

**Chapter 1 : Off Road Under 17 Junior Driving at Chavenage Estate, Gloucestershire**

*Chavenage is an Elizabethan building retaining many of its original features (dating from before ). As a result, there is unfortunately no wheelchair access, and there are steps and uneven floors throughout the house.*

Email About Seen through the gatepiers which guard the entrance to its forecourt, Chavenage, with its mildly asymmetrical E-plan, golden stone walls and lichened grey roofs, is the perfect vision of the Cotswold Manor House. In the middle ages, the estate was part of the manor of Horsley, which belonged to Bruton Abbey in Somerset. The estate was presumably run from Horsley, where the abbey had a little dependent monastery, but a manor house was mentioned at Chavenage in , and it seems likely that the earliest parts of the present house date from monastic times, although it is hard to point to any medieval work that is certainly in its original position. After the Dissolution, like so many other Gloucestershire estates, the manor was granted first to Thomas Seymour, Lord Seymour of Sudeley, who was attainted in . The property then reverted to the Crown, being granted anew in to Sir Walter Denys of Dyrham, whose son sold the estate to Edward Stephens of Standish in and ; his descendants remained the owners until the late 19th century. The history of the house is hard to unravel because of the extent of later antiquarian alterations, but Edward Stephens probably remodelled and extended it by the addition of the wings and the central porch, which bears his initials and the date . The window of the porch room is a reused early 15th century piece, and the porch leads into a screens passage with a stone newel stair at the far end, which could be a surviving part of the late medieval house. The two-storey hall opening off the screens passage is lit by tall mullioned and transomed windows that have been inserted into an earlier wall. The studwork of a shallow plaster barrel vault remains above the present gallery ceiling and may represent the form of the 16th century hall roof, now replaced by a flat ceiling. Their son Nathaniel may have been responsible for the panelling of the parlour now known as the Oak Room , as it is dated , but this room may also have been put together from disparate elements at a later date. In particular, the remarkable fireplace, which seems to be mid 16th century, and which is wholly Gothic except for two Renaissance brackets, must surely be an import. If it is not in situ, the panelling could perhaps have been brought from Eastington when it was abandoned by the family in the 18th century. Nathaniel Stephens was succeeded in by his son Richard, and either father or son rebuilt the east end of the south wing, as the fenestration suggests a mid to late 17th-century date. In the early 19th century the house contained three bedrooms hung with tapestries, but the rooms were not then named. It was the next owner, Nathaniel Stephens d. Nothing of their contributions to the house can now be identified with certainty except for a rococo chimneypiece in the library, the staircase leading to the Cromwell and Ireton rooms, and a crumbling folly in the woods, which was perhaps designed by Thomas Wright for Richard Stephens. He seems to have suffered from a persecution mania, being convinced that his relatives were trying to poison him, and in he made his property over to trustees and fled the country, going to live in a remote Dominican convent in the Canary Islands where he hoped he might be safe. He did not, in fact, become a friar, but returned to London by and died in Paris in . It was probably Willis Stephens who began the antiquarian alterations to the house by building the tower of the chapel on the lawn at the rear, which is first recorded in , and which contains windows and statuary of the 14th to 17th centuries. The original nave, which may have been earlier, was replaced in the late 19th century. He was certainly responsible for getting the chapel licensed for divine worship, and operated it as a chapel of ease for Horsley parish, employing a succession of curates. It may also have been he who created the billiard room and the prominent bay windows on the south front, as well as lowering the sills of the Great Hall windows. These alterations were remarkably sensitive to the atmosphere of the house. On the exterior, the alterations are more conventionally Gothick, but most felicitous, giving the south front considerable variety and interest [MAJ 95D]. A print of in the house appears to show the billiard room as having two tiny oriels as well as its bay, so the present arrangement was perhaps created later, presumably for Phelps. In a series of drawings of by Sir Jeffry Wyattville for the decoration of the state rooms at Windsor Castle were found in the house and sold to the Royal Archives. It is hard to imagine how they could have reached Chavenage, but they do suggest that someone with an interest in interior decoration was in

the house at the time, and this must have been Phelps. Holford, millionaire owner of the adjoining Westonbirt estate. Holford foreclosed in , and the house was sold to Colonel W. Hoole as a home for his son George Hoole-Lowsley-Williams d. George, who was then a Cambridge undergraduate, later came to live at Chavenage, and in employed J. Micklethwaite, a former pupil of G. This contains a large ballroom with a sprung floor, and additional service accommodation, some of which has now been converted to a family sitting room. David Lowsley-Williams, as a wedding present. During his long period of ownership, the house has been used as the location for many films and TV programmes, and the house has been restored and opened to the public on a regular basis.

