

Times Out 2026 Trip Reports

Theatre Royal, Windsor
Wednesday 4th February



On the evening of 4th February 13 of our members went to see Barnum at the Theatre Royal Windsor.

It is based on the life of the showman B.T. Barnum covering the period 1835 - 1880 wherever he took his performing companies.

B.T. Barnum was played by Lee Mead who actually walked the tightrope during the performance.

The show featured an ensemble of 20 actor-musicians playing 150 different instruments and was choreographed by Oti Mabusi.

The show was colourful and full of action with singing dancing and some very risqué acrobatics one of the best musicals we have seen and well recommended.

Brooklands Motoring and Aviation Museum Tuesday 3rd March

On a beautiful sunny day in March 5 of our group met at Brooklands Motoring and Aviation Museum. When we got there we went straight to the café for coffee and some had a bite to eat.

After that we wandered around the various parts of the museum that contained not only planes and cars but buses, motor cycle and cycles.

Some of us managed to have a go on the F1 simulator, a simulation of an F1 car going around Brooklands.



Getting into the car and having an exciting drive was the easy part, getting out of the car was a little more difficult.

Some of the group had a guided tour through the Concorde aircraft that was on display there whilst others did some more wandering.



Sultan of Oman's Plane



Second class seats for the servants

A wonderful museum well worth a visit. A great day out and the weather made it even better.

Royal Ballet and Opera House, Covent Garden Wednesday 18th March



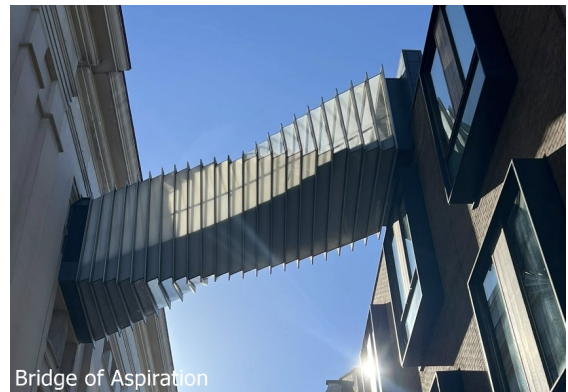
On another pleasant day out in March; 20 of our group went up to London by train and walked from Waterloo to the Royal Ballet and Opera House, Covent Garden just in time for refreshments before our tour.

Our designated tour leader was not available so the guy who manages the tours took us round, he was excellent and very knowledgeable.

The tour started with a bit of history of the building and the Royal Ballet and Opera or RBO, as they are known. Next we went up to the highest level, entered the auditorium and sat and listened to a bit of rehearsal of Rigoletto, a bit of one of the raunchy scenes. The sound of the unamplified voices was amazing even where we were sitting. This was due to the careful design of the building.

The next part of the tour took us to the bridge that joins the Opera House to the Royal Ballet School just across the road, the bridge is named “The Bridge of Aspiration”.

The bridge was quite an engineering feat; not only did it have to join the two buildings which were at different levels, it also had to obscure the view from the street looking up, obscure the view from the bridge to the neighbouring apartments and look good. You will see from the pictures that all these challenges were successfully overcome.



Bridge of Aspiration



We went on across the bridge and through to the ballet school to see a ballerina practising.

Finally we visited the workshop where all the props were made. They were currently making quite a complex model of a donkey; until fairly recently a live donkey was used in the ballet “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” but all future performances will use this model (similar to the War Horse models).

What a very informative tour, highly recommended.