

# Historic Houses & Heritage of Lincolnshire- April 12th 2018



Thursday - we left our last pick up point at 9.25am with 41 members, family & friends aboard our executive coach heading for Packwood House in Warwickshire. We stayed here for 3 hours & were able to enjoy the lovely house & gardens. From here we continued to our hotel in Lincoln.

Friday - we were met at our hotel by 2 Green Badge Guides & were taken by coach on a short tour around Lincoln before the walking tour which included a visit to the beautiful Lincoln Cathedral which was built in 1072.

After lunch in Lincoln we were driven to Doddington Hall - a family home which has never been sold since it was built in 1595. We were lucky enough to see a group of conservators mending some of the tapestries that used to hang on the walls.

Saturday -we were booked to enjoy a short cruise on the River Trent from Newark but due to the high water levels the flood gates had to be closed & our cruise cancelled. We all enjoyed the free time in Newark- the market was taking place & many of us ventured into the Church where we met members of Nottingham Federation of W.I.'s including their Chairman) who were celebrating 100 years .We were made very welcome & it was a lovely surprise for us.

We spent some time in Southall having lunch & visiting Southall Minster before travelling the short distance to The Workhouse. Built in 1824 The Workhouse was a means of relief for the Victorian poor & was designed to house around 160 inmates where they lived & worked in a strictly segregated environment.

Sunday -into Lincoln by coach where we visited Lincoln Castle, built by William the Conqueror in 1068, & is home to Lincolns own Magna Carta.(one of only 4 original copies dating back to 1215, as well as the 1217 Charter of the Forest.)Within the grounds of the Castle is the Victorian Prison which we were able to tour as well as walking the Medieval Wall Walk,1/3 mile long, with lovely views over the County.

From here we walked to the Medieval Bishops' Palace set in the shadow of the Cathedral before having our lunch.

After lunch we visited Belton House - it was the last day of the Horse Trials so the roads were quite busy. It is a 17th century English country house set in delightful gardens & has a superlative collection of porcelain & silver

Monday - we checked out of our hotel at 9am & spent some time at leisure, to include lunch, in Stamford - another delightful little town. Then on to Burghley House built in 1587 by William Cecil, the 1st Lord Burghley & is still lived in by a direct descendant of his.From the soaring Tudor kitchen through the 18 State rooms onto the Garden of Surprises this was a fitting end to our short break.

We made a short stop at the Services before continuing on the motorway - we were well on time until we came to a standstill just north of J9 on the M5 where we were held up for an hour by a Police Incident. We all arrived safely back to our original pick up points - just 1 hour later than hoped!

Thank you to all those who came on the holiday supporting the Federation - it appears that you all enjoyed yourselves!