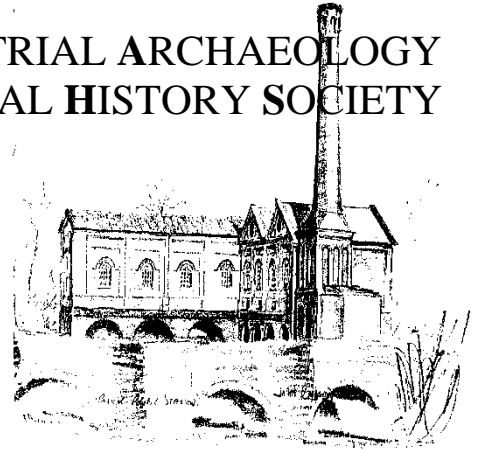


WORCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2018

It seems always to be the way that I entreat properties and businesses to open up for us for a society visit, but most fail to respond with dates or even acknowledgements. Missed opportunities this year included a visit to the new Broadway Station, as they are running behind after bad weather, bridge strike and a landslip. If other trips still sitting on the 'back-burner' come alive I might have to send out *ad hoc* invitations.



Our outings this year begin with a private afternoon visit to the recent Museum of Carpet, in Kidderminster. Julian Hunt is arranging a walk around Bromsgrove and hopefully the weather will be kinder than last year's around Belbroughton. We also have a visit arranged to Bromsgrove School in the only week when boarders or summer school pupils are not infesting the grounds.



The coach trips, which many of you have been forewarned about, are to Devizes, for a brewery (or town) visit, then Kelmscott the delightful home of William Morris, who was the progenitor of all the Arts and Crafts movements and societies in the Cotswolds. Finally, we visit Shrewsbury to see a Victorian pumping station in steam, followed by a relaxing river trip on the River Severn loop around the town.

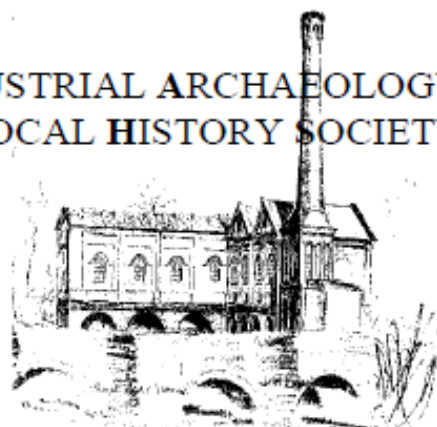
This year because of availability we have only one coach trip on a non-school day able to benefit from the ample street parking on Northwick Road. Free parking (coffee and loos), however, is now to be found at the new swimming baths on Bilford Rd (opposite the council recycling tip) so we will start from there for the other two. SWAG (the South Worcestershire Archaeological Society), again, are offering places on their coach trip to Newport and Christine is arranging some local visits near her home (details in Newsletter).

I look forward to seeing many of you on these trips over the coming summer.

**MikeH, Summer Programme
Secretary**



WORCESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Summary of Summer Programme 2018

APRIL

- Saturday **21 April** pm Visit C. Silvester's organised visit to Walled Garden, Fort Royal
- Wednesday 25 April pm 1 – Visit Kidderminster Museum of Carpet

MAY

- Monday 7 May MAY DAY
- Saturday 12 May am SWAG *Visit to Newport*
- Sunday 27 May pm 2 - Car Visit C. Silvester's visit to Sharpness & Purton Hulks
- Monday 28 May SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

JUNE

- Thursday 7 June am 3 – Coach to Devizes for brewery/town tour; am via Crofton
- Wednesday 13 June pm 4 – Visit Angel St. Hop Warehouse/Gaiety Theatre-Bar
- Monday 18 June am 5 – Walk Bromsgrove's past industries with Julian Hunt.

JULY

- Tuesday 31 July am 6a – Visit Churchill Forge Mill, *before* picnic/buffet lunch
- Tuesday 31 July pm 6b – Visit Churchill Forge Mill, *after* picnic/buffet lunch.

