

We met up at our Strensall rendezvous for our final run of the year. On a gloriously sunny day we were heading for Saltburn by the Sea, a place we have visited on previous occasions. Our small group of two TFs and a BGT were to be joined en-route by an RV8 and another TF would meet us at our destination. On a hoods down day we traveled a familiar route via Flaxton, Nunnington, Hutton le Hole and Castleton, over cattle grids and avoiding sheep on the open moorland and arrived on Marine Parade where free parking is available.

It was then time to make use of the historic Saltburn Cliff Lift. This was opened in 1884 and is the oldest remaining water balance cliff lift or funicular in Britain. Recently refurbished it even has stained glass windows in the two cars. At the bottom station there is quite a lot of information on the history, construction and workings of the cliff lift. This was followed by a stroll along the pier, the most northerly pier on the east coast. The pier was opened in May 1869 and was originally 1,500ft long with a steamer landing stage at the it's head. A steamer service to Middlesborough began in May 1870 and in the first six months had 50,000 fare paying passengers. There were also excursions to Hartlepool and Scarborough. Due to various shipping mishaps, storm damage and deterioration it's length has reduced to 681ft, less than half it's original length. It is now a grade 2 listed structure, was awarded "pier of the year" by the National Piers Society in 2009 and is 150 years old this year.

After our stroll along the pier it was time for fish and chips and we found an excellent restaurant and take away close to the beachside car park. It seemed woefully short of customers on what seemed a busy day but our fish, chips, tea, bread and butter were enjoyed by all. So then it was back to the cars for the run home but not up the funicular but walking up the footpath. A bit steep but we got there and had an ice cream on the way. And off we went by various routes. I retraced my steps through Castleton but then went via Rosedale and Pickering and home without any mishaps as did all of us. Now the planning starts for next year.