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 STANDARD TEXT



Posted: Tuesday 31 July 2007

## South East Associates Dinton Pastures Walk - 6th June

Including a visit to the Berkshire Aviation Museum.

**On a fine day, 15 Associates took part in a full day of events; a walk, lunch and a museum visit.**

The walk was at Dinton Pastures near Wokingham, a 335 acre Bird Sanctuary with lakes, rivers and meadows. We did a three mile circular walk and viewed birds from two 'hides'.

Moorhens, coots, huge cormorants (a long way from the sea!) and herons were all seen on the lakes, and huge numbers of sandpipers (also a long way from the sea) flitting in and out of their specially constructed block of nesting sites - an avian high-rise!

After a superb lunch at 'The Castle' in Hurst, an old pub converted into a swish restaurant, we visited the nearby Museum of Berkshire Aviation.

This offered a fascinating glimpse into the extensive local history of aircraft development and manufacture, largely by Fairey, Handley-Page and Miles.

The site of the museum is adjacent to what was the historic site of Woodley Airfield (also grandly known as the Reading Aerodrome) - a hive of aeronautical activity until the 50's. The many exhibits included a Fairey Gannet and Herald commercial aircraft.

**A very successful day out!**

**Kevin Williams**

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 **STANDARD TEXT**

Posted: Monday 30 July 2007

## South East Associates Brimpton Walk - 9th May

Near to the River Kennet between Newbury and Reading . .

Just nine Associates turned out for this excellent 6-mile walk in lovely open countryside on the Berkshire and Hampshire borders. The weather was perfect, with scudding clouds in a brilliant blue sky and a temperate 20 degrees Celcius.

We stopped to admire and have a group photo at a country-estate church built in 1301, now with windows from 1550.



Nearby was an old storage barn on 'mushroom' supports to keep any rats at bay.

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Towards the end, Kevin consolidated his 'explorer' reputation by taking us for a "walk on the wild side" through dense yellow gorse - real machete territory!!

Three more joined us for lunch at the 'Olde' Pineapple pub for excellent fare to round off the day.

**Geoff Cornwel-Smith**

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 STANDARD TEXT

Posted: Monday 30 July 2007

## Hadrian, Aethelfrith and Bede - Our Friends in the North

### South East Associates visit Northumberland in May 2007.

For our third consecutive 'May Away' trip, the SE Associates followed earlier trips to Dingle and Pembrokeshire, with a visit to Northumberland. Organised by myself (a once resident and Geordie-phile) and Terry Bell (a South Shields lad).

As a Welshman who had lived and worked with P&G in the NE for 13 years, I came to love the area (not just because my wife is a Geordie!), and wanted to introduce its glories to others. It is a magnificent area with glorious coastal scenery, one of the most wild and beautiful national parks in Britain.

This is border country, where Reiver Clans once fought bloodily for settlement rights, and the English and Scots clashed. The Northumberland National Park is a landscape of serene rolling purple moorlands and undulating golden grassland, where the views seem to go on forever over hills, ridges and crags. It also has a long and rich history stretching back to the Romans, who marked the northern boundary of their empire here (Hadrian's Wall), and the 6th century monks (Aidan, Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede) who brought Christianity to the north and founded Lindisfarne.

More recently, this area was the furnace room of the Industrial Revolution with coal mining, steel making and ship building; the invention of the steam engine and establishment of the first ever railways, (George and Robert Stephenson), the hydraulic engine, and breech-loading guns (Armstrong) and so much more.

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We based our group of 33 in the magnificent Otterburn Tower Hotel, an edifice originally founded by a cousin of William the Conqueror in the 11th century. He built a Pele Tower on the site in 1308, which was the focus of the famous 'Battle of Otterburn' 80 years later, when the Scots beat the army of Harry Hotspur, son of the Earl of Northumberland. The village of Otterburn is in the heart of the Northumberland National Park, and was a good centre from which to visit the coast and the wall. We filled the hotel, and thus had an excellent atmosphere.

