

# Country Link Autumn National Weekend

## The Holiday Inn, Doncaster

### 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2026



Helen and John invite you to an exciting weekend at the *“Holiday Inn Doncaster”* Junction 36, A1 (Warmsworth).

We have been enjoying the Country Link weekends since the early days and decided it was time to give something back to the group. Hopefully, we have arranged some great visits for you. Unfortunately, our group (North Lincs) folded many years ago, but we have remained National Members. **We have a few more details to work out, but we will be going live on the website in the next few weeks.**

## Hotel

The Holiday inn Doncaster is in a great location right at the side of the A1 (make sure you get the right hotel as there is another Holiday Inn in the middle of Doncaster). The hotel has ample parking and is only 3 miles from the Railway Station for those who choose that option.

## Trips

Saturday trips include (via coach travel)

### **National coal mining museum**

A very interesting look back at coal mining over the decades, at the disused Caphouse Colliery. As well as the above ground exhibits there is an underground tour, in the actual pit cage to a real coal face. For the less adventurous there is a “Time Tunnel” tour, this is based in a tunnel under the road. We believe this is an interactive display with audio visual effects, depicting mining through the decades. **Both of these tours are optional.**

### **Cannon Hall Farm**

This needs no introduction as I am sure most people have seen the farm and the two brothers on TV. Whilst we unfortunately can’t promise an appearance from either of the brothers, we can guarantee an interesting afternoon. There is also “Cannon Hall” itself which hopefully will be open for a visit.

### **Bomber County Gateway Memorial.**

(On Freedoms Wings Sculpture)

We have arranged a drive-past of this newly completed memorial. It is a full-size Lancaster bomber built from weathering steel, mounted on a hill-top to look as though it is coming into land. A very impressive structure standing higher than the “Angel of the North.” The sculpture depicts an actual plane that crashed at this location and was funded entirely by public donations and good will of the companies involved.

### **International Bomber Command Center (Lincoln)**

A very moving experience to see this memorial to more than 55,000 bomber crew who gave their lives defending our country. Every single name is cut into steel surrounding this iconic sculpture. You will have a guided tour of the site.

## **Lincoln Cathedral**

Visit to Lincoln cathedral with a guided tour of the main building “**Floor Tour**” and an **option** of a guided “**Rooftop Tour.**”

The rooftop tour takes you to parts of the cathedral that are not accessible to the general public. Numbers are limited to 14 per group and takes 1 hour 45 minutes. **You will need to be physically agile and absolutely have no fear of heights.** This is not for the faint-hearted but the views on a nice day are stunning.

## **Sunday Visits:**

All Sunday visits are using own transport.

## **Yorkshire Wildlife Park**

Only 8 miles from the hotel. A great day out to see all sorts of wild animals including lions, tigers, and bears. All set in 200 acres.

## **Thoresby Hall Estate (30 mins down the A1)**

A visit to Thoresby Hall Estate, and a talk from the farm manager, at this 8400-acre site. The estate has 6500 acres of arable crops including 8,000T potatoes, 2500T onions, 12,000T sugar beet, OSR for biofuel and oils, maize for two biodigesters, as well as the usual cereal crops.

Scott is hopefully going to talk to us about the challenges of farming on this scale in the current climate as well as their diversification projects and plans.

## **After The farm visit**

As we will be using own transport here are some options depending on the weather:

**Thoresby Hall Courtyard** with the Royal Lancers & Notts Yeomanry Museum, and another farming museum

**Welbeck Estate with** huge garden center, farm shop, museums and eating places, along with some fantastic walks.

**Creswell Crags & Caves** a lovely walk around a lake surrounded with crags with caves that were lived in during the stone-age (cave tours are also available). It is possible to walk to Creswell crags from Welbeck estates.

**Sherwood Forest** - Visit the Major Oak as well as some great walks.

**Something For the Walkers** I would suggest any of the above as there are loads of nice walks on the estates.

## **Nominated charity for the weekend.**

Will be the Air Ambulance. This charity is having a really tough time given the recent price increases for aviation fuel.

There are lots more places to visit in the area if you are coming for extra days before or after. Please contact us for suggestions.

Any queries please contact us via email [doncasterautumnweekend@gmail.com](mailto:doncasterautumnweekend@gmail.com)

As there are only two of us organising this weekend PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, can you get your booking forms back as soon as possible.

Hope to see you in Doncaster in the Autumn

Helen & John