

# International Rally 2020

GRANT BURTON

DAIMLER AND LANCHESTER OWNERS' CLUB INTERNATIONAL RALLY 2020 - YORK  
17TH TO 21ST JUNE 2020



York Minster [www.dlocrally.com](http://www.dlocrally.com)

If one asks about the main historical feature of York to the man on, for example, the Clapham Omnibus, the chances are that the answer will be the Minster. It has dominated the York skyline since the completion of the central tower. The Minster was declared complete and was consecrated in 1472. It is huge, not just by UK standards, but it is the largest medieval cathedral north of the Rhine. I think it is quite amazing that such a building could be produced without a single hydraulic ram. It would be difficult to build with every modern assistance. That it was produced with no such techniques is quite remarkable.

The Minster, incidentally it's a Minster and not a Cathedral because of its ancient role as a missionary teaching church, has many separate parts which were completed at different times.

It is dedicated to St Peter, which is why the Cross Keys of St Peter feature so widely in York. They are a popular name for local pubs, not to mention the well-known private school which claims to be the oldest in the country. Attendees of other schools might beg to differ, but that's an argument for another place.

The Chapter House was completed before 1300 and considerably before the rest of the Minster was declared complete. I am reliably informed, by a long-standing Minster guide, that, at least in the Chapter House, the best way of looking at the ceiling is by lying flat on one's back on the floor and gazing at the roof. He was always amused when he managed to persuade visitors to undertake this maneuver. It might be worth trying.

Remember to take a pair of binoculars when looking round the Minster. It is a very large building and much of it is out of convenient view without ocular assistance. Certainly the glass in the upper storeys' is best viewed with binoculars.

The glass in the Minster is magnificent. It has the largest collection of medieval glass. The Great East Window is the largest single expanse of medieval stained glass in the world. It is only part of the total area of stained glass. A huge restoration project is being undertaken to restore the glass and its mountings. Parts of the project are either finished or approaching completion and will be available for viewing.

The restoration of the Minster, like the painting of the Forth

Bridge, is a continuous process. No sooner has one area been dealt with than another needs attention. In the late 1960s it was discovered that the central tower was in serious danger of falling down. The foundation was said to be 8 feet of reeds. The miracle is that it hadn't fallen down before. A major fund raising effort was undertaken, although the £2 million raised seems modest by present standards, and the tower was made safe. The implication at the time was that it was not a moment too soon.

It seemed that this work was only just completed when a huge and disastrous fire destroyed a large part of the roof. So some of the work had to start again. Once more order was restored.

Because the Minster is situated in the middle of York, it would be possible to combine a visit to the Minster with a visit to other places of interest in Central York on the same day.

For example the Treasurers House, a National Trust property is very conveniently placed at the east end of the Minster.

The National Railway Museum, of which more later, is connected to the Minster by a road train which carries visitors from the one attraction to the other. The shops are, of course available in the area immediately surrounding the Minster.

Thus far the organization of the 2020 Rally has been largely a matter of producing these small commentaries and booking venues.

As the date of the rally approaches it will not be possible for one person to undertake all the work. I would be very grateful if there were a few volunteers to provide assistance as the date approaches and over the actual weekend of the Rally.

Perhaps it might be possible for anyone able to offer some assistance, to telephone me on 07759 136677 and we can discuss areas where help can be best delivered.

I look forward to hearing from you.

And finally booking via the website is now available, I hope that a good attendance can be achieved. The sooner we can get bookings started the better so it would be excellent if those who know they will be attending could get the administration done sooner rather than later. The club will then know how things are going.