**Chapter 2 : Chavenage House-unchanged for years € Cotswolds Tours € Cotswolds Adventures**

*Chavenage House is an Elizabethan era house kilometres ( mi) northwest of Tetbury, in the Cotswolds area of Gloucestershire, England. The house was built in and is constructed of Cotswold stone, with a Cotswold stone tiled roof.*

Speak with one of our design team who can discuss the options CONTACT US Safety Single pane windows are most often made of a single sheet of regular glass which shatters into long, sharp shards when hit. When shopping for double glazing, you have a choice of several different kinds of glass, each of which are safer on breaking than traditional window panes. If nothing else, the double thickness reduces the chances that both panes will be broken. Whether you use security glass, toughened glass or shatterproof glass, double glazing offers some measure of safety over single glazing. Be sure to choose windows with frames that can be securely locked from the inside. How to Choose a Supplier For Your Needs Shop for a contractor and supplier as carefully as you do for glass, there are numerous upvc window suppliers out there to pick from. Shoddily done work can negate all the advantages gained in choosing to replace your current windows with double glazing. Alternatively, you can order from standard hermetically sealed or flat double glazed units. What kind of Double Glazing do I need? The type of double glazing which is most suitable will depend on whether it is being installed for heat or noise and on the type of window being double glazed. There are two main types: It consists of two sheets of glass permanently sealed together around the edges with an air gap between them. The thickness of the air gap is between 6mm and 12mm, which means that sealed units are not the best choice for noise insulation. The thickness of the panes of glass varies, too usually from 3mm up to 10mm. Scaled units are available with one of the panes made from patterned or wired glass or with solar control or toughened glass. They can be bought from glass merchants or from the manufacturers. Because they replace the existing pane, sealed units are suitable for all types of windows. They are sold in standard sizes; non-standard sizes can be made to measure €” take the dimensions very accurately. There are two main shapes of sealed unit: A stepped unit is used where there is insufficient width in the rebate to take the thickness of a spaced unit. The two big advantages of sealed units are that they do not suffer from condensation between the panes and that they are inconspicuous. Sealed units are used in double-glazed replacement windows. The most common type of do-it-yourself double glazing uses plain fixed sheets of glass or plastic. The method for holding the glass or plastic pane to the window varies: Once the install has been booked, other than access to the spaces that we need to work in there is nothing else we need. Disruption will be kept to a minimum and we will clean up before we leave. To have an idea of the different choices you have for double glazing, here are the different types of glass used: Secondary Glazed Glass This is the cheapest among all the types used for glazing your windows. This involves the fitting of a second layer to an already existing window. As a result, this creates a pocket of air which then insulates your home. Sealed Glass €” UPVC windows, wooden, steel or aluminium Most pre-made cheap units come with a sealed glass and are being installed as a single piece. The frames can either be made out of wood, aluminium, PVC, composite frame, or steel, where the two panes of glass are placed and embedded. UPVC windows tend to be the most commonly used ones. Tinted Glass This type of glass is toned, coloured or has a reflective coating that is applied on the outside part of the glass. The purpose of the coating is to block the rays of the sun from coming into the room and keeps the room cool even on a hot summer day. More Information About Double Glazing Double Glazing is a simple and cost-efficient method of reducing energy costs and also eliminating unnecessary outside noises from being heard inside a home. This is definitely a method that should be considered when a person desires to upgrade their windows. A double glazed window consists of two well-designed glass windows that have a small space between them. This space is filled with a type of non-toxic gas such as argon that helps to insulate the home by providing a protective barrier from the outside elements. This is the most desired benefit of this type of windows. Those who wish to reduce their energy costs will find this an efficient method. After installing these windows, your next energy bill should drop by at least fifteen percent, allowing you to make up for the cost of the upgrade within a few years just in energy savings. Those who live near or next to an area with a lot of outside noises will also be able to appreciate the elimination of noise that is provided with these window types. Whether we

