

Wartburg Castle, Wittenberg where Martin Luther translated the Bible into German. He wrote 95 Theses and in 1517 he nailed them to the doors of All Saints' Church, the *Schlosskirche*. This is commonly viewed to be the beginning, or at least the spark which led to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

At the end of the visit as the four friends relaxed over a German beer they agreed that they felt stimulated and inspired by all that they had seen and learnt.

Lea, with her most enlightening talk, gave us just a taste of the treasures of Dresden and Weimar, where there is so much more to see. The area would make a wonderful holiday destination for us too.

*Schlosskirchenturm, Wittenberg*



## THE PINES GARDEN & CALYX CENTRE

*A talk by Olivia Clark and Edmond Rube reported by Terry Sutton*

The history and progress of the six-acre Pines Garden at St Margaret's Bay was described to our members at a meeting at St Mary's parish centre on January 21st.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Olivia Clark, general manager of the St Margaret's Bay Trust, and her colleague Edmond Rube, the technical manager of the iconic Calyx conference centre that graces the gardens.



*The lake at Pines Gardens*

Olivia explained how the late Frederick Cleary CBE, who founded the gardens and the trust, first visited and enjoyed St Margaret's Bay when he was a boy and his father, a soldier, was stationed at Dover Castle. After a successful career in property Mr Cleary moved to live at St Margaret's and in the mid-1960s bought the six acres of the valley near his home (the former Napoleonic era military training ground) to prevent it from being built on. Mr Cleary died in 1984. (Alistair Gould, his grandson, is the chairman of the trust and was to have given the talk but he had another appointment in South America).

Olivia described the large monument in the gardens to Sir Winston Churchill, created by Oscar Nemon, and how the plinth on which it stands was changed and softened from black marble to rocks to make it more natural.

*Winston Churchill's statue*

Other initiatives were the creation of a labyrinth, designed in 2000, for reflection and contemplation by visitors to the gardens and a 'climate change' garden where exotic plants were grown to demonstrate to visitors what they would be able to cultivate in their own gardens.

Olivia, who paid tribute to the volunteers who helped man the gardens, said another innovation was a shell carpet (made out of seashells) that crunched as one walked on it.

*The Labyrinth at Pines Gardens*

She also told us about Rippledown Environmental Education Centre at Ringwould, owned by the trust, that provides education for urban primary school children, some of whom have never been to the countryside or seaside before.

The Calyx was also the venue for nine weddings in 2007. It was claimed to be the most energy efficient building in Europe she said.

Edmond provided technical details about the construction of the rammed chalk block conference centre, explaining that it was provided in an attempt to demonstrate to others how global warming could be tackled by using local resources. The chalk to build it came from the site.

He claimed that, so long as it was looked after, the chalk block built Calyx could last for 400 years. It required just 15 per cent of the heating normally used in a building of its size and, when in full use, needed no external heating at all because it captured the heat from people's bodies.

*\*The Pines Garden, at the foot of Bay Hill is open to visitors (daily all year from 10 am to 5 pm) and well worth a visit.*

*The Calyx*