

Holiday with a religious connection: West Sussex – Days 5 and 6, Bognor Regis and Littlehampton; Fishbourne, Bosham and Uppark.



The Thomas the Tank Engine train ride on Bognor Regis sea front.

Day 5

Wednesday 13th April 2016, the fifth day of our tour of West Sussex, was forecast to be dry and sunny and was the first without any specific religious connection (although they are all the Lord's days!) We visited **Bognor Regis**. A factor underpinning the growth of the resort was its station, opened in 1864 on what was a sandy, undeveloped coastline. Consequently, small numbers of wealthy Victorian figures established large homes in the area and a seaside resort was developed by **Sir Richard Hotham**, a rich London hatter.

In 1929 the area was chosen by advisors to King George V which led to its regal suffix, by royal consent. Butlin's has been involved in the town since the early 1930s when an amusement park and zoo were opened. A holiday camp followed in 1960 and this has more recently moved towards hotel accommodation with modern amenities.



The Royal Norfolk Hotel on Bognor Regis Sea Front. The first hotel at Bognor, built by Richard Hotham in the late 1780s, burnt down in 1826 and was replaced by the Norfolk Hotel in 1829.



Kiosk and seating area on Bognor Regis sea front.



The pier at Bognor Regis.



Entrance to Butlin's Bognor Regis.

Butlin's presence in the town began in 1932 with the opening of an amusement park; their operation soon expanded to take in a zoo as well. In 1960, Billy Butlin opened his first post-war mainland holiday camp, moving both the amusement park and zoo into the new camp. The camp survived a series of cuts in the early 1980s, attracting further investment and again in the late 1990s when it was retained as one of only three camps still bearing the Butlin name. The camp has since seen a raft of new construction as the company moves from chalet towards hotel-based accommodation.



After a long walk along the sea front, time for some sunbathing!

While I relaxed over a coffee, Magda explored the town centre's shops. In the afternoon we drove on further along the coast and stopped for a while at **Littlehampton's West Beach** which is on the opposite side of the **River Arun** from the town centre. The beach is more secluded than the town's East Beach.

We then drove to **Littlehampton** for an ice cream, where there is a great marina and beach walk.



The Marina on the River Arun - the town of Littlehampton is on the other side.



West Beach, Littlehampton.

DAY 6

FISHBOURNE

On another dry day with some sunshine, our first stop was **Fishbourne Roman Palace and Garden**. The large palace was built in the 1st century AD, around thirty years after the Roman conquest of Britain on the site of a Roman army supply base established invasion of Claudius in 43 AD. The rectangular palace surrounded formal gardens, the northern half of which have been reconstructed. There were extensive alterations in the 2nd and 3rd centuries, with many of the original black and white mosaics being overlaid with more sophisticated coloured work, including the perfectly preserved dolphin mosaic in the north wing. More alterations were in progress when the palace burnt down in around 270, after which it was abandoned.



Wall frieze, part of the exhibition at Fishbourne Roman Palace.



A recreation of what a room may have looked like at Fishbourne Roman Palace.



A model of the Roman palace at Fishbourne.

BOSHAM

Our second stop on Day 6 was to **Holy Trinity Church, Bosham**. The church is in the charming village of Bosham which includes an attractive **Quay** area.

Bosham is mentioned by name in the Bayeux Tapestry, referring to the 1064 meeting of Harold and Edward the Confessor on the way to meet William of Normandy to discuss who would succeed Edward to the throne:

"Ubi Harold Dux Anglorum et sui milites equitant ad Bosham ecclesia[m]"

(Where Harold, Earl of the English, and his army ride to Bosham church)



The Bayeux tapestry depicts Harold's visit to Bosham church.

Bosham is known to be the oldest site of Christianity in Sussex.

There is a long held tradition that early in the 11th century King Cnut's young daughter was drowned in the millstream and was buried in the church. **Bosham Quay** is also said to be where Cnut attempted to defy the waves and got his feet wet! "Let all men know how empty and worthless is the power of kings" – Cnut demonstrated at Bosham in West Sussex, that he could not, contrary to legends, turn back the tide.



Martin defies the waves in "Cnut" fashion at Bosham Quay – well, so far so good!



Holy Trinity Church, Bosham.

The chancel of **Holy Trinity, Bosham** was constructed in three clearly defined stages, the first is Saxon, the second Norman and the third is 13th century Early English and includes the beautiful five-light lancet window with detached slender Purbeck marble columns.



The chancel at Holy Trinity, Bosham, with five light lancet window.



Crypt at Holy Trinity, Bosham. It was once a 'charnel house' – a chamber in which bodies or bones are deposited.



