

Proposal for the Revised Barchetta Owners Club 2022 Tour of Northumberland and Durham

The proposal for the revised 2022 meeting, is meeting up on a Sunday afternoon at the Hotel and having 3 nights accommodation. This will allow those members from the south and southeast, the west country and Wales the benefit of a more extended stay. For those wishing to take a longer break, there is the possibility of extending the stay by either combining a pre-meet or post-meet visit to see more of the fantastic Northumbrian country, castles, coastline, and food that the North East of England has on offer.

Having looked at several possible hotels, the one that again looks ideally suited is Beamish Hall Hotel. Located just to the south of Newcastle situated near Beamish Open Air Museum.

See: <https://www.beamish-hall.co.uk>



Beamish Hall Hotel is a 4* Hotel. The hall is a 13th century country house with 42 bedrooms decorated with luxury fabrics and designer fittings. There is also an on-site microbrewery offering 7 traditional northern ales and an award-winning restaurant.

Speaking with the management at the hotel, we would have our own dining area within the restaurant for evening meals with breakfast taken in the halls grand dining room.

The Proposal is for Sunday 15th May 2022 to Wednesday 18th May

Provisional itinerary:

Sunday

Meet at the hotel from 2 pm onwards with an opportunity to visit Beamish Open Air Museum situated 3 minutes from the hotel.

Evening meal in the hotel.

Monday

Visit into Northumberland.

From the hotel drive north over the Tyne at Wylam, the birthplace of George Stephenson pioneer of the railways.

Then onto Rothbury via the old A689 road to Scotland and over the Northumberland moors with superb views of the Cheviots to visit Cragside, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside> the former home of Lord Armstrong, now a National Trust property. Cragside has a magnificent 19th C house and extensive wooded grounds. It was the first house lit with electric bulbs powered by the estates water generating system and Swans incandescent bulbs, which still operate. In May the grounds are renowned for early blooming rhododendrons, and we will have the opportunity to drive the scenic drive in the estate taking in the fragrances of the rhododendrons and azaleas. (Tops down weather permitting!) This is a full day visit with a scenic drive back to the hotel.

Evening meal in the hotel

Tuesday

Roman Wall

The opportunity to drive on the route of the old Roman Military road that runs from Wallsend to Carlisle. Straight as an arrow rising and falling in sweeps over the moors.

Visit to Housesteads Roman Fort and Museum and a chance to see an archaeological dig with a site visit and tour by one of the archaeologists – maybe a chance to actually do some digging for the budding Indiana Jones in the group

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/housesteads-roman-fort-hadrians-wall/plan-your-visit/>

Lunch will be taken at either Housesteads or in a local pub on the moors
Drive back to hotel over the Hesham hills.

Wednesday

The Durham and Teesdale hills

From the hotel drive south over the Durham and Teesdale moor, used by Vera in the TV series, over gated roads to High Force dramatic waterfall dropping 69 feet into a plunge pool amid a secluded forest.

<https://www.raby.co.uk/high-force/waterfall/>

Lunch taken in a pub and then farewells at the end of the visit.

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I hope my suggested programme tempts you to visit this special, often overlooked part of the world.

Please send expressions of interest to Clive Marshall or Martin Garrad

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