

# TRIP TO WATERCRESS LINE and HINTON AMPNER—24TH MAY 2018

Many thanks to Jean and her U3A travel team for the brilliant trip to the Watercress Line and Hinton Ampner in North Hampshire. The Preservation Society involved in running the Watercress Line have done a great job in creating the typical "old world" feeling about railway stations of old, with the stations alive with planting and some brilliant 100 year old topiary.



Our reserved carriage was waiting for us after we'd had time for a quick cuppa and then it was off on the 40 minute ride through Ropley and Four Marks to Alton. The 20 minute stop at Alton to allow the engine to change ends was sufficient for the 'leg stretch', and then it was off on the return ride to New Alresford, where the coach was waiting to take us on the short journey to Hinton Ampner. Although

the weather took a turn for the worst, this little known National Trust property provided a lot of surprises. The lunches were great, the plants on sale were lovely and although much of the house was closed off for protection during essential electrical work, proved to have a very interesting and somewhat 'ghostly' past and a wealth of treasures and artefacts from the days of old. They were due to be unveiled to the public again at the beginning of June, having been covered for protection since Christmas, making a return trip later in the year a must!! All in all, a lovely day out despite the weather, including a return coach tour through the New Forest because of a traffic hold up on the A31. A bonus indeed!!! Thanks again Jean for organising the day. Jean and Geoff Stubbs

