



HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Marian Morrison



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

Issue 3: July 2024

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FORUM COMMITTEE

Chair: Marian Morrison

Vice Chair: Margaret Hedley

Secretary: Jan McGraw

Treasurer: John Banham

Ian Finlayson

Sarah Hillier

Ruth Chittenden (The Story)

Mark Smith

Win Stokes

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Marian Morrison

Things have been busy for the committee since the last newsletter as we went ahead with our 4 regional coffee and catch up sessions.

All 4 produced some worthwhile discussion and some exciting things for us to explore on your behalf. Similar themes came up, one being setting up group Facebook access and the lack of familiarity with technology and subsequent reticence to get involved.

The plethora of websites of great interest for doing local investigation or research was flagged with the caveat that once on the site the ease of searching or knowing how to search it was challenging.

Archiving existing records and sourcing funding for small projects was raised.

Fortunately these matched with the thoughts of the committee following post AGM discussions. So we are cracking on with the background work required to identify ways of supporting you in tackling these things. As with all of our membership we are dependent on volunteers to drive things forward and I can assure you that your committee is on the case for you all.

Three positive gains over the last three months, our partnership working as shown by the Thorpe Thewles Facebook poll, the Heritage Lottery Funding session where all members were invited to attend and the Committee being invited to a look around The Story after a committee meeting. What a fabulous resource for the community taking forward the past into the future.

Let's hope the summer arrives and we can get out and about to enjoy our wonderful County and all it has to offer.

COFFEE CATCH UPS

The coffee meetings that took place at various venues around the County at the end of May/beginning of June, were very useful as far as the Forum committee was concerned.

We were able to gauge the opinion of those who attended into some topics that we felt were crucial to the progress of our member groups.

The main issues, as you can probably imagine, was related to the use of technology by history groups in terms of using social media, having a website and the possible use of technology for archiving our collections.

As a result of our discussions, the committee can now discuss how to best tackle the above issues for the benefit of the membership.

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

We were approached by the Heritage Lottery Fund who were anxious to set out the requirements of their new [10-year strategy, Heritage 2033](#) so we arranged a meeting at Clayport Library on Tuesday 2 July to which all members groups were invited.

Spaces were limited and those who attended were presented with clear information about the new application process for lottery grants.

The two HLF staff were very well informed and gave a confident, informative presentation. For further information I'd recommend signing up to the HLF [newsletter](#) if you haven't already, or the latest updates.

BISHOP AUCKLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2024

We were delighted to be asked to work with the Bishop Auckland team again this year to provide a History Fair in the theatre (upstairs) at Bishop Auckland Town Hall.

When you circulate the newsletter please highlight the heritage festival to your members. It's a great opportunity to meet other Forum groups and see what they're doing with regard to the work they're involved in and their displays on the day.



BISHOP AUCKLAND
TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall
Bishop Auckland

BACCANALIA
WHERE NOW? NEVER HAPPENS

THE
AUCKLAND
PROJECT

COUNTY DURHAM
FORUM
for HISTORY & HERITAGE



FACEBOOK LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/share/ZNN3rLsr4hL5FA7T/>

FORUM GROUPS INVOLVED

- Archaeological & Architectural Society of Durham and Northumberland
- Auckland Project
- Brancepeth Local History Group
- DAFT
- Howden-le-Wear
- North East War Memorials Project
- Northumberland & Durham Family History Society
- Raby Castle
- Teesdale Record Society
- The Story
- Thorpe Thewles Local History Group
- Tom Hutchinson
- Victoria County History Society
- Weardale Railway
- Wheatley Hill History Club

TALKS IN THE TOWN HALL

The following high quality talks will be held upstairs in the town hall throughout the history fair and they are **FREE** to attend *but booking essential* see below

10.30	<i>The Georgian North East</i> By Richard Pears
12.00	<i>The Story Durham - The Next Chapter</i> By Carolyn Ball
1.00	<i>Mary Ann Cotton - Her Life and Career</i> Tom Hutchinson

