



Luton Hoo Estate and Bedfordshire Gardens Trust

Advance notice

A Study Day:

The impact of WW1 on a Bedfordshire Estate: Luton Hoo

Wednesday 10 April 2019

Bedfordshire Gardens Trust



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.

The programme of talks, displays and a tour will present an overview of the period with special reference to estates in Bedfordshire and the Luton Hoo Estate in particular. Why did it survive almost intact when others were sold or disappeared altogether?

Topics to be considered will include:

The agricultural depression at the end of the 19th century and its effect upon the Luton Hoo Estate.

The contribution of the Wernher family to the war effort at a national and local level.

Estate employees who went to fight.

The Women's Land Army.

How Luton Hoo and other estates evolved after WW1.

Location: **Luton Hoo Estate, Luton, Bedfordshire**

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www.lutonhooestate.co.uk

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