

Weston Village Gardening Club 2025 Club Holiday – Cambridge, Norfolk and Lincolnshire Sunday 1 June to Friday 6 June 2025

Our 2025 club holiday is to [Cambridge](#). During our stay we will venture into Lincolnshire and Norfolk. Our base for 5 nights starting on Sunday 1 June 2025 will be the [Cambridge Belfry Hotel & Spa](#). The Cambridge Belfry is a 4-star hotel sitting in its own grounds some seven miles from the city centre. The hotel has 120 rooms with a swimming pool, spa and health club.



Sunday 1st June - Our holiday starts when we board a coach in Weston High Street. Our first stop will be [Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire](#). Waterperry is a magical place



surrounded by beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers, classical borders, modern planting, secret corners and long vistas. It was home to a horticultural college between 1932 and 1971, where the emphasis was on food production. Over the last 20 years the gardens have developed and grown, and many new projects have been undertaken and completed. Today there is a Formal Garden, the Mary Rose Garden, a Water Lily Canal and the Long Colour Border, and a recently planted a small arboretum in the meadow area beyond the canal.

Monday 2nd June - After breakfast we will take a short coach ride to the [Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial site](#).



The cemetery contains the remains of 3,811 American soldiers; some 5,127 names are recorded on the Walls of the Missing. Most died in the Battle of the Atlantic or in the strategic air bombardment of northwest Europe. In the Visitor Centre there are a number of interpretive exhibits that incorporate personal stories, photographs, films, and interactive displays.

Mid Mid-morning we will meet our tour guide who will take us on a panoramic

tour of Cambridge. We will see the University buildings on the west side of Cambridge, the backs of the riverside cottages, the University Library, we will pass Peterhouse Pembroke and Emmanuel Colleges and the new colleges such as Churchill, Fitzwilliam, and Lucy Cavendish. At noon, we will have a walking tour of Cambridge which will include a visit to King's College, famous for its Christmas carol service. If you don't fancy the walking tour we will make other arrangements for you.



After Lunch, we will visit the [Cambridge University Botanic Gardens](#) or you may wish to have some free time in Cambridge. The Botanic gardens hold a collection of over 8,000 plant species from all over the world to facilitate teaching and research. The Garden provides resources including plant material, horticultural expertise and facilities to research workers and lecturers. Since its foundation the Garden has provided a beautiful place for everybody to enjoy and benefit from – a series of wonderful landscapes through which to discover the drama of plant diversity.

Tuesday 3rd June - Today we head into Lincolnshire for a visit to [Burghley House](#) where we will have a private tour of the house. Burghley was built in the 16th Century and is the legacy of William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth. Generations of his family have lived there ever since, ensuring that this great House and Estate continues to thrive. There's a number of Gardens full of imaginative planting, sculpture and surprises sure to delight. In the surrounding Parkland you can enjoy space and tranquillity amongst the fallow deer and ancient trees and take in the sweeping vistas created by the extraordinary vision of 'Capability' Brown.



In the afternoon we will head into [Stamford](#) where there will be free time to explore the town. Stamford is widely regarded as one of the finest stone towns in England. The pretty facades of the town are favourites with film and television producers – Stamford was used as Meryton in the 2005 *Pride & Prejudice* film, and has also appeared in *Middlemarch*, and more recently, *The Crown*. Stamford's narrow alleyways and hidden courtyards are home to a variety of speciality shops, fine jewellers and designer boutiques, whilst the High Street. The River Welland winds its way through Stamford en-route to The Wash.



4th June - [Sandringham House](#) stands within the 20,000-acre estate and is in the personal ownership of the monarch. The site has been occupied since Elizabethan times, when a large manor house was constructed. This was replaced in 1771 by a Georgian mansion for the owners, the Hoste Henleys. In 1836 Sandringham was bought by John Motteux, a London merchant, who already owned property in Norfolk and Surrey. Motteux had no direct heir, and on his death in 1843, his entire estate was left to Charles Spencer Cowper, the son of Motteux's close friend Emily Temple, Viscountess Palmerston. In 1862, Sandringham and just under 8,000 acres (3,200 ha) of land were purchased for £220,000 for Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, as a country home for him and his future wife, Princess Alexandra of Denmark. In 1910, the estate passed to Edward's son and heir, George V. It was the setting for the first royal Christmas broadcast in 1932. The estate passed to his son Edward VIII and, at his abdication, as the private property of the monarch, it was purchased by Edward's brother, George VI. On the King's death, Sandringham passed to his daughter Elizabeth II. The Queen spent about two months each winter on the Sandringham Estate, including the anniversary of her father's death. She broadcast her first televised Christmas message from Sandringham. In the 1960s, plans were drawn up to demolish the house and replace it with a modern building, but these were not carried out.



