

VISIT TO WINDSOR CASTLE

1st December 2025

On a wet and windy day 44 of us braved the weather and boarded the coach for Windsor, where we were safely delivered by Neil, our steady and courteous driver. Once parked, we dispersed into smaller groups, some going straight to the castle, while others couldn't resist stopping at a cafe on the way.

Windsor Castle holds many treats. As ever, Queen Mary's Dolls House was magical; at this time of year with its own tiny Christmas tree. In the main rooms there is a huge array of swords and other weapons, fortunately too high for anyone to reach. Especially interesting and colourful were the cabinets displaying gifts for the monarch from foreign dignitaries.

We gasped at the opulence of the state rooms featuring a dazzling amount of gold, silks, chandeliers and porcelain. Unfortunately, the famous Dining Room was closed to visitors due to the impending state visit of the German President. However, we could look in through an open door to see the fabulous settings for the state banquet.

Wherever we went Castle staff and volunteers were welcoming and helpful, many offering information and anecdotes. For example, since the terrible fire in 1992 the magnificent tapestries are now held in place by velcro, so that they can be swiftly removed in any future disaster.

Shrugging off the rain, our homeward bound coach journey was full of chatter and laughter, and not a few sleepy people.