

Probus Club of Cardiff, Llanishen



Visit to the Nantgarw China Works with lunch

Friday 21st February 2020

Our first outing of 2020 is to the Nantgarw China Works which is the only surviving early 19th century porcelain works in the United Kingdom. In the years 1813-1814 and again in the period 1817-1820 the finest porcelain in the world was produced here in Wales by William Billingsley, one of the most remarkable porcelain painters and manufacturers of his time.



William Billingsley perfected his porcelain recipe at Nantgarw with the addition of a variety of ingredients known only to him and succeeded in producing the finest porcelain ever made. Nantgarw Porcelain is unique in that it is a bone ash/frit based soft-paste porcelain body which no other porcelain can come close to in translucency or whiteness. Furthermore, the glaze on Nantgarw porcelain is the perfect complement to enamelled decoration giving the colours true vibrancy and allowing the decoration to merge into the glaze. We are very fortunate that the Chief Executive, Charles Fortune has agreed to tell us about the history of the works, describe the various types of porcelain and explain the manufacturing process.

Directions: This is a self-drive visit with arrival scheduled for 10.15am. There is good parking available on and around the site. The address is Nantgarw China Works Tyla Gwyn, Nantgarw, Rhondda Cynon Taff, **CF15 7TB** Tel: 01443 844131.

By Car: From the A470, take the turning marked for Treforest Industrial Estate and Caerphilly and at the roundabout, head towards the Treforest Industrial Estate (A4054). At the next roundabout, take the 4th junction. The China Works is up the hill.

Schedule: The day visit will start at 10.30am and end at 3.30pm and consist of:

- Tea/coffee & cake on arrival
- Introductory talk including how Nantgarw porcelain has been recreated.
- Dedicated guided tour including areas not usually seen by the public
- Lunch – cold buffet, including sandwiches, meats, quiches, salads etc.
- Demonstration of pipe making
- Demonstration of slip casting Nantgarw Porcelain.
- Afternoon tea/coffee and cake

Due to the nature of the historic site visitors will need to be able to climb a few steps and negotiate some uneven ground so stout shoes are recommended.

Cost

The cost inclusive of lunch is **£17.50 per person** subject to a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 35 visitors. We need to advise of numbers 5 days in advance so please reply in good time to avoid disappointment.

To secure your seat(s) please return your acceptance slip with a cheque for **£17.50** per person payable to “The Probus Club of Cardiff Llanishen” or by BACS transfer to the Probus account if you prefer (Sort code 40-16-30 A/c no 51099396) **not later than Thursday 13th February 2020** to:

Malcolm McGreevy, Cilmeri, 24 Hardwicke Court, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2LB, Tel.: 029 20 555150 / 07780 682874: E-mail: mcgreevy03@aol.com.

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Name(s).....

Please secure me..... places for the visit to the Nantgarw China works on Friday 21st February 2020 at a cost of £17.50 per person for which I enclose a cheque for £..... or I have made a BACS transfer to the Probus bank account Sort code 40-16-30 A/c no 51099396 (delete as appropriate)