

Visit to Royal Arsenal Woolwich and “Firepower” the Royal Artillery Museum.

Members gathered in the café at Firepower and then went to watch a low key commemoration of the Tercentenary of the Royal Regiment of Artillery at the place where it was founded.

We then went on a walking tour of the former Royal Arsenal covering the main buildings that still exist and including the origins of the site and the main growing periods. There is also reference to the origins of the Royal Artillery and Arsenal Football Club which both began at Woolwich.

After a leisurely lunch in the Dial Arch pub, Mark Smith, the Curator (and Militaria expert on Antiques Roadshow) led us on a guided tour of Firepower, explaining the significant developments in the science of Artillery and culminating in the usually locked Medal Gallery. Finally, he showed us a genuine Victoria Cross and related the story of how it had been won.

Most members then enjoyed a well deserved cup of tea while Mark did a surprise Antiques Roadshow type presentation on a Royal Artillery Officer's sword that a member had brought (and was surprised by the valuation!)

Firepower was scheduled to close in July 2016 – the future of the exhibits (and the staff) was not known.