

coughton court national trust

Coughton Court National Trust stands as a remarkable testament to England's rich history, architectural grandeur, and cultural heritage. Nestled in the heart of Warwickshire, this historic Elizabethan manor is not only a beautiful example of Tudor architecture but also a living museum that offers visitors a unique glimpse into England's past. Managed and preserved by the National Trust, Coughton Court is a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts, architecture lovers, and those seeking a peaceful retreat into the countryside. Whether exploring its ancient walls, wandering through lush gardens, or learning about its fascinating stories, visitors are invited to step back in time and experience the enduring legacy of this iconic estate.

History of Coughton Court

Origins and Early History

Coughton Court's history dates back to the 15th century, with origins rooted in the medieval period. Initially built as a fortified manor house, it was designed to serve both as a family residence and a defensive structure. The Throckmorton family, a prominent Catholic family, acquired the estate in the early 16th century, and their influence is deeply woven into the fabric of the estate's history.

The Throckmorton Family and Their Legacy

The Throckmorton family played a significant role in shaping Coughton Court's history. As devout Catholics during a tumultuous period in England's religious history, they faced persecution and played a notable part in the Catholic recusancy movement. The estate became a symbol of perseverance for their faith, hosting clandestine Catholic worship and resisting the Protestant Reformation's pressures.

Architectural Development Over the Centuries

Over the centuries, Coughton Court underwent significant architectural transformations. The Elizabethan wing, with its distinctive timber framing and ornate windows, was added in the 16th century, reflecting the wealth and status of the Throckmorton family. Later modifications include Victorian additions, which blend seamlessly into the overall aesthetic, creating a harmonious historical tapestry that visitors can admire today.

Architectural Features of Coughton Court

Exterior and Main Structures

Coughton Court is renowned for its striking Tudor façade, characterized by exposed timber framing, intricate brickwork, and leaded windows. The estate comprises several key structures:

- **The Main House:** An impressive Elizabethan manor with a blend of timber and brickwork.
- **The Gatehouse:** A fortified entrance that served as a defensive feature and grand entrance for visitors.
- **The Gardens and Grounds:** Expansive lawns, formal gardens, and woodland areas that complement the historic buildings.

Interior Highlights

Inside, visitors can explore:

- **Period Rooms:** Authentically decorated rooms reflecting different eras, including the Elizabethan, Victorian, and modern periods.
- **The Great Hall:** A central gathering space with historical furnishings and a sense of grandeur.
- **Family Collections:** Artworks, furniture, and personal items belonging to the Throckmorton family, offering insights into aristocratic life.

Notable Architectural Details

- Exposed timber framing and decorative brickwork typical of Tudor architecture.
- Leaded light windows that add charm and authenticity.
- Intricate plasterwork and wood carvings that showcase skilled craftsmanship from different periods.

Gardens and Grounds

Historical Gardens

The gardens at Coughton Court have been meticulously maintained and restored to reflect their historical significance. They include:

- **The Formal Gardens:** Featuring symmetrical flower beds, topiary, and classical statuary.

- **The Rose Garden:** A vibrant area filled with a variety of roses, perfect for floral enthusiasts.
- **The Orchard and Woodland Walks:** Offering tranquil escapes and scenic views of the estate's natural beauty.

Special Features and Attractions

- The Medieval Well: An ancient well that tells stories of the estate's early days.
- The Tudor Garden: Designed to resemble the gardens of the Tudor period, complete with herbs and traditional plants.
- The Arboretum: A collection of mature trees, some dating back centuries, providing shade and habitat for local wildlife.

Visiting Coughton Court

Opening Hours and Access

Coughton Court is open to visitors throughout most of the year, with seasonal variations. It's advisable to check the official National Trust website for up-to-date opening hours and any special events or closures.

Things to Do at Coughton Court

Visitors can enjoy a range of activities, including:

1. **Guided Tours:** Learn about the estate's history, architecture, and stories from knowledgeable guides.
2. **Exploring the Gardens:** Wander through the beautifully maintained grounds and enjoy the natural scenery.
3. **Participating in Events:** From historical reenactments to seasonal festivals, there's always something happening.
4. **Educational Activities:** Workshops, talks, and family activities designed to engage visitors of all ages.

Facilities and Visitor Services

- On-site Café: Serving refreshments and light snacks.
- Gift Shop: Offering souvenirs, books, and local crafts.
- Parking and Accessibility: Adequate parking facilities with access options for visitors with mobility challenges.