There was a real "buzz" on the first evening, when the group gathered to discuss the itinerary for the week. Each evening we provided some entertainment, either music or a talk by local expert and SE Associate Chairman Terry Bell. Terry surprised us all by outlining the history of Northumberland, which after the departure of the Romans grew under King Aethelfrith, into the largest kingdom in Britain by the 7th Century - the 'land north of the Humber'.

For the first time on our trips we had a coach, which made the days more relaxing given the long distances covered, and additionally offered superb views of this 'big' country, while also enabling a drink or two with lunch.

**On the first day**, we traversed the centre of the park through the stone-built village of Rothbury straddling the River Coquet, to visit Cragside - the home of inventor, industrialist and landscaper Lord Armstrong.



*Cragside, near Rothbury*

This 'Palace of a Modern Magician' was built and extensively expanded between 1863 and 1869. It was Victorian England's most technologically advanced mansion - the first in the world to be lit by electricity derived from water power, arc lights were installed in 1878, and even an electric gong - to summon guests to dinner! Armstrong's ingenuity in the field of hydraulics is shown throughout the house: a hydraulic lift, the world's first powered dishwasher and a rotating spit! The estate also features one of the largest rock gardens in Europe.



*The 'Simonside Hikers' - all returned safely*

Eleven of the party had set out early and braved the drizzle to climb Simonside Crags nearby. Despite getting lost on the way down, they successfully rejoined the larger group at Cragside.

That evening Terry gave the Associates a primer on the Geordie language. Surprisingly, the Geordie language seems to be far more than a local dialect. It is based on the original Angle and Viking languages of 1400 years ago, which themselves have also provided 80% of the most common words in current English. "Ye'll ahl be tahkkin' like this when ye gan hyem", he explained helpfully.

Day two took us to 'Wall Country'.



*A wet day near Hadrian's Wall*

Running 73 miles across open country, Hadrian's Wall is one of the greatest monuments to the power and limitations of the Roman Empire. Emperor Hadrian was concerned to consolidate his boundaries, and in 122 AD ordered a wall to be built between the Solway Firth in the west and the River Tyne in the east, "to separate the Romans from the barbarians". The majority of the wall was built (by the Legionaires themselves) of stone - from

Newcastle to near Carlisle, from where on it was a turf wall to the Solway Firth. Milecastles were placed at regular intervals, and twelve forts were built at strategic locations.

Our visit began at one of these forts: Housesteads. This is the most complete example of a Roman fort in Britain. It stands high on an escarpment. Built in 124 AD it was known as Vercovicium ('hilly place'), and garrisoned by Belgian and German mercenaries. Too cold for the Italians - but not for the Associates! Despite a cold drizzle, 23 of them 'walked the wall'!



*Walking 'The Wall'*

We walked from Housesteads Fort over the spectacular Crag Lough to 'Sycamore Gap' - featured (inappropriately) in Kevin Costner's 'Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves'. He arrives back from the crusades at the white cliffs of Dover, turns around and suddenly is at Sycamore Gap! I'm sure that the film crew retired to the nearby 'Once Brewed' pub for lunch as did we!

Afterwards we visited Vindolanda, a fascinating Roman fort and civilian settlement, lying just south of the wall. Preservation conditions here were perfect, and wooden tools, leather shoes (with the makers mark still on!), clothes, and exotic jewellery have survived in near perfect condition. But the jewels of Vindolanda are the remains of over 300 writing tablets which detail everyday life to a remarkable degree - wedding invitations, soldiers sick and injured lists, complaints by cohort leaders of the laziness of the British recruits!

Some of the NE Associates and partners joined us for dinner that evening, John and Kathy Scott, Stan Harding and Ruth Murphy. They too, enjoyed an excellent recital by two Northumbrian Pipers (Colin Park, the Chairman of the Piper's Society, and Julia Say). They also told the story of the local Northumbrian 'small pipe'

famous for its sweet tones, and the louder 'border' pipe. Colin also explained how he made the pipes out of hardwood and old ivory. He then picked up the fiddle to show the full breadth of his talents!

