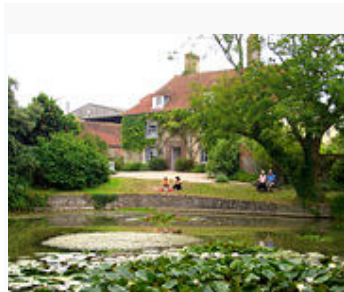


**Visit to Charleston Farmhouse and Monk's House
on Wednesday 2 September 2009**

This visit has been organised by Tony Balchin.

Charleston Farmhouse in Firle, East Sussex was the country meeting place of the Bloomsbury Group between 1916 and 1976, when it was owned by two artists, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. It is a good example in a domestic setting of their decorative style and represents the accomplishment of over 60 years of artistic creativity -- Vanessa Bell described the period as "an odd life...a good one for painting". As well as the house and garden there is an exhibition gallery, a Craft Connect shop selling art works and books about the members of the Bloomsbury Group, a small café and a video presentation. In the house the rooms provide a complete example of the decorative work of the Bloomsbury artists, showing murals, painted furniture, ceramics, textiles, and works from the Omega workshop. The artists decorated walls, doors and furniture with designs inspired by Italian frescoes and the post-Impressionists. The collection includes works by Renoir, Picasso, Devain, Sickert, Tomlin and Eugène Delacroix, and Matthew Smith. The walled garden is laid out in an Italianate style with ponds, statuary, box hedges, gravel paths and mosaics. There is also an orchard. We shall have a guided tour of the house and its art works in the morning before having lunch in the café, and a walk round the garden in the early afternoon.

Monk's House in Rodmell, East Sussex was for many years the home of the author Virginia Woolf and her husband, Leonard. Virginia Woolf wrote many of her novels in the summer-house in the garden. She died in 1941 when she committed suicide by drowning in the nearby River Ouse. After Leonard's death in 1969 the house was bequeathed to his friend, the artist Trekkie Parsons, who sold it to the University of Sussex in 1979. In 1980 it was acquired by the National Trust, and is now maintained by their tenant-curators, Caroline and Jonathan Zoob. Groups of not more than ten at a time will view the sitting room, dining room, kitchen, Virginia's bedroom and her writing lodge at the end of the garden, where many memorabilia of Virginia's life and works are on display.



Charleston Farmhouse,



The front of Monk's house

Programme.

10:45 – 11:00	Assemble at the café at Charleston Farmhouse
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee
11:30 – 01:00	Guided tour
01:00 – 01:45	Lunch in café
01:45 – 02:30	Visit garden.
02:30 – 03:00	Leave Charleston, travel to Rodmell
03:00 – 05:15	Divide into groups of 10 to view Monks House

Getting there

Charleston Farmhouse is located on a sign-posted road off the A27 Brighton to Eastbourne road, 7 miles from Lewes, between the villages of Selmeston and Firle. It is between the South Downs and the A27. There is free parking at the Farmhouse. The postcode is BN8 6LL.

Monk's House is about 10 miles from Charleston Farmhouse. Drive back to the A27 and turn left. Keep straight on the A27 at the first roundabout at the start of the A27 by-pass round Lewes, and at the second round-about, where the A275 comes in from the north, take the first exit, (sign-posted "Kingston" and restricted to cars and light vans) into a narrow road, broadening after 300 yards, through a residential area. Stay on this road, ignoring signposts to Kingston, until you reach a T-junction with a sign-post indicating a right turn to "Newhaven". Turn right towards Newhaven and in about 2 miles the entrance to Rodmell is indicated by a roadside sign. At the cross-roads in the centre of the village a sign-post directs you to turn left towards the church and towards Monk's House. Monk's house is a small white boarded house at the edge of the village on the right hand side of the road about 300 yards from the cross-roads. Parking in Rodmell is difficult. Monk's House is in a narrow street with no adjacent parking. There is some roadside parking near the cross-roads and it is easier to park there and walk down to the house. There is additional roadside parking if you turn right at the cross-roads and walk back to the house. The postcode is BN7 3HF.

Monk's House can be visited comfortably in about an hour. Depending on the number attending, we may need to divide into two or three groups to give everyone a chance of a comfortable visit, and this may entail a wait for the later groups, who may choose to arrive later at Rodmell.



If you are viewing this map in colour, the route is the blue line. If you are viewing it in black and white, the route is the heavier line, which turns south at the left hand side of the map.

Cost £16 per person.

Maximum number 20 people.