

Duke of Wellington



At our last well-attended meeting for the year, Ken Moulds talk gave us an insight into the life of the 1st Duke of Wellington, with a brief mention of his ancestry, his parents and his life from his birth in 1769 until his death in 1852 and including some snippets of music.

One of nine children, he was born Arthur Wellesley in Dublin in 1769. After moving to London and education in Chelsea and Eton, Arthur enrolled in the French Royal Academy of Equitation in Angers, where he progressed significantly, becoming a good horseman and learning French. He became an accomplished soldier and Ken told us about some of his famous battles, including a brief summary of Waterloo.

He also owned several houses during his life including Apsley House in London (now English Heritage) Stratfield House in Basingstoke and Walmer Castle. He married Kitty Pakenham in Dublin on 10 April 1806. It was not a happy marriage but produced two sons, Arthur, in 1807, and Charles, in 1808. He also had several dalliances with other women.

After the end of his active military career, Wellington returned to politics. He was twice British prime minister as part of the Tory party.

Wellington died at Walmer Castle in Deal on 14 September 1852. He was given a state funeral in London and buried in in St Paul's Cathedral next to Lord Nelson.

Ken was thanked and complimented on his clear and entertaining presentation at the meeting.