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Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Dr Winifred Stokes



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

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FORUM COMMITTEE

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

Ian Finlayson
Margaret Hedley
Sarah Hillier
Dawn Layland
Marian Morrison

Beamish Representative
Sian Fox

DURHAM COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE

On 24 July 2018 the Record Office became a fully Accredited Archive Service under the national assessment scheme introduced in 2013.

It defines good practice and agreed standards for archive services across the UK, thereby encouraging and supporting the development of the archive service.

Well done DCRO from everyone at the Forum.

We are listening!

With a year to go before the next *Yesterday Belongs to You*, we are looking at your feedback from the AGM and from the responses to questionnaires that you were sent following that meeting. Margaret Hedley and I have also embarked on a series of coffee meetings with groups to explore a little further:

- Beamish as a venue for *Yesterday Belongs to You*
- the possibility of some groups exploring a common theme – the 1920s
- provision of training for groups
- attitudes towards tents!

Looking at our finances and the difficulty of gaining funding for such an event, it seems unlikely that a history fair would be sustainable at a venue other than Beamish Museum. However, at our last committee meeting, we were delighted to learn that the 1950s Community Centre at Beamish is due to be completed by the middle of 2019. We are therefore looking to avoid the dreaded tents by moving *Yesterday Belongs to You* to the middle of September 2019 and for the Community Centre to be the hub of the event. At present this is very much in the planning stage, but it does give us a little bit longer to organise a ***Yesterday Belongs to You*** Training Workshop for early March 2019.

Beamish are listening to us too – and we are working together with them to provide an allocation of lower priced day tickets for supporters as well as the 4 free entry tickets for stall holders. We are also assured that signposting should be improved this year and with easy access to the Community Hall from the tram and bus stops of the Town, we will not be as isolated as we were on the Events Field.

Please us know what you think. We have three more coffee meetings to go at Durham Gala Theatre, Lanchester Garden Centre, and Brancepeth Golf Club. If you haven't been invited, it is probably because you have already clearly indicated your views. If that is not the case, and you wish to attend, again let us know.

Sarah Hillier
yb2u15@gmail.com

DATA PROTECTION 2018

Thank you to the many groups who have returned data gathering forms for the implementation of the above act on 25 May.

Perhaps those who haven't done so would return their forms as soon as possible. You may have very good reasons for not returning the forms, and it may well be related to the amount of mis-information that is out there—mostly from the same place—the Data Commissioners Office.

As an organisation however, the Forum feels unable to take the risk of not renewing permissions to use personal data. If your email address does not reflect a personal identity, then of course you won't have been sent a form.

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2018 PROGRAMME

11 July	Hitler's Women	R & J Crouch
5 Sept	A Weaver went to War	Lynn Lamport
3 October	The Peasants' Revolt	John Brigstock

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

ALL WELCOME

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

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

CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2018 PROGRAMME

No Meetings in July & August

25 Sept	The scramble for education in County Durham 1800-1850	H Thompson
23 Oct	AGM then The Scottish Soldier Project	R Annis

**Meetings held at
Methodist Church Hall, Dawson Street, Crook**

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start
Admission – Non Members £5.00

More information: crookhistorysociety.btck.co.uk

HOUGHTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

2018 MEETINGS

Kepier Hall (behind the Parish Church)
Admission £2.00 (includes tea/coffee)
Speaker Starts Promptly at 6.45pm

23 Aug	Open Night Share your Memories	
27 Sept	George Mallory- Conqueror of Everest?	B Hope
25 Oct	The History of the Poppy Appeal	M Pickering

For more details:
Please contact Brenda Graham 0191 584 1943

WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2018 PROGRAMME



25 July	Children of the Victorian Pit Villages	P Dyer
29 Aug	The Langworthy Mystery	T Nicholson
26 Sept	Buddle & Londonderry	A Heesom

For more details:

**W: wheatley-hill.org.uk
E: history.club2@btinternet.com**

Meetings are held in
Wheatley House, Woodlands Avenue
at **11.00am** £2.00 includes tea/coffee/raffle

SEDGEFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2018 PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm

