

**HON PRESIDENT:**  
**Mr John Grundy**

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**Dr Winifred Stokes**

[www.durhamweb.org.uk/](http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/)



# COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

Issue 2: April 2021

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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**  
Simon Woolley

## HISTORY CENTRE UPDATE

Work is about to start on the new History Centre on the site of St Oswald's Golf Club, Durham City and contractors are working towards a completion date of summer 2023.

Record Office staff are also working with a digital partner on a project that will organise electronic listings of the records and provide a more efficient search facility.

## ZOOMING CONTINUES WITH SUCCESS

*by Sarah Hillier*

In each of the first three zoom evenings so far this year, we were pleased to welcome an audience of around 50. We are looking forward to the next three talks on subjects as diverse as Georgian Newcastle, the analysis of skeletons dug up on Palace Green in Durham and the industrial and engineering heritage of the Durham coalfield.

### **Tuesday 20 April at 6.30pm**

Richard Pears:

**Georgian Geordies: Society, Politics and Industry 1714 – 1837**

### **Tuesday 18 May at 6.30pm**

Richard Annis:

**Durham and Dunbar. Identifying Scottish soldiers at Palace Green**

### **Tuesday 15 June at 6.30pm**

John Banham

**The Hetton Coal Company and Mr George Stephenson's patent travelling engines.**

Future highlights include:

**July**

**DNA in Family History: an introduction & personal experience**

By John Heckles

**Aug**

**Social Care in Almshouses and Aged Miners Homes**

By Christine Seal

**Sept**

**T Dan Smith**

By Anthony Atkinson

A week before each talk, invitations are sent to local history groups so that the invitation email can be forwarded to each member of the group. So if you haven't been forwarded an invitation from your chairperson, I should be grateful if you would contact them in the first instance. Obviously if all else fails, I will add your name to the ever growing list of individual names!

We will continue to provide a monthly Zoom talk throughout 2021 and probably beyond. History talks as we once knew them - an audience sitting in close proximity, followed by a cup of coffee and a chat - sadly seem some way off. The opportunities for History Fairs and Exhibitions are equally distant. However, the Forum can continue to support local history groups using zoom for talks and to share work through exhibitions and video presentations.

## Jennifer Gill 1946-2020: An Appreciation

*From journal No 20 of the Durham County Local History Society  
December 2020*

by

Gill Parkes, Liz Bregazzi, David Butler, John Banham and Win Stokes



**Jennifer Gill, who many local historians will have known and who made a great contribution to history in County Durham through her more than 40 years' service as an archivist in the County Record Office, died in October 2020 after a long illness.**

Jennifer was born in Nottingham, the eldest daughter of optician James Gill and his wife Beatrice May, nee Lashbrook. She grew up in the Nottingham suburb of Thorneywood and recalled, from an early age, the pleasure of long summer days lying on the grass, reading, after the morning's foray to the local library in search of new titles. After a grammar school education, she first took a London University external general degree (completed at Nottingham Technical College) followed by an MA in Modern Social History at the University of Lancaster in November 1969. For the next two years she had an apparently entertaining and slightly anarchic experience as a teacher before deciding on a career in archives.

In 1973 Jennifer completed a diploma in Palaeography and Archive Administration at the University of Wales and took up her first post as an archivist at the Mid Glamorgan Record Office in September of that year. She moved to Durham County Record Office as assistant archivist in April 1976 and was promoted to senior assistant archivist in August 1977. Jennifer served as County Archivist from 1989 until her retirement in 2008 but continued cataloguing there as a volunteer until her illness forced her to stop.

An accomplished cataloguer and palaeographer, Jennifer revelled in opportunities to coordinate a major cataloguing project for the Strathmore papers, funded by a generous British Library grant during the 1970s, and, in 1978, to help implement the Parochial Registers and Records Measure.

In 1980 Jennifer wrote *Streatlam and Gibside: The Bowes and Strathmore Families in County Durham*, published to accompany an exhibition to commemorate the 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Her presentation to 'Her Maj' at the exhibition opening in County Hall was always remembered with great pride. She went on to write a new biography of George Bowes for the Dictionary of National Biography.

Her work in the 1980s and 1990s as part of a team of very able archivists was characterised by significant cataloguing achievements, the commemoration of Durham County Council's centenary in 1989, and the acquisition of the immense National Coal Board archive. The latter was particularly significant since it coincided with the effective closure of the Durham coalfield. The preservation of these coalfield archives was achieved after Jennifer's persistent advocacy of their importance as Public Records.

