

The perfect place to relax...

By Pete Warrington
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WHEN you go away on holiday and you take a dog with you, you know that the options available to you get reduced as soon as you start searching on the computer for that perfect destination.

Search criteria, anywhere in the country...up spring 3,000 possibilities. Tick the box marked taking a dog, the number goes down to a few hundred (if you're lucky), The more you add filters, the smaller choice you get, but then you get picky because you want to make sure you get exactly what you want after embarking on such a detailed, finely tuned mission!

In an ideal world we wanted everything on one level, in a quiet rural setting, with easy access to shops and with lovely walks on our doorstep...we got all that and more at Jott's Cottage in Bawdeswell, a small village in the heart of the Norfolk countryside.

We'd obviously seen pictures, read the description of the facilities but you never quite know if its going to live up to its billing, but to be honest as soon as we opened the door, we knew we weren't going to be disappointed, especially when we saw the delicious 'welcome' cake in the kitchen.

The welcome pack provided by Sue, the owner, wasn't necessary, but the milk, butter, eggs, tea-bags, sugar, bread, bottle of wine and the very tasty cake meant that you could put the kettle on on arrival and settle into your surroundings in a very relaxed manner.

Sue popped in to say hello, answer any queries and then left us to enjoy our stay. I have no doubt she would have been round at the drop of a hat if required and it was nice to feel that you had that back-up at hand if it was needed at any time during the holiday.

Jott's Cottage itself is a single storey cottage converted from an old dairy and milking parlour. It has one large double bedroom, a lovely well equipped kitchen with dining table and chairs, (ample space for Jak, our Flatcoated Retriever, and his bed!) and a large comfortable lounge with log burner. The bathroom was just off the kitchen and had a fantastic power shower, the perfect way to start each day refreshed and raring to go.

It was a perfect base for days out across Norfolk and beyond. Dereham was just a few miles away as was Reepham which seemed to be a thriving bustling village. Fakenham was 10 miles away and had two superstores to stock up on any food and drink you needed.

But as well as being a great base for days out it was a holiday home where you felt quite content to just stay in. Our holiday was a chance to recharge our batteries and a change of scenery, and although we were, unusually, blessed with great weather virtually the whole week, if bad weather had forced us to stay indoors, it wouldn't have been a hardship.

In fact my wife and I both spent quite a lot of time reading and at the cottage was a bookshelf full of a wide variety of books. In the welcome book, it said if

you were reading one of the books at the cottage and hadn't finished it by the time you were due to leave, you were welcome to take it with you...it was a nice touch, but in actual fact, we finished the books on holiday and instead added one to the stock of books for someone else to enjoy!

Bawdeswell Heath was less than a five minute drive away and it was a great place to walk Jak. It was vast and despite going up there two or three times every day each walk offered you a different route to take and on the albeit rare occasions we met anyone else up there with their dogs or children they were very friendly and chatty.

Were there any negatives? Well to us it was a positive, but there wasn't a very good reception for mobile phones (although the free wi-fi connection at the cottage was very good) and if you wanted a take-away delivered it wasn't really a viable option, because of the distance from the nearby towns, but there were certainly pubs and restaurants nearby.

Would we recommend Jotts Cottage to anyone? Yes, and to be honest if we ever decided to holiday in the area again, it would be the first place we would check to see if it was available.

• Jotts Cottage is available through Norfolk Country Cottages.

You can visit their website at norfolkcottages.co.uk or ring them on 01263 715779

Prices for a week's break at Jotts Cottage start at £287 + booking fees, with a £20 charge for pets. Short breaks are available, subject to availability.



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Yaris Hybrid Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 83.1 (3.4) - 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 76.3 (3.7) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 76.3 (3.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ Emissions 85 - 79g/km. Auris Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 34.9 (8.1) - 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2) - 83.1 (3.4), Combined 45.6 (6.2) - 78.5 (3.6). CO₂ Emissions 143g/km - 84g/km. Prius Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0) - 72.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8) - 76.4 (3.7), Combined 70.6 (4.0) - 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ Emissions 92 - 89g/km. Prius+ Range Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 65.7 (4.3) - 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) - 67.3 (4.2), Combined 64.2 (4.4) - 68.9 (4.1). CO₂ Emissions 101 - 96g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing, are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.