

NicheEnglish UK Tour



Let the journey of discovery begin

Email: Info@nicheenglish.co.uk

Location: Whitley Court & Gardens

Town: Great Whitley

Region: Worcestershire

Country: England



Introduction

Welcome to NichEnglish's UK Tour.

Now Walking up this path, you will see the **spectacular ruins** of Witley Court, where you can imagine a **bygone era** of true British lifestyle.

Right guys, Witley Court was once one of the great houses of **Victorian England**. It even entertained the Royal family. Just have a look for yourself.

Today, it's a perfect family **adventure**. It's full of **stunning** ruins, gardens, and woodlands, just waiting to be explored.

Vocabulary

Spectacular

Ruins

A bygone era

Victorian England

Adventure

Stunning

Meaning

This means amazing.

If a building is in ruins, it has been destroyed and is not as it once was in the past. Not much of it is left.

The is means a period of time in the past. It's a time that is remembered with happiness.

A time in England when Victoria was Queen of England.

To do something exciting and fun.

This means amazing.

Whitley Court & Gardens



The history

The history of this place can be **dated back to** Norman times, right back to 1086 when William the **Conqueror's** cousin had a **manor** right here.



A look back in time

William the Conqueror

William the Conqueror was a Norman who attacked England in 1066. This led to the famous **battle of Hastings** where he defeated the English King, King Harold, and took control of England becoming King.



The Normans

These were Vikings who took over the land in France now known as Normandy around AD 912.

Norman means 'Northmen', which were the Vikings.



Vocabulary
Dated back to
Conqueror

A manor

Meaning

This means when something started/first began.
To conquer a place means to defeat it and take control of it by force. William the conqueror defeated the English King in 1066 and took control of England.

A large country house with land.

These Norman's were
always causing trouble.

Whitley Court & Gardens





The history

It wasn't until 1610-20 that this place was rebuilt on a **grander scale** by the Russell family. But, it was very expensive to keep running this place with all the servants etc.

So, by 1655 he sold it to Thomas Foley.

Over the years, the Foley family **expanded** this manor house. It looks Fantastic! And the main reason was to **show off**. It was all about look at me, look at what I have. And you have to say, this place is the perfect place to show off.

Vocabulary

A grander scale

Expanded

to **show off**

Meaning

If you build something on a grander scale, you build it bigger, better and spend a lot more money on it.

To increase something in number, volume or size. If you expand the manor house, you make it bigger.

To be very proud of what you have, and you want everyone to know that you have it.



The house is just not big enough my dear.



Whitley Court & Gardens



I have just bought a very expensive house. Would you like to see?



The history

All that showing off, all that expense with saying come to my house, look at me, that was very expensive. And because of that they ran out of money. So, by 1837 he had to sell the house to William Lord Ward for £900,000. You might think £900,000 is not a lot of money, but in today's terms, that's £48 million.

But look at the house! To me, I think it's worth it. But, my wife always tells me Paddy, I want a house like this, but I always tell her, give me 2-3 thousand years, and I might have enough money.



What do you think my dear?

Show off!

Whitley Court & Gardens



The history

After buying this **stunning** place for £48 million pounds, you might think that I **wanna** relax, I **wanna** enjoy these beautiful surroundings. But no, this time was all about, again, showing off, look at me, come to my beautiful house, enjoy my house.

He expanded this house around 1840's, 1850's again into the beautiful house that we see today. And by 1860, he became the 1st Earl of Dudley. Now this man, at that time, was the third richest man in the world.

Under William, this place became a **place of opulence**. They had parties here all the time. They weren't just normal parties. They were **lavish parties**. Even the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) came here to party at this beautiful manor house.

Vocabulary

Wanna

A place of opulence

Lavish parties

Meaning

Short form of 'want to.'

This means a place that is very expensive and luxurious. Full of luxury.

The party was large, expensive, very impressive, and luxurious.



Will he ever ask me to dance!

Whitley Court & Gardens





The history

But, life was not last for this beautiful manor house, Even William, who was the third richest man in the world when he bought this house, he had **mounting debts**. So again, he had to sell this house in the 1920's.

But the house, it never regained **its former glory**. And by 1937, it was destroyed by fire and what's left is what you see today.

Witley's role as a rich man's house and one of the greatest manor houses in England ended. But, you can come here today and experience the romantic ruins of a bygone era

Vocabulary

Mounting debts

Meaning

Debts mean that you owe people money. Mounting debts means that your debts are increasing, and you owe more and more money.

Its former glory

This means the success/glory that you had in the past but don't have the same success now.



You can come here today and experience the romantic ruins of a bygone era

Whitley Court & Gardens



Stunning gardens, fountain, boat house and woodlands

Guys, this place is fantastic! Not only does this place have a thousand-year history dating back to 1068 to the time of the Normans, it also has beautiful gardens, beautiful woodlands, stunning flowers, **pavilions** like this. If you are an **avid walker**, this place is perfect for you.

