

Holiday in Haven Thorpe Park



"You can't let that little kid tackle you."

So says a boy, considerably older than Henry (6), to a boy, who is taller than me, during a match on the all weather pitch at Haven Thorpe Park in Cleethorpes. They're all bigger than Henry and some don't take too kindly to his relentless attacks.

Back at our six-berth static caravan, Henry then discovers a television show following young footballers through the arduous Crystal Palace training programme, which he enjoys watching but is surprised by how intensive it is.

Each evening we go swimming, down the pink outdoor flume (there's another higher one for older children), through the winding river and in the indoor pool. It does make us feel fitter and the children grow in confidence. Bungee trampolining and archery further fills their schedule. Harriett, who has done archery before, hits a bull's eye and Henry and Heidi soon get to grips with their bows and arrows, too. We all play crazy golf and ride some go karts that allow us to pedal round part of the site. We stroll to the nearby beach, which is really picturesque. Our favourite day time show is about dinosaurs, which is informative and fun. All of this creates some wonderful memories.

Cleethorpes has an award winning beach and pier and we take a ride on the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway, taking in the scenery from our carriage while tucking into our packed lunches.

Twenty minutes away at Market Rasen is Nicky's Nice & Naughty, a bistro with a welcoming arty atmosphere run by helpful, attentive staff. It is so very refreshing when we are greeted by happy, smily co-owner, Tammi. Caroline has sunstroke and Tammi kindly gives her some ice cubes to relieve it. A simple offering but a very thoughtful one. "I know what it's like because I've had it," sympathises Tammi. "We have to turn customers away," she admits. I tuck into a scrumptious full English breakfast complete with Lincolnshire sausages while the girls have panninis and Henry gets to make his own pizza, which he really enjoys. England needs more independent businesses like this.

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