



## So what is Chatsworth?

The first house at Chatsworth was built by 'Bess of Hardwick' (c. 1527-1608) and her second husband Sir William Cavendish (1505-57). They bought the manor of Chatsworth in 1549, and building began in 1562, and was completed in the 1560's. She lived there with her fourth husband, George Talbot, 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. In 1568, Shrewsbury was entrusted with the custody of Mary, Queen of Scots, who brought his prisoner to Chatsworth several times. The Hunting Tower, built during this period, which still stands on the hill behind Chatsworth.

Few alterations were made at Chatsworth until near the end of the 17th century. In 1686 the 4th Earl (1640-1707; created 1st Duke of Devonshire in 1694 for his part in bringing William of Orange to the English throne) took down the South Front, and built new family rooms and a magnificent suite of State Apartments, intended for the reception of a Royal Visit from William and Mary.

The 4th Duke (1720-64) made great changes to the park and garden. He decided that the house should be approached from the west, so he pulled down the old stables and offices which interfered with the view on this side, and razed the cottages of Edensor village which were visible from the house.

The 5th Duke (1748-1811) married Lady Georgiana Spencer, famous for her charm and beloved by all who knew her. She was the subject of the motion picture, "The Duchess," (2008) starring Ralph Fiennes as the Duke, and Keira Knightley as his wife.

The 10th Duke's death at the age of 55 was sudden and unexpected, and death duties at the maximum rate of 80% had to be paid. Nine of the most important works of art and many rare books, as well as Hardwick Hall and its supporting farms and woods, were surrendered to the Treasury in lieu of cash. Thousands of acres of land and other assets were sold. The negotiations took seventeen years to complete and the final payment was made in 1967. The ownership of all the remaining Derbyshire estates then passed to the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement.

In 1957 some internal modernization was done, including a new central heating system and changes of use for some of the rooms. A new kitchen was fitted up nearer the private dining room and six flats made for members of staff and their families. In November 1959 the work was completed.

On 31 March 1981, after three years of negotiations with the government, the running of Chatsworth was taken over by the Chatsworth House Trust. This is a charitable foundation set up by the 11th Duke to help ensure for the public benefit the preservation of the house, its essential contents, the garden and the park. Presently tours of the home and gardens are open to the public, and the sewing school holds workshops and demonstrations. There is a working farm on the premises, as well as a number of gift shops and a restaurant. Chatsworth also caters to special events such as weddings and retreats.

[www.Chatsworth.org](http://www.Chatsworth.org)



## Chatsworth Chapter

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## Chatsworth Chapter

DAUGHTERS OF THE

BRITISH EMPIRE

DENVER, COLORADO

ESTABLISHED 1983



*'Not ourselves,  
but the cause.'*

## >Welcome!

The members of the Chatsworth Chapter, DBE, would be delighted to have you join our numbers. Please feel free to ask any of us how you can join our organization.

## Daughters of the British Empire

For almost a century, Daughters of the British Empire has been a common bond for women of British Heritage living in the USA. Members join together in fellowship, contribute significantly to the good of their local community and support four retirement homes for men and women established by the DBE with one home located in each of the four districts of the Society. Continuing into the twenty-first century, members have maintained an extraordinary standard of volunteer work spanning two world wars, the Depression, right up through the liberated 80's and beyond. They have a history of which to be duly proud.

The American based Society was founded in 1909 by **MRS. J. ELLIOT LANG-STAFF**, who while visiting Montreal, Canada became acquainted with the work of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. A Charter Chapter of the American organization was formed in New York on March 15th, 1909. The organization grew rapidly. On April 14th, 1920 the name National Society Daughters of the British Empire came into being. Now, as we say the rest is history.

**DBE** is a non-profit, non-political American organization and membership is extended by invitation, to women residing in the USA, who are of British or British Commonwealth heritage by birth, naturalization, or proven ancestry. Or, women, whose husbands are, (or whose husband's parent(s) or grandparent(s) are), of British or Commonwealth birth are also eligible for membership. Junior membership is available for eligible girls age 13 to 18 years of age.

**Chatsworth Chapter** is the longest established chapter in Colorado (we don't care for the word "oldest!")



In 2008 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary as the first group of ladies to bring together the camaraderie and sharing of our British heritage to Colorado by chartering a chapter of The Daughters of the British Empire (DBE). As part of the National Organization of DBE in the USA, Chatsworth Chapter is committed to supporting "The Cause" of DBE, which is to support the British Home in Sierra Madre, California and local charities in Colorado.

One of the many contributions made by Chatsworth Chapter is the hard-cover book "War Brides & Memories of WWII," under the pen-name of Elizabeth Hawthorne. This gargantuan effort resulted in a book full of wonderful stories of Colorado DBE members who came to the States as "war brides" around 1945 or later. The book has been shared far and near with friends and family, both here and throughout the British Commonwealth, and has become a source of funds given to charity. The book has since been recorded on to a CD to share with younger generations.

Today Chatsworth Chapter is growing thanks to the addition of several new members who bring with them enthusiasm and commitment to DBE and its Cause — but we are looking for MORE to join us!

Chatsworth Chapter typically meets the First (1st) Wednesday of each month. Our meetings begin with a business session, followed by a luncheon or tea held at various locations.

**New Members are Welcomed!**

**SO ARE JUNIORS!**

## The British Home in California, Ltd.

"Not Ourselves but the Cause," means

Daughters help support the DBE "homes." Chatsworth Chapter donates our fundraising proceeds to a home in California.

### THE WESTERN HOME

is situated at the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Located in a quiet residential area of the City of Sierra Madre, there are five separate "cottages," each having their own elegant living rooms and full-sized kitchens. Of the five cottages one is designated to assisted living. The Western Home also has a main dining room, commercial kitchen, and reception area for special events and entertainment. The facility is designed to accommodate 37 residents in spacious single rooms with private baths. The colorful gardens and beautiful green lawns surrounding the facility make it So. Cal's best-kept secret and the pride of Chatsworth!

## Chatsworth & DBE Events

### COLORADO ANNUAL

### COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting and tea is held in March..

### H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH

### BIRTHDAY GARDEN PARTY

In June, in a lovely private garden.

### VICTORIAN TEA

Open to the public, held in October, and a 20-year tradition.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held at the home of the British Consul-General's residence.