Why Visit Coughton Court?

Rich Historical Significance

Coughton Court provides a tangible link to England's religious and social history, particularly the struggles faced by Catholic families during the Reformation and beyond.

Architectural Beauty

The estate's blend of Tudor, Elizabethan, and Victorian architecture offers a visual feast for architecture enthusiasts.

Beautiful Natural Environment

The extensive gardens, woodland walks, and scenic landscapes make it an ideal destination for nature lovers and families alike.

Educational and Cultural Value

Through its exhibitions, events, and collections, Coughton Court serves as an educational resource that promotes understanding of England's heritage.

Conservation and Preservation

As a property under the stewardship of the National Trust, Coughton Court benefits from ongoing conservation efforts. These include:

- Restoration of historic structures and interiors.
- Maintenance of the gardens and natural landscapes.
- Research and documentation to preserve the estate's history for future generations.

This dedication ensures that Coughton Court remains a vibrant and authentic reflection of England's cultural legacy.

Conclusion

Coughton Court National Trust is more than just a historic house; it's a portal into the past, offering insights into Tudor life, religious resilience, and architectural splendor. Its beautifully preserved buildings, stunning gardens, and compelling stories make it a compelling destination for anyone interested in England's history and heritage. By visiting Coughton Court, you not only enjoy a day out in a picturesque setting but also contribute to the ongoing preservation of this treasured national monument. Whether you're a history buff, a garden enthusiast, or a curious traveler, Coughton Court promises an enriching experience that will linger long after your visit.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Coughton Court and why is it significant?

Coughton Court is a historic Tudor country house in Warwickshire, managed by the National Trust. It is significant for its rich history, stunning architecture, and as a site linked to the Catholic recusancy and the Gunpowder Plot.

Can visitors explore the gardens and grounds at Coughton Court?

Yes, visitors can explore the beautifully maintained gardens, including formal lawns, woodland walks, and historic features, providing a peaceful retreat and scenic views.

Are there any special events or exhibitions at Coughton Court?

Coughton Court hosts various events throughout the year, including historical reenactments, craft fairs, and educational exhibitions focused on its history and heritage.

Is Coughton Court suitable for family visits?

Absolutely! Coughton Court offers family-friendly activities, outdoor spaces, and educational programs designed to engage children and provide an enjoyable day out.

What are the opening hours of Coughton Court?

Coughton Court's opening hours vary seasonally, typically from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, but it's advisable to check their official website for current timings and any restrictions.

Are guided tours available at Coughton Court?

Yes, guided tours are available, offering insights into the history, architecture, and stories of Coughton Court, led by knowledgeable guides or through self-guided resources.

How does Coughton Court connect to the Gunpowder Plot?

Coughton Court is famously linked to the Gunpowder Plot because it was the family home of the Throckmorton family, who were involved in Catholic recusancy and related conspiracy activities during that period.

Can I purchase souvenirs or gifts at Coughton Court?

Yes, there is a gift shop on-site where visitors can purchase souvenirs, books, and crafts related to Coughton Court and its history.

Are dogs allowed at Coughton Court?

Dogs are welcome in the gardens and outside areas but must be kept on leads and are not permitted inside the house or certain indoor spaces to protect the historic interiors.

How can I support Coughton Court and the National Trust?

You can support Coughton Court by becoming a member of the National Trust, donating, volunteering, or participating in special events and activities to help preserve this historic site.

Additional Resources

Coughton Court National Trust: A Historic Jewel Steeped in Heritage and Resilience

Introduction

Coughton Court National Trust stands as a testament to England's rich tapestry of history, architecture, and cultural resilience. Nestled in the heart of Warwickshire, this grand Tudor manor has witnessed centuries of change, conflict, and preservation. Managed by the National Trust since the late 20th century, Coughton Court offers visitors a unique glimpse into England's aristocratic past, religious upheavals, and ongoing conservation efforts. This article delves into the captivating history, architectural marvels, notable features, and the modern-day significance of Coughton Court National Trust, painting a comprehensive picture of this historic estate.

Historical Background

Origins and Early History

Coughton Court's origins trace back to the 15th century, with its roots firmly planted in the Tudor period. Originally built as a fortified manor house, it served as a family seat for the Throckmorton family, one of Warwickshire's prominent aristocratic dynasties. The estate's strategic location and robust defenses reflected the turbulent times during which it was constructed, marked by regional

conflicts and social upheavals.

