

Trip to Neasden Hindu Temple and the Brentford Music Museum

Saturday 7th January 2017.



BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Neasden Hindu temple)

We arrived at Neasden Hindu Temple shortly before 10am so we took advantage of the coffee available within the Shayona restaurant and Saya Asian mini market.

Having cleared Temple security and removed our footwear, we were introduced to “Ashok” and “Cash” our two Hindu guides and advisors. We were taken to the Haveli Prayer Hall where we enjoyed an interesting discussion followed by a video which explained the reason for the presence of The Mandir, its construction and final opening in 1995.

Just before noon, we experienced the “arti religious ritual” in the Inner Sanctum. The arti religious ritual is one of two rituals that take place within the temple confines each day. This ritual is often called the ‘ceremony of light’, the arti involves waving lighted wicks before the sacred images to infuse the flames with the Deities’ love, energy and blessings.

After this ceremony we visited the Shayona Restaurant where we all enjoyed the “help yourself” vegetarian curry followed by well earned “retail therapy” in the adjoining shop which sells an amazing array of Asian herbs, spices and snacks.

We left the temple around 2pm. At 2.30 pm we arrived at The Musical Museum close to Kew Bridge at Brentford.



We were split into two groups paired up with our two volunteer guides, Roy Huddlestone and Steve Lewis who treated us to displays of various self-playing musical instruments from the collection that embraces an impressive and comprehensive array of sophisticated reproducing pianos, orchestrions, orchestrelles, residence organs and violin players

Our time in the three instrument galleries passed quickly. We then enjoyed coffee, tea and biscuits before we were treated to various pieces of old time music played on "The Mighty Wurlitzer" by Chris Barber. But our day did not end there as we were further delighted by some beautiful singing from Eleanor Rastall who came on stage to accompany the organ music.

We left the museum at 4.50 pm a little later than expected as a number of our members decide to peruse the museum shop and to buy souvenirs of our visit. We arrived back in Liphook at 6.05 pm after a trouble free return journey.

Chris Wright 7th January 2017