Village Life

England’s Cotswolds

July 26 to August 3, 2009

 LORD CHARLES SPENCER-CHURCHILL HOSTS AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR OF BLenheim Palace

 VILLAGE FORUM WITH RESIDENTS OF THE COTSWOLDS

 EXCURSIONS INCLUDED FROM $2895*

EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS

SAVE $600 PER COUPLE!
Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends:

We are pleased to sponsor Village Life in England’s Cotswolds, this unique travel opportunity captures the essence of the English countryside in this most quintessentially English region. This travel program, one of the highly successful and innovative programs in the Village Life series, is ideal for exploring the Cotswolds’ long history and deep-rooted traditions and coming to know the authentic way of life of its people.

Time has passed with an unusually gentle hand over the Cotswolds’ landscape of rolling hills and small villages where rows of stone houses with slate roofs have changed little since the 16th century. This tranquil region combines stunning natural beauty and rich cultural traditions with grand historic landmarks and charming villages that time has left unchanged. Still defined by its stately Regency houses, immaculate gardens and quaint family-owned shops, the splendid town of Cheltenham has been an acclaimed spa destination since the 18th century. From here, explore the fabled quads of Oxford and the fairy-tale castle of Broughton while enjoying accommodations for seven nights in the historic Queen’s Hotel, ideally located directly on Cheltenham’s grand promenade.

Among the many included features of this carefully designed itinerary is the exclusive Village Forum, where local residents share their insights about life in England’s Cotswolds. By special arrangement, Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, Sir Winston Churchill’s cousin and brother of the present Duke of Marlborough, hosts an exclusive guided tour and private lunch in Blenheim Palace, Britain’s grandest private residence. To further enhance your experience in the traditions and history of the Cotswolds, this unique Village Life itinerary also encompasses a series of guided excursions and cultural enhancements, including a fascinating lecture by a local historian.

An exceptional value including accommodations and excursions complemented by the convenience of unpacking only once combine with a fascinating destination to create a truly enticing travel program. We will be traveling with alumni from Lynchburg College and the University of Mary Washington. This has been a very popular travel program in the past and promises to be so again, so we encourage you to join fellow alumnae and friends and make your reservation today!

For further information, please don’t hesitate to contact our travel coordinator in the Alumnae Office, Melissa Coffey ’98. (Tel: 800-381-6131; fax: 434-381-6132; e-mail: mcoffey@sbc.edu).

Sincerely,

Louise Swiecki Zingaro ’80
Director of Alumnae Affairs,
Sweet Briar College

Cover: The idyllic cottages and elegant limestone facades of Chipping Campden are typical of the Cotswolds’ pleasing aesthetic.

Stroll past quaint row houses in the tranquil Cotswolds village of Burford.
VILLAGE LIFE IN ENGLAND’S COTSWOLDS is one in a unique series of
VILLAGE LIFE programs designed for travelers who know the true character
of a country is best found in its heartland, on its backroads and around local
market squares. It offers a cultural and educational experience like no other.
A comprehensive program and an exceptional value, VILLAGE LIFE IN
ENGLAND’S COTSWOLDS focuses on a region known for centuries as “the
heart of England,” where the past blends seamlessly with the present.
Here, for one full week, come to know the timeless quality of life in typical
English villages and discover the rich history and deep-rooted cultural
traditions of one of England’s most beautiful regions while making your
home in the historic spa town of Cheltenham.

Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill will personally greet you at Blenheim Palace
and share personal recollections of his cousin Sir Winston Churchill, who
was born there. Also visit Sir Winston’s modest grave site in nearby Bladon.

Attend an exclusive VILLAGE FORUM and meet with local residents who
provide a fascinating and candid look at life in the Cotswolds.

The beautiful Queen’s Hotel has been specially
selected for this program as it provides attractive
and comfortable accommodations in an ideal location
and serves regional cuisine with local specialities.

Unpack once! The exceptional travel value includes
accommodations, some meals and exclusively
arranged excursions for an incredibly attractive price.
Come experience a special way of life: VILLAGE LIFE
IN ENGLAND’S COTSWOLDS.

