

At the time of the Arnhem trip I was expecting Jonathan, and feeling extremely sick and very tired most of the time. My memories of the coach journey there was that it was very lively! Sue (then Carter, now Jayasuriya) was “travel mum” and had everything that anyone needed on the trip. Mandy Chinery gave us all a guided tour of the entire contents of her bag. Ruth Symington was very chatty in the early hours of the morning, and Sally Webb became very excited at 3 am at finding a pork pie in her packed tea!

The next day I remember playing in the concert, and visiting the war graves, which made me feel quite sad. I also remember going for the Chinese meal. Ruth Symington and Becky Darlow both had an ice cream dessert which consisted of two balls of vanilla ice cream with a lot of red sauce on top. I’ve no idea what it was really called but they decided to rename it “Shot in the bollocks”.

The following day I had to pass on the bike ride, as it was very windy and I still felt sick, so opted for the swimming pool instead. It was lovely, but I remember being disappointed I couldn’t go in the sauna as I was pregnant. I also remember that Sue’s wart fell off in the swimming pool! In the afternoon I sat around talking to other people in the bar area. That evening some of us went to a pancake restaurant, and the food took ages to arrive, although it was great when it did.

The day we left, I remember having to get up very early. We all watched “A Bridge Too Far” on the coach. Later on Pearl Gibson was plugged into her radio giving us updates of the Ipswich Town match, while Lisa Taber made sarcastic comments in the background! And Andrew Farthing was listening to the cricket (Benson & Hedges Cup semi-final) and giving me updates on the score. As we came into Ipswich, there were lots of people cheering and shouting as Ipswich had won their match.