The talks will be bookable in August via
www.baccanalia.co.uk

HISTORY & HERITAGE FORUM ZOOM MEETINGS AUTUM 2024

Our Zoom meetings, held on a Tuesday, start at 7.00pm
(waiting room opens at 6.45pm)

17 September	The Demoniacs: A Northern Hellfire Club?	Tony Nicholson
1 October	Durham County and its Turnpike Roads	David Butler
19 November	Tony Blair <i>(a man who commanded the world stage and had potential to be a great Prime Minister. So what went wrong?)</i>	Anthony Atkinson

FEEDBACK FROM OUR HERITAGE LOTTERY MEETING *Sarah Ledjmi, Engagement Manager, National Lottery Heritage Fund*

It was a pleasure to be invited to meet members of the County Durham Forum for History and Heritage in Durham on the 2nd July 2024. I travelled by train from Leeds and my colleague Sarah Envy drove from Gateshead – the city was thriving with graduating students and their families, and we made our way to the (much quieter) Clayport Library for our meeting. Margaret expertly convened and coordinated this meeting for us to introduce our re-launched Heritage Grants. The organisations around the table offered us a snapshot of the rich heritage of County Durham and revealed shared challenges: the need to recruit more volunteers, the increasing risk of losing critically significant local material and memories, and questions about the legacy of digital projects.

Sarah and I delivered a presentation about our grants under our new Heritage 2033 strategy. Developed in response to a large-scale consultation with heritage sector organisations, the new strategy prioritises flexibility: applications to our grants are assessed against 4 investment principles, but the emphasis is left to the applicant to decide. We discussed examples and real-life case studies taking these principles into account. For instance, the 'Organisational Sustainability' principle can be taken into account through a project that explore developing a new business plan for a heritage organisation struggling to diversify their revenue. The 'Protecting the Environment' principle can be addressed by a project making use of recycled materials or reducing reliance on carbon-heavy sources of energy. Creating new volunteering opportunities in response to consultation with local communities to reduce barriers to engagement could be a way to explore the 'Inclusion, Access and Participation' principle, and a project aiming to record memories of local life or to skill up young people in heritage skills would take into account the 'Saving Heritage' principle.

Alongside these new investment principles, some things haven't changed: a good project needs to have a start, middle and end; have a detailed and realistic budget; acknowledge risks and plan for mitigating those risks; and demonstrate there is a need and demand for it from a range of stakeholders and local communities.

We're looking forward to spending more time in County Durham over the coming months and years, and to support the organisations that do so much to care for and make local heritage accessible. We are available for pre-application support via our project enquiry form service and we plan regular online and in-person sessions, available to view and book on our website. We'd love to hear from you if you have an idea for a project that connects people and communities with heritage and would like to explore our funding.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TWO OF OUR NEW MEMBER GROUPS

Blanchland Graffiti Discovery Volunteers

We're onto the next stage of our Blanchland Graffiti Discovery project
and need your help

Historical graffiti has been discovered around Blanchland, in the Abbey and especially on the church organ, with many names, places and dates etched and written onto the organ and surrounding woodwork

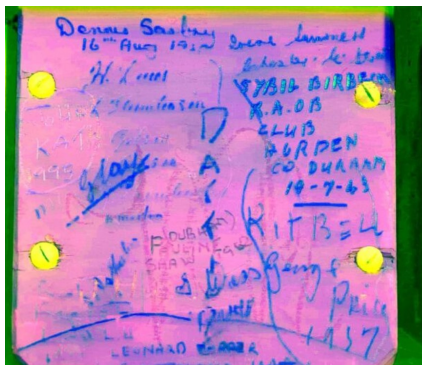
At the beginning of 2023, Dr David Petts, Professor Marta Diaz-Guardamino and Alexander Jansen from Durham University joined a group of local volunteers to have a closer look and took high resolution photographs of graffiti in the village and Blanchland Abbey. Some of these images were used to create a 3D digital model of the church organ, detailing the graffiti.

