

Boys are back in town after success

Back in the country for less than 36 hours, British and Irish Lions heroes Ben and Tom Youngs spoke to **ED FOSS** at Just Regional about the experience of a lifetime

Ben and Tom Youngs played a key part in the Lions squad as hooker and scrum half, helping win the series against Australia by two tests to one.

They landed in the UK along with their team mates early last Wednesday morning.

A day later they travelled back home to see their Norfolk family and spoke about the tour, the future and how they feel about their home county.

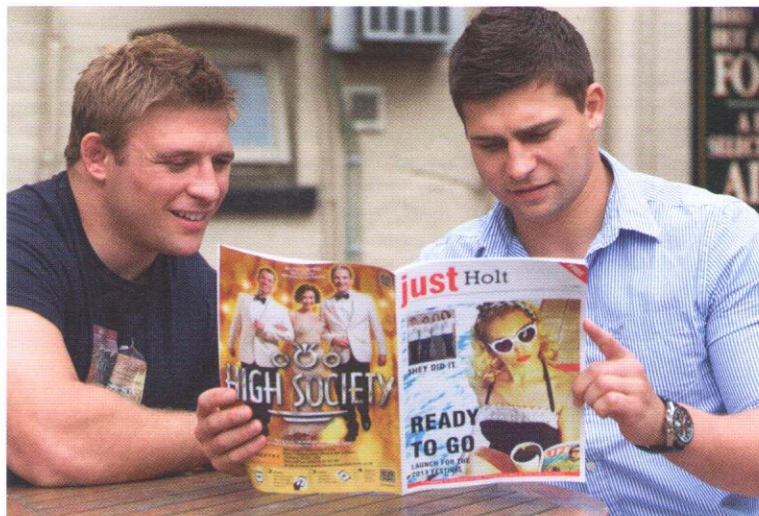
"We landed at 6.30am yesterday morning and went back to where we now live in Leicester to unpack," said 23-year-old Ben.

"We've been given some good advice about jetlag and advised to expose ourselves to sunlight as much as possible which should help sort out our body clocks. It helps that the weather is so nice at the moment!"

After such an intense experience on tour, Tom said that saying their goodbyes to their cross-nation squad was a wrench: "Saying goodbye to the lads was tough, it was an amazing group of people."

The brothers, both Old Greshamians, agreed that the best part of the tour was closing the dressing room doors after the third game – which secured the series victory and was a thumping 41-16 win after the first two close results – and enjoying the win as a squad.

"That was special, something we'll never forget," said Tom, who is aged 26.



CATCHING UP: The Youngs brothers, who were pupils at Greshams in Holt, finding out what's been going on locally while they were enjoying rugby success.

"The relief of all those weeks of pressure and a series win as well, it was magnificent."

And for Ben: "We will never experience seven weeks like that again, it's been such a high."

Both have three weeks off before pre-season training swings into action. Tom will holiday in the Maldives and Ben in Greece – but not before a family wedding this weekend where Ben is best man, for which his speech is ready: "I think it's funny, hopefully everyone else will!"

Tom has already got back to helping on the family farm on the edge of Aylsham, persuaded to assist with moving irrigators almost as soon as he stepped foot back in Norfolk. He's always happy to do so – it's well known that Tom has always enjoyed the farm, whereas Ben has had less involvement.

So do they still see this part of Norfolk as home, even though they have so little time

to spend here as they follow their club and England careers?

"Absolutely, this is the place we both call home, it's where we feel comfortable and it also works as a bit of an escape for us as well," said Ben.

And Tom added: "We can walk down the street and a few people will come up and say 'well done'. People here are always very proud and complimentary of what we are doing. It's a very comfortable place to be."

The future looks bright for the Youngs boys – they will take their Lions experience back into club rugby and back into the England set-up. Autumn internationals loom, with Australia, Argentina and New Zealand lined up to visit Twickenham. A relatively young English side it may be, but with blokes involved like Ben and Tom, the future looks bright.

Expect to see these two at the top of the rugby scene for a long time to come.

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