

Stroud Civic Society – Summer Programme

Tuesday 18th July 2017 Visit to OWLPEN MANOR

“By far the most perfect small manor house, to me in all of England” Francis Comstock 1976

There is much to see here.

The house has a range of styles, Tudor, Georgian and Arts and Crafts. Mainly untouched since the early 18th century it was preserved by chance. It was abandoned by the family in 1815 and while the neglect saved the house from alteration, it brought it close to collapse.

When Norman Jewson, the Arts and Crafts architect, bought it in 1925 he wrote “one of the main trusses had given way and huge roots of ivy had grown right across some of the floors”. He bravely took on the project and saved the house with a sensitive restoration.



Inside the house, 16th century panelling, wall paintings and fine 18th century fittings combine to make a fascinating interior. The house is full of works by William Morris, Alfred Bucknell, Norman Jewson and Sydney Barnsley while the walls are hung with family portraits and beautiful watercolours of the house. The house was bought in 1974 by Sir Nicholas Mander and today is very much a family home.

The garden however was always kept up so it is now an unusually complete survival of an early formal garden



The church is often overlooked but it is a ‘must see.’ The Victorian restoration of 1874 was followed by a very rich embellishment of the interior by James Powell (of Whitefriars glass) who worked with William Morris and Burne-Jones. There is fine stained glass, glittering mosaics and some wonderful tiled panels of angels resplendent with outstretched wings.



Price: £30.00 members £35 non-members (to include a private tour by Sir Nicololas Mander and a cream tea in the Cyder Barn. There is no coach for this visit, members make their own way there. Offers of lifts gratefully received.

Times: 1.00pm to 2.00pm picnics in the garden (members can bring garden chairs).
2.15pm introduction to the house and tour.
4.15pm approx tea and a visit to the church.

Booking Form

Send with SAE to Juliet Shipman, Apartment B, Field House Gardens, Stroud GL5 2JX.

Tel: 01453 751751 e-mail: julietshipman@hotmail.com

Please make cheques payable to Stroud Civic Society

Name..... Address.....

Tel No..... e-mail.....

No of tickets..... Amount enclosed

I need a lift I can offer..... spaces in my car.