We now need to record the names, dates and other details of the graffiti, so further research can be carried out to find out who these people were and what their connection was to the area.

Can you help in transcribing the details from the photographs and doing some research for this next stage? This can be done remotely as images can be emailed. If you're fairly local, we can also arrange for you to come and take a look at some of the graffiti.

If you would like to find out more and volunteer please email:
blanchlandabbeyproject@gmail.com

Find out more about how the Graffiti project got started:
<https://www.blanchland.org/2023/02/02/graffiti-training-day/>



FRAMWELLGATE MOOR & PITY ME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We are a new group currently meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00pm at the Community Centre on Front Street, Framwellgate Moor DH1 5BL.

There have been two meetings so far with talks given by committee member Peter Dawson on the history and origins of the Board School at Framwellgate Moor including life there as a pupil in the late 1800's and the story of local boy, Horace Fidler.

Our activities for the next few months are under discussion.

Anyone interested in the group and who wants to be advised of future events, should contact us via email on: FramLochHistSoc@gmail.com

**AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
2024 PROGRAMME**

New Chairman: David Blair

11 Sept	Walking Hadrian's Wall	A Fraser
9 Oct	Skeletons I have known	Prof C Roberts

All Meetings are held in
Aycliffe Village Hall at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME

Admission: Members £1.00/Non-Members £3.00
includes tea/coffee/biscuits

<http://www.aycliffehistory.org.uk>

**CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
2024 PROGRAMME**

23Sept	Pits, Pockmarks & Hagger- leases: The Story of Cockfield Fell	C Lloyd
28 Oct	The Durham Miner— an Illustrated Talk	G Whales

**Meetings held at
Methodist Church Hall, Dawson Street, Crook**
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start
Admission – Members £5.00/Non Members £6.00

**More information:
Dennis Scarr – 07745018272**

**ARCH & ARCH
Lecture Programme 2024**

Face to face meetings held at 2.30pm in
Room ER140
Elvet Riverside, New Elvet DH1 3JT

21 Sept	New Excavations on Durham Peninsula and within Durham City	N Swann
12 Oct	Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone	J Brown Historic England

*Afterwards, for those who would like to join us we will go
for a drink (tea/coffee/or stronger) at the public bar,
Royal County Hotel*

archandarch.dandn@gmail.com



**WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB
2024 MEETINGS**

Information: history.club2@btinternet.com

Meetings are held in
Wheatley House, Woodlands Avenue
at **11.00am** £3.00 includes tea/coffee/raffle

28 Aug	John George Lambton	P Welsh
25 Sept	Charles Dickens 19th Century	G Whales
30 Oct	Hard on the Outside	GMcCormick

Latest newsletter:
<https://wheatley-hill.org.uk/newsletters/>

For more information:
history.club2@btinternet.com

**SEDGEFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
2024 PROGRAMME**

Meetings are held in

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm
First Monday of the Month

No Meeting in August		
2 Sept	Hidden Shop Fronts	G Sault
7 Oct	Battle of Trafalgar	M Peagam

For more details:
Suzanne 01429 882250



**EGGLESCLIFFE
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
2024**

26 Sept	The Rise and Fall of the Peases	Bill Stuart
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**Meetings are held in
St John's Church, Butts Lane, Egglecliffe
at 2.00pm**

Admission £2.00

For more details:
david_j_bate@ntlworld.com

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS (NDHA's)

John Chapman (Brandon & Byshottles Heritage)

The principal form of heritage information for England is now the Historic Environment Record ('HER' is the new version of the "Sites and Monuments Record"), which lists all designated historic assets by county and theme (architectural, archaeological, artistic, etc.). But Historic England has realised that this top-down approach, based on their own scheduling and listing, easily overlooks other assets which may have value in the eye of the local community. Historic England has therefore started a scheme to list a much wider range of assets, known as non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs), for the whole country (please excuse the planning-speak!). Such a list would also help us to protect our heritage when planning applications come up. County Councils have been given the role of broadening their local list of HAs and have made a start by making local heritage lists in eight regions in County Durham (Bishop Auckland, Durham City, R... Sacriston, Seaham, Sedgefield, Shotley Bridge and Staindrop). In their training session for County Durham councillors on 8th July 2024, the County's Regeneration Team encouraged parishes to initiate local schemes, based on community groups, schools and volunteer heritage clubs, to make a bottom-up contribution to the HER List.

