



# The Chester Civic Trust

## NANTWICH TOUR AND VISIT TO COMBERMERE ABBEY

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

Our day will begin with an introduction by Nantwich Civic Trust who will enlighten us of their recent activities. We will then be given a guided tour of the town.

Nantwich is largely known for its Elizabethan history as the black and white buildings make the first impact on visitors as they approach Nantwich. However it also has a significant Roman history in that the salt springing from the banks of the River Weaver brought the Romans to this town. Nantwich also has some fine Georgian and Victorian buildings too.

Salt was one of the reasons why the town was able to afford its imposing parish church, sometimes called 'South Cheshire's Cathedral'. Salt and this church also link the town to Combermere Abbey.

There will then be free time to explore independently. The magnificent parish church with its famous misericords is a must. You may also wish to visit the town's museum. There is time to have lunch before departing for Combermere Abbey.

Combermere Abbey was a monastery from the 1130s, eventually becoming part of the Cistercian Order. The house has been remodeled at least three times since the Reformation. The present building is a Gothic house from the 1820s but the original Tudor and parts of the monastic house are under this shell.

Combermere is Grade I Listed, but since the 1950s it had been recognized that the north wing was uninhabitable. It eventually formed part of English Heritage's At Risk List. In 1992 Sarah Collander Becket inherited the house and her energy and entrepreneurial skills have begun to protect the house from further risk.

This is the first year that some of the restored first floor rooms have been opened for private tours. The work done here won two awards in 2015; the Historic England Angels Award and the Historic Houses' Association/Sotheby's Restoration Award.

Our visit will include a tour of the gardens. This work has been part of the plan to make the house a business concern. We will then see the restoration work and finally have tea/coffee and cake before returning to Chester for approximately 5 p.m.

The cost of the visit will be £23. This includes guided tours, entrance to the Abbey, refreshments at the Abbey, the coach and gratuities.

We will leave Handbridge at 9.15 a.m., the Railway Station at 9.20 a.m. and Boughton at 9.25 a.m.

### **Places are limited to 30.**

To book your place cut off this slip and send it to Chester Civic Trust, Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 51/53 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE, enclosing a cheque payable to Chester Civic Trust. Please note tickets will not be issued, but you will be notified by e-mail or telephone

Nantwich and Combermere Abbey, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Name (s)

I enclose a cheque to the value of

My contact details are telephone \_\_\_\_\_ and/or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**I will be getting on the coach at Handbridge/ the Railway Station/Boughton Please circle**