



**EAST ANGLIAN TOUR – DAY 1
(30/6/18)**



Awake very early at 130am, I got up at 2 and decided to make the most of the day and that I would walk the 2.7 miles to North Station. Ready early I left home before 6am and thought that I would get the 647 train to Norwich and change at Ipswich to catch the Lowestoft train. Having bought my Anglia Plus ticket and Ipswich return from my friend Glyn Appleby, I did check whether there were trains to Norwich as none were on the board, but was told that there were, but as I found out, not at 647. Sadly I just missed the 640 to Ipswich, and had to get the 704, but that meant that I would then miss the 718 connection, so plans were changed and I got off my train at Manningtree station and had a look around inside and outside. Rumour has it that it is not in Manningtree but in Lawford, so I took numerous photos either side of the platform.

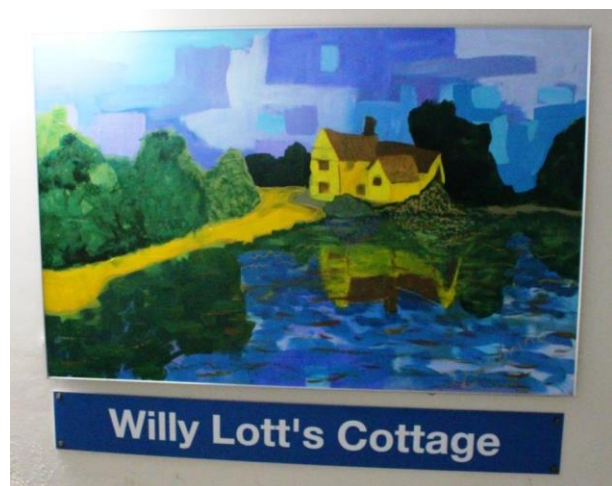
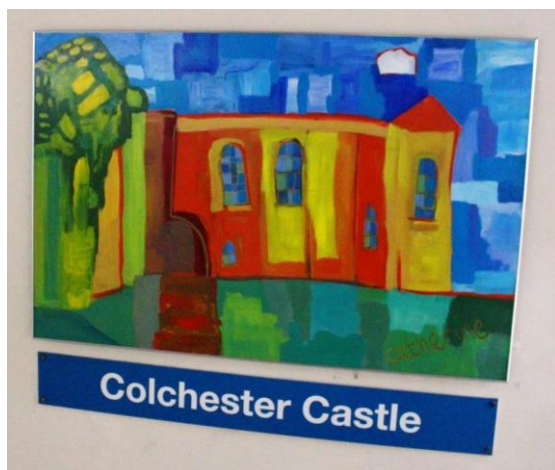
MANNINGTREE - LAWFORD



First I was on the Norwich bound side, with my train leaving in the distance.



Then I went down the underpass, with some interesting painting work down there.

