



**SEA FEVER**  
VICTORIAN VISIONARIES ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT  
**INSCAPE RETREAT**

FRIDAY 23 TO MONDAY 26 JUNE 2017

*Oh, ye! who have your eyeballs vexed and tired,  
Feast them upon the wideness of the Sea;*

Keats, 'On the Sea', written in Shanklin, Isle of Wight.

At intervals during the years 1817-1819 the lyrical poet John Keats found inspiration for some of his finest poetry, including 'Endymion' and 'On the Sea' on the Isle of Wight. A generation on, in 1853, Emily and Alfred Tennyson found their summer home in the village of Freshwater. Tennyson spent his last forty years of life there. By 1845 Prince Albert and Queen Victoria began building their rambling Italianate palace, Osborne House, as the site for the Royal Family summer holidays. Elsewhere on the island, Swinburne spent his childhood, Dickens wrote *David Copperfield*, and mother of six Julia Margaret Cameron established photography as an art form in its own right. Distinguished friends paying visits to her house at Freshwater, Dimbola Lodge, were persuaded to sit interminably for unique portrait sessions. They included her neighbours the Tennysons, the Liddells, Lewis Carroll, who wrote part of *Alice in Wonderland* here; the painter G. F. Watts; the poets Robert Browning and Henry Taylor; scientists Charles Darwin and Sir John Herschel; and the historian and philosopher Thomas Carlyle. Life-long disciple of Ruskin, John Whitehouse established the avant-garde Bembridge School on Ruskinian principles in 1919.

In order to conjure up the spirits of creativity endemic to certain circles during the 19c.-20c, we have planned a rich and satisfying cultural study experience on the Isle of Wight. We treat ourselves to a harbourside Inscape Retreat with the very comfortable 17c George Hotel on the water's edge between castle and pier as our base of operations. Morning lectures by Nicholas will be followed by optional afternoon excursions including a private curator's tour at Osborne House and Julia Margaret Cameron's Dimbola Lodge; a private visit to Tennyson's Farringford House, now a literary centre, and, hosted by the former headmaster Dr James Dearden, a private visit to Bembridge School.

### **FRIDAY 23 JUNE**

- 10.05 Train leaves London Waterloo
- 12.40 Arrive Yarmouth Station, minibus to George Hotel
- 1.00 Drinks reception and Group Lunch in George Hotel
- 2.30 Check in and rest.
- 3.30 Leave for St Mildred's Church, Osborne House
- 4.30 Tea at Osborne House
- 5.00 Private tour of Osborne House with curator Michael Hunter
- 6.30 Leave for hotel
- 7.00 Arrive hotel
- 8.00 Group Dinner in hotel

### **SATURDAY 24 JUNE**

- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Julia Margaret Cameron: An Artist Against All Odds*
- 12.30 Group Lunch in Hotel
- 2.00 Leave for Freshwater.
- 2.30 Arrive Dimbola Lodge Museum for curator tour on Julia Margaret Cameron
- 4.00 Tea
- 4.30 Return to hotel
- 7:30 Dinner in Hotel and after dinner readings

### **SUNDAY 25 JUNE**

- 10.30 Coffee
- 11.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Tennyson and Friends*
- 12.30 Group Lunch in Hotel
- 2.00 Leave for Freshwater
- 2.30 Arrive Freshwater for optional walk on Tennyson Down and tea in his Farringford House
- 5.00 Leave for hotel
- 7:30 Dinner in Hotel and after dinner readings

### **MONDAY 26 JUNE**

- 10.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Ruskin and Bembridge School*
- 11.00 Coffee in Hotel
- 11.30 Leave for Bembridge School via Goshill Church and Bonchurch
- 12.30 Lunch in Lockslane Contemporary Bistro
- 2.00 Leave for Bembridge School Chapel to see stained glass with Jim Dearden, former headmaster
- 3.00 Leave for Ryde station
- 3.47 Train leaves Ryde Station
- 5.59 Train arrives Waterloo



## THE GEORGE HOTEL

Quay Street  
Yarmouth, Isle of Wight  
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TEL: 01983 760331

The George Hotel is a former 17th Century townhouse built on the water's edge between the castle and pier in the bustling harbour town of Yarmouth. Once home to the most noteworthy of the Island's Governors, Sir Robert Holmes, important officials and even King Charles II visited there. Today the country house interior with its sweeping staircase, ancient panelling, and stone flags is complemented by smart contemporary flourishes. The 17 bedrooms are individually designed, many with spectacular views of the Solent or the vibrant harbour.

**COST** £1595 Members, £1645 non-Members, £95 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes three nights accommodation with breakfast, two coffees, four lunches with wine, four dinners with wine, lectures and readings by Nicholas Friend, all private curators tours and visits and all travel during the tour, VAT, tips and service. Excludes travel to and from the Isle of Wight.