The Throckmortons and Their Legacy

The Throckmorton family played a pivotal role in shaping Coughton Court's history. Their influence extended beyond mere landholding; they were deeply involved in national affairs, especially during the tumultuous times of the English Reformation and the Catholic recusancy movement. Several members of the family were notable for their unwavering Catholic faith during periods of Protestant dominance, often risking their lives and estates to maintain their religious beliefs.

Religious Turmoil and the Throckmortons

During the 16th century, England underwent profound religious transformations. The Throckmorton family became emblematic of Catholic resistance, with some members actively involved in plots to restore Catholicism and oppose the Protestant monarchy. The most famous of these was Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, a diplomat and statesman, whose loyalty to the Catholic cause led to periods of imprisonment and surveillance.

The Throckmortons' steadfast faith and political activities placed Coughton Court at the center of religious conflict, making it both a fortress of Catholic worship and a symbol of resilience against persecution. The estate's Catholic chapel, hidden passages, and secret chambers bear witness to this turbulent history.

Architectural Evolution

Early Construction and Medieval Features

Initially constructed as a fortified manor, Coughton Court features medieval defensive architecture, including a moat, battlements, and fortified walls. The original structure was designed to withstand potential sieges and invasions, reflecting the unstable political landscape of medieval England.

Tudor Expansion and Renaissance Influences

By the 16th century, the estate underwent significant expansion under Tudor influence. Architectural features from this period include the grand façade, ornate windows, and intricate stonework. The Great Hall, with its timber ceiling, exemplifies typical Tudor craftsmanship, blending functionality with aesthetic elegance.

The Jacobean and Georgian Modifications

Subsequent centuries saw further modifications, including Jacobean-style extensions and Georgian interiors, which introduced classical proportions, decorative plasterwork, and refined detailing. These updates reflect the evolving tastes of successive owners and the estate's adaptation to changing social norms.

Restoration and Preservation

In the 20th century, ownership changes and the threat of decline prompted conservation efforts. Recognizing its historical significance, the Throckmorton family eventually transferred Coughton Court to the National Trust in 1986. Since then, extensive restoration projects have preserved its architectural integrity, ensuring future generations can appreciate its heritage.

Key Features and Notable Rooms

The Historic Interiors

Coughton Court boasts a wealth of period interiors, each telling a story of its own:

- The Great Hall: The heart of the estate, featuring a medieval timber roof and a large fireplace, once used for gatherings and banquets.
- The Catholic Chapel: Hidden within the estate, it served as a clandestine place of worship for recusants, complete with secret entrances and concealed altars.
- The State Rooms: Lavishly decorated with period furniture, portraits, and textiles, offering insights into the aristocratic lifestyle of past centuries.
- The Servants' Quarters: Providing a glimpse into the daily lives of those who maintained the estate, including kitchens, laundry rooms, and servant corridors.

Architectural Highlights

- The Moat and Defensive Walls: Surviving remnants of the estate's medieval fortifications.
- The East Garden: An elegant formal garden designed in the 17th century, featuring topiary, herbaceous borders, and a central fountain.
- The Gatehouse: An imposing entrance that exemplifies Tudor architecture, complete with heraldic carvings and battlements.

Cultural and Historical Significance

Religious Heritage

Coughton Court's role as a Catholic stronghold during Protestant Reformation periods makes it a symbol of religious perseverance. The estate's hidden chapels and secret passages are tangible connections to the clandestine worship practices of recusant families.

Family History and Lineage

The Throckmorton family's archives, portraits, and artifacts provide rich material for understanding aristocratic life across centuries. The estate's history is intertwined with key events in English history, including the Gunpowder Plot conspiracy, which involved a distant relative of the Throckmortons.

Educational and Community Engagement

Today, Coughton Court serves as an educational hub, hosting events, guided tours, and workshops that explore its multifaceted history. Its role in community engagement helps foster awareness of heritage preservation and the importance of safeguarding historical sites.

Modern-Day Conservation and Visitor Experience

Restoration Initiatives

Since its acquisition by the National Trust, Coughton Court has undergone extensive restoration projects aimed at stabilizing the structure, restoring historic interiors, and enhancing visitor facilities. These initiatives include:

- Structural repairs to the historic fabric
- Conservation of paintings, textiles, and decorative arts
- Upgrading access and interpretive displays

Visitor Facilities and Engagement

Coughton Court welcomes thousands of visitors annually, offering a range of amenities:

- Guided Tours: Providing in-depth narratives about the estate's history and architecture.
- Themed Events: Including historical reenactments, seasonal festivals, and educational workshops.
- Garden Tours: Showcasing historic horticulture and landscape design.
- Gift Shop and Café: Enhancing visitor experience with locally sourced produce and souvenirs.

Sustainability and Future Plans

The estate's management prioritizes sustainable practices, including energy-efficient lighting, eco-friendly landscaping, and educational programs focused on environmental conservation. Future plans involve expanding digital engagement, virtual tours, and community outreach initiatives to ensure broader accessibility and awareness.

Conclusion

Coughton Court National Trust exemplifies the enduring importance of preserving historical sites that embody national identity, religious resilience, and architectural ingenuity. Through meticulous conservation efforts, educational outreach, and community engagement, this historic estate continues to inspire appreciation for England's rich cultural heritage. Whether exploring its medieval defenses, admiring its Tudor façade, or contemplating its role in religious history, visitors to Coughton Court leave with a profound sense of connection to the past, underscoring the estate's timeless significance in Britain's historical landscape.

[Coughton Court National Trust](#)

coughton court national trust: Coughton Court, Warwickshire National Trust (Great Britain), 1970

coughton court national trust: Coughton Court, Warwickshire. A Property of the National Trust. [With Plates.] James Lees MILNE, 1954

coughton court national trust: *Coughton Court, Warwickshire* National Trust, 1970

coughton court national trust: *Coughton Court, Warwickshire* James Lees-Milne, Sir Robert George Maxwell Throckmorton (11th Bart.), 1964

coughton court national trust: Houses of the National Trust Lydia Greeves, 2021-04-29

This captivating book, fully revised and updated and featuring more NT houses than ever before, is a guide to some of the greatest architectural treasures of Britain, encompassing both interior and exterior design. This new edition is fully revised and updated and includes entries for new properties including: Acorn Bank, Claife Viewing Station, Cushendun, Cwmdru, Fen Cottage, The Firs (birthplace of Edward Elgar), Hawker's Hut, Lizard Wireless Station, Totternhoe Knolls and Treliwick. The houses covered include spectacular mansions such as Petworth House and Waddesdon Manor, and more lowly dwellings such as the Birmingham Back to Backs and estate villages like Blaise Hamlet, near Bristol. In addition to houses, the book also covers fascinating

buildings as diverse as churches, windmills, dovecotes, castles, follies, barns and even pubs. The book also acts as an overview of the country's architectural history, with every period covered, from the medieval stronghold of Bodiam Castle to the clean-lined Modernism of The Homewood. Teeming with stories of the people who lived and worked in these buildings: wealthy collectors (Charles Wade at Snowhill), captains of industry (William Armstrong at Cragside), prime ministers (Winston Churchill at Chartwell) and pop stars (John Lennon at Mendips). Written in evocative, imaginative prose and illustrated with glorious images from the National Trust's photographic library, this book is an essential guide to the built heritage of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

coughton court national trust: Catholic Gentry in English Society Geoffrey Scott, 2016-12-14 This volume advances scholarly understanding of English Catholicism in the early modern period through a series of interlocking essays on single family: the Throckmortons of Coughton Court, Warwickshire, whose experience over several centuries encapsulates key themes in the history of the Catholic gentry. Despite their persistent adherence to Catholicism, in no sense did the Throckmortons inhabit a 'recusant bubble'. Family members regularly played leading roles on the national political stage, from Sir George Throckmorton's resistance to the break with Rome in the 1530s, to Sir Robert George Throckmorton's election as the first English Catholic MP in 1831. Taking a long-term approach, the volume charts the strategies employed by various members of the family to allow them to remain politically active and socially influential within a solidly Protestant nation. In so doing, it contributes to ongoing attempts to integrate the study of Catholicism into the mainstream of English social and political history, transcending its traditional status as a 'special interest' category, remote from or subordinate to the central narratives of historical change. It will be particularly welcomed by historians of the sixteenth through to the nineteenth century, who increasingly recognise the importance of both Catholicism and anti-Catholicism as central themes in English cultural and political life.

