

Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum



A TRIP TO THE WELSH MARCHES

Programme

10.15am Meet at Kentchurch Court HR2 0DB

10.30am Tour of the house (ground floor and Owain Glyndwr's bedroom. £15.00

12.00 noon Optional: visit to the garden £7.50

*If you visit the house and garden the total cost is **£22.50***

We have been kindly requested to pay by cash.



1.00pm Lunch in The Temple Bar, Ewyas Harold



2.30pm St. James' church, Llangua - visit and talk

3.30pm Site of medieval mill - visit and talk

later, he had created the charity, 'Friends of Friendless Churches' to enable other churches in a similar condition to also be restored.

Please note: Parking is a bit limited by the church so, depending on numbers and to prevent anyone having to reverse onto the A465 we might suggest parking in a nearby layby and 'doubling-up' to reduce the number of cars on site.



Image: Friends of Friendless Churches

Site of the Medieval Mill

Talk by Rodger

Our Vice-Chairman, Publications Editor and archaeologist, Rodger Burchell, was involved with the excavation of this mill in 2003 and will be sharing his knowledge and professional insights into what this excavation uncovered. It is interesting to observe that the quiet stretch of the river Monnow in image 1 is hiding such an interesting discovery underneath - image 2

Please note: To visit the site of the medieval mill requires a walk across a field. It might be helpful to bear this in mind when choosing footwear for the day. If it is raining, or the ground is very wet, Rodger will talk in the church.



Image 1: Rodger Burchell



Image 2: Rodger Burchell

Kentchurch Court

Tour of house by Rosie, a family member.



Image: Kentchurch Court Estate

This impressive, fortified manor house dates from around the 14th century but the family who live here can trace their roots back almost 1,000 years to 1042, some 22 years before the Norman invasion. At this time Ralph Scudamore, a Norman stonemason, at the request of Edward the Confessor came over from Normandy and used his skills to build a stone castle at Ewyas Harold. This was one of several castles in the area built to protect the turbulent English border with Wales.



Ewyas Harold Castle

All that remains of Ewyas Harold castle. This photo was taken in 2011 and today the motte is covered in trees. Ewyas Harold castle is very important historically, as it is one of only four pre-Conquest castles in England. (The term Pre-Conquest Castle refers to the castles built in Norman style in England before the 1066) There are only four such castles known, and all of them are now ruined.

Image: Philip Halling, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15194102>

Over time, generations of the Scudamore family have established and extended their estate, whilst playing their part in the turmoil typical of the Welsh Marches and serving the county as MPs and High Sheriffs.

Although the family officially stood against the Welsh, Sir John Scudamore was known for harbouring sympathies towards his neighbours across the border. Despite being an Esquire to the King, he and the Welsh Prince Owain Glyndwr had a complicated history as Sir John's second wife, Alys, was Glyndwr's daughter. After Glyndwr's defeat and disappearance in 1402 it is strongly believed that Sir John and Alys secretly sheltered him at Kentchurch for his final years.

Visit the Gardens



Image: Kentchurch Court Estate

The gardens have an intimate and informal feel, with lovely views of the house. The roots of the gardens lie in the picturesque landscape style of the early 1800s. The Estate's Medieval deer park lies beyond, home to some 250 fallow deer and a host of ancient trees.

Please Note To visit the gardens costs an extra £7.50 pp so for that reason we have made it optional. If you would like to visit the gardens, please let us know when you are booking. This just helps us to keep track of payments etc.

The Temple Bar Inn, Ewyas Harold
HR2 0EU



Further Reading

<https://friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/church/st-james-llangua-monmouthshire/>

<https://kentchurch-estate.com/>

ADMIN for the day.

Meet at Kentchurch Estate, Hereford HR2 0DB

10.15 for 10.30 tour

Directions From Abergavenny

From Abergavenny take the A465 towards Hereford

At Pontrilas turn right and follow the signs to Kentchurch.

After two miles, just after the Bridge Inn, fork left.

After a further half-mile the road bends sharp right down a short hill.

The estate entrance is opposite the Church, through the white gates and up the drive.

Parking on Arrival

Please park in the Court's first courtyard to the side of the main house.

We hope you enjoy the day.