

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside!

June Trip to Wells-next- the -Sea and Hunstanton.

I was astonished to see that, when I arrived at Ruston's at 8 30, Stewart had the boot open and was removing the equipment necessary for any trip in this country this year, namely: flotation devices, life jackets and an inflatable rubber ring for Brian. What was our driver doing? Wordlessly, he pointed at a glowing, golden orb in the sky. Yes- sun! And what's more, it shone all day, which made this a really enjoyable trip.

Our first stop was at Wells-next-the-Sea, a lovely coastal town in Norfolk. The weather had encouraged paddle boarders to navigate the inlet, some more successfully than others. There were plenty of tempting local delis or tea shops to fuel us for a stroll along the front, to see what delights this quaint place had to offer. A small train transferred walkers down the path to the stunning golden beach. If you remained in town, there was a lovely dress shop and art gallery to attract your wallets. You could go on the Wells and Walsingham Light Railway, catch some crabs or do a harbour tour, but our time was limited to 90 minutes so we returned to the coach. However, this stop gave us a tantalising glimpse of a little Norfolk gem, well worth a second visit.

Our second and longer stop was some 45 minutes along the coastal road. Nicknamed "Sunny Hunny," Hunstanton certainly lived up to its title today. It is larger, more commercial than Wells, with typical seaside arcades and attractions. Whether you wanted a bucket and spade (who wouldn't?), a Kiss-Me-Quick hat or an ice cream, you could find these easily. Hotels and fish and chip shops provided sustenance, whilst a lovely clifftop café next to the bowling green sold excellent cakes, as well as showcasing stunning views over the glimmering sea. It was the English coastline at its best! A small craft took tourists along the shore, or, for those still hungry, Kate's van on the promenade provided the best sugary donuts I've ever tasted. (6 for a fiver-bargain!)

There was a lovely coastal walk along the clifftop to the lighthouse, now used for holiday accommodation. Or you could walk along the beach and study, close to, the amazing geological formations in the stunning , multi-coloured cliffs and maybe find a fossil- you could really have been in an episode of *Jurassic Park*! Sadly, all too soon, it was time to leave our sandcastles, put our shoes back on and return to the coach, possibly little pinker-skinned than before.

To make the day even more special, traffic was light and we arrived back at 6 30 promptly. Thanks to Jane, Stewart, Chris and Brian for a wonderful, exhilarating day beside the seaside- and Brian had managed to find an inflatable dolphin as a souvenir.

Barbara Pearce