There is something special about a river cruise down the Tyne, viewing en route the historic past of this splendid river. We will pass the sites of former shipyards where famous ships slid into the water and sailed all over the world. Among them was the Carpathia, the ship that rescued the survivors of the Titanic disaster, and the Mauretania, holder of the Blue Riband award for the fastest Atlantic crossing for 20 years. Both were built at the Swan Hunter shipyard. Here we can still see some of the cranes which once dominated the skyline on Tyneside and pass by the fish market of North Shields, from where a flotilla of fishing vessels set out daily into the rigours of the North Sea, and where catches are still landed. At the furthest limit we see the statue of Lord Collingwood, who pushed through the victory at Trafalgar after the death of Nelson, and the remains of the historic castle at Tynemouth, silhouetted against the sky. This is truly a voyage through the history of Tyneside.

Our cruise begins at the Quayside at 12.00, and features a lively commentary as we progress downriver. On the way back there’s an opportunity to see the new buildings, the yacht harbours and small industries which are revitalising the riverside. There’s even a glimpse of the scenes which intrigued the painter R.S. Lowrie and which he immortalised on canvas.

The trip lasts for 3 hours, from 12.00-15.00, and will cost (at a special rate negotiated by the trip organisers, committee members Peter and Liz Atkins) £12.00, per person. We will be on board the Fortuna, which carries over 100 passengers and has tables and chairs on deck, as well below in the covered area.

Food is available on board at your own expense.

To book, please return the form below, either by post or electronically, TO ARRIVE BY Wednesday, May 29, PLEASE, to:

Dr Andrena Telford, Ladywell Cottage, 24 West Road, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9SX; telephone: 01661 825437; email: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com