coughton court national trust: The National Trust Book of Crumbles Laura Mason, 2020-11-27 Laura Mason brings you over 50 crumble recipes from the National Trust. Following on from the hugely successful 'National Trust Book of Scones', this is a salute to Britain's ultimate comfort food - crumbles. With over 50 crumble recipes - plus some cobblers too - you'll have the perfect recipe to cosy up with, every time. From classic recipes like apple and blackberry or rhubarb crumble to exciting new variations like crumble cheesecakes and microwavable mug crumbles for the time-challenged, this is everything you need. Plus there is a section on how to make classic accompaniments such as jam and custard, and interesting historical cooking trivia is sprinkled throughout to help you pass the time while your crumbles are in the oven.

coughton court national trust: Faded and Threadbare Historic Textiles and their Role in Houses Open to the Public Margaret Ponsonby, 2016-04-15 Many historic houses that open to the public in England and Wales - particularly those owned by the National Trust - preserve their contents rather than restore them to a particular period. The former owners of these houses often retained objects from various periods and this layering of history produces interiors that look aged and patinated. Although the reason for this preservation and lack of fashionable renewable can be attributed to declining economic fortunes in the twentieth century, there are many examples of families practising this method of homemaking over a much longer period. Taking National Trust properties as its central focus, this book examines three interlocking themes to examine the role of historic textiles. Firstly it looks at houses with preserved contents together with the reasons for individual families choosing this lifestyle; secondly the role of the National Trust as both guardian and interpreter of these houses and their collections; and finally, and most importantly, the influence of textiles to contribute to the appearance of interiors, and their physical attributes that carry historical resonances of the past. The importance of preserved textiles in establishing the visual character of historic houses is a neglected area and therefore the prominence given to textiles in this project constitutes an original contribution to the study of these houses. Drawing upon a range of primary sources, including literature produced by the National Trust for their sites, and documentary sources for the families and their houses (such as diaries, letters and household

accounts), the study takes a broad approach that will be of interest to all those with an interest in material culture, heritage, collecting studies and cultural history.

coughton court national trust: Cats of the National Trust Amy Feldman, 2018-10-26 From Sir Winston Churchill to Ellen Terry; Beatrix Potter to Vita Sackville-West: many of the National Trust's former residents were cat-lovers. Cats of the National Trust explores these feline fanatics and the animals (or animal objects) with which they filled their homes. Each entry includes gorgeous photos and accompanying text describing the collection item, person or animal in the photo and their relevance to the Trust. In Cats of the National Trust, we'll meet Sir Winston Churchill, who requested that a marmalade cat with a white bib and four white socks should always be in (comfortable) residence at Chartwell, Kent. Thomas Hardy's 'Snowdove' is buried at Max Gate, Dorset; Hardy wrote 'Last Words to a Dumb Friend' in eulogy. Discover Victorian actress Ellen Terry, who transported 'Boo-boo' between her homes in London and Smallhythe, Kent, and Betty Hussey, who crammed Scotney Castle full of feline objects; its current occupant, a cat named Betsy, can sometimes be found roaming the halls. Together with modern-day examples, Cats of the National Trust is an amusing and heart-warming guide to National Trust pets - and the people who revered them.

coughton court national trust: British and Irish Paintings in Public Collections Christopher Wright, Catherine May Gordon, 2006-01-01 This book sets a new standard as a work of reference. It covers British and Irish art in public collections from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the end of the nineteenth, and it encompasses nearly 9,000 painters and 90,000 paintings in more than 1,700 separate collections. The book includes as well pictures that are now lost, some as a consequence of the Second World War and others because of de-accessioning, mostly from 1950 to about 1975 when Victorian art was out of fashion. By listing many tens of thousands of previously unpublished works, including around 13,000 which do not yet have any form of attribution, this book becomes a unique and indispensable work of reference, one that will transform the study of British and Irish painting.

coughton court national trust: Making Meetings Work Richard Hooper, 2021-05-27 This short, accessible book on the art of chairing is an indispensable guide to help Chairs and meetings (of all types) to work more effectively. There are millions of meetings every day in public and private organisations. A poor Chair can lead to unproductive meetings, weak outcomes, unclear actions and even major fallouts. Many types of meeting within business settings and beyond are covered in this short book - from regular meetings to company board meetings, conferences and senior level regulatory meetings. It covers both physical meetings and virtual chairing. Using a light-hearted approach and written by a globally recognised Chairperson of leading technology, media and communications businesses and regulatory bodies during times of great change, the book offers a practical, jargon-free approach that covers many types of meeting. It will be of use to Chairs in the business environment, the public sector at local, regional and national levels, and in many types of communities and gatherings. It is interspersed with anecdotes and examples that bring the text to life and give powerful stories that everyone can learn from. As a result, meetings of all sorts will be more productive, and, importantly, more fun. As a result, people will become better chairs. The book is a perfect quick reference tool for anyone currently involved in chairing meetings and is wanting to hone their skills, or anyone new to the art of chairing meetings and wants to get quickly up to speed.

