

Welford and Weston Local History Society
www.welfordandweston.org.uk

Newsletter 23 - April 2015

Our new programme starts with a visit to Sezincote House and Gardens, located near Moreton in Marsh on Wednesday the 3rd June. This will be an afternoon visit which will be preceded by an **optional** lunch. The cost of the visit will be £10 per head for members (and £12 per head for non members).

Those of you who have already been to Sezincote will know what a unique place it is. It's an extraordinary Indian House set amidst the Cotswold Hills. The architecture is in the Mogul style of Rajasthan, with a central dome, minarets, peacock tail windows etc. A curving Orangery frames the Persian Garden of Paradise with its fountain and canals. The house is set within a romantic garden, with pools, waterfalls, and a temple to the Hindu Sun God. It was built in about 1805, and was I believe the inspiration behind the Royal Pavilion in Brighton.



The poet John Betjeman, who used to visit as a student at Oxford, captured Sezincote's charm in *Summoned by Bells*: "Down the drive, Under the early

yellow leaves of oaks... the bridge, the waterfall, the Temple Pool and there they burst on us, the onion domes.” He also alludes to the exotic “home of the oaks”, for Sezincote (pronounced Seezincote) is derived from Cheisnecote, from chêne, French for oak, and cot for dwelling.

The House and Gardens will be closed to the general public on the day. So we will have our own private visit and guided tour. This will be a self drive event, so we will try to organise a car sharing scheme. More details will be in the next Parish News. Paul and Colleen King have reckied the lunch options, and we have booked The Manor House Hotel in Moreton in Marsh for lunch. The cost of the two course lunch followed by tea or coffee will be £19 per head. Just to be clear, the lunch in Moreton is optional.

If you are interested in joining the visit please give your name to Sue Hook, Paul King or myself, or in fact any other committee member. We need a minimum number of 25 participants.

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