

East Anglian Autumn Break in North Norfolk.

October 2022



Due to the fact that the East Anglian Section was hosting the International Alvis Weekend and the week's Follow on Tour in Suffolk in July this year we were unsure how successful an Autumn Break would be. Well, we have to say that it exceeded all our expectations.

Everyone was made welcome on arrival with a 'meet and greet' tea and biscuits. With the largest ever group of 42 members attending the Sea Marge Hotel was fully booked save for two rooms, so we practically took over the dining room and the week's weather was glorious for October.



As the event has occurred since 2017, mention must go to our regular attendees Albert and Marina Markham, Val Kindell, Roy Smith, Charles and Judith van Ingen and the well travelled Harcourt family. We were also pleased to welcome Colin and Ann Hall who were unable to attend last year's event.

There were 13 classic Alvis in attendance as can be seen in the Raynham Hall, photo at the top of the page, along with their owners. The one big disappointment was the non appearance of Dave and Val Stokes Alvis TD21 drophead which after several

years of practically a full rebuild 'failed to proceed' due to a brake seizure.



Impromptu discussions outside Raynham Hall

The main event, following a superb lunch stop at Sculthorpe Mill was a visit to Raynham Hall, the seat of the Marquess Townsend, one of the 'Four great Whig houses of Norfolk, including Holkham Hall and Wolterton Hall, with family connections to Robert Walpole of Houghton Hall, England's first Prime Minister.

A 1½ hour tour of the House was given by Lord and Lady

Townshend with tea and cake to finish. They were so pleased to see the Alvis lined up in front of the Hall.



Clare and Brian Symes close hauled in their Ocean going Bowman 48 cutter rigged Sloop

After the Gala dinner we were all treated to a slide/video show by Claire Symes telling us about her and Brian's incredible 17 year round the world sailing trip that was 13 years in preparation, then starting in 1996 and returning in

2013, in a Bowman 48 foot cutter rigged sloop, including long camper van stays in New Zealand and Australia. The highlights were the people they met and discovering our wonderful planet and its geology.

For the rest of us the next day we took a 1½ hour boat trip on the Norfolk Broads from Horning on the River Bure down to Ranworth Broad on the aptly named Southern Comfort, a Mississippi



Paddle Boat. Secure parking was arranged for our classics with a donation to the Horning Sailing Club adjacent to the boarding jetty.

A small group of members decided to go 'off piste' on the North Norfolk Railway at Sheringham to celebrate member Barry Peacock's birthday, which somehow always happens on the Autumn Break!

We have to say that a great time was had by all and the getting together and socialising was a large part of the success of the event, as well as the ambience, and extremely helpful staff, of the Sea Marge Hotel. This ever popular event will be back again next year so watch this space and keep an eye on the Calendar.



Owen Swinerd contemplating a select group off Alvis motors, outside Raynham Hall

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