In 1998 Jennifer channelled her energies in a new direction, on the transfer of the Durham Light Infantry archives from the nearby regimental museum. By 2006, access to the collection was transformed, not least by a major digitisation project. In recognition Jennifer was made an honorary friend of the regiment. She always valued her association with the regimental trustees. In retirement, Jennifer continued her contribution to the cataloguing output of the Record Office, working first on a mining records project and more recently on an inspiring collection of Darlington Quaker archives.

An unforgettable presence in any room, Jennifer loved to entertain an audience, whether it was on the stage of the Durham Dramatic Society or at the search room desk. Her great knowledge and passion for the archives in her care made her a popular speaker and teacher of palaeography. Few will forget the off-white dust coat that she wore as a badge of pride while 'fossicking about' in the lower reaches of County Hall. A strong woman who made an impression on everyone she met; many will remember her as one of the archive profession's irrepressible characters from a world we have lost.

# Harry Moses

1930—2021

*The article below has been edited from  
The Northern Echo 4.2.2021  
by Chris Lloyd*



**A VILLAGE headmaster who became the historian of the Durham Light Infantry has died only a month after his wife of 66 years passed away.**

Harry Moses was headmaster at Aycliffe Village School for 23 years until his retirement in 1993, and his funeral cortege will pass the schoolgates so that people can pay their respects.

"He was everything to the DLI," said Major Chris Lawton, chairman of the DLI Association. "I don't know how we are going to spread our word without him. He was a mega-part of the regiment."

Harry was born in Tow Law in 1930. "I think it was coming from a pit village and being a young teenager during the Second World War which gave him such an association with the working men who went off to war," said his son, Michael.

After Harry's own national service, he married Audrey, who also came from Tow Law, and trained as a teacher at Bede College in Durham. He discovered that during the First World War, the college had had its own company in the 8th Battalion of the DLI which suffered terribly at Ypres – 102 men, all young County Durham schoolteachers, like, Harry, were waved off to the front on 15 April 1915, but six days later just 21 remained at post, the rest all dead or injured. "That gave the connection with the DLI and it became his passion," said Michael.

Harry's first teaching post was in the history department at Eggescliffe secondary school, before he became head teacher at Aycliffe in 1970. "He was a lovely person to work for, and he really cared about the school and its children," said deputy head Anne Brown. "He never lost his links with the school, even after he retired, by becoming a governor. There are now lots of parents of children who remember him as head teacher and one of our teachers, Joanne Vest, was a pupil of his and has fond memories of him reading stories in assembly."

Harry became involved with the Imperial War Museum project to record veterans' stories, which led to him meeting Major Ian English of 8DLI who had escaped from a PoW camp in Italy, walked the length of the country to freedom and led the DLI into Normandy on D-Day. This led him to co-write a book, *Assisted Passage*, with Maj English, and another one recording the experiences of other Durhams in captivity.

He wrote histories of the sixth and ninth battalions, and also told the story of the Fighting Bradfords, the only brothers in the First World War to win the Victoria Cross, who came from Witton Park, and his book inspired a play that was performed at the Gala Theatre in Durham.

Harry was also passionate about his family. He had two children, Margaret and Michael, three grandchildren, Leanne, Steven and Emma, and two great-grandchildren, Henry and Edith.

After 66 years of marriage, Audrey died on December 17 and Harry died six weeks later on Saturday. He hadn't quite completed his latest book, on the 68th Regiment of Foot, which became the 1st Battalion of the DLI, but it is hoped that the manuscript can be finished for him.

Harry was a founder of Aycliffe Village Local History Society and was chairman until his death. "He will be sorely missed by all our members and the village community where he was held in high regard," said David Lewis of the Aycliffe Village History Society.

## CHANGING VISUAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THE STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP

*Mark Thorburn (Lonely Tower Film & Media)*

We are told, or at least hear from an early age that the camera never lies... As far as visual technology and its history goes this is perhaps the greatest lie ever told. The photographic camera, along with its moving image counterpart, has always fibbed, and that's part of the reason we love it.

In the age before pocket cameras, and long before your telephone could selfie you to death, the high street photographer was a specialist. A person you would turn to for family portraits, someone who would cover local events to turn into postcards and someone who could do something most of us couldn't... take pictures. In their earliest incarnation these pictures were primarily black and white and for most of us that was more than enough. Early 'true' colour photography was an experimental, expensive and elite artform, not utilised by your regular town practitioner. What these high street heroes did do on occasion though, was to paint the black and white photographs, adding an extra dimension of interest by literally getting out a paintbrush. And the same went for the moving image...

