

Kelmscott Manor

Thursday, 22nd August 2019

By coach departing at 9 am

Organised by Aileen Brown

Supporter required

Kelmscott Manor was built around about 1600 by a farming family called Turner and was improved by each generation as they became more wealthy. They owned the house until 1871 when it was put up for rent and William Morris saw it and, after his first visit, described it as 'a heaven on earth'. Its special appeal to Morris was that it embodied many of his ideals having been built by local builders using local materials and vernacular forms. Morris took the Manor on a joint lease with Dante Gabriel Rossetti for three years and the family continued to rent the house as their country retreat until 1913 when it was purchased by Morris's widow Jane. The house contains many examples of furnishings, ceramics, needlework and other textiles made by the Morris family and their friends.

We will leave St Mark's car park at 9 am and on arrival at Kelmscott we will have tea/coffee and biscuits (included) and an introductory talk from one of the experienced guides. Members can then look around the house at their own pace and there are knowledgeable room stewards to answer questions. The included lunch is a Ploughman's Lunch with either ham, Cheddar, Brie or Stilton (choice on the day). Hot drinks and homemade cakes are also available.

After lunch members are free to look around the gardens of the Manor and also Kelmscott village which contains several buildings in the Arts and Craft style.

William Morris and his family are buried in the churchyard of the 12th-13th century St George's Church. There is also a short walk from the house which leads to the River Thames and the Thames Path.

We expect to leave Kelmscott about 15.30 pm and arrive back in Rugby between 17.00 and 17.30 pm.

Photo by Aileen Brown

