

Times Out 2025 Trip Reports

Theatre Royal, Windsor
Wednesday 22nd January



On Wednesday 22nd January 12 of our members went to see a comedy/farce called "Dial M for

Mayhem at the Theatre Royal in Windsor.

It is loosely copied from the genre "The play that goes wrong".

It was fast moving at times and quite entertaining; a Marmite play in that some of us thought it was good and some didn't. However, it was well acted by only 6 actors. Timing was good, critical for the comedic effect of the play.

Quite an enjoyable evening.



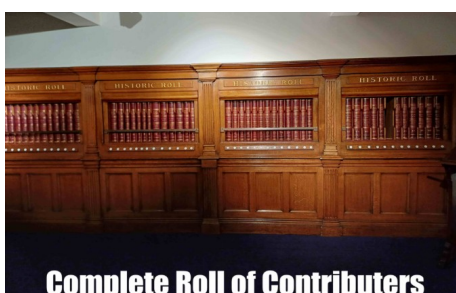
Central Hall Westminster and Supreme Court

Thursday 6th February



Our trip to Central Hall Westminster and the Supreme Court last year was so popular that we arranged it again for this year and so on Thursday 6th February 29 of our members travelled to London to visit both of these iconic buildings. Both of which are located near or in Parliament Square.

First we had a tour round Central Hall which is part Methodist Church and part events venue. The hall comprises 23 varied rooms that can accommodate up to 60 people in the smaller, more intimate function rooms, to over 2000 people in the main hall. All of these can be hired for events.



The Grand Hall has a magnificent organ and the stage is in different parts which can be raised and lowered according to the production requirements.

We also went out on a balcony on the 4th floor that looked directly over the main entrance to Westminster Abbey; this is where the BBC film any major royal event at the Abbey.

At the end of the 19th / beginning of the 20th century there was a successful attempt to raise one million guineas; people would donate one guinea each and everyone who donated were recorded in one of over 45 volumes, we were shown one of the volumes.

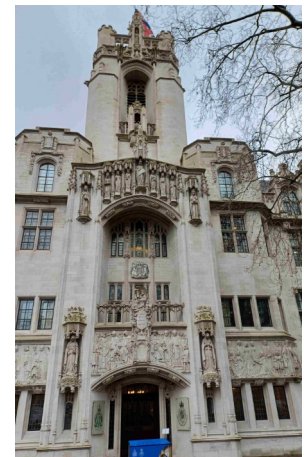
All around the place there were paintings and statues many of which were of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement.

They have a very nice cafe there where many of us had lunch.

After lunch we walked around the corner to the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, where we had our second guided tour of the day.



The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom was only established in 2009 and is the final court of appeal in the United Kingdom for all civil cases, and for criminal cases originating in England, Wales



and Northern Ireland. As the United Kingdom's highest appellate court for these matters, it hears cases of the greatest public or constitutional importance affecting the whole population. Criminal or civil cases must have gone through at least two appeals before they can be referred to the Supreme court which only deals with points of law that need clarifying, they do not get involved with the facts of the case.



A very fascinating and informative tour. We started by sitting in court 1 followed by court 2 and in each court the guide explained how the Supreme court works. As a case was being heard in court 3 we could not go in as a group but after the tour some of us sat in for a few minutes to hear what was going on. After the court rooms we were shown the large library full of legal

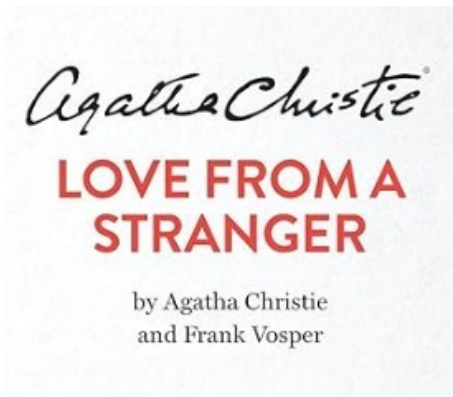
books and case books.

There were enough of us to arrange a tour just for us, you can do this from Monday to Thursday. But it

A really good day out enjoyed by all.



Wokingham Theatre - Love From a Stranger Wednesday 4th June



On the evening of the 4th of June, 30 of our members went to the Wokingham theatre charity performance of the play Love from a Stranger written by Frank Vosper in 1936 based on a 1924 short story Philomel Cottage written by Agatha Christie.



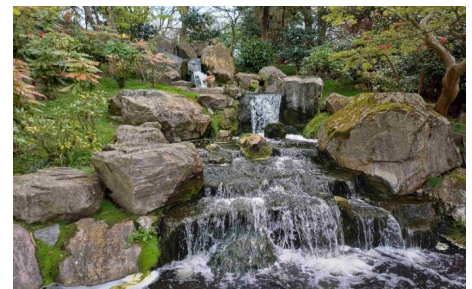
There were seven actors in the production and the storyline developed in an intensive chilling way which examines the sadistic mind of a serial killer and to the extremes which the power of suggestion can be pushed.

One of the best thrillers we have seen and it kept everyone's attention to the final unexpected conclusion. Thanks to member Barbara Denyer for the tickets in the aid of Samaritans for this annual charity evening production.

