

RYEDALE FORUM HOLIDAY

BATH, BRISTOL AND WELLS - 1-5 October 2017

It was a wet and miserable Sunday morning when 44 Forum members set off on our annual Holiday. But spirits were high as we anticipated another few days away with our friends.



By the time we reached Royal Leamington Spa the rain had cleared and the sun came out. We had a couple of hours to have a quick look at this lovely town and have a bit of lunch. Some of us took a walk in the Park whilst others saw the Museum which is based in the Royal Pump Rooms. This is definitely a place worthy of a longer visit.

We arrived at our Hotel – the Limpley Stoke Hotel in time for a drink before dinner.



Lacock Village



Lacock Abbey

Monday morning dawned fine and dry and we went first to the village of Lacock. The whole village is owned by the National Trust and is much used as a location for historical dramas such as *Cranford* and *Pride and Prejudice*. We thought the presence of so many cars belonging to the residents rather spoiled the effect but nonetheless it is a village still looking as though the nineteenth century has yet to start.

The afternoon was spent in beautiful Bath. A cathedral city famed for its honey-coloured stone buildings and Regency Terraces. Our Blue Badge Guide – Jane, pointed out most of the important buildings and the principal attractions and gave us a brief history of the city. We then had time to explore for ourselves.



Bath Cathedral

Tuesday was completely different. First we went to see Brunel's famous Clifton Suspension Bridge. Some of us walked over it and enjoyed the views up and down the river Avon whilst others climbed up the hill to look down on the bridge to get the full picture of its size and the deep gorge which it spans.



Clifton Suspension Bridge

The first iron steamship, the SS Great Britain, designed and built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel was our next port of call. 'Absolutely fascinating' was the opinion of many of us.



SS Great Britain

A remarkable example of restoration and preservation this famous ship was, for many years, abandoned in the Falkland Islands before being rescued and brought back on a pontoon all the way up the Atlantic to the very dry dock in which it had been built in 1843.



Margaret Wing



Barbara Grice

Two of our intrepid members climbed the rigging!! Most of us were content to look around and imagine what it must have been like to sail to Australia in the 1800s.



Wells Cathedral

On Wednesday our destination was Wells. The location of another cathedral, it is another really interesting place to visit.



Bishop's Palace



Bishop's Palace Gardens

We had a guided tour of the Bishop's Palace which has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for over 800 years. We spotted the bell which the swans on the moat are trained to ring in order to be fed. After dinner that evening some of us enjoyed singing to the accompaniment of the resident pianist – a Forum choir perhaps? Or perhaps not!



Forum Members Group Photograph with Tim our Driver.

Thursday morning and we had to set off for home but we didn't want to waste any of our holiday so we first visited Bibury – a Cotswold village very popular with visitors from Japan as their Emperor once visited it. Then on to Cirencester which was a major Roman settlement. We had time for a brief look around and a bite of lunch before heading at last for home.



Bibury Village



Alms Houses Bibury Village

By the time we arrived in Malton at about 8:30pm most of us were tired out having had a lovely, packed few days away. We were so fortunate with the weather, the hotel was very comfortable and the food and the staff were exceptional. We will have many memories of places visited and friends made.

Another successful holiday thanks to Terry and Carol.

Many thanks to Anna for the article and Mike for the Photos.

And here is another photo of our Intrepid Member
Barbara Grice – as she climbs the rigging of the
SS Great Britain