The third day was the 'longest day', with the coach taking us a long way up the coast to spectacular Lindisfarne, or Holy Island. Separated from the mainland by a two-mile causeway, the day had to be carefully planned with the aid of tide tables! When the tide comes in it does so very quickly, and the incautious get caught. This happens fairly frequently, and hence there is a refuge hut on stilts in the centre of the causeway! The Associates visited the 17th century castle (refurbished superbly by Edward Lutyens in the early 20th century, with a walled garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll), and the 6th century Priory.



*Lindisfarne Castle*

Saint Aidan founded a monastery here in 685, becoming a base for Christianity in the north. Saint Cuthbert, the patron saint of Northumberland, became Abbot and his life was recorded by the Venerable Bede. The 'Lindisfarne Gospels', a famous illuminated manuscript of the gospels in Latin, was made at Lindisfarne.

Just down the coast from Lindisfarne, we viewed the huge and majestic Bamburgh Castle.



*Bamburgh Castle from Holy Island at low tide*

One of the finest castles in England, it perches on a basalt outcrop on the edge of the North Sea.



*SE Associates at Bamburgh Castle*

The castle has been extensively restored, most recently by Lord Armstrong, and has featured in many movies (e.g. 'Elizabeth', 'Becket', 'Mary Queen of Scots' and 'The Devils'). Further on at Seahouses, we partook of the reputedly best 'Fish 'n Chips' in the land! We then climbed aboard the 'Glad Tidings', the boat of local character Billy Shiels (MBE!), for a trip to the Farne Islands - a group of 15-20 islands about 1.5 miles off the coast.



*Farne Islands trip on 'Glad Tidings'*

Inner Farne is the home to many thousands of nesting seabirds including: Puffins, Guillemots, Shags, Cormorants and Eider Ducks, together with Sandwich, Common, Arctic & Roseate Terns, and was the home of St. Cuthbert who died there in 687. The sheer number, noise and smell of the birds was quite breathtaking!

Prof. Williams (my brother and Emeritus Professor of Geology at Aberdeen University) joined us as he has for the previous trips, and gave a talk in the evening about the Northumbrian landscape, particularly the 'Whin Sill'. This is a gigantic ancient volcanic horizontal intrusion (a 'sill') tilted up by 30 degrees by earth movements over the ages, to form a ridge which cuts right across the park, and along which the Roman Wall runs.

**On the last day**, he showed us some amazing examples of what lies beneath the ground, as we headed again for the coast. At the end of the glorious sweep of Tynemouth Bay, beneath Tynemouth Point (underneath another mediaeval priory), the Prof showed us fossilized sand dunes - evidence that this area was once much warmer, and a large exposed coal seam - at the edge of the famous '90 fathom fault', which frustrated the work of miners as the coal seam shifted 540ft further underground!



*'On the rocks' with the Prof*

Further up the coast we explored Hartley Bay and lunched at Seaton Sluice. In the 18th century Sir John Delaval cut a huge sluice (slot) out of the cliffs to create a harbour to enable transport of coal from the nearby 30 or so pits in the Hartley area - none of which remain. The crab sandwiches were great, especially when washed down with a 'pint of Scotch' (this is beer!).

The trip concluded on Newcastle Quayside - which has been so spectacularly improved over the last 20 years. The Associates could see Tyneside's famous bridges, Stephenson's High Level, the 19th century Swing Bridge, and the iconic [Tyne Bridge](#). The new Millenium foot/cycle bridge is the latest symbol of the north (together with Anthony Gormley's 'Angel of the North' in neighbouring Gateshead), with its unique 'winking-eye' design. Many visited the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts, converted from an old Rank Hovis flour mill, and the astonishing new Norman Foster designed 'Sage Music Centre', lying like a beached art-deco, silver slug on the Gateshead side.

