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WALK AND PUB LUNCH, THE WHEATSHEAF, VIRGINIA WATER , TUESDAY 5th AUGUST



Just one carload of four walkers arrived at the Wheatsheaf to begin the walk.

The route was a circuit of the Virginia Water lake, mainly around the edge but diverting via the Valley Gardens on the slopes above the north shore.

It was pleasant weather, dry and sunny with a bit of a cool breeze.

The lake and surrounds were created in the 18th Century as a royal pleasure ground and along the way there were a few points of interest.
First was the 30-foot high Cascade and grotto which date from 1789, which is apparently impressive after heavy rain (although no water is currently flowing down it due to the recent dry weather).
A little further on, we saw the Leptis Magna Ruins. This is a folly constructed in 1826 from columns and pedestals recovered from the ruins of an ancient Roman city in Libya.



After walking through the Valley Gardens, an undulating woodland of flowering shrubs, we reached the Totem Pole. This is 100 feet high and was presented to the late Queen by British Columbia in 1958 – although owing to its age and condition it is due to be taken down shortly and “laid to rest”.

Back at the Wheatsheaf we were joined by six others for a convivial and satisfying meal.

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LUNCH TALK ON "THE FALKLAND ISLANDS" , by Anita Mosey TUESDAY 20th MAY

Anita's description of her life on the Islands with her husband between 1990 and 1993, gave us an intriguing snapshot of this unique society.

Determined to retain their connections with the 'old country', despite the shadows of the conflict, and some 8000 miles of separation, traditions are maintained. Motor transport is exclusively by elderly Land Rovers, and drivers as young as ten are a common sight; the Governor's official car is a London taxi!

Horses play a more active role, and horse races at the Falkland's 'Newmarket' are a central feature.

Anita and her husband, in his role as CEO of the Falkland Islands Company, occupied a large property: Anita was able to choose a wooden house for export to the Falklands. She chose a five bedroom, two storey house for local assembly and this was was shipped out to Port Stanley.

Fruit and vegetables were in short supply until the Governor invested in a hydroponic farm.

Anita gave us several anecdotes regarding dignitaries passing through, including the Duke of Edinburgh: typically, the Duke had a searching interest in the Island's all-important sheep-rearing, with the shearing drawing experts from as far away as New Zealand.

Nowadays, the Islands even attracts cruises, and the antics of the various types of penguin on Pebble Island are a real attraction, although care is still needed on some beaches, and the solitary golf course for mines, the legacy of the War.

All in all, a very enjoyable introduction to these unique islands: thank you Anita!



FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER: Walk and Pub Lunch, TBA

TUESDAY16th SEPTEMBER: Club Lunch, Speaker Rob Davies " The London Fire Brigade"

SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER: Visit to Hampton & Kempton Waterworks Railway and Kempton Steam Museum –*SEE FLYER!*