



County Durham History & Heritage Forum

News from the Forum, Issue 13, March, 2012

Dear Members

This, our 13th newsletter is the first of 2012. As you know we plan to continue to produce 4 newsletters per year with interesting articles and stories from members and partners alike.

We're always on the look-out for news from members; let us know what your group is doing during 2012, even if it's going to be a quiet year for you. It would be great to have some news about your society or group e.g. how long has the group been in existence, what are the specific interests of the members, do you have some interesting or quirky items in your collection or archive? Would one of your members write a paragraph or two about your group and/or local community? We would also welcome news from individual members too. Contact details for the Forum can be found at the end of the newsletter.

If you have information on forthcoming events and projects please let us know in good time so that the information can be shared with members via the newsletter. We are, of course, still able to circulate information to members at other times. Many of you will have already received information on forthcoming events from David Blair, our membership secretary.

The Forum Committee continues to meet monthly at Beamish Museum and is actively involved in discussions, with Durham County Council, about the next *Yesterday Belongs to Your* local and family history fair which will be held in 2013. We'll let you know about the arrangements as soon as possible so that you can get the date in your diary. This event has been going for many years and has always been a good opportunity for networking with other groups and organisations from around the county and beyond. The event is a way of showcasing your work and the history and heritage of your community, so long may it continue.

The Committee has been approached over recent months by a number of organisations both local and from further afield who are actively seeking our support for, or involvement in, forthcoming projects and events. We will continue to foster these relationships in order to support your activities and make sure that we have the opportunity to be involved where and when it's possible to do so.

Don't forget to spread the word about this year's **'What's going on between Tyne & Tees'** event on Saturday, 24th March. The event will be opened by our president, John Grundy. As it is Olympic year the theme will be sport and leisure. Further information below.

Julie Hawthorn, Committee member

A New Exhibition opens at Durham University Library

The following information has been sent to us for circulation to members.

'Magazines that shocked Britain go on show at Durham University

The magazines which launched the careers of writers such as Sherlock Holmes' creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will form part of a new exhibition at Durham University from...February 4.

Outrageously Modern! will explore magazine culture from the late 19th Century serialised novels of Charles Dickens to the scandalous literature and art of Oscar Wilde and forward into the 20th Century.

Drawn from Durham University's outstanding collections, the exhibition at the Wolfson Gallery, Palace Green Library, Durham City, will show how these avant-garde magazines often defied tradition and convention.

The exhibition title, *Outrageously Modern!*, comes from publisher Holbrook Jackson who described the notorious 1890s magazine *The Yellow Book* as being associated with "all that was bizarre and queer in art and life, with all that was outrageously modern".

Items on show include a review of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, which accuses the novel of "horrible and disgusting absurdity"; a hand-made book, containing the scandalous first version of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; and the first publishing of T.S. Eliot's pioneering poem *The Waste Land*.

The exhibition runs...until Sunday, May 20. It is part of the wider and on-going Treasures of Durham University exhibition at the Wolfson Gallery, in Palace Green Library.

Alongside the exhibition, The Shop at Palace Green Library will open as part of the on-going development of the Library as a visitor attraction.

This high-end gift shop will offer quirky book-themed gifts, beautiful artwork and jewellery by local artists and an exciting range of publications to stimulate the most obsessive of book-lovers.

The Wolfson Gallery is open from Tuesdays to Fridays, 10am to 4.45pm, and at weekends from noon to 4.45pm.

For further information, and current admission prices, please contact 0191 334 2972, email pg.library@durham.ac.uk or visit www.durham.ac.uk/library/asc

The Palace Green Library of Durham University houses archives, early printed books and other special collections including maps, prints and over 100,000 photographs. It is open to anyone wishing to consult the collections but you will need to register with the library first. There will be ongoing building works from May 2012 so it's advisable to contact the library (information above) before visiting.

Hon. President: Mr John Grundy.

Hon. Chair: Dr Winifred Stokes

Forthcoming Events

Brancepeth Archives and History Group - AGM

Friday 16th March, 2012 at 7.15 pm

Venue: Brancepeth Village Hall

David Butler will be giving an illustrated talk on the Stockley Road Railway Crossing at Brancepeth.

