

**KNOLE and SEVENOAKES**Wednesday 9 October 2013

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This meeting has been organized by George Freeman and Jill Haigh

**Knole** originated as a medieval farmstead which was transformed in the mid 15th into a palace used by successive Archbishops of Canterbury. It was sequestered and altered by King Henry VIII in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and later granted to Thomas Sackville the first Earl of Dorset who occupied and completely remodelled the house in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the 6th Earl acquired the unique collection of Stuart furniture and textiles as perquisite of his office as Lord Chamberlain. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke bought many old master paintings on the grand tour. The Sackville-West family, descendants of the Earls and later Dukes of Dorset, still live there. We will hear about the history of Knole, the unique collection of furniture, old masters and porcelain, and be told about some of the restoration to the building and contents that the NT is carrying out.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole) TN15 ORP

**Sevenoaks** is a pleasant former market town with ancient roots. We will be met at the Chequers pub by local Blue Badge Guide Jonathan Fenner who will lead us on our afternoon exploration of the attractive town centre and will include commentary on the distinctive Georgian almshouses and Schoolhouse of Sevenoaks School – both of which were originally established in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

**Assemble** in the Brewhouse Courtyard at Knole from 10:15 for coffee and toilets. Meet the guide at 10:45.

10:00 – 10:15	Train travellers meet in station for bus to Knole
10:15 – 10:45	Assemble in the Brewhouse Courtyard
11:00 – 13:00	Tour
13:00 – 13:10	Minibus or cars to town
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:30	Tour of Sevenoaks

**LUNCH** will be in a nearby pub, The Chequers, which has standard pub food and beer. TN13 1LD

**TRAVEL**

Those travelling by **train**, meet in the entrance to Sevenoaks railway station by 10:15. We will walk to the minibus for transport to Knole. Possible trains are Cannon St 09:18 arriving 09:50; Charing Cross 09:30 arriving 10:05 and 09:40 arriving 10:11, all stopping at London Bridge. Please check times nearer the event.

**Car** drivers park at Knole and wait for the rest of us in the cafe. Carpark charges are £4 for non-NT members and free for members. For lunch there are several carparks in the town centre but few allowing a 4 hour stay. You can walk the ½ mile from Knole but there are several steep hills. Wednesday is market day and is therefore busy.

**Return** for those travelling by train there are several bus services from the bus-station which pass the railway station. These are hourly but are interspersed. For the fit, it is 1 mile downhill.

**CONTACTS**

Before the meeting John Belling [john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com) 07986 379935

On the morning only - George Freeman 07941 916 944

**COSTS**

£32 each or £23 for NT members. Lunch at cost.

Your entry ticket to Knole allows re-entry in the afternoon in which case you could have lunch in the Brewhouse

**NATIONAL TRUST** members please bring your cards.

