

CLUB WEEKEND 2023

Heacham Manor Hotel, Hunstanton, Norfolk

Friday 22nd September to Monday 25th September

Weekenders

Barry & June

Bob & Irene	Derek & Hilary
Jeff & Cheryl	Barrie & Pam
Doug Plumb	Diana Selbie
Peter & Brenda	Alan & Carol
Alec & Jean	Alan & Celia

FRIDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

It was a little bit chilly when some of us met at The Lodge to travel in convoy to the Hotel, via a Garden Centre near Bury St. Edmunds.

A total of 6 MG's with 12 members all arrived in plenty of time for our departure at 09.45.

Although the aim was to travel as one convoy, I had arranged for Barry and I to lead Peter & Brenda and Jeff & Cheryl, with Doug & Diana leading Alan & Carol and Derek & Hilary to make it easier if we became separated.

The remaining members decided to make their own way, but Barrie & Pam intended to meet up with us at Dobbies Garden Centre for our lunch stop.

The convoy didn't go quite to plan but I had suggested if any of us became separated just to head for the lunch stop. This proved to work really well and we all managed to arrive at Dobbies around the same time. It was great to see Barrie & Pam who met us there for lunch.

We had a leisurely break and then set off once more in the convoy order, but Barrie & Pam decided to meet us at the hotel.

Once again, we became separated but we all managed to arrive at the hotel in good time to check in.

Alan & Celia had decided to book an extra night the night before so were already at the hotel.

Once we all checked in we were handed menus to select our first evening meal, and then subsequently we would have to select each day's meals during breakfast.

With some free time on our hands after settling into our rooms, I thought Barry and I should go for a stroll around the grounds of the hotel as we had been in the car for a very long time. So we set off in the sunshine.

The hotel boasted a sizeable golf course so golfers were out enjoying the weather.

It was possible to walk from the hotel to Hunstanton and some did indeed do that. The reception staff intimated it would only take about 15 minutes but on return a few said it was further than they thought but very enjoyable, nonetheless.

We managed to walk halfway down the path in the direction of the route to Hunstanton but turned around and headed back towards the hotel, when we spotted Bob & Irene disappearing into the golf club bar so we headed there to. All too soon others from our group wandered in and we spent about an hour with a drink or two and a chat.

I had arranged for dinner to be served at 7.30 each evening and suggested we meet up in the bar at 6.30 but only an option. There were a few choices as to where we could gather before dinner and on Friday we all met up in a small room where we all enjoyed a chat and drinks.

Our meals were served in a separate room with two long tables for 10 people on each. Seating has always been random at our weekends so as to mix and chat to each other rather than with the same people every time.

Over the years we have always had a caption competition where Bob had provided photos taken of members on events gone by and we were invited to "put words into mouths" in order to raise a laugh or two. However, a break in tradition ensued this time, and Irene had prepared a short quiz for each evening. The emphasis was on enjoyment, as opposed to Mastermind, and each table of 10 were given a couple of question sheets to fill in the answers and passed round each team table in order to answer as many questions as possible.

The first subject was slogans from adverts, which proved to be popular.

I suggested the 2 teams were called Team M and Team G (MG) to make the marking easier.

Team M won Friday's quiz with a box of After Eight Mints being presented to our table, which inevitably got passed round to everyone so really no losers.

It was Doug's birthday so we all sang Happy Birthday to Doug.

It had been a long day so some retired to bed after the meal while a few others decided to have a drink and more chat before going to bed.

While we were enjoying our chat after the meal, Barry, Alan & Bob had all sat themselves on a window seat and it sprung to my mind that they could be the three wise monkeys, so they willingly posed as you can see from the photo.



SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

I had arranged for breakfast to be served at 8.15 each morning. Breakfast was plentiful, with a choice of a full English breakfast or cherry pick from the menu if a full English was too much, and a full buffet of cereal, fruit, toast, yogurt, pastries, fruit juices and hot drinks.

In an effort to make Saturday a little bit laid back after our long journey the day before, we had arranged for a visit to Norfolk Lavender. This was quite close to the hotel and we all drove there and parked in the car park. We all enjoyed a stroll around where there was a lavender shop, a gift shop, and we all enjoyed a hot drink and light bite after making a few purchases.

We then returned to the cars and set off to RSPB Titchwell Marsh, by which time the sun was shining and it was quite hot.

Derek & Hilary had arranged to visit Wild Ken Hill with some friends for the afternoon.

The rest of us decided to go for a walk heading towards the beach. There was a made up footpath all the way, with hides where you could go and sit and try and spot some birds.

Some of us spotted a few birds along the way. We saw Curlews & Lapwings.

We made it to the beach which was absolutely beautiful, with very soft sand and the tide was out quite a way. We spent quite a while there taking in the fresh sea air before re-tracing our steps along the path.

