

REPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY No.1017835



SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER.

Proposals for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

This proposed interchange will be sited close to the Toyota roundabout and will allow goods to be moved between the rail and road networks to support businesses in the region and across the UK. It will have some 6 million sqft of units for the distribution industry and could deliver up to 7,000 jobs. After a recent public information day in the Village Hall the Society has made the following comments to the developers. Measures should be included to (a) alleviate the undoubted increase in traffic through the village, (b) prevent flooding of the Repton road in Willington from the proposed drainage pond and (c) the new jobs should be offered to local residents first.

Tour of the Houses of Parliament and Tea on the Terrace Monday June 2nd.

This was a repeat of a visit in 2011 which was overbooked and was sponsored again by our MP Heather Wheeler. All the arrangements were in place until when, three days before departure, came the bad news that all the tours on June 2nd and 3rd were cancelled in order to prepare for the State Opening of Parliament on June 4th. Then came the good news that Heather, using her formidable powers of persuasion no doubt, and her assistant Charlie Smoothy had managed after much hard work to arrange a somewhat abbreviated tour.

The coach was unusually late due to unforeseen problems, the M1 was slow, Vauxhall Bridge was closed as were the roads around Westminster and hence the usual coach set down point, so we arrived late. The first bonus was that we entered and exited via Portcullis House and had the chance to see the interior of this amazing building. The next was that Westminster Hall was uncrowded. Heather met us and stayed as our chief guide. In place of the usual guides Charlie had persuaded several of her other young, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and patient assistants/researchers (another bonus) to help her take small groups round. Heather described the voting lobbies, the history of the buildings and the various foibles of the procedures etc in some detail. She had also arranged for us to visit the Chapel of St. Mary Undercroft – not usually open to the public. On the night of the 1911 census Emily Wilding Davison hid in the cleaner's cupboard in the chapel. Her census entry therefore recorded her address as "House of Commons" thereby substantiating a woman's claim to equal political rights to those of a man. Her life ended following her final protest when she ran onto the Derby racecourse and fell beneath the horses' hooves.

Whilst circumspect in her remarks whilst in the House of Commons in case the microphones were switched on she was less so when she stood on a chair at tea and addressed all 64 of us for a few very entertaining, humorous and interesting minutes!

After tea there was plenty of time to stand or sit on the terrace and take in the iconic river scene and talk to Heather and Charlie before leaving via Portcullis House. Several of us had light hearted helpful banter with the Police whilst outside the buildings and it showed the Met at its best especially when the young armed officer on the steps of Portcullis House wished us all a safe journey home. Needless to say this was swift and event free. There is a law that said this would happen.

We are most grateful to Heather, Charlie and the team for putting so much effort and time into turning a potential disaster into such a memorable day and the Society has written to them to say as much.

Membership. This now stands at 131, much the same as last year. However new members are always welcome.

P.T.O.

Future Programme.

Thursday July 3rd. “Canal Boat People.” The little known men, women and children, who worked the canal boats of our inland waterways for two hundred years, had a very distinct lifestyle. During this talk Dr. Wendy Freer looks at the particular difficulties of family life aboard a cramped narrow boat and the problems children faced at school.

Saturday July 5th Wendy will be on the coach for a visit to Gloucester Docks. It leaves Repton Church at 8.30a.m with a stop for coffee, and a short optional guided walk in Worcester, for about 90 minutes. A map showing the Cathedral, Porcelain Museum etc will be available. At the docks Wendy will lead another optional walk pointing out the various museums and other features and architecture. There is also a Designer Outlet complex to be explored (again optional)! Plus coffee shops, restaurants and boat trips. The Cathedral (free entry) and the city are 10-15 minutes walk away. Visitor guides and other information will be given out on the coach. Departure time is 4.30 p.m. Cost: £17 members. **There are only a few tickets left.**

August. No events whilst the committee has a rest.

Thursday September 4th “The Royal Yacht and My Falklands War.” Mark Newbold will be talking about his time aboard the Royal Yacht and his experiences in the Falklands War.

Saturday September 13th The coach leaves Repton Church at 8.30a.m for Stratford on Avon. After coffee etc. a guide will come on board for a 90 minute tour of the town with several stops for photographs and viewing. The afternoon will be free for further unguided exploration with a departure time of 4p.m. Maps will be provided. Cost: £15 for members.

If you'd like to have your newsletter by email we can easily arrange it. It's the quickest, most economic and environmentally friendly way to receive the information. Just send a message to rvssec@yahoo.co.uk and you will have your copy as soon as it is written. The majority of our members use this system now.

Alan Webster 01283 701838 ahwebster795@btinternet.com