

October Half Term 2015 (and Lydia's 30th) Part 3

Wednesday

Bluebell the motorhome is on the edge, the waters edge that is, enjoying an enormous fully serviced pitch right on the lake at **Waterloo Leisure** site on the outskirts of Market Harborough. 



^ We ended up totally wasting the space on our pitch as we wanted to take advantage of the on pitch grey water drainage, therefore

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were restricted by the length of our grey water waste pipe! ^

It's slightly more than we would usually like to pay for a site at £24.50 pn but it's location being right on the Brampton Valley Way trail, that links Northampton to Market Harborough on an old railway path, made us bite the bullet and book it. If you're into fishing you would love it here, our door literally opens onto a rather large fishing lake, and if we wanted to, we could have 2 rods as part of our nightly fee.☒

The pitch is absolutely gigantic for little ol' Bluebell- but it's hard standing base and grey water disposal/drinking water tap on pitch is proving to be beyond helpful considering the amount of rain we've had over

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night!



We arrived yesterday lunchtime and after finishing off the remains of the slow cooker beef casserole we enjoyed the night before, we got our walking boots on and walked about 3 miles along the old railway track towards Northampton.



We managed to take in a 400 Mt tunnel which was pitch black, apart from a shaft of light in the middle which presumably was a ventilation hole. I wouldn't say I was a huge fan of the tunnel, it was damp, pitch black, cold and really eery! Keith however loved it and he did a good job protecting me with the help of our iPhone torches!



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Along the way there were loads of juicy sloe berries crying out to be picked ready for a mass slow gin making effort when we get home!



After a nice leg stretch we headed back to Bluebell in time for afternoon tea and a chance to finish off my birthday cake before having a chill and watching Shaun of the Dead on Keith's Blu Ray player that we cart around everywhere and rarely use!

Wednesday dawned a wet one to say the least- although it really is lovely being tucked up nice and warm and DRY and hearing the rain hitting the motorhome roof. We decided

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to utilise the rainy morning by having an enormous lay in, which these days meant we lasted til around 09:30 before getting itchy feet! So I cooked us a spinach and mozzarella frittata and made a packed lunch, all the weather apps were telling us the rain would pass by 1pm. We were keen to get on the bikes as we wanted to get to nearby Foxton Locks. Around 11:30 there seemed to be a gap in the rain so we decided to don our wet weather attire and go for it, a good decision as it ended up stayed dry, with even the sunshine coming out as we arrived at Foxton.



We took the Brampton Valley Way trail to Market Harborough (around 1.5 miles) then picked up the Millenium mile cycle path along the riverside towards the Grand Union

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Canal on cycle route 6. We then cycled 6 miles alongside the canal on the towpath, ending up at Foxton Locks at around 1:30. The colours alongside the canal were breathtaking.



Foxton Locks are a set of 10 Grade II listed locks that form a staircase transporting canal boats up the valley.



 We enjoyed watching some boats travelling through the lock system, helped by the lock keepers and found the old boat lift fascinating. The old lock keepers cottages had been well restored into a tempting looking tea

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rooms, however we chose for a refreshment stop in the Foxton Locks Inn at the bottom of the staircase. 



 *The above two pics are the old boat lift which was engineered in the early 1900s. It would carry boats up in a tank on water- each one carried two boats and used a pulley system to pull the entire tank up or down the hill.*

It was an easier journey back, and we opted to stay on the canal path right into the centre of Market Harborough into a Union Wharf.

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☒ Annoyingly Keefy managed to get a puncture (he is so unlucky with his bikes!) – luckily this happened as we were coming into Market Harborough so we ended up walking the bikes the last couple of miles back getting back to Bluebell just as the sun was going down.

We enjoyed our stay on the Waterloo Leisure site- the only extra thing that we would have enjoyed was on pitch wifi – apparently the owners are working on this though.

Sadly our trip was over and it was time to head back home this morning (Thursday). We have had another fantastic break away, done some lovely cycles and walks and generally been pretty lucky with the weather.

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We are hoping we may get a cheeky week-end away before Christmas, but we are looking forward to our next adventure over New Year in the Peak District.

Until next time

Lx

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