

1st Wychwood Guides

Christmas being over and life seeming a little dull, 1st Wychwood Guides once again started planning an outing to London, although we did decide to leave the visit until spring, hoping for kinder weather than we enjoyed last year! Given a free choice the girls decided on a trip on the London Eye, followed by a visit to the Tower of London. The date was set for Sunday April 1st, information gathered on prices and 'best-value', plans formulated and off we went.

As a change from travelling by train we decided to use the Oxford Tube bus service from Oxford which would deliver us to Victoria, just a couple of Underground stations from the Eye. This did entail parents and husbands delivering and collecting us from Oxford, but as a cheap and convenient means of travel it was worthwhile – our thanks to all involved. Six Guides and four adults met up at Shipton at what felt like the crack of dawn and we were soon on our way.

We were pre-booked on to the 11 a.m. flight and as I had already experienced the trip twice I passed my ticket on to Sylvia and went off to purchase tickets for the next part of our expedition. With the use of Family Tickets we were able to take a boat trip from Westminster down to Tower Bridge for our visit to the Tower. The weather was clear and sunny so the views over London were spectacular – if you have not been on the Eye we recommend you take a trip. It is fascinating seeing so many landmarks from above and you get a wonderful view over the walls of Buckingham Palace, although we did not spot the Queen walking the corgis!

The trip on the river gave us the opportunity to see some of the sights from yet another angle and it is interesting to see how many of the old warehouses are being turned into luxury apartment blocks. We decided that even if we had the money to buy one we still prefer life in the Wychwoods. The Tower was busy but not too crowded and we were able to see the Crown Jewels without queuing. There is no chance to stand and gaze at them though – you are moved along on moving pavements, just like an airport.

I think some of the girls were disappointed not to see any real dungeons and although we found the site of the block someone had removed all blood-stains and we never did find where they keep the axe.

All too soon we were back on the last boat heading for Westminster Bridge again on the first stage of our homeward journey. As we passed Hyde Park on the bus it seemed as if half of London were out enjoying the sunshine and the favoured mode of transport is obviously rollerblades – perhaps we will try that for next year's trip!



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the John Walker concert such a big success. £800.00 was raised to help buy the computer projector for Kingham School in memory of Harry Pickering. Everyone was very generous from printing posters and tickets to giving raffle prizes, refreshments and money, and a big thank you to the team who worked so hard on the night.

John and I have arranged another concert for May 18th next year, when the proceeds will go to Riding for the Disabled. Then I'm going to retire.

Once again many thanks for your support.

Vera Case