

HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Dr Winifred Stokes



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

Issue 3: July 2016

CONTACTS

Membership Secretary:

Sarah Hillier
T: 01740 630736
E: yb2u15@gmail.com

Items for Newsletter:

Margaret Hedley
T: 01429 820813
E: history.club2@btinternet.com

Website:

John Banham
T: 01388 816209
E: jdbdclhs@gmail.com

FORUM COMMITTEE

Chair: Dr Win Stokes
Secretary: June Palmer
Treasurer: John Banham

Cliff Brown
Jim Coxon
Dawn Layland
Ian Finlayson
Margaret Hedley
Sarah Hillier
Gillian Wetherell

SUPPORTED BY:

Helen Barker
(Beamish Museum)
Liz Bregazzi

THE FORUM NEEDS YOU

The current Forum Committee is working hard to meet the aims set out on this page. However, we believe we are being only partly successful, particularly in promoting the interests of member organisations and in communicating with them.

Since the AGM six months ago, when the size of the Committee was reduced and no replacements attracted, the Forum has supported two events aimed at helping members to develop skills and knowledge.

Firstly, on 12 March, the *Collections Training Workshops* run by Beamish and Bowes Museums at Auckland Castle. This had been trailed at our November AGM and was intended to make members think about the quality of displays they put on at local history events, especially in respect of attracting a more intergenerational audience.

They were all well thought-out and useful to local history groups and those attending (25) gave excellent feedback to the organisers. However, regrettably, only seven of the Forum's 50 organisations were represented.

Secondly, on 14 May, the *Twixt Tyne & Tees* event at County Hall, which focused on the First World War. Here Andrew Marriott of Newcastle University's project on 'Trench Art', Dorothy Hall of the North East War Memorials project and Gill Parkes of Durham County Record Office demonstrated how, despite all that has already come to light, at an individual level there still remains much to discover about the men and women of County Durham whose lives were affected by the First World War.

The fascinating and moving stories presented included references to the scouting movement, wood and metal from the Front converted into crucifixes or domestic objects, and a DLI officer's diary written up after the war from notes made on the spot but without the limitations of censorship, which clarifies the layout of the trenches and offers details on personnel and operations outside the conventional accounts.

Apart from the members of the Committee and the speakers, only one other Forum member was present (a total of 14) and therefore the messages from what was an excellent morning went unheard by over 90% of the Forum.

Linked to the 14 May event, the Forum is being consulted on the planning of a new Durham Light Infantry Gallery at Palace Green Library. Julie Biddlecombe-Brown from the Library, who organised the current exhibition - *Somme 1916 : from Durham to the Western Front*, explained the consultation to the May meeting of the Forum Committee. The University Library is working in partnership with Durham County Council and the DLI Trustees on the commitment, made following the closure of the DLI Museum at Aykley Heads, to provide continuing access to the DLI Collection now housed at Seven Hills, Spennymoor. The Library wants, in consultation with local people, to create an outstanding gallery which tells the story of this remarkable regiment and, between 2016 and 2020, produce a series of travelling, temporary exhibitions on themes relating to the history of the DLI. The current Somme exhibition, which runs to October, includes a talks and events programme which may be of interest to members. Details can be found on :

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/palace.green/whatson/events/somme1916/>

If you would like to become involved in the Committee running the Forum we would love to hear from you. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.00am at the Resource Centre, Beamish Museum until about 11.45 am.

We are happy to report that with effect from last week's meeting, Jim Coxon from the Hetton Group has now joined our committee.

