

LINCOLN BAILGATE u3a SPRING HOLIDAY - BRIDLINGTON

This year's Lincoln Bailgate Spring holiday was into 'God's Own Country' - Yorkshire. With the weather in the UK leading up to our departure being rain, wind and more rain, we packed our clothing accordingly. To our amazement, the sun shone and the wind dropped for almost our entire 6-day, 5-night break. The journey home was in grey, wet conditions. But then no-one cared!



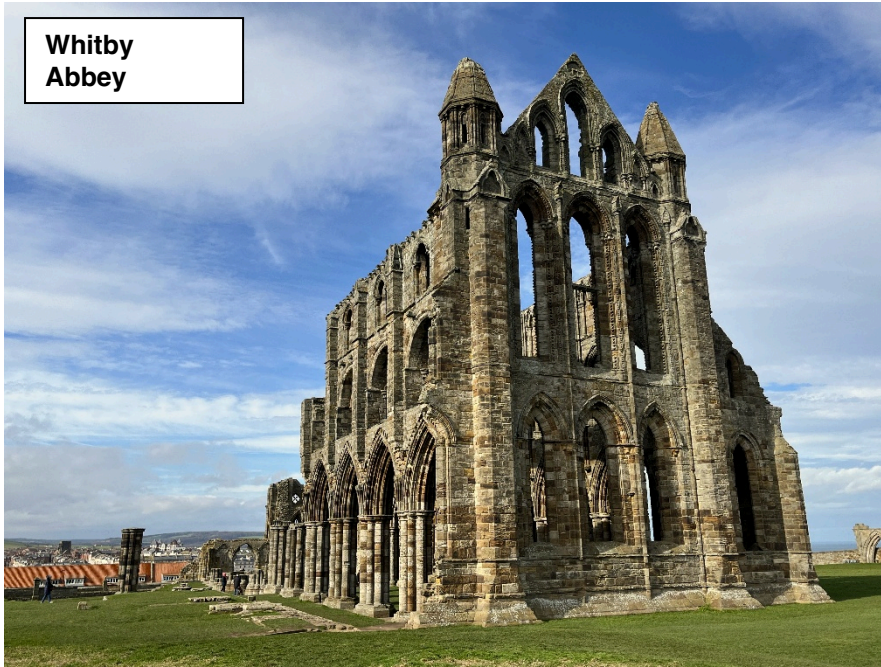
We all enjoyed the very civilised 10am departure time arranged by our intrepid leader, Angela, for the 72 mile hop.

Beverly was our first stop en-route to Bridlington. Beverly is a beautiful town with a very impressive Minster and a welcoming lovely 'old town' feel with history and excellent restaurants and coffee shops. Fed and watered, we set off for Bridlington and our recently refurbished hotel, The Monarch.

We arrived at check-in time, to be greeted by Francesca, the Dep Manager - with all fully in place. Throughout, the

rooms and arrangements able service was cheerful and attentive and they happily tailored meals to each person's needs. So wholesome was the food that, for the entire week we ate simply because it was mealtime not because we ever got hungry! The evening entertainment was very good and there was much dancing and good humoured banter with the performers. As is traditional, several of us had fun at bingo, with 3 lucky wins by members of our group!

**Whitby
Abbey**



On the first full day we were driven to Whitby in our almost new Dunwood coach driven by the amiable, capable driver, Kieron. The soporific ride made resting on every journey easy, which helped to offset the late nights, wine and

dancing. The Abbey was highly impressive in its Gothic ruined state overlooking the interesting town, reached via a 199 step descent from the Abbey. Some of us enjoyed an excellent fish and chip lunch on the deck of a recreated HMS Endeavour (Captain Cook) moored in the harbour. The gentle journey back involved more shut eye!

On Tuesday we headed for York. A beautiful and historic City full of educational interest. A tour of



York Minster

the fabulous (expensive) Minster ate up over an hour with highly informative guides and displays. The Roman and Middle Ages history now revealed in the undercroft and the crypt was fascinating. After an amble through the Shambles and a late lunch, some of us visited the All Saints Pavement, a medieval



York Minster

church in central York famous for its 15th-century octagonal lantern tower, which historically featured a lamp kept lit nightly to guide travellers through

the dense Forest of Galtres. Then it was time for another rest on the coach back to our hotel in time for another 3 course meal.

Wednesday was a free day, with members either choosing bus rides to Filey, or Sewerby Hall, or Flamborough Head for bird watching. Others hopped on trains to nearby destinations, while some walked to the Bridlington Priory with its remarkable history and then the Old Town. Personally, we walked over 7 miles.



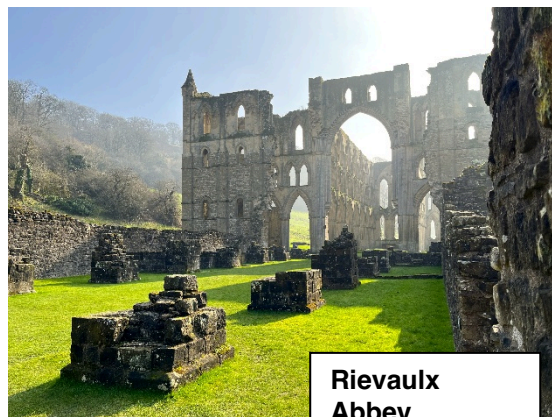
Bridlington

Thursday took us to Rievaulx Abbey and Helmsley. Hidden in the deep River Rye valley, the beautiful and tranquil abbey ruins reflect nearly one thousand years of spiritual, commercial and Romantic history. On arrival Rievaulx Abbey was shrouded in mist providing an atmospheric start. As our volunteer guide, Greg, finished his



Rievaulx Abbey

introduction the sun burned through and cleared the mist providing superb conditions for our visit. A truly stunning historic building with a fascinating back story. Its sheer scale is breathtaking. Photographs don't do its grandeur justice. Then we drove for 10 minutes into Helmsley, a quaint, picturesque town with some fine



Rievaulx Abbey

eateries for a hungry crew! The sun shone and shone so we ate al fresco in shirtsleeves. Not bad for the first week in March!

Everywhere we went the surrounding, beautiful countryside was a joy to be driven through.

Our final journey took us home to Lincoln via a stopover in 'Ull. The fabulous weather we had enjoyed came to a cold and soggy end. Despite we dispersed to visit the many museums and galleries and even the recently restored Spurn Lightship which was opening to visitors the next day!



**Helmsley
Castle**

this



**Spurn
Lightship**

A short last leg in Kieron's capable hands had us safely returned to Lincoln in time to put the washing machine into action and recline with a Friday cocktail.

A fabulous, fun week in the wonderful countryside of sunny Yorkshire. If you missed it, you missed a treat