



## Area 57 (Enfield) Newsletter

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### October 2022

I hope that everybody received the message about the cancellation of the October Monday meeting at short notice, and we apologise for the inconvenience.



It seems a long while ago now, but back on the 11th September several of us displayed our cars at Hatfield House with others from the Museum. Judith Reeve had plenty of information about Whitewebbs, so hopefully people were interested. It was a lovely day and we really enjoyed walking around the garden area. Doug and I had Sunday lunch in the restaurant, which we would recommend to anyone. I understand that Judith will be provided with vouchers for us to get free entry when the house is open again next year. I last went there when I was at school which is far too long ago to remember it much.



The following day the seven of us who still go on a September break set off for a few days near Henley-on-Thames. We met for lunch on the way at The Royal Standard of England, one of the oldest pubs in the country. Our table was by a log fire which looked very welcoming but was not really needed on sunny day. It didn't take too long to get to The Bird in Hand at Knowle Hill. It was right on the A4 but set back enough from the road not to be a nuisance. The hotel, however, was disappointing in many ways. Our rooms were in a courtyard attached to the main building, but the ground floor ones were not warm enough. We had dinner there on the first night but, as the menu was not changing during our stay, we all decided that there was not much we fancied so we had our dinner at a pub a few miles down the road for the other two nights. There were many things that could have been very much better about the hotel which I won't bore you with. It was a very convenient distance from the places we wanted to visit and we headed off the next morning to the National Trust property of Cliveden House which is also a 5 star hotel. For those of you in the right age group, you may remember that is where the Profumo affair took place, resulting in the fall of Harold McMillan's government. The grounds are spectacular, with a large water garden and a huge lawn with parterres planted with thousands of plants. In the distance you could see the Thames, and it can be reached by a flight of 120 steps which none of us wanted to do. On certain occasions, and this was one of them, guided tours are available to see some of the rooms and hear the history of the building, so we took advantage of that. Unfortunately the rain set in for the afternoon, so we headed back to the hotel after finding the pub for the next two evening meals.

We went into Henley next morning as we wanted a river trip. We found a car park close to the river but, as we didn't know how long to get tickets for, Barb and I went off to find out times for a boat. Quite conveniently there was an hour long river trip starting in an hour or so, which we booked. It gave us a little time to walk round some of the town before we had to get on the boat. There was an interesting commentary about buildings we passed and it was very enjoyable way to spend some time.

We drove to another National Trust property not far away; Greys Court, a small Tudor house where we were able to have something to eat. The house is set in lovely parkland and has some walled gardens with a very old wisteria which must be spectacular when in bloom.

The next morning, before making our way home, we drove into Marlow. It was very busy, but we eventually managed to get parked. Our intention was to walk along the river, but we never managed to find a way to get to it so, after a coffee or tea, we wandered back to the car park and said our goodbyes.



On 25th September, it was time to close the season with our Breakfast Run. Thirteen of us were at The Cricketers in Clavering, a new venue that Brian W had found for us. The menu was very extensive, with probably even more choice than we used to have at the Bocket Arms. The staff there were very pleasant and obliging, but the service was very slow and we were there for much longer than we would have expected.



We don't intend to book anywhere for a Club Christmas meal, and are of the opinion that it might be better to arrange something in the New Year. Many years ago we used to go out for a meal in March to celebrate the anniversary of the Area starting. Perhaps that might be worth considering.

