

Berkshire Cambridge Society



**Four nights away
Selworthy, West Somerset
Monday–Friday, 13–17 June 2022**



Booking is now open for our next jaunt ‘abroad’, this time staying at Holnicote House, a National Trust property on the northern edge of Exmoor. Sheep graze in the fields outside and rooks caw in the trees. The venue is one of the most popular of the HF Holidays country houses.

Like our stay in Shropshire in 2020, last month’s Isle of Wight trip was blessed by perfect weather. If you are curious to see what we got up to, the photographs [here](#) give an impression. Fifteen of us ventured across the Solent, it was great to get away and enjoy some social interaction – too long denied – and feedback was very positive. We can but hope for more sunshine next year.

We have reserved 26 places: 8 singles and 9 twins/doubles. The package is full board and for the good rooms will be £475 per person (non-group price £505), with members booking by 31 August receiving a £25 per person discount. Book by then and you are likely to secure your exact room choice. Please pay the full amount. If you cancel no later than 1 April, the payment will be refunded minus only the deposit (£75 p.p., effectively £50 if you book by 31 August) that is paid to HF Holidays. International travel continues to be unpredictable, so there is a strong demand for UK holidays in 2022 and we’re having to plan well in advance. The invitation will be re-issued in November, but by then options may have narrowed or have gone completely.

Accommodation

Fine cuisine: cooked or continental breakfast, packed lunch, 3-course dinner and coffee. A bar, two lounges and gardens. An outdoor swimming pool, which may be open. A variety of laminated walking guides if you wish to strike off on your own.

All rooms are of a high standard. ‘Better/best’ rooms are either larger or have a desirable view, larger television, more luxurious mattress, enhanced toiletries etc. Some photos [here](#).

Program

This time we have very daringly booked four nights, giving us three whole days. This is how the program is shaping up:

Monday

Afternoon: Visit [Coleridge's Cottage](#) (National Trust) en route in the village of Nether Stowey. Coleridge with his wife rented the cottage from 1796 to 1799 and wrote there some of his best-known poems, such as *This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison*, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, *Frost at Midnight* and *Kubla Khan*.

Or ...



Hestercombe Gardens

Have lunch or tea/coffee in the Stables Restaurant at non-profit [Hestercombe Gardens](#) (stunning website!) and explore the landscaped garden from the 1750s, the terrace and shrubbery from the 1870s, and the gardens designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll in Edwardian times. You can also visit the house and contemporary art gallery.

Or ...

Less than a mile from Holnicote House is [Selworthy village](#). Well worth ambling round, and one of the thatched cottages serves afternoon teas. Selworthy is not as old as it looks, having been rebuilt in 1828 by Sir Thomas Acland, a philanthropist who designed the 'model' village to provide housing for the aged and infirm of the estate.

Tuesday

Morning: Travel on the West Somerset Railway, Minehead to Bishop Lydeard's and back. Lovingly restored by volunteers, this is the longest heritage steam railway in the UK – 22 miles. It is hoped most of us will do this.



West Somerset Railway

Afternoon: Explore Dunster village. [Dunster Castle](#) with its extensive grounds and [Dunster Watermill](#) are both National Trust. The Butter Cross, [Gallox Bridge](#) and [Yarn Market](#) are English Heritage (free). The church is where ‘All things bright and beautiful’ was written.

Or ...

If feeling energetic, you could walk from the house to Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor. Or explore the [Lorna Doone](#) Valley. Or the Quantocks. Or walk along the Coastal Path towards Minehead.

Wednesday

Morning: Visit seaside Lynton. Do the short walk to the [Valley of the Rocks](#). Railway enthusiasts could do the short trip on the Lynton to Barnstaple Heritage Railway.

Or...

Walk from the house through the wood to Allerford’s West Somerset Rural Life Museum and Victorian School (Google reviews give it 4.5 stars and I agree it’s a little gem). Half a mile further is [Exmoor Hawk and Owl Centre](#) (same rating). Another half a mile and you’re at the sea, stony Bossington beach!

Afternoon: Visit [Arlington Court](#), home of the Chichester family (incl. Francis Chichester) 25 miles away, a National Trust property. Includes formal Victorian Garden, the Wilderness Pond, pleasure grounds and park. Plus the national [Carriage Museum](#) – there was a time before cars.

Or...

Potter around Porlock. Visit [Porlock Gardens](#) (open 2-6 pm, £7, free to RHA or PH members).

Or...

One of the morning options.

Thursday

All day: a visit to [Lundy Island](#), taking a boat from Ilfracombe. Ferry leaves at 10 am and arrives back 6.30 pm, the cruise taking 1-2 hours. Dolphins sometimes make an appearance. On arrival there is a climb of about 400 ft from quay to plateau but lifts are available for anyone who needs one. Things to see: a 14th-century castle, church, lighthouse, pub and shop. Plenty of history, and walking.



The trip may be brought forward to another day if the weather forecast makes this advisable.

There may be a talk one evening – TBC.

Friday

Before going home, consider doing some of the things above that you couldn’t squeeze in earlier!

Booking form

	Number	<i>Price p.p.</i>	Total £
Twin/double (please indicate which); good		475	
Twin/double (please indicate); better – one available		535	
Twin/double (please indicate); best – three available		560	
Single; good		480	
Single; better – two available		540	
Non BCS-member surcharge		10	
Discount if booking by 31 August (members* only)		-25	
West Somerset Railway return trip (price assumes we reach group size of 16+ persons)		22	
Boat trip to Lundy		44	
I am a NT member (please indicate)		Y / N	
TOTAL			

*Early–booking discount available to Cambridge University alumni living in Berks and those who have joined us on a residential event before.

Terms and conditions are as set out by [HF Holidays](#).

Please make cheques payable to “Berkshire Cambridge Society” and send with this form to Steven Robinson, 60 Austin Way, Bracknell RG12 9HN.

Or send details by email to s.robinson551@btinternet.com and pay by bank transfer to the BCS account: Sort code 20-71-06, Account no. 90922471. If paying this way, please ensure that your name is included in the details and put ‘Selworthy’ in the reference field. It will be assumed you have paid by bank transfer if booking by email.

Names

Please include your email address, postal address and phone number. If you do not have email, please enclose SAE or consider booking through a friend who you know is going.

Special needs or dietary requirements