Cambridge Society of Dorset: Visit to Wolfeton House, Charminster, Dorchester: Wednesday June 29th 2022

On Wednesday 29th June 2022 there will be the opportunity to visit Wolfeton House, the ancient seat of the Jurdains, de Mohuns and Trenchards. It stands in the water meadows west of Dorchester, near the confluence of the Cerne and Frome rivers. The name is of Saxon origin, from Ulf, and Ulfton gradually turned into Wolfeton. It is likely therefore that a house has been standing there since the Saxon era, though the present building dates from ‘only’ the early 16th century. It was neglected during the 18th century, rescued in 1862, converted into flats after the Second world War (!) and acquired by the present owners, Captain and Mrs Nigel Thimbleby in the 1960s (themselves connected to the Mohun and Trenchard families), and they have done much to restore it to its Elizabethan and Jacobean glory.

The tour of the house will be in 2 groups of 20 people each, and will start at 11.00 am. Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30 am. The tour will take about 1.5 hours, and a buffet lunch of sandwiches and soft drinks will be served at 1.00 pm. Members will afterwards be free to wander the grounds down to the river if they wish.

Approach the House from the south. Do not follow any Satnav instructions that take you to the north and the potentially confusing Wolfeton Manor. There is a signposted drive off the B3147 (which leads from the centre of town) about 150m south-east of its junction with the A37 (the Dorchester bypass). Follow the rough drive across the fields for about 500m. There is a designated grassy car park on the left hand side. Those with walking difficulties may drive on a little further, turn to the left through the gatehouse arch and park by the House entrance.

The cost per head for members and guests will be £22.50 each. Payment can be made either by bank transfer or by cheque to The Cambridge Society of Dorset. You will recall that our new bank account is with NatWest, sort code 51-81-18, account number 87294168. If you pay electronically, this must be done when you return the slip. Please give your surname and ‘Wolfeton’ as the reference on the bank transfer. Please return your booking slip (and cheque if appropriate) by e-mail or post to: Mr John RILEY, 25 Wesley Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2PG (Tel: 02120 880737), e-mail j.riley100@btinternet.com by 15 June 2022. Please enclose a SAE if you wish your booking to be acknowledged and note that there may be a delay before your cheque is paid in. Because numbers are limited, places will be on a first come first served basis.

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Wolfeton House visit – Wednesday 29th June 2022
I/We wish to attend at a cost of £22.50 per person.
I enclose my cheque..........OR I have paid online… (ref: surname and ‘Wolfeton’) Please tick.
Member(s) …………………………………… Phone no....
E-mail (clearly please).………………………………………………
Guest(s)………………………………………………………………………………
Have you any special dietary requirements e.g. gluten free, vegetarian, vegan?
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Disabled/ blue badge holder? ……………………………………………………………