At present, there is a total of 1,498 units listed on the HER Durham List, of which 921 concern Durham City! For example, there are only SEVEN records concerning Brandon & Byshottles Parish (and even three of these are on the very edge of the parish – Aldin Grange garden and coal-mining site and Relly Farm (shrunken Mediaeval village). We are sure that there is plenty of scope for expanding the HER Durham List. This seems like an ideal opportunity for local history and heritage groups to make a difference and include new places on the HER list. You can find more details about HERs at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/information-management/hers/>

And you can access the County Durham and Darlington HER list via: <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> (scroll down to the Durham County list)

An exemplary list of 'Locally Valued Heritage Assets' was produced by Lanchester Parish Council in their Neighbourhood Plan (<https://lanchesterparishcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MK-Heritage-Audit-Report.pdf>).

There is currently an online nomination form for suggestions for new NDHAs, which will be evaluated against five criteria: (a) age and rarity; (b) group value; (c) artistic or architectural interest; (d) historical interest; and (e.) archaeological interest. Items could include buildings, monuments, war memorials, sculptures, historic chippies, sites, places, areas or landscapes – anything which has intrinsic merit or special value to the local community.

The Big Idea: There is an opportunity for local groups in County Durham to identify NDHAs in their areas, encouraging local schools, residents groups and other heritage societies to make this a priority project for the next 18 months. The aim could be to produce a list of NDHAs for each area of County Durham that we can cover by, for example, the end of 2025. Because of the current high number of projects, the Forum is unable to manage this project so I suggest that we hold a meeting in August 2024 for all local groups who are interested in this project to see how we can best foster the idea

If you have already started to list potential NDHAs or would like to start this task in your area, please contact me (email: j.c.chapman@dur.ac.uk) by the middle of August 2024 and we can set up a meeting in a place conducive to the majority.

I look forward to hearing from you.

The following is intended to be the first in a series of articles introducing a range of highly recommended on-line research tools for local historians, archaeologists and genealogists.



By Mark Smith, Forum committee member

This site helps unlock the archaeological secrets of both County Durham and Northumberland. It also provides a set of historical overviews to all significant town and village locations in both counties in addition to summaries of the main events within the regions during each major historical period (i.e. Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British etc.) These summaries are arranged alphabetically for ease of use.

The main part of the site presents an online searchable database providing access to a wide selection of records relating to the archaeology and historic environment of the two counties. These records cover details of ancient coin finds to the largest medieval castle, from the oldest prehistoric flint to more recent World War II pillboxes. While the site does not provide full access to the Historic Environment Records (HER) for the two counties (as they are being constantly updated and added to) it is more than adequate for most local history research projects. The HER files within the site's database are searchable by means of either simple or advanced (i.e. multi variable) search toolbars. The latter allows searches to be conducted by inputting one or more of the following.

- 1. Geographical location (i.e. town or village name).**
- 2. Historical timeline period.**
- 3. Site typology (i.e. industrial, military, or agricultural etc. etc. including sub-categories).**
- 4. Type of site protection in place (i.e. Scheduled monument etc.).**

The advanced search for K2P can be found at the following web address.

<https://keystothepast.info/search-records/advanced-search/>

For full professional/commercial search of the HERs it is always best advice to book a visit to each county council's respective archaeological services departments where assistance can be given directly from each county's full time HER officers. In the case of County Durham, the HER is maintained by the Archaeology team within the Environment and Design Department at Durham County Council (Email: archaeology@durham.gov.uk).

It should be noted that K2P does not cover those parts of historic County Durham which were carved out in the mid-1970s to form the northern parts of the former county of Cleveland, plus the southern parts of Tyne and Wear. These regions have their own dedicated HERs which are maintained by their own regional councils. High-level searches of these databases can be made via the following web pages.

