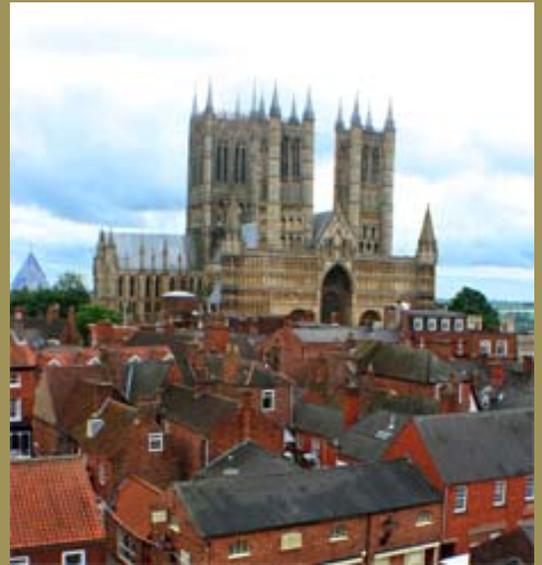




We have seen most of what Lincoln has to offer and the hugely disappointing summer weather is getting to us ... so we're heading back along the navigation towards the Trent and planning to go south. We took a sad farewell of *Just Do It* and Rick and Wen. We are restricted by the tide times and then, beyond Cromwell Lock



by the state of the river – inevitably the rain we have had might restrict our progress and much more is forecast! Whether we do the tidal part tomorrow or Saturday remains to be seen. We're hoping to spend the weekend in Newark and I'm told the moorings there are splendid.

In the last few days we've explored the castle, which is impressive, started just two years after the Norman Conquest in 1068. Inside the ramparts there is the Crown Court, an elegant, ivy-clad building, and there is a wonderful south-facing herbaceous border. The tour took almost two hours. There was plenty to see and lots of grisly stories of hangings. From the ramparts there is a wonderful view of the cathedral and the picturesque roof tops below. I especially liked the two statues atop the western spires. One is of Bishop Hugh, a 12th Century Bishop who was canonised. While on a journey gathering funds for the re-building of the cathedral, a lowly shepherd gave his life savings in the form of 16 pieces of silver. Hugh told him that in the future he would stand as high as himself . . . and there they stand equal, atop the building main entrance. Just like Lancaster, the castle became a prison and there is a prison chapel, where each prisoner was entirely isolated, in individual stalls – so absolutely no possible distractions! It was really formidable.



We celebrated our wedding anniversary yesterday with lunch out, and then went on to look at the cathedral. Although it was started in Norman times, little of the oldest part survives and the mainly Gothic interior has soaring pillars, pointed arches and vaulting, and amazing carving; with the light from the many stained glass windows it becomes a really sacred space,



We enjoyed a morning with Rick and Wendy at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. The vast collection of vehicles, artefacts etc. were impressive and one felt a real connection had been created with life around here for years.





Views: clockwise

The nave

the cloisters

the Bishop's Eye: south transept

leaving the Chapter House through
into the cloisters

7th July: Torksey

. . . .but our travel plans come to grief. Because of the fearful weather report we delayed our journey down the Trent on Friday and then on Friday night the Environment Agency shut the flood gates here and all the way down the Trent because of the amount of water coming down. At Cromwell Lock water is flooding right over the weir at present. As Rick said we should have 'just done it!' We are told that at Saxilby, where we stopped on Thursday, the water is now over the tow path; here it came up 12 inches overnight and it's a huge step down from the boat. So here we stay with big skies and views of two sets of power station cooling towers. We don't expect to be travelling 'til much later next week and then only if the rain stops falling in the meantime. It's high tide at 11-ish tomorrow and after that we hope the water will subside.

8th July: back towards Lincoln