

# St. Helens and Wigan

**Saturday 5 December - 9.00am from Northwich**

Other pick-up points available - see back page.

£16.00 - book online at [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) or call 01606 41597

We start the day at the World of Glass in St Helens. The World of Glass provides a journey of discovery into one of the most common substances on Earth - Glass. Travel from 500BC to the present day and discover the amazing history of glass and how our lives wouldn't be the same without it. Watch live glass blowing demonstrations, experience the stunning special effects film show, visit the extensive galleries and explore the underground tunnels beneath the Victorian Cone House - home to the world's first continuous glass production tank. Also visit the canal-side Kaleidoscope Café, Artisan Gift Shop and Level One Art Gallery - a contemporary space where visitors can view and purchase work from local artists.



The North West Museum of Road Transport is run by volunteers who are keen to show the public the rich transport heritage of the north west. A great many of the exhibits are buses, as the museum's origins come from when a group of enthusiasts from the St Helens area got together to raise funds to preserve an ex St Helens trolleybus. Other exhibits are fire engines, cars, vans and bicycles.

After lunch, and if the weather is fine, we will visit Dream, at Sutton Manor. Dream is the spectacular, internationally significant, landmark sculpture sited on the former Sutton Manor Colliery. The 20 metre-high artwork takes the form of a young girl's head with her eyes closed in a seemingly dream-like state. The piece has a white, almost luminescent finish in marked contrast to the black of the coal that still lies below. Dream was conceived and designed by the world-renowned, award-winning, Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. His other works include The Crown Fountain (2000) in the centre of Chicago and Breathing, the illuminated glass dome of BBC Broadcasting House in London. Commissioned by ex-miners and St Helens Council, the sculpture reflects the aspirations of the local community, who, far from wanting a mining monument, sought instead a forward-looking piece that would provide a beautiful, inspiring, contemplative space for generations to come.

We finish the day at the The Museum of Wigan Life, which houses over 30,000 objects relating to life in Wigan Borough, past and present. The collections include fine art, archaeology, social history, natural history, coins, decorative art and industrial history. The story of local people can be told through everyday objects like Roman pottery or 16th century pewter ware. The museum holds everything from 19th century Blackpool holiday souvenirs to a German helmet from the First World War.

The Face of Wigan, located in the town centre since 2008, is a stainless steel sculpture of a face created by sculptor Rick Kirby.

## Pickup Points and Times

Winsford Delamere Street	8.30am
Moulton Jack Lane	8.38am
Davenham Old Primary School	8.40am
Sandiway Church	8.45am
Weaverham Shops	8.48am
Hartford Crossroads	8.50am
Greenbank Hotel	8.55am
Castle Darwin Street	8.58am
Northwich Memorial Court	9.00am

Timings are approximate - please be at your chosen pickup point in good time as the coach will not wait. Entry fees to museums and galleries are extra. See [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) for full terms and conditions.

## Art History Lectures

With Adrian Sumner

Hartford Methodist Church Hall  
Beach Road, Hartford, Northwich CW8 3AD  
2.00pm - £5.00 including refreshments

The Art of Britain  
Tuesday 6 October

The Art of Italy  
Tuesday 3 November

The Art of Spain  
Tuesday 8 December

See [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) for details



Comprehensive listing of events in Northwich at  
[www.gonorthwich.co.uk](http://www.gonorthwich.co.uk)



# Autumn Heritage Tours 2015



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Further Information at  
[www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk)  
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# Buxton and Eyam

## Spa Town and Plague Village

**Saturday 3 October - 9.00am from Northwich**

Other pick-up points available - see back page.

£18.00 - book online at [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) or call 01606 41597

We spend the morning and lunchtime in the Spa Town of Buxton. The spring at St Ann's Well was probably a place of pilgrimage as early as the Middle Ages, but certainly by Tudor times it was fairly well established as a spa and in Elizabeth I's time it was visited for this purpose by The Earl of Leicester and Mary Queen of Scots. The great period of Buxton as a spa began when the 5th Duke of Devonshire started the construction of the Crescent in 1780. This magnificent building took ten years to build and was constructed over the river alongside the site of St Ann's well.

The Pavilion Gardens is a wonderful historic venue situated in the heart of the town with exhibitions, a restaurant and over 23 acres of gardens established in 1871 by Edward Milner, pupil of Sir Joseph Paxton, including lakes, flower beds and shaded walks. At Buxton Museum and Art Gallery you can discover the geology, archaeology and history of the Peak District through seven time zones. Explore the Museum's collection of Ashford black marble and Blue John ornaments and step into a Victorian scientist's study.

Follow the town trail and see The Crescent and Pump Rooms currently being restored, try the water at St Ann's Well, the neo-classic "Tuscan" style St John's Church, the Dome, the Old Court House (now shops) and the Old Hall Hotel, the oldest building in Buxton.

After lunch, we move on to Eyam, the plague village, this year commemorating the 350th Anniversary of the tragedy.

In 1665 a tailor from Eyam ordered a bale of cloth from London to make up into clothes for the villagers, unwittingly triggering a chain of events that led to 260 Eyam villagers dying from bubonic plague - more than double the mortality rate suffered by the citizens of London in the Great Plague. Between the first death and the last, the villagers set an extraordinary and enduring example of self-sacrifice by sealing off the village from the surrounding areas to prevent the disease spreading. Eyam Museum tells the story of their sacrifice. The plague is commemorated by a window in St Lawrence's Church in the village. The north aisle has a font of Saxon origins, and Norman pillars which may well rest on Saxon foundations.