Tyne & Wear - <https://www.twsitelines.info/search>

Stockton & Hartlepool - <https://teesarchaeology.com/historical-environmental-record-her/>

It should be noted that many unstratified archaeological "small finds", such as metal detecting finds, are also excluded from regional county HERs. These can be similarly searched using the website of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). General searches can be made via PAS's own website (<https://finds.org.uk/>). To make regional searches easier this site has dedicated search pages covering each UK county or region. Those relevant to the historic bounties of County Durham are listed below.

County Durham - https://finds.org.uk/counties/durham/artefacts-and-coins/?_gl=1*1yltrmr*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTlwOTQwMzY5NC4xNzIxMTAzOTkx*_ga_XWYWKR173R*MTcyMTEwMzk5MS4xLjEuMTcyMTEwNDAxOS4wLjAuMA

Tyne & Wear - https://finds.org.uk/counties/tyneandwear/artefacts-and-coins/?_gl=1*1knuxin*_up*MQ..*_ga*NjcyMjY1MzUuMTcyMTEwMzUyNQ..*_ga_XWYWKR173R*MTcyMTEwMzUyNS4xLjEuMTcyMTEwMzU1MS4wLjAuMA

K2P, in its current format, has been successfully serving the web community for many years. It will be subject to major upgrade within the next year or so and is expected to will be replaced by a new and improved site.

Durham County Local History Society

2024

The Society is 60 years old this year. It was formed in 1964 to encourage and promote interest in the study of the historic County of Durham (the Palatinate). The Society's Journal has focussed on publishing research covering recent centuries when County Durham was playing a major part in the economic and industrial growth of the country. Our research has also recognised the County's contribution to the industrial, social, religious and political development of Britain.

Information on the large range of articles published in our Journal (formerly Bulletin) over the last sixty years is on our website

www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs

The Society is keen to expand its website to give access to these articles and is looking for new members with the skills to help organise this initiative. If you are interested please contact the DCLHS Secretary via the website.



Many of our Forum member groups have worked with Lonely Tower over the years as they have produced aspects of our local history in splendid documentary-film format. Thomas Kenny, Kate Maxey, War Memorials Remembered and the Hetton Bi-Centenary to name but a few.

Their recent film was Hollowed Ground—the story of the people of the Durham Coalfield which has been very well received across the region.

Marie Gardiner and Mark Thorburn are passionate about north east history and want to build on the events of Hollowed Ground as they embark on a new film—*Defiant—County Durham, The Miners' Strike and its Legacy*.

The finished film will be a proud and honest account, told by those who were there and those who live with the legacy of the miners' strike.

In order to raise funds to start work on this film, Lonely Tower have set up a crowdfunding campaign and if you would like to donate:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/defiantfilm/>

TEESDALE RECORD SOCIETY

2024 Programme

- 7 Aug Guided walk on Cockfield Fell.
Jonathan Peacock
Meet at Cotherstone Village Hall
1.30pm (tbc)
- 21 Aug Visit to Gueswick Hills
archaeology excavation site
Meet at Cotherstone Village Hall
1.45pm
- 2 Oct The Life and Work of
Jeremiah Dixon
David Hughes
Cotherstone Village Hall
7.30pm

Visitors are welcome

Please check with the Secretary

Further information:

Judith Phillips:

E: judyphillipsnott@hotmail.com

M: 07816327209

Support our feature length documentary film

DEFIANT

COUNTY DURHAM, THE MINERS' STRIKE, AND ITS LEGACY

For full details of how you can help, including support rewards, scan here with your smart phone camera:



Or visit our page: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/defiantfilm

With your help we can tell the full and honest story of how the might of the state was used against County Durham families fighting to save their jobs and communities. 2024-2025 is the 40th anniversary of the year-long Miners' Strike, it is a crucial moment to highlight how, after four decades, the effects are still being felt and the communities punished.

