

At 830 am on Saturday 18th April 2015 a group of seventeen members met at the Malkiln, Gisburn Road, Barrowford and were driven to Ripon by our regular driver Ian.

Once there we were given a handout and told what to expect. Unfortunately the three museums it had been suggested we visit, were in fact all closed and advertising for volunteer staff! But the ancient cathedral founded by St. Wilfred in AD 670 was enjoyed by all, perhaps the miserichords in particular. We also enjoyed the well kept basin of the short Ripon canal.



Back on the coach we drove to Newcastle where we visited the Black Gate originally a barbican of the castle which became a slum but is now converted into a modern museum, and then the Castle Keep. After a stroll along the newly renovated quayside we drove to our hotel, the Keelman's Lodge, a restored and converted once derelict pumping station.

On Sunday after an 8 am breakfast we drove across the causeway to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Here we visited a house converted by

Edward Lutyens from an old Tudor fort built to protect the area from the Scots.

Then after a drink of coffee for some of us we looked at the Priory museum and the ruined priory itself. Founded in 635 by an Irish monk, St. Aidan, this monastery became the focus for the conversion of the northern kingdoms of Anglo Saxons from paganism to Christianity. St. Cuthbert, Northumberland's patron saint, was one of its Abbots and it was visited by the Venerable Bede the 'Father of English History'. Some members of the trip then visited the mead shop



We stopped for lunch in sight of the castle at Banburgh then stopped again at Warkworth where we visited the Norman church of St. Lawrence and the ruined medieval castle with its cruciform keep built in a loop of the river Coquet. Then back to the hotel.



On Monday our final day we

again had an early breakfast and then drove to Durham where we met Kate our Blue Badge guide. In a new part of the town – Millennium Place – there was a new sculpture of St Cuthbert's coffin being carried by monks.

Józef Boruwlaski was a dwarf, the darling of European courts who later in life came to live in Durham, he is remembered by a portrait and personal artifacts in the Victorian Town Hall which is lavishly decorated with shields and coats of arms.

We then visited Durham Cathedral founded in 1093 and acknowledged as one of the finest examples of Norman architecture which occupies a lofty position high above the river Wear across Palace Green from Durham Castle. The Cathedral houses [relics](#) of St Cuthbert, the head of St [Oswald of Northumbria](#) and the remains of the [Venerable Bede](#). A small donation purchases a 'lego' brick to add to the magnificent model being built of the cathedral.

On the way home from Durham we called at Thirsk where we had afternoon tea. Here are two museums, one dedicated to veterinary science because the author of the James Herriot novels lived here, and a town trail including Pudding Pie Hill; a Bronze Age barrow and a pack horse bridge where we posed for our group photo.

