

KYRLE PROBUS

APRIL EVENT

A visit has been arranged to **Harvington Hall (Near Kidderminster) on 21st April 2010**

The plan is to leave Ross at around 9.00am arriving at Harvington for a tour of the House at 10.30am. The guided tour takes 1.5 hours, however, for those who may find this too onerous or might have difficulty with the stairs in the House, a 15 min. video can be watched in the Malt House Visitor Centre and there are gardens to stroll around. (Weather permitting of course!!)

We plan to leave the Hall at 12.30pm and have lunch at Barton Hill Garden Centre, which is only 5 mins away. After lunch there will time for some retail therapy at the Garden Centre and we should be back in Ross at around 4.30 pm.

The cost will be £22.00, to include entrance to the Hall and a two course lunch at Barton Hill.

Harvington Hall

Harvington is a moated medieval and Elizabethan manor-house south-east of Kidderminster. Many of the rooms still have their original Elizabethan wall-paintings and the Hall contains the finest series of priest-holes anywhere in the country.

During the 19th Century it was stripped of furniture and panelling and the shell was left almost derelict. But in 1923 it was bought for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, which restored it and now opens it to the public.

The Elizabethan House was built in the 1580s by Humphrey Pakington. On his death it was inherited by his daughter Mary, Lady Yate. In 1644 it was pillaged by Roundhead troops. Family letters refer to politics, London fashions and medical treatment, as well as business matters.

In 1696 the Hall passed to the Throckmortons of Coughton Court in Warwickshire, who owned it until 1923.

The Gardens

Humphrey Pakington was a keen gardener himself, and the herb-garden in the south-east angle of the moat has recently been restored and replanted. The moat attracts many water-fowl to the island, on the west side of which is the Georgian chapel, built by the Throckmortons in 1743 and now restored with 18th century altar, rails and organ.

On the west side of the cobbled courtyard a gap in the brick and sandstone wall leads into the South Garden. On the far side of a round lawn are the Elizabethan malt-house and the Georgian chapel. Halfway along the wall to the right, another gap leads into the North Garden, an expanse of turf fringed with trees and narrowing to a point at the northernmost tip of the island. There is a path all round the edge of the moat, beginning at the south bridge outside the brew-house and continuing behind the malt-house and the Georgian chapel to the wash-house and damson tree in the North Garden. On the west side the moat broadens out into a small lake with waterfowl and good coarse fishing

£22.00 pp

Payment and Menu Choice by 15th April please

MENU

Breast of Chicken in a Champagne Sauce **(A)**

Cod and Asparagus Mornay **(B)**

Braised Beef in Red Wine Gravy **(C)**

Mushroom Stroganoff **(D)**

Treacle Sponge and Custard **(A)**

Lavish Lemon Gateau **(B)**

Fresh Fruit Pavlova **(C)**

Coffee

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