



THE ROYAL WEEKEND PARTY

On 25th June 1898 Francis and Daisy Greville, the 5th Earl and Countess of Warwick organised a very special weekend house party, at which the principal guest was the Prince of Wales, who would later become King Edward VII. The guest list was reserved only for members of the Marlborough set, a group of fast living nobles surrounding the Prince and named after his residence, Marlborough house. The guests in 1898 included a young Winston Churchill. The Royal Weekend Party is a recreation of this social event. The bulk of the furniture and fittings on display are those from the period and photographs and inventories have allowed the creators of this exhibition to accurately replicate the layout of the rooms and ensure that they feel authentically Victorian.



LADIES BOUDOIR

This was a place for the ladies to relax and catch up on any gossip. Much went on within the Marlborough set that would have shocked the outside world and particularly the court of Queen Victoria. However one of the rules of the set was 'what happens behind closed doors stays behind those doors'.



THE KENILWORTH BEDROOM

There are of course bedrooms upstairs most notable of which is the Kenilworth Bedroom which is on the far side of the corridor, known as the Minstrel's Gallery which overlooks the Great Hall. The Kenilworth Bedroom has a distinctly Tudor/Jacobean feel due to panelling and carved wooden frieze surrounding the walls. This was acquired from Kenilworth Castle when the rooms were renovated after the fire in 1871. The frieze and panelling were originally commissioned by Robert Dudley for Queen Elizabeth I's visit to Kenilworth in 1575. This bedroom is considered to be the most haunted in the castle. A number of sightings have been reported in the room and people sometimes claim to feel uneasy or cold upon entering.





THE MUSIC ROOM

In the days before television, radio and computer games making music was a major diversion for the upper class. The music room at Warwick is Georgian in style and décor. Seated at the 19th Century Steinway grand piano in this room is Paolo Tosti, the well-known Italian composer and music master to the royal family. He is accompanying the singer Clara Butt. Children are often amazed at how tall she is (1.87 metres).



UPSTAIRS

Upstairs in the house you will find a nursery; children of the family would have been looked after by a nurse for most of the day, coming downstairs in the evenings in order to spend a little time with the family.



THE LIBRARY

The decoration in this room is hand painted and features heraldry from past generations and families in the castle's history, including the Greville family. See if your students can spot the Greville coat of arms.



THE SMOKING ROOM

Under the strict orders of the Countess Daisy, smoking was forbidden in the other private apartments; hence a room where men could meet to smoke and play cards.

