

## STEDMAN COUSINS



Dear Cousins,

For the Cousins who were unable to join us for the Reunion this year, I thought perhaps you would like to know how it went.

Saturday morning, as arranged we were meeting at the Radnorshire Museum in Llandrindod Wells. Stephen and I had parked in an almost empty car park at the rear of the museum, thinking we were the first to arrive. How wrong can you be! We were almost the last to arrive, everyone else was basking in the hot sunshine of the museum's garden – waiting for us!



The museum contained many interesting local artefacts including machinery, tools, clothing (including a very small pair of leather shoes) and fossils. We had planned to go on to the old Signal Box at the station after lunch, however we learnt from the museum curator that it is now closed for repair (health and safety issues),

Over lunch we all decided to go to Rhayader, just a few miles away, to visit the Red Kite Centre to watch the Red Kites being fed "on the wing". Along with many others, we managed to get good viewing places in the hides and watched as gradually the Kites began circling overhead (they were good time-keepers). At 3pm, as on every day, the tractor arrived and the food was gradually distributed.



Barry explained to us that the crows would “check things out first” before the larger birds felt secure to swoop in and feed, and when the larger birds had had their fill, it was the turn of the smaller Kites. It was an incredible sight. In the summer they estimate that 300 Kites come daily for their food and in winter – 600! All these birds were bred from an original pair that were reintroduced the the area.

Our evening ‘family meal’ was held at the ‘Horse and Jockey’. Originally the total number for the meal was 13, but we were delighted that the number increased to 17.



Sunday was to be spent at Brampton Bryan where 'Scarecrow Sunday' was to take place. There were stalls and activities around the village and nearby field and we met near Brampton Bryan church for a guided tour around the ruins of Brampton Bryan Castle led by the present owner of the Hall and Estate, Edward Harley. His obvious knowledge and interest in his family history, made the tour so enjoyable. He told us that the Harley's have held the Estate for almost 1000 years. Originally, at the time of the Domesday Book, Brampton Bryan was leased to the Brampton family from the Mortimers. Following the marriage of Bryan de Brampton's daughter (and heiress) to Sir Robert de Harley in 1309 saw the transfer to that family. 22 generations of Harleys having lived there to date.



The theme for Scarecrow Sunday this year was 'music', and accordingly, the scarecrows were dressed as musicians, dancers, pop stars etc. There was a brass band (Knighton Band) playing in the field, a ukulele Band playing in someone's garden (Mrs. Price from Bucknell Hall was a member of this band). As you can see, it was a lovely fun-filled weekend.



Best wishes

Sandra