

Winter adventures and festive fun; Part 1

Since we got home from America, it's been full on with work as we've had a show production as well as our normal teaching routine. As soon as the show was over I was itching to get out for some fresh air, and luckily my lovely husband had preempted this and pre-booked some tickets to nearby Anglesey Abbey for their winter lights event.

Anglesey Abbey is a National Trust owned country house that was formerly a priory and is set within acres of woodland. A perfect can-

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was for a magical winter wonderland trail.



We met Keith's Dad and Stepmum for a late Sunday dinner at the nearby Red Lion in Swaffham Prior, before driving the couple of miles to Anglesey Abby for our 7pm entrance ticket. Our meal was gorgeous, one of the best Sunday lunches we've had in ages and really great value.

We had a few minutes to spare at Anglesey Abbey so had a hot chocolate and a browse of the gift shop; I just love the National trust gift shops and left laden with goodies! At 7pm we were called through and began our winter trail. The lights were extremely pretty and atmospheric, and although completely

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different to Kew Gardens winter lights which we visited last year, it was equally as lovely.



The trail is about 1.75 miles long, and there are a couple of rest areas with hot food, coffee and mulled wine of course. There were also some entertainers at each rest point- a fire eater and country band in one section and a brass band in the other.



We carried on along the trail admiring the huge silver birch trees all lit up beautifully and our favourite section was the stretch

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along near the mill.



The Abbey itself was pretty with multi-coloured lights that you could control using devices on the path, which was unique.



We thoroughly enjoyed our trip and was the perfect outing to get us starting to think about Christmas. Tickets for this year have sold out already, however you can get tickets through the National trust website [here](#) – we booked in September.

We didn't stay as we were local and it was a

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Sunday night, however you could easily combine this trip with a stay on:

Cherry Hinton Caravan and Motorhome club site

Gayton Farm CL

Anglesey Abbey also is very proud to host one of the best displays of snowdrops in the country and is well worth a visit in February too.

The following weekend, hailed the return of the ever popular **Bury Christmas Fayre**. Each year this 4 day Christmas fayre becomes even more popular- we've been making a point of visiting every year that we've

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lived here. Despite us only being 30 mins from Bury St Edmunds we always camp overnight as we are partial to a drop of Greene King Abbotts Reserve, but at 6.5% I only need to sniff it and be over the limit!

In Bury St Edmunds there is an official motorhome overnight parking area in the main car park, where we can park legally for 24 hrs at only £2.50. We are so lucky to have this, if only more councils supported motorhome owners on this way but that's a different story.

Despite this wonderful facility being available, we rarely get to use it during the Xmas market weekend as there are only 5 spaces and they are always full, so we tend to dis-

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creetly park up outside of town for the night. This year however due to a wedding on the Saturday, we ended up at Bury on Friday and i'll be blowed, we got a space in the Aire!



We wasted no time and headed straight for the Abbot reserve tent!



The market is centred around the picturesque Abbey gardens and Angel hill and is full of stalls offering lovely gifts and food and drink galore.



Picture from

<http://www.burystedmundschristmasfayre.co.uk/>

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This year, we did less shopping and more drinking hehe, but we stocked up on cheeses! The Greene King tent is right opposite the stage and so we enjoyed watching the commitments tribute band.

It really is a lovely Christmassy event, and we look forward to it every year. It's also dog friendly.



We can't go to Bury St Edmunds without a drink in the **Nutshell**, claimed to be the smallest pub in the UK and this trip was no exception. It's also dog friendly. ☐



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Photo from Wikipedia



Accommodation options for Bury St Edmunds are:

Ram Meadow Motorhome Aire

The Dell Campsite, Thurston

We've got another couple of trips in Ruby lined up before Christmas; London and York so check back in a couple of weeks for more festive fun!

Until next time

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