

Caravan explores Cornwall – not just the pasties....

On the evening of 18th September, armed with a set of tickets plus essential travel itinerary, Roger's latest caravan of 12 departed Hull bound for St Ives, Cornwall. We were a diverse group with some members nothing less than "giddy" as the much anticipated berth on the sleeper drew closer. Choosing different modes of transport across London to Paddington Station we regrouped in Queen Victoria's old waiting room and enjoyed complimentary refreshments. The gleaming emerald green GWR "Night Riviera" train beckoned us to join it from the platform and we were soon on board exploring all the concealed fixtures within our cabins. Having placed breakfast orders with the stewards it was time for a night cap prior to retiring to our berths in anticipation of arriving in Cornwall. The final leg of the journey from St Erth to St Ives was a joy as we saw the sun rising over the stretch of estuary in between.

Roger's comprehensive notes including, map, bus / train times and other helpful tips enabled everyone to hit the resort running (more accurately, walking.) The weather was glorious and a range of pursuits were enjoyed during the day before leaving for the much awaited evening trip to the open air Minack Theatre (see photo on The Caravan Group page) with its seating cut into the cliffs and the spectacular Atlantic coastline as its backdrop – a good time was had by all. Breakfast was the ideal time to catch up, share ideas and make plans for the day. An assorted list of activities were explored and enjoyed during the next five days including, serious sea swimming, festival events, long walks, short strolls, sketching, museum / gallery trips and not forgetting tasting the local cuisine of Cornish pasties and cream teas in and around St Ives.

The group ate together on the last night prior to boarding the sleeper train heading for Paddington Station. Whilst the journey was smooth and restful we found ourselves halted by a broken down train on the same line. Various contingencies were explored by train staff one of which involved us travelling back towards St Ives albeit in reverse to an alternative track. The contingencies were not deployed and the stricken train was removed allowing us to complete our journey. The group crossed London a little later than anticipated; however, everyone caught the pre booked train for Hull. Once settled everybody relaxed and reflected on our Cornish capers, individual pursuits, group excursions and fond memories.

Carol Brooks