

EAST ENGLAND

AALBORG → NORWICH

AFTER NEARLY THREE WEEKS IN THE FRIGID WINTER OF DENMARK, I DECIDED TO HEAD TO ENGLAND IN HOPES OF SLIGHTLY WARMER WEATHER. NORWICH BROUGHT RAIN, SHOOTING STARS, AND A LOT OF SUNSHINE WHICH CURED MY S.A.D.

I HAD TRADED IN THE RURAL FARM LIFE FOR A MORE QUAIN'T AND SIMPLE LIFE IN THE COTTAGES OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE. THE WIDE OPEN SPACE STILL GAVE ME PLENTY OF SPACE TO WANDER AND GET LOST INTO, WHILE THE VILLAGES AND PUB LAID JUST FAR ENOUGH FOR US TO GO TO THERE WEEKLY AND TOAST TO OUR JOBS WELL DONE WE HAD ACCOMPLISHED THE WEEK PRIOR.

WHEN I WASN'T TENDING TO THE LARGE GARDEN WITH THE CHICKENS BEING MY ONLY COMPANION, OR TAKING CARE OF THE FEW ROOMS OF THE B&B UPSTAIRS, I WAS SIPPING A GIN' N' TONIC BY THE WOOD BURNING STOVE, WHILE WATCHING THE GRAM NORTON SHOW WITH THE OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

AGAIN, THE TOPIC OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WHAT WE CAN DO TO BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE IN OUR DAILY LIVES CAME UP. TRANSPORTATION BECAME A MAJOR TOPIC AS AIR TRAVEL IS CHEAP IN EUROPE(AT TIMES EVEN CHEAPER THAN BUS TRAVEL) WHICH DOESN'T DO MUCH TO DISCOURAGE THE MOST POLLUTANT TRANSPORTATION WAY TO THE PUBLIC. SAILING BECAME A LONG AND ONGOING DISCUSSION AS THE CANALS OF NORWICH HELD COUNTLESS BOATS. MY DREAM OF SAILING THE WORLD THOUGH WOULD HAVE TO WAIT AS THE WEATHER WAS STILL TOO COLD FOR MOST OF THE BOATS TO BE IN PORT.

INSTEAD, I LEARNED SOME WOOD WORKING, AS THE OWNER OF THE COTTAGE WAS A CARPENTER BY TRADE AND HAD BUILT HALF OF HIS HOUSE ALONE. AGAIN, THE AGELESS CRAFTS OF TRADE ENTRIGUED AND FACINATED ME AS I REALIZED THIS WORK, WHICH I HAD THOUGHT AS MEDIVAL AND LOST, WERE STILL VERY MUCH POPULAR IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

I ESPECIALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE ART OF TYPOGRAPHY, OR WOOD BURNING. DURING MY MONTH LONG STAY HERE. SOME OF MY FAVORITES INCLUDED KEY CHAINS MADE OF LEFT OVER BITS OF WOOD, CHEESE PLATTERS, AND CUTTING BOARDS, AND NAME PLATES ON HAND MADE WOODEN BOXES.

