

# **Weston Village Gardening Club**

## **2024 Club Holiday - The Lake District**

### **Sunday 9 June to Friday 14 June 2024**

Our 2024 club holiday is to the Lake District. We will be based in Kendal for 5 nights staying at the Stonecross Manor Hotel. The hotel is about 15 minutes' walk from the town centre. All 30 guest rooms are comfortably appointed with an ensuite bath and shower, colour television, tea & coffee making facilities, iron and ironing board, hairdryer, direct dial telephone and writing desk. Free Wi-fi is also available.

The holiday starts on **Sunday 9 June** when we will board a coach in Weston High Street. Our first stop



will be **Tatton Park** where we will have tickets to visit the house, mansion, and gardens. Tatton Park is in some 1,000 acres of beautiful deer park, and was the Egerton family home for nearly 400 years. We will have the chance to uncover centuries of history at the Medieval Old Hall and witness life above and below stairs in the Mansion and wander at leisure through 50 acres of award-winning Gardens. The Stable Yard is the place to eat, drink, browse and buy. The property was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1958. Today it is financed and maintained by Cheshire East Council.

**Monday 10 June** – Today we will visit Levens Hall, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion built around a 13<sup>th</sup> century Pele tower. Levens Hall has been the family home of the Bagots for over 400 years. It contains a collection of Jacobean furniture, fine paintings, and early English patchwork.

The world-famous award-winning gardens were laid out in 1694. The topiary garden, which is the oldest in the world, has over 100 specimens including huge abstract shapes, pyramids, and columns reminiscent of monstrous chess men.



After Lunch we will head to **Blackwell – the Arts & Crafts house**, a rare architectural gem offering a perfectly preserved snapshot of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century living. Designed by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott, this stunning Grade I listed building is one of the UK's finest examples of Arts & Crafts architecture and benefits with remarkable views towards the Coniston Fells. Completed in 1901, the house was originally built as a holiday home and haven, for brewer Sir Edward and Lady Holt and their five children. From 1941, it became a school for Huyton College in Liverpool,

then Blackwell School until 1976. Blackwell also offers an inviting Tea Room with locally sourced produce, and a Contemporary Gift Shop

**Tuesday 11 June** - Our first stop of the day will be **Dove Cottage** in Grasmere, William Wordsworth's home from 1799 to 1808. Here Wordsworth produced the most famous and best-loved of his poems, and his sister Dorothy kept her famous Grasmere journals. The Cottage was built in the early 17<sup>th</sup> Century and for over 170 years was an inn called the 'Dove and Olive'. It closed in 1793, and in 1799 Wordsworth and his sister moved in.

Like many buildings in the Lake District is made of local stone with white, limewashed walls to keep out the damp. In the downstairs rooms you can view the general living room, kitchen, and buttery, while upstairs you may visit Dorothy's bedroom, and William's study. After viewing the house enter the pretty back garden which slopes up the hillside behind the house and onwards to an arbour commanding a wonderful view. The Wordsworths grew fruit and vegetables in the garden. After visiting the house and garden there will be an opportunity for free time in Grasmere.



After Lunch we will head to **Rydal Mount**, between Ambleside and Grasmere and enjoy the glorious views of Windermere, Rydal Water, and the surrounding fells. Rydal Mount was William Wordsworth's best-loved family home for the greater part of his life, from 1813 to his death in 1850 at the age of 80. The house dates back to the 16th century. It contains a selection of the family's prized possessions and portraits. Wordsworth was a keen landscape gardener, and the 5-acre garden remains very much as he designed it. It consists of fell-side terraces, rock pools and an ancient mound. After the visit to the house there will be an opportunity for free time in Ambleside or to go to the nearby Hayes Garden Centre.



**Wednesday 12 June** - Today, we will venture into some of the more remote parts of the Western Lakes on a private excursion organised by 'Mountain Goat Tours' using their mini buses and local driver/guides.