coughton court national trust: Fragments Kathy Farmer, 2022-05-31 Now in her 90th year Kathy's book contains compelling fragments of her life. Her story vividly chronicles so many aspects of her amazing and varied life across the years - from being a WW2 child evacuee with her twin brother, her first job after leaving school and her first fascinating boyfriends. "Fragments" relates how her parents forced decisions upon her which she regretted at the time. The book explains how Kathy came to meet John - her first husband, and their long marriage of 48 years until his death. Kathy speaks about her exciting experiences as a singer and actress on the amateur stage in the Midlands. In her mid years we learn how Kathy became drawn to the Christian faith, and how she became a Reader in the Anglican Church, where for many years she preached and ministered in the

country churches along Offa's Dyke. The story allows us to appreciate how keen a horsewoman she was and how Kathy was steeped in country lore. Finally Kathy tells how it is possible to live once again after facing the traumatic loss of her first husband.

coughton court national trust: *The Shakespearean International Yearbook* Professor Graham Bradshaw, Professor Tetsuo Kishi, Professor Tom Bishop, 2013-04-28 In this issue of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*, the special section surveys various means of 'Updating Shakespeare'. The section treats a variety of attempts and strategies, including by artists in Japan, China and Brazil, to adapt Shakespeare's works into local and present circumstances. The guest editor for the section is Tetsuo Kishi, Professor Emeritus in English at the University of Kyoto, co-author of *Shakespeare in Japan* (2006). *The Shakespearean International Yearbook* continues to provide an annual survey of important issues and developments in contemporary Shakespeare studies. Contributors to this issue come from the US and the UK, Poland, Japan and Brazil. In addition to the section on 'Updating', essays in this volume treat Shakespeare's poems, his narrative strategies, his relation to ideas such as tolerance and representation, and the afterlives of his work in writers such as Gay, Slowacki and Becket, and in theatrical relics.

coughton court national trust: *The Wrightsman Collection* Charles B. Wrightsman, Francis John Bagott Watson, Everett Fahy, 1966 Volume Five: This catalogue of a private collection includes works by such artists as Vermeer, Rubens, Renoir, La Tour, the Tiepolos, El Greco, Canaletto, and Van Dyck. -- Metropolitan Museum of Art website.

coughton court national trust: *The Women Who Saved Catholic England* Martyn R. Beardsley, 2025-01-16 Much has been written about the historical persecution of Catholics. Priests in particular became prime targets during the heightened tensions of the Armada and the Gunpowder Plot. But those whom they relied on for shelter have received little attention - until now. The underground network of lay supporters, the Catholic Resistance, mostly comprised courageous women of the great (and sometimes not so great) families of England, and their houses riddled with priest holes. These women fought a cat-and-mouse game with spymasters like Walsingham and Cecil and their spider's web of clandestine informants, knowing that one slip might lead to arrest, torture and execution. The indomitable Anne Vaux and her sister Eleanor provide the focus of this story but there were others, including their niece Frances, who as an 11-year-old boldly confronted armed raiders in search of priests; and Margaret Clitherow of York, arrested during a similar search and ultimately pressed to death. To escape the clutches of Elizabeth's brutal torturer Richard Topcliffe and others like him, men like Father John Gerard, whose 'zipwire' escape from the Tower of London is the stuff of Tom Cruise films, and genius priest-hole creator 'Little John', turned to these Sisters of Mercy.

coughton court national trust: *The Good Pub Guide 2012* Alisdair Aird, Fiona Stapley, 2012-01-12 In 2012 *The Good Pub Guide* celebrated its 30th anniversary, and is as invaluable as ever. Its comprehensive yearly updates and countless reader reports ensure that only the very best pubs make the grade. Here you will find classic country pubs, town-centre inns, riverside retreats, gastropubs, historic gems and exciting newcomers, plus pubs specialising in wine, malt whisky, or own-brew beer. Find out the top pubs in each county for beer, dining and accommodation, and discover the winners of the coveted titles of Pub of the Year and Landlord of the Year. Packed with information, *The Good Pub Guide 2012* is a fund of honest, entertaining and indispensable information.

