

November's Saturday Workshop

A virtual tour of Barnard Castle to uncover history through street names

A very welcome crowd came to this tour by powerpoint of the mostly northern and eastern sectors of the town. Previously oversubscribed as a two-hour walking tour this workshop aimed to avoid the vagaries of weather, pavement crowding, and physical tiredness. As an interactive experience, we also wanted to tap into the rich fund of local history that is embedded within our participants.



Newgate:

One of two plaques we found basically reminding us:
CARPE DIEM

After a flaky start provoked by dicky technology – happily resolved by our very own Tech Wizard Martyn - we explored some famous, some less so, contributors to the history of the town, including Dickens (King's Court blue plaque), Sir Thomas Brakes (the Market Cross), the Vanes, the Veres, (the Raby Gang), the Baliols, Sir Thomas Bouch (Engineer and bridge builder, sadly now most remembered for the Tay Bridge disaster), Abraham Hilton (benefactor, whose tomb is on the Tees Way at Cotherstone).

Throughout the tour we were noting the industries and social developments that are part of its history; horse trading and cattle and sheep markets, the coming of the railways, the mills, the cholera outbreaks of 1845 and 1847, the pivotal role of Methodism, and the impact of its status as a garrison town.

We learned new and interesting gems from our attendees and we are very grateful for their input. As with all of our workshops, it is always enriching to be in the company of curious and generous companions.

Annie Clouston and Tim Meacham