

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to Eltham Palace Thursday 22 July 2004

This visit has been organised by Stan Melinek

Details on the Palace can be found at <http://www.elthampalace.org.uk/index.html>.

Eltham Palace is a fascinating combination of a luxurious Art Deco home and an important medieval royal palace. Initially a moated manor house bought by Edward II in 1305, additions such as the impressive hammerbeam-roofed Great Hall in the 1470s created one of England's largest palaces for a succession of royals. Most famously, Henry VIII grew up here. After the Civil War the palace fell into decline for over 200 years and the Great Hall, once the scene of lavish feasts, was even used as a barn. There are also 19 acres of richly planted moated gardens with panoramic views over London.

In 1933 the palace was bought by Stephen and Virginia Courtauld, who restored the Great Hall and built their adjoining Art Deco home. Filled with opulently gilded interiors, the latest mod cons and cutting-edge design features, Eltham Palace once again became a hub for society entertaining.



Meet 10.50 am outside buffet on platform 4, London Bridge station, for train to Mottingham or Eltham (whichever comes first). One kilometre walk from either station (follow signs) or catch bus (any bus from Mottingham towards Eltham or 161 bus from Eltham towards Mottingham). For those travelling by car, there is free parking off Court Road. The cost is £5.30 (EH members free) by buying your own ticket at the door. Food is available in the former kitchen area of the 1930s house. The tearoom offers a range of hot and cold drinks, hot snacks, sandwiches and cakes or you can bring a picnic lunch to eat in the garden.

Note- when returning, go to Mottingham station rather than Eltham for a more frequent service.