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[TO HOME PAGE](#)

Time for Tea

A Guide to Tea Rooms
in and around Leicestershire and Rutland

by Helen Gale

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1999

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Dedication

*To all my family, friends and colleagues who supported me throughout
the writing of this book.*

*Special thanks go to my daughter, Hannah, who put up with lots of a
long drives over the length and breadth of the county – what a little star.*



Errors And Altered Circumstances

Every reasonable care has been taken to provide up-to-date and accurate information about the establishments featured in this guide. However, tea rooms, like everything else, are subject to changes over time. The details supplied cannot therefore be guaranteed. We recommend that you telephone in advance if you wish to be sure of your refreshment.

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Introduction

Writing this guide to tea rooms in Leicestershire and Rutland has been one of the highlights of my life. The only problem is that my bathroom scales keep highlighting a vast weight increase which I hadn't anticipated!






This is very much my personal guide. None of the tea rooms featured has paid to go in the guide. They have all been included on their own merits, as places that appeal to me. Some tea rooms are featured for their character, some for friendly service and value for money, and some because they offer added attractions such as garden or antique/craft centres. I hope you will find a variety of tea rooms to suit your mood and taste. The symbols at the top of each page may help you in choosing the right tea room (see below).

There are two 'child friendly' categories: those which make special provisions for children, and more specifically, those with a high chair. There are some smaller tea rooms that have no space for a highchair, yet they are very welcoming to parents with small children, so don't be put off.

In this second edition I have included a few tea rooms which fell just outside the Leicestershire and Rutland borders. This offers a wider choice for those willing to travel that bit further.

Leicestershire and Rutland can be very proud of the standard and variety of the tea rooms it offers. I do hope that you enjoy using this guide as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Helen Gale,
Glen Parva, 1999

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Key to symbols used in this book</i> |  | Special provision made for children. |
|  Wheelchair access to the tea room (entire or partial) |  | High chair available |
|  Customer parking is provided |  | Outdoor seating area. |

Staunton Stables Tea Room



The Ferrers Centre, Staunton Harold,
Nr Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics. Tel: 01332 864617



I thought I'd died and gone to heaven! There on display – teapots of every shape, colour and size. As a teapot collector, I really felt in my element!



Opening times:

Tue – Sun: 10.30–5.00
(close 4.30 in winter)
Closed every Monday,
except Bank Holidays

Location

5km (3m) north-west
of Ashby-de-la-Zouch
(SK375215)

Staunton Harold estate offers so much to see that you'll probably be glad of a chance to sit down with a cup of tea. Whether it's the garden centre, the craft shops or the Sue Ryder charity shop, there's always something to hold your attention. The setting around Staunton Harold is tranquil and beautiful, with lakeside walks waiting to be explored.

The tea room is part of the Ferrers Centre and in warmer weather most visitors prefer to relax in the stable yard, surrounded by the sun-warmed red brick buildings. Inside is equally pleasant, with pine furniture and vast arrays of teapots and old toys in display cases. A glass-fronted display case reveals scrumptious home-made goodies to be sampled, which you can also buy to take away. Light lunches feature on the menu, including jacket potatoes and toasted sandwiches. For visitors with a healthy lunchtime appetite, a range of hot lunches are served, with a regular specials board selection. Being pro-teapots, I was pleased to see tea is served in a generous sized pot. Tea addicts, this is definitely the place for you!

Nearby places to visit:

Staunton Harold church & park
Staunton Harold Reservoir
Melbourne Craft Centre (4km, 2m)
Calke Abbey (by foot: 2km, 1m; by road:
5km, 3m)
Moirra Furnace & Craft Centre (5km, 3m)
Donington Motor Racing Museum (5km, 3m)

The Barn Tea Room



The Manor House, Donington-le-Heath,

Near Coalville, Leicestershire

Tel: 01530 831214

My first thoughts when observing the antiquated gardening tools on the tea room walls were: “thank goodness I live in the age of gadgetry and Alan Titchmarsh”. However, the varied tools and implements seem very at home in the lofty spaces off The Barn Tea Room.

Opening times:

Easter to Sept: Daily, 11.00-5.00pm

Oct to March: 11.00-3.00

Location

2km (1m) S of Coalville (SK423125)

Situated in the grounds of the Manor House, the tea room offers a fitting spot to retire to after a worthwhile tour of the manor. The house is over 700 years old and, until it was acquired by the museums service, had been used to house pigs! I hope those pigs appreciated their valuable historic dwelling! The pine furniture and stone flagged floor give that rustic feel, which is continued with the rustic-sized portions of homemade cake you get. Having a hungry one-year-old, who likes chocolate cake, means large portions are essential if you want to eat!

Snack lunches of soup and jacket potatoes are available, alongside the ever faithful cream tea or afternoon tea, offering great value.

In the summer (yes I mean when the sun actually deigns to shine) you can sit outside, surrounded by the medieval style gardens which are being restored. The wonderful pungent aroma from the herb beds is heaven to the nostrils – guaranteed to lift your spirits.