are speaking of a home on a busy street in the city or a home next to a construction site, traffic stop, or train track, these can help you appreciate the noise reducing qualities that can be provided. These are available now in practically any desired style and can even be matched to old windows. They have become more and more popular as many have begun to realise how desirable their main qualities can be, thus manufacturers have expanded upon the idea to come up with modern creations that are more attractive than the initial window types offered. Double Glazing is not a cheap window type. However, If you can find room in your budget to accommodate the initial cost, then the drastic reduction in the heating and energy bills will help pay for the cost. Secondary Glazing This uses the existing window as the outer pane. The simplest form of secondary window is a plastic film, similar to the film used to wrap food, stretched across the window and stuck in a position with double-sided adhesive tape. This method is not really suitable for metal-framed windows as the air gap would be too small. The plastic film can be unsightly and can be easily damaged, but it is cheap, easy to fit and good for preventing condensation. It normally has to be replaced every year. Another popular option is aluminium double glazing. These windows are not quite as efficient for insulation purposes compared to UPVC. But in many cases, these windows are chosen for older homes more often. It is for the reason that they are more presentable. They come in a wide variety of colours that will surely brighten and give life to your home. There is also the most expensive and luxurious type, the wooden double glazed window. Due to the fact that it is extremely pricey, this type is usually custom made to order. It also requires a lot more maintenance than UPVC or aluminium. With sliding panels, a track with two channels is fitted around the reveal and the glass or plastic is held in a PVC or aluminium frame. Because the track can be some way from the existing window, this type is a good choice for noise insulation and is suitable for all types of windows – there are vertical sliding versions for sliding sash windows. Sliding types are fairly expensive and can be complicated to fit but are easy to use. The other main type is fixed or hinged panels. With these, the glass is mounted in a rigid frame of aluminium or plastic with a seal which is fitted to the outer wooden frame of the window. On non-opening windows, the panels are fixed-width clips or slotted channel. On opening casements, the panels are hinged along one side with clips on the other small panels can be fitted for top-opening casements. If wanted for noise insulation, the panels can be mounted on a sub-frame mounted in the window reveal away from the existing window. This type of double glazing is fairly noticeable but is fairly easy to fit. It is more expensive than plain fixed sheets but cheaper than sliding panels and it is the type that most professional installers fit. Low Emissivity Glass This is the best type of glazing during the winter season as it uses a special coating which is designed to lessen heat loss. Unlike tinted glass which does not allow the rays of the sun to come into the room, low emissivity glass allows sunlight into the room, where it is then absorbed as heat. Adjustable Glass This type used allows the adjustment of the heat and the light that goes into the room. It involves the use of new glass technologies such as photochromic glass, thermochromic glass and electrochromic glass. The type of glass used in double glazing greatly determines the price as well as the most functional type of cheap double glazing to use for your home Different Types of Double Glazing If a homeowner is looking to replace old windows they might want to consider the wide range of options in double-glazed windows, which come with great energy-efficient benefits. Double-glazed windows feature two panes of glass, with krypton or argon gas sandwiched in the middle, which is able to create sufficient pressure to stop air getting in between the panes. Here are some of the more popular types of double-glazed windows – Double Hung – the double-hung window is super easy to clean due to its design and is also able to provide superior ventilation. Simple to operate, you just need to raise the window to open it, and lower to close. This type of window gives a quite traditional appearance and is perfect for multi-storey properties where cleaning the windows would be easy from the inside. Casement – a casement window is designed to open in a similar fashion to a door, with hinges situated on either the left or right-hand side. This window type is considered as the second most energy-efficient, so a great choice for any household. However, due to the nature of these windows opening outward, the outer edges will over time start to wear from exposure to the elements. Tilt and Turn – the tilt and turn window is a great style and offers the ability to open by either tilting inward slightly or completely turning outward, which would mean the window is entirely open. A window of this nature is often seen as kid-friendly, as when the windows slightly tilted open at the top, there is

no chance of a child falling out. It can also avoid trap fingers, which can be quite common with the more standard designed windows. Also, this type of window is another that is easy to clean from the inside or outside, due to its ability to fully open. Georgian Bar " if you live in a more traditional style property, then this type of window might be the ideal choice. Adding character and class to any property, these windows aim to replicate the design appearance of Victorian and Georgian period homes. This window is able to keep the traditional style of the older properties, but these double-glazed windows are able to bring the modern security and insulation features that any home would love to benefit from. How To Maintain Double Glazing If you have recently installed double glazing windows in your home, you may be concerned as to how much maintenance will be required to keep them in perfect condition. One of the great benefits of these types of windows is that little to no maintenance will be needed. The amount of maintenance really depends upon the type of double glazed windows you have. These windows come in vinyl, aluminium, and wood and each requires a different level of care. For vinyl double glazing windows, you will rarely need to do anything at all to keep them looking fresh and clean. Since they are already finished in vinyl, there is no need to ever paint or stain them. As long as you have no problems with having white vinyl windows, you should be worry free about any type of maintenance. The only thing you may need to do is spray them off with a water hose every few months to remove any dirt or debris that may have accumulated on the outside of them. If you have aluminium double glazing windows there will also be very little maintenance required.

