



Reference: Dartmouth Literary Tour 2021  
Date: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Experience: Literary Experience  
Connoisseur: Gemma Gibbs

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## OVERVIEW:

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Arrival date, Belmond Cadogan Hotel, London
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Belmond Cadogan Hotel, London
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Randolph Hotel, Oxford
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Randolph Hotel, Oxford
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Lainston House, Hampshire
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Departure date

## ACCOMMODATION:

### Belmond Cadogan Hotel – a stylish retreat in the heart of Chelsea

At the crossroads of London's most stylish neighbourhoods Chelsea, Knightsbridge and Belgravia the hotel opened in 2019 following the multi-million-pound sensitive restoration of a heritage.

building, dating back from 1887 In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was there that actress Lillie Langtry had secret assignations with the Prince of Wales and became close friend with fellow resident Oscar Wilde.

Although the Cadogan first opened as a hotel in 1887, it's nestled within the 93-acre Cadogan Estate, which has a history that goes back more than 300 years, according to the estate's archivist, Kira Charatan.

Hans Sloane, a renowned physician who counted three monarchs as his patients including King George I, bought the property in 1712 to store his collection of more than 70,000 objects such as books, drawings, coins and medals (they're now part of the collection of the British Museum, the British Library and London's Natural History Museum).

In 1717, his daughter, Elizabeth, married Baron Cadogan, a soldier and politician, and when the couple inherited the estate, it took on the Cadogan name.

The actress and socialite Lillie Langtry, who resided at 21 Pont Street, a quintessential and well-known street in Chelsea, was rumored to have met her lover, King Edward VII, at the hotel for secret trysts. When her house was later absorbed into the rooms of the Cadogan (a blue plaque outside celebrates this fact), Langtry would stay as an overnight guest in room 109.

Authors Bram Stoker and Mark Twain lived in the area and were likely regulars at the bar, but the most famous of them all was Oscar Wilde, who lived with his wife and two sons at 34 Tite Street, an easy 10-minute walk from the hotel.

Oscar Wilde frequently hosted friends at the bar while donning velvet smoking jackets in deep red and green hues. Oscar Wilde was arrested at the hotel on 6<sup>th</sup>



April 1895. Paying homage to Wilde was a priority: His beloved room 118 is known as the hotel's Royal Suite. There's also Oscar, the Swarovski-crystalled peacock in the private dining room – a tribute to Mr Wilde – and the Prince of Wales' feathers in Lillie Langtry's original dining room.

A stay at the Belmond Cadogan Hotel is like taking a step back in time to the days when Lillie Langtry, Oscar Wilde and a cadre of other colorful characters imbibed at the bar, engaged in scandalous affairs and brought a vivaciousness to the property with their mere presence.

There are other echoes of the past, and of Chelsea: the bold check uniforms of the doormen recalling Mary Quant; Lillie's panelled, stuccoed dining room, now one of two rooms that make up noted chef Adam Handling's restaurant; the specially commissioned, all-British art; and the library, and books in every room, curated by the staff of beloved John Sandoe Books, around the corner. Literary Chelsea also features in the much-Instagrammed Lift Lobby, whose walls are lined by 600 real books that have been cast in bronze, and in forthcoming John Sandoe-orchestrated literary gatherings.

### The Randolph Hotel – in the heart of the city of Oxford

Located in Oxford's city centre, the hotel is a landmark building with elegance the hotel has played host to prime ministers and presidents, and the renowned Morse Bar is instantly recognizable as the watering hole of Colin Dexter's world-famous detective, Inspector Morse.

The Randolph Hotel, was the first modern hotel in the centre of Oxford was the Randolph, built in the 1860s in the age of the railway with a direct omnibus service to the station. The Grade-II listed hotel was built between 1863 and 1866 by William Wilkinson, and is named after the Randolph Gallery (now the Ashmolean Museum) on the opposite side of the road.

The hotel was named not after Lord Randolph Churchill, who was connected with Blenheim Palace to the north of Oxford, but after Dr Francis Randolph, an eighteenth century university benefactor.[4] The University or Randolph Galleries (now part of the Ashmolean Museum) were built as a result of a thousand-pound gift left by Dr Randolph, a former Principal of St Alban Hall (now part of Merton College), who died in 1796.

### Lainston House Hotel

Dating back to the late 17th century, this divine country house hotel in Hampshire is noteworthy for several reasons throughout history. The house may date back to the 17th century, however the foundations show evidence of an earlier medieval dwelling. The chapel in the grounds dates from the 12th or 13th century and was a valuable asset.

Charles II commissioned renowned English architect Sir Christopher Wren to build a new palace in Winchester, who started work on the site in 1683. Building on the grounds of an earlier medieval dwelling, it became known as the home of Charles and his mistress Louise de Keroualle before he died in 1685. In 1711, courtier and diplomat, Sir Phillip Meadows bought the estate. His sister-in-law's husband was Sir John Evelyn, the grandson of the famous diarist and author of 'Silva, A Discourse on Forest Trees'. Sir John wrote a charming description of the estate in



'his' diary, which then went onto influence the planning of the Lime Avenue (c.1716).

