



BAILIFFSCOURT

Saxon and Norman Sussex
'Where it All Began'
AN INSCAPE RETREAT

Tuesday 11 - Friday 14 December 2018

The Normans cut their way into Sussex - it was here, in this county, that William the Conqueror's occupation began. Some of the privileged went no further and chose property close to the coast. Indeed, Bailiffscourt, now a lovely country house hotel, once belonged to the bailiff of the ancient Abbey of Seez in Normandy. Still standing, the original 13c chapel occupies the heart of a brilliant 're-presentation' of elegant Norman architecture once crowning the bluff. With all the appearance of an ancient manor house, complete with scatterings of smaller buildings, Bailiffscourt's best-kept secret is that until 1927 it didn't actually exist. Using highly skilled craftsmen and timber and materials from local ruins (even a vast 15c oak door from South Warnborough Chapel) the antiquarian and architect Amyas Phillips designed the complex for Lord Moyne, then Walter Guinness of the brewing family. The results, as Pevsner has put it 'are absolutely indistinguishable from old work...Bailiffscourt is a lovely house.....one can only lie back and enjoy it.'

That is exactly what we intend to do on the third of our pre-Christmas retreats. Positioning ourselves in one of the most unspoilt parts of the Sussex Coast, we will take short walks on the beach, gather after dinner round log fires, eat superbly, sleep comfortably, listen to talks and readings on ancient Sussex, swim in the indoor pool, and sally out to explore the thrilling Saxon architecture of West Sussex. For Sussex is still Saxon: the churches of Bosham, Boxgrove, Climping, and Sompting, along with the Saxon sculptures in Chichester Cathedral, give a better idea than anywhere else in the country of Anglo-Saxon England, the England of the Venerable Bede and Edward the Confessor. We also include visits to Chichester Cathedral and the Julian Trevelyan exhibition in the Pallant House Gallery in Chichester.

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER

- 10.06 Suggested train from London Victoria
- 11.28 Train arrives Barnham station (direct). Minibus to Bailiffscourt
- 12.30 Opening group Lunch at Bailiffscourt
- 2.00 Excursion to Climping and Sompting churches
- 3.30 Return to Bailiffscourt for tea
- 4.30 Talk by Nicholas Friend : 'The Venerable Bede's Anglo-Saxon England'
- 7.00 Group Dinner in hotel

WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER

- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Talk by Nicholas Friend 'The Anglo-Saxon Churches of Sussex'
- 12.30 Group Lunch in hotel
- 2.00 Excursion to Shoreham and Steyning churches
- 4.00 Return to Bailiffscourt for tea round the fire.
- 7.00 Group Dinner in hotel

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER

- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Talk by Nicholas Friend 'Norman Sussex and the Bayeux Tapestry'
- 12.30 Group Lunch in hotel
- 2.00 Excursion to Bosham and Chichester Cathedral
- 3.30 Tea in Chichester
- 4.00 Pallant House Gallery, Chichester
- 5.30 Return to Bailiffscourt
- 7.00 Group Dinner in hotel

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER

- Free Morning to wander in the village or on the beach
- 12.30 Closing Group Lunch in hotel
- 2.00 Leave by Minibus for Barnham Station
- 2.36 Train to Victoria
- 4.11 Train arrives Victoria



Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa

Climping Street

West Sussex

BN17 5RW

0 1903 7235 11

Cost: £1449 members, £1499 non-members, single room supplement £235, deposit £250, including three nights' accommodation in Bailiffscourt Hotel, all breakfasts, all lunches, all dinners with wine, all entry fees and donations, all lectures and tours, all coffees and teas, all travel during the tour, VAT and gratuities. Excludes travel to and from Barnham station.