AUGUST

- Monday 20 August pm 7 – Visit Bromsgrove School
- Friday 24 August pm 8 – Walk Tour of Worcester High St and area
- Monday 27 August AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY
- Thursday 30 August am 9 – Coach To Kelmscott Manor, via Burford.
- Monday 29 August AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 17 July am 10 – Coach Shrewsbury Coleham steam pumps & river trip

Museum of Carpet

Wednesday 25th April

VISIT: Stour Vale Mill, Green Street, Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ

at 3:00pm

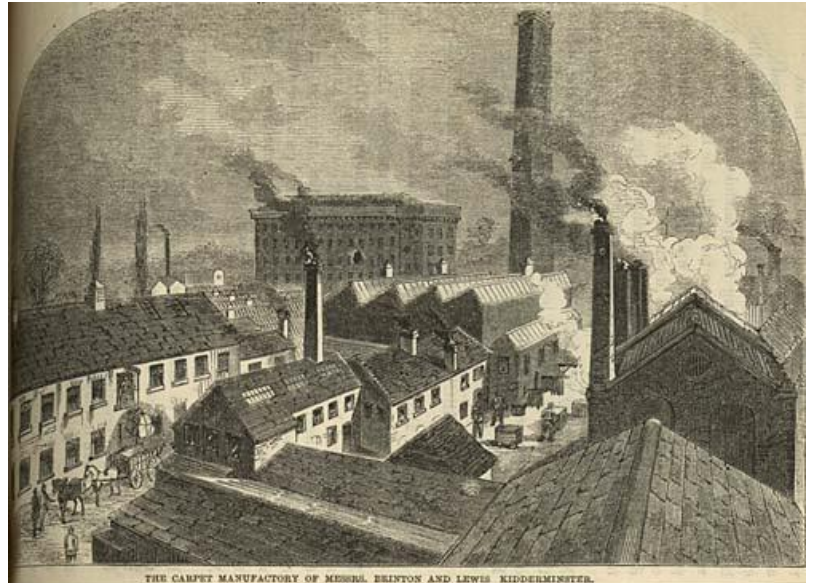
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The Museum of Carpet – the only museum in the UK dedicated to carpet and carpet making – opened in 2012. This is private viewing with an introductory talk

(3.15pm) then time to wander the museum with demonstrations of handloom and power loom in operation. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided and, if members provide it, some cake to share.

Kidderminster had been a textile producing town since medieval times. During the reign of Henry VIII, its industry had been

protected by statute, along with that of a number of other Worcestershire towns. By the seventeenth century, Kidderminster cloth was the only textile industry to survive and flourish because of the town's ability to adapt to changing needs and tastes. Already famous for its broadcloths, the town rapidly gained a reputation for producing what was known as "Kidderminster Stuff", which was used mainly for bed coverings and wall-hangings.



The evolution of carpeting has been affected by social, economic and fashion pressures. Developments



in man-made fibres, loom widths and machine efficiencies brought carpets within reach of the mass market. Fashions for seamless square and then seamless close-cover carpet helped introduce wider looms. Investigation into thermal and acoustical requirements led to fitted carpets in public buildings, shops and offices. Ingenious manufacturing solutions proliferated from the 1960's. Tiles, printing, warp printing, needle punched fibres and double faced bonded carpets all increased the ability of the carpet trade to cater for specific areas, price or the demands of fashion.

The museum closes to the public at 3pm, so do not try to enter, beyond the foyer, before this. They will also expect us all to leave by 5.30pm.

Parking is opposite the museum, in Pike Mills Long Stay Surface Car Park, New Road, Sat nav postcode: DY10 1AF: Daily till 6:30pm; Up to 3 hours @ £2.70, when last visited.

Meet @ 3pm at Carpet Museum Reception

Cost £7.50

Purton boat graveyard

Sunday 27th May

Organiser: Christine Silvester [ca visit/walk]

2pm Purton-see below

2

This is a follow-up of the recent talk on the Purton Hulks.

Paul Barnett, Maritime Historian, will take us for a guided walk around the wrecks at Purton.

Many more ships have now been recognized and named. Purton is a hidden gem, the largest ships graveyard in mainland Britain.

