

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

Leeds Castle, Kent
on Thursday 29 June 2017

This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough.

We visit the famously beautiful Leeds Castle and its gardens in Kent. Appearing to float on water, the Castle dates from Norman times and has a long and rich history. It lies about one hour from London by car and can be easily reached by train.

Description: Leeds Castle has been a Norman stronghold; the private property of six of England's medieval queens; a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon; a Jacobean country house; a Georgian mansion; an elegant early 20th century retreat for the influential and famous; and in the 21st century, it has become one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain.

The first stone castle was built by a Norman baron during the reign of William the Conqueror's son Henry I, on an island in the River Len. In 1278, a century and a half later, it came into the possession of Queen Eleanor of Castile, first wife of Edward I. For the next 300 years the castle remained a royal residence, before again becoming a private home. This in turn was handed down over four centuries, by both inheritance and purchase, through a network of interlinked families.



Where and when to meet: 10:30 for 11:00, Costa Café in the Courtyard.

Getting there: By train: We recommend travelling to Bearsted Station. [Southeastern](#) runs frequent services to and from Bearsted and a coach shuttle service run by Spot Travel is available from the station from April to September. Trains from London Victoria take you to Bearsted in 1hr3min. Please check the [Spot Travel website](#) or call 01622 738932 before you travel. **By car:** seven miles east of Maidstone, Junction 8 of the M20 motorway just 1 hour from London. Clearly sign posted from all routes - following the brown and white tourist signs. If you are using a satellite navigation system, then please follow the brown and white tourist signs once you reach the A20 as your navigation system may incorrectly direct you to a private entrance where you will be redirected. Alternatively please use the following post code: ME17 1RG. Parking is free.



Those who wish to stay the night at Leeds Castle can find B&B information here: <https://www.leeds-castle.com/Accommodation/Bed+%26amp%3B+Breakfast/Stable+Courtyard+B%26amp%3BB>

Lunch: Maze Café & Grill. Alternatives: Courtyard kiosks and Fairfax Restaurant

Timetable (times approximate)

10:30 A bus leaves Bearsted Station at 10:30;
11:00 – 11:30 Assemble at Costa Coffee in the Castle courtyard;
11:00 – 12:30 (Audio) tour of the Castle. Guides are available in many rooms;
12:30 – 14:30 Lunch at The Maze Café & Grill;
14:30 – 16:30 Further tour of Castle and gardens;
16:45 Last bus to Bearsted Station (to be confirmed).

Size of party: Max 20, Min 10

Cost: £25.00.

Participants pay for their own food and travel. The return bus ticket from Bearsted Station is £3.00 (as at 4 March 2017)

Contacts Before the day: contact Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk or on 020 8398 0766. On the day: call 07930 171 307.

Late arrivals: Call Tony on 07930 171 307 who will advise you to catch up with the programme.

