

**Group Visit to Cheapside Hoard and Houses of Parliament
Friday 28 March 2014**

Report by David Jones (Social Secretary)

This was an excellent opportunity to combine a tour of The Houses of Parliament with a visit to see the Cheapside Hoard Exhibition at The Museum of London (Wall Street). We were not disappointed, the day worked out extremely well, much enjoyed by all present.

Travelling by coach the journey was comfortable and suitable for our purposes. Arrival before noon at the Museum enabled everyone to have some light refreshments before commencing the tour of the Cheapside Hoard. This is the first time that the most exquisite cache of Elizabethan and Stuart jewellery, a treasure dating back to the 17th century, has been exhibited since it was unearthed from under a cellar floor for over 300 years ago. Remarkable! Some had a little time to explore other parts of the Museum which added to the pleasure of the visit.

Mid afternoon the group arrived at the Palace of Westminster to tour the Houses of Parliament. A Security Check, similar to that of an Airport, was made before entry to Westminster Hall. The group was divided into three and each tour was led by a qualified guide, lasting about 75 minutes. It included the Norman Porch, Queens Robing Room,, Royal Gallery, Prince's Chamber, House of Lord's Chamber, Peers' Lobby and Corridor, Central Lobby, Commons Corridor, Division Lobby, House of Commons Chamber, St Stephens Hall etc. Fascinating, historic, decorative and wonderful in all respects. Everyone was totally delighted!

A good journey home after a slow start leaving London at 6-15 pm. Arrival in Lymington was ahead of the planned forecast even after taking a sort break near Winchester. In all a very, very nice day and much enjoyed by all.