



in support of **National  
Trust**

# **SEAFORD ASSOCIATION**

**Promoting the work of the National Trust**



**Newsletter No 76**

**Spring 2025**

[www.nationaltrustseafordassociation.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrustseafordassociation.co.uk)

---

## Contents

1. Letter from our Chairman.....	3
2. Administrative matters.....	4
3. Report on AGM and annual accounts.....	6
4. Report on Autumn Lunch and Fair 2024.....	9
5. Report on Greenwich Christmas Market visit.....	10
6. Speaker Programme.....	11
7. NTSA 2025 Holiday.....	11
8. Visit Programme for 2025.....	18
9. Booking arrangements.....	21
10. Sussex Notes.....	22
11. Diary dates.....	24

Cover pictures: Preparation for the annual Autumn Fair, Frog Firle, the Totnes-Dartmouth travel experience and Exeter Cathedral

~~~~~

---

## 1. Letter from our Chairman

It is mid-December, just after the Darragh storm. I trust you have all survived, and by the time you read this letter, will have had a very Happy Christmas and welcomed in the New Year.

Your committee met up at Frog Firle Farm with Gemma Mantell from Birling Gap and the Senior Ranger Charlie Cain, to see the trees that we donated earlier in the year to replace those destroyed by disease. Charlie then took us onto the Downs where he explained the National Trust view on conservation of the area of downland on the opposite side of the valley to the extensive Rathfinny estate, through National Trust farm to the Cuckmere valley. The weather was fine and the view amazing.

The winter programme started in October when unfortunately our local excellent speaker Ian Everest was taken ill and our own Charlie Grimble kindly stepped in and gave an excellent talk on Seaford and District history. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had our January meeting with a talk by Gill Parker. The lunch at Blatchington Golf Club was excellent and well attended in early November.

Unfortunately Ann our President was unable to attend our AGM following her fall and I am pleased to say she is progressing well and back in Seaford. I was also unable to attend the AGM due to a bereavement of a very dear friend. I originally agreed to be your Chairman for 3 years and that time has now passed. However I have agreed to continue for a further year on the understanding that the rest of the committee would also continue. So many other National Trust groups are struggling to find people to stand for Committee.

I understand there was a good turnout at the AGM and I was sorry to miss what I believe was an excellent talk by Senior Ranger Charlie Cain. The December trip to Greenwich was a great success with over 40 going and they were very lucky that the weather had abated and it was a nice fine day. A report on the day is later in this issue. There is a lot to read in this issue, with details of the new summer trips being organised by Bob and Jenny Tyler, and details from Phil

---

Armstrong of the holiday planned for sunny Devon in early June. Get your booking forms in early!

If you have not already renewed your membership of our Seaford Association then now is the time to do so.

I look forward to seeing you at our next speaker meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

***Arthur Bradbury. Chairman***

~~~~~

## **2. Administrative matters**

**New members.** Our fully paid-up membership as at the end of September 2024 stands at 305 people in 218 households. Overall we have had 45 new members in 31 households since 1 October 2023, which is very encouraging. We welcome the following members who have joined our Association since the 1 October 2024 and hope they will enjoy participating in our events:

Mr TG & Mrs P Davies

Miss M E Walkley

Mr B Ranger

Mr R & Mrs P Taylor

Mrs D Scott Fears

Mrs M Thompson

Mrs G Davey

Mrs J Jefferies

Mrs G Pollard

### **Email messages**

It has been brought to my attention that more than one person in some households would like to receive the email messages from our Association. Therefore, if you would like me to send the NTSA messages to more than one person in your household, please email me with all the addresses you wish me to use so that I can add them to the list.

**Note:** We send such messages by blind copy (Bcc) to ensure privacy and security.

***Diana Gebbett, Membership Secretary***

***email: [membershipntsa@gmail.com](mailto:membershipntsa@gmail.com)***

---



---

## Newsletter Deliveries

The Newsletter will continue to be delivered by hand in order to save the costs of postage, which will enable us to contribute more to our chosen NT projects. Thank you to the volunteers who do the deliveries, and if anyone else would like to join us in delivering a few magazines in their local area I would be very pleased to hear from you.