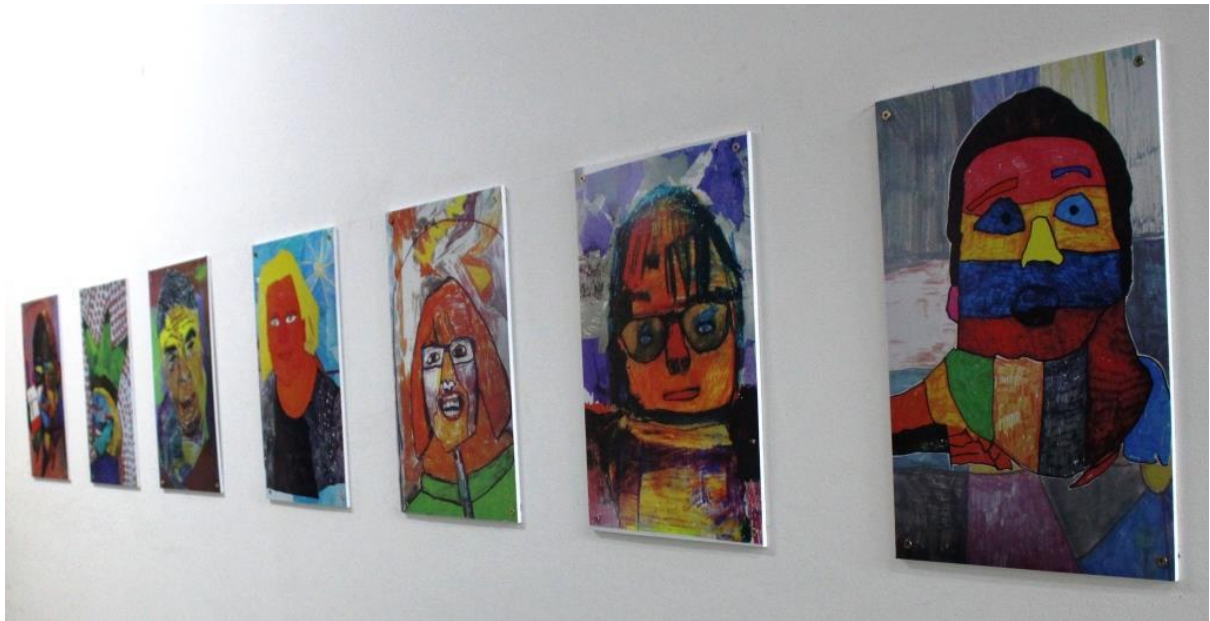




A House for Essex



Harwich Redoubt Fort



Outside, I went to claim my visit to Lawford, on a day when ten places were visited, and eight of which, I can tick off my so called – “wish list”.



Then I went back across to await my next train, with Norwich my destination now and this was due to arrive at 731.

However an out of service was meant to pass through and not stop, it did stop but then moved on quickly again.





Back on the Norwich bound side, my 731 train was showing on the board as it would be on time.



As we left the station, off to the right was the estuary looking towards Manningtree and the Mistley areas.



NORWICH



My stop in Norwich was brief as my train was due in at 829, it arrived at 827 and then it was to platform five to catch the 836 to Great Yarmouth.

ACLE

I stopped at Acle and again it was a brief one as my train was there at 858 and seeing buses to Great Yarmouth at 908 and 938, I chose the earlier one. Having had train problems there in the past, I knew the bus was regular and quick on the X service from Norwich. I just had time to nip into the church of St Edmunds and grab a magazine and got to the bus stop, just as it arrived. Packed down stairs, I went up top which was busy too, so sat next to a man and chatted to him. This gentleman spoke about the training boat that had been moored up in Norwich but was now moved towards Great Yarmouth. He pointed it out as this was now stuck in the river and could not be moved due to a bridge problem. Soon after 920 we were at the Great Yarmouth bus terminal.





Above is the wooded walk from the station to the church and shops. Going by bus meant I did not have to await an hour for the next train or the long walk from the station to the town.





GREAT YARMOUTH



I walked down the main road to sea front and saw the above outside the Catholic church and then I walked along the shoreline.







