

OUR VISIT TO FIRLE PLACE – Tuesday 5 October 21



All guests were welcomed on arrival by the estate's personnel and guided towards the Tea Rooms for a coffee and home-baked biscuit. Our group was then divided into three smaller groups which were taken on a tour of the house by a well-versed guide. My group had a lovely lady whose knowledge of the history of the house and family was amazing. As the weather was sunny, she started her story outside of the front entrance near a puddle where once a well used to be.

The main hall was a good example of things to come. The old sedan chair, made for the lady of the house, raised the question why the seat was so low. Room for voluminous skirts? We had forgotten about the fashion of voluminous wigs and tall feathers!



The dining room (formerly billiard room) had been used in the filming of 'Emma' and the dark red, plain walls were still covered in the pink and green patterned wallpaper used in the film.

By the end of the tour

we had got to know the family well and had a chance to admire all the pictures, tapestries, art and the different styles in which the house was built. Even the graffiti from the Germans who were quartered there, on the inside of an old entrance leading nowhere, was an interesting touch.



Throughout were the lovely paper Regency dresses, costumes, and shoes, displayed to perfection in the setting of Firle Place. We were not allowed to photograph these, but some of the collection will go to Worthing museum

and Brighton Pavilion after 26 October. For those who missed the tour, do go and see them.

