

Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - Correspondence, E-mail
 - Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

 **LARGER TEXT**



London Plant Region : Past Events

The London Trampers go to Little Burstead - 17th September 2007.

This walk was the most challenging yet. To read about it, [click here](#).....

Trip to Brighton - 5th September 2007

We were blessed with good weather. To read about it, [click here](#)...

Visit to Buckingham Palace State Rooms - 21st August 2007.

We go to the Palace. To read about it, [click here](#)....

Ramble & Pub Lunch - Great Stambridge - July 23rd 2007.

For an account and pictures of this first ramble, [click here](#).

8 day Holiday trip to Austria - July 10th - 17th 2007

For an account of this holiday, with pictures, [click here](#)...

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Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - Correspondence, E-mail
 - Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

+ LARGER TEXT



London Plant Region : The London Trampers go to Little Burstead

This walk was the most challenging yet.

23 turned up for the walk and/or the pub lunch centred on Little Burstead near Billericay, Essex.



The Dukes Head at Little Burstead - our starting and finishing point. Photo taken at the pre-ramble assessment on a sunnier day....

This was a good turnout, particularly as there had been a lot of wet weather just before the planned walk. The walks and pub lunches are proving popular, numbers are growing, and the number of walks will be expanded to 4 for 2008.

This walk was the most challenging so far but was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The guide book reckoned the walk was about 3 miles, but the Dave the leader assessed it to be closer to 5 miles, and it felt like 20 miles!

Not everybody taking part is fighting fit - Dave applauds all those who completed the walk despite their personal difficulties. It was also great that Derek Germaney came for the lunch despite a worrying time over his health. It's a compliment he still wants to be involved with the group. Derek provides most of our photographs - of

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» P&G Shares

Click the item entitled "General Information" in the menu on the left to view latest Procter & Gamble share price

professional quality. Unfortunately he was not up to taking photos at this event, but Dave took a couple whilst on the ramble.



Altogether at the outset.



The group spreads out.

The walk was organised by Dave Risk who provided the photos and the walk summary.

Posted 27th October 2007

[back to London Plant Region events.](#)

Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - » Correspondence, E-mail
 - » Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

[+ LARGER TEXT](#)



London Plant Region : Trip to Brighton

Summer had arrived at last.

September 5th - A full coach of London Associates and guests went on a **day's visit to Brighton**. The delayed summer had arrived at last - We were blessed with good weather. Brighton is a very cosmopolitan town with something for everyone from Food to Shopping and a lovely sea front and pier(s).



The Sea Front and Pier.

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Winter 2007

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» P&G Corporate Website.

Click here to view news and information from the Procter & Gamble Corporate website.

» P&G Champions website

Click here to view news and information from the Procter & Gamble Champions website.

» P&G UK Website

Click here to catch up with all the news and features on the P&G UK Website

» P&G Shares

Click the item entitled "General Information" in the menu on the left to view latest Procter & Gamble share price



The Sea Front, looking West, with the ruined West Pier, isolated in the sea.



Some of the lanes are very narrow. In the lanes there are many jewellers selling items from £5 to £10,000. Very tempting.



Looking down at 2 Associates considering more down to earth purchases.

Lifeguards relaxing on the beach. The water was inviting but there were few takers.



2 Associates - but who are they?



4 Associates relaxing on the Pier.



3 of the group waiting by the pier for the coach for the return home. Shirley is clutching her guide to the Royal Pavillion.

[back to London Plant Region events.](#)

Trip organiser and photos - Ron Suttling.
Reported 8/07/2007

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Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - Correspondence, E-mail
 - Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

+ LARGER TEXT



London Plant Region : London Plant Associates go to the Palace.

Visit to Buckingham Palace State Rooms - Tuesday 21st August 2007.

Everybody seemed excited that we were going to visit The Palace. After all, it is part of our heritage. We were all discussing the visit on the way to London in the coach. It took our minds off the amount of traffic that was going into London with all the unfortunate people "going to work".

We arrived just in time, as the entrance tickets are timed, and if we missed our slot we would not be able to enter. It was quite a walk from where the coach driver had to stop, as it is not so easy when you are in London to park just where you want to.

