

SUMMER OUTING TO THURSFORD, 15 June 2011

Our first port of call was the Swaffham Eco Tech Centre. The centre piece is the wind turbine with 30m blades and a viewing platform. I didn't attempt the climb!

Thursford itself is in a remote part of North Norfolk and is best known for its Christmas festivities. From January to October they plan for the Christmas Spectacular which is held in November and December and which is the largest of its kind in the U.K. During the 2 months there are 86 performances, each accompanied by a Wurlitzer organ and orchestra, with 115 performers/singers, and always with several changes of costume. There is a separate Winter Wonderland for the children, where there are 1 million light bulbs! (Secret: 4 Father Christmases in separate grottos - they make sure the children only see one!) There's seating for 1,500 people each performance, with coaches from all across the U.K.

For our visit we were able to see the 'Thursford Collection' of all types of steam engines and roundabout rides. Then there were the 'Back Stage' and the 'Behind the Scenes' tours. Amongst many other things we saw hundreds of costumes and two Wurlitzer organ performances.

We had a wonderful day and everyone seemed particularly pleased and satisfied.

Mike Hitchcock