Guests Welcome <http://www.durhamintime.org.uk/Brancepeth/index.htm>

Durham County History Society talks

All talks are to be held at St.Giles Parish Hall, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 1QQ

Saturday, 17 March, 2012, 2.00 p.m.

Speaker: John L Dixon

Talk: Researching the 70th Brigade

Further information at <http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs/>

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What's Going on Between Tyne & Tees 2012 - conference

Saturday 24th March 2012, 9.30 – 1 pm

Venue: Committee Room 2 County Hall Durham

The theme for this year's conference is sport and leisure. There will be a series of short presentations throughout the morning. The event starts with registration and coffee and 9.30.

For further information please contact Allan Harley. (01207504392) email allanharley@aol.com

Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society - AGM and talks

Saturday 24th March, 2012

Venue: Middlesbrough College, Dock Street, Middlesbrough

10.00 Annual General Meeting

10.15 – 11.15 Skelton Castle and the De Brus Family

Speaker: Dr Ruth Blakely

11.15 – 12.45 Snooping Snaps of North East Life

Speaker: Julian Harrop, Beamish Museum

Further information from [Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society](#)

Hon. President: Mr John Grundy.

Hon. Chair: Dr Winifred Stokes

Sunderland History Fair

Saturday, 2 June 2012

Venue: The Seaburn Centre, Sunderland

For further information please email: Historyfair2012@uwclub.net or phone 0191 567 8887.

Historic Environment Events within the Limestone Festival

Limestone Landscapes Heritage Walk

Tuesday, 12 June, 10 am – 1 pm

Venue: Foxholes Car Park, Easington

Guided Walk with Ken Bradshaw of the Heritage of the two Easingtons

Introduction to Limestone Landscapes Day School

Thursday, 14 June, 10am – 4 pm

Venue: Quarrington Hill Community Centre

Tutor/Guide: Ken Bradshaw

Morning Lecture followed by guided walk of the Crowtrees Nature Reserve, Crowtrees Hamlet and Geology of the Coldknuckles Quarry

Historic Environment Day School

Friday, 22nd June, 10am – 4 pm

Venue: Bishop Middleham

Tutor/Guide: Niall Hammond

Morning Lecture followed by guided walk of the village

Further information on these and other events can be found at

www.limestonelandscapes.info

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Hardwick Park Family Day

Sunday 24 June, 2012

Venue: Hardwick Park, Sedgfield

The Forum will be hosting the second History Awareness Day for families at Hardwick Park, Sedgfield. There will be stalls and a number of children's activities on offer. If you would like to have a stall at the event or host some activities for families please get in touch with Allan Harley (01207 504392 or email allanharley@aol.com)

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Dickens in Teesdale

Dickens in Teesdale is a group who have been set up to organise a festival to commemorate the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth and his historic visit, in 1838, to Teesdale. The festival will be running throughout the year and there will be events and activities for people of all ages. Check out the website for further information on forthcoming events such as re-enactments of Dickens' arrival, classic coach tour and the international conference "Boz & Phiz in Teesdale"

www.dickensinteesdale.org.uk

Dickens 2012, An International Celebration

Dickens 2012 is an international celebration of the life and work of Charles Dickens to mark the bicentenary of his birth, which fell on 7 February 2012. The website www.dickens2012.org has a wealth of information showcasing theatre and performing arts events; exhibitions and festivals from around the world.

Durham in Time – a digital resource

A number of Forum members will have been involved in the Durham in Time Project either by attending courses, training sessions or by having one of the community websites and archives on offer. The project was completed in November 2011 but its legacy is a community archive showing the many and varied collections held by some of our local societies. Take a look and an inevitable trip down memory lane. <http://www.durhamintime.org.uk/index.htm>

Contact Us

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Forum please contact:

The Membership Secretary, c/o 22 Oaklea Mews, Aycliffe Village, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6JP, or via email at cdhhforum@googlemail.com or on dlib333@btinternet.com

If you have items for the newsletter please send via email to cdhhforum@googlemail.com or c/o 19 Aldin Grange Hall, Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7AR

You can forward items for inclusion on the website to John Banham at cdhhforum@googlemail.com

Website: <http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/index.html>

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