

Bury St Edmonds WeekendTour

Friday 29th Apr – Monday 1st May

We left home on Friday at about 1100 hours and went directly to the hotel; Best Western Priory just on the outskirts of Bury St Edmonds. After checking in we walked down to the town, about 15 minutes walk away and had a look round. The town itself has all the usual shops partly centred around the main square – Cornhill and round the area near the Abbey Gardens. In the centre of Bury (as it is known locally) is the Abbey Gardens, a very pleasant park with the ruins of a former Benedictine Abbey in them. Each year a large Christmas Market is held in the gardens and other parts of the town. In the evening dinner had been arranged for 1930 and so most of the group meet in the bar before hand. As always on these trips there were people that we had not meet before and some who had been on a number of other trips in the part.

On Saturday we went to Framlington Castle about 40 miles away. The route goes via the A1120 “Suffolk Tourist Route” and takes about an hour. It is a good run on a bike as the roads are winding but not too narrow. Unfortunately while the castle grounds were open the old ‘Poorhouse’ was closed for renovation. The Wall Walk was still available and so after walking round the walls we walked down to the town which had a small market. We then went to the National Trust site of Sutton Hoo, an exhibition at Woodbridge which is interesting if you are interested in Anglo Saxon history. Again dinner was with the group in the evening and while the night before dinner in the main was well received by most people a lot of people commented on the size of the fish and the Panna cotta which you could have almost put in a shot glass!

On Sunday we went, again via the A1120 to Southwold on the Suffolk coast. A nice, non tacky seaside town that you could visit at any time of the year. There is a short pier with some pleasant shops on it and a Light House in the town centre run by Trinity House that is open to the public some days of the week. It was on the day we went but be warned it has 113 steps and not for those who do not like heights!

On Monday after leaving the hotel we went to Hedingham Castle in Essex, It is a Norman Keep, apparently the best preserved in England. On the day that we went there was an event day and so they had a falconry show, archers, food stalls and a medieval battle re-enactment.

Doreen Emmins