Alan Mardghum - Durham Miners' Association Secretary: *'Tell it as it was... that's the important story to get across, what really happened [and] what will shine through, is the resilience of the people of Durham'*

Follow our progress @LonelyTower on Facebook and X/Twitter

THE MAN THEY NAMED A TOWN AFTER

Wheatley Hill History Club are involved in this very exciting project that is so different to anything else it has ever taken part in. Working alongside Colin Robson, Community Cultural Development Co-ordinator for Durham County Council and with funding from the Heritage Lottery and other funders, they have commissioned a script writer and a theatre group (Mad Alice Theatre Company) who, together with their teachers, are working with children from several local primary schools to write a play about the life of Mr Peter Lee which will be performed at The Lubetkin Theatre, Peterlee at the end of this year.

Wheatley Hill History & Heritage with Peterlee 75 1948-2023

presents

The Man They Named a Town After

An exhibition to the memory of Peter Lee



"Peter Lee gave all, asking for nothing in return,
little dreaming that a great new town would bear his name"

2 July – 14 September 2024

Heritage Centre Opening Times
Tuesday 10-12 and 2-4
Thursday 10-12 and 2-4



As well as working on the story, to inform that the new town was named after a man, all children will be visiting Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre to see the accompanying exhibition on the life of Peter Lee and stand by his grave.

As a result of this activity-based approach, we hope that the information the children gain will remain in their memories for a very long time so that they can pass it on to future generations.

**EXHIBITION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-12 & 2-4**

WW2 Black Troops in the North of England

a contribution from one of our new member groups

Culture Healing Communities, Durham work with ethnic minorities locally, and around two years ago we have embarked in a project with the purpose of honouring the WW2 Black military.

We are about to launch the first research project about WW2 Black Troops in the North, with the support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, where we have explored the presence of Black Troops in areas like Newcastle, Northumberland and Yorkshire, not only unearthing details that were never talked about before, but also triggering the communities' memories about that vital moment of their lives and History.

Our new website <https://unforgettableww2blackheroes.co.uk/> shows, at the moment, the first part of the project about the WW2 African American soldiers (the second part will be about the Commonwealth Black troops in the North). This is a website that will hold the memories and the information from many forgotten individuals, being open to anyone that wishes to share the details from a veteran.

We wanted to find individuals, with names, faces, photos, and families, as we believe that they were an influence that changed Britain at all levels, including history, heritage, culture, arts, food, even gardening.

As we are only interested in the North (Newcastle, Northumberland and Yorkshire) I am asking for your help to reach out to your communities and groups, as we want to learn where these troops would have been, or any other information regarding their lives or how they have settled, after the end of the WW2. Or, sadly, which heroes are buried where, in the many Commonwealth cemeteries in the North (we have contacted the Commonwealth War Graves, sadly, no response was obtained).

People are often speaking about the Windrush, but keep forgetting that a bit before the arrival, most of the people on that ship had been here, and made huge sacrifices contributing to the war effort. Generations that do not know about them, will learn with our project about their contribution for our country.

If you hold any records from people that came to Britain during WW2, that were linked to Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, North and South of Tyne, Northumbria (including Northumberland and County Durham) and all Yorkshire areas, or living in those areas before the war, after the war or buried, please? or if anyone has a memory or recollection about the war period between 1939 and 1945, could you please get in touch?

Our website, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has just been released, and we would love to have your support and feedback.

Sandra and Veronica

culturehealingcommunities@outlook.com

<https://e-voice.org.uk/culturehealingcommunities/>

<https://www.facebook.com/culturehealing.communities>

<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/sandra-oliveira-60b20911>

Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

Headland Baptist Church
Baptism Street
HARTLEPOOL TS24 0QN

2024

16 Sept	Middleton	R Codner
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Meetings are held on the
Third Monday of the month
6.45pm—9.00pm

Drop In Sessions are held
Second Tuesday of the month
11.30am—3.30pm



MEETINGS HELD THURSDAYS 7.00pm
St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Street

