

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

A Tudor Mansion & a Jacobean Library Thursday 9 July 2009

NB This is a repeat of a visit in June 2007

This visit has been organised by Jill & David Tawney

Dorney Court is a medieval village manor house that has been extensively restored but there are still traces of efforts made to make it fashionable in later times, eg look Georgian. It is Grade I listed and a finalist in *Country Life's* quest for the Finest Manor House – 2006. It is rather more homely than stately and the interior is more interesting in a rambling and lived-in way than grand. However, it has a fine Great Hall with paintings by Lely, Kneller and Janssen.

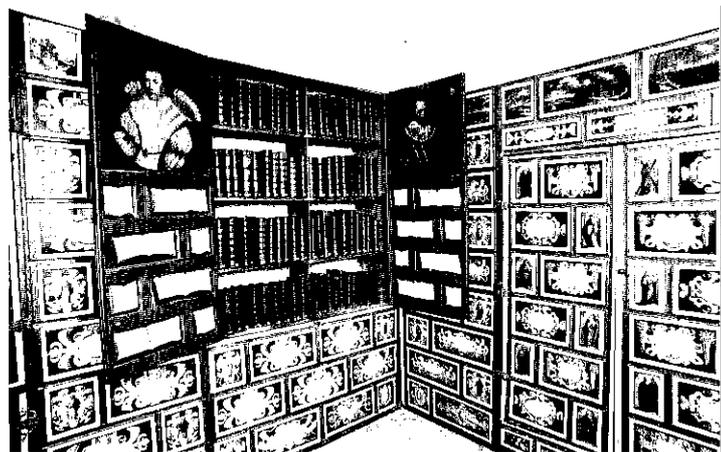


The church nearby dates from the 12 C and will be visited. The Garrard tomb was designed by Sir John Kedermister whose library we visit in the afternoon.

(Dorney Court should not be confused with Dorneywood, not far away, where John Prestcott famously played croquet.)

Web: www.dorneycourt.co.uk

Postcode: SL4 6QP



The Kedermister Library, attached to St Mary the Virgin, Langley, was founded before 1631, when Sir John Kedermister's will allocated a number of additional books to the collection, which was for the benefit of "Ministers of the said town of Langley and such other of the County of Buckingham as resort thereto".

The original vellum catalogue dated 1638 still hangs there. The heraldic overmantle to the fireplace provides a focus for the sumptuous painting of the room. Most of the volumes in the library are theological works in Latin, printed in the late 16th or early 17th century but there are others, including an interesting pharmacopodium in English, with some bizarre medications.

St Mary's church also is Grade 1 listed and is 12 C, with additions mainly 17 C.

Web: www.langleymarish.org/, link 'Take a tour of St Mary's'.

Postcode: SL3 7EN

TIMETABLE:

Coffee is available at the Walled Garden Centre adjoining Dorney Court from 9.00 am.

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| 10.45 – 11.00 | Assemble outside the main door of Dorney Court |
| 11.00 | Visit begins |
| 12.45 | Drive to Langley |
| 13.15 – 14.15 | Lunch in the <i>Red Lion</i> , opposite St Mary's Church |
| 14.15 | Visit begins |
| 15.15 | Tea in St Mary's, followed by departure |

ACCESS:

Dorney Court

Leave the M4 at Junction 7. At the roundabout, turn left (west) along the A4. At the first roundabout, turn left into the B3025. After a kilometre (in which you cross the M4 and Jubilee River and enter Dorney) the road bends left; bear right into Court Lane, sign posts Walled Garden Centre and Dorney Court. In 60 metres, turn left into the Walled Garden Centre/Dorney Court. Park in the field behind the house.

The Red Lion

Reverse the directions above and rejoin the M4 going east. Leave at Junction 5 and, at the roundabout at the end of the slip road, turn left into the A4; pull over to the right.

At the lights, turn right into Langley High Street and cross two sets of lights and several pedestrian-controlled lights. At the first roundabout, turn left; St Mary's Road is the third on the right. Park in the Red Lion car park, which is just beyond the pub.

COST: £11 for Dorney Court and for a St Mary's Guide. Lunch at cost. There will be no charge for the Library but members may like to make a donation.

MAXIMUM NUMBER – 20 people.

