

Visit to Denbies Vineyard - 19th November 2024

Our first ever outing as a group saw 20 members assemble for the coach journey to Dorking, on a snow flurried morning, where we visited the Denbies Wine Estate.

Arriving an hour before the scheduled tour enabled us to grab a coffee, browse in the well stocked gift shop and wander up to the roasting shed and farm shop.

At 12.00 we began our tour of the winery, led by a very knowledgeable and welcoming guide. We started with a glass of their sparkling wine and watched a 20-minute film outlining the history of the Estate.



Assembled members in the Denbies reception area.

The vines start to flower in May and harvesting commences when they are ripe around the October timeframe. The grapes are picked by hand for their sparkling wine as it avoids them bruising whilst the remaining grapes are harvested by machine. Once the grapes have been harvested each individual vine is pruned back leaving one tendril to be wrapped around the wire. This manual process takes four months!

The tour was followed by a two-course lunch, mince pies, coffee and a glass or two of their wine – a good way to end any tour.

The journey home was quick, uneventful and very quiet!