***Sue Saunders***  
***Magazine Distribution Organiser***

## 2025 Subscription Reminder

Membership subscriptions for 2024 were due on 1 January 2025 and should be paid within 60 days. So far 130 people have already paid, so well done! If you haven't already paid, **a renewal form is enclosed** and you are invited to make a contribution towards the Association's National Trust projects.

**Subscriptions from January 2025 remain the same as last year, either £10.00 for a single member or £15.00 for joint membership for persons at the same address.**

Please note that our bank is now charging us 50p per cheque handled, so if you can only pay **by cheque**, please make it payable to National Trust Seaford Association.

The completed form should also be sent with it, to:

The Membership Secretary  
NT Seaford Association  
The Corner House, Cuckmere Road  
Seaford BN25 4DG

If you are able to pay by **bank transfer**, please do as it will keep our costs down. In this case, please put your name as a reference so we know who it is from. Please then scan or photograph your completed form and email it to the Membership Secretary.

Whilst we would be very sorry to lose any members, we appreciate it if you could let me know if it is your intention not to renew your membership.

It is no longer necessary for NTSA members to have a membership card as it is seldom used or checked by anyone. However, be assured that we are always very grateful for your subscriptions and donations. This will also save you having to send a self-addressed

---

and stamped envelope with your renewal form. All renewals and current members are listed on computer (code protected) and if you have any questions regarding your membership please feel free to contact me on [membershipntsa@gmail.com](mailto:membershipntsa@gmail.com) or 07739 174520.

*Diana Gebbett, Membership Secretary*

~~~~~

### **3. Report on 2023/24 AGM**

**Held Wednesday 20 NOVEMBER 2024 at THE BARN THEATRE, SAXON LANE,  
SEAFORD BN25 1QL at 2.30pm**

This was the second year in this new venue and members came to get an overview of last year's activities. The chair was taken by Michael Staples as our Chair, Arthur Bradbury had to attend a funeral and Vice-Chair Sheila Guyatt was not available as she was undergoing dental surgery. Our President, Ann Thompson was also unable to attend as she was in hospital recovering from a serious fall in her home. Through Michael, Arthur thanked the committee, who had worked extremely hard to ensure that we provided a varied programme of speakers, trips away to interesting properties, an autumn holiday and two social events – afternoon tea and autumn lunch, together with our Autumn Fair. These were well attended and produced useful funds to help our local NT properties. Diana, our Membership Secretary is to be congratulated for her sterling efforts on a difficult task, as we are seeing a steady intake of new members over the year.

Wearing his Treasurer's hat, Michael spoke of the satisfactory state of affairs in NTSA finances, with donations to Scotney Castle, Birling Gap, and the Clergy House, Alfriston. We have promised a sum to Monk's House, Rodmell also. So, accounts were healthy and the National Trust was holding £10,211.30 on our behalf.

Michael said we needed to recognise the additional cost of banking, as our bank is charging us 50p for every cheque they handle, so we must look forward to finding ways to pay that are less costly. He thanked the committee, who had worked extremely hard

---

to ensure that we provided a varied programme of speakers, trips away to interesting properties, an autumn holiday and two social events – afternoon tea and autumn lunch, together with our Autumn Fair. These were well attended and produced useful funds to help our local NT properties. Diana, our Membership Secretary is congratulated for her sterling efforts on a difficult task as we are seeing a steady intake of new members over the year.

The Chairman stressed the importance of replacing committee members, as well as recruiting new members when vacancies arise..

**The Committee** for the coming year was elected as set out below

|                             |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| President:                  | Ann Thompson        | 01323 892150 |
| Chairman:                   | Arthur Bradbury     | 01323 899408 |
| Vice Chairman:              | Sheila Guyatt       | 01323 899573 |
| Secretary:                  | Rod Evans           | 01323 370840 |
| Treasurer:                  | Michael Staples     | 01323 894893 |
| Membership Secretary:       | Diana Gebbett       | 07739 174520 |
| Teas and Lunches:           | Chris Burgess       | 01323 895407 |
| Holiday Organiser:          | Phil Armstrong      | 01323 893229 |
| Editor & Publicity Officer: | Charlie Grimble     | 01323 896060 |
| Day Trips and Ticketing:    | Bob and Jenny Tyler | 07778 512111 |
| Fund Raising:               | Gill Tansley        | 07801 898388 |
| Magazine Distribution:      | Sue Saunders        | 01323 490415 |
| Winter Programme:           | Margaret Smith      | 01323 895212 |

**Non-Committee Posts**

Fund Raising Events: Gill Tansley, Sue Saunders & Janet Kent

