

## Visit to Bolsover Castle

For February 2020 we are looking at visiting Bolsover Castle instead of having a meeting. The castle is in the town of Bolsover, Derbyshire. It's an English Heritage property about 45 miles from Garforth and so a bit further than other places we have visited so far. We will organise car share arrangements. One advantage is that it is straight down the A1.



We are planning to go on the last Wednesday in February which is the 26th when the castle will have reopened on weekdays. The cost of admission and an audio tour is £14.30 for under 65's and £13.10 for over 65's. Not cheap, but an interesting property and a party of 11 or more is entitled to a 15% discount! There is a café.

### **A bit about the castle.**

'Bolsover castle was founded in the late 11th century by William Peveril, one of William the Conqueror's knights, but it was neglected from the mid-14th century. Its ruins provided the setting for the Little Castle begun in 1612 by Sir Charles Cavendish as a retreat from his principal seat at Welbeck, a few miles away. When Charles Cavendish died in 1617 most of the structure was finished. His son William – playboy, poet courtier and later first Duke of Newcastle – inherited the Little Castle and completed the interiors with the help of the architect John Smythson. What resulted was a kind of 'toy keep', housing tiers of luxurious state rooms. The exquisitely carved fireplaces, richly coloured murals and panelling of its beautifully restored interiors still take the visitor on an allegorical journey from earthly concerns to heavenly delights.' (Extract from the English Heritage website where of course there is more information.) There are connections with Charles I's reign and the English Civil War.

If you are not a member of the History Group but you are interested in this visit please get in touch by sending a message to the History Group Convenor.