Observe the typical Cotswold village of Chipping Campden as it basks in the long twilight glow of a
perfect English summer evening.
CHELTENHAM
With its stately parade of Regency columns and wrought ironwork, grand houses and majestic gardens, Cheltenham still evokes its heyday when upper-class Victorians traveled to this spa in the heart of the Cotswolds, making it one of the favorite British holiday retreats. You can just imagine gentlemen doffing their top hats in the domed Pittville Pump Room where, from the original 19th-century marble pump, you can still drink the mineral waters that made Cheltenham famous.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL
Shrouded in legend and mystique, Gloucester Cathedral stands as a true architectural jewel and one of the finest examples of Norman and Gothic architecture in Britain. Originally consecrated as an abbey in 1100 by Britain’s Norman conquerors and later converted into a cathedral by none other that Henry VIII, this beautiful church has been featured in numerous films.

BLENHEIM PALACE
Britain’s largest private residence and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace is among the most monumental edifices ever constructed in the British Isles. Built in the 18th century for John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough, as a reward for military bravery at the Battle of Blenheim, the estate is now home to the 11th and current Duke of Marlborough. Beyond the extraordinary labyrinth of opulent hallways and chambers, the estate’s grounds are spread over a bucolic 2,200-acre park designed by the legendary landscape architect, “Capability” Brown.

OXFORD
Affectionately named the “city of dreaming spires,” by adoring poets, Britain’s oldest university counts Sir Thomas Moore, J.R.R. Tolkien and Margaret Thatcher among its illustrious alumni. Steeped in eight centuries of history and erudition, Oxford still nurtures some of the world’s greatest scholars while blending its ancient traditions with cutting edge research and instruction provided by some of the world’s brightest minds. In magnificent cobbled Radcliffe Square, students may be seen racing to exams, while from Christ Church’s Tom Quad to Magdalen College’s cloister, churchbells mark the time by echoing through Oxford’s medieval alleyways and Renaissance quadrangles.

COTSWOLDS VILLAGES
The picturesque Cotswolds villages of Bibury, Burford, Broadway, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Campden, and gardens of Hidcote Manor still embrace the time honored traditions of the English countryside.

Bibury, with a population of less than one thousand, was called “the most beautiful village in England” by the Victorian artist and designer William Morris. The hamlet is famed for Arlington Row, a classic collection of 16th-century weavers’ houses.

In Burford, the great Church of St. John the Baptist is a medley of architectural styles providing a flourish to the village’s main passage down to the River Windrush.

The village of Broadway, the home of artist William Morris, has a splendid main road lined with antique stores and tea shops.
Immerse yourself in more than 700 years of history during the visit to the classic English estate of Broughton Castle, currently the residence of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele.

Stow-on-the-Wold, the highest village in the Cotswolds, offers magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and was known for its sheep market in the 18th century. Indeed, Daniel Defoe recorded over 20,000 sheep sold here on one day alone. Narrow-walled alleyways called “tunes” funneled sheep into the market square, while a nearby medieval cross warned traders to be honest merchants.

Chipping Campden is the perfect example of a prosperous medieval village, where undulating, weather-beaten roofs cap amber-hued houses, and mullioned windows overlook the picturesque 15th-century parish church, almshouse and the market hall.

Hidcote Manor Garden, part of England’s National Trust and one of England’s finest gardens, is famous for its rare trees, shrubs, herbaceous borders and old roses.

Broughton Castle
“English to the core,” so wrote Henry James of 14th-century Broughton Castle, one of Britain’s most scenic pastoral estates whose spectacular gardens, classic moats and medieval fortifications evoke the romance and magic of an old English fairy tale. The castle serves as the residence of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, who have made it their lives’ work to ensure that the estate’s historical character is preserved.

Stratford-upon-Avon (Optional Excursion)
Set in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside on the banks of the river Avon, the picturesque village of Stratford-upon-Avon is known worldwide as the hometown of bard William Shakespeare. A bastion of Old England, the town has maintained its distinct Tudor character and visitors can see the buildings where Shakespeare and his family lived, went to school and conducted business.

Resident Lecturer
While staying in the Cotswolds, your appreciation and understanding of this delightful region will be enhanced through the enlightening presentation by local scholar, author and historian, Aylwin Sampson. A graduate of Durham University and a former pilot in the RAF, Aylwin has written and illustrated over 25 books covering topics from the history of Cotswolds’ towns and English church architecture to historic racecourses and cricket grounds. A founding member of the Cheltenham Local History Society and a regular commentator on British radio, Aylwin offers an authoritative and colorful perspective on the Cotswolds not found elsewhere.

