

# GARDENS OF THE EASTERN HEARTLANDS

A five-night tour in association with London Festival Opera staying at The Jockey Club, Newmarket  
in aid of the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust

5<sup>TH</sup> TO 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026



NOBLE CALEDONIA

We are delighted to announce details of our 2026 tour in aid of the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust which will be based at the prestigious Jockey Club in Newmarket. One of the foremost decisions when planning a tour is where will be our base. We have for sometime been interested in covering the border area of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk because in this relatively small area can be found some truly wonderful gardens. In allowing us to take over all the accommodation at The Jockey Club, we have the perfect location for our itinerary and in addition can enjoy the exceptional facilities of this renowned historic club.

Staying at The Jockey Club in Newmarket on the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border has allowed us to include a number of gardens that have not been geographically possible on past tours. In Norfolk we will be captivated by the gardens at Bressingham Hall which were begun in the 1950s by Alan Bloom, truly a mecca for perennial-lovers. On the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border we will stroll in the 35 acres of formal and informal gardens at Chippenham Park and in Cambridgeshire we have two varied and inspirational gardens, Peckover House and Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The Botanic Garden is a treasure trove of over 8000 plant species, including nine National Collections and a superb arboretum. Finally, being in Suffolk we just had to include two old favourites, the picture-perfect Fullers Mill and the exquisite formal gardens of Wyken Hall.

In addition to all the amazing gardens, London Festival Opera will be performing for us at Jesus College, Cambridge and at the historic Bury St Edmunds Guildhall, the civic hub since the 1220s. Adding some further interest will be a visit to Ely Cathedral with an opportunity to attend Evensong. For those interested in horse racing we have also included a visit to the Newmarket Horse Racing Museum.

The itinerary has been planned to avoid early morning departures allowing for leisurely breakfasts and most mornings offer free time or optional visits. The accommodation at the Club limits us to just 40 places, it promises to be a fascinating five days so I do hope you can join us.

*Andrew Cochrane, Noble Caledonia Founder & Director*





**NOBLE CALEDONIA  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

## NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

We have arranged this exclusive tour in aid of the Noble Caledonia Charitable Trust (NCCT), to which all profit from the tour will be donated. The NCCT was established in 2013 by the owners and founder of Noble Caledonia. During our worldwide explorations over the years we have come across many situations where help is desperately needed, be it following a natural disaster, civil unrest, abject poverty or to save an endangered species. So, we made it our vision to use the Noble Caledonia framework to help improve economic, social and environmental conditions in the areas we work and visit. The Trustees of the NCCT seek to select smaller projects in the places we travel to, and beneficiaries are often suggested by our staff in the field, local agents

and onboard teams who are uniquely positioned to identify projects and lead fundraising initiatives. Noble Caledonia Ltd cover the costs of administering the NCCT so that 100% of all donations go directly to the beneficiaries. Money is raised from a percentage of Noble Caledonia's profits each year and through fundraising by staff and donations from our travellers. Examples of projects we have worked with in the past and are currently fundraising for can be viewed on the Noble Caledonia website, and Chantal Cookson who is one of the Trustees of the NCCT will be leading this tour.

## LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA

We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining us for our stay and presenting two concerts in superb settings – performing a selection of celebrated arias and ensembles from the operas of Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Bizet and Puccini as well as some lighter pieces from the world of operetta and musicals. We have long been associated with London Festival Opera and each year our music themed tours grow in popularity. London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in the UK and overseas and has performed for Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior members of the British and European Royal Families. The company has performed at 10 Downing Street, the British Embassy in Paris, the President's Palace in Malta and as a guest company in one of Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice in Venice. Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne the programmes presented include a wide and varied range of repertoire, performed in formal evening dress and authentic period costume for an added visual impact.



Philip Blake Jones

## YOUR HOSTS

### Guest Speaker – Alan Mason



Alan Mason is one of the most experienced and best qualified garden designers and consultants in Europe. He is a founder member of The Professional Gardener's Guild and the founder of Senior Garden Advisors consultancy group. Alan started his garden design consultancy business in 1987 following a period where he was the youngest Head

Gardener in the country, at Bramham Park and Garden Manager to the Queen's cousin Lord Harewood at Harewood House in Yorkshire. Here, he and his team elevated the gardens into the top ten most visited gardens in the country. During the 80s and 90s he presented television programmes from around Europe, including "Le Manoir" the making of his own garden in Brittany and the long running "Gardens without Borders" from around France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Holland. Alan is also a judge of the show gardens at the prestigious Sandringham Flower Show and a garden design lecturer for The Royal Horticultural Society.

### Tour Leader – Chantal Cookson



Chantal was born in Suffolk very near the sea and now lives in Northumberland where her husband farms. Chantal has been associated with Noble Caledonia since the company was founded in 1991 and has led tours, be it cruising or land, all over the world. Chantal's initial experience of cruising in British waters was

in 1991 when Noble Caledonia undertook its first cruise around the British Isles, which was a groundbreaking voyage and led to a very successful and popular concept. Though her main job over the last 25 years has been working for Sotheby's, she is now a Travel and Fine Art Consultant intertwining in her busy life still working periodically as part of the Noble Caledonia field staff team. Chantal is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

King's Suite



The Jockey Club House and Gardens



Dining Room



# THE JOCKEY CLUB ROOMS, NEWMARKET

For our five-night stay we have taken over all the accommodation at The Jockey Club, a building steeped in history with wonderfully elegant rooms adorned with some of the finest collections of equine art and countless historical artefacts. Located in the centre of Newmarket in a large attractive garden it has been at the heart of British Racing for over 250 years.