~~~~~

## The approved accounts for 2023/24

### National Trust Seaford Association Income & Expenditure Account 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

Activity	Income	Expenditure	ye 30/9/23	
Subscriptions	£2,550		£2,550	£2,606
Donations	£736		£736	£604
Lectures	£372	£1,031	-£659	-£343
Outings & Holiday	£5,925	£4,790	£1,135	£945
Socials	£2,654	£1,989	£665	£643
			£4,427	£4,455
<b>Expenses</b>				
Magazine		£1,748		
Stamps & Stationery		£123	-£1,871	-£1,739
Balance of Income over Expenditure			£2,556	£2,716

### Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2024

Assets	30/09/2024		30/09/2023	
Payments in advance		£162		£150
Tea Urn		£72		£72
Cash & Bank		£3,935		£4,495
		£4,169		£4,717
less Creditors		-£595		-£199
Net Assets		£3,574		£4,518
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Reserves b/fwd	£4,518		£4,802	
Surplus for year	£2,556	£7,074	£2,716	£7,518
<b>Donations from reserves</b>		-£3,500		-£3,000
Reserves c/fwd		£3,574		£4,518
<b>Funds held by NT</b>				
b/fwd		£7,926		£10,076
Donation		£3,500		£3,000
		£11,426		£13,076
Released for projects		-£1,215		-£5,150
c/fwd		£10,211		£7,926

The above represents a condensed summary of the full accounts presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association

---

## 4. Reports on Autumn Lunch & Autumn Fair 2024

In November, 42 new and existing members gathered at Blatchington Golf Club for our annual autumn lunch, which was a great success thanks to the lovely staff and excellent food. It was a great opportunity to meet up and get to know one another better, so as it is an annual event, watch out for information about our next one, especially if you are new to NTSA. My thanks to Sheila and Arthur for all their help.



**The lull before the storm! Stand by your tables, team!**

The Autumn Fair was threatened by bad weather, (Storm Bert!), but nevertheless was well patronised by the Seaford community, raising £560 for our future support of local NT projects. Thanks again to a large team of NTSA volunteers who set up tables, prepared cakes, stored and accumulated pre-loved items for sale, and afterwards, returned the Crossways Hall back to its clean and tidy state for the next event. Gill Tansley ensured all elements of the organisation came together at the right time and place, despite freezing rain. We sold an extra £38.00 of books after the sale as well. Birling Gap had some of the unsold pre-loved books too for sale at their wonderful shop.

Save the dates for 2025 - **Afternoon tea 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 at Seaford Golf Club, Firle Road**  
**Booking form enclosed.**

---

---

## 5.Report on visit to Greenwich Xmas Market on Friday 6th December 2024



On a dry, sunny but cold December morning 40 passengers boarded the Lynns coach driven by Richard. This was our Christmas trip: making good time, we arrived in just over two hours.

Many of the group looked for a coffee outlet (spoilt for choice), before going to the Christmas market, which unfortunately did not live up to its advertisement. There were about fifty stalls, not selling many Christmas-related goods. The good thing with Greenwich was that there are many things to do. A lot of the group went to the National Maritime Museum and the Queen's House. A few visited the Fan Museum, and the Cutty Sark was another destination. Jenny and I had a walk underneath the Thames via the Greenwich Foot Tunnel. Both of us coming from London, had pie, mash and liquor from an authentic shop at a reasonable cost. Afterwards I had a pint and Jenny had mulled wine at the Sail Loft pub on the Thames, watching the river traffic go by.

Thank you for the support throughout 2024 and we hope to see you on one of our trips in 2025.

