



Luton Hoo Estate and Bedfordshire Gardens Trust

Present a Study Day:

The impact of WW1 on a Bedfordshire Estate: Luton Hoo

Wednesday 10th April 2019

10.00-17.00



The years leading up to the outbreak of the Great War saw national, social and economic changes which gradually began to impact upon our country estates. When war broke out in 1914 they were to play a vital role in providing manpower and skills for the armed forces and food for the nation, but this contribution came at a cost. Owners and their heirs were killed, skilled workers were lost, taxes and death duties increased dramatically, and many estates struggled to survive. The repercussions were to be felt well into the twentieth century.

Research by volunteers at Luton Hoo Estate over the last 17 years will form the basis of the programme with additional material from Bedfordshire Gardens Trust. Talks, displays and a tour will present an overview of the period with special reference to Bedfordshire and the Luton Hoo Estate in particular. Why did it survive almost intact when others were sold or disappeared altogether?

- **Estates before WW1:** the challenges faced by estates including Luton Hoo before WW1 with particular reference to the problems in agricultural counties e.g. Bedfordshire.
- **Luton Hoo Estate during WW1 – Lady Wernher, Women’s Land Army, etc:** During the war Lady Alice Wernher, like many ladies, made huge efforts to support the war effort. Troops were based on the estate and inspected by the King George V, injured men convalesced in the mansion, charity work raised money, and Lady Wernher visited the front.
- **Luton Hoo Estate during WW1 – Men from the Estate who Served:** Workers were encouraged to enlist and the Roll of Honour names 99 men. Tracing them has provided a snapshot of life on the estate e.g. the cow man conscripted after the Land Army girls arrived.
- **Luton Hoo Estate after WW1 – Festivities for soldiers, Memorial Park, etc:** Unrest in 1919 resulted in the burning of Luton Town Hall so Lady Wernher immediately organised several large events for the war veterans. She also donated a memorial park to the town.
- **Estates after WW1:** Luton Hoo did not survive the war without either casualties, or some land sales but what happened to other estates in Bedfordshire?
- **Tour of part of Luton Hoo Estate and displays**

Enquiries to info@lhwg.org.uk or telephone 01582 721443 (www.lutonhooestate.co.uk)

Please discuss disability access with the organisers.

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Name(s):

Address:

Tel no: Email:

No. of places:at £45 **per person** (including lunch). Pay via internet sort code **18-00-02** a/c no **12234960** or by cheque payable to **Luton Hoo Walled Garden**. Please email or post applications to info@lhwg.org.uk or **WW1 Study Day, Luton Hoo Estate Office, Luton, Beds LU1 4LF**

Catering: Please indicate any specific dietary requirements