

A TRIP TO BEWL WATER

Reported by Denise Lee

ON SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE, in beautiful sunshine, a party of twenty Dover Society members set off for a visit to Bewl Water. Located in a rough triangle between Flimwell, Lamberhurst and Wadhurst, on the Kent and Sussex border, it is part of the High Weald, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Within 30 minutes of leaving Dover we were journeying through lovely narrow tree lined winding roads, passing by picturesque old style villages to arrive at Bewl Water the largest stretch of open water in the south east. A major centre for water sports, it is also a key element in the provision of water to two million Southern Water customers.

Over sixty years ago engineers started assessing the demand for water supplies by future generations. It quickly became clear that Kent needed to develop greater resources and the plans for the reservoir were conceived. Bewl Water was completed in 1975. It took 31,300 million litres of water to fill the reservoir for the first time.



Racing activity



The Swallow

After we arrived we had time for a quick refreshment break, some of us an ice cream, then it was time for the main reason for the first part of our visit. We headed down the grassy slope towards the landing stage and there waiting for us was our boat the *Swallow*.

We quickly got aboard and were soon under way for the trip around Bewl Water. As we chugged out across Chingley Deep we slowly passed places with strange sounding names like Polecat Wood, Goose Creek and Rosemary Farm. Heading back towards the centre we passed Tinker's Marsh and The Nose while further to the left were dozens of windsurfers racing between Seven Pound Creek and Bramble Bay. Then after a relaxing trip of 45 minutes in the blazing sunshine it was back to the Look-Out restaurant for lunch and a drink. It was then time to board the coach once more for the short trip to the vineyard.

LAMBERHURST VINEYARD

Reported by Alan Lee

THE VINEYARD WAS REACHED after a short journey of about ten minutes from Bewl Water with the entrance just past an award winning bar and restaurant named *The Swan At The Vineyard*. We just had time for another drink before we met our guide

Dionne Eames for a quick tour of the vineyard, because at that time of the year there was not a lot to see, grape wise that is.

Dionne certainly seemed to know her subject and explained that the vineyard was established in 1972, on sandy loam subsoil,