One of the most famous and innovative early cinematographers was the French pioneer George Méliès, most of us will be familiar with the famous imagery of 'A Trip to the Moon' (1902) where a rocket lands smack in the eye of a rather upset lunar surface. George, an illusionist by trade, took to this new art-form with incredible gusto and pioneered the art of special effects, including colouring his films frame by frame by hand, and using stencils. The results are still regarded as landmark moments in cinema history.

So, what does all of the above mean to us today when it comes to handling, copying and digitizing visual media?

I think the answer lies in the realm of 'don't always believe what you see' and the importance of the creator (and their intent) in understanding what you are looking at, and how best to treat it as an historic artifact.

Most local history societies will have within their archives Cine/Super 8 films along with later VHS video and other subsequent formats. These are all an incredible resource and a pain in the backside. Most of the pain coming from having nothing to play them on and little room to store their large varying physical sizes.

The answer is of course to digitize them and have them neatly accessible on computer yes? Well... yes... and no.

To better describe what I'm talking about I'll use what happened with a colliery cine film (shot in 1968) that Margaret Hedley of Wheatley Hill History Club passed along to see if we could tidy up and copy to a digital format. Firstly a few basic reminders, the primary source is the primary source. As soon as you start adjusting or copying or digitising it, it becomes either a secondary source or something new.

The cine film of the pit we received was on VHS... immediately we had a secondary copy, not the original. The quality was a fair representation of what the original film would have looked like and so we got to work.

The very first objective was to make as high a quality digital copy as possible with no adjustments whatsoever. This would become the new digital master and should remain as an honest interpretation of the original, a 'primary' digital source if you will.

Obviously, the fear of degradation to the original is a serious motivator for digitisation and any copy is heartedly encouraged so that material is not lost forever.

The second thing we did was to copy this digital master and see what we could to 'tidy up' this version. This would involve tweaks to saturation, temperature, contrast and so on, to see what details that already existed in the VHS, we could bring out of the film. We also ran the film through image stabilisation software to smooth out any jerkiness.

So far, we have been true to the original and although not a genuine primary historic source, it is still faithful to the original and could safely be termed a digital restoration. Think of this as washing moss off a gravestone if you will.

Now the fun starts...

The film was silent... but it didn't need to stay that way. There was wonderful footage of steam winding engines and assorted pit machinery that was crying out to be heard. In order to bring this further to life we researched pit winding machinery/static steam engines of a similar age that are still in operation and sourced sound recordings. We then edited and added these recordings to the Wheatley Hill Film to accompany the footage. We also had interview material of Gordon Carr (formerly of Wheatley Hill Colliery) talking about the engines and so added edits of his commentary to the film where appropriate.

What we now have is an entirely new production and a future researcher's dilemma... Think of this as carving new text into an old gravestone.

This version of the film couldn't even be classed as a secondary source, it is something very new and, while accessible and enlightening, it could be easily confusing. If a future researcher doesn't know the provenance of this film, they may think that everything about it is genuine.

This comes back to understanding the creator's intent.

The goal for this production was to make a film that is more absorbing and informative than the silent source material. The intent is to offer up narrative information and appropriate sound and visuals to accompany that information. All of this is valid as long as it is well documented what happened to produce this version, and it is not to be confused as a true primary source going forwards. The best way to achieve this is to add this information to the film itself with titles and so on.

The most stunning example of this in recent years has to be film director Peter Jackson's 'They Shall Not Grow Old'. With this project First World War archive material from the Imperial War Museum was turned into an entirely new offering... one that seemed to confuse the director himself "*I thought: how well can we restore it with the computer power we use for film visual effects today? We experimented and the results were far beyond anything I'd imagined.*" (Radio Times Nov 2018). The problem here is the use of the word 'restore'. The film was digitally coloured, it was upscaled to 24 frames per second (a computer literally generated new frames to sit alongside the archive), all of the audio was added... and so much more.

Was the creation a triumph, absolutely it was. It is an incredible, powerful and absorbing masterpiece. But it is not in any way shape or form a restoration and that is fine... so long as everybody know that.

And that is the key to the ever-changing problem of visual technologies.