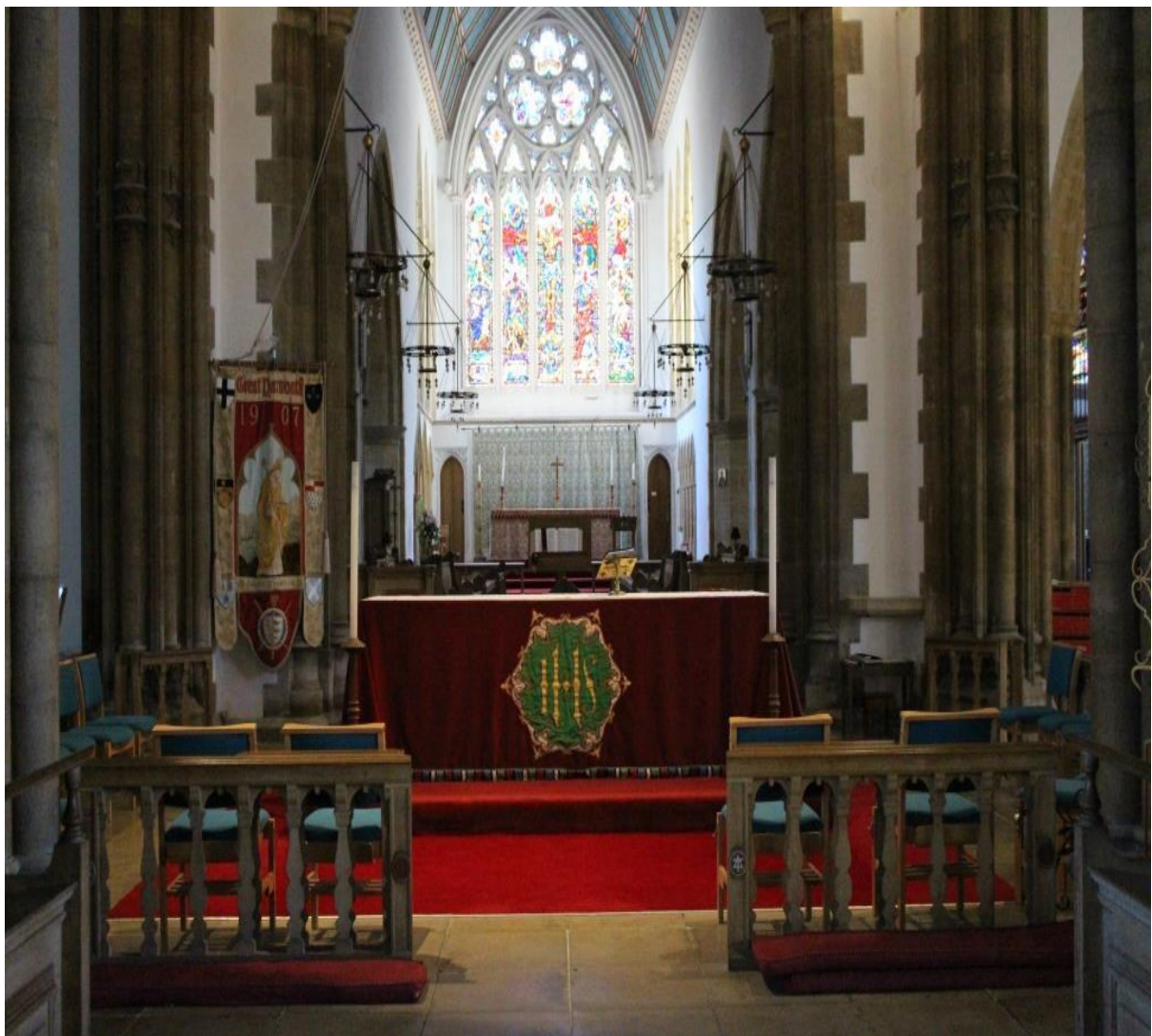


There were numerous interesting buildings and also some pony traps and on the page below, some “Pirate” linked play area.





I crossed back over the road and then saw the pony traps again and now back down the road away from the seaside, past the bus station where I noticed that 8 buses went to Caister-on-Sea. Now I was off Yarmouth Minster.



In the beautiful Minster more photos were taken and a couple of booklets bought.



Then it was back to the bus station and seeing a number 8 double decker waiting, I then got on it to visit Caister-on-Sea, which left at 1020 for a twenty minute run. This was probably a place we visited or passed through many years ago in the 1970's when we camped at Hemsby which was in that direction. Seeing a church ahead, I got off there and went for a look inside and saw a lady who had been doing the flowers.