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2016 PROGRAMME

7 Sept	Auckland Castle	A Tweddle
5 Oct	The Knights Templar Order	J Brigstock
2 Nov	The Great North Air Ambulance	

**All Meetings are held in
Aycliffe Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Admission: Members £2.00/Non-Members £3.00

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

HOUGHTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP 2016 MEETINGS

NEW VENUE:

Kepier Hall (behind the Parish Church)

25 Aug	Bygone Days in NE England—a DVD	
22 Sep	Their Name Liveth For Evermore	Mr B Hope
27 Oct	Fashionable Sunderland	Mr S Miller

**Admission £2.00 (includes tea/coffee)
Speaker Starts Promptly at 6.45pm**

For more details:

Please contact Brenda Graham 0191 584 1943

SEDGEFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2016 PROGRAMME

Aug	No Meeting	
5 Sep	AGM & Talk Wynyard Hall	N & H Neal & B Leo
3 Oct	Ralph W Jackson of Hartlepool	Dr W Stokes

Meetings are held in
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm



For more de-

tails:

alisonsouthview@hotmail.co.uk

CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2016 PROGRAMME

27 Sept	Hidden Treasures of Ushaw College	Claire Marsland
25 Oct	The Building of Crook Memorial and Plaque In St Catherin'e Church	Tony Young
22 Nov	A History of the Workhouse	Marilyn Anderson

Meetings held at RAFA Spitfire Club, Crook

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start
Admission – Non Members £3.00

More information: crookhistorysociety.btck.co.uk

WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2016 PROGRAMME



27 Jul	Victorian Food	S Vincent
31 Aug	Poverty Through the Ages	A Hodgson
28 Sep	Nostalgic View of the North	J Moreels

Meetings are held in
Wheatley House, Woodlands Avenue
at 7.00pm £2.00 includes tea/coffee/raffle

For more details:

W: wheatley-hill.org.uk

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF DARLINGTON RAILWAY CENTRE AND MUSEUM 2016 PROGRAMME

ALL MEETINGS START AT 1.45PM
in the museum at North Road Station

Aug	No Meeting	
1 Sep	Locomotion under New Management	Mr G Campbell
22 Sep	Hitachi Rail, Aycliffe The First Year	Mr D Cummins or S Richards
6 Oct	Rescues & Restorations	Mr R Pearson

If you would like to join the Friends of
Darlington Railway Centre and Museum
we would be delighted to welcome you

Please contact the Friends Membership Sec:

June Palmer
E: membership@friendsofdrcm.org

DURHAM Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

Durham County Hall DH1 5UL

10.00am—3.00pm
Entrance £1 (accompanied children free)

FREE VALUATIONS PROVIDED

DATES FOR 2016

Saturday 19 November



ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND

Spring 2016 Lecture Programme

All lectures will be at 2.30pm in
Elvet Riverside 140 New Elvet, Durham
unless otherwise notified, and everyone is welcome to attend.

30 July	2000 Years of Hungate 3.30pm	Toby Kendal
17 Sept	Excavations at St Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley	Paul Frodsham

For further details please contact the Society or visit our website
W: aasdn.org.uk
E: archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk

Somme Selfies We need your help!

On 27 June, John Lichfield, The Independent's Correspondent in France, presented a talk at Palace Green Library, Durham as part of the programme linked to the exhibition **Somme 1916: from Durham to the Western Front**. Entitled "Selfies of the Somme", John, who has been the Paris correspondent of the Independent for 19 years, and a frequent visitor to the Somme battlefields, introduced the "selfies of the Somme". More than 600 glass plate images have come to light in the Somme area in the last five years, showing unknown off-duty British soldiers - alone or in small or large groups - just before and during the battle of the Somme in 1916. The images were taken by a local French photographer for a few centimes and made into postcards to send home. Hence, the "selfies" of the Somme. Within the overall collection, 28 images have been identified showing soldiers or groups of soldiers from the Durham Light Infantry." But who were these DLI soldiers? Durham University, in partnership with Durham County Record Office have uploaded the DLI photographs to the Durham at War Website and invite people to help to identify them. For more information about this project, go to the WHAT'S ON section of the DURHAM AT WAR website and search for the PROJECT named UNKNOWN SOMME SOLDIER.