**Chapter 3 : Chavenage, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, England**

*Chavenage, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. On a late December afternoon in , a group of horsemen galloped along the rutted highways of Gloucestershire.*

**History Medieval Chavenage** The earliest recorded owner of Chavenage was Princess Goda, the sister of Edward the Confessor, however there are records of Chavenage Green being the meeting place of the Hundred Court early in the ninth century. The Earl Godwin, and his sons controlled much of southern England at this time and in had his headquarters at Beverstone. Shortly after, however, the Abbot of Bruton, Somerset, was given authorisation to transfer some French property to the Augustinian Order in exchange for the Manor of Horsley and surrounding lands. Thus an English Community was established at Horsley in the late eleventh century. The administrative headquarters of the estate was presumably in Horsley, where the abbey had a little dependant monastery, but despite this, buildings of some sort had been erected at Chavenage in the late fourteenth century. Parts of the present-day house are thought to date from this period. The house would have consisted of the Great Hall with kitchens at the north end and a one-up and one-down at the south end of the Hall. At this period the fine medieval Cotswold barn which now houses a modern squash court was built on the adjoining farm. During , Thomas was executed and his lands attained for his role in an attempted plot against the Crown. The name, over a period, became Fitz Stephens then Stephens or Stevens. In the sixteenth century they were a family of wealth and influence in the county with estates at Eastington, Chavenage, Lypiatt, Cherington, Lyegrove recently owned by the Earl of Westmorland and Little Sodbury. On purchasing Chavenage, Edward Stephens started the massive project of a major reconstruction of the site. He gutted the medieval building he found, and put on the two wings and the porch to create a manor house of the classic Elizabethan style. He also fitted the strikingly large windows on the south side of the porch, much of the glass being ecclesiastical coming from the redundant churches and monasteries in the area. He also used old timbers from old galleons, broken up on the nearby River Severn. Upon these rest literally hundreds of tons of mellow grey Cotswold tiles. By , the date carved with his initials and those of his wife Joan were carved above the front door when his work was finished. Richard died in and left Chavenage to his second wife, Anne before his eldest surviving son, Nathaniel born in inherited. The panelling is contemporary with this period and that of the Oak Room is dated The Gothic-styled fireplace in the Oak Room is dated between recently filled in and made much smaller whereas the chimney-piece in the Great Hall, was constructed in Huntley of Boxwell entitled Chavenage. He raised a regiment of horse of which he was Colonel and fought on the side of Parliament against Charles I. In , from Chavenage, troops under the overall command of Colonel Massey were charged with the task of besieging nearby Beverstone Castle, which at the time was inhabited by an important Royalist family, a branch of the Berkeleys of Berkeley Castle. To let her lover know that the coast was clear and that no attack was planned that night from Chavenage, she would place a candle in a window see the garden door, leading from the Library passage. On the detection of this subterfuge, a candle was placed in the window and the order given to attack in the knowledge that the commander was away for the night! After the cessation of hostilities whilst Charles I was imprisoned, it became apparent to Cromwell that the King would have to be executed in order to stop any form of Royalist uprisings. To this end he sent Ireton to Chavenage, to try to persuade Colonel Stephens to add his support to the regicide. Ireton arrived whilst Colonel Stephens was keeping the festival of Christmas in Stephens, known as a mild man, had shown much irresolution in deciding upon sacrificing the life of King Charles I and was on the verge of wavering when Ireton reached his destination. It is said that they sat up all night and eventually Ireton obtained from Stephens his very reluctant acquiescence. Shortly after his daughter Abigail returned from having passed the New Year elsewhere, she, in a fit of horror and anger, laid a curse on her father for bringing the name Stephens into such disrepute. The story goes that the Colonel was soon taken terminally ill and never rose from his bed again. Thereafter until the line became extinct, whenever the head of the family died, the same ghost of the King appeared to carry him off. Mary was in her forty-second year at the time of her marriage. In her turn, Miss Williams married Colonel W. Hoole of Ravensfield Park of the County of Yorkshire. However sadly, in , she died at the birth of

her first born, a son christened George Williams Lowsley-Hoole. As the Reverend Williams was predeceased by both his wife and daughter it was left to him to settle the estates on his death in . This property consisted predominantly of the Aston Manor Estate and the Lowesmore Estate towards Minchinhampton and Rodborough with the main residence being Mugmore House. In he came down from Yorkshire with his father, Colonel W. Hoole, to view his inheritance. Holford had been mortgagee of the lands since the last of the Stephens had left Chavenage in the middle of the nineteenth century, the estate having been in their ownership for years and nine generations. The Holfords had overseen the lease of the property to the Chaplin family. The Lowsley-Williams have been at Chavenage ever since. George was married in to Beatrice Mary Savile and they had three sons and two daughters. He was the owner until his death in , when the property passed to his eldest son, Colonel John Savile Lowsley-Williams, D. Colonel John never married and lived at Chavenage with his mother and his two sisters, until in he gave the estate, the house and its contents to his nephew David as a wedding present on his marriage to Rona McCorquodale. Colonel John was suffering from cancer and died three days after the wedding service in the knowledge that the Chavenage had been safely passed on to a further generation.