2024

August	No Meeting	
4 Sept	An Arduous Undertaking	L Lamport
3 Oct	A Night at the Flicks Coxhoe & Bowburn Cinemas	History Grp

Website:

coxhoehistory.org.uk

Contact:

Jack Turton: 0191 3770771
Barbara Leo: barbaraleo88@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

Bowburn Community Centre DH6 5AT

Disabled Access

10.00am—3.00pm

Entrance £1.00

Accompanied children FREE

Free Valuations

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2024 Programme

MEETINGS AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH HALL, TUDHOE LANE

7.30pm (unless otherwise stated)

3 Sept	Historic Bridges of Durham	M Roberts
28 Oct	AGM followed by Our Waterloo	J Banham
<i>In 1815 Durham had its own crisis to deal with - a banking collapse - in the first full year of publication for the Durham County Advertiser. John Banham sets out the momentous events of 1815 using the Advertiser's weekly articles and adverts from the British Newspaper Archive.</i>		
25 Nov	A Postcard Trip down the River Wear—from Source To Sea	G Nairn

Visitors £4

tea/coffee served from 7 pm

See www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs

LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meetings are held on
1st Friday of the month at 7.00pm

Room 3, Lanchester Community Centre DH7 0JQ
(check online at times of Public Holidays)

£3 for members £5 guests

2 August		G Nairn
6 Sept	AGM followed by A Treasure of Memories Durham Advertiser images 1934-61	J Harrop
4 Oct	Archaeology from the Sedgefield Dig	D Mason

[https://www.durhamweb.org.uk/
historyforum/
cdfhhlanchesterhistory.html](https://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/cdfhhlanchesterhistory.html)



Hetton Local & Natural History Society

ANTHONY HINDMARCH

Talk on

ELEMORE PARK PROJECT

From Coal Mine to Country Park



Everyone welcome, the meeting will be held on
**Monday 29th of July 6.15pm open
7.00pm start**

In the

Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall

(Formerly St Nicholas's Church Hall in the centre of Hetton)

Entrance Fee £3—Includes coffee/tea and biscuit

Our website: www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk

Hetton Local & Natural History Society

For further information contact the Secretary Alan Jackson on 0191 5262804

New Book from Brandon & Byshottles Local History Group

with a review by Forum Committee member, Dr Winifred Stokes

The focus of this book is the Parish of Brandon and Byshottles, located some 10km west of Durham City in the heart of what was once the Central Durham Coalfield. What has happened to/in the parish since 1974? The past 50 years has transformed the lives of those living in the Parish since the decline of coal-mining as the social and economic lynch-pin of the county. In this book, we present a mosaic of images of people, buildings and activities in these years of change:- people doing everyday jobs, parish councillors, entertainers, the only surviving Brass Band in the Parish, sporting events, dramatic moments, new buildings, renovated churches, buildings now no longer standing and images of children enjoying themselves. Many people have expressed their delight in appearing in the book, perhaps not appreciating before that history begins yesterday.

AROUND THE PARISH IN 50 PHOTOS

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH 1974 - 2024

JOHN CHAPMAN, TOM FOX, LESLEY BAXTER and KATIE MCGOUGH



The origins of this book lie in one of the most important acts of Edward Heath's Conservative Government (1970–1974) - the Local Government Act, which transformed the structure of local government in England and Wales and created the form of modern parish councils like Brandon and Byshottles. Thanks to a Parliamentarian with a sense of humour, the Act came into effect on April Fool's Day (1st April), 1974. This book celebrates the 50th anniversary of that event. We set Parish events in the context of international, national and regional time-lines. This is a not overly serious, intimate and genuinely 'local' history. We hope that you will enjoy this book which seeks to catch the sense of excitement at living in the Parish since 1974.