Between 1909 and 1963, at least 80 vessels were beached at Purton, originating from a stormy night 100 years ago when there was a massive landslip in a bank between the river and the parallel Sharpness to Gloucester Canal. A plea went out to commercial boat owners for old vessels to be run aground to plug the breach.



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We will meet Paul at the church, St. John, at 2p.m and we will have tea there, after the walk.

Purton is South of Gloucester and upriver from Sharpness, where we could also visit either before or after the walk. This is a visit by car and Christine expects that we will share cars.

Booking details below (as for Walled Garden visit).

Christine suggests we could all meet for lunch.

If you are interested, please phone Christine Silvester 01905 354679

PAY ON THE DAY

Meet at the church, Purton at 2p.m

Cost £3.50

Devizes (brewery) & Crofton

Thursday 7th June

3

Coach: from Bilford Rd swimming baths (free parking+loos)

@ 8.30am

We visit one of the oldest working steam engines in the world that is still able, occasionally, to perform the job they were built to do! There are two beam engines, one of which is an original 200-year-old Boulton & Watt. Both have a hand-stoked, coal-fired Lancashire boiler. These are magnificent pieces of industrial archaeology appealing both to families and steam enthusiasts. The engine house is set in unspoiled Wiltshire countryside close to the old market town of Marlborough. Coffee will be available.



We will depart before lunch to Devizes, where we will stop close to Wadworth's Brewery. It is a market day so expect the town to be busy, but you will have time to have lunch before our tour of the brewery at 2pm. There is plenty to do if you do not wish to have the brewery tour, as it includes steep stairs, uneven, wet floors, low ceilings and may prove difficult for some. Afterwards there is a "sampling" session. The tour is expected to be 2hrs + sampling time!



Alternatively, at the Wiltshire Museum you'll find award-winning displays of Gold from the Time of Stonehenge. This is Britain's best Bronze Age archaeology collections, and you can discover more about the mysteries of Stonehenge & Avebury and the people who used these iconic monuments.

At the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust Museum, adjacent to the brewery, you can discover the fascinating story of this delightful waterway, its construction, use and subsequent near demise, and the work done in recent times to restore it. You can take a walk along the towpath to the top of the Caen lock flight (about 1 mile).

We hope to leave Devizes by the road passing the bottom of the flight, a couple of miles out of town.



Meet @ 8.30am at Bilford Rd swimming baths

Cost £31 Including brewery tour
Cost £21 without brewery tour

Angel St. Hop Warehouse

Wednesday 13th June

Organiser: Carl Jukes [visit]

12 noon in front of former Co-op Angel St.

This is a follow-up of last year's guided walk to the hidden history around Angel Place.

4

We were aware that last year we did not manage to get either group into the Hop Warehouse nor the Gaiety Bar. In fact, only the two groups from the previous year managed this. This then is a chance for those previous groups and last year's group to visit these two adjacent buildings before they are redeveloped.

Carl Jukes is a former Conservation Officer of Worcester City Council and probably knows most about what lies behind many of the city's buildings.

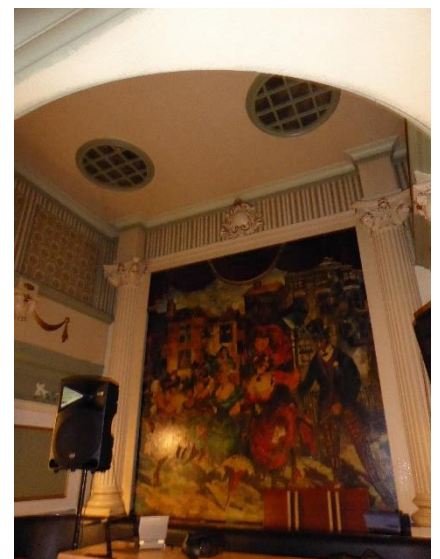
Documentary evidence and previous external mouldings on the adjacent former Corn Exchange now inside the warehouse suggest the hop warehouse was built soon the Corn Exchange, which was completed 1849/1850. An alleyway along the side of it, the re-routed Angel Passage is now built over by the upper floors that extend over the passage.



