

## VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

In recent years, several DevaMog members have suggested organising a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR. As you may be aware, the Arboretum is a national monument to those who have lost their lives on duty or as an act of terrorism since the Second World War.

Several members have visited the site previously, which they highly recommend. The site is very large and you could easily spend a full day exploring the grounds. There are almost 400 memorials of all shapes and sizes to discover nestled amongst some 25,000 trees.



Tony and Margaret Green have kindly offered to organise a visit to the Arboretum on **Tuesday 20 June 2023**. The site can get very busy at weekends so we have opted for a mid week visit. Admission is free with a small charge for car parking (£4 if booked in advance or £6 on the day). Should you wish, you can 'let the train take the strain' and take a trip on a covered land train to explore the grounds of the Arboretum. The 50 minute pre-recorded commentary talks about the memorials you will find on site and the symbolism behind them. The train operates every 30 minutes and costs £6.50 per person. A range of hot food, sandwiches, soups, cakes and drinks are served in the restaurant. You are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy in the grounds if you wish.

As the Arboretum can get very busy, admission is on a timed basis so, in order to secure a mid-morning entry slot, we need to reserve admission tickets as soon as we can. Therefore, please let Joe Cleary know by **Tuesday 21 February 2023** if you are planning on participating in this visit. [joe.holthome@btinternet.com](mailto:joe.holthome@btinternet.com) Detailed joining instructions will be distributed nearer the time.

In addition to organising the Arboretum visit, Tony and Margaret have also made arrangements with a local hotel, the Dovecliffe Hall Hotel, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, for those members wishing to stop over night following their visit to the Arboretum. The

hotel is situated only ten miles from the Arboretum and has been used by DevaMog members in the past. The hotel has 13 rooms and a room rate of £180 has been agreed for dinner, bed and breakfast in a double room or £145 for a single room. We plan to dine together as a group. To reserve a room, please call the hotel directly on **01283 531818** and state you are part of the DevaMog group (Bianca and Debbie have been dealing with our booking). You will be asked to pay a 50% non-refundable deposit. This hotel is very popular and as room availability cannot be guaranteed, please reserve a room straight away if you are planning on staying over. Please let Joe know if you have booked into the Dovecliffe Hall Hotel. [joe.holthome@btinternet.com](mailto:joe.holthome@btinternet.com)



If you have time on the Wednesday, consider visiting Calke Abbey (NT) which is only 12 miles away from the hotel.

Please click on the links below for further details on the Arboretum and the Dovecliffe Hotel.

<https://www.thenma.org.uk/visit-us/plan-your-visit#>

<https://www.dovecliffhallhotel.co.uk>