We will go off the beaten track to discover the magnificent scenery of the Lake District with its beautiful mountains and dramatic lakes. We will head over the Wrynose and Hardknott passes, the steepest passes in England and drive past the extraordinary remains of Hardknott Roman Fort, 1,000 feet up on the fells. Lunch will be taken in a traditional country inn, where you may purchase lunch if you require. In the afternoon we will drive onward to "Britain's Favourite View" at Wastwater, England's deepest and most dramatic lake. A steam train ride from Dalegarth to Irton and a visit to the splendid 14th

Century Muncaster Castle, where we will explore the internationally acclaimed gardens and World Owl Trust. Our day in the Western Lakes will conclude with a journey through the Coniston Fells and by Coniston Water.

**Thursday 13 June** – This morning we will take a short journey to Holker Hall. Holker Hall is the home of the Cavendish Family, and is situated a short distance from Grange-over-Sands and the expanse of Morecambe Bay. The 23 acres of immaculately kept gardens comprise a series of formal gardens set within a more informal landscape of interesting trees, shrubs, and meadows. The Holker Lime is regarded as one of the largest and finest common limes (*Tilia x europaea*) in Britain. It was planted in the early 17th century, probably as part of the establishment of the formal garden. Its girth is 7.9 metres (26 ft). It was designated by the Tree Council as one of the 50 Great British Trees in the United Kingdom, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Elizabeth II.



After Lunch we will go just south of Kendal to the National Trust's **Sizergh**. This medieval house is still lived in by the Strickland family who built it over 750 years ago. Filled with thousands of items collected by 26 generations of the family the house certainly feels lived in, with centuries-old portraits and fine furniture. The exceptional wood panelling is recognised as one of the finest examples of Elizabethan craftsmanship in the world. The 15th century Great Hall and other later additions contain English and French furniture and china.



Sizergh's gardens include a mirror lake, topiary yew trees, colourful herbaceous border, an orchard buzzing with bees, fruit wall and a superb limestone rock garden – the largest in the National Trust. The gardens house four National Collections of Hardy Ferns. The



estate covers 647-hectares comprising of wetland, limestone pasture, orchards and semi-natural woodland and is home to a wide variety of wildlife and flowers.



**Friday 14 June** - Today we say farewell to the Lake District and start our journey home. The sadness of leaving will be tempered by a stop in Stoke on Trent at the award-winning **Trentham Gardens** where we will have the opportunity to enjoy the Italian Garden by Tom Stuart-Smith, and the Floral Labyrinth and Rivers of Grass by Piet Oudolf and vast wildflower and woodland meadow plantings by Nigel Dunnett. A fascinating wire fairy sculpture trail, a maze and a mile-long Capability Brown Lake with seasonal boat and train trips. Those in need of some retail therapy can visit the Trentham Shopping Village with 50 shops and 14 cafes and restaurants.

After our visit to Trentham, we will board the coach and head back to Weston with a comfort stop on the way.

**The Cost** - The holiday, which includes 5 nights Half Board, Full English Breakfast, 3 course Evening Meal, Welcome Drink in the Bar, and coaching throughout by Centurion Coaches, is £850 for National Trust members and £875 for non-National Trust members . The single room supplement is £225 and non -WVGC members pay the club membership fee of £15.

**To Book** - Have a look through the itinerary and check out the hotel and locations. If you wish to confirm your booking, please complete the booking form below and forward a £100 per person deposit by 11 January 2024. The final balance will need to be paid by 11 April 2024.

**Detach Here**.....

**Weston Village Gardening Club  
Lake District Holiday - June 2024  
Booking Form**

To confirm your booking please transfer a deposit of £100 per person to the Club's bank account (see below), and complete the form below and return to [westonvillagegardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:westonvillagegardeningclub@gmail.com).

The final payment will be due on or before 11 April 2023

**Bank Account Details**

**Account Name: Weston Village Gardening Club**

**Sort Code: 30-90-54    Account No: 03048921**

Name(s).....

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Contact Address.....

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Phone no.....

Email .....

<b>Circle Room Type Required</b>	<b>Double</b>	<b>Twin</b>	<b>Single</b>
<b>National Trust Member(s)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	