

NCS Yorkshire Meeting: Tuesday 29 April 2025

Wentworth Woodhouse, Rotherham S62 7TQ

The Rockingham Royal Dessert Service & ceramics at Wentworth Woodhouse



NUMBERS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED- RESERVED PLACES ONLY!

11.00am Morning coffee/tea and biscuits at your own cost (see below)

11.30-12.30 Presentation by NCS members Leo & Malcolm Leader

Our lecture today is a reprise of the hugely popular presentation that Leo and Malcolm made for the Wentworth Woodhouse Trust earlier this year.

1.00pm We have the opportunity to take lunch together at members' own cost (see below).

When William IV inherited the throne on June 26, 1830 he, like most monarchs, wanted his own domestic wares, cutlery, porcelain etc. One thing that William particularly wanted was a dessert service for his Coronation banquet. In 1830 he ordered a number of these from various makers, including Rockingham. Only one service was completed in time for the banquet in September 1831 by the Davenport factory in Staffordshire.

Rockingham took considerably longer to produce their exotic service, lavished with gold and quality hand-painted decoration and in fact the service was not delivered until May 1837. It is still displayed at Windsor and during Her Late Majesty's reign it was placed on display during most State dinners. It was her favourite service.

From 2.00pm Ceramics at Wentworth Woodhouse with Leo and Malcolm Leader

Our afternoon session is more informal and we have the opportunity to visit the restored rooms and collections displays in the mansion. The Leaders have agreed to position themselves strategically by the displays of ceramics and will share their knowledge of the Rockingham factory with members.

Wentworth Woodhouse

Be prepared for a treat if you have not visited before: Once one of the finest and grandest Georgian houses in England, the present estate includes 87 acres of gardens and grounds and parkland, including lakes and a former deer park. It is owned and managed by the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust.

Wentworth Woodhouse was built for the 1st Marquess of Rockingham from circa 1725, with the work continuing over four decades, and then passed to the Fitzwilliam family. With the longest façade in the UK and a suite of grand State Rooms it is in the English Baroque style. Design and re-modelling schemes are associated with several arbiters of taste in the 18th century. Changing family fortunes and coal mining works close to the house caused significant decline in the late 19th and 20th centuries and finally the buildings fell into disrepair. The Trust was established and purchased the estate in 2016.

Lunch and refreshments (payment options below):

- **11.00am** Coffee, tea and biscuits on arrival at **£5.00 per person**.
- **1.00pm A sandwich buffet lunch with drinks and cakes** is available but **must be pre-booked, £16.00 per person. Please contact Deb Skinner by Tuesday 22nd April with dietary preferences**, contact details below.
- If you would prefer or need to bring a **packed lunch**, please enquire with Deb Skinner about arrangements for this.
- **PAYMENTS:** all payments to Deb Skinner. Please let me know on registering for the meeting how you will be making payment for the catering you require.
Bank transfer: Mrs DS Skinner, 26335700, 07-04-36, Nationwide
Cash on the day: £5.00 coffee/tea; plus £16.00 buffet lunch

Information for attendees

Travel to Wentworth Woodhouse S62 7TQ: https://wentworthwoodhouse.org.uk/your-visit/#getting_here

- **PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS MEETING**, details below
- Parking is free of charge to visitors and is a **5-10 minute walk** from the mansion. For accessible/blue badge parking please follow the signs on arrival.
- Please go to reception on arrival at the Mansion and tell the staff that you are with the NCS group. You will not be charged.
- **Please note** that there is no lift to the meeting room and displays and access is via staircases.
- Members will have access to the Mansion and grounds for the day; please allow time to explore. Opening hours are 10.00am to 5.00pm
- Contact information for attendees will be shared with Wentworth Woodhouse staff for attendance purposes and will not be used for any other purpose.

Deb Skinner, NCS Programme Secretary:

By email: northernceramicsociety@gmail.com

Via the Events page of the NCS website: www.northernceramicsociety.org/meetings/

By post: NCS Programme Secretary, 15 Walker Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield SK11 0DZ

By phone: mobile phone (send a text message or leave a voice message): 07711 699560; landline (leave a voice message): 01260 253409