

On the 11th August 45 members and friends set out for Cholmondeley Castle through what looked as though it might be a “grey day”. We arrived slightly late due to bad traffic problems en route and were greeted by Dilys, the lady in charge of our tour and taken to the old chapel. We took our pew and had a very interesting talk by one of the guides on the history of the chapel followed by a short organ recital. The coach then took us up to the castle where most of us alighted and joined the castle tour, leaving the remaining few to the gardens. By this time the weather had cleared and it promised to be a very pleasant day.

The castle tour was informative as well as informal and apart from the usual family portraits and historical furnishings, it was also very welcoming and in some rooms modern but classic furnishings had been introduced. We had two guides to split the group numbers and came away very pleasantly surprised at the amount of knowledge imparted to us relative to the family as well as the relaxed way in which it was given. The gardens were well tended and had to some extent been colour themed. There was a beautiful stone mosaic circle in dedication to the present Lady Cholmondley’s late husband not far from the castle.

The plant sales area was well laid out and the head gardener and assistant were there to help – they even gave two of us a lift back to the coach with our purchases.

The tearoom was good, varied and sensibly priced and at the end of the day, some members even succumbed to their ice-creams. We departed feeling that the day had been worthwhile and the gardens could stand another look around sometime in the future.