

Biddolph Garden and Little Moreton Hall

16th October 2024 (Wednesday)

- 8:30am Depart Solihull Methodist Church
- 10:00am Arrive **Biddulph Grange** Staffordshire, ST8
- 1:15pm Depart
- 1:30pm Arrive **Little Moreton Hall** Newcastle Rd, Congleton CW12 4SD
- 5pm Depart Little Moreton 6:30pm Return Solihull Methodist Church B91 1LG

Cost £27.00 (extra for non-National Trust Members)

Biddolph Garden

- Grade 1 listed Victorian Garden with important collection of plants from around the world arranged in a series of garden 'rooms'. National Trust.
- Biddulph lies in a valley on the edge of North Staffordshire. In 1842 James Bateman married Maria and moved to what is now Biddulph Garden. James and Maria lived here for 27 years and created the house and the garden. Bateman spent more than 20 years collecting plants from all over the world. He didn't go on the expeditions himself, instead he employed plant collectors who sent the specimens back by sea
- The property was sold several times until 1922 when it was purchased by the North Staffordshire Cripples Aid Society to use as a hospital. It later became a children's orthopaedic hospital run by the local Council.
- The hospital authority built wooden wards on the Cherry Orchard in the mid-1920s. In the 1930s, the remaining glasshouses, music house and part of the Geological Gallery were knocked down to build new wards and a 'modern' hospital complex during which time the house was used as nurses' quarters.
- In the mid-1970s, the estate was saved when a campaign to have the area put under a conservation order was successful. The hospital had closed by 1991 and the garden, thanks to a large fundraising effort, was bought by the National Trust and opened to visitors in May 1991.
- Highlights include: Spectacular Chinese Garden, Egyption Court, the oldest stumpery in the country, a unique Victorian fossil display, and of course, a tea room!

Little Morton Hall

- In case it's a chilly day, we'll carry on to what is mainly an indoor visit – to "A topsy-turvy Tudor House" - This timber-framed building, curled around with a scenic moat, has defied logic for over 500 years. Step back in time inside this higgledy-piggledy house and discover what everyday Tudor life tells us about the way we live today.
- Costumed Living History team tell us about how people lived at the Hall. And knowledgeable room guides will answer any questions.
- You'll find herbs and vegetables that the Tudors would have used for their cooking and medicines surrounding the Elizabethan style knot garden.
- Lunch will be in Mrs Dale's Tea Room!