coughton court national trust: *Catherine of Aragon* Theresa Earenfight, 2021-12-14 Catherine of Aragon is an elusive subject. Despite her status as a Spanish infanta, Princess of Wales, and Queen of England, few of her personal letters have survived, and she is obscured in the contemporary royal histories. In this evocative biography, Theresa Earenfight presents an intimate and engaging portrait of Catherine told through the objects that she left behind. A pair of shoes, a painting, a rosary, a fur-trimmed baby blanket—each of these things took meaning from the ways Catherine experienced and perceived them. Through an examination of the inventories listing the few possessions Catherine owned at her death, Earenfight follows the arc of Catherine's life: first as

a coddled child in Castile, then as a young adult alone in England after the death of her first husband, a devoted wife and doting mother, a patron of the arts and of universities, and, finally, a dear friend to the women and men who stood by her after Henry VIII set her aside in favor of another woman. Based on traces and fragments, these portraits of Catherine are interpretations of a life lived five centuries ago. Earenfight creates a compelling picture of a multifaceted, intelligent woman and a queen of England. Engagingly written, this cultural and emotional biography of Catherine brings us closer to understanding her life from her own perspective.

coughton court national trust: Roald Dahl Jeremy Treglown, 2016-06-28 A New York Times Notable Book: A revealing look at the famous twentieth-century children's author who brought us *The BFG* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Few writers have had the enduring cultural influence of Roald Dahl, who inspired generations of loyal readers. Acclaimed biographer Jeremy Treglown cuts no corners in humanizing this longstanding immortal of juvenile fiction. Roald Dahl explores this master of children's literature from childhood—focusing a tight lens on the relationship between Dahl and his mother, who lovingly referred to him as Apple—through to his death. Treglown deftly navigates Dahl's time as a fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force, exploring how the experience transformed many of the beliefs that influenced the English writer's work, including *The Gremlins*, which was commissioned by Walt Disney. A former editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*, Treglown discusses many of Dahl's most famous works, such as *James and the Giant Peach* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, while also delving into his marriage to actress Patricia Neal, combing through letters and archives to show a man who could be both comic and vitriolic, thoughtful yet manipulative and irascible. Treglown highlights many of Dahl's literary achievements as well as his breakdowns and shortcomings, presenting a very personal and telling picture of the author and the inner turmoil that crippled him. Separating the man from the myth, Treglown's frank, intimate portrait of Dahl illuminates the contradictions within the mind of this beloved author, a man who could be both a monster and a hero. It is required reading for book lovers and film buffs alike.

coughton court national trust: Special Section, Updating Shakespeare Graham Bradshaw, Tom Bishop, Tetsuo Kishi, 2008 The *Shakespearean International Yearbook* continues to provide an annual survey of important issues and developments in contemporary Shakespeare studies. This year the volume includes a special section on *Updating Shakespeare*, looking at Shakespearean adaptation in several countries. Contributors to the volume come from the US and the UK, Poland, Japan and Brazil.

coughton court national trust: *Renaissance Food from Rabelais to Shakespeare* Joan Fitzpatrick, 2016-04-08 Providing a unique perspective on a fascinating aspect of early modern culture, this volume focuses on the role of food and diet as represented in the works of a range of European authors, including Shakespeare, from the late medieval period to the mid seventeenth century. The volume is divided into several sections, the first of which is *Eating in Early Modern Europe*; contributors consider cultural formations and cultural contexts for early modern attitudes to food and diet, moving from the more general consideration of European and English manners to the particular consideration of historical attitudes toward specific foodstuffs. The second section is *Early Modern Cookbooks and Recipes*, which takes readers into the kitchen and considers the development of the cultural artifact we now recognize as the cookbook, how early modern recipes might work today, and whether cookery books specifically aimed at women might have shaped domestic creativity. Part Three, *Food and Feeding in Early Modern Literature* offers analysis of the engagement with food and feeding in key literary European and English texts from the early sixteenth to the early seventeenth century: François Rabelais's *Quart livre*, Shakespeare's plays, and seventeenth-century dramatic prologues. The essays included in this collection are international and interdisciplinary in their approach; they incorporate the perspectives of historians, cultural commentators, and literary critics who are leaders in the field of food and diet in early modern culture.

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