**EMMCC COLLINGHAM HALLOWEEN MEET 1ST – 3RD NOVEMBER 2024**

We arrived at Collingham on Friday at 13.03 and Bill and Lynda had arrived spot on 13.00 and were greeted by our steward Big E [Ian] and were joined during the afternoon by 15 other units. Jan and Teddy [the dog] collecting our monies.

Friday evening we all met in the hall and met up with old friends and welcoming our visitors. One couple from Kendal and hopefully new members to the East Midlands group from Mansfield Woodhouse

Saturday was free and easy, except for the Committee who had a meeting. Some walked into the village where there is a Co Op, cafe, chemist; pub and what more can you need also a chip shop. One couple caught the train to Lincoln and others the bus into Newark. We did the latter, catching a small minibus, going the wrong way as we were early and it turned round in Collinham after it had been round the village, much larger than we thought. All the locals seem to know each other so we had a good chat there and back. We had been to Newark on a number of occasions and visiting the market and shops but never visited the Town Hall museum therefore so decided to visits. It was built in 1776 and houses a fine selection of civic treasures. This was a real treat as you could see over the market place from the third floor. One of the trusty volunteers had the keys to the ballroom, which was magnificent, also the mayoral chamber where we were shown all the ceremonial robes and silver. It turned out he knew someone from our village whom we also knew, nearly 45 miles away, what a small world. Lunch in a local pub and back to site on the bus

The evening in the hall was buzzing. Some people had dressed up and we had a fancy dress parade, the result, following clapping for each person being Wendy. This was followed by Halloween bingo. Poor Big E had difficulty explaining the pictorial game as there were so many questions asked; surprise we all won on the second sheet as everyone had the same pictures.!!!! He then circulated a Halloween theme cryptic quiz played in twos; we certainly had to rack our brains.

We usually have a Poppy Appeal weekend but Paul [Daddy age 98 ] not being there, Ian went round doing an imitation of Paul, with his begging bowl for collecting shrapnel; just over twenty six pound for the British Legion which will deliver by Ian to Paul at home. A good fun evening with lots of heckling. On behalf of Paul thanks was given by Maria for the Poppy collection,. She also gave a big thanks to Ian and Jan for stewarding the meet and giving everyone such an enjoyable weekend.

It was soon Sunday with teas/coffee and biscuits being served. There were a number of raffle prizes which were soon drawn and raised £70. Details of next year’s AGM at Southport being run by the North West Area were circulated.

 Time to say goodbye and head home till we meet again.

**That’s all from us. Happy Camping** ***Maria & Richard***