CAISTER-ON-SEA







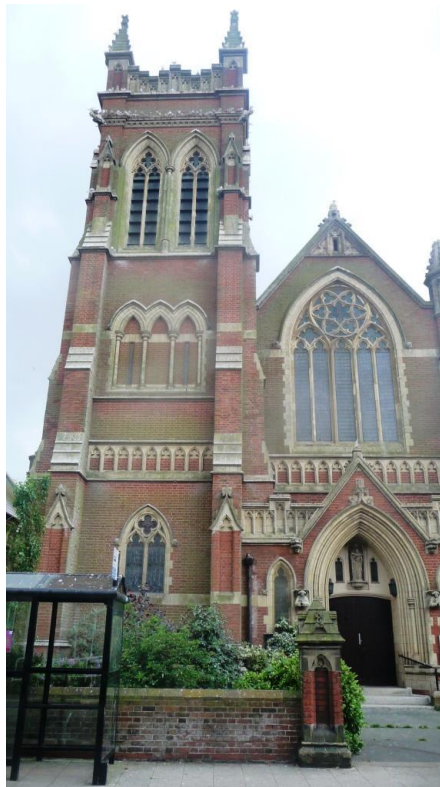






Going back outside and crossing the busy roads, I saw the number 8 bus leaving, having been to the holiday camp and back again. The next one on the board was a number one at 1152 which would go via Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft. This did the coastal route and went through Gorleston and Hopton. The whole run from Caister to Lowestoft was over an hour and I read my papers and we reached the Lowestoft bus station at around 1205. I was going to stay there about an hour and then set off back homewards again later.

LOWESTOFT



The bus station was right next to the church – Our Lady Star of the Sea, but a good landmark to look for my return.

I then had a look in a couple of charity shops and then in Sense, I bought five tickets in their tombola and won a prize and then outside it was a 25p lucky dip, where I got a donkey, a monkey, a bird like creature with a beak, a funny looking face and a pony. Close to Sense was a church below, which I had failed to identify in the past but the board outside said it was North Lowestoft URC.



Then I continued on and saw the famous inland wind turbine and in the High Street I was looking for the footpath down to the sea which had lots of fish in the concrete. I tried one opening, and I was in luck.







I saw Christchurch but now I was heading back to the bus station to get a bus to Oulton Broad North. My cut off time to leave there was 115 and the bus due in stand 8 at 105, failed to turn up.

So it had to be the train instead. The one to Norwich, seen arriving below, went at 148, the one to Ipswich at 207. I calculated for my walk from Oulton Broad North to Oulton South of 0.7 miles, it suggested 15 minutes to get there. The train gap was 19 minutes, so possible ? – in the event, I did it in 12 minutes.



OULTON BROAD NORTH



The run from Oulton Broad North from Lowestoft was only about six minutes and we were soon there. The train was slow to leave as it awaited for some late and slow walking people to arrive and get on. I began my walk and my train waiting is top of page 34. The bottom photo is the view on Bridge Road off to the left as I went.





Across the busy road which I did not cross due the traffic and time and beyond the fence was another big broads area with boat craft and eating buildings. Although I could see the rail track, there were no display board to indicate where the station was, but on asking a man he pointed it out, just across the road.

OULTON BROAD SOUTH





Now on the train, I spent close to an hour before I got off at Melton and across from the station was a new looking SSE building.

MELTON



Now I headed up to the church and had 55 minutes between trains to look in there and walk to Woodbridge. Less than hour, as we were held up at Beccles. We could not move out as the train going off to Lowestoft was late and that was where they crossed over on the two line part of the track, most is single track. I believe I heard later, that the train had a fault on it and was replaced and hence why it was late at Woodbridge and was a lot bigger than normal, when it turned up.



In the church I bought the Melton Messenger magazine and with no wall safe found put my money in a service collection bag. On what was another very hot and sunny day, I went on my long walk which was showing as 1.7 miles.















On my walk, I saw the Melton Chapel, with an interesting picture on the front of it, showing on top of page 45.





The bus board, suggested no bus was due for nearly an hour, but seeing a man standing at one made me wonder about it. Looking behind, I saw one approaching and flagged it down. It was in fact a number 800 Ipswich Park and Ride bus with only one person on it, but in Woodbridge, several people got on it. This then cut my walk distance by about a half.

WOODBIDGE

With the time saved, I had around 30 minutes in Woodbridge before the 418 arrived, but in the event it was nearly ten minutes late getting there and by the time we got to Ipswich, the train from Norwich had beaten us there but the 443 waited for us.







Back in Colchester soon after 5pm, I decided that I still had time to do an Iceland shop. Having missed the 64 bus, it had to be a number 1. Dinner eaten and very weary, I ended up having a very long sleep.