

So, after a long wait it was finally here - our REA Lincoln Trip to Bournemouth. How exciting.

Sunday 19th June, our trusted and favourite driver arrived at Rustons and as always, on time for our 8.30am departure. All aboard, we set off on our journey, having two breaks along the way. We arrived at the hotel that was located on the sea front with views off the veranda of the beach and sea. Luggage was off loaded, members booked into rooms, after a few hiccups everyone got settled in, ready for the evening meal.

Monday 20th June we woke up to bright sunshine, what a start to the day. It was a 'free day' and we were left to spend the day as we wanted. Many went into Bournemouth, whilst others adventured further afield on open top buses to Swanage that used the ferry, cutting the journey by approx 25 miles. Everyone got back from their adventures safely to the hotel in time for the evening meal.

Tuesday 21st June, can't believe it, the weather is bright sunshine again! Today we went to Winchester. There is a cathedral here but not on the scale of Lincoln cathedral. It was a quaint town, with a lot of history, a variety of different types of shops, museums and beautiful gardens. We left Winchester at 3pm, or, was it a little later, after waiting for a couple of members who'd got lost (you know who you are).

Wednesday 22nd June. Off to Poole today, another sunny day. Stewart dropped us off at the quay. As soon as we got off the bus a lot of ladies dashed into the Pavers shoe shop whilst others are booking trips on boats. Those who went on a boat trip saw Brownsea Island, that had unfortunately been cancelled for various reasons, and the captain explained about other parts of the harbour. The boat also went passed Sandbanks showing properties worth up to and over eight million pounds. Weatherspoons was a lunch stop for many, followed by ice creams from the shops along the front before getting back on the bus. On returning to the hotel people had time to relax, have a swim in the pool, an afternoon nap or stroll in the glorious sunshine before the evening meal. After the evening meal people chatted in the lounge or ventured out again.

Thursday 23 June. Weather is cloudy today but still warm. Up and out for those who wanted to go to Christchurch at 9.30am. It's another small historic town, where another cathedral (again not Lincoln) is located. There is a marina not far from the cathedral, with swans, ducks and where again some hired a boat to go along the river (characters from last of the summer wine, came to mind as they sailed down the river, all of them taking turns to skipper the boat). Others walked around the town and visited Red House Museum and it's gardens, Christchurch Castle and the Norman House. Again Stewart, was on time at the arranged pick up point where he brought us safely back to the hotel for us to enjoy our last afternoon in Bournemouth.

Friday 24th June. After a lovely week in sunny Bournemouth it was time to depart. After breakfast, all bags, cases and members were on the bus. As everyone was ready we left a bit earlier than planned. On the way home we had a planned a stop at Bicester Village to get a bite to eat and for those who wanted a little bit of shopping. When everyone returned to the coach to continue our journey home, we all decided that the description for this stop was 'it was an experience'! We decided to have a quick stop at Leicester Forest East Services Justin case we got stuck in traffic in the usual spots on the A46. We arrived at Rustons at a sensible time, where everyone left safely to go home.

Thank you all who came on this trip for a lovely time.
The committee