

PHOTOGRAPHY 2024

April 2024: WOLLATON HALL

Above a modest doorway in a Wollaton Hall courtyard is a modest sign “Nottingham Industrial Museum”. Passing through this doorway takes you into a magical bygone age of steam power and Nottingham’s industrial past. But these are not just static displays. A team of blue boiler suited volunteers have spent years bringing many of these iconic machines back to life and delight in seeing them chugging away under steam power (zero emissions!).

Mike Pointon, the u3a photography convener, saw the photo possibilities in the place, and arranged for the photography group to have a personal tour. Our guide was a volunteer who we’ll call Stan (cause that’s his name) a member of our u3a.

Photographers love dynamic shapes, colour, textile and detail which; in the 2 hour tour; were all provided in abundance by the museum’s different galleries for Transport, Lace and Local Industries. Then there’s the Gin Yard, Victorian kitchen, and the Steam Hall housing the magnificent 3 story Basford Beam engine.

We had a fascinating choice of photographic subjects. En route Stan provided context and stories, displaying the knowledge and enthusiasm all these volunteer mechanics have for keeping these machines turning. Post visit photos of bikes, giant spoked flywheels, clocks, cast iron stoves and gaudy lamp posts, as well as the wildlife in the parkland outside, were posted on our group *WhatsApp* chat.



An excellent visit; thanks Mike and Stan! When you’re next in Wollaton check this museum out (open Thurs. + Sat. & Sun. 11-16.00); especially if it’s the last Sunday in the month, when steam’s up and everything that can, will be noisily (but smoothly) whizzing round (next steaming day 28th April 11-15.00).

Pete Raffell