

Hello 2019! Seeing in the New Year on
the North Norfolk coast

Ruby the VW Campervan is parked on the very lovely **Deepdale Backpackers hostel and Campsite**, at Burnham Deepdale, North Norfolk. We've driven by this place many a time, but the recent addition of electric hook ups and a complete toilet and shower re-vamp saw us booking on back in September for our much anticipated New Year break.



The campsite is absolutely excellent by the way; huge pitches and probably the best facil-

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ities we've ever come across; plenty of massive wet room showers with your own private loo and hand basin, even heated flooring! There are plenty of dish washing facilities, free Wi-fi and even not one, but two warm doggie showers! 🐕

These are the facilities just on site, aside from these we've got a fully stocked supermarket/petrol station that is open 7-7 even on New Year's Day! A number of lovely shops, a cafe, not one but two pub/restaurants, the Norfolk Norfolk coastal path running practically from the site and a bus stop that is the coastlines and runs from Hunstanton to Fakenham and back every hour. It's just the perfect place to spend New Year- a time when we always end up walking miles

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and miles to try and burn off some of those
excess pounds that we've gained since, well
Texas really!

The journey here on Sunday was indirect
from ours but relatively quick- just over an
hour and we were pulling onto our pitch. We
took our time setting up as our last pack
away was in the **middle of the night** and af-
ter a hearty lunch of homemade pea, ham
and mint soup, made in my **compact soup
maker** that Santa brought me, we donned
our boots and set off on a small walk. The
soup was amazing by the way!



We turned left out of the campsite and
walked along the coast path towards Bran-

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caster Staithe, a walk of around 1.5 miles
and then looped back along the road, obvi-
ously checking the two pubs out too. We
passed two small places selling fresh mus-
sels. Obviously we brought a bag of live mus-
sels, (and some fresh eggs) ready for a
starter tonight.



Sunday night was spent chilling before dinn-
er. Dinner was a rather exciting affair; first
we had the local Brancaster mussels, cooked
in a simple white wine and onion sauce- oh
my they were good.



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Main course was homemade turkey, ham and leek pies using our new gadget, an electric pie maker. I made the pies at home and we reheated them in about 15 mins using electric. It was a blustery wet evening, and our pie and mash dinner really hit the spot!



It never fails to surprise me how well we eat in Ruby, considering we only have just two gas hob rings!

New Years Eve

We had a fairly lazy morning, and after a breakfast of sausage and egg baps, we set off on a 3 mile or so saunter, this time in the opposite direction of yesterday's walk - so

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turning right out of the campsite.



Despite leaving Ruby at 11:30 we found our pace was fast, so we decided to pause for a quick drink at The Hero, and then carry on along the coast path through Holkham and finishing at Wells-next-the-Sea 11 miles later!



Crossing the field towards Burnham



I saw the sea.. at Burnham



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The path goes behind the large sand dunes
at Holkham



Then through the trees and forest before
coming up to the sea wall at Wells Next the
Sea



The final approach to Wells Next the Sea. Boy those fish
and chips were calling us!

We arrived at Wells at 3pm, not bad at all-
we really loved the walk, even with our fast
pace!

Obviously after such a long walk with no
snacks/water (although there is a cafe with
water station and loos at Holkham. And a

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pub which we didn't stop at!) our first objective was to find a drink, and then fish and chips at Frenchies which hit the spot and beyond, before grabbing the next coasthopper bus back to the campsite (£2.10pp & £1 for dogs). We accidentally □ missed our stop and got off at the next stop, the Jolly Sailors, for "one for the road"; well it was NYE!



Our evening was quiet and chilled, exactly as we like it. We managed to polish off a steak and noodle dinner around 9.30pm, and then opened a bottle of fizz as we waited for the big countdown.



The atmosphere on site was good – a lot of

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campers had gone down to the Jolly sailors (or we assume they did as we watched them leave dressed as pirates and there was a pirate party on). At midnight, a few of our neighbours came out with sparklers singing Auld Lang Syne, and in the distance (but far enough not to trouble Jazz) we watched a pretty impressive firework display. But ten mins later the site was quiet again, so we pulled out the bed and promptly dozed off – not waking again until 10am.

New Years Day started rather lazily, in fact, I don't think I got out of bed until 11! Once I did get up I made us a fry up, and we tested our legs after yesterday's long walk. Luckily neither of us had still legs so we decided to do a nice 4.5 miles loop provided by the

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campsite, Burnham Deepdale – Brancaster
and back via Barrow Common.



Despite there being a few drops of rain as we lay in bed, by midday the weather had cleared right up, and actually the sun was attempting to show its face. We really enjoyed walking over Barrow common, and took the opportunity to toast the new year with a swig or five from our hip flasks whilst looking out to sea.



The walk included walking across a field
ahem, I mean the remains of a Roman Fort,
Branodunum, which dates back from
200AD, and would have been one of three im-

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portant sites in East Anglia. Keith was absolutely in his element – I’m better at seeing physical remains rather than using my imagination but I understood that it was a very important archeological site, and in its day would have looked like this:



Picture taken from SUMO Services:

<https://www.sumoservices.com/brancaster-roman-fort-case-study/>

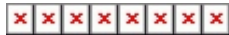
Today it looks like this



There is an interesting **time team episode** filmed here which we watched later on.

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The walk rejoined the coastal path just below the fort and we followed it all the way back to Burnham Deepdale. As we passed Brancaster Staithe the sun fully came out and the light was just wonderful. The tide was now almost fully in and lots of people were out taking pictures, bird watching, even some launched sea kayaks. It really is my happy place here.



A mile or so further along and we returned to our starting point, and paid a quick stop at the church to see the Norman square font, before returning to the campsite, just in time to watch the sun dip down behind Ruby.

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The first sunset of 2019. 



All this walking means we are hungry Horace's, so we devoured a cheese board for a late lunch and then a delicious slow cooker venison and red cabbage stew for dinner. Recipe below, it was gorgeous!



We've had a brilliant break, and really feel recharged and ready to start the year with a bang. We've signed up for Country Walking's Walk 1000 miles in 2019, (we actually started it on 27th Dec hopefully that won't matter) so are going into 2019 with lots of walk-

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ing based trips in mind, and lots of trips in Ru-
by and beyond already booked.

Whatever 2019 brings for you, I do hope it's
a good one, and if you have a camper van,
Motorhome or tent, we really *really* recom-
mend a visit to Deepdale Farm. We'll be back
for sure!

Until next time

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