



Programme for the Whole Society Meeting 2017

Hosted by North Western Division, Tuesday 16th – Friday 19th May

based at North Lakes Hotel & Spa, Penrith

Annual Dinner – Thursday 18th May

Tuesday 16th - Naworth Castle and Miltonrigg Wood

The day will consist of two parts commencing with the Naworth Estate. The estate has recently benefitted from an English Woodland Grant Scheme to plant eight new woods totaling 50 acres. There will be five stops looking at CCF and rhododendron control, the new planting and landscaping areas, ancient trees, a sycamore stand and, finally, the impact of flooding and river action. Following lunch, we will visit the Woodland Trust site at nearby Miltonrigg which combines both Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (70%) and PAWS (30%). Our guide, Heather Swift (site manager) will introduce the wood and give an overview of the management plan objectives, primarily nature conservation and public access.

Wednesday 17th - Lowther Castle and Estate

We will commence the visit with an introduction to the history of the estate and the management of the 2000 ha. of woodland comprised in it. Attention will focus on the recent restoration of the former pleasure gardens and the opportunities which have been taken to develop them as landscaped grounds for public access and recreation. The **AGM** will take place during lunch time. In the afternoon the tour will resume, visiting the summerhouse to appreciate the wider landscape setting and specific areas undergoing restoration.

Thursday 18th - Whinlatter Forest Park and Dodd Wood

The Forestry Commission's Forest Park occupies 1226 ha. in a complex landscape of hills and valleys offering extensive recreational opportunities for over 200,000 visitors a year. This is also a productive forest and themes which will be explored are the management of the forest in line with UKWAS standards whilst at the same time maintaining a high quality visitor experience. After lunch we will move to Dodd Wood and the Lake District Osprey Project, now a further significant visitor attraction in the Northern Lakes.

The evening is the RFS annual dinner, Ivan Day, writer and broadcaster who specialises in historic food and lichens is the guest speaker.

Friday 19th - Warren and Lalbuss Plantations, Ivegill or a Tour of A.W. Jenkinson's Forest Products.

You have the option of going to Warren and Lalbuss which earned second prize in the 2016 Excellence in Forestry Awards. The owner has invested in infrastructure which has enabled him to bring somewhat neglected stands of conifers into active management to a high standard.

Or

A tour of A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products sawmill and wood processing company, however numbers are limited to **19**. Your choice **must** be specified at time of booking.

The WSM will conclude after lunch, which will be at Ivegill Village Hall after which members will be returned to the hotel by coach.

Closing date for bookings **Tuesday 28th February, 2017.**

Please contact Dawn or Karen at HQ on 01295 678588 or e-mail events@rfs.org.uk if you would like a booking form. You can also download forms www.rfs.org.uk/events/whole-society-meeting-wsm/ Please note the above programme is subject to change, any booking will be advised of any changes.