

DAY TRIP TO ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL AND CASTLE 30 MAY 2013

Report by David Jones - Social Secretary

The schedule worked out well and everyone had an interesting day in Arundel. Despite a very cloudy, rainy start to the day the weather improved en-route as we headed east and by the time we reached Arundel it became much better than anticipated.



Many had a coffee on arrival and then started with a visit to Arundel Cathedral, decked with flowers for the Annual Corpus Christi Service due to take place later in the day. The Carpet of Flowers was a special feature spread along The Central Nave, a tradition started by the then Duke of Norfolk in 1877, a beautiful display of floral art so well organised and very skilfully arranged by local parishioners.

After the visit to the Cathedral most of us crossed the road to enter the Castle Gardens, a special arrangement only available on certain days in the year. This was a definite "plus" point and many of the gardeners present were delighted to have the opportunity to enjoy the setting, flowers, shrubs and overall pleasure provided. The centrepiece was "Oberon's Palace" (designed by Inigo Jones in 1611), a rock work "mountain" with palms and unusual ferns. The domed pergola and fountains, Castle Gardens and The Collector Earl's Garden were also delightful.

ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL

The Gardens provided a short, easy way to Arundel Castle. This was built at the end of the 11th Century and has been the family home of the Dukes of Norfolk for almost 1000 years. Most took advantage of the refreshments available in the Restaurant within the Castle itself before continuing the visit. That done everyone was then able to have a good look around the wonderful setting, grandeur, exquisite craftsmanship, fascinating furniture, tapestries and rare collections of paintings by renowned artists such as Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Canaletto. The Library has one of the finest Regency interiors in the world!

Some went around the bedrooms and some ascended up a narrow spiral staircase to the top of the Norman Motte and Keep (with excellent views across beautiful downland to the distant sea. Finally there was time for a cup of tea before returning home. It proved to be another good journey despite minor slow downs at Chichester, Portsmouth and Winchester. All in all this had been a very enjoyable day and special thanks go to Roger our driver for keeping on time and bearing the responsibility of providing a calm and comfortable journey!

