



Aldersgate Ward Club

Founded 1860 Revised 1909

Master 2021-22: Allan Fallshaw

4th July 2022

Dear Member

This month I am cordially inviting Members and their guests to two events.

On **Wednesday 10th August** we will travel on the Bluebell Steam Railway from East Grinstead to Sheffield Park station and then visit the Sheffield Park National Trust ("NT") Gardens.

Our second visit is on **Friday 2nd September** when we will visit the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace in the late morning and at 2pm we will have a private guided tour of the gardens.

As both events have a similar date for applications to be received, I believe it appropriate to include them in this one invitation.

Full details are on the following pages.

I look forward to seeing you and your guests.

Kind regards
Allan Fallshaw

POUR MEMOIRE

- *The tour of **Lord's Cricket Ground** will take place on Monday 25th July. The invitation went out on 26th June and the closing date for applications is Saturday 16th July.*
- *The trip on the **Bluebell Railway** to Sheffield Park will take place on Wednesday 10th August. The closing date for applications is Monday 25th July.*
- *The tours of the State Rooms and Gardens at **Buckingham Palace** will take place on Friday 2nd September. The closing date for applications is Monday 1st August.*

BLUEBELL RAILWAY AND SHEFFIELD PARK

The Bluebell Railway was one of the first heritage steam railways and was opened in August 1960. It was supported enthusiastically and financially by thousands of men and women. In March 2013 the line was extended to East Grinstead, linking it directly to London and the country-wide rail network.

We have reserved seats on the 11:30 steam train to Sheffield Park. The 11-mile journey will take us through the Sussex Weald, and artefacts on the stations will remind us of what train travel was like in the past.

May I suggest that during the 50 minute journey we have some self-catered refreshments. The catering facilities at Sheffield Park station and Sheffield Park NT Gardens are limited. In August there could be long queues and we will only have three hours 10 minutes before we board the last train of the day back to East Grinstead at 15:30. Therefore the early lunch could assist our enjoyment by avoiding any unnecessary rush.

On arrival at Sheffield Park station we will walk (approx. 15-20 minutes) to Sheffield Park NT Gardens. This is a large area which has been professionally designed around five lakes with many footpaths to help us explore a variety of the flora and fauna. May I request that we enter the gardens all together to ensure a group discount for non-NT members. We will all be given a map so that we can visit either individually or in a group. There are many things to see, views to admire, and seats available for relaxing.

I suggest we all meet at the exit/entrance at 14:30 to return to the station so that those who wish can visit the engine shed (antique engines), the comprehensive Bluebell Railway museum and, if they wish, the souvenir shop.

The cost of the return ticket on the Bluebell Railway is £21.00. I will book tickets for all those attending.

The cost of entry into Sheffield Park NT Gardens is £14.00 for non-NT members, and is payable on entry.

I should be grateful if all interested members would return the attached booking form by **Monday 25th July**.

Car Parking

Drive to East Grinstead on the A22; after entering the town's one-way system you will pass a Jet garage on your left. At the next junction, turn right, signposted London and Station. Descend to a roundabout, turn immediately left into Station Approach and drive to a car park on the right where you can use cash or card for parking.

Leaving the car park on foot, turn left and walk back down Station Approach to the roundabout, go left to the railway station, then turn left again to walk down a busy service road with Sainsbury's car park on the left, and then you will see the entrance to the Bluebell Railway on the right. Please note: parking at Sainsburys is limited to three hours and the fine for exceeding that is £80 (at the time of writing).

Trains from London to East Grinstead

The best route to East Grinstead is direct from Victoria. However, it is also possible to travel from London Bridge, changing at East Croydon to join the Victoria train – please let me know if you would like details.

Outward journey

Departing Victoria at 09:50, arriving at East Grinstead at 10:50. On leaving East Grinstead station, turn right and walk along a busy service road with the Sainsbury's car park on the left. The entrance to the Bluebell Railway is on the right. We will have the opportunity to meet and maybe take some group photos before finding our reserved seats on the 11:30 steam train.

Return Journey

At 15:30 we will board the last train of the day to return to East Grinstead, arriving at 16:10. The Victoria train will depart at 16:36.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I confirm that the Aldersgate Ward Club will be visiting the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace on Friday 2nd September at 11:45 and will also have a private Garden Highlights Tour on the same day at 14:00.

Meeting and entrance arrangements will be forwarded when they have been received from The Royal Collection Trust. In the meantime, I should be grateful if all interested members would complete the attached booking form by **Monday 1st August** as we have to confirm our numbers to the Royal Collection Trust at the beginning of August.

Airport-style security checks will be made on entry. Any small backpacks must be carried by your side, not worn on your back. Photography is prohibited in the State Rooms; it is permitted in the Gardens.

Between the two tours, we may choose to have a light snack lunch in the Garden Café on the West Terrace of the Palace. This is not included in the cost of the tours.

The State Rooms and Palace Gardens are fully accessible; wheelchair and step-free access must be pre-booked so please let me know if you require this service.

Following the tour of the Gardens, we will walk a short distance to Browns in Cardinal Place for Afternoon Tea. Vegetarian options are available, but Browns say they are unable to provide a vegan menu.

The cost of the visit to the State Rooms and the guided tour of the Gardens is £42.60. The cost of Afternoon Tea, including service charge, is £26.40.

ALDRSGATE WARD CLUB

BOOKING FORM

Bluebell Railway and Sheffield Par
10th August 2022

Please return this booking form **by 25th July** to:

Allan Fallshaw, 18 Alloway Close, Woking, Surrey GU21 3HY
Email: allan-awc@hotmail.com

I wish to join the Bluebell Railway and visit to Sheffield Park
on Wednesday 10th August 2022

Number of places on the Train (£21.00)

I have paid £..... by Bank Transfer to
NATWEST BANK, 134 Aldersgate Street Branch, London EC1A 4JA
Sort Code: 60-05-37
Account number: 45430462
Reference: *Surname – Bluebell*

OR

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Aldersgate Ward Club

NAME OF MEMBER ATTENDING

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS

GUEST(S) (full name(s))

Are you/your guest(s) NT members? YES / NO