

All Thanks to Mr IPA

Durham and Cleveland Friendship week took place between 1 to 8 August 2010 and was held in the Marriott County Hall Hotel, Durham City.

The week started on Sunday with the arrival of our visitors from Australia, Canada, Italy, Norway and a number of branches from around England. A reception was held to greet them all and after the evening meal everyone got to know each other.

Monday

A great start to the week as the group was given a guided tour around Durham Castle followed by a buffet lunch at Durham Police HQ. We were greeted by the Assistant Chief Constable Mr Banks and later the Chief Constable Mr Stoddart, before returning to Durham Cathedral for another guided tour. We then returned to the hotel to change into uniform for a short walk through the city centre to a civic reception held in our honour by the Right Worshipful Mayor of the city of Durham Councillor, Mamie Simmons. A presentation by Eiliv Lonnig on behalf of the Mayor of his home town in Norway to the Mayor of Durham City took place, followed by a tour of the town hall.

Tuesday

Today's plan involved a coach trip to York for a buffet lunch at the Lady Anne Middleton hotel organised by the York branch, followed by a visit to the Jorvik museum and then on to York Minster. This was also arranged by the York branch.

Wednesday

The group visited the Beamish Open Air Museum, which was celebrating its 40th anniversary. Sights to see included working replicas of the earliest steam engines, miners cottages with outside looms, coal bunkers and a masonic hall dating from the 1800's which had been rescued from a site in Sunderland and rebuilt at Beamish.

Thursday, a free day.

John Sauve, a Canadian who was 86 years of age was visiting this country for the first time since 1945. He flew with the Royal Canadian Air Force between 1943 to 1945 in Lancaster bombers from Middleton St George airfield (now Durham and Tees Valley). John was taken by branch member Leo Moran to Durham Tees Valley for a flight in the Cleveland police helicopter. John later visited the memorial to all the Canadian airmen who died during their tour of duty—their names were on the memorial and he was visibly moved.

Brian Griffin, an Australian police officer from Queensland had expressed an interest in the (ANPR) Automatic Number Plate Recognition system that is in use in the UK.

Branch Chair Karel Simpson arranged through Mr Banks, ACC of Durham, for Brian to be taken out on patrol with a road policing unit—PC Richard Gatland in a BMW traffic car equipped with the ANPR system.

Other members took themselves off to Newcastle, Whitley Bay, Colorcoats and York. While some chose to relax and spend time in Durham City on the river cruises.



Brian Griffin and Richard Gatland

The evening ended with a visit to the Gala Theatre to see a production of "Beauty and the Beast".

Friday

The visitors were taken to the Metro Centre, the largest shopping centre in Europe. In the evening the party attended a gala evening at the Cloisters restaurant at Durham Cathedral. Durham Police Band played music as guests arrived for a drinks reception and throughout the meal. After the meal, which was attended by the Mayor of

Durham City, Mr Banks ACC Durham Police and Mr White ACC from Cleveland Police, the Branch Chair thanked the Mayor and exchanged shields.

Saturday

After an early breakfast in the hotel, the group took a short coach trip to Hartlepool to see the tall ships in the harbour. The atmosphere was fantastic as a large number of people had gathered to see the event. Sadly, it was soon time to come away, as we had to attend the final evening meal in the Three Tunns hotel in Durham city. After the meal the Regional Chair, Dave Taylor, representing Section UK President Steve Connor, closed the friendship week with a few words.

It was clear that the event would not have taken place without 'Mr IPA' Gary Waine. Gary had put together the programme and had made all the necessary arrangements. Sadly due to ill health Gary had to pass the torch on to me and the other members of the Durham and Cleveland branch to continue to make the week a success. The event continued in memory of Gary who sadly passed away in July. We were delighted that Gary's widow,

Majorie Waine, his daughter Julie and two grandchildren, who had been invited by me, attended the Gala Theatre on Thursday evening to meet the other IPA visitors.

Sunday

All the visitors with the exception of both Australian couples and the Italian couple (who were extending their trip) went home. My thanks as Chair of the branch go to: my partner Cindy Barrass, Ann Crysell, Simon Hawkins treasurer for handling the

finance; Steve Bunn; Emma Hughes; Mike Elliott; Judy Elliott; Margaret Taroni and Sajjad Anwar. All of the above played a part in some way towards making the week a memorable one, and following by the positive feedback, we were asked to arrange an event for next year.

Karel Simpson,
Chair Durham and Cleveland Branch

Visit www.ipa-uk.org/News/Durham to view more photographs from this event.



Dinner in the cloisters of Durham Cathedral