

Newcastle upon Tyne and surrounding area

Northumberland

Our sixth Society meeting, on 17th – 19th July 2015, was based at the Premier Inn, Cramlington Moor Farm, north of Newcastle upon Tyne. Our twelve strong party renewed friendships and soon met up with five members of the Noble family at Jesmond Dene House – now an hotel but once a Noble family home. The same Friday evening we explored Jesmond Dene itself, with its ruined Banqueting Hall.

Saturday saw us all on a grand tour of a countryside well-known and loved by Falkner. We started at Rothbury, with visits to the Armstrong graveyard and the church, stopping for refreshments in a marquee in the church grounds. We then moved on to view Cartington House and Castle; Lorbottle Hall and walled garden (where we were kindly provided with refreshments by Amanda); Wooperton Hall; Chillingham Church and Castle; rounding off the day with a visit to Old Bewick Church, where Wilfrid and Yseult Cochrane are buried. The day ended with another memorable talk by Ken Warren on the Northumberland of JMF.

Sunday saw several members departing for home; but others visited the National Trust property of Cragside, once the home of Lord Armstrong. George Robson is to be thoroughly commended for his hard work in preparing such a fulfilling weekend, with valuable support from Roger Norris and Ray Ion.



Outside Jesmond Dene House



Inside the House



The upper entrance to the Banqueting Hall



Lorbottle House



Chillingham Castle



Ken Warren's talk