

REPORT ON THE 2016 ANNUAL PENNANT TOUR

TO THE NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST

We set off a little later this year than usual, on 10th.June, for a tour of the north Yorkshire coastal area, based in Scarborough.

After quite a long haul, our first port of call was Hull Suspension Bridge, where we crossed from the northern shore off the motorway, and then returned to the Country Park Hotel for lunch, with views over the river and bridge.

After lunch, we proceeded to Burton Constable, the home of Pennant's friend, William Constable. In the family for over 700 years, a large Elizabethan Mansion, it is now a museum owned by the Burton Constable Foundation. Here we were met and welcomed by Dr. David Connell, the Director of the Foundation; we then toured the museum and examined their collection of Pennant material.

The plan was then to head for Bridlington to view the famous white cliffs of Flamborough Head on the way to Scarborough. Unfortunately, the weather had turned against us; we drove through quite thick fog and apart from one tantalising glimpse, saw nothing of these cliffs, white from the dung of innumerable flocks of migratory seabirds. After a rather late arrival at our hotel in Scarborough, we settled in for the night.

On Saturday morning, because of the foggy weather, we decided to omit the planned visit to the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough and head straight for Whitby. Here we first called at the Captain Cook Museum, where after an introductory chat we toured the whole museum including material about Sir Joseph Banks, a personal friend of Pennant; an enjoyable session.

We then moved on to the Whitby Museum and library. Here we discovered that the two people we had contacted had left no details of our visit in the museum diary. Nevertheless, when all was explained the management invited us to look round and refused to charge us!!!

The day ended with an enjoyable boat trip round Scarborough Harbour in the sister ship to MV Coronia, MV Regal Lady, with a running history of the two ships, including their part in the Dunkirk evacuation, provided by the ship's captain, Tom Machin.

On Sunday morning we drove through the North Yorkshire Moors to join the Steam Railway at Grosmont station and travel through picturesque countryside (when we could see it!!) to Pickering, passing through Goathland, a station used in several TV programmes such as 'Heartbeat'. We were supposed to take lunch at the Steam and Moorland Garden Centre, which we had been informed was next door to the station, but on arrival in Pickering station were told it was quite a long way away! However, the station master rallied the ladies in the station restaurant and adventurous souls amongst us hunted for cafes locally and in the end we all ate!!

Setting off on our homeward journey, we stopped at Nostell Priory, to view three Pennant books and a great deal more. As is often the case, these two-hour breaks are required by the driver AND the passengers, but often end up with people complaining that the visits are too short!! This was the case at the priory.

Anyhow, we all arrived home in good spirits. Despite several hiccups due to adverse weather, difficult roads, mis-information, etc., I hope it is fair to say that most of the passengers enjoyed most of the events, and those that they did not they stoically endured!

On this point, I would like to end by saying a big 'Thank you' to the tourers, for their positive attitudes! And a special vote of thanks, as always on these tours, to Paul Brighton for all his enthusiastic encouragement and boundless energy!!

Ryan Jenner