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## London Plant Region : Past Events

### **Bembridge Isle of Wight - 16th - 19th November, 2007.**

It was a stormy weekend, but it did not damp our spirits. To read more, [click here....](#)

### **London's second Quiz Night - 3rd November 2007.**

The second quiz night was a great success. To read more, [click here.....](#)

### **An Essex & Suffolk Tour - 8th October 2007.**

London Associates strike lucky with the weather again. To read more, [click here...](#)

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**London Plant Region :** A Stormy Weekend! but it did not damp our enjoyment.

**London Plant Associates go to Bembridge, Isle of Wight - November 16th - 19th 2007.**

'Twas a bright and sunny November morning as 48 jolly Associates and guests wended their way, via Chichester, to Portsmouth to catch the ferry to cross a calm Solent to the delightful Isle of Wight.



*We enjoyed a break in the journey at Chichester which we explored in the winter sun.*



*St. Richard, outside Chichester Cathedral.*

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*En route.*

*A deceptively calm sea inside Portsmouth Harbour as our ferry sets off. The Spinnaker Tower in the foreground, and the masts of *The Warrior* and *The Victory* in the background.*

Our destination on the Island was Bembridge where we were to spend 4 days and 3 nights at the large and lovely Warners owned hotel there. Happily, Christmas decorations abounded inside help to set the mood for the coming festivities.

Sadly, the sunshine that we enjoyed whilst travelling on the Friday was not to last until Saturday and Sunday during which time we encountered strong winds and heavy rainfall. The winds were so strong on the Sunday that all ferry services were cancelled and Island was cut off from the mainland. Would we get back?



*There were no takers for croquet.*

However, our spirits were not to be dampened, as the hotel food was plentiful, varied, and of a high standard, and we much enjoyed each others company, also there were plenty of quizzes laid on by the hotel to keep our brains active. Our outings on the Saturday were to the Arreton Farm Craft Centre, (where Jack Sparrow kept an eye on the customers) and where many attractive items were on offer and no doubt, purchased.



*Jack Sparrow, at the Arreton Farm Craft Centre*

This was followed by a visit to Newport. However, I have to say the persistent downpours did curb our outdoor activities somewhat.



*Evening entertainment.*



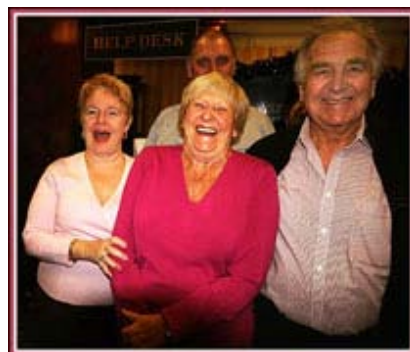
*Linda Illing, enjoying retirement.*



*Irene, Malcolm and Rosemary.*



*Sawo ann Anna, our waiters.*



*The laughing Dartnells.*



On the Sunday, Andrew, our young driver, took us to the well known Osborne House.

*En route to Osborne House.*

Thankfully this kept us out of the rainy blizzard raging outside, but it rendered a tour of the attractive gardens unthinkable. Nevertheless, we were fortunately conducted on our internal tour by an extremely good guide and our members seemed totally intrigued by his commentary and the history and artefacts in the cool spaciousness of the various sumptuously adorned chambers. Apparently, Queen Victoria preferred these low temperatures and it remains so to this day.



*Andrew, our driver, & coach, ready to take us home.*

Monday came around all too soon, and after yet another hearty breakfast we had to depart. Ironically, as we journeyed, gloriously brilliant sunshine teased us through the coach windows all the



way home. Oh *Boarding the Ferry - Homeward Bound. Thankfully the sea had calmed.*  
well, that's life !

Many thanks to Maureen Germaney, (aka Mrs Pog, ) for working ever so hard to make this trip very enjoyable in spite of the unkind weather over the weekend.

Text & photos: Derek Germaney.

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Posted 19th December 2007,  
updated 22nd December.

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## London Plant Region : London Plant Associates successful Quiz Night.

### London's second Quiz Night was a great success, and we are planning more.

As wine tasting evenings had been poorly supported it was decided last March to run a Quiz Nite instead. That evening was fun; very sociable and a great success, so much so, we decided to hold another later in the year. This we did on Saturday 3rd November 2007.

The consensus of opinion was that this evening was another most enjoyable night, with as before wine, food and a raffle. Eighty four Associates and friends gathered at the Village Hall in Horndon-on-the-Hill and a great time was had by all.

Last time we didn't have a photographer to record the evening. This time Derek Germaney was there with his camera and recorded the many activities of the evening.

### The Organisation:



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*Mike Clements organised the event and was the Master of Ceremonies.*



*Janet Clements called out the questions.*



*Maureen Germaney and Joyce Lees scrutinised the answers.*

### The Tables:



*George's Table.*



*John's Table*



*Malcolm's big smile when he got his table's answer sheet back...*



*Peter Beckford's Table.*



Ron's Table.



### Camera Tricks

Derek's Table (above).

Derek extracted this  
image from the  
photo  
and called it:

Pam's Dilemma.



*Derek's Table, and tricks with the camera (he could have included the white wine bottle as well)!*

### The Food:



*Maureen sets out the savoury dishes.*



*...and prepared the deserts.*



Bottles of wine were presented to the winning team and **Bruce won the raffle prize.**



*Bruce won the raffle.*

Because of the enthusiastic feedback we received the organisers are already planning another quiz in March 2008. Details will be in the 2008 outings calendar that all London Associates receive with their Winter edition of the Associate (and will be posted on the website).

Story: Mike Clements; photos: Derek Germaney.

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Posted 25th November 2007



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## London Plant Region : A Day in the Essex & Suffolk countryside.

### October 8th - An Essex & Suffolk Tour. London Associates strike lucky with the weather again

After a delayed arrival by our coach, and a few Associates, caused by extensive roadworks en route to the pick up point, a large group set off for a day in the Essex & Suffolk countryside.

After 45 minutes our first stop was "[Tropical Wings](#)", at Woodham Ferrers, a butterfly and wildlife centre, for morning tea & coffee.



Suitably watered we all got back on the coach for the trip to Great Waldringfield in Suffolk where we would board out river boat, [MV JAHAN](#), for a two hour cruise on the River Deben, including a boatman's lunch.

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On arrival we were greeted with a glass of sherry.





(if this is part of a usual boatman's lunch, no wonder they roll about on the water!!!)



Lunch was duly served, which consisted of rolls, selection of cheeses, salad, pickles and an apple. The skipper gave a commentary throughout the trip, explaining how the coastal areas held a mass of history over the ages.





*The coach was waiting for us as we returned to the jetty.*



Back on terra firma, we boarded the coach for a short journey to [Notcutts Garden Centre](#) in Woodbridge, where a full afternoon cream tea awaited us. Several purchases from the extensive range of plants were made by some before we boarded for the final leg of the trip.

Thankfully the weather had been very kind to us, given the previous few days, with the sun showing itself from time to time. Still as someone remarked on getting into their car, "the sun always shines on the righteous"!!

*Text: George Mann; photos George Mann and Derek Germaney.  
Posted 27th October 2007*

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