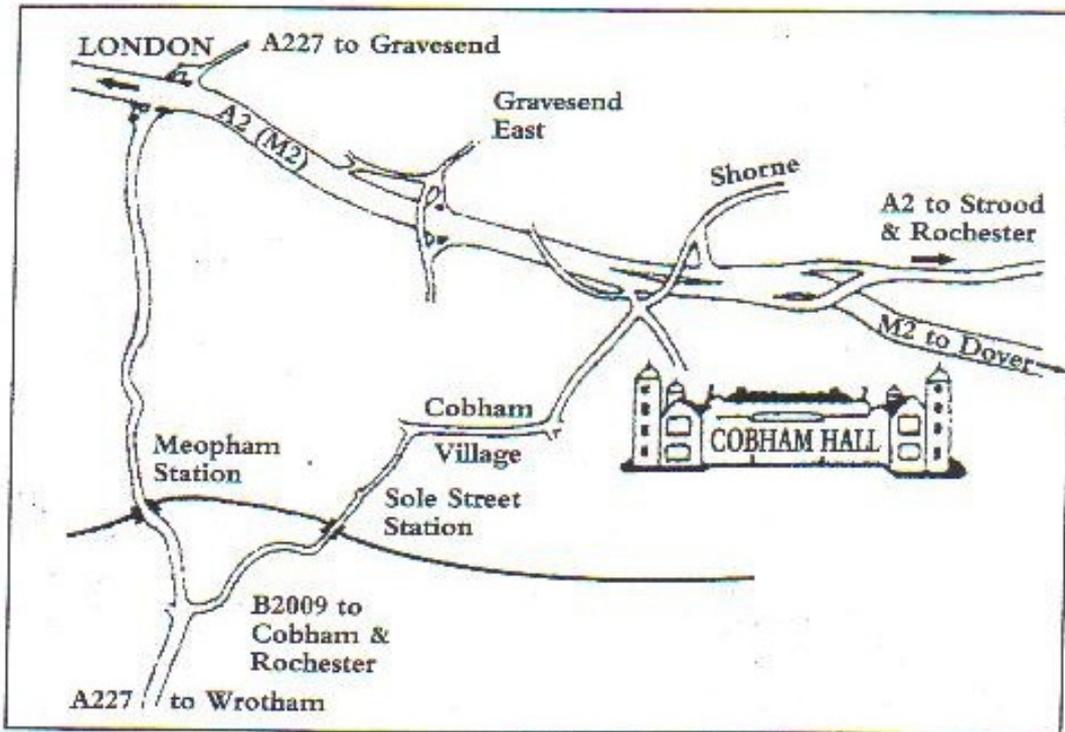
Numbers: 20 maximum per group. If the number wishing to attend is significantly greater, the Hall has agreed to have an extra guide available to lead a second group.

Cost. £12p/p excluding lunch & refreshments

Contacts:

Before 16 April: Reinalt Vaughan-Williams reinalt@physics.org. 020 8946 3399 and 07758 085741

On 16 April: Geoff Cockett 07 88 22 07 047



Cobham Hall is adjacent to the A2/M2 between Gravesend & Rochester, 8 miles from Junction 2 on the M25.