



EDINBURGH  
DECORATIVE  
& FINE ARTS  
SOCIETY

## TOUR TO NORTH WALES

MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> – FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

FOLLOWING ON FROM PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL TOURS TO MORAY & NAIRN, NORTHUMBRIA, CUMBRIA AND THIS YEAR'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND, CHARLES AND GAIL GUEST HAVE CARRIED OUT A RECENT RECCE TRIP TO NORTH WALES AND FOUND AN AREA WITH BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN AND COASTAL SCENERY STEEPED IN HISTORY WITH INTERESTING CASTLES, HOUSES AND GARDENS WAITING TO BE VISITED.

AS LAST YEAR, THE TOUR WILL AGAIN BE MANAGED BY CONNOISSEUR TRAVEL, THE WELL-ESTABLISHED TRAVEL AGENCY WITH LONG EXPERIENCE OF ARRANGING SPECIALIST SMALL GROUP HOLIDAYS WORKING IN ASSOCIATION WITH GLENTON HOLIDAYS. TRAVEL THROUGHOUT WILL BE BY PRIVATE COACH WHICH WILL BE FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE USE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRIP. NO NEED, THEREFORE, TO BE WORRIED ABOUT MISSING A TRAIN OR A FLIGHT, JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX.

WE WILL BASE OURSELVES FOR FOUR NIGHTS AT THE **BODELWYDDAN CASTLE HOTEL** NEAR ABERGELE. THIS 4 STAR WARNER GROUP HOTEL WITH 241 BEDROOMS IS A MODERN HOTEL BUILT WITHIN THE WALLS OF A VICTORIAN GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE CASTLE.

## OUR ITINERARY SHOULD INCLUDE VISITS TO THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION



**PORT MEIRION & PLAS BRANDAW** - BUILT BY SIR CLOUGH WILLIAMS-ELLIS BETWEEN 1925 AND 1975 ON THE ESTUARY OF THE RIVER DWYRYD IN BEAUTIFUL GARDENS. **PORT MEIRION** IS AN EXTRAORDINARY VILLAGE INCORPORATING A RANGE OF BUILDINGS OF MANY TYPES BASED GENERALLY ON A MEDITERRANEAN THEME. CLOUGH'S ELDEST DAUGHTER SUSAN FOUNDED THE EPONYMOUS POTTERY COMPANY IN 1960 WHICH IS NOW BASED IN STOKE ON TRENT. **PLAS BRANDAW** IS THE NEARBY ESTATE INHERITED BY WILLIAMS-ELLIS IN 1908 AND WAS THE BASE FROM WHICH HE MASTERMINDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORT MEIRION.



**PLAS NEWYDD, ISLE OF ANGLESEY** - LOCATED ON THE SHORE OF THE MENAI STRAIT WITH VIEWS ACROSS TO THE MOUNTAINS OF SNOWDONIA THE HOUSE WAS REDESIGNED BY JAMES WYATT IN THE 18TH CENTURY FOR THE EARL OF UXBRIDGE. ELEVATED TO 1ST MARQUESS OF ANGELSEY, HIS SON HENRY, A FEARLESS CAVALRYMAN WHO FAMOUSLY LOST A LEG AT THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO, WAS A COLOURFUL OWNER AS WAS THE 5TH MARQUESS WHO MANAGED TO REACH A FINANCIAL SITUATION WHICH LED TO THE TRUSTEES SELLING MOST OF THE ESTATE AND ITS CONTENTS IN 1904 BY AUCTION WHICH LASTED 40 DAYS! A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE HOUSE IS THE DINING ROOM DECORATED WITH A MURAL BY REX WHISTLER WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE HIS MASTERPIECE.



