

New Forest & Beyond

We are a friendly group and meet occasionally on the first Thursday afternoon of the month at a member's house to plan our forthcoming adventures, unless we have arranged a "jolly" somewhere in which case the time and day might vary.

If you would like to find out more about the New Forest and its environs do come along and join us.

If you would like to join please register with Jo at josephinebarratt@hotmail.com

Suggestions for 2020, in no particular order and most with no fixed dates as yet, include:

Arundel Corpus Christie Carpet of Flowers and Castle Thurs 11th June

The feast of Corpus Christie commemorates the Body and Blood of Christ; it is celebrated by the Catholic church and for over 100 years the feast has been marked at Arundel Cathedral by a spectacular 90ft Carpet of Flowers up the central aisle. It is hoped to arrange a coach trip to Arundel both to see the Carpet of Flowers and also, for those who wish, a tour of Arundel Castle.

Guided Tour of Winchester – a guided tour of this historic city led by a Blue Badge guide The Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Poverty – an absolute gem, a must for a visit! This is Britain's oldest continuously running charitable institution. The Hospital was the achievement of Henri de Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror and it has stood in the St Cross area of Winchester for over 900 years! It is famous for its unique and ancient tradition of providing the Wayfarer's Dole – a horn of beef and a morsel of bread given to any visitor who requests it. The tradition still continues today! You can request your dole at the Porter's lodge as you leave!!!!

Avington House – a 16th Century English Country house, Grade 1 listed, which stands in Avington Park in the Itchen Valley near Winchester.

Fishbourne Roman Palace and Gardens – a visit to see the amazing Roman mosaics

Whitchurch Silk Mill – a gem of industrial heritage, a 19th century water mill that weaves English silk fabrics using 19th century machinery. If you are feeling energetic there is a 7 mile Mill Trail, passing 5 historic mills along the banks of the River Test.

I will investigate coach or minibus travel for some of the above which are a distance away.

Other suggestions which are nearer to home and which some of you have already done but some of you may not have done:

Verderers Court, Lyndhurst – Verderers are forestry officials in England who deal with common land in certain former royal hunting areas which are the property of the Crown. The office was developed in the Middle Ages to administer forest law on behalf of the King, investigating and recording minor offences such as the taking of venison and the illegal cutting of woodland. Today the New Forest Verderers serve to protect commoning practices and conserve the traditional landscape and wildlife. The Court meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and the Open Session starts at 10.00. If anyone is interested we could attend the Court on Weds 18 March?

Open top New Forest Buses – red, green and blue routes. These buses start in the summer with the school holidays.

Southampton City Walks

Lulworth Castle and Park

Tyneham Abandoned Village

This list is not exhaustive, just a start!!!! If you have any suggestions about places we might visit, please let me know.