



Over Peover WI Enjoy a Grand Day out at Wentworth Woodhouse.

Such was the demand to visit Wentworth House near Rotherham, that we needed a coach to take us all there. We assembled at two pick up points, Over Peover and Chelford. From the start, the coach was filled with chatter and the journey just whizzed by.



The UK's largest private house.

Stopping right outside the front entrance of the house, we were given badges and greeted by our volunteer tour guides, Rosemary and Jo. Once gathered in the Chapel, Jo gave us a brief introduction to the history of the House, which is the largest private home in the UK.



The magnificent Ballroom.

We started in the Bedlam Wing, used for housing students in latter years, hence the name. Then onto various other rooms including the magnificent Ball Room. Tour complete, we enjoyed a buffet lunch, then spent time looking at the costume displays and enjoying the gardens.



A quick stop for lunch.

It was easy to understand why Wentworth was chosen as the setting for various high profile films including The Crown, Victoria, Downton Abbey and Gentleman Jack.

The House has had a chequered history and gone from immense wealth to almost ruin. During the war it served as an army training camp, then in 1945 the grounds were excavated for coal, leaving them dreadfully scarred. Death duties also took their toll; it was used as a physical education college and a site for Sheffield Polytechnic. It was in private ownership until it was sold to the Woodhouse Preservation Trust for £7.6m and their aim is to regenerate the house. This is a massive undertaking.



Admiring some of the costumes on display.

Mid afternoon and time for a quick photo before we boarded the coach for the return journey. It had been a thoroughly enjoyable day. Wentworth House is a hidden gem and hopefully with the efforts of the dedicated team of volunteers and full time staff it will be brought back to its original splendour.