

Private Gardens & Organic Family Farms of Cumbria & the Cotswolds



JANE HENSON

Blue Badge Guide Jane Henson, born in Somerset England, has been leading tours throughout the British Isles for over fifteen years. Among her many interests and areas of specialization are gardens, stately homes, cathedrals, and the evolution of the English countryside. An avid hiker, Jane is also a contributor to the authoritative *Good Gardens Guide*. This will be her sixth season with COOPERSMITH'S, having gained a loyal and enthusiastic following. Jane's knowledge of all things British is awesome!

Limited Edition Tour MAXIMUM 20 MEMBERS

JUNE 15-25, 2010

11 days, 9 nights

Land Price: \$5495*

Single Supplement: \$695

MEALS

All breakfasts

7 dinners, 3 lunches

HIGHLIGHTS

Prince Charles' Duchy Home Farm

Superb country house hotels

Tours of unique private gardens

Visits to fascinating organic farms

Premier seats at Royal Shakespeare Theatre

Gourmet cuisine throughout

*Tour price includes a \$250/person tax-deductible donation to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), to be matched by \$250/person from COOPERSMITH'S. Founded in 1980 by ranchers and environmentalists to preserve farmland in Marin County, California, MALT has so far permanently protected more than 40,500 acres of land on 63 family farms and ranches.

TWO OF GREAT BRITAIN'S FINEST MANOR HOUSE HOTELS—Rampsbeck Country House, in the bucolic Lake District, and Corse Lawn House, on the edge of the Cotswolds, both with elegant furnishings, wonderful gardens, and outstanding cuisine — provide our memorable “homes away from home” on this Limited Edition Tour. We'll revel in exclusive tours of private gardens, several of which seldom open to the public; visit a handful of unique, family-owned organic farms, known for their specialty cheeses, heritage varieties of apples, or rare or unusual breeds of farm animals; be the exclusive guests at Prince Charles' Duchy Home Farm at Highgrove House; take a scenic cruise on Lake Windermere; and enjoy a gourmet dinner and premier seats at the incomparable Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

DAY 1 (JUNE 15). DEPARTURE FOR MANCHESTER

DAY 2 (JUNE 16). ARRIVAL/WATERMILLOCK Upon arrival at Manchester Airport, we head north, stopping en route at *Gresgarth Hall*, Lancashire, home of Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd. Says the *Good Gardens Guide*: “You expect something special from...such a renowned garden designer as Arabella Lennox-Boyd, and you will not be disappointed. She has experimented with different styles and produced superb results.” Our luxurious home for the tour's first four nights is *Rampsbeck Country House Hotel*, situated on beautiful Lake Ullswater, Cumbria, amid 18 acres of parkland and gardens, on the northern edge of the Lake District National Park.

DAYS 3-5. WATERMILLOCK At *High Cleabarrow*, Kath and Dick Brown never had an overall plan for the garden they acquired in the early 1990's. Instead, through hundreds of Kath's individual “decisions of the eye,” they took what they inherited—poor soil, a few sizable trees, a large rhubarb patch—and turned it into a striking garden full of dramatic views and pleasing plant ensembles. *Low Sizergh Farm* is known for its organic farm shop, tea room and craft gallery, contained within a magnificent 18th-century Westmoreland stone barn.

Slack House Farm, located just north of Hadrian's wall, is crossed by a Roman road. Specializing in cheeses from the milk of its Ayrshire cows, the farm has a handy viewing gallery in the visitor barn. Nearby *Askerton Castle* features traditional rare breeds of livestock, including Belted Galloway cattle, Kerry Hill and Scottish Blackface sheep, and Tamworth pigs. At the Hasell-McCosh family's historic *Dalemaine* house and gardens, a “wild garden” boasts an outstanding display of Himalayan blue poppies, which should be in full bloom when we arrive.