The Palace was absolutely spectacular, and was festooned with enormous chandeliers throughout all of the rooms. They have to be cleaned twice a year, which must take ages to do. They are so big that they are lowered on pulleys, but the result was well worth it, and not a sign of Del boy anywhere!!



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Winter 2007

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Click here to catch up with all the news and features on the P&G UK Website

» P&G Shares

Click the item entitled "General Information" in the menu on the left to view latest Procter & Gamble share price



The rooms were festooned with enormous chandeliers.



Buckingham Palace - rear exit, through the gardens.

The tour took about an hour and a half, which was plenty of time to see everything. The exit to the Palace was through the gardens, and if it had been a warmer day would have been nice to loiter through. As it was we all hurried into Victoria to have a well desired cup of coffee.

We re-joined our coach at the appointed time, and proceeded to a fish and chip shop close to Waterloo station. Not much interest there we thought apart from a looked-forward to meal. However, we were all pleasantly surprised as the meal was superb. The restaurant only had space for 50 people, and there were 42 of us (6 of us had brought a packed lunch, and went into a local park), all booked in advance of course.

Well sated and in a happy mood, we clambered aboard the coach again to return home.

A very pleasant day, in good company, and all talking about the next outing - to [Brighton...](#)

Barbara Collins - Event Organiser

[back to London Plant Region events.](#)

Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - Correspondence, E-mail
 - Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

+ LARGER TEXT



London Plant Region : Ramble & Pub Lunch - Great Stambridge, July 23rd.

The ramble started from the [Royal Oak](#) at Great Stambridge, Rochford, Essex. Click on the link for more information about the pub.

With 29, this was the best turnout yet. Here is a picture of the group outside the Royal Oak.



This walk was 2.5 miles, mainly on the flat. It started from Great Stambridge, a small country village. Leaving the Royal Oak we followed a well signposted footpath to Hampton Barn Farms. The route returned via estate roads to the village with horse bars and cattle grids to negotiate. On reaching the village road, we turned away from the pub to follow a circular route along footpaths past a poultry farm, trout fisheries and paddocks before returning to the pub.

Dave, pictured above (pink shirt) or below far left, had his usual special take on the event:



When studying what's below, don't just read it, try singing it to an old song by **Maurice Chevalier: "Oh yes I remember it well."**

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Winter 2007

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» [P&G Corporate Website.](#)

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» [P&G UK Website](#)

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» [P&G Shares](#)

Click the item entitled "General Information" in the menu on the left to view latest Procter & Gamble share price

Our walking shoes - Phoebe the sun
A gentle breeze - With lots of fun

"Oh yes we had a good time"

We were cautious - But we were fine
Expected rain - The sun did shine.

"Oh yes we had a good time"

Any by the way - There were twenty nine "
We got on well - No one did whine

"Oh yes we had a good time"

We all sat down to have some lunch - A group that seems to fit
It could blow a gale and pour with rain cos we just couldn't give a ... (care)
and we will be back for more - It will be September not before"

"Oh yes I remember it well"

D. J. RISK



posted 26 July 2007, updated 11 August 2007

[back to London Plant Region events.](#)

*Thanks to Derek Germaney for the photos,
and Dave for the lyrics.*

Site Navigation

- » P&G Associates Scheme
- » Your Region
- » SIGNpost
- » Financial
- » General Information
- » In Memoriam
- » New Associates
- » Community
 - Correspondence, E-mail
 - Messages, Trivia e.t.c
- » Reference Library
- » Links Library
- » News Room
- » Contact Us

+ LARGER TEXT



London Plant Region Austria : London Associates head for Austria

London Associates organize their most ambitious trip yet. Links from this page will open windows that feature photos for different aspects of the trip. If a text is underlined and green it means there is a link from the text to a new page. There will always be a link from the new page back to this page.

