

TWAS ON TOUR

June 2024



Chilham Castle

Not a countrywide tour like pop stars but a splendid country tour for TWAS members.

What a packed day it was, starting with the coach leaving St. Peter's promptly at 9.30 am.

There was just time for us to sip a glass of bubbly in the coach to get us in the mood, before we arrived at our first scheduled stop - Mount Ephraim Gardens . The gardens are delightful, with many different areas to visit including the Water Garden, the Miz Maze, the Topiary and the beautiful Rose Garden. Most of us realized we would want to return to Mount Ephraim at some point to appreciate more of the gardens in detail.

There followed a country tour down the narrowest of lanes to arrive at our next destination, The White Lion at Selling, where we were met with a glass of wine (obviously!) before enjoying a set meal in our own private room.

Next stop, the highlight and the inspiration for our Day Out :- ‘The Wine Garden of England Summer Celebration at Chilham Castle’. Having arrived at the main entrance, we walked downhill through the Castle grounds to the lake area where we set up camp. At the ticket marquee, we were given a tote bag containing tasting vouchers from the various wineries exhibiting and a fairly large tasting glass which many proceeded to try out immediately - others followed at a more leisurely pace!



Chilham Castle Gardens

Some of the exhibitors were well known to us - Biddenden, Chapel Down and Balfour for example. Others, like Yotes Court, were less familiar. However, we all tried to do as much tasting as possible and decided that the NFU Insurance tent was definitely worth a stop to try and blind taste and identify five wines – all without using a precious voucher.

Food was available to buy but we heard of people waiting an hour and a half for pizza.

After a slightly cloudy start, the sun emerged in a cloudless sky making us appreciate our beautiful surroundings by the lake.

All too soon, it was time to make our way back to the coach. Leaving no-one behind our trusty coach departed at 7 o'clock. There was no time for a nap on the way home - a soft drink with a savoury snack and biscuits relieved the boredom, and also prevented a sing-song!

From comments received, it would seem everyone had an excellent Day Out – time to think where the next 'Twas on Tour' will take us!
