

SOCIETY OUTING

Arundel

22nd June 2019

Rodney Stone

And the Sun Shone on Us at Arundel during the visit by 31 members.

The prelude to arriving there, and indeed for some the high-spot of the day, was calling at the English Martyrs Catholic Church in West Worthing. Our driver, the good Janet, had not been warned that we were going there and we had a tour of Worthing and Goring while, bless her, she tried to remember where the Church was. Hooray for passengers' mobiles with maps.

Wow! What a spectacle worth the search. The ceiling of the Church is a reproduction of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, with extensive stained glass as well. All are the work of local artists and give a wonderfully bright, cheery and almost overpowering ambience. Though arriving late, we were most deferentially greeted by the Priest, who gave a brief outline of the work and produced mobile mirrors that allow visitors the easier task of looking down rather than craning upwards. The Church authorities had debated whether to permit such an ambitious project, and had finally agreed provided it was carried to completion. It is a blessing to the parishioners and visitors.



Ceiling English Martyrs Catholic Church (Derek Leach)

In Arundel itself there were the choices of:
*lunch by the river

*the sumptuous Castle Gardens, formal and informal, colourful and even dramatic planting schemes, use of timber in place of more usual stone, restored Victorian greenhouses, all as organic as possible, and more too in a delightful experience.

*the imposing Castle itself, with noisy re-enactments of past derring-do.

*the fine and orderly Cathedral, preparing for a concert by the internationally known Libera choir. Shame they did not do a rehearsal while we were there.

*numerous restaurants and antiques' shops, with supreme cars parked nearby that caused us to think that most were not in our price league.

*parkland by the river, including a verdantly attractive putting green.

*and no doubt much more besides.

All were made that much more appealing still by warm sunshine that created a holiday atmosphere.



River Arun (Derek Leach)