Tuesday, July 10th, we left rain-soaked England for an 8 day holiday that would take us to Austria. After crossing the Channel by Shuttle we proceeded through Belgium without any delays, stopping near [Liege for lunch](#). The weather was mixed and erratic. We had to scurry across the car park in a downpour, but returned to the coach in bright sunshine. In Germany we left the Motorway at Koblenz to drive alongside the Rhine for our overnight stop at [Boppard](#). After dinner some explored the riverside cafés and bars, but shortened their stay when the rain returned. [The Rhine is a busy](#), working river with enormous barges laden with materials, such as coal, cars and shipping containers and river cruise ships continuously moving up and down it. The railway lines that run alongside the river on both banks were in constant use by freight and passenger trains.

On our journey we saw many [familiar place names](#) where P&G plants are located.

Wednesday: The sun was shining as we drove South through pretty riverside villages. Castles topped the steep vine covered hillsides. We turned east to join the motorway system and made good progress until we hit a major traffic jam near Karlsruhe. [We learned a new word - Stau!](#) and saw unwelcome traffic signs. The motorway was closed and the detour cost us 3 hours. We rejoined a motorway and headed towards Munich; but progress through innumerable roadworks was slow. We were so glad to cross the Austrian border late evening, and an hour later, after driving through heavy rain, to reach the hotel at Mayrhofen. The hotel was marvellous. They had a meal waiting for us even though we were way past the normal meal time.

Thursday, the sun came out and, as forecast, it got progressively warmer. [Mayrhofen](#) is a pretty, expanding town. Like everywhere in the Tyrol its houses were bedecked with geranium and other flowers. Everywhere was lush green. Very relaxing, and today was a welcome chance to relax. Some stayed by the hotel pool, others explored the town by foot, or tried the town train; some went up the cable

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car; others went on the steam train back up the valley.

Friday, saw the group crossing the [Europa Bridge](#) to Vipiteno (also known as Sterzing) in the Italian Tyrol. At 180 metre high the Bridge is the highest in Europe.

A chapel on a small peak overlooks the crossing - a place of tranquility in contrast with the constant flow of traffic below. We stopped to photograph the bridge and valley.

[Vipiteno](#) is a very pleasant town just inside the Italian Border. The area exhibits its strong Tyrolean heritage. The place names for example are all written in German and Italian versions; and dual language schooling is still compulsory.

The Bridge is the start of the Brenner Pass. The route has been a strategic trade route since Roman times, and the source of the historic wealth of the region. The centre of the wealth was Innsbruck which we visited on Saturday.

On reaching [Innsbruck](#) we split into small groups to enjoy its numerous sites. There was so much to do: a concert in the courtyard of the imperial court palace; a stroll down the narrow streets of the medieval old town with their beautifully decorated facades, visiting the many museums and churches, observing a wedding party outside the house of the Golden Roof - a famous landmark built by Maximilian in 1500 with his second wife's money; a horse drawn carriage drive out as far as the Bergisel ski jump; relaxing in the parks, and, yes, there was a chance to buy crystal, starting at the Swarovski crystal world. We had many stories to exchange as we met back at the coach, and all had thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Sunday, something different. Mayrhofen is in the Zillertal valley that branches off the Munich - Brenner motorway. Further down the valley one branch comes to a dead end at [Hintertux](#) - a great year round, outdoor sporting centre. We went there to take a series of 3 cable cars up to the glacier at 3,250 metres. We joined the skiers and felt on top of the world (as we were). On our return the coach returned to the hotel where some stayed to relax by the pool; others went on the coach for a visit to Rattenburg where there was a chance to buy souvenirs.

Time had gone too fast, it was time to return. The journey back was totally uneventful. We [returned to Boppard](#), reaching it by 5 pm. It was on a balmy, summers evening and there time to explore the town. After dinner the riverside bars were more inviting this time as the riverside was filled with people strolling along the embankments. Similarly, next day, we had a fast journey back to the Shuttle, with time to buy chocolates and tobacco in Belgium and wine in France.

We thank George Mann who organized the trip; and we really appreciated the skill and attentiveness of John our driver. Thanks too to Irene who kept us busy on the journey with a series of quizzes. A great holiday.

To see a large picture of the group - [click here](#). You will need to close the window to return to this page.

[back to the top of the page.](#)

Text Tony Hill; Photos George Mann and Tony Hill.

[back to London Plant Region events.](#)

Posted 6 August 2007

