Raby Castle is a medieval castle located near Staindrop in County Durham, England, among 200 acres of deer park. It was built by John Neville, 3rd Baron Neville de Raby, between approximately 1367 and 1390. Cecily Neville, the mother of the Kings Edward IV and Richard III, was born here. After Charles Neville, 6th Earl of Westmorland, led the failed Rising of the North in favour of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1569, Raby Castle was taken into royal custody. Sir Henry Vane the Elder purchased Raby Castle in 1626 and neighbouring Barnard Castle from the Crown, and the Earls of Darlington and Dukes of Cleveland added a Gothic-style entrance hall and octagonal drawing room. From 1833 to 1891 they were the Dukes of Cleveland and they retain the title of Lord Barnard. Extensive alterations were carried out in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is famed for both its size and its art, including works by old masters and portraits. The castle is still a private home and remains the seat of the Vane family, the Barons Barnard. Due to the 11th Baron’s dedication to the extensive renovation and restoration works, much of the castle’s rare interior architectural features have been preserved. Accessibility inside the Castle is limited, due to the historical nature of the building, but there is a disabled parking area and staff will arrange access into the Castle.

We will meet at the Castle entrance at 9.45 am, whence we shall be escorted to the Grand Hall by Raby guide(s) for refreshments prior to a tour of the Castle (for approximately 90 minutes), followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the canopied area outside the Stables Café. After lunch, you will have the option of a short walk, guided by Bill and Andrena Telford, through the walled garden and around the perimeter of the castle, with views of Raby’s famous herds of red and fallow deer. A longer walk, led by Committee members, will also be available, ranging further through the 200 acre estate.

The cost for the day, including tea/coffee on arrival, soup (vegetarian) and sandwich (cheese and chutney or ham, served on white or brown bread) lunch, guided tour of the Castle, and admission to the park and gardens will be £24.00 per person.

To book for this event, please complete the booking form below and return [TO ARRIVE BY Wednesday, May 6, PLEASE], either electronically or by post to the Secretary:
Dr Andrena Telford, Ladywell Cottage, 24 West Road, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9SX
Tel.: 01661-825437/07568-150551; Email: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com

If you require confirmation by post, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.