A previous hop and seed warehouse stood on part of, (or partly adjacent to) this site. That was owned by Edwin Brewin, who was also a founder shareholder of the Corn Exchange. He acquired a strip of surplus land after the Corn Exchange was built and demolishing the original warehouse built this right up to the side of the Corn Exchange, leaving just a tunnel entry to the premises behind.

The building has been in use, until recently, as a document store (for some decades), plus a one room lock-up shop on Angel Street, which is still in use. Upstairs, it is thus otherwise largely unaltered from its hop warehouse use, retaining some equipment. As the internal walls and ceilings have never been clad (even the roof is open to the slates), original, Baltic, shipping marks and carpenter's construction marks are visible on many of the timbers.

If there is time and access is available, we will also visit the former gaiety bar, under the same ownership, which is in an adjacent building.



Please don't come in your Sunday finery!

PAY ON THE DAY

Meet under canopy of old Co-op, Angel Street @ 12 am

Cost £3

Bromsgrove

Monday 18th June

10.30am @ TBA

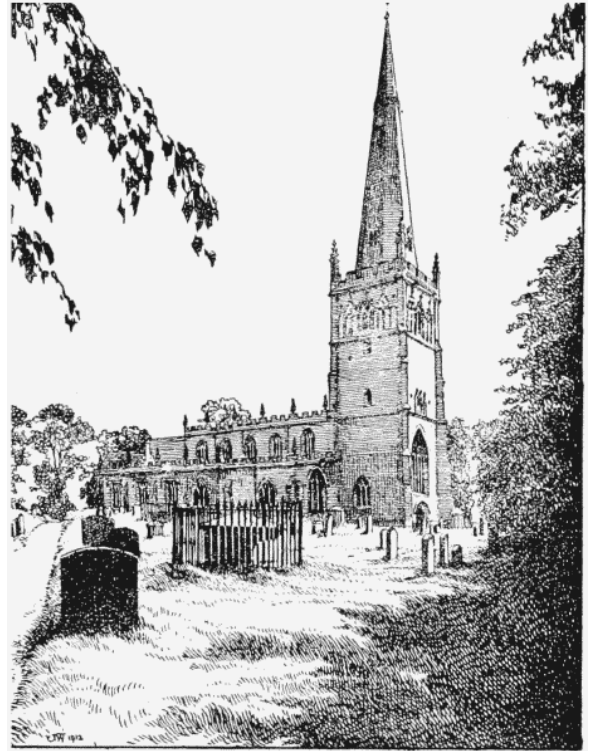
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Guide: Julian Hunt [walk 30 max]

A walk around the village, with our guide, Julian Hunt, the local historian who gave us a rather wet walk around Belbroughton last year. This year, he, with possible one or two of his society colleagues from the Bromsgrove Society will tour us around the evidence of Bromsgrove's past.

As long ago as the 5th or 6th Century there was a village at Bromsgrove. It stood on the hill on the site of the present parish church. The village, of Saxon origin, was known variously as Bremesbyrig, Bremegrefa and Bremesgrave. In the Middle Ages Bromsgrove was an important Market town. Bromsgrove School was an important institution thought to have been founded by Edward VI.

The Court Leet represents the old form of government with its Lord of the Manor and Bailiff and a colourful procession on the nearest Saturday to Midsummer Day.



In the 16thC industry grew in Bromsgrove with nail-making becoming the major industry in the town and surrounding villages. The industry flourished for 300 years, dying out in the 19thC when machine made nails were introduced.

In 1894 William Gilbert formed a Guild of Applied Arts in Bromsgrove as

part of the Arts and Crafts movement. He began designing decorative ironwork in an old foundry in Bromsgrove, employing skilled workers who produced some famous work, including the gates of Buckingham Palace.

Booking fee will go to the Bromsgrove Society.

Meeting place to be agreed and advised later

Cost £4

Churchill Forge Mill

Tuesday 31st July

6^a
6^b

Morning Visit: 10.30am @ Churchill Forge Mill, DY10 3LX

This will be for an hour and a half visit and explore this mill, just north of Kidderminster. After the visit, if you wish their catering will provide a sandwich spread from 12:30pm for a picnic buffet *for an extra £2.50.*

Afternoon Visit: 1.30pm @ Churchill Forge Mill, DY10 3LX

This will be for a repeat of the above, but for the *extra £2.50 AND by turning up at 12:30pm*, you will also be able to partake of the sandwich buffet.