No Meeting in August

3 Sept	Trip down Weardale From Source to Sea	G Nairn
2 Oct	Cromwellian Durham	G Morris

For more details:
Suzanne 01429 882250



EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

No Meetings in July or August

20 Sept	The River Tees Yarm & downstream to Teessmouth, its bridges, Industry & wild life	Stephen Frost
25 Oct	A History of Sunderland	Trevor Jenkins

**Meetings are held in
St John's Church, Butts Lane, Egglescliffe
at 7.30pm**

Admission £2.00

For more details:
david_j_bate@ntlworld.com

HETTON LOCAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meet at 7pm in the Hetton and Eppleton Community Hall
(formerly St Nicholas Church Hall in the Centre of Hetton)

30 July	Thomas Wright 1711-86 Durham Astronomer	D Hughes
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No Meeting in August

24 Sept	Memory & Violence (Memorialisation of Mining)	J Coxon
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29 Oct	The Horsekeeper's Daughter	J G-Lowes
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For more details: 0191 5262804

EVERYONE WELCOME

Entrance fee is £2

which includes tea/coffee/biscuits

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2018 Programme

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

23 July	An evening visit to Biddick Hall & Gardens Numbers are limited. £15.00 each.
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No meeting in August

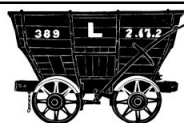
24 Sept	Have you seen the Mona Lisa?	C Wright
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22 Oct	AGM then Sedgefield in Victorian Times	A Hodgson
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VISITORS : £2.00

For more details:

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



BEAMISH

THE LIVING MUSEUM OF THE NORTH

30 July	Musical Mondays
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4 August	Blasting Brass Beamish Quilters
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5 August	Reeth Brass Band Veteran Car Rally
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6 August	Musical Mondays
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12 August	Singaround Sunday
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DURHAM

Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

Durham County Hall DH1 5UL



Saturday 21 July 2018

10.00am—3.00pm

Entrance £1 (accompanied children free)

FREE VALUATIONS PROVIDED

Durham County Local History Society

TALKS AT THE CITY THEATRE

SATURDAYS AT 2.30pm

**The City Theatre, Fowler's Yard, Back Silver
Street, Durham City DH1 3RA**

e-mail updates available:

please send an mail to jdbdclhs@gmail.com

8 Sept	James Losh's Diaries what they tell us about weather and life in early 19th Century Newcastle	D Smith
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6 Oct	Turnpike Trust Tantrums	D Butler
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Durham County Record Office
a mine of information

AN ONLINE SHOP

<https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pgHome>

Publications

Quick Search

Research Service

easier way to order and pay for

record.office@durham.gov.uk

Friends of Darlington Railway Centre & Museum

No Meetings July and August

6 September 1.45pm

Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Update

A talk by Niall Hammond and Caroline Hardie

**Meetings are held in
The Museum at North Road Station**

Turbulent Times 1918-28

Exploring the Decade after the First World War

Over the course of the past eighteen months, thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) in the North East has been exploring educational and social campaigning in the North East from 1918-28.

We focused on several key themes:

Women's empowerment within the WEA and wider society

We looked at, among other things, the idea of 'surplus women' after the War; the gaining of the (partial) franchise simultaneous with the loss of engineering jobs, and the formation of the Women's Engineering Society.

How were WEA members and affiliates involved in repatriation of people and regeneration of communities?

We considered the idea and the reality of 'homes fit for heroes'; the Birtley Belgian community; the government's Reconstruction Committee; and the gradual understanding of shell shock. On the theme of commemoration, we also came across interesting side topics such as the growth of interest in spiritualism as so many bereaved sought comfort.

What became of the Conscientious Objectors and other radical thinkers?

We explored contrasting post-war lives of Conscientious Objectors: those who were castigated and those who were celebrated; and we had a range of pieces exploring strikes and unrest (particularly 1926); Chopwell as 'Little Moscow'; and DADA art.

Educational Campaigning and Reading Rooms.

We were struck by how early campaigns were put in place to educate society so that the barbarism of the previous four years could not recur, and this will be further discussed below. Meanwhile, reading rooms already provided opportunities for working people's education in Institutes, Working Men's Clubs and the like, but we were interested in an upsurge in memorial halls and reading rooms around this time.