<http://www.durhamatwar.org.uk/stories/>

The exhibition, **Somme 1916: From Durham to the Western Front** is on show at Palace Green Library until 2 October with a full programme of fascinating talks, lectures and activities on various aspects of First World War History.

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/palace.green/>

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MEETINGS AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH HALL, TUDHOE LANE
7.30pm (unless otherwise stated)

2016 Programme

Aug	No Meeting	
26 Sep	The Battle of the Somme	Mr A Fraser
24 Oct	AGM Medomsley to Mirimach The Career of Sir M Hunter	Dr J Banham

VISITORS : £2.00

For more details:

SECRETARY: **01388 816850**
www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs

HETTON LOCAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meet in the Hetton and Eppleton Community Hall
(formerly St Nicholas Church Hall in the Centre of Hetton)

7.00pm

August	No Meeting	
26 Sept	George Elliot	Bill Lancaster
24 Oct	Beamish 1820 to the	Geraldine Straker

For more details: 0191 5262804

EVERYONE WELCOME

YESTERDAY BELONGS TO YOU 2017

15 July 2017

at

At BEAMISH MUSEUM

**Details of the above event will appear in the next newsletter
together with discounts for early booking**

Public Liability Insurance for local history groups is available through BALH

Third Thursday Talks

New for 2016

Fascinating talks at
Durham County Record Office

Booking in advance is essential for these talks
T: 0191 03000 267626

£2 for lunchtimes
£5 for evenings

‘A Bit of an Historian and a Philosopher’: The Teesdale Hermit 7pm-8pm 21 July

This is the story of Frank Shields, 'The Teesdale Hermit'. Born in 1815, he occupied the ruins of Barnard Castle and acted as a self-appointed guide, guardian of the castle and restorer of the buildings. After leaving the castle he spent a period in the workhouse, before resuming his eccentric lifestyle at Egglestone Abbey.

Durham County
Record Office



OUTSTANDING SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

ENGLISH ROSE

(ends 25 September)

Group visitors have been captivated by this exquisite exhibition, which tells the story of English feminine beauty from portraiture from Van Dyck onwards. The portrait here is by Thomas Gainsborough, and features the celebrated 18th century actress Sarah Siddons. On loan from the National Gallery in London, it is considered by experts to be one of the greatest of Gainsborough's portraits. Also featuring two portraits by Van Dyck and a beautifully curated selection of Pre-Raphaelite artists—this highly original exhibition is not to be missed



SHOES - PLEASURE AND PAIN

(until 9 October)

Don't miss the Exhibition taking the North East by storm. With over 200 pairs of exquisite shoes on display this exhibition tells the story of the place of footwear society from Ancient Greece to the present day. Nowhere else can you see platform boots from the Chinese Imperial court alongside those favoured in the discotheques of the 1970's, so bring your group to visit and explore your past and beyond

BOOK YOUR VISIT

Groups of 12 or more visitors can enjoy discounted admission of £7 per person, complimentary guided tours and access to private dining

Start planning an unforgettable day out for your group by contacting our friendly group co-ordinator, Rosie

rosie.bradford@thebowesmuseum.org.uk



The Western Front Association

Durham Branch

1916 - 2016

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Prof. Eric Grove

(Liverpool Hope University)

The Battle of Jutland

Prof. Holger Afflerbach

(University of Leeds)

Verdun

Prof. William Philpott

(King's College London)

The Last Day of the Somme

Prof. Sir Hew Strachan

(University of Oxford)

The Strategic Importance of 1916

Conference Chairman

Prof. John Derry

(Newcastle University Retd.)



Saturday 1 October 2016

09:30 - 16:30

(Doors open 09:00)

Cornerstones, Chester-le-Street
Methodist Church,
North Burns,
Chester-le-Street
DH3 3TF

Ticket Price £25

(includes tea/ coffee, buffet lunch)

For Tickets Please Contact:

Phone: 07594964930

E-mail: wfadurham.events@live.co.uk