To order the Amazon paperback or the Kindle e-book. enter the following link:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/AROUND-PARISH-50-PHOTOS BYSHOTTLES/dp/B0D5J3G7CJ/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2HEW3LTV8V4U&dib=eyJ2ljoimSJ9.B-py_dLCpvj5kCumnwYo9g.mG5zAgrSol8Ov0fvCHoggSkp3M3JLXpwZKO3NBVd1Y&dib_tag=se&keywords=around+the+parish+in+50+photos&qid=1718294559&srefix=around+the+parish+in+50+photos%2Caps%2C106&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/AROUND-PARISH-50-PHOTOS-BYSHOTTLES/dp/B0D5J3G7CJ/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2HEW3LTV8V4U&dib=eyJ2ljoimSJ9.B-py_dLCpvj5kCumnwYo9g.mG5zAgrSol8Ov0fvCHoggSkp3M3JLXpwZKO3NBVd1Y&dib_tag=se&keywords=around+the+parish+in+50+photos&qid=1718294559&srefix=around+the+parish+in+50+photos%2Caps%2C106&sr=8-1)

You have a choice of the Kindle e-book for £5.00 or the Amazon paperback for £5.02 plus postage and packing (weight: 0.2kg).

*In his preface to the little booklet entitled **AROUND THE PARISH IN 50 PHOTOGRAPHS BRANDON and BYSHOTTLES PARISH 1974-2024** John Chapman, the leader of the group that produced it reminds us that 'history begins yesterday' and that if we do not take the trouble to record what is still within living memory we rob future generations of valuable historical evidence.*

This is something of which local history societies should make their members aware.

They may not choose to do it in this format which is to use photographic material of local people and events alongside information reminding readers of government legislation that impacted on the county and district covered and significant events at national and international level.

The photographs will jog a lot of memories and the juxtaposition with wider perspectives give pause for thought to all who lived through these years Other societies might care to think about what their role could be in producing something for posterity.

Win Stokes

MEMORIES OF LEADGATE THE CANT FAMILY BY JOHN WILLIS (PART 2)

Rachael, my mother like her siblings attended the local school in Leadgate and on leaving became a millinery shop assistant.

On Boxing Day in 1939 my mother and father William Willis married at the Methodist Church on Front Street, Leadgate. My mother was living in Railway Street with her father at the time of her marriage and William in St Ives Road with an aunt.

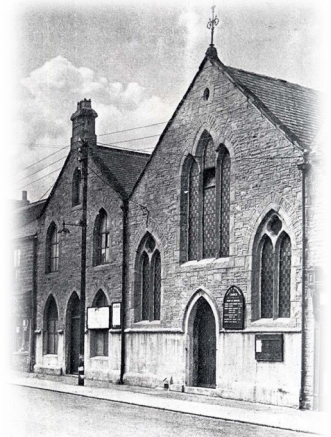
Due to ill health, John James lived with my mother and father, first in Railway Street and when they moved to Park Villas, where John died of Senile decay in 1946. His wife Hannah had been buried at St Ives Church and John was buried alongside her.



Watling Street Methodist Church,

At the time of their marriage my father was employed as a coal miner before changing to work as a locomotive fireman, working locally on trains into Consett Iron Company and then again as a miner at Eden Colliery. They moved from Park Villas to North Cross Street primarily due to dad's health, not very long before the houses were demolished.

Some if not all of the Cants attended the Wesleyan Chapel in Watling Street, Leadgate before it was replaced by the Methodist Chapel in Front Street.



FRONT STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LEADGATE
Front Street Methodist Church,
Leadgate

Of his other daughters, Elsie married and moved away from Leadgate while Nancy Cant married Charles Costello son of William 'Billy' Costello, who was known as the pitman photographer. Like my parents they moved into Park Villas and Charles worked at Eden Colliery.

Nancy and Charles, as well as several other members of the Costello family are buried at Our Lady and Saint Joseph Catholic Church at Brooms, Leadgate.

Several members of the wider Cant families became employed in mining and iron making in the area. Mining was a challenging occupation often with fatal outcomes. One such event was at Medomsley Busty in 1923 when a number of miners were killed in an accident at the colliery. Thomas Cant was one of those miners. Living at Bradley Cottages he was grandson of Thomas who was a brother of James Cant our great, great grandfather.



Medomsley Busty Colliery