

Institute of **Physics**

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

VISIT TO DENBIES WINE ESTATE. Thursday 25 September 2003

This visit has been organised by Rosemary Wells

Lying in the Mole Valley near Dorking in Surrey on the North Downs is Britain's largest vineyard. Wine growing in this area dates back to Roman times, its success depending on the quality of the soil - the same chalk structure as the famous Champagne region of France. Around 400,000 bottles of fine wine are produced each year from the fruits of over 300,000 vines spread across 265 acres of traditional vineyards.

An external tour on the vineyard train, with commentary, takes visitors up the North Downs Way to viewing spots across the vineyard and the surrounding countryside of Box Hill and the Mole Valley. In September the grapes hang heavy on the vines, which are changing to their autumn colours, Visitors are also treated to an internal tour lasting some 45 min, including a film on the world of wine; a tour through each stage of the wine-making process; and a tasting of three specially selected wines in the cellars. A servery of choice is available in the delightful Conservatory Restaurant. There are gardens surrounding the reception building; and a wine and gift shop.

The timetable is:

12.30 Meet at the entrance to the Reception building.
13.00 Lunch
14.00 External tour
15.00 Internal tour
Tea in Windmill café if desired.

The visit will cost £6 a head and there is no limit on numbers.

Denbies Wine Estate (<http://www.denbiesvineyard.co.uk/HOME.html>) lies on the A24, close to the M25 and the A3 from London - a sketch map will be provided. Parking is available near the Reception Centre. 5 trains an hour run between Victoria and Dorking (50 min). Pick-ups can be arranged at Dorking station, (10 min to estate).

Their address is Denbies Wine Estate; London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6AA; Tel: 01306 876616 and the OS grid reference is TQ 168510.