Churchill Forge lies in the valley of the Ganlow Brook which rises in the Clent Hills in North Worcestershire, and flows down to meet the River Stour, which itself is a tributary of the Severn. Churchill Forge is the last many water powered forges that could once be found in this area. It has, for many years, been in the hands of the Bache family, a family that has had many connections with the forge over the years.

The power for the forge is provided by two water wheels. The water to turn these wheels is stored in "Hammer Pond" a pool, some two acres in extent, which was formed, probably as early as the 13th or 14th century, by damming the Ganlow Brook, the embankment thus formed now being the approach road to the forge. A sluice gate allows water from the pond to enter a culvert under the footpath and into two header tanks from which it can be released when the wheels are



required to turn.



The forge produced what falls into the category of edged metal tools. From 1700 onwards the principal items made were spades, shovels, forks, rakes, hoes, cultivators, salt skippets (special shovels for the salt industry at nearby Droitwich), and ladles, which by 1960 were the main product and were used in the Stourbridge glass industry and the metal refineries of the West Midlands. The ladles were produced from one piece of steel and were considered to be of superior quality due to the very good design of the pouring lip.

In the same building as the forge, on a higher level, is what was the grinding shop, but is now utilised to house an exhibition of former products and historic photographs.

Toilets are now available and off-road parking opposite the entrance to the lane leading to the site.

A: Meet @ 10.30am at forge, Churchill DY10 3LX

Cost £6

LUNCH : Meet @ 1pm at forge's Watermill café FOR BUFFET

Cost £2.50

B: Meet @ 1.30pm at forge, Churchill DY10 3LX

Cost £6

Bromsgrove School

Monday 20th August

7

Visit: park inside main Worcester Rd. gates, main car park

2pm

Bromsgrove School, is believed to have been founded in 1553. It is a co-educational independent public school in Worcester Rd, Bromsgrove.

The school was first recorded in 1476 as a chantry school now 540 years old, and was re-established as a

Tudor grammar school between 1548 and 1553. The financial endowment of Sir Thomas Cookes in 1693 produced the first buildings on the present site and the historic link with Worcester College, Oxford which shares the same coat of arms and motto, based on those of Thomas Cookes of Norgrove. John Day Collis became head-master in December 1842. The tercentenary of the grammar school was celebrated on 31 March 1853. In 1856 Collis had the chapel and new school rooms built, and existing buildings enlarged and improved.



The Chapel. Built 1931, This was to the designs of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and executed by J. and A.. Brazier Ltd for Bromsgrove School. It was extended by one bay to west in 1960. Pale brown brickwork with Clipsham stone dressings, with plain tile roofs. Its long rectangular plan is dominated by the nave.

It was formerly the King Edward VI School. Circa 1695 of 3 storeys plus attic. The elevation facing the street has central entrance of painted stonework, having curved pediment entablature with double four fielded-panel oak doors. The ivy clad walls appear to be mainly of late C17



brickwork with moulded stone base and stone quoining to corners.

Our visit will be around two hours. Starting with an introductory talk, we will be split into groups for the tour regrouping for tea.