Experience the medieval grandeur of Gloucester Cathedral, one of Britain’s finest Gothic churches.
While experiencing traditional Village Life in the Cotswolds, enjoy seven nights in the charming Queen’s Hotel ideally located at the top of the Cheltenham’s main treelined promenade. Founded in 1838, its stately neoclassical façade modeled after Rome’s Temple of Jupiter and lovely gardens still attract Cheltenham’s finest for traditional afternoon tea. Each of the 79 comfortable guest rooms features a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television and hair dryer. The hotel’s restaurant serves regional cuisine with local specialties and 24-hour room service is available. The intimate lounge and bar are perfect for relaxation and conversation.

**Village Life Day by Day....**

Day 1
Depart for London, United Kingdom.

Day 2
Transfer through the Thames Valley to Cheltenham and check into the Queen’s Hotel. This evening, join your traveling companions for the private welcome reception.

Day 3
**Excursion**
Enjoy a guided walk through historic Cheltenham on the Promenade to Long Gardens, followed by a visit to Gloucester Cathedral.

**Exclusive Enrichment**
Learn more about the Cotswolds in the “History of Cheltenham” commentary provided by our local expert, Aylwin Sampson.

Day 4
**Excursion**
Set out on the private guided tour of Blenheim Palace followed by a visit to Winston Churchill’s grave in Bladon and the walking tour of the historic university town of Oxford.

**Exclusive Enrichment**
Meet Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill during a personal greeting at Blenheim Palace. A private lunch will be served in Blenheim’s Indian Room.

Day 5
**Excursion**
Drive through the picturesque villages of Ebrington, Upper and Lower Brailes and Shipston-on-Stour ending at the 14th-century Broughton Castle to tour the manor house and its surrounding gardens. Enjoy lunch in the castle.

**Exclusive Enrichment**
Join local residents for the Village Forum to discuss daily life in the Cotswolds.

Day 6
**Excursion**
Drive to the northern Cotswolds during the day-long tour of the traditional English villages of Bibury, Burford and Stow-on-the-Wold.

Day 7
**Excursion**
Visit the picturesque villages of Chipping Campden and Broadway, historic center of the Cotswold’s famous wool trade, and the beautiful gardens of Hidcote Manor.

Day 8
Spend a relaxing day at leisure in Cheltenham.

**Optional Excursion**
Or, choose an optional excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon, hometown of William Shakespeare.

Day 9
Board your return flight to the U.S.
MEET LORD CHARLES SPENCER-CURTIS CHURCHILL DURING A PRIVATE TOUR

Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, cousin of Sir Winston Churchill, is your host for this exclusive tour of his ancestral home, Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Lord Charles personally greets you as privileged guests and invites you for the guided tour of Blenheim’s Baroque grandeur during this special visit of the palace. During your tour, learn about the estate’s storied history, marvel at its priceless furnishings and artifacts, and take a behind-the-scenes look at the life of one of history’s greatest figures, Sir Winston Churchill. Outside, admire the tranquil beauty of Blenheim’s 2,200-acre park—created by the noted landscape architect “Capability” Brown—featuring the world’s second largest symbolic hedge maze, and one of Britain’s most exquisite formal gardens. Dine in the original mural-lined Indian Room while enjoying delightful views of Blenheim’s water terraces and gardens. Afterwards, continue to the nearby village of Bladon where Sir Winston Churchill lies buried in a modest grave alongside his beloved wife.

See the splendor and learn more about the rich history of Blenheim Palace in the company of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill.

INCLUDED FEATURES

♦ Seven nights in the historic Queen’s Hotel.
♦ Private welcome reception in the hotel.
♦ Breakfast each morning, three lunches and two dinners.

Tours and excursions led by accredited local cultural experts of the Guild of Guides:
♦ Walking tour of the Victorian spa resort of Cheltenham.
♦ Visit to Gloucester Cathedral, one of the most historical churches in England.
♦ Exclusive guided tour of Winston Churchill’s birthplace, Blenheim Palace, culminating with a specially arranged, private luncheon in Blenheim Palace’s Indian Room.
♦ Visit to Winston Churchill’s grave in Bladon.
♦ Walking tour of the legendary university town of Oxford.
♦ Scenic drive through the Cotswolds’ countryside followed by a guided visit to Broughton Castle including lunch.
♦ Excursion to the picturesque villages of Bibury, Burford and Stow-on-the-Wold.
♦ Tour of the typical Cotswolds villages of Chipping Campden and Broadway, and the exquisite gardens of Hidcote Manor.