**BODRHYDDAN HALL, RUDDLAN** - A PRIVATE HOUSE WITH AN OUTSTANDING GARDEN AT THE CENTRE OF AN ESTATE IN THE OWNERSHIP OF LORD LANGFORD'S FAMILY FOR OVER 6 CENTURIES AND WHO STILL RESIDE THERE. WE WILL HAVE A PRIVATE TOUR OF WHAT IS ONE OF THE FEW PRIVATELY OWNED STATELY HOME IN NORTH WALES. LARGELY OF 17TH CENTURY DESIGN, THE HOUSE HAS NOTABLE 19TH CENTURY ADDITIONS AND INCLUDES AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF ARMS, PORTRAITS AND A 3,000YEAR-OLD EGYPTIAN MUMMY AND SARCOPHAGUS!



**GWYDIR CASTLE, LLANRWST, CONWY** - AN EXAMPLE OF A FORTIFIED MANOR HOUSE DATING FROM AROUND 1500. IN THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES THE WYNN FAMILY OF GWYDIR DOMINATED NORTH WALES FROM THE CASTLE AND HUGE ESTATES. SINCE 1994 THE CASTLE AND GARDENS HAVE SEEN A PROGRAMME OF RESTORATION BY AN INSPIRED YOUNG COUPLE WHICH BRINGS TO LIFE A TRULY SYMPATHETIC IMPRESSION OF HOW A TUDOR HOUSE WOULD BE. THE REPATRIATION IN 1998 OF THE 17TH CENTURY PANELLING, FIREPLACE AND LEATHER FRIEZE PURCHASED BY RANDOLPH HEARST IN 1921 IN THE FAMOUS GWYDIR CASTLE SALE IS A REMARKABLE TALES.



**ERDDIG, WREXHAM** - THE HOUSE WHICH DATES FROM 1683 WAS IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE YORKE FAMILY FROM 1733 UNTIL 1973 WHEN THE LAST OF THE LINE PHILIP YORKE GAVE IT TO THE NATIONAL TRUST. RATHER THAN SELLING OF ART OBJECTS AND PARCELS OF LAND, THE YORKESES HELD ONTO EVERYTHING. IT HAS PAINSTAKINGLY BEEN RESTORED BY THE TRUST SINCE 1973. ONE ENTERS THE HOUSE VIA THE SERVANTS' HALL AND THE UNUSUAL COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS OF THE SERVANTS DATING BACK TO 1791. THE UPPER FLOORS ARE A TIME TRAVELLERS VIEW OF LIFE IN A GRAND COUNTRY HOUSE.

**SNOWDON MOUNTAIN RAILWAY, LLANBERIS** - DATING FROM 1896 THE SCENIC JOURNEY IS A 2.5 HOUR ROUND TRIP BY THE RACK AND PINION TRAIN TO THE SUMMIT OF SNOWDON.

**PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT, TREVOR, WREXHAM** - A NAVIGABLE AQUEDUCT THAT CARRIES THE LLANGOLLEN CANAL ACROSS THE RIVER DEE. DESIGNED BY THOMAS TELFORD IT WAS OPENED IN 1805 AND IS LOCATED IN A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

THE TOUR WILL INCLUDE 4 NIGHTS WITH BED AND BREAKFAST AND ALL DINNERS AT THE BODELWYDDAN CASTLE HOTEL, TRANSPORT TO AND FROM EDINBURGH AND THROUGHOUT BY PRIVATE COACH TO VISITOR ATTRACTIONS. THE PRICE PER PERSON IS EXPECTED TO BE £1,120 FOR A DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM OR £1,290 FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY. THE FINAL PRICE WILL BE CONFIRMED BEFORE BOOKING. A DEPOSIT OF £250 PER HEAD WILL BE PAYABLE WHEN YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE TOUR PLEASE APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO **TRICIA LANCASTER, CHAIRMAN@EDFAS.CO.UK** OR WRITE TO **MS TRICIA LANCASTER, 43A FOUNTAINHALL ROAD, EDINBURGH EH9 2LN**

IF YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR QUERIES PLEASE TELEPHONE **CHARLES GUEST 0131 556 3678.**