***Bob & Jenny Tyler  
Day Trips & Ticketing***

---

## 6. Speaker Programme 2024/5

*All talks are held at The Barn Theatre, Saxon Lane, Seaford BN25 1QL and start at 2:30pm*

- **15th January 2025 Jill Parker from the JPK Project**- a charity providing opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
- **19th February 2025 Alan Kingshott** - a retired Beefeater recalling stories from his work at the Tower of London.
- **19th March 2025 Gilly Halcrow** - *Whatever Happened to Christopher Robin?*

**Margaret Smith**  
**Winter Programme Organiser**

~~~~~

## 7. DELIGHTFUL DEVON including Agatha Christie's Greenway Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Our holiday is based at the **Best Western Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay**. All rooms are en suite with tv, telephone plus tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel, located on the water front of Torquay Bay is family-owned and enjoys a level walk to the town and Marina. A personal touch is guaranteed!





---

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** – a taxi will transfer you to Seaford Railway Station for departure around 08:00 and we head west, arriving at **Montacute House (NT)** late morning. Montacute House is a masterpiece of Elizabethan Renaissance architecture and design. With its towering walls of glass, glow of Ham stone and its surrounding gardens, it is a place of beauty and wonder. Sir Edward Phelips was the visionary force and money behind this masterpiece, which was completed in 1601. Built by skilled craftsmen using local stone under the instruction of William Arnold, master mason, the house was a statement of wealth, ambition and showmanship. The Long Gallery, measuring over 52 metres, is the longest of its kind in England. The Gallery houses over 60 Tudor and Elizabethan portraits on loan from the National Portrait Gallery. Beautiful gardens surround the House.



**Montacute House, Somerset**

Free time to explore and enjoy lunch at leisure before we leave mid-afternoon and continue onto Torquay, arriving late afternoon. This gives us time to relax before dinner, tucking into good food and passing the evening at leisure before tucking in again!

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – has the first highlight of the tour – **Agatha Christie's Greenway (NT)**. We

---





### **Agatha Christie's Greenway**

leave after breakfast on our local coach to **Greenway**. At the beloved holiday home of the famous and much-loved author Agatha Christie and her family, you can take a glimpse into their lives. This relaxed and atmospheric house is set in the 1950s, when Agatha and her family would spend summers and Christmases here with friends, relaxing by the river, playing croquet and clock golf, and reading her latest mystery to their guests. The family were great collectors, and the house is filled with archaeology, silver, botanicals, china and books. The walled gardens are home to a restored peach house and vinery, as well as an allotment cared for by local school children. The more energetic may like to see the Boathouse, scene of the crime in 'Dead Man's Folly', and the gun battery complete with cannon. It is the first National Trust garden with this accreditation, and one of just 7 gardens in the UK to be recognised as a 'Garden of Excellence' by the International Camellia Society. Refreshments available. Our coach will then transfer us to **Coleton Fishacre (NT) House & Gardens**. This garden is delightful, with its formal terraces. A cultured oasis on the beautiful south Devon coast, with the stream gurgling from pool to pool through generous marginal plantings. The valley garden weaves down towards the sea, with contrasting moods and year-round colour including rhododendrons, camellias, mimosas and tender southern hemisphere trees and shrubs. Water features, a gazebo and a thriving collection of rare and exotic plants



**Coleton Fishacre House & Gardens**

from around the world can also be found. Refreshments are available here. We return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Evening at leisure and overnight at the hotel.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** – today we make the short journey to **Kents Cavern**, one of Europe's top



**Kents Cavern**

---

