

**Visit to Glyndebourne Opera House
on Friday 20 November 2009**

This visit has been organised by Cliff Evans.

This is a visit to Glyndebourne Opera House, near Lewis in SUSSEX. 2009 is its 75th Anniversary.

Glyndebourne is an internationally famous Opera House. It started in 1934. In 1994 a new opera house opened on the site originally occupied by the old one. This building is ‘state of the art’ with unsurpassed acoustics and facilities for theatre, opera and music performances to the highest possible standard. The design allows for everyone in the audience to have a direct sight-line to the whole stage, allowing for the shape of the theatre.

The guiding aim of Glyndebourne is “Not to do the best we can, but to do the best that can be done anywhere in the world”. This aim is realised nearly all the time. It is a centre of perfection and expertise. In this it is unique.

The major part of the year is aimed at the Festival where 6 operas are performed between May and August. In addition Glyndebourne touring opera tours the country (a week at each place) with 3 operas between October and December, with October at Glyndebourne, then on tour. It participates in an extensive educational programme.

The winter months are also used for refurbishing the Opera House and other buildings, testing any alterations and updating equipment etc and replanting the gardens. Each opera is given a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks rehearsal time with chorus and soloists present (there are 2 rehearsal stages attached to the main opera house). Most costumes, wigs, and props are made at Glyndebourne (with luck we can see the work in progress). Also schools and music colleges come to Glyndebourne for courses and workshops. Glyndebourne is working most of the year with a permanent staff on site. Glyndebourne receives no subsidy for the Festival. The Festival is self supporting.

It is one of very few artistic organisations in the world where they strive for absolute perfection, and most times achieve it. Hence its reputation. They have been responsible for finding many promising artists, grooming and educating them, and starting their careers. Many are now famous.

We meet at Glyndebourne Opera House by the Box Office (See Maps and directions) where a guide will meet us. There are seats in the area if you arrive early, or you can look at the extensive grounds if the weather permits. In the Summer the grounds are a blaze of colour. In November the grounds are overhauled with replanting where required, but they are worth looking at. If you walk round the grounds, don’t lose track of time, and aim to be at the Box Office **before** 2.00.

The tour will start at 2.00pm and finish with tea/coffee and biscuits at about 4.00/4.15. Exact timing will depend on what is happening on that day at Glyndebourne, questions from us etc.

The nearest **Rail** Station is Lewis, trains from Victoria. From there it has to be by Taxi. The easiest way is by car. There is a large car park at Glyndebourne (see Maps and directions). There are toilets, wash rooms etc at Glyndebourne.

By car:-

The route is via the M25, M23, A23, A27, A26, then country roads near Glyndebourne.

Join the M25 at a junction near you. Exit at Junction 7, M23 south - sign Brighton/Gatwick. The M23 changes to the A23 at junction 11. There is a service station near this junction ... follow the signs if you need a break.

Continue to Junction with the A27 and join the A27 east, sign Lewes, Newhaven, Eastbourne. The slip road ends in 2 roundabouts with a bridge over the A27 between them. Come off at the 2nd roundabout, which takes you to the A27. Don’t turn left before then or you will be on the A27 going west to Worthing.

There are 2 exits to Lewis from the A27 at roundabouts. Take the 2nd roundabout 1st exit (A26) which takes you through the Cufail tunnel. There is a roundabout at the end of the tunnel with a large stone/concrete sculpture in

the middle. Turn right (A26), up a hill to traffic lights. Continue to B2192, sign Ringmer and Glyndebourne (right turn). Before Ringmer there is a right turn onto a country Road, sign Glynde and Glyndebourne. The entrance to Glyndebourne is on the left. Follow the signs to the car park (not staff car parks). See map of Glyndebourne. There are ‘sleeping policemen’ on the internal road to the car park which makes for a very bumpy ride if you go over them too fast.

See the map for the Glyndebourne route and the map of Glyndebourne.

The easiest place for lunch before the tour is the Trevor Arms in Glynde. To get there, drive past the entrance to Glyndebourne to Glynde village. The pub is on the right just after going over a railway bridge. There is a car park at the pub. The time to get to the pub after passing the entrance to Glyndebourne is 10 – 15 minutes depending on how fast you can negotiate the country road. I suggest those who want to meet for lunch aim to get to the pub about 12.30ish. We will aim to leave the pub about 1.30 to get to Glyndebourne in good time for 2.00. Please let Reinalt know if you expect to meet us at Glynde. Otherwise we will expect to see you at/before 2.00 at the Glyndebourne box office. If you expect to be late contact Cliff (mobile 07931300418) or Reinalt (mobile 07758 085741).