So, with these themes in mind, WEA volunteers, students, staff and partner organisations have undertaken historical research; written poems; stories; and songs, performed in plays and films, made stunning textiles and visual art, developed online resources, publications, a pop-up reading room and exhibitions; and discussed the parallels between past and present. The reading room exhibitions and events proved very successful, and were hosted by: Saltwell Towers; Newcastle City Library; Time Warp, Eldon Garden; Beamish Museum; Chopwell Community Centre; Ashington Life Centre; Redhills Miners' Hall and here at WEA Regional Office. Our reading room exhibition is likely to continue to 'pop up' around the region as and when opportunities arise.

There were fascinating collaborations, for example with Women's Engineering Society and Education 4 Action (throughout the project); and with Northumbria University, University College London, the National Union of Students and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, working to explore the lives of *Students in England and the Legacy of the First World War*.

We also successfully lobbied Newcastle City Council for a commemorative plaque to medical and educational pioneer, Dr Ethel Williams – first female GP in Newcastle, suffragist, pacifist and WEA tutor. This was unveiled by the Lord Mayor on 18th July, and gained considerable media coverage.

Meanwhile you can read or watch most of our project work on our blog: <https://weaturbulenttimes.wordpress.com> and in our very recent publication *The Highway, 1918-28: Educational and social campaigning within the WEA and affiliated organisations in the NE, 1918-28*. The name, *The Highway*, echoes that of the WEA's newsletter which was sent out regularly to members from before the First World War through to the 1950s: It was based on the premise that education was not a ladder which could be climbed or cause falls, but instead a broad highway from which people could take interesting side roads as they wished.

This was very clear from our play and film, both produced by students with learning difficulties and complex needs from Eboney Day Care and Pathways, with the help of inspirational tutors and WEA's Durham Community Learning programme. Both were utterly inspiring, socially aware, and occasionally very, very funny.

Regarding the educational landscape, the Armistice of 1918 left a world and society in flux. Despite being founded only fifteen years previously, The Workers' Educational Association played a key role in shaping the educational and social policies that were central to post-war reconstruction.

Towards the end of the war, the Ministry of Reconstruction commissioned a series of committees which helped inform the 1918 'Fisher' Education Act. This raised the school leaving age to 14 and aimed to extend tertiary education. The Ministry's Adult Education Committee included famous figures such as R H Tawney and, crucially, WEA founder Albert Mansbridge. Its 1919 Final Report shows how access to life-long learning – via WEA, Co-operative Societies, settlement houses, trades unions, even working men's clubs - was viewed as a cornerstone in rebuilding a stable society in the wake of the cataclysm of the first industrial-scale war. Educational programmes in army camps had informed new ideas: 'there is latent in the mass of our people a capacity ... to rise to the conception of great issues'. The Report asserted that education was necessary 'to save them not only from the repetition of such a world-war ... but ... also from the obvious peril of civil dissension at home.'

The same report praised the WEA's approach to commissioning and developing courses and study circles built around the interests of its members that: 'respond rapidly to the needs and demands of the time ... The Association has lately organised classes and study circles, lectures and conferences for the consideration of 'the problems of reconstruction', 'industry after the war', 'women in industry after the war', 'the League of Nations' and similar topics.'

The Association's influence on wider educational policy continued into the 1920s, as Sir William Henry Hadow's Committees produced influential reports in 1926, 1931, and 1933 which advocated child-or learner-centred approaches and smaller class sizes. Principal of Armstrong College from 1909-19, Hadow was coincidentally a key figure and occasional Chair in the WEA's Northern District.

Meanwhile, alongside this seat at the top table of educational reform, the WEA's own internal debates were shaping concepts of adult education. The June 1919 edition of *The Highway* featured a piece, 'Technical Instruction and Liberal Education: Commerce v Citizenship', which raised a perennial question still relevant today: should education be primarily for employability and social mobility, or for more general wellbeing? There were also tensions between the WEA and those in the Labour College Movement who deemed the WEA tutorial classes' modelling of university approaches as reactionary. Yet a rare insight into an ordinary WEA class demonstrates that theirs was a democratic approach to a liberal education.