We all finished the afternoon at the café on site, with a hot drink and some enjoyed a cake before returning to the hotel for a break before meeting up again for a pre-dinner drink and chat. This time we sat in one of the bars.

We then went to our tables for dinner.

The second quiz from Irene was well known lines from films. Once again, the questions were handed to the two tables and a lot of chat ensued in between eating our meal.

This time Team G won the prize of a box of After Eight Mints which were very quickly passed round to all.

Once again, some decided to call it a day and a few of us went to Bob & Irene's room for a natter before retiring to our rooms for the night.

SUNDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

After a hearty breakfast we all gathered in the car park to drive to Holt for a bit of shopping and a stroll around the beautiful Georgian town.

ALERT! Unexpected Item in car park ticket machine!!!!

Most of us parked in the car park in the Budgens Supermarket and we had to obtain parking tickets. Estimating that we would only need 2 hours, we all headed mostly to the same machine.

The charge for 2 hours was £3 so after a lot of change sorting, tickets were duly purchased.

Diana had the right change and inserted a £1 coin but she only had a £2 coin for the balance, which wasn't accepted in the machine. So the only thing to do was to press the refund button but what emerged was not the £1 coin but a condom!!! Shock horror (along with giggles) all round!!!

Although we all saw the funny side of it, Diana was very anxious to immediately wash her hands and was handed a wet wipe. I will leave the rest to your imagination!!!

In the evening, Irene refused to believe it, and asked around and we soon convinced her it was true.

Moving on swiftly.....

I had booked tickets for everyone to go for a steam train ride on the NNR Poppy Line from Holt to Sheringham and back with almost 2 hours free time to spend in Sheringham.

So, we all met back at the car park and drove the short journey to Holt Railway Station.

The weather was ideal for the ride. Our seats had been reserved at the time of the booking and we all boarded the 12.50 train to Sheringham, after taking many photos of the train from the platform, capturing the atmosphere and some took photos with the railway staff who all looked splendid in their Uniforms.

We were in the end carriage for our run to Sheringham.

The ride took just over 15 minutes with an intermediate stop at Weybourne but our group booking meant we could only travel from Holt direct to Sheringham. An absolutely brilliant ride, with the smoke from the engine wafting in the air and a whistle or two.

On arrival at Sheringham we all headed to the town centre which wasn't too far to walk and eventually reached the sea wall where we could see for miles, but the tide was high.

Peter & Brenda went off to a café for a light bite and we went for a slow walk along the sea wall with Doug and Alan & Carol, which was very pleasant in the sunshine, again taking in the fresh sea air.

We were looking for somewhere to have a light bite and a drink and Alan & Carol recommended just the place, which they had been to on a previous holiday and we enjoyed tea cakes, scones etc. and drinks with a great view to enjoy.

The return train was booked to leave Sheringham at 3.20 but we had to be on the platform no later than 20 minutes before departure, so we all set off back along the sea wall and along the High Street to the station.

The return journey was as enjoyable as the outbound one but this time we were at the front of the train and the noise from the wheels on the track were quite authentic with the notorious "clackety clack". Wonderful.

Once we were all back in our cars, Barry had put together a scenic route along the coast back to the hotel which was enjoyable, although the road was a way back from the coast but brought a really lovely day to a close.

So, back at the hotel, we all went to our rooms until meeting up for pre-dinner drinks.

After the pre-dinner meet up, this time in the bar, we all made our way to our tables for dinner.

The final quiz from Irene was Cryptic clues to work out city names, home and abroad. The winners were Team M and finally, a third box of After Eight Mints was passed round for all to enjoy.

A brilliant idea from Irene.

We lingered a while at the tables after the meal and Barry and I were presented with the biggest box of Thornton's Chocolates ever and a bottle of Port and a thank you card signed by all.

MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

We all met up in the restaurant for our final group breakfast.

This time it was Barry's birthday and a chorus of Happy Birthday to you was sung with gusto and he was handed a birthday card signed by everyone which was a lovely surprise.

Once all the cars were packed and ready to go, all MG's were parked in front of the hotel for a car photo shoot and then everyone stepped in for a group photo by the cars. The sun shone magnificently on the cars.



It was soon time to say goodbye to everyone. Some were remaining in Norfolk for a few more days and for our part, we headed home following Doug & Diana, with Peter & Brenda behind us.

What a brilliant route it proved to be, stopping once more at Dobbies Garden Centre for a light bight and refreshment before heading homewards.

It is our pleasure to organise these weekends and we know everyone is very appreciative of our efforts to get them all booked, including trips, but once the first day dawns, all we have to do is enjoy the weekend with everyone, which we certainly did.

Until next year, where will we go?????

Barry & June