

The New West End Outing to Blenheim

Valerie Richman



On this crisp, but sunny Sunday morning, our coach was waiting to collect those of us brave enough to get up early and depart (08.30) for our outing.

The history of the only palace not to lived in by royalty was explained on our journey and we made excellent time, arriving at 10.00, giving everyone time to use the facilities and then the Blenheim Palace Guide spotted our early arrival and the House was opened up fifteen minutes earlier than normal, especially for us and we had our own private tour inside the house itself. Everyone thought the guide was excellent and the rest of the day was for everyone to enjoy on their own looking through the

house and exploring the wonderful gardens and woodland. When it came time for us to depart, we were taken to Bladon to see where Sir Winston Churchill was buried, together with his wife Clementine, father, Sir Randolph Churchill, mother Jennie and the various members of his family (son, daughters, cousins, as well as Consuelo Vanderbilt who was married to a former Duke of Marlborough.

We arrived back in London at 17.00 hrs, and everyone agreed the day had been well-spent.

Perhaps next year (P.G) we might have more support, as we get the services of a luxury coach and Blue Badge Guide free of charge and only pay entrances and a gratuity to the driver for a full day out!

Our thanks are extended to Epsom Coaches for providing us with such a comfortable coach and competent driver.

If you have anywhere particular you would like us to consider for next year's outing, please let us know. It has to be within 2 hours drive.

My thanks to all who supported this year's outing.

A Cookery Demonstration with a Difference

Debbie Talalay

In dark wintry January, Denise Phillips cheered us all up by giving a demonstration on World Fusion Cookery.

Denise uses many herbs and spices from Asia which were probably unknown to our parents, and which are now easily available from the supermarkets. It is a style of cooking which adapts very well to Kashrut as there is virtually no use of dairy, with coconut milk used to enrich and thicken instead.

Denise showed us how to broaden our cooking style by using ingredients alongside each other in unexpected ways - which produced a surprising and interesting blend of flavours. Though the soup was interesting and the salmon delicious - to my mind - the real star of the evening was the roasted tropical fruit.

Denise has written several cookery books as well as having cookery columns in several newspapers - including a page later on in this magazine.