



# GREAT FOSTERS

Built 1550 AD at Egham in the County of Surrey

## LOCAL INTEREST

### **Thorpe Park** (2 miles)

A world-famous leisure park, Thorpe Park is a highly popular attraction for all the family.

### **Runnymede** (2 miles)

Bordering the River Thames, Runnymede is the historic meadow where King John sealed the Magna Carta in 1215. At the foot of Coopers Hill is the Magna Carta Memorial, a domed temple built by the American Bar Association, while halfway up the hill the John F. Kennedy Memorial occupies an acre of land given to the United States. Atop the hill, visitors can view the Air Force Memorial – which commemorates the lives of 20,000 airmen who ‘died with no grave’ during the Second World War – and take in the magnificent views of Windsor Castle and seven surrounding counties.

### **Virginia Water** (3 miles)

Stretching across a mile and a half of the Windsor Great Park, Virginia Water is a vast woodland lake surrounded by ancient oak and beech trees. Created by Paul Thomas during the reign of George III, the lake and park are a peaceful and scenic place to wander and relax throughout the year.

### **Savill Garden** (3 ½ miles)

Extending over some 35 acres of woodland on the boundary of the Windsor Great Park, the Savill Garden – created in 1932 – displays a magnificent array of rhododendrons, camellias, magnolias, hydrangeas, trees and shrubs. During the spring there is a breathtaking carpet of daffodils, while in the summer lilies crown the gardens.

### **Valley Gardens** (3 ½ miles)

One of the finest woodland gardens in the world, the Valley Gardens occupy around 400 acres on the bank of the Virginia Water Lake. Since 1949, the gardens have flourished and now boast an unrivalled display of azaleas, camellias, magnolias, flowering trees and shrubs. The 50-acre rhododendron plantation, the largest in the world, is an outstanding explosion of colour in springtime, daffodils highlight the views in March and April, while autumn is the time to see the Japanese maples, red oaks, cherries and liquidambar in all their glory. The 10-acre heather garden takes centre stage from September to early November.

### **Windsor Castle** (6 miles)

Founded by William the Conqueror, Windsor Castle first became a royal residence during the reign of Henry I and is layered with the history of many generations. Guests are recommended to visit St George’s Chapel (now the burial place of royalty), the Albert Memorial Chapel, the Round Tower built during the reign of Henry II, and the magnificent State Apartments. Further attractions include the Curfew Tower, the Royal Mausoleum, and Queen Mary’s Dolls House, as well as the charming town of Windsor itself.

### **Eton College** (6 miles)

A pleasant walk across the River Thames from Windsor takes you to the quaint streets of Eton and the heart of the famous Eton College, founded in 1440 by Henry VI and one of England’s most lauded public schools.

### **Hampton Court Palace** (11 miles)

Dating back to 1514 and gracing the banks of the Thames, Hampton Court is steeped in magnificent history. The favoured country home of King Henry VIII, the Palace is rumoured to be haunted by the ghosts of Jane Seymour and Catherine Howard – two of the King’s eight wives. The Palace was extended in 1689 when William III commissioned the talents of Sir Christopher Wren. Today, guests can view the grand State Apartments and Mantegna Gallery, wander the gardens and wind through the Palace’s famous maze.

### **Syon Park** (12 miles)

Surrounding Syon House, seat of the Duke of Northumberland, Syon Park comprises gardens, a conservatory, aviary and aquarium, a six-acre rose garden, the London Butterfly House and an acclaimed horticultural centre. Landscaped by Capability Brown, the grounds are spectacular and open-air concerts are often hosted here. Syon Park also boasts the largest collection of historic British cars (dating from 1895), and the house itself has a stunning interior designed by Robert Adam and adorned with period furniture.

### **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** (14 miles)

In 1714, Princess Augusta – mother of George III – commissioned Capability Brown to create the Botanic Gardens in the grounds of Kew Palace. In 1761, William Chambers designed and added a 165ft high pagoda, and since 1841 the grounds have been open to the public – delighting visitors with shaded walks, floral displays, the Great Palm House (completed in 1848 to a Decimus Burton design), and more than 45,000 species of plants.

