

A really good day out in the historic city of St Albans.

The coach dropped us off right in the heart of the city next to the Old Town Hall. **The Old Town Hall** was completed in 1826 (to replace the old Moot Hall built in 1570) and it accommodated the Town Hall until 1966 and Courtroom until 1992. It was then unused for some time but, after renovation, reopened in 2018 to house the museum and courtroom. The free entry museum and courtroom has a ground floor café with tables in the old court and on the paving outside the building in the sunshine and there is also a shop with fridge magnets and pencils etc. The court holding cells below ground are still there, converted to toilets, and you can take the dreaded climb up the steps to the dock.



In the Courthouse



Some of us had coffee and a biscuit and then we had a really interesting guided walking tour of the central area of the city and part of Verulamium Park around the cathedral.



The historic **Cathedral** has been used for Christian worship for over 1700 years. Verulamium Park was the centre of the Roman city and the site of the Abbey (destroyed by Henry VIII) but only the **Abbey Gateway** remains – as the picture above.

The city centre has loads of historic buildings, a clock tower and there is a street market on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



We found the Verdun tree, a memorial grown from a conker of one of the very few trees left standing after the horror of the first world war battle of Verdun near the Somme.

Finally, some retail therapy, tea and cake and we're done !

A big thanks to Brenda for organising the day.