

Bournemouth holiday

Day one we made our way down to Bournemouth. Thirty of us travelled down with Stewart at the helm. We stopped a couple of times en route for a break. We arrived safely at our hotel around mid afternoon. Bit by bit we got our allocated rooms sorted before relaxing for a drink before our evening meal, then chilled out for the rest of the evening.

Day two was a free day so we could all please ourselves as to what we wanted to do. Our group decided to walk into the town centre. We strolled from the hotel and on the way to town we came upon a memorial that had been erected to honour Jon Egging, a Red Arrow pilot, who sadly died in August 2011 while performing with his colleagues at a Bournemouth air display.

We then decided to catch an open topped bus and cruised the streets of Bournemouth and its outlying districts. Our destination was to be Swanage but before getting there our bus took a short ferry trip across a narrow strip of water from a place called Sandbanks, onto another landing point on the other side, to complete our journey by road once again. Apparently the ferry crossing cuts out at least 20 miles of travelling by road. Swanage was a small but lovely seaside place with places to suit all types. We had a meal and a drink, after much wandering, then eventually caught our bus back via the same route and ferry, back to Bournemouth.

Day three was a trip to Winchester. Our first destination was the Cathedral. We usually make comparisons to our own Cathedral when we see others and in my opinion Lincoln Cathedral stands way above this one in at least outwardly looks. Winchester had some lovely large old buildings which looked similar in size and style to some of London's finest. This is one aspect of Winchester that in my view, is sadly lacking in Lincoln itself. We paid a visit to one or two Museums that were located in these buildings, one of which was a tribute to the Gurkhas who bravely fought alongside our troops in many a conflict throughout the years.

Day four took us on to Poole. Many of the members, including ourselves, decided to take on one of the many pleasure boat trips that were available on the quayside. On what proved to be another very nice sunny day we sailed along for about an hour or so around the edges of Poole Harbour, taking in the sights of all the boats and landscapes surrounding it. We saw boats of all shapes and sizes, one in particular made us gasp with envy at its sheer size and looks. We also saw some houses built for the very wealthy costing millions apiece. Out of our range I'm afraid. Afterwards, as we landed back, we made our way to a Wetherspoons nearby for a drink and a bite to eat. Funny how we always find them with a bit of trial and error. We then headed back to base where some members took a swim in a nearby pool while others did their own thing.

Day five took us to Christchurch, not the New Zealand one I hasten to add, not enough time, but the one close to Bournemouth. We split up into different groups where some of us took in the scenery and others tried the local cafes for refreshments. Our group looked around the Marina area where small pleasure boats were moored and five of us decided to take a chance on hiring a small engine powered dinghy for a slow sedate cruise down the river, which was a very pleasant way to spend an hour or so. Once everyone had seen all they wanted to see we made our way back to the coach and then back to Bournemouth to spend the rest of the day relaxing in our own different ways.

Day six was home time. We boarded the coach after breakfast and made our way homeward bound to Lincoln. A very pleasant time was had, made especially good by the fine weather that we had.

Thank you for a great time to Steve, assisted by Chris, for all the arranging, and to our driver Stewart, who got us safely there and back.