

**Visit to Lord Rayleigh Laboratories, Terling Place, Terling, Chelmsford ESSEX.
on WEDNESDAY 23 September 2009**

This visit has been organised by Geoff Cockett

The successful career of John William Strutt, 3rd Earl Rayleigh(1842-1919)was mainly in physics. A man of exceptional ability and energy, he made important contributions to every field of physics known in his time. Many of these were in the personal laboratories set up in 1868, close to the family home. He managed to get good results with often relatively simple apparatus as in his discovery of Argon (Nobel Laureate 1882). Many experiments were in sound such as acoustic coupled resonators , minimum audible intensity in open air. His well known law about the scattering of light by particles is only one of his achievements in optics. His son Robert John Strutt, covered a wide field of physics such as Becquerel rays , radio active techniques for determining the age of the earth, optical properties of the atmosphere, ozone distribution in the atmosphere.

The laboratories are still as they were on the death of the younger Strutt in 1947 . Efforts are now being made by Professor E A Davies of the University of Cambridge to make a virtual tour record covering many pieces of apparatus and equipment used, much made there. Small group visits have just started for professional scientists but HSE rules impose a maximum of 12 persons. Prof Davies will be our guide to the labs where most of the experimental notebooks are still kept.

We will also have a guided tour of the extensive and well known gardens which with the park was laid out by Nathaniel Pink in the late 18th century. It will probably be led by a member of the Rayleigh family.

Time Table

12.20 Meet at the Rayleigh Arms, Owls Hill, Terling CM3 PW2: lunch
13.50 Arrive at Terling Place some 700m distant
14.00 Tour of labs and gardens
16.15 Depart

Terling is north east of Chelmsford. A map is attached which shows both the pub (pointed to by an arrow) and Terling Place. The cost of the tour including a donation to the charity making the virtual tour, will be £13.

Contacts

Before 23 September: Reinalt 020 8946 3399 or 07758 085741

On the day: Geoffrey Cockett 07 88 22 07 047

