

April took us on a walk steeped in History that crosses the Lincolnshire Nottinghamshire border to Harby the village where Queen Eleanor of Castile died

November 1290, Eleanor of Castile was travelling with Edward I when her health began to fail. By 13 November the court had left Clipstone for Lincoln, perhaps hoping to seek aid at the shrine of Hugh of Lincoln. Instead, the journey ended at Harby, where Eleanor was taken to the manor house of Richard de Weston. There, attended by Bishop Oliver Sutton and the local priest William de Kelm, she died on the evening of 28 November after suffering what contemporaries called a "slow fever."

Her death in so modest a setting had consequences felt across the kingdom. Eleanor's body was taken to St Catherine's Priory in Lincoln for embalming, while her viscera were buried in Lincoln Cathedral. On 4 December her funeral cortège began the long journey to Westminster Abbey, halting at twelve places later marked by the famous Eleanor Crosses. Yet Edward also honoured Harby itself, founding a chantry chapel there in 1294 where prayers would be said daily for her soul—a quieter, more intimate memorial rooted in the place where she died.

