

HIHS Coach Outing Thursday 30th April 2015



[Bentley Priory Museum](#)



[Chenies Manor](#)

We set off from Hayling on the first trip of 2015 with the threat of showers, which to our relief never materialised and the weather, like the day out, was just perfect.

True to form we hit severe traffic problems on the A3 and M25, yet arrived at our first destination Bentley Priory Museum, bang on time, where we enjoyed welcoming light refreshment.

Our tour guides divided us into two groups and we were each given a conducted tour and bounty of information on the strategic importance played as HQ Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain.

This included a special audio visual presentation exploring the important leadership of Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, Commander-in-Chief.

The photo on the right shows the first group in the room dedicated to the pilots on who, we as a nation, owe so much.



How the incoming aircraft were plotted and fighter planes dispatched to intercept was of special interest. Radar stations along the coast from Ventnor on the Isle of Wight around to North Norfolk sent in information. This was triangulated and assessed by a controller to give a best guess of formation strength, location and height, assigned a unique number and then checked against a flight record of friendly known movements to be determined if hostile. A teller placed a sliver displaying this information on the table chart, which as seen in the photo, is marked with colour coded radiating lines indicating set distances from each radar station. The information was then passed on through lower layers of command for them to activate a measured response.

Following a lunch break we got back on the coach for the short journey to Chenies Manor and its annual tulip festival, arriving spot on true to schedule.



We were again split into two groups for a tour of the Manor a Grade I Listed Building, known formerly as Chenies Palace, owned by the Cheyne family granted the manorial rights in 1180. The manor remained in their possession until the end of the 15th century.

The present day structure was built by Sir John Cheyne in approximately 1460.

Both Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I visited the house on many occasions accompanied by their Courts.

Our guides made the tour interesting with much to see and informative stories of ghosts and history.

The gardens were a blaze of colour with blossom opening to the warmth of the afternoon. Lawns were fine cut and immaculate, complimenting the beauty of the spring bedding. The banks of individual tulip varieties were prominently labelled and the arrangement of garden rooms a delight.



Prior to our journey home refreshments were taken in the tea rooms and garden terrace.

Back on the coach Chairman Bill gave thanks to our driver and especially to Eve for organising this much appreciated, well enjoyed and smooth running trip.