A full program of educational and cultural enrichment including:
♦ An engaging presentation about the region by author, artist and local historian Aylwin Sampson.
♦ Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill offers personal insight into the lives of Winston Churchill and the Duke of Marlborough during a private meeting in Blenheim Palace.
♦ A unique opportunity to learn more about the architecture, cultural traditions and timeless way of life of the English countryside during visits to centuries-old Cotswolds villages.
♦ An exclusive Village Forum with local residents to gain insight and perspective into contemporary life in the Cotswolds.

And to enhance your travel experience, we will also provide:
♦ All transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants who have purchased their air tickets through Gohagan & Company and whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
♦ Gratuities for local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
♦ A hospitality desk in the hotel.
♦ The services of an experienced resident Program Director throughout the program.
♦ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information for each participant.
♦ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Experience the charm and tranquility of life in the English countryside while strolling through the historic villages and quaint towns of the Cotswolds.

**Tariff**

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<th>Early Booking Price* through January 22, 2009</th>
<th>Regular price* after January 22, 2009</th>
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<td>*Land only, per person, based on double occupancy</td>
<td>$2895 $3195</td>
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- Taxes are an additional $245 per person and are subject to change.
- Single accommodations for an additional $600.

**Village Life Cotswolds Reservation Form**

Send to: Sweet Briar College Alumnae Association
Box E
Sweet Briar, VA 24595

For further information, please call Melissa Coffey '98 at 800-381-6131

Name(s) (as it appears on passport)

First Initial Last Class Year

Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State Zip Code

Telephone: (Home) (Business)

Email Address (Fax)

Preferred name(s) on name badge(s) Tour No. 081-07/26/09-098

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit ($600 per person). Make check(s) payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.

Deposits can also be made by credit card; however, all FINAL payments are required to be made in cash, by check or wire transfer by April 22, 2009.

I/we authorize you to charge my/our deposit to: ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard

Card No. Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

Please make my/our reservations for:

- Double occupancy (one queen bed).
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Program Air:

- Flights Washington Dulles/London with return London/Washington Dulles. Airfare is available at an additional cost.‡

- Flights from ________________ (fill in departure city) to London, England, with return from London, England, at an additional cost to be advised.‡

Class: ❑ Economy ❑ Business ❑ First

An Air Coordinator will contact you no later than four months prior to departure regarding your selections.

Please contact your travel agent or air carrier directly for any deviations to the above.

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability, and is nonrefundable.

❑ I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.

OST#: TA 09 05.
Explore the legendary quadrangles and magnificent architecture of England’s most famous university at Oxford.

CONTRACT: TERMS & CONDITIONS

NOT INCLUDED: Taxes, passport fees, visa and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry and telephone calls; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; excess baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Included Features” section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure 1) if you have not purchased your air arrangements through Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, or 2) if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); meals and alcoholic beverages not listed in the “Included Features” section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline (not Thomas P. Gohagan & Company), even if purchased through Thomas P. Gohagan & Company. LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policies.

HEALTH: Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Thomas P. Gohagan & Company in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by January 22, 2009. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be canceled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is in effect, a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Change/cancellation fees apply as outlined in this “Contract: Terms and Conditions” for the “replacement” reservation and the cancelled reservation.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Thomas P. Gohagan & Company. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellations are subject to a $200 per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; 95 through 61 days prior to departure, $400 per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariff; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariff. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees and administrative fees will be assessed.

Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring institution or association, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, hood service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity of any third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animal strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, sickness, illness, the lack of availability of or access to appropriate medical attention, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant on these trips at any time. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Gohagan may cancel a trip for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. All fares, as well as ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Gohagan shall not be required to refund any portion of the fare or make any other compensation under these circumstances. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels or hotels of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

ARBITRATION AGREEMENT: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to these Terms and Conditions, to the Responsibility Clause, to the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existing.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure.


ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract.