

**The Art & History of Liverpool**  
**29<sup>th</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April:**

**Calke Abbey:** Arrangements went well. Met by member of the office staff who gave details of how to spend our visit. Added bonus of a Farmers Market. Interesting to see how an old property looks when it is taken over by the National Trust.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April:**

Met our Guide. Short city tour before first visit

**The Metropolitan Cathedral** - Short introductory talk by a Cathedral guide then split into two groups for free time but with the Guide and Elizabeth each with a group to answer questions. Added advantage with the sun shining through the beautiful stained glass windows and able to hear the organ being played (it was being tuned so she played a short piece for us so we could hear it properly).

**Anglican Cathedral** – quite a contrast to the first. Two very good guides, ours was Helen and I think the other was David. We had a short tour and then stopped at noon for the time of prayer which was lovely. Both Helen and David were involved with this so made it very special.

**Walker Art Gallery** – Split into two groups, I was with the Gallery guide Marie Crawford who took us round. She was very informative. Elizabeth took the other group. Wide range of paintings and sculptures across the ages.

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May:**

*Salford Quays* – we had a short tour of the Quays before going to the Gallery

**The Lowry** – two groups, the girl who took our Group was quite amazing and very enthusiastic. I don't think the chap who took the other group fired them up quite so much, but everyone enjoyed the visit.

Free afternoon to visit the other Museums – the War Museum was very interesting.

Because there was not much traffic on the way back to Liverpool, Elizabeth gave us a short Beatles Tour of the easily accessible places, which was most interesting.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

*Albert Docks* – again we had a short tour before heading for Tate Liverpool

**Tate Liverpool** – because the Gallery did not open till 10.30am and our Tour was booked for 10.00am we went in one group as there was no-one else there. Our guide was very interesting and presented it well (he specialised in telling stories to children when away from the Gallery) but some felt he spent too long with some explanations so did not take us to many exhibits.

**Anthony Gormley – Another Place.** Tide right out so good view of a lot of the 'Man' visible. Most of us went down on to the beach for photos!

## **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

### *Tour of Port Sunlight Village*

**Lady Lever Art Gallery** – Excellent Guide, Susie Nobel, who was most interesting to listen to. She took us round in one group. In many ways it would have been good to have had longer there as there was so much to see and take in.

**Chester** – all seemed to enjoy their time there.

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**Shugborough** – Very interesting visit. I personally really enjoyed the visit especially as the Servants Quarters and the Farm had ‘staff’ dressed accordingly for the 1830’s who answered in that era to questions!

Our Guide Elizabeth was very informative and had a great deal of knowledge regarding all that we saw and did, plus a vast amount of background knowledge. She was excellent at giving our driver Andy instructions in time of where and when to turn the coach etc. She relaxed more as the days went on joining us for dinner on our last evening. There were times when she was a wee bit abrupt if someone asked a question which she had already explained or if she was going to talk about it later. But overall she was very interesting and informative and we enjoyed her company.

Our Coach Driver Andy could not have been better. I thought the one who took us to Northumberland two years ago was good, but I think Andy could have been even better. The conditions on Sunday going to Liverpool were appalling with heavy rain and very strong winds, but he drove very steadily and we got everywhere on time or slightly ahead. He was considerate to other drivers and never took chances. Coming home on a Friday and a Bank Holiday weekend did not help the traffic and the last bit from where the M40 joined the M25 to Kingston was not easy for him but he kept going. I am writing to the coach company direct to say how much we appreciated him.

The Marriott Hotel worked well. Arranged drinks gatherings with Justin, the Restaurant Manager who also kindly brought forward dinner on the Wednesday so we could go to a concert with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

**VW, Kingston Upon Thames May 2012**