VICARS of BOSHAM
during the Second Millennium

HENRY MARSHALL · 1204
WILLIAM de AWITONA · 1285
RALPH de WENHAM · 1294
THOMAS YONGE · 1371
JOHN CROSSE · 1371
JOHN BOOTHBY · 1371
THOMAS WHITEWELL · 1385
THOMAS ATTE WODE · 1399
JOHN YUNG · 1399
WILLIAM LANGTON · 1400
RICHARD HALS · 1400
RALPH WATYRMAN · 1402
WILLIAM MATTES · 1415
JOHN DURNFORDE · 1439
ROBERT FUNTEYN · 1440
WILLIAM PARKERE · 1444
THOMAS SCOTHOW · 1481
JOHN CLYFTON · 1491

WILLIAM TYLER · 1491
JOHN DEWHURST · 1509
JOHN WEST · 1509
THOMAS BULL · 1513
THOMAS MORLAND · 1533
RICHARD RADMAN · 1535
THOMAS MORLAND · 1537
RICHARD HOODE · 1547
WILLIAM HYDE · 1595
STEPHEN GOLDINGE · 1607
SAMUEL WILKINSON · 1613
RICHARD AUSTIN · 1614
NICHOLAS PAYNE · 1616
JOHN LAMBOLDE · 1617
WILLIAM LELAND · 1625
GEORGE HORSMAN · 1625
JOHN BUTT · 1637
DANIEL HARCOURT · 1650
RICHARD COOKE · 1657

SAMUEL TANGLEY · 1657
EDWARD MITCHELL · 1674
JOHN SNOW · 1680
JOHN WHITEHEAD · 1693
RICHARD LAWSON · 1731
THOMAS SAMPSON · 1771
WILLIAM KILWICK · 1800
GEORGE HOW · 1838
HENRY MITCHELL · 1845
KENNETH MACDERMOTT · 1902
FRANK ROCHFORD WADE · 1915
JOHN MAUNDERS · 1922
GEORGE STREET · 1926
ALBERT CHATFIELD · 1935
BRANSBY JONES · 1949
DUDLEY DINNIS · 1963
DAVID MARSDEN JONES · 1969
THOMAS INMAN · 1986

Three beautiful wooden carved panels listing the vicars of Bosham in the second millennium.

Uppark

Our third and final stop of Day 6 was **Uppark House and Garden**, a **National Trust** property. Perched on a vantage point high on the South Downs ridge, Uppark commands views as far south as the English Channel.

Outside, the gardens are being gradually restored to their original 18th-century design. Uppark's Georgian interiors illustrate the comfort of life 'upstairs', in contrast with the grim 'downstairs' world of the servants. A highlight of the collection is one of the best examples of a 17th century doll's house in the country.

The house was built for Ford Grey (1655—1701), the first Earl of Tankerville, c.1690 and was sold in 1747 to Sir Matthew Fetherstonhaugh and his wife Sarah. Matthew and Sarah redecorated the house extensively from 1750 to 1760 and introduced most of the existing collection of household items displayed today, much of it collected on their Grand Tour of 1749 to 1751.

Their only son, Sir Harry Fetherstonhaugh, added to the collection and commissioned **Humphrey Repton** to add a new pillared portico, dairy and landscaped garden. In the 19th century stables and kitchens were added as separate buildings, connected to the main building by tunnels.



The front of Uppark House.



The plant sales and restaurant area at Uppark House.



Long underground passageways connect the stables and kitchens to the main house at Uppark.



The dairy building at Uppark.



Observation pavilion, Uppark gardens.



A guided tour of the gardens. The South Downs can be seen in the distance.

On 30 August 1989 the building was devastated by a fire caused by a workman's blowtorch whilst repairing lead flashing on the roof, just two days before the work was due to be completed. The fire broke out during opening hours. Many works of art and pieces of furniture were carried out of the burning building by members of the Meade-Fetherstonehaugh family, National Trust staff and members of the public.

Although the garret and first floors collapsed onto the lower floors and the garret and first floor contents were lost completely, the floors largely fell clear of the ground floor walls and much of the panelling and decoration survived.

Much of the contents of the ground floor was crushed but not burned; metalwork was able to be straightened and cleaned, crystal chandeliers were able to be reassembled, and even the elaborate tassels on the chandelier ropes were able to be conserved. The decision to restore the house came after it was determined that restoration would be a cheaper insurance settlement than complete payout for a total loss.

Most of the pictures and furniture in the house were saved. The building has since been completely restored with many lost crafts relearned in the restoration process, and it re-opened its doors in 1995.

H.G. Wells spent part of his boyhood at Uppark, where his mother, Sarah, was housekeeper between 1880 and 1893. She had previously been employed there between 1850 and 1855, as housemaid to Lady Fetherstonhaugh's sister. Wells' father Joseph, a gardener, was employed at Uppark in 1851 and he and Sarah married in 1853.

(Source - Wikipedia entry)

Martin and Magda Jones

April 2016

Sources of information:

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Fishbourne Roman Palace and Garden: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fishbourne_Roman_Palace

Bosham: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosham>

Holy Trinity Church Bosham: <http://boshamchurch.org.uk/church-history/>

Wikipedia - Uppark House: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uppark>