

'A Taste of Elgar and Wine' proved a winning combination when Kyrle Probus Club members, wives and friends recently visited the Elgar Birthplace Museum near Worcester and Lovells Vineyard near Malvern.

The Elgar Birthplace Museum is set in a rural corner of Worcestershire, in Lower Broadheath and at its heart is the cottage where Sir Edward Elgar, arguably England's greatest composer, was born in 1857. It was his dearest wish that the cottage should be preserved and after his death in 1934, his daughter Carrice fulfilled this wish by gathering together her father's belongings and opening the Cottage Museum.



With the growth of worldwide interest in Elgar's music and the addition of more treasures to the collection of memorabilia, the museum was expanded in 2000 by the opening of a modern visitor centre.



On arrival, the Kyrle Probus Group was shown a short video on the life of Elgar and they were then free to explore the displays and exhibitions in the Visitor Centre and Cottage which brought the Elgar story to life. In the cottage they saw his desk laid out as it was when he was composing, his involvement in the pioneering days of recording and his wonderful gramophone.



Here, they could also trace the story of his childhood, through to his marriage to Alice Roberts; the many honours he received for his achievements and his many hobbies and interests such as golf, cycling, science and travel. A stroll through the attractive cottage gardens brought them to a statue of Elgar seated on a bench looking towards the Malvern hills.



After lunch, the group travelled to Welland for a guided tour of Lovells Vineyard, a family-run vineyard on a ten acre site. In the distance could be seen St Wulstan's Church in the Malvern Hills, where Elgar is laid to rest.



On a tour of the vineyard, the group learned of the hard work that goes into producing the award-winning English wines that they were later to enjoy in an informative and generous wine-tasting. Getting up in the early hours of the morning to light special candles in containers in order to protect the vines from sudden frosts, would not be to everyone's taste.





The Elgar wines produced at Lovells are crisp white wines and still and sparkling rose wines. The wine-tasting was accompanied by local cheeses and completed a memorable visit and a happy coach journey back to Ross.