The history of The Jockey Club Rooms is endlessly fascinating, and we will learn more during our stay of how the building evolved and of the good and famous who walked its corridors and stayed in its chambers over the centuries. Everything is here that could possibly be required for a stay of great comfort and interest. Rooms are located either in the Chambers, set back from the road at the rear of the club grounds, or in the Club's Townhouse that forms part of the main building and fronts onto Newmarket's High Street.

## The King's Suite

Situated on the first floor of the Chambers, the beautiful King's Suite offers guests their own private sitting room, antique four poster bed and luxurious bathroom, which houses Edward VII's original bath and taps, all of which have been lovingly restored. With large bay windows, guests can relax and unwind with views over the manicured lawns and beyond the walled garden.

## The Queen's Suite

Situated on the third floor of the Chambers, the newest suite is named after her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the most successful British Monarch in British horse racing. The suite offers views for miles up to the Gallops and neighbouring training yard, and features a bedroom, dining room and private sitting room.

## Deluxe Rooms

Situated on the ground and first floors of the Chambers, the Deluxe Rooms are all individually styled to a very high level of comfort, with extra-large, luxurious bathrooms. The Deluxe Rooms overlook the pristinely manicured lawn, walled garden and one of Newmarket's oldest racehorse training stables.

## Club Rooms

All of the Club Rooms at the Chambers are individually decorated in a traditional homely style. They feature en-suite bathrooms and are situated on the first, second or third floors.

## Townhouse Rooms

The Townhouse is made up of three double bedrooms each with its own en-suite bathroom. These large rooms are all on the first floor and are accessed by a flight of 27 stairs. Please note there is no lift access to these rooms. Guests will also have access to the communal lounge, kitchen and dining room on the ground floor of the Townhouse.



Morning Room



Deluxe Double Room



Terrace Garden Croquet



Deluxe Room 12 Bathroom



Club Double Room



Townhouse Double Room



## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Newmarket, England.** A transfer to Newmarket from Cambridge Railway Station will be provided to those arriving by train. Those driving may park at The Jockey Club's car park. We will meet this evening for welcome drinks and dinner in the Club Room. (D)

**Day 2 Bressingham Hall Gardens & Wyken Hall Gardens.** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the Club's historic Coffee Room. The morning is free for you to relax or join a visit to the nearby Horse Racing Museum, our venue for lunch. This afternoon we will travel into Norfolk to Bressingham Hall Gardens to explore the Dell, Foggy Bottom, Adrian's Wood and the Fragrant Garden. Later we cross the county border into Suffolk to Wyken Hall where we explore the beautiful formal gardens. Tonight dinner will be in the locally renowned Leaping Hare restaurant located in the grounds of the Hall. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Chippenham Park, Bury St Edmunds Guildhall & Fullers Mill Garden.** Relax after breakfast before a late morning departure for nearby Chippenham Park with its 300 acres of parkland. See the four acre Walled Garden and the 'Wilderness', a scenic woodland walk full of interesting trees and shrubs, some of which are quite rare. After a light lunch at Chippenham Park we continue to Fullers Mill, a wonderful thought-provoking garden created by the late Bernard Tickner on the banks of the River Lark. After exploring the garden we depart for nearby Bury St Edmunds to the celebrated Grade 1 listed Guildhall. Dating back to the thirteenth century, the building has a fascinating history and during World War II housed operational rooms that played a role in the Battle of Britain. Enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera in the Banqueting Hall followed by dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Cambridge University Botanic Garden & Jesus College.** Perhaps join a morning visit to the world-famous Gallops followed by a light lunch in the Club. This afternoon we will drive into the bustling city of Cambridge for a visit to the expansive Cambridge University Botanic Gardens for a guided tour and refreshments. In the late afternoon we transfer to the historic Jesus College to enjoy a drinks reception in the Cloister Court and a performance from London Festival Opera followed by dinner in the Upper Hall. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Peckover House & Ely Cathedral & Gardens.** After breakfast in the Coffee Room drive north to Peckover House near Wisbech. This elegant Georgian House and walled garden was developed from the banking wealth of the Peckover family, and their philanthropy has left a lasting mark on the town. Tucked away behind the house sits a beautiful Victorian garden boasting a stunning orangery and herbaceous borders which will be alive with spring colour. In the early afternoon we continue on to the city of Ely, a compact city with a rich history and magnificent cathedral. After lunch at the atmospheric Old Engine Firehouse Restaurant there will be free time to explore the city, Cathedral and adjacent gardens. Return to Newmarket in the late afternoon prior to a farewell dinner at The Jockey Club. A transfer will be provided back from Ely for any guests who would like to attend Evensong at the cathedral. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Newmarket.** After breakfast a transfer will be provided to Cambridge Railway Station for those returning home by train. (B)



Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	Price
Townhouse Double/Twin	£3195
Club Double/Twin Room	£3395
Deluxe Double/Twin Room	£3795
Queen's Suite	£3995
King's Suite	£4295
Club Single	£3395
Deluxe Double/Twin Room for sole occupancy	£4295

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Five nights accommodation at The Jockey Club Rooms • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Drinks with included lunches and dinners • Excursions as described • Two performances by London Festival Opera • Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Group transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



The Gallops, Warren Hill, Newmarket



Peckover House



Wyken Hall Gardens



Bressingham Hall



Stallion Statue, Newmarket



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Wyken Hall Gardens; Back cover image: Kings Chapel, Cambridge.