Brackenrigg Lodge, in Bowness-on-Windermere, offers three acres of organic wildlife garden. Water is a prime element here, in streams, waterfalls, pond, and bog garden. According to the *Good Gardens Guide*, “four of the most cherished acres around Windermere” can be found at David and Diane Kinsman's *Windy Hall*, embellishing a row of early 17th-century terraced cottages, now converted into a single house. At *Levens Hall*, the world-famous topiary garden, circa 1694, is a rare example of a centuries-old intact formal garden. The enormous topiary specimens, primarily of yew, lean and bend like giant chess pieces. A leisurely *cruise around Lake Windermere*, England's largest lake, offers sublime Lake District views, conjuring up the poetic musings of Wordsworth and Coleridge. The Beatrix Potter Gallery in *Hawkshead* is well worth a visit.

“JANE HENSON IS A RARE
AND DELIGHTFUL PERSONALITY.
THE PERFECT TOUR GUIDE!”

Gene & Louise Buchter
Cedar Hill, Texas

DAY 6. TEWKESBURY VIA SHROPSHIRE Heading south we stop at *David Austin Roses*, in Shropshire. One of Britain's leading breeders and growers, Austin Roses contains over 900 varieties, including shrub, climbing, species, and old roses. Our next five days are based outside Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, at the award-winning *Corse Lawn House*, an intimate, 18th-century country house hotel on the western edge of the Cotswolds, owned and operated by the Hine family, makers of the legendary cognacs and brandies. The hotel's recently opened luxury spa facility is divine!

DAYS 7-10. TEWKESBURY *Overbury Court*, Bruce and Penelope Bossom's lovely six-acre garden, endowed with numerous water features, provides the setting for a stately 18th-century house. At *Whitcombe House*, a Cotswold-stone walled garden has been planted for every season. Spring borders of blue, yellow and white evolve in summer into pastel-colored herbaceous borders. In *Stratford-upon-Avon*, after a sumptuous dinner at a local gourmet restaurant, we'll take in a play from our premier seats at the *Royal Shakespeare Theatre*.

Barbara and Ian Pollard's *Abbey House* garden has made a name for itself with its exuberant plantings and design. A laburnum tunnel, prodigious herbaceous borders, and vivid display of meconopsis provide us with ideas and inspiration. *Misarden Park's* timeless English garden, started in the 1600's, adorns an ancient manor with a York-stone terrace and Lutyens-designed balcony heavy with wisteria. A parterre of hebes, lavender and roses adds to the appeal.

Abbey Home Farm, outside the erstwhile Roman city of Cirencester, is establishing a herd of rare-breed cattle for milk and dairy production.

Coleshill Organics, situated in a picturesque Victorian walled garden, specializes in traditional apple varieties such as Discovery and Egremont Russet. At Sir Michael and Lady Angus's *Cerney House*, the three-and-a-half acre walled garden is packed to the brim with vegetables, colorful herbaceous borders, old-fashioned roses, and clematis.

At *Daylesford House*, home of Sir Anthony and Lady Bamford, an elaborate topiary in the all-organic garden echoes the Anglo-Indian theme of the house. In *Stow-on-the-Wold*, where fairs have been held by royal charter since 1330, we'll attend the weekly farmers market in the old market square. *Garden Organic Ryton*, established in 1985 to be a center of excellence for organic horticulture, provides a wide range of educational displays, including the world's first biodynamic garden.

Barring an unforeseen scheduling conflict, we'll visit the most famous of all organic farms, Prince Charles' *Duchy Home Farm* at *Highbrook House*. The Home Farm's exclusive line of organic products, sold under the label Duchy Originals, is available at shops in the Cotswolds and London.

DAY 11 (JUNE 25). RETURN TO U.S. Our tour ends today. After breakfast, free transfers are provided to Heathrow Airport or central London. For those tour members wanting to experience life on an English farm, we will be happy to make arrangements for farmstays, provide assistance with transportation, etc.



Early summer at Gresgarth Hall



Photo courtesy Arabella Lennox-Boyd/Arabellalennoxboyd.com