**Chapter 4 : Chavenage House - Visit Wiltshire**

*The earliest recorded owner of Chavenage was Princess Goda, the sister of Edward the Confessor, however there are records of Chavenage Green being the meeting place of the Hundred Court early in the ninth century.*

Prices, Admission Prices include a guided tour of Chavenage: Chavenage House is open to the public from 1st May to 30th September , on Thursdays and Sundays from 2 - 5 pm last tours start at 4. Please be aware we have no credit card facilities here at Chavenage, so could you bring cheques or cash. Brochure download Groups are welcome at any time or day through out the year, by appointment only. Refreshments by appointment, generally served in the Ball Room. Chavenage is available for hire for private functions such as weddings dinners and lunches. Chavenage is especially suitable for those wishing an intimate and personal tour, usually conducted by the owner, or for small groups wanting a change from the larger establishments. Latest news from Caroline The Chavenage season is drawing to an end for Public Openings “ we are still operating an open door policy ” so please try to arrive as close to 2pm as possible, and you will be joined to a scheduled tour. I just wanted to extend my appreciation of the tour provided by and I beg his pardon if I remember his name incorrectly! David Lowsley-Williams as the tour he provided was such a refreshing change from the "average guided tours" provided by so many! We had the opportunity to exchange a few words with a very pleasant female family member after the tour and found her gracious and charming. How lovely that the family are so willing to ensure that their visitors feel a valued part of Chavenage. I shall be enthusing the charms of Chavenage to friends and colleagues. Laura-Jaine This is undoubtedly the best guided tour we have ever experienced. Although tours are between 2 and 5pm on both a Thursday and Sunday, one needs to arrive promptly in order to benefit from the full two hour tour. We will definitely return and would highly recommend a visit. Excellent value for money! Ashley C Access Disabled Access. Chavenage is an Elizabethan building retaining many of its original features dating from before As a result, there is unfortunately no wheelchair access, and there are steps and uneven floors throughout the house. Health and Safety Advice. In the gardens there are uneven surfaces, non-edible plants, low branches, and slippery surfaces in wet weather. In the building there are some steep stone steps, low doorways, uneven and slippery floors, and other steps not immediately obvious. Children should always be accompanied while visiting Chavenage.

**Chapter 5 : Gray, Adams, Merkley Family: Stephens Family Estates: Lypiatt, Eastington, Chavenage**

*Chavenage Estate in Gloucestershire is a wonderful Elizabethan Manor House of mellow grey Cotswold stone which is still a family home. Popular as a TV/film location, there are many interesting rooms housing tapestries, fine furniture, pictures and relics of the Cromwellian period.*

Sunday, May 29, Stephens Family Estates: Lypiatt, Eastington, Chavenage Jody Gray: William Baghott of Southam b. Knights, Generals, Captains - these records providing verification and dates for ancestorsâ€¦ Church Records: Margerett St Leo Son: Eastington, Frocester and Stonehouse. Edward Stephens was born in Frocester []; Joan Fowler was born in Stonehouse []; they both died and are buried in Eastington. Henry Stephens of Frocester b. Richard purchased the Estates of Eastington in [] and Alkerton in []. The brothers purchased the Mill on Eastington Estate in , as part of a group of trustees. Eastington Manor - http: Published in for Robert Atkyns. Drawn and engraved by Johannes Kip, titled and with coat of arms above. Illustration size approximately 45 x 35cm with center fold, as were always issued These fine birdseye views drawn and engraved by Johannes kip are significantly important as they show the entire estate, grounds and formal gardens in fine detail and accuracy as they were at that time. About the engraver, J Kip: In Edward, Lord Stafford, sold the manors to Richard Stafford, but later the same year he and Ursula Stafford sold the chief house and site of Eastington manor to Richard Stephens b. Richard Stephens was succeeded by his brother Edward Stephens b. Hicks created Eastington Parkâ€¦ http: Mr Hicks purchased the estate in from the Stephens Family, after the original building, Eastington Manor, was demolished in The manor-house of Eastington, mentioned from , stood close to the west end of the church. In , when fairly extensive repairs were made, the house, surrounded by a moat with a wall inside, was approached by a drawbridge and a great gate with a chamber above, and included a chapel on the north, a great chamber on the west, and a kitchen The moat was stocked with 16 dozen young pike in A new house was built by Edward Stephens c. It had 19 hearths in , and was a large three story building of ashlar. Eastington manor-house, said c. The moat was spanned by a drawbridge, and the medieval house with its hall, great chamber, and chapel was encircled by an embattled wall broken by a gatehouse. In Churchend Mill.