and most exciting Stone Age caves, with an extensive labyrinth of spectacular and easily-accessible caverns. Our guide will take us on an underground adventure in this award winning attraction and Stone Age home to Britain's earliest humans and Ice Age beasts. Trips around the caves explore fascinating passageways and stunning chambers where you can get up close with thousands of years-old cave formations. We have included a guided tour. There is a café. Perhaps a short drive into Torquay with some free time to stroll along the harbour. We then drive to **Buckfast Abbey**. Refreshments available. We return to the hotel for dinner, evening at leisure and overnight.



**Buckfast Abbey**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** – morning starts with a visit to **Exeter**. The cathedral, which dominates the city's skyline, was built in 1114 and its present form was finished around 1375. The two magnificent towers are the main survivors of the original construction. It has the longest unbroken Gothic vault ceiling in the world with its splendid sculptured bosses. One of these bosses from 1350 shows the murder of Thomas Becket. Amongst the many other sights to see within the Cathedral are the Minstrel's Gallery of 12 angels playing musical instruments and the Bishops' Throne, both dating back to around 1315. Other places of interest include The Guildhall, (the oldest municipal building in England still in use) and "The House That Moved", a 14th century Tudor building which earned its name in 1961 when it was moved from its original location on the corner of Edmund Street in order for a new road to be built in its place. Weighing more than 21 tonnes, it was strapped

---

together and slowly moved a few inches at a time to its present position. There are also the Grade II Rougemont Gardens, which were originally part of the defences of Exeter Castle. They were converted into gardens in the late 18th century, and purchased by the city council in 1912. Incorporating the major historic features of the Roman city wall and ditches of William the Conqueror's Castle, they are Exeter's hidden gem. Leaving around 13:00 we drive to **Killerton House & Gardens (NT)** The Killerton estate is first mentioned



### **Killerton House & Gardens**

in 1242. In the late 18th century, Sir Thomas Acland, the 7th Baronet, decided to move the family seat to Killerton. He asked James Wyatt to design a new house, but he did not get along with Wyatt and dismissed him in favour of a relative unknown, named John Johnson, who was instructed by Sir Thomas to build a temporary residence until a more elaborate home could be built on the hill above the site. Sir Thomas's son died shortly after, in 1778, and he abandoned plans for a second mansion. The 'temporary' house was remodeled and expanded several times over the subsequent centuries, but it is



---

essentially the same building that Johnson planned. The interiors are a wonderful mix of period styles, from Georgian to Edwardian, with displays of family portraits and a 'hands-on' music room where visitors are encouraged to play the grand piano and pipe organ. Refreshments available. Return to the hotel late afternoon. Evening at leisure and overnight at the hotel.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** – leaving after breakfast we drive to **Paignton** where we board the 10:00 **steam train** for a trip back to **Kingswear**. We then catch the **foot ferry** to **Dartmouth**. Arriving in Dartmouth around 11:00 we have time to explore and enjoy a lunch at leisure before catch the 14:00 **cruise to Totnes**. The cruise, complete with commentary, lasts around 1.25 hours. Here our coach will be waiting to transfer us back to our hotel for dinner, evening at leisure and overnight.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** – leaving after breakfast, we begin our homeward journey. Comfort stop en route, we arrive in **Winchester** late morning. Complete with impressive cathedral and National Trust restored City Mill, this is an attractive city. Plenty of eating houses to choose from. Free time to explore and have lunch before we return to our original pick up point late afternoon/early evening.

Price per person £819.00 to include:-

- \* All travel by executive coach
- \* 5 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at The Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay
- \* Local midi coach for the Greenway & Coletton Fishacre day
- \* Admission & guided tour of Kents Cavern
- \* Steam train ride from Paignton to Kingswear
- \* Boat trip from Dartmouth to Totnes
- \* Escorted by a representative from Avalon Tours

Supplements:

- \* Fully comprehensive travel/cancellation insurance £36.00 per person
- \* Twin/double room for single occupancy £50.00 per person.

