

RDA attended the Vernacular Architecture Group [VAG] Conference April 2017 in Hertfordshire. Our 4th Conference with VAG, previous conferences we have attended have been in Gloucestershire, Cumbria, and Lincolnshire. The annual Vernacular Architecture Group conferences are officially recognised by the IHBC, that Louisa is an Associate member of, as appropriate training events and Continued Professional Development. [CPD]



Piccotts End



This 3 day Conference saw approximately 100 delegates visiting houses, inns, barns from 12th-18th Centuries in Villages in the West and in the town of St Albans on Day 1. The highlights for us were the wall paintings in a hall house in Piccotts End, and the size of the timbers and crown posts in the Old Tudor tavern in St Albans, now a Thai restaurant, so worth a visit. Unfortunately not enough time for us to get to see the monastic Abbey Church and Gatehouse. On Day 2 we were in East Hertfordshire around Ware and the Villages of Much Hadham, Puckeridge and Benington. Highlights in Ware were The Priory with its Jacobean door and crown post roof of 1416d, a visit to the very interesting and well laid out town Museum, and an explanation of malting and visit to the Southern Maltings, and a walk down the tow path to see the charming 18th century gazebos on the riverbank. In the Village of Puckeridge with other delegates we tried to work out the original elements of a rare Wealden House, but the highlight for us was at Much Hadham with a visit to The Forge owned by The Herts Building Preservation Trust and the 16th wall paintings depicting Elizabethans in stripey breeches, originally a large house with cross wings with a forge tacked onto the south at a later date. On the final day in the North of the County we visited two incredible Tithe Barns at Wymondley and Sandon Bury along with many houses in Ashwell, where the owners opened up their houses for inspection, many showing architectural evidence dating back to 15th century. The highlight for us was having the privilege to see inside a Manor House at Maydencroft dating back to the 13th Century, and upgraded in 1615. To the west a brewhouse had also been added in the 17th century and a very fine brick and timber Barn. The other highlight was a visit to one of the best preserved stone [chalk] manor houses in Herts with its origins in the late 15th century at Hinxworth. Overall a fantastic 3 days and 3 evening lectures. We will hopefully be at the next conference in North Wales.

A selection of Photographs from approximately 300!



Old Tudor Tavern St Albans



Tithe Barn Wymondley



Maydencroft



Ashwell



Hinxworth