

SOCIETY OUTING

Yorkshire

9th – 13th September 2019

Rodney Stone

17 Society members joined a trip by the Silver Phoenix Travel Club, run by Iain Robertson who also organises trips for us.

We stayed at the Parsonage Hotel in Escrick, south of York, splendidly appointed with grounds and fitness centre. We ate very well and I hope all enjoyed the smart and comfortable rooms.

The area has so much to offer. We went to: *Harrogate, elegant, verdant and being extra-spruced for the impending World Cycling Championships. Almost our first sight was a queue outside Betty's, the famed tea shop. A walking tour, enthusiastically led, showed us the history, the attractions of the spa waters and gardens, and the growth of imposing buildings, such as the Royal Hall, to cater for the incoming clientele.

*Beamish Museum, the mainly open-air re-creation of a community back in 1913. Trams and elderly buses, Co-op store, print works, railway station, maritime engines (when the North East led the way in manufacture), Masonic Lodge, and, as a reminder of the advance of medical science since, a dentist's surgery with foot-driven drill and dangerous means of anaesthesia. The staff and volunteers added to the atmosphere in their period clothing and willingness to chat. A pleasure for some on the way back was

close inspection of The Angel of the North bronze statue overlooking the countryside.

*York itself. Another interesting guided tour, the National Railway Museum with its unique collection of engines and rolling stock, and many places charting the history of the city, the majestic Minster, much preserved city wall, narrow streets, and an even longer Betty's queue. There is so much to see.

*The Geoff Hamilton gardens in Rutland, where the BBC's Gardeners' World was filmed in his lifetime. There are 38 individual gardens, ranging from Artisan's Cottage to Stream and Bog, Japanese to Fruit Orchard, all carefully presented and lovingly maintained, educational and productive.

Many thanks go to Iain and to Janet, again our adept and re-assuring driver, and to the weather that allowed outside visiting.



Tram at Beamish (Ken Palmer)