

## **4-6 Mile Walking Group**

**12 March 2024**

**Richmond, 4 Miles**

**Lead by: Patrick Neills**

A total of seven intrepid walkers met at Richmond Station on a very damp, misty and murky morning. Fortunately, apart from the start, walking along a variety of good paths meant we did little sliding about. Despite this, we set off in high spirits on the 4 mile circular walk from Richmond, along the River Swale and via Easby Abbey.

Initially the walk was very boggy and slippery following the footpath past the local football club. Up to the right we had excellent views of the castle despite the mist perched high up on the rocks. At the road we turned right crossing the bridge, before climbing steeply up cobbled streets to the castle ramparts and enjoying the views of the river in full spate. We then walked down a steep winding hill and through a small car park, where we enjoyed looking at the waterfall with the weir above it. We followed the path along the river to the road, crossing the bridge and walking down Lombards Wynd following signs to Easby Abbey. Given the very wet weather the track made the walking easy from here to the finish. At the drummer boy plaque, according to legend, the stone marks the place where the Richmond drummer boy reached into the tunnel that was supposed to lead from Richmond market place to the Abbey. The plaque marks the spot where the sound of drumming stopped and was never heard again. We then followed the lower path along the river where conservation measures including replanting are in progress.

We had a quick refreshment break at Easby Abbey, founded in 1152 by Roald, constable of Richmond Castle, before doing a loop to view the Abbey in the foreground and Richmond Castle on the horizon. We then followed the path along the river, to another bridge and walked along the disused railway line that was part of the old Darlington to Richmond route back to Richmond station. As we finished the walk, the weather started to improve!

**Patrick Neills**