Lainston House was then bought in 1721 by John Merrill MP, who was originally a goldsmith from Essex. In August 1744, the private chapel became the location of the secret late-night marriage between Elizabeth Chudleigh, niece of John Merrill MP, and Augustus Hervey, a naval officer who later became 3rd Earl of Bristol. Elizabeth was a Maid of Honour to the Princess of Wales, and the marriage could not be made public or she would have lost her job. With Augustus away on ship, and Elizabeth the 'toast' of court society, the marriage soon faltered.

Twenty-five years later, Elizabeth Chudleigh married the 2nd Duke of Kingston-upon-Hull. when he died she inherited his vast wealth, but his nephew, Evelyn Meadows, grandson of Sir Phillip above, took her to trial for bigamy in an unsuccessful attempt to recover his lost fortune. This was one of the great scandals of the day!

## **ITINERARY**

### Day 1: Arrival into London

- Arrival into Heathrow Airport
- Group transfer from Heathrow Airport to The Cadogan Hotel, Chelsea for check in
- Optional – visit to John Sandoe Books
- Evening welcome reception with faculty lecturer before dinner offsite (set menu)

### Day 2: Literary Tour of London

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Our knowledgeable guide will meet you at the hotel where you will begin your guided walking tour of London
- Intimate and exclusive guided tour of the Charles Dickens Museum
- Guided tour, led by the vergers at Westminster Abbey where you will see special parts of the Abbey, such as the Tomb of St Edward the Confessor, not accessible to general visitors. The verger will also take you to see Poets' Corner, royal tombs, the Lady Chapel and the nave
- Private visit to Jarndyce Antiquarian Booksellers – The 19th Century Booksellers who have been selling books since 1969 and in that time have published over 240 catalogues. Jarndyce Antiquarian are the leading specialists in 18th and, particularly, 19th century English Literature & History
- Private guided tour of the British Library followed by a private tasting menu for dinner. The tour includes a visit to the Viewing Gallery where you can see some of the Reading Rooms and find out how books are stored, accessed, and delivered

### Day 3: Experience Oxford: J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, & William Golding

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Meet your private guide at the hotel before a walking tour of Oxford's literary past. Colleges such as Magdalen, Merston and Christ Church will



be visited to enable you to experience just as it was by the writers themselves

- Visit to the University of Oxfordshire Botanic Gardens, established in 1621, the Garden is the third oldest scientific garden in the World (oldest in the UK) and contains over 8, 000 different plant species
- Behind the scenes tour of one of the oldest working libraries in the world the Bodleian Library, See the awe-inspiring architecture and hear the stories from the historic heart of the University
- View of Radcliffe Square and the iconic round Radcliffe Library – a library with more than 250 years of history
- View of St Marys Passage at Oriel Square - with a doorway sporting a lion's head knocker, flanked by two golden fawns, this tiny alley is often said to have inspired elements of CS Lewis' magical world in The Chronicles of Narnia
- *Optional – visit to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History (not included)*
- Lunch in Oxford city centre – set menu for the group
- Your walking tour will finish at the Eagle and Child Pub where you will have a drink before returning back to your hotel for an evening at leisure
- *Optional – evening river cruise (not included)*

#### Day 4: Shakespeare's Birthplace – Stratford upon Avon

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Travel to Stratford upon Avon with private guide
- Walking tour of Shakespeare's Birthplace, hear tales of Shakespeare's family life and get up close to rare objects from the Trust's world class collections as you discover how the extraordinary William Shakespeare continues to shape our lives today. Tour includes Nash House, New Place and Mary Ardens House
- Explore the beautifully furnished Jacobean home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her husband, the physician John Hall. Wander into the tranquil walled garden and discover the fragrant medicinal herbs, as John Hall would have used in his remedies.
- Visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the beautiful 500-year-old cottage where Shakespeare courted his bride-to-be
- Return to Oxford for an evening at your leisure

#### Day 5: Discover Downton Abbey & Chawton House

- Travel to Highclere Castle, the real-life home to Downton Abbey, where the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon reside to this day
- Group visit to the castle to include Staterooms, bedrooms, and grounds and gardens
- Viewing of the Egyptian Exhibit, where artifacts from the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb are on display. The 5th Earl of Carnarvon famously financed the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings where he died of uncertain causes (famously inspiring the "Mummy's Curse")



- Travel to Chawton House for a private luncheon and guided tour of the library reading rooms, exhibition, and gardens
- Afternoons visit to Stevenson Village, the birthplace of Jane Austen, while living at the rectory Jane drafted three of her novels: *Pride & Prejudice*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Sense & Sensibility*. Although the rectory is no more, you can still visit Steventon's St Nicholas Church, where Jane's father conducted services, and where Jane worshipped.
- Enjoy a lecture by Michael Kenning, the Vice-Chair of the Jane Austen Society, followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall
- Travel to Lainston House for a farewell reception and dinner

#### Day 6: Departure day

- Departure from Lainston House Hotel back to London Heathrow Airport

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