Vocabulary

An avid walker

Meaning

If you are an avid walker you love to walk.



Pavilion: A building in a park or garden that usually has open sides and is used for parties.

Whitley Court & Gardens



Stunning gardens, fountain, boat house and woodlands

Now this is something that you cannot miss if you come Witley Court! This was built around the 1850's, 1860's. It is one of the most fountains in England. Even probably more famous than the fountains in Italy. And when it was built, at the time people said that it made so much noise, they thought a train was coming to Witley court.

So, you can come here, sit next to the fountain, and again if you a romantic, it's perfect to sit here with a loved one.



Note:

The fountain can be seen in action every day from April to the end of October.

Whitley Court & Gardens



Woodlands and the rustic Victorian boathouse

Right guys, if the **spectacular ruins**, the gardens, the fountain, are not enough to **satisfy your taste buds**, you can also take a walk around the beautiful woodlands around the park.

So, what are we waiting for! Let's go and **have a gander**.

As you walk through the path you will see **hidden gems** such as this **rustic** Victorian boathouse. You can imagine Victorians getting the boats ready for a nice romantic boat ride in the summer.

Vocabulary

To satisfy your taste buds

Have a gander

Hidden gems

Rustic

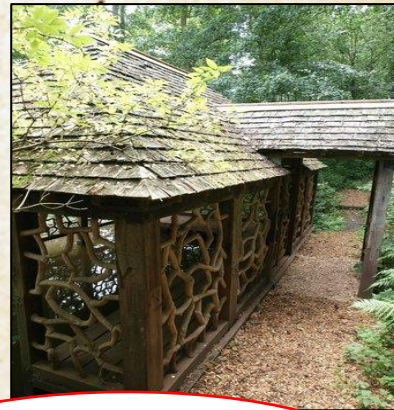
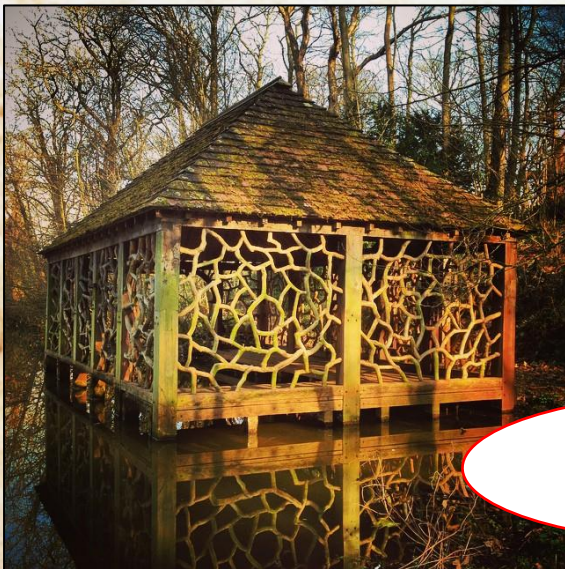
Meaning

If something satisfies your taste buds, you are very happy with it.

Have a look. Can also say 'have a butchers.'

A place that not many people know about but is well worth seeing.

Something that is very rough/old in appearance and looks like it belongs in the countryside.



My husband will take me rowing in the summer.



Whitley Court & Gardens



How romantic!

Woodlands and the rustic Victorian boathouse

Further on down the path you will **stand in wonder** at one of the biggest trees that you will ever see. This fella has been here **for centuries**.

Guys, look at the beautiful waterfall! You can walk around these woodlands all day and wonder at the beautiful sites that you will see. It's a stunning waterfall. Perfect for taking photos.

But there is a lot more to see so **let's get cracking**.

Vocabulary

Stand in wonder

For centuries

Let's get cracking

Meaning

To stand in amazement at what you are seeing.

For hundreds of years.

Let's begin /Let's get started



Let's go for a walk my dear.



Whitley Court & Gardens

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Conclusion

What a great place to come. You can come here and re-live the **extravagant lifestyle** of the families who lived here in this great Victorian style house. Just have a look at that.

Now, if you come here, you can **wander around numerous** small rooms, passageways, the woodlands, and **let your imagination run wild** in this true romantic ruins.

So, if you want to step back in time, come to Whitley Court Gardens. You can enjoy the romantic ruins behind me and relax and enjoy the **stunning** fountain as you see here. I promise, it will be a fantastic day out!

So, that's it for today. Don't forget to download the PDF because all of the information, vocabulary etc, is on that PDF. So don't forget to download that.

So remember, always remember, keep calm, learn English, and carry on.

See you next time on NicheEnglish's UK Tour.

Vocabulary

Extravagant lifestyle

Wander around

Numerous

Let your imagination run wild

Meaning

You live a very expensive life and spend a lot of money.

To walk around.

This means many/a lot of something.

Be as creative as you want to be.

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