

SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

## L&DF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY OUTING 2012

**\*\*RESCHEDULED VISIT – non members welcome\*\*\***

Exploring historic sites near Windermere

**When:** SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

**Where:**

- **CLAIFE STATION AND CLAIFE HEIGHTS**
- **NEAR SAWREY for lunch and option to visit HILL TOP house**
- **WRAY CASTLE**

**Details:**

**08.35am:** Our coach departs from near **Lorton village shop** .

**10.15am:** We will meet our National Trust ranger below **Claife Station** (SD 387957), at the west end of the Windermere ferry terminal, who will explain the history of the building and plans for its restoration. **NOTE** for less able visitors. Unfortunately the only access requires walking on a rough woodland path, and ascent/descent of steep, potentially slippery, stone steps (about 50 metres) without hand rails.

**Claife Station** was built in the 1790s to provide the new tourists with a viewpoint from which they could appreciate the qualities and aesthetic values of an iconic landscape. The celebrated drawing room had windows containing glass which was shaped and coloured to compose the prospects into a variety of picturesque views and moods.

**By 12.00pm:** We will be dropped off in **Near Sawrey** for a special lunch and tea/coffee at the 17<sup>th</sup> century 4\* **Tower Bank Arms**. Drinks can be purchased at bar.

There should be time for those who wish to visit the nearby highly acclaimed Hill Top house (house free to NT members with cards, or £8pp: garden and shop free) by 'booking' a time slot when we arrive at Near Sawrey.

**At 2pm** we shall leave in the coach for the short drive to **WRAY CASTLE** (NY 375010 - [www.visitcumbria.com/amb/wray-castle.htm](http://www.visitcumbria.com/amb/wray-castle.htm)) where we shall meet our guides for a visit to this unique castle and grounds, only recently opened to the public (bring NT cards).

**Wray Castle** was built as a private house in the Gothic Revival Style in 1840 for Dr Dawson, a retired Liverpool surgeon and was financed from his wife's inheritance from the gin industry. His wife hated it and refused to live there! Beatrix Potter spent time at Wray in the 1880s and Hardwicke Rawnsley lived there for many years, before it was donated to the NT in 1929. The impressive interior has been restored and grounds are famous for their collection of specimen trees and spectacular views.

At about **4.15pm** we shall set out back to **Lorton**, arriving about **5.45pm**.

**Cost, transport and numbers:**

**£20** per person includes coach, lunch and special Claife tour. In addition: Entry to Wray castle free with a valid NT members' card; or £6 payable at entrance. Pay bar at Tower Bank Arms.

Numbers limited, to book your place, contact as soon as possible: Dr John Macfarlane, Watergate Barn, Loweswater CA13 0RU. p: 0190085289 m 07711016276. em: [jtmacfarlane@gmail.com](mailto:jtmacfarlane@gmail.com)

**Note:** (a) **BRING YOUR NATIONAL TRUST CARD** if you have one (b) Need for appropriate foot and weather wear for Claife and access issue involving a rough walk and steep irregular stone steps (contact John M if need to check) (c) Toilet facilities at lunch place, Wray Castle and 5 minute walk from Claife.