

After three days and nights of intense heat we welcomed the cool breeze on the morning of our trip to Burghley House. We arrived in time for coffee at The Orangery before touring the House. The décor and furnishings are both intricate and impressive and beautifully kept. There were volunteer tour guides in most of the rooms and they were very friendly and welcomed any questions we had to ask. The views from the House were stunning over the estate and surrounding countryside and we had the opportunity to walk freely around the gardens and sculpture park after the tour of the House.

One of the highlights of the visit was the Garden of Surprises with a theme of enchantment mixed with astrology. The water features were amusing and the school parties visiting were certainly enjoying this part of the visit. To exit this Surprise Garden you had to walk through the water curtain. Both Chris and Debbie ran through the downpour which resulted in quite a soaking! However when Brian stepped forward to dash through the water curtain, the waterfall suddenly stopped and we all walked through totally dry. I believe Debbie has video evidence of this miracle!

Our next stop on this day's visit was Stamford. Full of stone buildings and independent shops with a riverside park where an ice cream could definitely be on the menu. It also boasted a Wetherspoons where you could enjoy a cooling drink or snack sitting outside with friends and resting our weary feet.

This visit proved to be a lovely day out with a good mixture of history, gardens but most of all fun and friendship. Many thanks to the Committee for arranging such visits.

Nina Leonard