**Chapter 6 : House Prices in Chavenage Lane, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8**

*Why replace your single-glazed windows with double-glazing? For most, the main reason for looking into double glazing is a need to save money on their energy bills or to keep their homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer.*

Torrential rain beat down from the heavens, accompanied by a gusting wind that sang mournfully through the conifers. We dashed from the car park to the main entrance, huddled beneath a hopelessly inadequate umbrella designed to accommodate one. An ominous rain-leaden sky making the grey Cotswold Stone walls look all the more sombre, sombre enough for Chavenage to have been selected for many a creepy movie: Even the telephone number for Chavenage House begins ominously with , that in itself has a certain satanic ring to it - no pun intended. My unbridled imagination was soon quelled however, for we were welcomed at the door by a most jovial Caroline Lowsley-Williams, daughter of the current owner since - David Lowsley-Williams. We were shown into the grand hall where a roaring log fire burned welcomingly in an impressively large fireplace. Caroline was to be our historian and guide, and a very amusing one too as it turned out. The Chavenage estate had connections with an Augustine abbey from , which stood several miles away in Horsley. During Anglo-Saxon times, Chavenage came under the jurisdiction of Horsley and would have been managed by the Augustine order. A building of sorts had been erected at Chavenage from around the late 14th century. Parts of which are still evident in the current house. The building was most likely to have consisted of a Great Hall with kitchens at the north end and a one-up and one-down at the south end of the Hall. Seymour was to be executed in for his part in a plot against the Crown. It was Edward Stephens, who was responsible for the construction of the current house. The house was finished in and as a mark of his achievement, he carved the date, his name and that of his wife - Joan above the main entrance. Nathaniel Stephens was a Knight of the Shire in Parliament and according to Parliamentary History of The County of Gloucester, the fatal illness that befell him soon after his acquiescence in the death of King Charles I, gave rise to the legend of Chavenage. Nathaniel Stephens commanded a regiment of horse during the Civil War and was highly regarded by Oliver Cromwell, to whom he was related through the female side of his family. Cromwell was keen to see the King executed to prevent any more uprising. So during the Christmas of , he despatch Henry Ireton with instructions to curry Colonel Stephens support for regicide. Stephens was a mild mannered man and was not about to support the death of the King. However, Ireton persisted and it is said that they sat up all night debating, until eventually Ireton obtained Colonel Stephens reluctant acquiescence. Shocked that her father should agree to such a heinous collaboration and ultimately bringing the Stephens name into disrepute, she cursed him and all his successors in a fit of rage. As the Colonel neared his final hour, relatives were summoned to his bedside to pay their last respects and, as it transpired, his dramatic passage into the next world. As it did so, the astonished on-lookers gazed in utter disbelief at the unfolding tableau before them. The assembled company watched as the coach and four reached the gate to the grounds where it spectacularly burst into flames and disappeared. Some say that should you be in the area of the tree-lined lane, you may just catch a glimpse of the spectral coach heading away from the house. The legend of Chavenage, in which these strange events are recorded, concludes: The White Lady The ghost of a young woman dressed in white, has been seen between Beverstone and Chavenage. Her story, as is often the case with hauntings, is one of loves lost tragedy. After two unsuccessful attempts to seize the castle, Massey grew suspicious when their attacks appeared to have been anticipated. On discovering her part in the deception, the chatelaine was immediately seized and held captive at Chavenage. A candle was then placed in the same window to trick Oggletrope into thinking all was well. An ambush was set and as Oggletrope approached Chavenage under the cloak of darkness he was set upon, beaten and captured. The order was given to attack Beverstone, for now the Commander was thought to be away for the night and would be secure. Grief stricken by her part in her his death, she took her own life. It is understandable, given the rooms sombre ambiance how some folk could feel ill at easy here. It was quite thought provoking to touch the tapestries brightly coloured in those days that Cromwell would most likely have touched and to see the actual bed where he must have laid his head. Just exactly what haunts this room is unknown, for no one has ever reported seeing or hearing anything, but many

