

Crowcombe Court was built as a statement of wealth and a house to entertain in by Thomas Carew. Completed in 1740 to a design by Nathaniel Ireson, who also built Stourhead and Venn House, the style is described as English Baroque and sits across the Queen Anne and Georgian periods. The house was owned by the Carew family until the 1960s and then, following a number of incarnations, has been saved and restored to its former glory over the last four years.

The Great Hall makes for a grand entrance with fine examples of Italian plasterwork throughout. The Ballroom, remodelled in 1870, reputedly by Edward Barry, is a riot of Victorian colour and style. The superb marble fireplace is thought to have come from Stowe. The Dining Room floor is painted with the arms of the Carew family. The house also benefits from vaulted Undercrofts, which would have held the winter stores for the household. The tour includes access to the two principal bedrooms as well as the private drawing room of the owners, David and Kate Kenyon. The house holds a number of significant items of furniture and paintings.

The chatelaine Kate Kenyon is a direct descendent of James Morrison, subject of a recent biography entitled 'A Genius for Money'. Morrison was described as the richest commoner in England in the 18th century and his wealth allowed him to build or purchase a number of great houses including Basildon Park and Fonthill. Later generations have held property in Herefordshire and the Hamptworth Estate in Wiltshire. Crowcombe Court is the most recent manifestation of the inheritance, which has come down the generations.

The gardens at Crowcombe Court, which run to over 10 acres, have been neglected for more than 50 years. The Kenyons have begun a project, currently in its early stages, called 'See the Garden Grow', which will restore these grounds. They include, in various states of restoration, a walled kitchen garden, a wild garden, an arboretum and a small lake. The tour includes the gardens and visitors are welcome to continue to enjoy them after the tour. Full tour 2 hours, including tea, coffee and cakes. £15.00 Minimum size of tour party 15. Maximum size 30 (under normal circumstances).

Alternatively, we are able to offer a 2 course lunch for parties over 15 guests. Maximum 50 guests Full tour 2½ hours, including 2 course lunch. £25.00

Cold Option A Cold Poached Salmon Hollandaise Sauce New Potatoes Asparagus Salad

> Lemon Tart Clotted Cream

Cold Option B Chicken Breast Coronation Sauce Wild Rice Mixed leaf Salad

> Eton Mess Fruit Coulis

Hot Option

Beef Bourguignon Med. Vegetable Ratatouille Colcannon Potatoes Broccoli Florets

Baked Chocolate Torte Clotted Cream

We ask that one menu is selected on behalf of the group. Please inform us of any dietary requirements no later than 7 days before the event.