

Concerts and functions

Concerts

A varied programme of concerts and events takes place in the magnificent Victorian Music Room.



Weddings and functions

St. Mary's is licensed for Civil Marriages and provides a beautiful setting for luncheons, dinners, and receptions.



Education

St. Mary's important history provides an informative study visit for school groups.

Supported by

Charitable Trust

The St. Mary's *Historic House and Gardens Charitable Trust* (Registered Charity No. 1103429) has been established to preserve St. Mary's House and Gardens for future generations. Please consider our Trust when making a donation or bequest.

Friends and volunteers

The *Friends of St. Mary's* help to support the house and gardens through fundraising activities. St. Mary's also provides a unique volunteering opportunity for those with a love for their heritage.

O
P
E
N
D
A
Y
S
.
G
R
O
U
P
V
I
S
I
T
S
.
W
E
D
D
I
N
G
S

A personal welcome awaits you from the owners, author and composer Peter Thorogood, and Curator and designer Roger Linton, pictured here with Mary Thorogood.



Public Open Afternoons

May to end of September
Sundays, Thursdays, Bank Holiday Mondays
2—6 pm. Last entry 5 pm.

Group Visits

1 April to end of September
Daily 9—6 (except public open afternoons), by prior arrangement
Guided tours. Reduced rates for parties of 25 or over.

Refreshments

Morning coffee or country house teas served in the Victorian Music Room.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop stocks a wide range of souvenirs, including books and music by the owner of St. Mary's, Peter Thorogood.

Where is St. Mary's?

St. Mary's House is in Bramber village off the A283, 1 mile E of Steyning, 10 miles from Brighton, 56 miles from London and 25 miles from Gatwick. Trains hourly from London Victoria to Shoreham-by-Sea with connecting buses 20 or 2A (direction Steyning; alight at St. Mary's stop). Free car and coach park in grounds. Wheelchair access to ground floor and gardens. Guide dogs only.

St. Mary's House, Bramber,
West Sussex BN44 3WE

Tel/fax: 01903 816205

email: info@stmarysbramber.co.uk

Website: www.stmarysbramber.co.uk



TOURISM
SOUTH EAST



Printed by Gemini Press 01273 464884

St. Mary's

House & Gardens



BRAMBER WEST SUSSEX

Features in Simon Jenkins' book
ENGLAND'S THOUSAND BEST HOUSES

A step back in time

The House

The Gardens



Enchanting historic house, c1470, in the picturesque award-winning downland village of Bramber.

The **fine interiors**, which include the King's Room and the unique Elizabethan 'Painted Room' with its intriguing *trompe l'oeil* murals, give an air of tranquillity and timelessness. Informative guided tours for groups tell of fact and legend.

Literary connections. Oscar Wilde, in his hilarious comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, included a brilliant caricature of the 19thC owners of St. Mary's, the Hon. Algernon and Mrs Gwendolen Bourke. A later owner, Alfred Musgrave, is said to have given Sir Arthur Conan Doyle the idea for his intriguing Sherlock Holmes mystery, *The Musgrave Ritual*.

St. Mary's House & Gardens has also served as a location in a number of television broadcasts, including the world-famous *Dr. Who*.

St. Mary's is a house of fascination and mystery. Many thousands of visitors have admired its picturesque charm and enjoyed its atmosphere of friendliness and welcome, qualities which make it.....

a visit to remember



The **Monks' Parlour** is notable for its massive 'dragon' beam and fine 17thC inglenook.

The **Hall** is embellished with exquisite 17thC gilded wall-leather, decorated with flowers, fruit and birds.

The **Octagonal Dining Room** displays a collection of over eighty English costume dolls.

The **Victorian Music Room** is an elegant setting where traditional teas are served.

The 16th century **Painted Room** is said to have been painted for a visit by Queen Elizabeth I.

The **Library** contains mainly 18thC and 19thC books, including the unique private collection of works by the Victorian comic poet and caricaturist Thomas Hood, on whose life and work Peter Thorogood is the leading authority.



Five acres of charming gardens

The **Topiary Garden**, entered through a pleached lime walk, contains a variety of box and yew shrubs trimmed into shapes of amusing animals and birds. In the summer months, colourful parterres and a brilliant display of hollyhocks complete the picturesque scene.

The **Terrace Garden**, sometimes used for open-air performances, has fine herbaceous borders, rose beds, the mysterious ivy-clad Monks' Walk and an exceptional example of the prehistoric 'Living Fossil' tree, *Ginkgo Biloba* – the world's oldest specie of deciduous tree.

The **Victorian 'Secret' Garden** has a massive 140 ft. fruit wall with the original heated pineapple pits and stove-house. The Victorian potting shed and apple store now houses a Rural Museum of horticultural implements. The Jubilee Rose Garden was planted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Visit the Poetry Garden in the former Circular Orchard.

