

T. E. Lawrence Society weekend in Hay-on-Wye

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th April 2022

Hay-on-Wye in the Welsh Borders is widely regarded as the literary capital of the country thanks to its thirty-plus book shops and its famous book festival, held each May. We invite Society members to join us there for a social weekend of lectures, convivial company and an optional tour of Welsh castles.

The weekend will be based at the Baskerville Hall Hotel, Clyro Court, Hay-on-Wye, Powys, HR3 5LE, two – miles from the centre of Hay. Baskerville Hall and a local legend were the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write his famous Sherlock Holmes story, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The hotel offers a variety of accommodation options, from en-suite double and single rooms to bunk-house beds, and camping in the grounds, all at reasonable prices.

Friday afternoon, 22 April

13:00 Welcome by the Society Chairman, Philip Neale

13:15 – 14:15 Dr John Winterburn, landscape archaeologist with the Great Arab Revolt Project: *Identifying sites from the Arab Revolt*

14:30 – 15:30 Anne Pedley, Society member, former college lecturer and volunteer at the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum: *T. E. Lawrence and Siegfried Sassoon*

Refreshment break

16:15 – 17:15 Martin Gething, Society newsletter editor and Clouds Hill volunteer guide: *The history of Lawrence's Dorset retreat, Clouds Hill*

Friday evening

Evening free to have dinner at the hotel, or in Hay town centre, and to socialise with old and new Society friends.

Saturday morning, 23 April

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel, then make our way to Hay town centre for 10:00am

09:00 – 10:00 For those who wish, gather at The Granary Café, 20-21 Broad Street, for coffee (opens at 9:00am)

10:00 Meet outside the Tourist Information Bureau on Oxford Road, HR3 5DG, to explore the famous bookshops. Many shops are likely to contain Lawrence material, including: Hay Cinema Bookshop, Boz Books, Hay-on-Wye Booksellers, Richard Booth's Bookshop, Addyman Books. Stay for as long or as short as you wish.

Saturday afternoon

15:30 Refreshments at the Baskerville Hall Hotel

16:00 – 17:00 Philip Neale, Chairman of the T. E. Lawrence Society: *Lawrence as a writer: Did he fail or was he a great writer?*

Refreshment break

17:30 – 18:30 James Henderson, travel writer and adventure journalist: *Following young Lawrence's bicycle journeys in France*

Saturday evening

19:00 – 20:45 Group meal together in the Baskerville Hall Hotel restaurant

21:00 In the best traditions of Sherlock Holmes we will have a mystery after dinner speaker!

Sunday morning, 24 April

08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel

09:30 – 16:00 Optional tour of Welsh castles, in own cars or car sharing. Flexible route, depending on the time you have available: Hay to Caerphilly, then Raglan, Monmouth and back to Hay. (Details to be provided ahead of the weekend.)

This is an informal, social weekend, and members are welcome to join us for one, two or three days, as suits you.

To cover speaker expenses we will be charging £40 per person, payable on the day by cheque or cash, or £8 per lecture for those not attending them all.

Bookings should be made directly with the Baskerville Hall Hotel (website: baskervillehall.co.uk, email: info@baskervillehall.co.uk, telephone: 01497 820033) – remember to mention the T. E. Lawrence Society when you book – or contact the Hay-on-Wye Tourist Information Bureau for other local options (telephone 01497 820144).

The **Saturday evening meal** should be booked at the same time as your hotel (or other accommodation). Prices are £12.50 for two courses, or £16.00 for three courses – vegetarian and other options will be available – again, please mention the Society when booking.

Note: there is no train station at Hay-on-Wye. The nearest is Hereford, 21 miles away. Stagecoach South Wales operates a bus from Hereford, Broad Street to Hay-on-Wye, Hay Castle, four times a day. Tickets cost £6 to £10.

For enquiries, please contact the event organiser Andrew Wright FRGS, by email: andrewwright8117@hotmail.com, or by telephone: 01565 734677. (Please note we are not able to make hotel bookings for you.)