have sensed something unpleasant and oppressive here, even malevolent. When the house was occupied by the military during the Second World War, an army chaplain and his wife were billeted here for a time. In it she had written she could no longer take the ghostly atmosphere of that room and was leaving Chavenage immediately to walk the seven miles to Kemble station - she never returned. The frequency of reports from guests caused David Lowsley-Williams grandmother to arrange for the bedroom and adjoining bedroom to be exorcised. Church of England and Roman Catholic priests jointly blessed the bedrooms. After the exorcism, the malevolent atmosphere seemed to have dispersed. However, the presence in that room has not cleared completely. I must get out and have a cup of coffee. Generators had been setup outside immediately below the bedroom window. They were feeding an assortment of cables through the window and into the house. Once there he knelt down and began work. He tried to rise but as he did so, so the pressure intensified to such a degree that he became pinned to the floor unable to move for what seemed like a lifetime. Then, as suddenly as the assault began it ceased and he was released. An ashen faced young man appeared outside vowing never to return to the house - he left Chavenage shortly after. I am not a timid or nervous person by nature, but I am not ashamed to confess that I was honestly frightened to cross that landing - an odd feeling of something uncanny and horrid seemed to bar my way. Then I thought how I might protect myself and be rid of this terror. A another encounter by the Princess but this time in another bedroom, one she always occupied when she visited Chavenage. She was sitting alone when the bedroom door slowly opened and remained so for several seconds before slowly closing again. Thinking there was someone there the Princess opened the door and stepped out onto the landing, where to her surprise she found herself alone. On a subsequent visit, she happen to mention quite casually to her hostess about the episode with her bedroom door and was surprised to learn that other visitors had had the same experience. The maid had been sewing in an adjoining bedroom, where she had full view of the Princess who was resting before dinner. Suddenly the hostess said "Oh that must be the Grey Lady - she has not been seen for some time. These were troubled times for the country and for Chavenage, so it comes as little surprise that the Grey Lady should still be seeking eternal rest centuries after her death. Haunted Bedrooms David Lowsley-Williams son used to sleep in the room that his father now uses as a dressing-room. His parents would often discover him on the floor entangled in his bedclothes. This was because of the feelings that he often experienced of not being alone. It was later discovered that others who had slept in that bedroom had had similar feelings. Before David Lowsley-Williams inherited Chavenage from his uncle, the room had been used to accommodate guests, a fair number of whom would emerge in the morning complaining of not having slept well. They had been disturbed, they said, by an awful dream in which a man was leaning over their bed. In every case the description they gave of their nocturnal visitor was uncannily similar. He had long greasy black hair, a Mexican moustache and heavy gold epaulettes on his shoulders. During the Second World War. This persisted to the extent that she decided to move her bed to another part of the room. On doing so it was discovered that the bed had been placed against an old priest hole. Although David Lowsley-Williams is careful not to claim to have seen, or indeed experienced, anything ghostly himself, there have been unexplained events at Chavenage when he has been present. On one occasion he was sitting in the main hall reading the paper with his dogs lying in front of the fire. Based on the other sights and sounds at Chavenage however, it could well have been something else that troubled his dogs keen senses. The Chapel Monk The 18th century chapel, which stands adjacent to the house was built originally as a folly. Chavenage House, as mentioned earlier, had medieval monastic links. Augustinian monks from Tours in France settled in the area following the Norman Conquest and by the end of the 11th century, a community of English monks had been established here. But after four centuries of residency, their legacy was less easily swept away. If sightings over the years are to be believed, at least one monk refuses to leave Chavenage altogether. For a long time it was fairly easy, because there were so many RAF stations around and their chaplains were more than willing to come and do it. Just before dinner I went into the chapel to say some prayers and all the time I was seated in one of the pews, there was a monk knelt at the altar rail. So, I tiptoed out of the door and left him to his praying. The chapel is not the only place at Chavenage where the monk has been seen. In an interview he gave in October , David Lowsley-Williams spoke of another sighting made by a visitor to the house. The monk gave a sort of bow before carrying on. Visitors continue to see the spectral

monk to this day, mostly in the grounds leading up to the chapel door. I must say, whilst alone inside on such a miserable day with the wind and rain beating at the door, it is quite easy to see how such a tale could be conceived. This cold little chamber is a pretty eerie place let me tell you. It is still very much a family home and it shows. You are encouraged to sit anywhere without the worry of a thistle in your bottom, like so many National Trust properties I could mention. Chavenage House is a wonderful venue for weddings, corporate events, tours and of course ghosts.

**Chapter 7 : Haunted Wiltshire: Chavenage House - Gloucestershire**

*Chavenage is a wonderful Elizabethan house of mellow grey Cotswold stone and tiles which contains much of interest for the discerning visitor. The approach aspect of Chavenage is virtually as it was left by Edward Stephens in*