~~~~~

---

## 8. Visit Programme for 2025

Bob & Jenny have put together a programme ensuring there are no diary clashes with other Seaford societies. The trips are:

### **Thursday 15 May 2025 Sissinghurst Castle Garden (NT)**



**Sissinghurst Castle garden**

Home and garden shaped as we see it today by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson but also lovingly and appropriately developed since 1962 by the National Trust with the creation of the vegetable garden in 2008 using the 'no dig' approach. In 2017 the South Cottage and its surrounding garden was added where the dominating colours are hot saturated shades of red, orange, and yellow. You may have visited Sissinghurst in the past, but these developments make a re-visit a must to all who have green fingers!

### **Thursday 26 June 2025 Chiddingstone Castle and Village**

This Grade II listed property was left to the nation in 1977 and is an accredited museum, and the grounds are on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It describes itself as 'an historic house with 400 years of history and a collection of Ancient Egyptian, Japanese, Jacobite and Stuart, and Buddhist objects.' As well as the house, rose garden, woodland walk and a cherry tree avenue crossing the fishing lake, the gardens offer an evocation of ancient Egyptian concept of heaven with the 'Fields of Eternity'. For those who like the 'downstairs' element of a large country house, the 19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen still retains many original features, such as three cake ovens, and is used to display a collection of kitchen utensils and an ice chest, reflecting the fact that the castle once had an ice house. There is also a servants' hall and a servants' bedroom.



**Chiddingstone Castle and Village, Kent**

**Thursday 24 July 2025 Highclere Castle (home of Downton Abbey)**



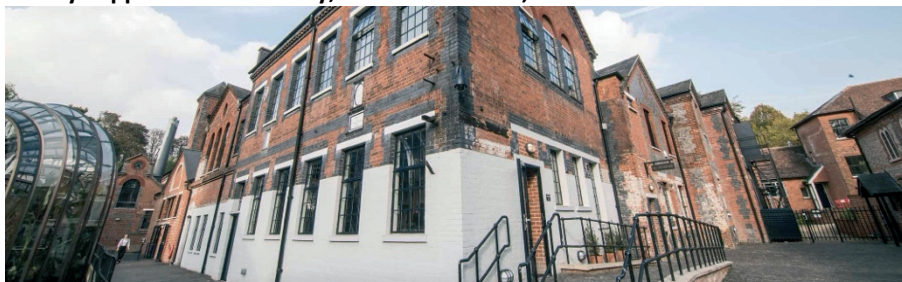
**Highclere Castle, Newbury (aka Downton Abbey)**

With ancient roots dating back to 749AD, what we see today was built in 1679 after the Restoration, and renovated in the 1840's by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Palace of Westminster (with A W Pugin's help of course!). The parkland was laid out by Lancelot

---

'Capability' Brown between 1774-1777. The 20<sup>th</sup> century owner, Lord Caernarvon was the man who sponsored the excavations that uncovered Tutankhamun's tomb. The admission price for the Egyptian Exhibition is included in the price for this excursion. Although you will have seen parts of the castle on many TV programmes and films, there is no substitute for being there! This promises to be an excellent day out.

**Thursday 4 September. Hinton Ampner (NT) Alresford, Hants and  
Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, Laverstock Mill, Hants**



**Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Laverstock Mill, Hants**



**Hinton Ampner garden, Alresford, Hants (NT)**



---

At Cheriton, near Alresford, Hampshire, and close to the site of a Tudor manor house, **Hinton Ampner house** was built in 1793 and re-modelled extensively in 1867. However, Ralph Dutton, the 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Sherborne detested this work, and spent 3 years returning it to a Georgian appearance, as we see it today despite a significant fire in 1960, which led to further restoration work. In 1985, on Ralph's death it was bequeathed to the National Trust. The house contains a collection of 3,547 items of ceramics and art. Ralph also remodelled the gardens in the 1930's creating a lily pond and replanting the southern terraces. Nearby, to the north, at Whitchurch on the River Test, is the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery**, based in the Laverstock Mill, which in 1718 became the centre for making specialist paper, including Bank of England banknotes until 1963! It became a distillery in 2010. **The guided tour is not included in the price of the day at £38 so if you want to go round the building be sure to pay £55 when you apply for tickets for this excursion.** Drinks are extra!

~~~~~

## 9. Booking arrangements for tours

**\*\*Please take a moment to read these booking conditions\*\***

### Booking arrangements for Coach Outings

Outings are run for members of the Seaford Association. Occasionally members may also purchase seats for non-NT guests if sufficient seats are available, however priority will be given to members. Prices quoted include transport, entrance fees (except for NT properties) and gratuities for drivers and guides. Refreshments are not included unless stated but details of available facilities will be publicised. Requests for seats should be made using the booking form distributed with the Association's Newsletter.

Members must bring their National Trust membership cards for visits to National Trust properties otherwise the full entrance fee will be payable. Membership of the Seaford Association is not sufficient for entrance to NT properties.

**All sections of the form need to be completed.**

**If you can, please pay by direct transfer, please include "NT Trip" as reference. Cheques must be made payable to "NTSA" and accompanied by the relevant booking form/s.**

Confirmation of booking will be issued by email, however if confirmation is required by post **a stamped addressed envelope must be included.** Should all seats be sold, a waiting list will be kept in case seats become available through cancellation. Members will be notified as appropriate.

---

**Ticket-holders who wish to cancel their booking should inform Jenny Tyler on 07778 512111 as soon as possible.** No refund can be made unless the vacancy can be filled from the waiting list. A £2 handling fee will be deducted to cover costs where a refund is made.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel any outing. Should this be necessary, a full refund will be made. If, on the day of the outing, booked members are unable to participate, they should inform the organiser so that the coach is not delayed.

**Please arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled departure time to avoid delays.**

**If any member has health or mobility problems they must book with a helper who can assist them during the day as the courier is responsible for 49 people and is unable to devote particular attention to one individual however much they may wish to.**

**Booking forms to be sent to:**

**Mrs Jenny Tyler, NTSA,**

**Flat 20, Cheneys Lodge, 24a Sutton Avenue, Seaford BN25 4LG**

**See separate booking forms to reserve your places early!**

