



Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

Web Site: www.jdcarea57.co.uk

E-mail: info@jdcarea57.co.uk

Published by Kim'nRoy

October 2020

It is thanks to Eric and Margot that there is a Newsletter this month. Obviously nothing has been going on since Capel Manor but if any of you can think of anything of interest, perhaps something you may have read, please pass it on to Roy. You may remember that I forwarded a letter from Gaynor recently as she hopes to start a spot in the Jaguar Driver about people's Jaguar stories, experiences etc, so if you think of anything to send to her, mention the Area.



You may already know that Wendy Shipman organises a very successful September Jag Club trip every year. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, including Covid, only five of us managed the trip this year. Therefore it was a case of

"THE FAMOUS FIVE GO INTO BATTLE"

Cast:

Julian:	Keith Williams	Anne:	Barbara Collins
Dick:	Alan Collins	George:	Eric Tetsell
Timmy:	Margot Tetsell		

As the weather forecast for that week was so good, Eric and I decided to make it a longer break and spend an extra two days away in West Sussex, then meet up with the others at Battle.

We set off on a glorious hot sunny Monday morning heading for Midhurst, West Sussex. Unfortunately I had contracted a nasty stomach bug the night before but we decided to take a chance and go anyway. As lunchtime approached we thought we would stop at Amersham as we knew the old town had an award winning Britain in Bloom garden. Well worth a second look. Pressing on, after a tricky spell around busy Guildford, we found the Spread Eagle Hotel in Midhurst. It was right in the centre of the old town, but quiet with plenty of parking. We were met with a very warm welcome and afternoon tea on the terrace. As it was a dog friendly hotel there were lots of new 'furry' friends to be made.

English Heritage describes Midhurst as a 'hidden jewel' and almost every house in the old part of town dates back to the 16th century. There are over 100 listed buildings. Parts of the hotel date back to this time also and include a medieval hall.

As the Weald and Downland Museum (where The Repair Shop is filmed) was only ten minutes away we had planned to visit but you needed to book, and that section was not open anyway, so we gave it a miss.

We really couldn't fault the hotel, the staff were efficient and friendly and the room very comfortable. Eric tried the spa, and, after turning down the leg waxing, had a swim in the indoor pool. There was a little courtyard off the spa with sun loungers so you can relax there after a treatment or a swim. Richard Freestone's friends must have stayed here years ago as there were photographs of a line of Bentleys parked in front of it.

After a very pleasant couple of days here (we were so lucky with the weather, sunny and still) we set off for Battle along the A272 which turned out to be a delightful, quiet drive through the countryside, perfect for classic cars, of which there were no shortage of en route.

The Powder Mills Hotel has a picturesque driveway between two large ponds, and after being shown to our room, we had lunch in the conservatory with the swimming pool in the background. After lunch we met up with Barbara, Alan and Keith who had booked a wonderful pub/restaurant for their lunch, where they had eaten last year - and again they were not disappointed with the food this time.

Again, the Powder Mills Hotel staff were very friendly and we only had to wear masks when walking around the hotel but not at lunch or dinner (obviously!). There was a good amount of outdoor space with lots of places to sit, covered walkways, a patio, plus chairs and benches in the gardens. It had a rather Tuscan feel about it. At the back of the hotel was a very large lake which took about half an hour to walk around, and we saw more ex-mill ponds in the woods around it which explained why there used to be several gunpowder mills here.

This was a another dog friendly hotel which was lovely, and we were so amused with the hotel dog who would not, under any circumstances, hob-nob with the guests. She would steadfastly ignore any greetings and treat us with utter disdain. On the other hand we had the friendly peacock who followed us around, sleeping in the sun outside our bedroom window and hanging around for any crumbs on the patio.

The following day Barbara, Alan and Keith decided to walk into Battle, which was a longer walk than expected, and not an easy pathway. Eric and I decided against it as I was still recovering from my stomach bug. In the afternoon the others drove into Hastings and enjoyed a walk around the old town, while we drove to Battle for lunch in yet another very pretty café. Like some of the other cafes we visited, it had plastic screens around each table which didn't detract from the feel of the place, but made everyone feel comfortable and safe.

We enjoyed the hotel so much that Eric and I decided to stay another day so we drove into Hastings. After being very impressed with the RNLI TV programmes we wanted to visit the RNLI base, leave a donation and visit the shop. I then had the traditional paddle in the sea – surprisingly not freezing cold.

The only fly-in-the-ointment with the hotel was a very confusing bill which lumped all our extras together over the whole party, which required a considerable amount of sorting out. We all agreed that in future it would be a good idea to pay-as-we-go.

Barbara had booked a visit to Chartwell on their way home on Friday (which we didn't do as we had been there three times and also decided to stay an extra day). Although their booking allowed entry to the grounds, they then had to book a time to visit the house itself which, disappointingly, did not work out as the wait was quite considerable.

On our way home we enjoyed very quiet roads as it was a Saturday morning (worth noting for future trips) and stopped at a small village called Eynsford on the A225, just before we joined the M25. It was worth a visit as it had a picturesque ford, which some local children were paddling in, and a small delightful tea house for cake and lashings of ginger beer!

To sum up, we felt it was a good idea to have a trip mid-week as it was much quieter to visit various towns, including the ease of parking, walking around and eating out, plus no wedding parties.

Thank you again Wendy for organising our trip but we obviously missed you and Doug and Bobbie and Keith.

(With apologies to Enid Blyton).

