

## Durham, County Durham



Durham is a Ceremonial County, one to which the monarch appoints a Lord Lieutenant as his/her personal representative. The duties of a Lord Lieutenant included liaison with the military, chairing various committees and arranging royal visits. At this writing the Lord Lieutenant is a farmer's wife and former teacher. The Durham County flag displays the cross of St. Cuthbert.



The Cathedral city of Durham in the County of Durham owes its existence to a saint, and not by legend only. The county includes the southern part modern Tyne and Wear. Jarrow and the City of Durham were the ecclesiastical hearts of an uncivilized England for the six centuries following the departure of the Romans. Durham County, once known as the County Palatine of Durham, is in the very northeast of England. It has a history of farming and mining of coal and iron. Later it added a “heavy railway industry.”

The coal pit heaps that scarred the landscape, as well as the manufactories have disappeared, so too, the children who slaved in the pits and the women who worked in the deep slime pits. The Beamish Museum presents re-creations of life in and surrounding the mines from 1820 to the 1940's.

The county has a rugged beauty and the benefit of three storied rivers, the Wear, the Tyne and the Tees. Wild flowers and black-faced sheep still inhabit the land.

*Left:* High Cup Knick is on the Pennine Way, England's Appalachian Trail near Cow Green Reservoir on the border of Durham Co. It overlooks “the best glaciated valley in Northern England.” Note the grey-blue dolomite crags.

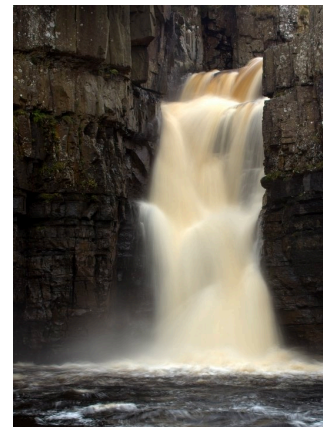
*Below left:* Wild flower meadow in Durham County. The Guardian wrote: There are just 1,000 hectares of wildflower meadow left in Britain.” Image: The Guardian.



The City of Durham showing Castle and Cathedral overlooking the River Wear. Both are UNESCO World Heritage sites.



*bove:* University College; *below:* High Force Waterfall on the River Tees.



Ruins of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Finchale Benedictine Abbey on the River



Above: Hamlet of Warden Law, where the cow rested. *Oliver Dixon.* Below: The milkmaid and the cow she lost that wouldn't move. *Rebecca*



Above: The Galilee Chapel (1170's) of the cathedral with the important shrine-tombs of St. Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede, who wrote the *Life of Cuthbert* and the *History of the English Church.* Courtesy of Durham Cathedral.

The City of Durham came to be because of St. Cuthbert (c.634-20 March 687), the beloved abbot of Lindisfarne, bishop of the early Northumbrian Church in the Celtic tradition. When Cuthbert died he was buried at his monastery at Lindisfarne, where the first disinterment occurred six years after his death, at which time the remains were reported to be intact. In 875 the monastery was faced with the imminent arrival of Danes. The monks left, taking the saint's body with them, and began their long journey to find a safe place of burial for their saint and for a new home for the monastic community. It was not until 995 that at last they arrived at the Hamlet of Warden in County Durham. A dun colored cow resting in the middle of the road halted the procession. They could go no farther and decided that this was where they were to stay.

On the site where they laid Cuthbert's remains to rest stands The Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and St. Cuthbert of Durham, the seat of the Anglican bishop of Durham. The present building was begun in 1093 when the Norman moved into Durham and Benedictine monks inhabited the abbey.

Durham possesses the finest collection of medieval manuscripts of any English cathedral. Durham University, in partnership with Durham Cathedral, is embarking on an ambitious project to digitize the original Priory Library of Durham Cathedral. This initiative is aimed at making the best-preserved, best-catalogued Benedictine library in the UK and Ireland available globally for research, learning and teaching.

In 2016 the Cathedral will open what has been described as a world-class exhibition called "Open Treasure." New exhibition spaces will display more of the Cathedral's treasures. The Cathedral is famous for its library, which claims descent from that of the monastery founded by St. Aidan at Lindisfarne in 635.



Above: Contemporary public art work in Durham shows six monks carrying St. Cuthbert's remains. *Kaihsu Tai.* Below: Old engravings of the abbey gate and the unusual Norman split door on the south side.

