



Visit to Ushaw College **Saturday, June 27, 2026**

We will visit Ushaw College for our summer outing. Set within rolling parkland just outside Durham, Ushaw is a place where history, culture and people come together to create experiences beyond belief. Once a Catholic seminary, Ushaw is now a registered charity operating as a vibrant heritage destination and creative hub. With its remarkable architecture, internationally significant collections and a warm, inclusive approach, Ushaw offers something genuinely distinctive within the North East's cultural landscape.

Ushaw's story spans more than 450 years. Its origins lie in the upheaval of the Reformation, when an English Catholic college was founded in Douai in 1568. Forced to flee during the French Revolution, the college returned to England and eventually settled at Ushaw in 1808. Over the next century, an extraordinary complex of buildings grew up around the original Georgian house and represent some of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the country, including the largest collection of work by four generations of the Pugin family.

Ushaw today operates as a mixed economy charity, generating all its income through a combination of activities. These include admissions and memberships supported by an events and exhibitions programme; venue hire; bed & breakfast accommodation; a business hub providing serviced offices and creative studio space; land income from its 500-acre estate, as well as the generous support of donors - individuals, business partners, trusts and foundations. This diversity supports financial resilience while ensuring the estate remains active and relevant throughout the year.

We will meet at 10:30 for coffee or other refreshments. The cost of these, but not lunch, is included in the booking fee. At 11:00 we will enjoy a guided tour of the chapels and associated buildings. At 12:15 we will gather for lunch (to be paid for on the day individually). Time permitting, we may walk in the gardens before 13:30, when we gather for a tour of the college's magnificent Big Library, a breathtaking space designed by Joseph Hansom, with a curated viewing of up to 20 fascinating books and archival treasures. You'll discover pieces rarely seen by the public, each with its own story to tell. This is a unique opportunity to explore Ushaw's hidden treasures, ask questions, and savour the atmosphere — ideal for anyone with a passion for history, architecture, or the written word.

If you would like to join us, please complete the booking slip below and return (or copy, complete and email) it by **Monday, May 25 2026** to: Mrs Susan Austin, Church View, The Dene, West Rainton, Houghton le Spring, DH4 6PR. Email: susanmaustin@hotmail.com

Advance payment is required. This is £35 unless you can and do a bring Historic Houses membership card with you, in which case the charge is £23 for each attendee with this membership. Cheques should be made out to Northumbrian Cambridge Association (full title; not NCA, please). Direct payment should be to: account name: Northumbrian Cambridge Association; Lloyds sort code 30 98 97 account number 87980962. Please include identification e.g. USHAW/[YOUR SURNAME].

Bookings will be acknowledged by email when an email address is given, but if you would like to be notified by mail, please include a stamped, addressed envelope.

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION SUMMER OUTING 2026 BOOKING FORM

Please reserve places at the Summer Outing on Saturday, June 27, 2026 to Ushaw College at **£35** or **£23** per person as appropriate.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Email address: _____

Names of Guests: _____

Historic Houses member(s): YES/NO (delete as appropriate).

Special dietary requirements (vegetarian; other): _____

- I/we enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association
(full title, please; not NCA) OR
- I have made an electronic payment to Lloyds; account name: Northumbrian Cambridge Association;
Lloyds sort code 30-98-97; account number 87980962 (with USHAW/[YOUR SURNAME]. as the reference).
- I/we require an acknowledgment by post and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope