



On a glorious late September morning 26 members set off from The Triangle by coach for Ashley Court just outside Tiverton on a day trip organised by Barbara Murphy and Howard Slack.

With the coach unable to negotiate the driveway to the house and grounds our intrepid band walked up to be greeted by the Tara and Nigel owners for the last ten years. Coffee was taken on the lawn whilst Tara gave a history of the site - the original house dating back to the 17c century long since ruined - and

from which stones were used in the construction of the 19c family home. Very much a work in progress, the two retired yoga teachers have opened their house and outbuildings to local artists, potters and sculptors with plans for the future to maintain and restore the house to its former glory. Tara explained the provenance of the living artwork in the tree line and the remarkable journey of the impressive bronze casting of two horses, recently refashioned by the sculptor as unicorns!

A tour of the outbuildings, walled garden and the ground floor of the house gave an insight to a way of life and elegant living long past and an opportunity to see modern artworks hung on the walls (including paintings by their eldest daughter). Lunch was taken in the house (provided by Tara from ingredients drawn from their vegetable garden) after which a freedom to roam the woodland path or for some to simply sit in the garden until it was time to return home.

Barbara and Howard deserve our gratitude for all the work they put into making this visit happen, the first of its kind for a long time, and our congratulations for ensuring its success.

Richard.