Thursday 5th June - This morning we head to [Ely Cathedral](#) - The Romanesque cathedral can trace its origins to the 7th century, though the present building dates only as far back as 1083. The cathedral sails above the marshes of the Isle of Ely, named for the eels in the surrounding fenland. Before the fens were drained in the 17th century, the isle was almost inaccessible. A monastery was founded on the Isle of Ely in 673 by Etheldreda, daughter of one of the kings of East Anglia. Following its destruction in war, it was restored and re-founded as a Benedictine monastery in the 10th century, becoming one of the richest abbeys in England. Once the Normans gained control, they started to demolish the abbey and to build the present cathedral beginning in 1083, the first phase lasting until 1189, when the nave was completed. The church gained cathedral status in 1109. The most spectacular feature of all, the central octagon rising on arches above the whole width of the nave and supporting the soaring wooden lantern, was built between 1328 and 1342, after the original central tower collapsed in 1322.





Afterwards we will walk the short distance to [Oliver Cromwell's house](#). The kitchen dates from around 1215, other parts being built later. The house was the vicarage of St Mary's Church (which is adjacent to it) until 1986. In 1988 it was bought by the City of Ely Council and has been refurbished to show how it may have looked during Cromwell's lifetime. The former Lord Protector's family home is his only residence still in existence other than Hampton Court. The House now has a new Civil War exhibition with interactive displays and interpretations.

After lunch we will head to [Anglesey Abbey](#): a country house in the village of Lode, 5½ miles northeast of Cambridge. The house and its grounds are owned by the [National Trust](#). It was once the site of a priory, dissolved at the Reformation, and developed into a Jacobean house. The 98 acres of landscaped grounds



are divided into a number of walks and gardens, with classical statuary, topiary and flowerbeds. The grounds were laid out in an 18th-century style by the estate's last private owner, the 1st Baron Fairhaven, in the 1930s. A large pool, the Quarry Pool, is believed to be the site of a 19th-century coprolite mine. Lode Water Mill, dating from the 18th century was restored to working condition in 1982 and now sells flour to visitors. The extensive landscaped gardens are popular with visitors throughout the year. The

most visited areas include the rose garden and the dahlia garden. Out of season the spring garden and winter dell are famed nationally, particularly in February when the snowdrops first appear. The lawns of the South Park are mown less frequently and this allows the many wildflowers to flower and set seed. Over 50 species of wildflower have been recorded, including Bee Orchid, Twayblade, Pyramidal Orchid and Common spotted orchid. In mid-summer, there are large numbers of butterflies such as Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Skippers and Marbled Whites.



Friday 6 June - Today we start our journey home, but first we will pay a visit to the [Imperial War Museum at Duxford](#). Duxford houses nearly 200 aircraft, military vehicles, artillery and minor naval vessels. There's



numerous hangers and exhibitions to see including The Battle of Britain exhibition which tells the story of the Second World War from the defeat of France through to the end of the battle in October 1940. The American Air Museum explores the Anglo-American collaboration in conflict and its impact on people's lives since the First World War. In the Air Space exhibition, you can get up-close to some of the most famous aircraft



in the world, including the Lancaster, Spitfire, Vulcan, and Concorde 101.

We will leave Duxford mid-afternoon and head for home with a comfort stop on the way.

Costs

A number of organisations have not finalised their admission fees for 2025 and will not do so until nearer the end of the year. However, at this stage the cost of the holiday is likely to be £700 per head. The single supplement will be £180. Those who are not National Trust members will need to pay £18 for the entrance into Anglesey Abbey. Those who are not club members will need to pay the £15 membership fee.