Despite variable weather, everyone declared that they enjoyed their northern experience, and indeed several Associates stayed on for a few days more, to take in sights that we were unable to cover in our four days: Alnwick Castle, Durham Cathedral and Beamish, 'The North of England Open Air Museum'.

Indeed, we could easily have spent two full weeks in this remarkable and beautiful part of Britain.

**Kevin Williams**

An entry in Chris Pooley's diary . . .

## I Was A Centurion On Hadrian's Wall (A Blog From The Wall)

"Who had sent me here?" I thought as, along with 20 other centurions, we prepared for an attack as the noises started again. The fog was as thick as ever but it never stopped the hordes from the north charging some of the weaker points.

News was bad from home in Rome with the breakdown of the Empire being rumoured as being close but one did not speak of such things. I thought that on arrival in England where the ship had put us ashore in London, a short stay and back whence we came. No such luck as nearly a thousand troops and commanders marched north through what we were told was summer weather.

If this was summer the Gods protect us from winter.

We waited swords drawn against an as yet unseen enemy, the noises started again and remained a mystery till a sudden gust of icy cold wind brought into view a group of wild boar rooting in the rubbish that had been thrown over the wall. Our commander ordered the stand down.

A long blast from a whistle type of instrument signalled that we stand down to be replaced by another group. But, as if you have not guessed, the fog cleared at that precise moment to be replaced by warm (well at least for the wall) sunshine and where was I going? Indoors of course.

This time I cursed the God of the weather.

As a few of us sat digesting a filling, but not very tasty meal, the kitchen staff were quick to point out they had to manage with basics, no exotic herbs, spices or fruits here.

After a while we started to talk about the wall that was built by order of the Emperor Hadrian to keep out the hordes noted above, its position owes much to the geology of its 80 Roman miles (77 of today's miles) length rather than the fact it marked a boundary. Stretching right across the landmass from the Tyne estuary to the Solway Firth it is stone built to the east and turf to the west.

As added protection a deep ditch has been excavated on either side, the wall can reach up to 14ft in places. Forming as it did Rome's most northerly boundary it was well defended by physical

forts, lookout towers, etc. Manpower consisted of 5,500 cavalry and 13,000 infantry and others from all parts of the empire. Built between AD 122 and 130 we were about to discuss how long before the nature gods reclaimed the land. I don't think any of us would believe that 2,000+ years later so much would be visible.

Sorry, can't stop, that whistle is blowing again and that will teach us to curse a weather god as a mighty flash of lightning greets me as I come out of the doorway.

**Chris Pooley, S.E. Associates trip to Northumberland.**

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 STANDARD TEXT



Posted: Tuesday 24 July 2007

## North East Walkers 'On Allen Banks' - 24th July

Associates enjoy a beautiful country walk with weather to match.

Our seventh walk of 2007 took us far into Northumberland again, this time in the Pennines to the south of the county and based on Allendale Town and the River East Allen.



*We welcomed three new Associates - three new walkers (maybe six next time!)*

"Allendale Town" isn't really a town now, but an attractive village with a population of about 700. In the nineteenth century this remote area was a major source of lead ore, with many small mines and its own railway branch line. Now it is reliant upon farming, mainly sheep, and tourism. After all, it has seven pubs.

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*Ready for the muster, or is Lindsay performing a Morris Dance?*

We, that's forty Associates in two groups, headed off downstream in good weather, at first along the wooded north bank of the river (which ultimately joins the River South Tyne) and then climbed away from the watercourse towards the hamlet of Catton.



*Our support staff, Colin, was spotted on several occasions.*

In the village of [Allendale](#) an ancient New Years Eve ceremony involves a procession of "guisers" carrying blazing tar barrels on their heads to a midnight bonfire in the middle of the settlement.



