

NORTH DEVON AND SOMERSET HOLIDAY

Sunday October 1st to Friday 6th 2017.

The Holiday was well supported so the Coach was full by the time that we left Droitwich en route for Bath. The coach was very comfortable and we had the services of our preferred driver Matt. Most people already knew each other and although there were twelve of our group new to the annual holiday everybody seemed to get on well together.





Bath is an ever popular place to visit so the group soon dispersed into the City having been dropped at a convenient place close to the centre. There was a good choice of restaurants for lunch before seeing something of the city .With the Abbey, Roman Baths and Grand Pump Room and other places to visit the time soon arrived to return to the coach. Back on the road we wondered if the hotel would be as good as its web page looked. Having had a recent refit it certainly was. Its location in the town centre of Barnstaple could not have been bettered. The bedrooms were first class and the food was very good. Being allowed to sit on different tables with a change of company each night was a bonus which we all enjoyed.



Monday started with a journey along the north Devon coast using roads that many of us would think twice about driving along in a car. Wonderful scenery and superb driving by Matt. Those that went into Dunster village said what a lovely place it was with a good choice of restaurants. The castle was certainly well worth a visit with attentive and informative staff. The view over the countryside when visiting the coffee shop was superb. We arrived in Minehead in time for lunch before catching the train to Watchet. With its port, museum and old buildings it was a pleasant place to spend time before boarding the coach back to Barnstaple.

Another full day followed with a visit to Morwellham Quay. The cross country route to get there took us through countryside largely unknown to most of our group. Arriving at Morwellham the weather was a bit changeable but we were given a warm welcome by the young lady who came aboard the coach. We were allocated seats on either the first or second train for a visit to the copper mine. The train driver gave us a history of the mine and the miners which was enlarged upon by the commentaries at various workings within the mine. It was then time for lunch at the Ship Inn. After lunch many of us went to the village school for a bit of Victorian education. There were other places to visit so it was a full day.







On Wednesday we spent time in Ilfracombe before travelling on to Lynton for lunch. There was time to visit the town which included a few shops and one antique shop in particular. Some of our party descended to Lynmouth by way of the cliff railway.



Thursday was market day in Barnstaple so the morning was free time for shopping and visiting the Historic Pannier Market. After lunch in the town we had a short drive to Arlington Court, National Trust property, home of the Chichester family. This included the Carriage House and Gardens with as much walking as time and legs allowed.

On Friday it was time to leave the hotel and travel home with two breaks en route arriving home by late afternoon. Our thanks to John and Jean Webb, Matt, the Royal & Fortescue Hotel and the company of our fellow travellers for making this an enjoyable holiday. The fact that over thirty people have already booked for next year's holiday in Eastbourne is a good indication of the success of the Devon Holiday.

Mike Norton.