Eyam Hall and Craft Centre (NT) was built in 1671, just six years after the plague intruded in Eyam, and is a wonderfully unspoilt example of a grit-stone Jacobean manor house. Home of the Wright family for eleven generations, inside visitors can enjoy family portraits, and furniture belonging to each generation. The stable block is a vibrant hub from which to explore the wider village of Eyam and its captivating stories. Here you will find a collection of locally run craft units, an independent café and National Trust shop.



# Leeds

## British Art Show 8 & Royal Armouries

**Saturday 24 October - 9.00am from Northwich**

Other pick-up points available - see back page.

£20.00 - book online at [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) or call 01606 41597

The British Art Show at Leeds City Art Gallery is widely recognised as a significant marker of recent developments in contemporary art, unrivalled in its scope and national reach. The exhibition introduces a new generation of 41 British artists, providing a vital overview of the most exciting art produced in this country during the previous five years. BAS8 will take over all the galleries within Leeds Art Gallery, meaning that the Gallery needs to be stripped back to accommodate these new and exciting works. BAS is run every 5 years, and the last show in 2010 attracted over 450,000 visitors across 12 venues.



At Leeds City Museum, Life on Earth explores our planet's history over the last 540 million years. Discover all the different types of life on earth and even experience the sights and sounds of a rainforest. From a 3000 year old Egyptian mummy to Roman statues and Greek pottery the Ancient Worlds gallery explores the civilisation of the ancient world. Find out how Leeds has been shaped by its landscape and its people from pre-historic times to the modern day in the expansive Leeds Gallery. Objects on display include Bronze Age jet beads, an Iron Age pipe made from a sheep's leg bone, the Castleford milestone, Roman objects from Adel and Dalton Parlours, and fragments of the Anglo-Scandinavian cross from Leeds Parish Church.

The Royal Armouries is a multi-million pound purpose-built museum that opened to the public in 1996. It was built to house a large part of the national collection of arms and armour, and displays over 8500 objects throughout its six themed galleries: War, Tournament, Oriental, Self-Defence, Hunting, and Peace. There is also the impressive Hall of Steel. Throughout the museum there are demonstrations, with actors showing how to drill with muskets, fight using swords and wear armour. A special exhibition looks at the use of X-rays to investigate objects in a non-invasive way. It can safely reveal decoration that has worn away, and repairs done so well that they are not visible to the naked eye. It can show the construction of an object and its internal mechanisms without having to take it apart.

There are a wide range of shops to explore, including the impressive Victoria Quarter, designed in 1900 by the famous theatre architect Frank Matcham, responsible for building more than 200 theatres and music halls, including the London Palladium and Coliseum. He used rich marbles, gilded mosaics, handsome cast and wrought iron, as well as carved and polished mahogany, to create two streets, an arcade and the Empire Theatre (now the site of Harvey Nichols).

# Liverpool & Birkenhead

**Saturday 14 November - 9.00am from Northwich**

Other pick-up points available - see back page.

£16.00 - book online at [www.danarts.co.uk](http://www.danarts.co.uk) or call 01606 41597

We start the day with a visit to the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum in Birkenhead. One of Wirral's hidden gems, the Williamson was funded by the philanthropists, John Williamson, a Director of the Cunard Steamship Company Ltd and his son Patrick Williamson. It opened to the public in 1928. The Williamson houses one of the best art collections in the North West of England in its beautifully proportioned galleries. Paintings of all sorts, especially British watercolours and work by local artists, join highlights of the decorative arts collections like Liverpool Porcelain and Birkenhead's own contribution to the Arts & Crafts Movement, the Della Robbia Pottery. There are also rooms featuring ship models from the area, focusing on Cammell Laird shipbuilders and their contribution to marine history, the Mersey Ferries and the variety of vessels that used the River Mersey when it was at its busiest.

We then cross under the Mersey to Liverpool, with a chance to explore the Walker Art Gallery and Liverpool World Museum.

The Walker Art Gallery is one of the finest art galleries in Europe, and is home to renaissance masterpieces, Tudor portraits and one of the best collections of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite art in the country. The temporary exhibition is Reality - Modern and Contemporary British Painting. This vibrant exhibition brings together over 50 works celebrating the strength of British painting, with some of the best and most influential artists of the last 60 years. Major 20th-century artists, such as Walter Sickert, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and LS Lowry, are shown alongside contemporary painters including John Keane, Ken Currie, Paula Rego and George Shaw.

The Liverpool World Museum has extensive collections covering archaeology, ethnology and the natural and physical sciences. Special attractions include the Natural History Centre and a free Planetarium. Nearby you can also visit the recently redeveloped Central Library, and St George's Hall.

We finish the day at Sudley House. Sudley House is the former home of Victorian ship builder George Holt, housing his personal collection of 18th and 19th century British art, and still in its original setting.



A charming gallery displays works by Turner, Gainsborough, Lord Leighton and Holman Hunt. Many of the original Victorian features of the building survive, including tiles, ceramics, stained glass and wallpaper. Also houses works from The Walker's collection of fine and decorative art and George Bullock furniture. Reopened in 2008 following a major restoration.