



East Hoathly & District Preservation Society

The Palace of Westminster Presented by Kevin Gordon

12 Sep 2014

Kevin's interest in the Palace of Westminster was spurred on by experiencing a disappointing tour of the site; he decided that he could do it better and thus set about finding out to become a guide himself.

The introduction refreshed our school history knowledge of the development of the country's political system from the Norman Conquest and Magna Carta, through the turmoil of the English Civil War and on to the establishment of the current system of government.

A series of slides showed us the wonderful architecture of the Palace and how its design reflected the prevailing political structure of the country. The choice of architects, Charles Barry and his assistant, Augustus Pugin, revealed one aspect of the 19th century's attitudes towards religion. The supporting narrative brought to life the interesting features of and events that took place in key rooms of the Palace and how their use has changed over the years.

Tales of current and former members of the Houses and visiting foreign dignitaries gave a personal touch to this excellent presentation.

Short of being there in person, this was about the best way to discover some of the fascinating history of one of our core institutions.