*Through the long grass we go - some paths were not well used.*

After a further mile or so across farmland we descended to and crossed the river, then heading back along it towards our base, passing Kiddygreen on the way along the south bank.



*Time for a pause.*

The area was used by north-east author Catherine Cookson as the setting for her "Mallen Streak" novels.



*The downhill stretch.*

Conditions underfoot were very muddy in places and we had eleven stiles to conquer in the six-and-a-half miles covered.



*Past Kiddygreen: Mel, Rose, Colin & Verena lead.*

After retracing our steps for the last part of our route, including a steep climb back to the village, we found sustenance in the form of some excellent pub food which was helped down by Jennings Cumberland Bitter and other cask ales at the Kings Head Hotel.



*Ready: Steady:  
Going: Gone!*

On the assumption that the north-east weather in August will be too hot for walking (and that we need time to recover from the effort expended today on the stiles) our next expedition is planned for September around Dunstanburgh Castle (EH & NT), spectacularly perched on the coastal edge of Northumberland.

## Postscript:

In October 2007 Allendale was hailed as the overall winner of  
the  
2006/07 'National Calor Village of the Year'<sup>®</sup> award.

*ph 24/07/07*

*pictures cph (with jim c's camera) and ph*

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 STANDARD TEXT



Posted: Tuesday 17 July 2007

## South West Associates Lunch and Get-together

### Website inclusion better late than never!

A lunch and get-together was held at the Langford Inn, Somerset, in January for Associates from that area.

They are pictured below.



**Clockwise from the left are:**

Brian Wood, Nesta Chilvers, Bill & Audrey Dickinson, Frank Brennan, Roy Stevenson, Joe Herivel, Vicky & David Hartley and Sandy & Una Macdonald.

### Frank Brennan

*This article appeared first in the Summer 2007 edition of 'The Associate'.*

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 STANDARD TEXT



Posted: Sunday 15 July 2007

## Messing about on the river.

If you know the song, sing along.

NE Associates Summer Cruise, Thursday 12th July

Another early 8:30am start - well it is early on an Associates clock - and 94 North East Associates boarded two coaches for a trip south to Stockton on Teeside where we were to board the [Teeside Princess](#) for a cruise up the river Tees.



Once boarded we cruised up river, and while there was information about various riverside features being broadcast over the speaker system, it was not easy to hear it all over the engine noise and our chatter. Several of our golfing enthusiasts took the opportunity to view the new Ingleby Barwick golf course which comes right down to the river bank

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As we continued up stream the river narrowed and along the banks we could see occasional clumps of Giant Hogweed a plant which was imported into the UK as an exotic plant in the 1880's but which like so many non native species has proved very invasive and quite dangerous. When we reached the town of Yarm it was time to turn round and head back down river. The weather was quite bright and pleasant with occasional glimpses of the sun.



As we cruised back downstream, lunch of fish and chips accompanied by mushy peas and a side salad was served, followed by a apple pie and cream. How the boat stayed afloat after all that food was consumed we will never know.



Back at the mooring at Stockton we disembarked and took a short stroll along the river bank to explore [H.M. Bark Endeavour](#), a full size replica of the Whitby built collier used by Captain Cook on his journeys of exploration.



Our two guides took us round the ship and provided us an insight into what conditions on board would have been like.



*Captain Cook I presume.*



*So how soon does the sun get down to the yard arm?*

Despite a very gloomy weather forecast the rain stayed away till the very end and the splashes arrived just as we were ready to board the coaches back to Newcastle.

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 STANDARD TEXT

Posted: Friday 29 June 2007

## Manchester Associates visit Cadbury World and the Severn Valley Railway

### Manchester Associates Day trip to Cadbury World Birmingham and the Severn Valley Railway. June 6th 2007

It was another brilliant sunny June day when 181 associates boarded 5 coaches for our first day trip of the year, to visit the Birmingham Area. For the first time we were joined by a small contingent of associates from Skelmersdale Factory who were made very welcome.