The Journal of a Third Year Class in Psychology held in Annfield Plain, County Durham in 1925-26 shows a weekly pattern of class meeting, lecture and discussion, with students taking it in turns to write up collaborative class notes. The topics under discussion touched on controversial issues of the day, such as the question of innate racial characteristics and the nature of progress. Of most interest here, though, is the group's analysis of what made for a successful WEA class: the emphasis was on a tutor who could inclusively guide discussions that catered for a wide range of abilities, and a class who were willing to participate, absorbed in the topic, and open to others' opinions: 'each member a thinker and a worker'.

These surprisingly modern attitudes bring us closer to our counterparts from almost a century ago, and we feel that the project as a whole has done the same.

Dr Judith Murphy (Education Organiser)
WEA

1 Ministry of Reconstruction, *The 1919 report : the final and interim reports of the Adult Education Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, 1918-1919*, reprinted by Dept. of Adult Education, University of Nottingham, 1980, pp5-7.

2 Ibid, pp216-217.

3 Class journal, Annfield Plain 3rd year Psychology Class, 1925-6 (TWA E/WEA1/16/1).

Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

Some time ago, the Wheatley Hill Heritage Society transcribed the grave index from original records which is now held on searchable electronic medium. The index contains ALL graves in the cemetery, not just those with a headstone. Visitors are therefore able to see, very quickly by referring to the index, where their ancestors are buried.

This excellent family history resource has been improved greatly by the inclusion of photographs of the headstone alongside each burial record. It has been a major project of the Heritage Society, led by its Chair, Keith Gilson.

Earlier this year, the Heritage Society launched its new website which includes the grave index and opportunity to purchase an image of the relevant headstone which will be emailed upon receipt of a Paypal payment.



Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre
In the cemetery, Wheatley Hill

<http://wheatleyhillheritagecentre.org.uk/>
includes a virtual tour

The Centre is open hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 10-12 and 2-4
Saturday 2—4

OPEN HERITAGE OPEN DAYS— 6, 7, 8 SEPTEMBER 10-4

If you are planning a visit, you could also see the new Ray Lonsdale Last Shift mining statue recently unveiled in the cemetery

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JOE WILSON**

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GEORDIE
HINNY!**

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BY DAVE HARKER

JOE WILSON'S BRILLIANT
LYRICS PUT TO TUNES BY
PETE SCOTT AND
ALEX GLASGOW

TOURING THIS SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 6TH - 8TH* DARLINGTON HIPPODROME (01325) 405 405	SEPTEMBER 11TH* PLAYHOUSE WHITLEY BAY 0844 348 1588	SEPTEMBER 12TH* SAGE GATESHEAD (0191) 443 4666	SEPTEMBER 13TH ALUN ARMSTRONG THEATRE, STANLEY (01207) 299 110	SEPTEMBER 14TH & 15TH* WESTOVIAN THEATRE SOUTH SHIELDS (0191) 424 7788
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*Evening and Matinee

WRITTEN BY ED WAUGH
WRITER OF HADAWAY HARRY,
MR CORVANS MUSIC HALL &
SUNDAY FOR SAMMY SKETCHES
CO-WRITER OF DIRTY DUSTING
& ALF RAMSEY KNEW
MY GRANDFATHER

STARRING
MICKY COCHRANE
SARAH BOULTER
CHRIS CONNELL
JORDAN MILLER

WISE DH EASTCOAST VONFOX NORTH
DARLINGTON HIPPODROME PROMOTIONS

FOR ONLINE BOOKING:
WISECRACKPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK

Newcastle guided walk: Keep Your Feet Still Geordie Hinny Sunday 5 August

Meet at Chinese Arch, Stowell Street (2.30pm)
Finish at Newcastle Central Station

Concert hall was one of the most popular forms of affordable entertainment in the Victorian period. Take a look at the places where the most popular stars of the time, including Joe Wilson, Geordie Ridley and Ned Corvan, played to packed houses and wowed people with their songs of local events and characters.

For more information on the above events:

Ed: 07960066377

Weardale Festival 2018

Weardale at War

Exhibition

St Thomas Church
Stanhope

August 4th - 12th



Official Opening
Sat 4th Aug 2pm

From 1.30 every day
with a series of talks
on weekday evenings
at 6.30pm

Family History Support
5th, 11th, 12th August

More details on
The Weardale Museum Website
www.weardalemuseum.co.uk
Mob. 07990786220

