

JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2017 MAGAZINE

Welcome to the July, August & September 2017 edition of our Magazine. This issue runs from 1st July to 30th September.

Reports include:

- Walking Group—12th July
 - Outing to Cardiff—26th July
 - Garden Appreciation Group—6th August
 - AGM Monthly Meeting—7th September
 - SNATTs visit to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve —8th September
 - Garden Appreciation Group visit to The Almon-ry, Evesham - 12th September
- Last update: 22nd September 2017



Chain Ferry on River Avon, Stratford-upon-Avon, April 2017

Walking Group - Walk on Wednesday 12th July 2017 From Dovers Hill.

There was a good turnout of about 16 members for the May walk. Pat Cooper led the walk, which started from the National Trust car park on Dover's Hill.

There is room for more walkers if you want to come along. Please ring Valerie Redfern for more details It is recommended that you wear good walking shoes or boots and bring a drink along with you.

It was a five mile walk with magical views. The weather was sunny with a light breeze.

A short break was taken about halfway for a drink and snack if brought along.

The photograph below shows the group in a woodland setting.



Outing to Cardiff—Wednesday 26th July 2017

We had a very wet day for our outing to Cardiff. Brian and Coral had organised the trip by Johnsons Coaches, but were unable to secure dry or sunny weather. We arrived in Cardiff at about 11.15 after a comfortable journey. Although it did not stop raining, the weather did not spoil our day as we found places to go and things to see where we could keep dry.

Some of the party took a Friday Tour bus but we did find that some of the open top buses were just that—open top, whilst others were partly roofed. We could hop on and off the bus so could see lots of the city in a reasonable time.

The coach had dropped us by the castle so we were able to explore that. There were Norman bits and later bits, even some Roman masonry in the foundations. The 3rd Marquess of Bute, with the help of the architect William Burges, transformed many of the castle state apartments into an extravaganza of neo-gothic. His wife, Lady Gwendolen FitzAlan Howard, managed to keep just a few rooms in their original Georgian style of decoration. The work included dismantling some of the older buildings and building new works.



Above: the Winter Smoking Room

Below: Children's Nursery



Above: The State Banquet Hall

Below:

The Master's Bathroom complete with full size bath, flushing toilet and hot and cold running water, date about 1870.



Below: Library



Above: Roof Top Garden



Above: the Norman Keep on its Motte.

Party returning to coach for journey home.



Above: Georgian style Drawing Room



Garden Appreciation Group—Tuesday 8th August 2017

Visit to Bourton House Gardens

Although the weather was being normal for a British summer—wet, windy and cool—several members of the group braved the expected conditions and were rewarded

A better than expected day. It was cloudy but quite dry. The garden was gorgeous, full of colour and interesting plants, the old buildings were beautiful and the topiary spectacular. So all enjoyed the visit and thought the gardens splendid.

The house has been rebuilt several times over the centuries, the last time in the early

18th century on the footprint of the older house. Cotswold stone for all the buildings make the house a splendid sight in the gardens. The current owners have owned the house since 2010 and have continued the development that the previous owners started during the 1980s.



More Images from Bourton House Gardens



More Images from Bourton House Gardens



Left: View of house beyond parterre.

Above: Ancient Tithe Barn on the estate.

AGM Meeting 7th September 2017

After a very short Annual General meeting, in which the essential business of electing a Chairperson and a committee for the ensuing year was completed, we were entertained by Andy Smith. His talk was entitled "UNDER THE INFLUENCE"—featuring songs and tunes by artists who have influence his life and music - everything from Buddy Holly, The Beatles and John Denver to comedy writer Jake Thackeray"

Andy had brought along a selection of instruments that he has played and continues to play and enjoys. These ranged from a mandolin to an electric guitar, with several variations be-

tween. He played several instruments choosing the pieces carefully to entertain the audience and to bring out the best from the instruments. Many favourites from our youth held us all the while he was performing. Thanks very much Andy.

At the end of afternoon the audience were able to purchase CD's featuring Andy's music and performances and the proceeds were to be donated to Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Macmillan Nurses. A total of £83.78 was raised.



Garden Appreciation Visit to The Almonry, Evesham on Tuesday 12th September 2017

This group visited The Almonry, Evesham, in September. This was a small but fascinating garden, attached to a tourist office and museum. The garden had some very interesting plants and structures within it and we also

spent a lot of time looking inside the museum at historical exhibits about Evesham. The museum houses an eclectic collection that spans the pre-historic to the 20th Century. Displayed over 12 rooms and a garden, the emphasis is on how Evesham has developed and grown during this time. There are exhibitions about the Abbey, the battle of Evesham in 1265, horticulture in the area, Anglo-Saxon burial treasure, 18th Century clothing and the impact of war upon this little market town.

The coffee and cakes at the Word of Mouth café were particularly delicious !



Science, Nature and All Things Technical Group

Visit to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve

Friday 8th September 2017

Eleven members made the trip to Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve on a bright but showery day. The Nature Reserve is run by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and comprises a large area of land formerly worked by the local cement company who extracted minerals for their business. The holes left have mostly filled up with water and a variety of boggy areas full of reeds. There are quite a number of bird species living

on the lakes and in the wooded area. Muntjac deer, badger, rabbits and many other species are resident. The Nature Reserve was opened by Sir David Attenborough in 1970 so the 50th anniversary will be here soon and is already being planned.

We had a good guided tour of a good part of the Nature Reserve passing by the East Marsh



Map of Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve

Pool where many of the bird population are to be found. We spent a few minutes in the Wright Hide where we had a good view over the most of the pool. We saw several species of aquatic birds, including Heron, Mallard, Swans, and several other species. Not many of us had brought binoculars and we did not have a real expert with us so we were unable to positively identify some of the birds.

We continued on and eventually arrived at the Mouse Maze—no mice to be seen. Next to it was the story area.



After lunch in the Badgers Tearoom some of the party ventured out into the Reserve again to visit more of the pools and hides. We did manage to visit several of both with views of several bird species.



Swans



Heron



Various birds on an island in East Marsh Pool



Close up of birds on the island.

There is a geology wall near the Nature Centre plus some explanatory displays.



In the Mouse Maze there are a few sculptures in various materials and some will/hazel rooms



and tunnels.

The picture below is of the party during the morning walk with our guide.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our visit and several signed up to membership of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