Our first port of call was the Exhibition Centre at Cadbury World at Bourneville south of Birmingham. The Main exhibition was visited in parties of thirty which began with ladies plying everybody with bars of free chocolate, followed by an inter-active tour on the history of chocolate making and the Cadbury family.

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For most of our party the real interest was the part of the tour alongside the automated production line wrapping and packing "Dairy Milk" Chocolate bars, and with inevitable comparison with life on the Manchester Factory production lines. After further visits to the museum and the new "Essence" Exhibition and of course the Factory shop where many associates "filled their boots", we rejoined the coaches for the next move to our hotel in Bewdley for lunch.

Not helped by the complicated route planning using the leading drivers Satnav system we did eventually arrive, albeit 45 minutes late, for a pleasant lunch at the Ramada Hotel.





Our next leg was to have been boarding the Severn Valley Railway Train at Kidderminster, but looking at the clock and the possibility of missing coffee and the train, it was quickly changed to boarding the train at Bewdley Station just five minutes from the Hotel. .The shock of so many people on the platform alarmed the Stationmaster who declared "I have never seen so many people on the station platform in my life !!"





On arrival the steam hauled train (hailed by, for those who are interested, by Great Western Railway tank no 5164), quickly filled and we were soon on our way on the one hour journey to Bridgenorth. Almost everybody was reminded of journeys made in their youth and a number found the buffet car with real ale on the menu as a great attraction.

All too soon we arrived at Bridgenorth and here the Railway Company missed out badly when it was discovered that the refreshment rooms were closed and the nearest cafe was some distance away in the town. The more energetic amongst us made the walk across the footbridge spanning the valley to the top of the town situated several hundred feet above the Severn Valley.

Our journey home was quick and un-eventual and after dropping off the Skelmersdale party at Warrington, arrived home on time after a very enjoyable day.

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 STANDARD TEXT

Posted: Thursday 28 June 2007

## North East Walkers on the Miller's Trail - 28th June

### A turnout of forty Associates joined a pleasant walk

From our start point at Whitburn Lodge, a large pub to the north of the delightful old village of Whitburn, on the coast about mid-way between the mouths of the rivers Tyne and Wear we headed south on the cliff-top path before turning inland through the village.



*Our first point of interest was the restored Whitburn Windmill.*

Following established paths our circular route took us through fields of ripening barley, wheat and rapeseed (canola) as we ascended the 250ft of Cleadon Hill, just to the north of Sunderland.

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*On Cleadon Hill*

Waymarkers showed us to be on 'Bede's Way' as a pilgrims' route to Jarrow. On the hill are the derelict remains of another windmill, hence the 'Millers' Trail' title given to part of the walk, and a tall brick tower. On heading back towards the sea to the north of our start point we negotiated a jungle of wild roses before daring to cross the local golf course.



*A popular nesting site*

The several windmills in this area, as well as for grinding grain, were also used to grind sand for glass and flint for pottery, these in their time being large local industries.

Long-gone is the manufacture of [Sunderland Pottery](#) which is nowadays very collectable, especially their 'pink lustreware'. No

doubt some of the powdered flint was used in the making of many of the "pots" we saw on our visit to Newby Hall in May. Decoration of these often included amusing (and sometimes risqué) verses relating to their use!



*Souter Lighthouse with Foghorns, and Associates*

Back on the coastal path the striking red-and-white hooped [Souter Lighthouse](#) (NT) was passed, one of many points of interest in the area, before we turned slightly inland to find lunch - in the pub of course, where on entry we were greeted by a trio of ducks on the patio. They weren't anywhere to be seen when we left!

*ph 28/06/07  
pictures ph*

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 STANDARD TEXT

Posted: Tuesday 19 June 2007

## North East Associates visit The Royal Yacht Britannia - 19th June

### Leith, Edinburgh's port was our first call . .

An early 08:30 start from Newcastle city, (yes, that is early when you don't have to go to work) saw 70 NE Associates head north for a change - to Leith Docks, Edinburgh, on a visit to see The Royal Yacht Britannia.

