

Tattershall Lakes



By Bethan Cann

I'm not a very lucky person. The day I needed to be at work exactly on time, there was one traffic jam after another. However, I believe in the burnt toast theory, even more so now than before.

The burnt toast theory reframes how we perceive life's inconveniences and failures with the belief that everything that happens does so for a reason. For example, if you burn your toast for breakfast and are then late leaving the house, you may arrive to work late, but there was a reason for this, even if you're unaware of it.

On a minor level, this is what happened to me. Just before Christmas, I was late to work owing to a breakdown on the motorway and was lucky to get some of the last tickets available for the festive raffle at the office. These tickets won me a year's membership to the National Trust! I was elated, I've never won a raffle before! So, the crawling traffic to get to the office (late) was all worth it... and happened for a reason.

On the topic of the National Trust, I've always spoken highly of it. My aim is to visit at least one National Trust site a month before my membership ends. There is a lot to discover in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire - buildings bursting with history ranging from medieval times to the Victorian Era and landscapes for all to enjoy.

One place on my list is Tattershall Castle, under an hour's drive away from Grantham. This castle was inherited by the Treasurer of England, Lord Ralph Cromwell, in 1419. Cromwell made grand additions to the once small, stone castle solely to impress and show off his wealth, position and power in society.

The Great Tower is one of the earliest examples of medieval brickwork and it sits within the inner moat. The double moat was also commissioned by Cromwell not only for security reasons, but theatrical, making people walk for longer to enter so they could view his masterpiece from every angle. It is also thought the moat was used for the transport of goods into the local village.

Upon Cromwell's death, the castle became the property of Tudor royals.

Exploring Tattershall should be done from inside as well as out. The decorations in the Castle are magnificent, and there are things to look out for making it interesting for all the family.

One marvel is Cromwell's 'badge' that he impressed on many of the beautiful fireplaces so no one would forget his privileged position. Also, you can patrol the battlements to see Lincolnshire's landmarks for miles, admire the 17th century tapestries hung in the Great Tower and watch out for the historical graffiti thought to have been engraved over 400 years ago!

There is lots to see at Tattershall Castle and I for one can't wait to explore. And day to day remember the Burnt Toast theory. Enjoy things for what they are.