Close to the house is the family chapel. Chavenage offers personal tours, usually conducted by the owner, David Lowsley-Williams. Medieval Chavenage The earliest recorded owner of Chavenage was Princess Goda, the sister of Edward the Confessor, however there are records of Chavenage Green being the meeting place of the Hundred Court early in the ninth century. The Earl Godwin, and his sons controlled much of southern England at this time and in had his headquarters at Beverstone. Shortly after, however, the Abbot of Bruton, Somerset, was given authorisation to transfer some French property to the Augustinian Order in exchange for the Manor of Horsley and surrounding lands. Thus an English Community was established at Horsley in the late eleventh century. The administrative headquarters of the estate was presumably in Horsley, where the abbey had a little dependant monastery, but despite this, buildings of some sort had been erected at Chavenage in the late fourteenth century. Parts of the present-day house are thought to date from this period. The house would have consisted of the Great Hall with kitchens at the north end and a one-up and one-down at the south end of the Hall. At this period the fine medieval Cotswold barn which now houses a modern squash court was built on the adjoining farm. During , Thomas was executed and his lands attained for his role in an attempted plot against the Crown. The name, over a period, became Fitz Stephens then Stephens or Stevens. In the sixteenth century they were a family of wealth and influence in the county with estates at Eastington, Chavenage, Lypiatt, Cherington, Lyegrove recently owned by the Earl of Westmorland and Little Sodbury. On purchasing Chavenage, Edward Stephens started the massive project of a major reconstruction of the site. He gutted the medieval building he found, and put on the two wings and the porch to create a manor house of the classic Elizabethan style. He also fitted the strikingly large windows on the south side of the porch, much of the glass being ecclesiastical coming from the redundant churches and monasteries in the area. He also used old timbers from old galleons, broken up on the nearby River Severn. Upon these rest literally hundreds of tons of mellow grey Cotswold tiles. By , the date carved with his initials and those of his wife Joan were carved above the front door when his work was finished. Richard died in and left Chavenage to his second wife, Anne before his eldest surviving son, Nathaniel born in inherited. The panelling is contemporary with this period and that of the Oak Room is dated The Gothic-styled fireplace in the Oak Room is dated between recently filled in and made much smaller whereas the chimney-piece in the Great Hall, was constructed in Huntley of Boxwell entitled Chavenage. He raised a regiment of horse of which he was Colonel and fought on the side of Parliament against Charles I. In , from Chavenage, troops under the overall command of Colonel Massey were charged with the task of besieging nearby Beverstone Castle, which at the time was inhabited by an important Royalist family, a branch of the Berkeleys of Berkeley Castle. To let her lover know that the coast was clear and that no attack was planned that night from Chavenage, she would place a candle in a window see the garden door, leading from the Library passage. On the detection of this subterfuge, a candle was placed in the window and the order given to attack in the knowledge that the commander was away for the night! After the cessation of hostilities whilst Charles I was imprisoned, it became apparent to Cromwell that the King would have to be executed in order to stop any form of Royalist uprisings. To this end he sent Ireton to Chavenage, to try to persuade Colonel Stephens to add his support to the regicide. Ireton arrived whilst Colonel Stephens was keeping the festival of Christmas in Stephens, known as a mild man, had shown much irresolution in deciding upon sacrificing the life of King Charles I and was on the verge of wavering when Ireton reached his destination. It is said that they sat up all night and eventually Ireton obtained from Stephens his very reluctant acquiescence. Shortly after his daughter Abigail returned from having passed the New Year elsewhere, she, in a fit of horror and anger, laid a curse on her father for bringing the name Stephens into such disrepute. The story goes that the Colonel was soon taken terminally ill and never rose from his bed again. Thereafter until the line became extinct, whenever the head of the family died, the same ghost of the King appeared to carry him off. Mary was in her forty-second year at the time of her marriage. In

her turn, Miss Williams married Colonel W. Hoole of Ravensfield Park of the County of Yorkshire. However sadly, in , she died at the birth of her first born, a son christened George Williams Lowsley-Hoole. As the Reverend Williams was predeceased by both his wife and daughter it was left to him to settle the estates on his death in . This property consisted predominantly of the Aston Manor Estate and the Lowesmore Estate towards Minchinhampton and Rodborough with the main residence being Mugmore House. In he came down from Yorkshire with his father, Colonel W. Hoole, to view his inheritance. Holford had been mortgagee of the lands since the last of the Stephens had left Chavenage in the middle of the nineteenth century, the estate having been in their ownership for years and nine generations. The Holfords had overseen the lease of the property to the Chaplin family. The Lowsley-Williams have been at Chavenage ever since. George was married in to Beatrice Mary Savile and they had three sons and two daughters. He was the owner until his death in , when the property passed to his eldest son, Colonel John Savile Lowsley-Williams, D. Colonel John never married and lived at Chavenage with his mother and his two sisters, until in he gave the estate, the house and its contents to his nephew David as a wedding present on his marriage to Rona McCorquodale. Colonel John was suffering from cancer and died three days after the wedding service in the knowledge that the Chavenage had been safely passed on to a further generation. Admission Prices include a guided tour of Chavenage:

### Chapter 8 : How to get to Chavenage House in Cotswold by Bus | Moovit | View Timetables, Maps and Ale

*Chavenage House is a wonderful Elizabethan house of mellow Cotswold stone which is a family home as well as often being used as a location for TV & film productions. Famous stars to have graced the house include Oscar winning Eddie Redmayne, Jamie Doran, the late Warren Clarke as well as Aidan Turner.*

### Chapter 9 : BBC - Gloucestershire Features - Ghostly Gloucestershire - Chavenage

*Chavenage, a haunted manor house in Gloucestershire, has a spinechilling story dating from the English Civil War BBC - Gloucestershire Features - Ghostly Gloucestershire - Chavenage Skip to main.*