

Day out to Stamford and Rutland Water – Jan Paver

Our last trip of the year, on September 8th, did not look too good at first. After a summer of high temperatures and no rain, the heavens decided to open on us, and it rained constantly as we travelled north to Stamford in Lincolnshire. Dave, our Motts coach driver, coped extremely well with the conditions, both inside and outside the coach. There were so many discussions and predictions on the forecast, he must have been very bored listening to us.



"Oh, no it's getting heavier now", "No, I'm sure it looks brighter ahead" or "My app said it would stop by 11.30". Whoever said that the Brits always talk about the weather? And as luck would have it as soon as we got to Stamford, it quickly dried up and got brighter during the afternoon.

Everyone loved Stamford. It is a historic market town sitting on the River Welland, famous for its 17th and 18th century limestone buildings and five



medieval parish churches. Unlike a lot of towns we know well, there is a thriving high street which was appreciated by our members with plenty of options for coffee or lunch. If a walk by the river is your thing, there is a path around the meadows offering wonderful views of the town's architecture and church spires.

Two of the churches we found were open and the quality of the stained-glass windows was awesome.

After lunch, it was back on the coach for a short 15-minute drive to the north shore of Rutland Water. This huge artificial lake and reservoir, the largest in the UK, provides water to the East Midlands. However, we saw that the area provides a lot more than drinking water. Set in beautiful countryside, there are walking trails, cycling tracks, nature



reserves, water sports centres, fishing, sailing clubs, and of course boat trips.

We were booked on the 3.00 pm round trip on the Rutland Belle, which has a running commentary on the construction of the reservoir and important features along the shore as you sail around. The Normanton Church, built on a promontory out into the water is an iconic building, once the church for the estate. It was going to be demolished as part of the reservoir construction but was saved due to the public outcry.



Nobody fell overboard and nobody was left stranded as the coach drove off without them, so a good last trip!

Thank you everyone for your company on the day, and your support for all of our trips this year.

Trips Team