

The Merchant's House

The Merchant's House is the iconic three hundred and fifty year old jewel in Marlborough's famous High Street. Built and occupied by prosperous silk merchant Thomas Bayly after the Great Fire of Marlborough in 1653, it contains nationally acclaimed wall paintings and decorative features, and is being restored by a charitable trust. This is an outstanding visitor destination for anyone interested in fine old buildings and the craftsmanship needed to create and restore them. There is a stylish shop, and a recently recreated garden in the style of the 17th century.

Marlborough

Marlborough is 75 miles from London and 30 miles from Bath, and is situated in the picturesque valley of the River Kennet. The High Street, said to be the widest in England, contains many shops, pubs and restaurants. Many are set under 17th century arcades known as penthouses. A historic tour is available.

Avebury

The Avebury ring, near Marlborough, is the oldest stone circle known to be in existence anywhere in the world. It was created four thousand five hundred years ago and is even older than Stonehenge. The Alexander Keiller Museum displays some of the prehistoric artefacts discovered by Keiller who spent the 1920s and 1930s excavating the local area. Avebury Manor (National Trust).

St Peter's Church

The Church of St Peter and St Paul is situated at the west end of Marlborough High Street. A place of worship has been on this site since 1100. Thomas Wolsey, later Cardinal and Chancellor to Henry VIII, was ordained priest here in 1498. St Peter's was declared redundant in 1974, but is still used regularly for Christian worship as well as for exhibitions, concerts and lectures. There is a cafe and craft shop. The tower is open to visitors on summer Saturdays or by appointment. The view of Marlborough from the top is worth the climb.

Other places to visit near to Marlborough

The Crofton Pumping Station on the Kennet and Avon Canal houses two magnificent Cornish beam engines and a museum.

The Windmill at Wilton the only working windmill in Wessex.

St John the Baptist Church at Mildenhall (Minal) Noted for its box pews, twin pulpit and reading desk.

The Merchant's House Appeal

There is much conservation work still to do. Some of the 300 year-old wall paintings have yet to be conserved, the kitchen needs restoring and the landings, stairwell window and internal staircase await attention. Merchant's House Friends and supporters have already raised £830,000 but we are £70,000 short of our current appeal target of raising sufficient funds to continue with the restoration of the main house. You can help us by arranging a visit to the House by your group, which will help raise further funds to complete the refurbishment.

The Merchant's House (Marlborough) Trust

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The Merchant's House and Historic Marlborough



Specialist Days for Group Visits

- * Whole or part day visits
- * Visits to nearby places of interest
- * Talks by experienced lecturers
- * Town Tours of Marlborough
- * Timetable to fit your requirements

Group Event Organisers can plan a visit to Marlborough, which will satisfy their most discerning customer.



Marlborough Town Hall



St Peter's Church



Hughenden Yard



Avebury Stone Circle

The day is divided up into hourly increments so that from disembarking from coach or cars a programme can be designed to include talks, tours, visits as well as coffee, lunch and shopping.

Based round the iconic Merchant's House, the 17th century home of Thomas Bayly, a successful silk merchant, and his family, the Merchant's House Specialist Days can offer talks on a wide variety of subjects by well-known local lecturers; tours of the Merchant's House and Garden and the town of Marlborough; visit St Peter's and its Tower, offering panoramic views of the Town and surrounding countryside; discover the history of Marlborough College; visit Avebury and its famous stones, find out the history and see the Museum.

The Merchant's House can also offer coffee and a Ploughman's Lunch, or we can arrange an equivalent lunch with the Sun Inn or St Peter's Coffee Shop.

The day's programme would allow time to move from one site to another. Organisations can chose their particular options and each module will have a fixed cost per person and time allowance, so Group Event Organisers can plan their visit with assurance as to content and cost.

The only stipulation is that the group be up to 50 maximum with a minimum charge of £100.

The Merchant's House Marlborough

The House of Thomas Bayly 1653



The Panelled Room



The Dining Room

Tours, Lectures, Visits Available and Rate Card

Details and costs:

The day (10 am - 4 pm) will be divided into hourly increments, and time will be allowed for moving between one venue and another.

Each topic (or module) will be priced separately with related time allowance, so that days can be planned for individual requirements of each organisation.

There will be a choice of talks on a variety of subjects, tours, visits and time for relaxation over coffee, lunch or shopping.

An initial list of talks will be provided, which can be expanded. A list of lecturers and their chosen subjects, will be kept by the Trust Administrator, who will ascertain availability at the time of booking.

Talks:

<i>Architecture</i>	<i>Archaeology</i>
<i>Art</i>	<i>Civil War</i>
<i>Costume & Music</i>	<i>Furniture</i>
<i>Gardens</i>	<i>Local History</i>
<i>Kennet & Avon Canal</i>	<i>Avebury</i>
<i>Religion & Churches</i>	

Tours:

Merchant's House & Garden
Marlborough/History
St Peter's Church
Avebury

Rate Card (per person)

Talk	£5.00
House & Garden	£5.00
Town Tour	£5.00
St Peter's/Tower	£5.00
Marlborough College (History & Archaeology)	£5.00
Music (Talk)	£5.00
Avebury	£5.00
Coffee	£2.00
Lunch (Merchant's House, Sun Inn or St Peter's Church)	£8.00

For further information and booking please contact Sophie Costard on 01672 511491 or email admin@merchantshousetrust.co.uk