Meet by 2pm at the School refectory (via Worcester Rd gates) B61 7DU

Cost £3

Kelmscott

Thursday 30th August

9.30am @ Northwick Rd, Lodges Park

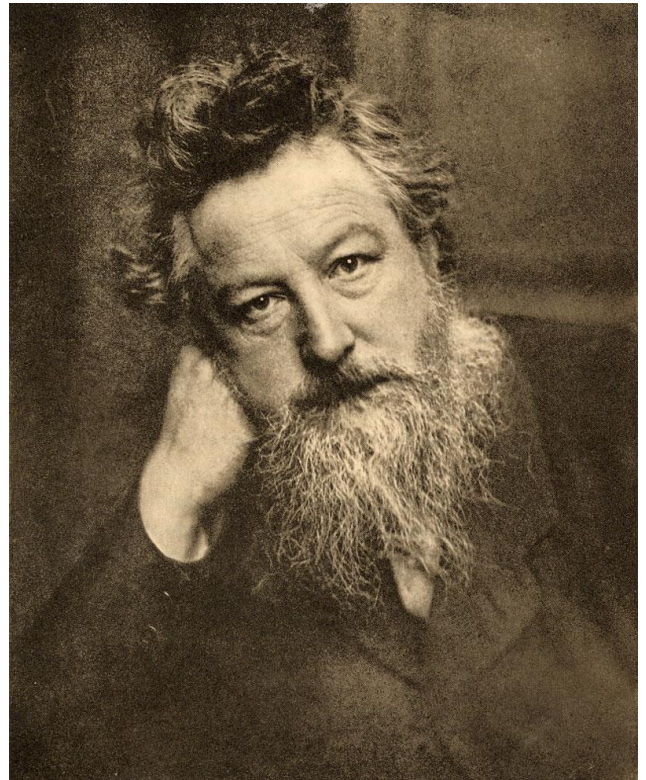
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Coach Visit:

Max 35 (smaller coach required)

Kelmscott Manor is a grade 1 Listed Tudor farmhouse adjacent to the River Thames, was built in 1570, with an additional wing added to the northeast corner in about 1665. The Manor is built of local limestone on the edge of the village of Kelmscott near Lechlade.

William Morris, the Father of the Arts & Crafts Movement, chose it as his summer home, signing a joint lease with Pre-Raphaelite painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti in 1871. Morris loved the house as a work of true craftsmanship and described it as “Heaven on Earth”. The Manor and its setting inspired Morris to create some of his most famous designs, including the Willow Bough and Strawberry Thief. Today the Manor displays textiles and furniture designed and produced by Morris, his associates and family.



Morris—contains an outstanding collection of the possessions and works of Morris, as well as of his family and associates (Benson, Burne-Jones, Rossetti and Webb among them) that includes furniture, original textiles, pictures and paintings, carpets, ceramics and metalwork. The estate also boasts a beautiful garden with easy access to the Thames Pathway, as well as a licensed Tearoom and Shop.

We will call at Burford in the morning, for lunch.

Visitors today can still experience the beauty and seclusion that inspired many of William Morris's most important designs and writings and influenced his ideas on conservation for both the built and natural environments. This seventeenth-century, Grade 1 listed Manor house on the river Thames—perhaps the most evocative of all the houses associated with



Meet @ 9.30am at Northwick Road, Lodges Park

Cost £31

Shrewsbury, Coleham (in steam) Monday 17th Sept

10

Coach: from Bilford Rd swimming baths (free parking) @ 8.30am

Coleham Pumping Station :

Resembling a Victorian Chapel in style, was built circa 1900 to house two massive steam-driven beam engines. The Shropshire Star reported the opening ceremony on January 4th 1901.

The two beam engines were built in-situ by Renshaws of Stoke in 1897/1898. They were used to pump sewage as part of Shrewsbury's new sewerage system. The coal-fired boilers drove the beam engines that operated the pumps until 1970. After that date ownership of the building, machinery and grounds was transferred to Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council (later to become Shropshire Council) to ensure the history and machinery was preserved for all to see.



The Museum comprises the Pumping Station buildings, which are listed with English Heritage as being of architectural importance, and in-situ beam-engines plus other items belonging to Shrewsbury Steam Trust [SST].

This trust was formed to restore and care for the beam engines and boilers at the site. It operates Coleham Pumping Station on behalf of Shropshire Council Museums Service. They do not receive any grants from Shropshire Council and fund the operation and maintenance of the beam engines

and boilers from your entrance money and donations. Everything at the museum is carried out by volunteer members of the SST.

After lunch in Shrewsbury we have booked a 1hr boat trip at 3pm on the Sabrina around the Shrewsbury loop of the River Severn. Tea/coffee & biscuits are to be available on board. We shall dock back at Victoria Quay, by Welsh Bridge, returning home directly.

The journey out will be via Kidderminster, Bridgenorth so a local pickup there can be arranged, but a comfort stop will be made on this outward journey, Coleham will provide drinks (but only has but 1 loo).



Coach from Bilford Rd swimming baths

Cost £30