

VISIT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE
SUNDAY 17 AUGUST 2014
REPORT BY DAVID JONES



Twenty three of us (including three guests) joined a Solent Coach trip to London to visit Buckingham Palace. Leaving Lymington at 0830 hrs we had a very good journey (despite some early mist at the beginning) and arrived at our destination shortly after 1100 hrs. This meant that there was some free time to look around and then have lunch prior to joining together for a 1415 hrs tour of the Palace. Some dined at a nearby Inn (very good value) whilst others had a picnic in the Park (sadly interrupted by a short but heavy rainfall). There were also opportunities to look around the Palace Shop and the Cavalry Museum before entering the Palace.



Quite a number of visitors appeared but it all went very well. Each person was provided with a headset as guide around the interior and to provide information of various items in each area/room. They were excellent in every way and proved to be invaluable throughout the tour. There were also attendants in each room/apartment and these were all very helpful and pleasant. Everything was beautifully presented particularly the carpeting, furnishings, pictures, candelabras, staircases et al. The State Room, Dining Room were very impressive as was the special Exhibition of the childhood days of the Royal Family. This included clothing, toys, photographs, films of wide range of past activities with a host of memories. All very, very worthwhile and not to be missed!



Light refreshments were available in a Marquee at the end of the tour. This was in the area behind the Palace overlooking the area where the Garden Parties are held. Very peaceful and enjoyable! Another opportunity was taken many to revisit the Palace Shop before we rejoined the Coach to travel home. We left about 1730 hrs (following a slight delay) but had a good journey back via Richmond and arrived back in Lymington shortly after 2000 hrs. All credit to our Coach Driver (Dave) for his calmness, patience and goodwill throughout our journey there and back!