

International Rally 2020

GRANT BURTON

DAIMLER AND LANCHESTER OWNERS' CLUB INTERNATIONAL RALLY 2020 - YORK
17TH TO 21ST JUNE 2010



More details shortly on www.dloc.org.uk/events

The September edition of the Driving Member announced that the 2020 International Rally would be held in York.

I thought it might be useful to fill in some background to that brief announcement.

The idea of a York Rally was first formed during the Rally in Holland. And since I was there in the conversation and I live close to York, it seemed like a good idea for me to be the man on the ground for such a rally.

It might be useful for me to introduce myself. I was born in York, within a few yards of the Minster, in a building which was then a nursing home. It's now, like many buildings in York and elsewhere, been transformed into upmarket housing.

My parents lived in the village of Wilberfoss, about 8 miles east of York where my father farmed. After primary school in Wilberfoss, I attended senior school in York, before venturing out of the county, to the University of Nottingham. While there I met and became friendly with Matthew Waterhouse, now President of the DLOC. Four years there was followed by six years missionary work in Lancashire in the finance department of a major truck manufacturer. I then returned to Yorkshire and worked in another finance job, before going home to join my father and brother on the family farm.

So, when reading my jottings and thoughts about York and its environs, don't expect impartiality. I just think it's the most wonderful place.

York is very centrally placed in the UK. It is about 20 miles from the

A1(M) giving it good connections to the North/South axis. The East/West axis is served by the M62 which runs under various different names, from Liverpool to Hull. Anyone coming from Europe can conveniently do so coming into the port of Hull whence the A1079, Hull York road provides a direct link to York. The hotel selected for the rally hotel, The Marriot, was formerly, when under private ownership, known as the Chase Hotel. As that suggests it looks straight across the racecourse to the stands. It is on the western side of the city, within easy reach of the York Ring Road. That also means that those who do not wish to take their cars into York need not do so. Buses of various numbers pass the hotel about every ten minutes on their way into the centre of York and the same for the return journey. Car parking at the Hotel is more than adequate.

The Rally dinner is to be held at the stand at the Racecourse. The numbers for which we hope, necessarily restrict the number of venues which can accommodate our party. The racecourse comes well recommended as a dinner venue, not least by me. If the weather proves suitable it is possible to attend the dinner by walking across the racecourse to the stand.

The Air Museum at Elvington about 10 miles from York, is our venue for the Rally on Sunday. The Air Museum is frequently used for events of all sorts. There is a great deal of hard standing

and there are facilities such as a NAFFI for those who want to eat or drink while at the event and do not want to 'picnic'.

York has gathered to itself numerous attractions. It celebrated its 2000th year since the Roman foundation, in 1971. There are a great many Roman remains of interest.

When thinking of York, the main interest is in the Minster. It dominates the skyline. York Minster was built in the late 14th century. Over the years it has been extensively repaired following fires and to compensate for inadequate foundations. Nevertheless, it remains one of the largest cathedrals in Northern Europe. It contains a substantial quantity of medieval glass. One of the recently restored windows has the same area as does a tennis court. York Walls, built in medieval times, are basically complete. There have, over the years, been a number of proposals to demolish them partially in order to make traffic flows easier. Some Victorians believed that they stopped circulation of air and were therefore responsible for disease being contained within the walls. A number of arches have been inserted into the walls for the purpose of improving traffic flows. Where the walls do not exist, bogs and other difficult terrain, were an obstacle in themselves and do not necessarily imply demolition.

Castle Howard situated about 15 miles from the city, was Brideshead in "Brideshead Revisited" in the famous television version of Evelyn Waugh's novel. It is a comfortable drive from York and is situated among glorious countryside. There are many good attractions there, apart from the house itself, and a tour of the house is being organized for DLOC Members. There is an exceptionally scenic route to return to York as an option for those wishing to use it. Details of which will follow in due course.

Castle Howard is still in private hands, the Howard family, for whom Vanbrugh designed the house. Building commenced in 1699 just before work was started on Vanbrugh's other best known commission Blenheim Palace.

There are a number of National Trust properties in and around York. Within a stone's throw of the Minster is the Treasurer's House, which was, as its name implies, the residence of the Treasurer of the Minster. In fact, it fulfilled that role for a relatively brief period, but the name stuck.

Beningbrough Hall, about 7 miles from York, set in glorious countryside, displays a large number of pictures from the National Portrait Gallery, with which organisation a long term arrangement has been sustained for a good many years. It is well worth a visit.

To return to York itself, it is the home of the National Railway Museum, situated very close to the railway station, and in itself a destination for many national and international visitors.

This brief introduction to York and a few of its treasures was all that I intended in this article. I will return, in greater detail, to these and other delights in subsequent magazines.

I hope I have whetted your appetite.

Grant Burton