The journey there was via the A1 'coastal' route, in greater part more like a country road through Northumberland than its classification suggests, where our self-led tour was scheduled before lunch.

Full access to all five decks of *Britannia* is possible for everyone via a shore-based tower with lifts and stairs to each level. The tour gave an insight of living on board for "all who sailed in her" - from the 'driver's seat' on the bridge, then through the Queen's private rooms and the 'descent' through the ranks to the cramped crew quarters on the lower decks.

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*Where the famous have stood, Associates now stand*

Every visitor had use of a portable audio unit which gave commentary on each specific area, and guided you at your own pace to the next.



*All set for lunch - Associate style*

On leaving *Britannia* the Royal Barge was on view, moored in a bubbling tank on the dockside. After passing through the customary gift shop our choice of lunch venue was from many different styles in the nearby [Ocean Terminal](#) shopping mall.



*More carriers than these were seen*

Homeward bound our coaches headed for the hills on an inland route, with a stop for more retail therapy and refreshment at the Edinburgh Woollen Mills complex in Jedburgh.



*Refreshed and ready for the last lap*

Climbing from here through the beautiful valley of Jed Water to the border crossing at Carter Bar in the Cheviot Hills our views were restricted by low cloud. On the move again, through Northumberland, the expanses of forest and moorland gave way to farmland scenes as we descended on the return to Tyneside, the historical home of the steam turbines which powered Britannia for all her working life.

*(We locals are reputed to be tight-lipped about the beauty of*

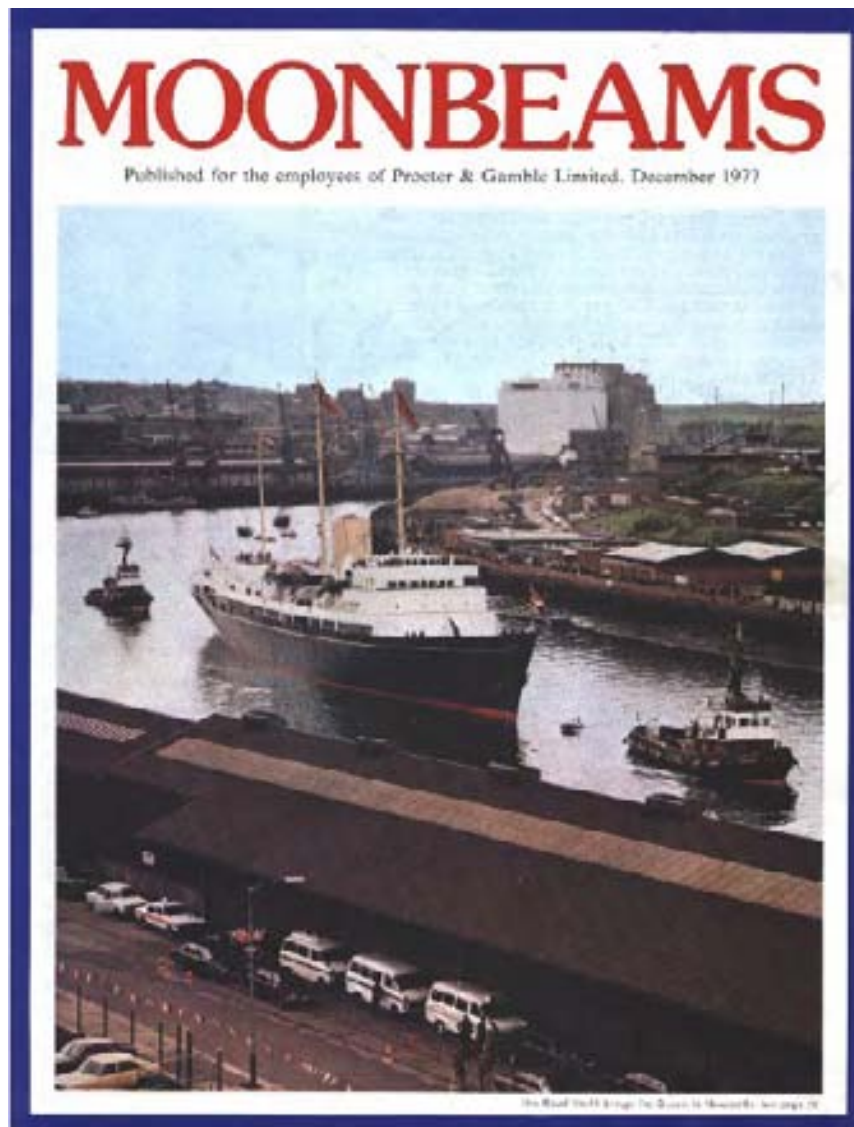
*Northumberland - we only tell our friends so as not to spread the secret too far!)*