Hidden London Walk Wednesday 18th June



On Wednesday 18th June, 24 of our group took the 702 bus from Legoland to Kensington where our London 'Hidden Walk' would begin.



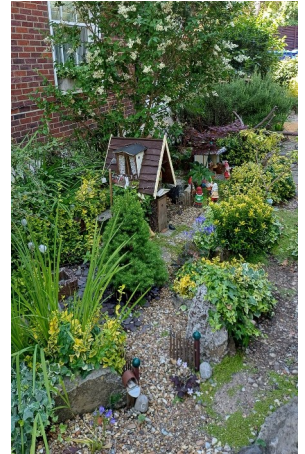
We started on the north side of Kensington High Street at Kensington's parish church, which has the highest steeple of all London's parish churches. We then headed north past some small village-type shops, one of which sold and sharpened knives; price was by the inch e.g. £1.10 per inch for a carving knife. We wandered on through the multi-million pound houses and apartments, past Kensington comprehensive school (known as the socialist's Eton) with its seven tennis courts. I've never seen a comprehensive school like it.

Next we walked around Holland Park, one of the most beautiful parks in London. Inside the park

was a stunning Japanese garden called Kyoto Garden. We stopped for lunch in Holland Park.



After lunch, just outside the park, were the houses of Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page and singer Robbie Williams. Page's house is a grade one listed French gothic style "Tower House" and Williams' is a grade two listed 47 room house.

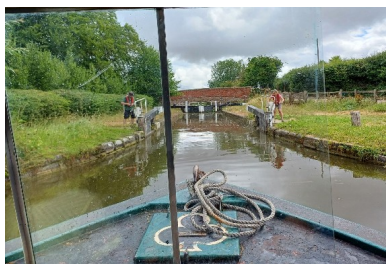


We then walked down and across Kensington High Street to explore the west side. More multi-million pound houses and pretty but private squares. One such square, Edwards Square, covers 3½ acres. When new in 1819 an Act of

Parliament regulated every function within the square including the requirement for residents to sweep outside their property every morning before 9:00 or face a five shilling fine.

The walk ended back at Kensington High Street. On the corner of the old Derry & Toms building was a free Japanese arts and crafts exhibition which was well worth a look around.

Kennet & Avon Barge Trip, Hungerford Thursday 17th July



On Thursday 17th July 41 members went on a barge trip on the Kennett and Avon Canal.

We started at Hungerford and headed along the canal towards Reading.

This was a round trip that lasted about two and a half hours and was very leisurely. We passed many inhabited moored up barges along the way.

We went through two locks and on the second one some of us disembark to view the boat turning round for the return journey.

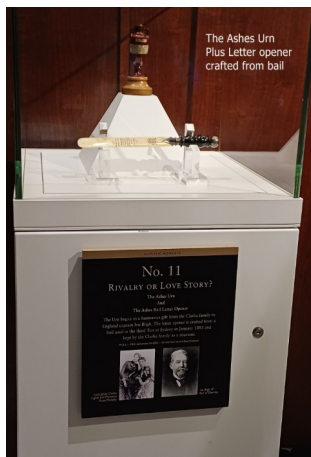
Although there was some drizzle at the beginning the weather turned out OK in the end.

Our thanks go to skipper David Ferrington for his informative talk on the history of the canal, also to Steve and Sheila Richards and the other crew members who helped.

An enjoyable trip and may try and book type of barge or boat trip next year.



Visit to the Home of English Cricket - Lord's Tuesday 26th August



On Tuesday 26th August 17 of us went by train to St. John's Wood and took the 15 minute walk to Lord's cricket ground for a tour by one of their guides. Waling round two sides of the ground to get to our entrance at Grace Gate showed us just how large the ground actually is.

The tour started in the museum where, amongst the historic bats, balls and memorabilia was the actual Ashes urn, a lot smaller than what you might imagine it to be. The history behind it was explained by the guide and was quite unusual; you will have to go on your own tour to find out about it (or just Google it).

After spending a little time in the museum the tour took us to the Long Room in the Lord's Pavilion and then on to the changing rooms with Honours Boards; in the England one it showed best English test bowlers and batsmen and in the visitors it showed best visiting test bowlers and batsmen. Next we went then outside to the ground itself (but don't touch it or walk on it). Finally the super new (well fairly new) media centre at the Nursery end, where the view over the ground was fantastic. And of course it all ended up in the souvenir shop.

A really excellent day out.



Skittles at the Binfield Club Thursday 7th November



On Thursday 6th November 21 of our members attended our skittles evening at the Binfield Club. We played a few different rounds ranging from normal, then throwing with your non-dominant hand, then throwing facing away from the skittles then each bowling one ball.

There was also a table dingbats quiz which was a bit easier than last year's picture quiz. The best score this year was 100% as opposed to just over 50% last year.

The score from the quiz was added to the skittles score to declare the winning team and they were duly awarded a prize.

The Binfield Club put on a really good buffet during the evening. Also our thanks to our members John and Irene for booking the club for us.

An enjoyable evening was had by all.