

January Jaunt

By guest writer Jean Spandler

January 18th. Six people (three married couples) were waiting outside the Post Office in Keelby for the arrival of Cooper's coach. It arrived promptly at 9-10am; and so began our five day holiday to Scarborough. We had a couple of stops to pick up more passengers then onward via Goole to York for the last stop before we arrived at our hotel. It was a chance to stretch our legs, we had time for a ramble through the Shambles and a snack. We returned a little earlier than the time we were told, to where we hoped the coach was waiting for us. Wrong, it was not there and it was now raining. However, at the promised time our transport turned up and we were greeted on board again by our very friendly, cheerful driver stating that the kettle was boiling and tea, coffee or soup was available for the modest price of 60p. Suitably warmed we left York for a trouble free run to Scarborough.

The Ambassador Hotel is located to the left of the Spar at the south end of South Bay. It is not new but all its public rooms have been up-dated and the bedrooms seemed to be undergoing similar improving. Certainly we had no complaints about our rooms though we would have liked to have been on the same floor as our traveling companions. Time for our evening meal, we arrived in the dining room and were shown to a table in the bay window overlooking South Bay. The menu was excellent, there were four choices of starters, five main meal choices which included a fish dish, a vegetarian dish and the sweet menu was so long that by the time the waitress came to the end of it I'd forgotten what I had chosen. We six friends have been together on a number of coach holidays and we unanimously agreed that it was the best cooked and presented food we had ever had on this type of holiday.

After dinner we took a precarious walk in the dark down a winding path to the bright lights of the South Bay attractions, hoping to walk off the effects of the sumptuous meal we had eaten. It was a very long uphill walk back to the hotel so we were ready for glass of whatever we fancied at the bar before retiring. At breakfast next morning again we were spoilt for choice. There were cereals, fruit salad, yogurt, croissants, fruit juices, full English breakfast as well as toast, marmalade, jam and honey and any amount of tea or coffee.

Our bus trips on Tuesday and Wednesday included visits to Pickering, Goathland, Whitby and Bridlington. It amazes me that we ladies can always find something to buy that's needed now but not before we came on holiday. In fairness to the ladies the men managed to buy themselves items from Greenwoods in Bridlington.

On returning to the hotel each afternoon we agreed to meet in one of our friend's bedroom to help consume the bottle of whisky they had brought with them. We brought with us sustenance in the form of cheese and biscuits plum bread etc, just to see us through to our evening meal you understand and we never managed to finish the bottle of whisky (just in case you were wondering). This type of `party` started some time ago when during another holiday with our friends one of us happened to have a birthday at that time so what else could we do but help him celebrate in his room - so was born the tradition.

Time passed very quickly, the food never let us down with plenty of choices every time. How they did it for the very reasonable cost of the holiday I'll never know, yes it was January, a low season to say the least, but well done Hotel Ambassador!

Friday came all too quickly. The journey home had a planned extended stop at Beverley but as it was raining most of us voted for a shorter stay. We set off a little earlier to the Humber Bridge and our changeover point at Barnetby Top. We were dropped off almost at our doorstep in Keelby having had a very enjoyable holiday. Roll on the next one.

Submitted by Audrey Goodwin on behalf of the Guest writer Jean Spandler