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*After the coach trip, now a nostalgia trip - going back to 1977.*

"The Queen arrived for her Jubilee visit to Tyneside on board the royal yacht Britannia, which sailed up the Tyne and moored immediately below Newcastle Factory where our people had a grandstand view of the proceedings."

*The above is an extract from 'Moonbeams' of December 1977.*



*This house magazine cover picture was of Britannia approaching Newcastle Quayside in June 1977.*



*Here's another taken from the highest point on the factory.  
(For those who remember City Rd. the view of the back of the  
factory wasn't among the prettiest!)*

*(Thirty years ago the report came six months after the event -  
now it's available same day!)*

*ph 19/06/07*

*Moonbeams cover photograph source to be identified  
Other pictures - ph*

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 STANDARD TEXT



Posted: Friday 15 June 2007

## NE Associates join S&S Club visit to Scampston Hall and Walled Garden - 9th June

### S&S Club Membership offers additional social activities for Associates

We, that's the S&SC Gardening Section, were lucky with the weather again on Saturday and we had a fabulous day at Scampston, near Malton, in scorching temperatures.

The Walled Garden is stunning and one of the best and most organised visited so far. On arrival we had a short talk by Head Gardener, Tim Marshall, who gave us all brochures and plant lists for identification of all the plants in the Walled Garden which are numbered. There is a plant sales area and if the plant you're after is not on display then you can ask if they have it in the nursery.

We enjoyed a fabulous buffet lunch in 'The Star' Restaurant, which is within the Walled Garden and under the same management as the award winning 'The Star Inn' at Harome near Helmsley. The food was top quality and when we asked for more of the huge prawns we got another dish filled with them!

After lunch we split into two groups for a tour of the house and we were met personally by Sir Charles Legard, the owner. This is a family home and there are no ropes or other barriers to be seen.

The house dates from 1690 but was extensively remodelled between 1795 and 1800 by the architect Thomas Leverton. It was redecorated internally in 1860 and again in 1910 and having re-roofed and re-wired the house in the mid 1990s there was a great deal of redecoration to do. The redecoration was carried out and

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some of the original wallpapers were cleaned professionally using pure rubber whilst other wallpapers are exact copies of what had been used in the 1860s scheme.

The service throughout Scampston was first class and nothing was any trouble for the staff to meet our requests.

All in all a very enjoyable visit and we will definitely be revisiting Scampston at a later date.

Many thanks.

Doreen.



*The Gardens from The Mount*



*David & Christine Dargan in the Silent Garden*



*Valerie Potts with a view of Scampston Hall*



*The Perennial Meadow*



*Verena Ellis & Penny Sore in the Perennial Meadow*



*Sue Barton & Doreen Soulsby in the Perennial Meadow*



*Verena: "Penny - now which plant is that?"*



*Some of the P&G party on The Mount taking in the view*

*06/07*

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