

Report on UK Trefoil Guild Gathering at Swanwick

From: Doreen Edwards

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Bev and I arranged to meet at the venue and timed it well with both of us arriving at the same time. After checking in and putting our bags into our rooms we went to check out the venue. Both of us wore our red trefoil shirts and jackets and within 15 minutes we were greeted by two UK Trefoil members who commented on how wonderful we both looked in our Trefoil outfits. Within that first greeting we became firm friends, with many more friendships made over the weekend.



After dinner we were welcomed and introduced to the organising committee, then enjoyed the evening's entertainment. The weekend's programme was varied, day trips out or craft sessions, which included Well dressing, which is an ancient tradition and creates living art installations to decorate the village wells. It is done by making pictures from growing things, constructed on a bed of soft clay spread over a wooden board and erected at the site of a well. There were music sessions involving hand bells and steel drums. I opted for the craft sessions and the musical ones, as I felt I would have something to take back to my guild using the skills I had learnt. I am not entirely sure how I am going to piece together a set of hand bells, let alone a set of steel drums!! Both sessions were great fun and very well organised.

There was plenty of time to socialise over mealtimes and during free time before and after dinner. The food was excellent and a variety of choices at both lunch and dinnertimes. Nobody certainly went hungry. A bar was also open each night for those who wished to imbibe. The venue was a spectacular and set in lovely grounds, of which you had time to walk around and enjoy. We were very lucky with the weather for the whole weekend. The bedrooms were spacious single rooms with ensuite. Situated an easy walk from the main building where the dining room and the main conference room were located.

One thing I was surprised at about the gathering was that the UK trefoil members did not wear Trefoil shirts, whereas Bev and I wore ours every day. On the last night both of us wore our "Dress" attire which received many enquiries as to tab badges and complimented on how smart we looked.



To sum up the gathering it was abundant with FLUFF, no not the sort you sweep under the carpet but fluff as in Friendship, Laughter, Unity, Fun, and Food. I would like to think I was part of that "Fluff" and did my guild and the Australian TG proud.

So thank you Barbara and the Australian TG for selecting me to attend this memorable event.

Doreen Edwards.
NSW/ACT Trefoil Guild Member
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