

## Walking Tour of the Points of Interest Around Lincoln Cathedral

The Architecture Group was successfully able to go on the above tour by splitting into two small groups of five, accompanied by Arthur our guide, one setting out in the morning, and the other in the afternoon of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Starting in front of the cathedral, Arthur explained that Lincoln Castle had been built in 1068, just two years after the Norman Conquest, and William I had commissioned the cathedral to be built in 1072. This was undertaken by fellow Norman, Remigius, who became the first bishop in a diocese stretching from the Humber to the Thames. Extensive rebuilding work was done by Hugh of Avalon, later St Hugh, after damage by an earthquake in 1185.

Walking round the side of the cathedral, in pre-Covid days the tour would have gone down to the Old Bishop's Palace, but English Heritage has closed it for now. We stopped at the Judgement Door, then at the stone carving of Edward I and his wife Eleanor of Castile. Eleanor had died in Harby, but her body was brought to St Catherine's Abbey, south of Lincoln, to be embalmed before starting on the long journey to Westminster Abbey for burial, each stopping place marked with what became known as the Eleanor Crosses.

Next we crossed the grass to the side of Pottergate, and were told that at different times in history the houses on the far side had been occupied by John of Gaunt's mistress and third wife Katherine Swynford, (she of the Anna Seton book) who was buried in Lincoln Cathedral, the composer William Bryd and the mathematician George Boule, father of the binary form used in computers. The Chapter House and Tennyson statue were points of interest, before we crossed the road to look at the remains of the eponymous Roman east gate in front of the Lincoln Hotel. Rightly dismissive of the 1960s architecture of what had been the Eastgate Hotel, a Trust House Forte establishment, Arthur did concede that Charles Forte had paid for the first floodlighting of the cathedral.

We briefly stopped at the gates of Atherstone House, where the bishops of Lincoln had lived up until about six years ago, before turning into Minster Yard and the newly opened Dean's Gardens. We admired the layout and ambience of this area, new to us all, in front of the new Visitors Centre which will hopefully open next year with a new cafe, shop and exhibition space. The tour ended back through Exchequer Gate to Castle Yard with a look at the buildings there, including the Judges' Lodgings which is up for sale for a couple of million pounds, plus renovation requirements.

We all learnt a lot from the tour, despite being well acquainted with the area, but most of all were just pleased to be able to visit somewhere once again, albeit in a small, socially distanced group.

Janet Freeman