

East Anglian 2023 Autumn Break in North Norfolk

Following the 2022 extremely successful Autumn Break with a record number of 42 attendees, despite stating then that this was going to be the last one, we were asked to 'do it again'. So this year followed the same format as in previous years where we have practically taken over the Sea Marge Hotel, Overstrand, near Cromer for 4 days.



The event started on Monday with a 'meet and greet' tea and biscuits for 30 members to get re-acquainted following a long day's drive for some, coming from the South, Midland and North Sections along with our regular East Anglian attendees.

We had 13 classic Alvis attend including the well travelled Alvis Duncan of the Harcourt family fresh from the Alvis Scottish International along with Chris and Owen Swinerd's Firefly, and Malcolm and Val Kindell's trophy laden TA21 Drophead. Also in attendance was Dave Stokes fully renovated TD21 Drophead finally making it despite its rather hot front wheelhubs !



The main event this year on Tuesday, following several years of visiting many of the 'Grand Houses' of North Norfolk, was something different with a visit to Gressenhall Workhouse and Union Farm. This is one of the most complete building complexes built in 1777 as 'A House of Industry' by a group of 50 Parishes, where they could send all their paupers; anyone who was unable to support themselves and looked to the parish for help, such as the elderly, the infirm, the physically and mentally handicapped, the unemployed, orphaned and illegitimate children. The largest number living there was 670. The work they undertook comprised farm work, spinning, laundry, cleaning and gardening. The complex also has a large collection of items illustrating a history of rural life in Norfolk. The day's visit included a scenic trip along the B1110 through several pretty villages and many took advantage of the Workhouse Cafe serving hot and cold food and drinks.



The Gala Dinner was well attended by all including a number of friends of attendees and Derek Haynes a new local member who has joined our newly formed Norfolk Noggin and Natter Group. Susi Ivins thanked everyone for their support over the last 7 years, and remembered those no longer with us. She then presented Malcolm and Val Kindell with a framed photo of their TA21 Drophead, 'Maudie', at the recent Reepham Classic Car Festival.

Wednesday was a 'free day', which had proved popular on previous Breaks for everyone to do what they wanted. Visits were undertaken to Holkham Hall, Felbrigg Hall, Holt, The Muckleburgh Collection – Weybourne, The Broads Museum – Stalham, and a number of local Pubs and Hotels for lunch. It was the only time we had a spot of rain during a short spell in the afternoon. At all other times it was predominantly dry and sunny.

The final Dinner at Sea Marge included a 'thank you' to Tracy Watson of Mackenzie Hotels who has administered our event for the last 7 years. We have to say again that a great time was had by all due to the 'getting together and socialising' and extremely helpful Staff of the Sea Marge Hotel.

The next Autumn Break will be held in Suffolk at the Seckford Hall Hotel near Woodbridge and details will be posted on the Calendar in due course.

Hugh and Susi Ivins