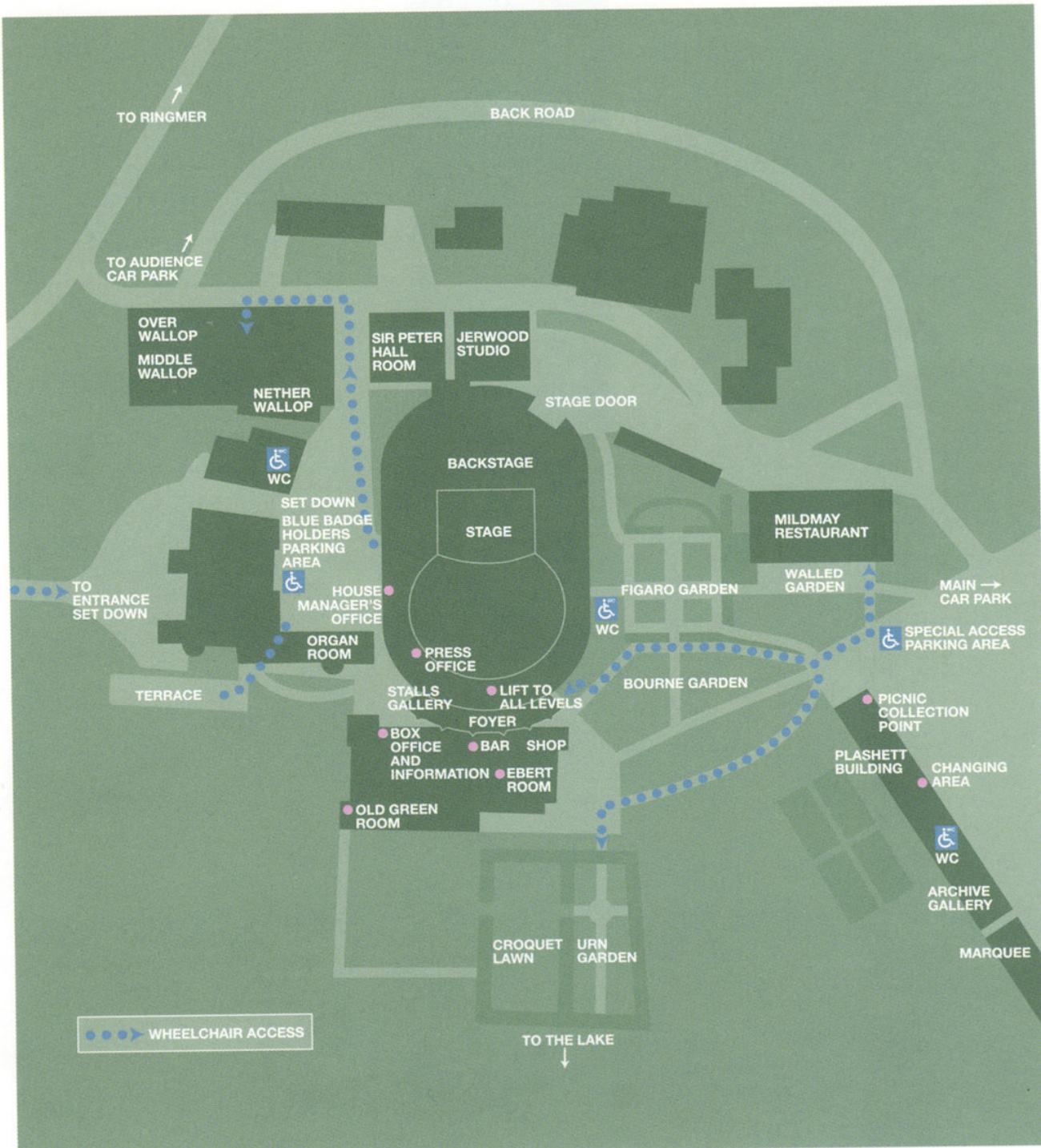
Cost is £9 per person. 25 places have been booked for this tour.

If you are likely to be late please phone Cliff or Reinalt. Go to the Box Office. If the tour has left, contact a member of staff and ask to be directed/taken to where the tour is at that time.





GLYNDÉBOURNE



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