

Winterbourne 2014

A Gem hidden away in Edgbaston

It was a glorious day after so much rain, so must be an outing- and it was!

Back in the old routine with the Assistant Driver picking up from all points central for refreshments at the A & B Suite before setting off for Winterbourne House and gardens.

Our destination is not far, just being Edgbaston Park Road so we are there in no time.

The House is Edwardian and is listed as a grade 11 building. It was originally commissioned by John and Margaret Nettlefold in 1903; made of brick and tile with very large windows to let in the light and an unusual wavy roof line. The original garden was designed by Margaret and now occupies 7 acres.

After Nettlefold's death, the house had several sympathetic owners until in 1944 the house and gardens were bequeathed to Birmingham University who have refurbished it recently including using 'William Morris' wallpaper. The artefacts in the rooms bring back many memories for our visitors.

As you walk round each room a commentary comes on that make you feel you are transported back to the Edwardian times.

The gardens are breath-taking and delightful walk and one can only imagine them later in the year when the flowers are in bloom

You may know John Nettlefold better as being part of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds or GKN to those in the trade! He was an early town planner and like Cadbury was sympathetic to his workers living conditions and so built the 'Moor Pool Trust' estate in Harbourne that is still owned by its tenants.

Of course no trip is complete without a visit to the tea room and so it proved with the added bonus that we were able to sit outside and enjoy the gardens as well.

Winterbourne is so close and so worth a visit!