~~~~~

## 10.SUSSEX NOTES

**2 reports from Gemma Mantell our NT link**



1. On a sunny Autumn afternoon we welcomed committee members from the Seaford National Trust Association to Frog Firle Farm. Members took part in a guided walk and talk led by the very knowledgeable Charlie Cain, our local Senior Ranger. We first visited the beautiful elms that were funded by the association back in January 2024. Frog Firle farm is nestled in the picturesque Cuckmere Valley. Elm trees have long been a part of this beautiful landscape, but have suffered devastating losses over the years due to Dutch Elm disease. The National Trust's project to reintroduce disease-resistant elms is a crucial step towards restoring this historic landscape and increasing the

---

biodiversity and wildlife in this area, particularly the white-letter hairstreak butterfly which depends on the elms to survive. As we walked through the valley, Charlie Cain shared his knowledge of the area, explaining how it is managed and recounting its rich history. Members enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the challenges and successes of managing the farm's habitats to support biodiversity. To wrap up the day we ended with refreshments back at the farm, a chance to have a rest and enjoy a nice cup of tea and slice of cake. We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the afternoon and the NT staff who demonstrated how the NTA's support is playing a role in preserving these areas, helping to ensure that Frog Firle farm remains a haven of beauty for generations to come.

**(Note to readers- Frog Firle Farm is at the bottom of the road which drops from High & Over into the Cuckmere Valley. The NT owns all the land on either side of that road).**



~~~~~

2. Dear Members

On behalf of the staff and volunteers at Birling Gap, I would like to extend our thanks for your generous donation of £161.89. With this support we were able to purchase much needed litter pickers and hoops, which are essential for keeping the site and surrounding countryside clean and welcoming for all who visit. These tools make an incredible difference in our work, enabling our team and volunteers to efficiently and safely collect litter across this beautiful area. This is a vital part of our ongoing efforts to preserve the natural beauty of Birling Gap and to protect the local environment and wildlife from the harm that litter can cause. We thank you once again for your support, with warm regards and appreciation.

Gemma Mantell, Business service co-ordinator; Birling Gap & the Seven Sisters.

---



The litter pickers NTSA funded

## 14. Diary Dates

Talks take place at 2.30pm in the Barn Theatre, Saxon Lane, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1QL

| 2025     |                                                               |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 Feb.  | Talk: Alan Kingshott 'Tales from the Tower of London'         |
| 19 Mar.  | Talk: Gilly Halcrow 'Whatever happened to Christopher Robin?' |
| 15 May   | Visit to Sissinghurst Castle plus afternoon tea stop          |
| 2-7 June | Holiday to Devon                                              |
| 26 June  | Visit to Chiddingstone Castle and village                     |
| 3 July   | Afternoon tea                                                 |
| 24 July  | Visit to Highclere Castle                                     |
| 4 Sept.  | Visit to Hinton Ampner and Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery     |

Printed by Tansleys, Seaford