Colourize a photograph if you must, it can help to make them more engaging, but this version shouldn't be confused with an 'original' or honest representation of the primary source. There is also now the opportunity to animate old photographs, which really adds a whole new perspective, bring screen legends, long dead heroes and beloved family members 'back to life' (find out more here:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2021/02/new-animate-the-faces-in-your-family-photos/>).

This technique wanders between enchanting, fascinating and rather creepy, depending in who it is and how well it is done.

The overarching message here is to ensure everyone knows what you have done, so it isn't confused with a true primary source. Edit and enhance film/photographs to create something new, but don't think of this as a restoration.

So, once you have digitized your media you have an easily accessible way to view and share it, and surely that is the point... getting the message out there, sharing research etc.

One thing to be wary of though is that sharing media online means that the online copy will have been through digital compression, resizing and all manner of trickery at the point of upload to make it work on the site in question (You Tube, Facebook, Twitter etc). They are the perfect place to share things and generate new leads and conversations, but not a place to store media, or (if at all possible) take media from. The online versions are digital shadows of the original that have had devious digital devil work done to them by the host sites.

If at all possible, keep the original digital master on a hard drive (or better still genuine digital backups on a variety of drives for safety) and the original photographs, cine, VHS etc preferably in their box (with its provenance) in a suitably safe place, so that the next time the great wheel of technology moves and the latest thing becomes the old tat of tomorrow, a future frustrated historian can still access the true primary source and try again.

## LEADGATE COMMUNITY HISTORY CLUB

The History Club Website has had its  
April 21 update

<http://leadgatecommunityhistoryclub.co.uk/>

Click the link below to view the  
History group's newsletter:

[http://leadgatecommunityhistoryclub.co.uk/.../  
NewsletterS...](http://leadgatecommunityhistoryclub.co.uk/.../NewsletterS...)

## CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2021 PROGRAMME

Hoping to re-start meetings in  
**SEPTEMBER**

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](http://crookhistorysociety.btck.co.uk)



## WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2021 MEETINGS

*Wheatley Hill have their own Zoom subscription*  
Meetings are free and everyone is welcome

|          |                                            |             |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 28 April | Transformation of the High Street—Stockton | M Peagam    |
| 26 May   | The Demoniacs: A Northern Hell Fire Club   | T Nicholson |
| 30 June  | 3rd Marquess of Londonderry 1778-1854      | G Morris    |

**Zoom Meeting will start at 11.00am**

Our APRIL newsletter is available:

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

## EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Hoping to start again in the  
**2021/2022 Season**

For more details:

[david.j.bate@ntlworld.com](mailto:david.j.bate@ntlworld.com)

CLEVELAND & TEESIDE  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## SPRING PROGRAMME 2021



**SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2PM**

Meet Me At The Maison - The Dance Halls of Stockton  
Martin Peagam

**SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2PM**

Excavations at Newport Ironworks  
Alan Rae

**SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2PM**

An Introduction to the Life and Work  
of Christopher Dresser  
Linda Polley

**SATURDAY MAY 8, 2PM**

Tales from Guisborough Priory  
Christine Clarke

**SATURDAY MAY 22, 2PM**

The Silent Warriors of Teesport  
Phil Philo

All talks will be delivered online using Zoom. To find out more  
and register, visit [www.cflhs.co.uk/programme](http://www.cflhs.co.uk/programme)

## PITMAN'S PARLIAMENT AWARDED £4.5m OF LOTTERY FUNDING

For more information about this very  
exciting project:

[https://redhillsdurham.org/pitmans-  
parliament-awarded-4-5m-of-lottery-funding/](https://redhillsdurham.org/pitmans-parliament-awarded-4-5m-of-lottery-funding/)

VICTORIA  
COUNTY  
HISTORY



This organisation is  
looking for

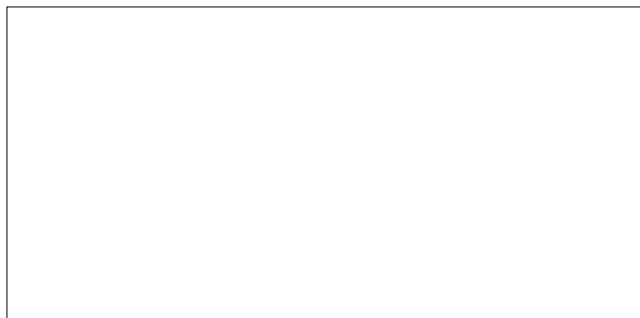
**VOLUNTEERS**

Help is needed with reading & editing

for more details: [dljb1480@gmail.com](mailto:dljb1480@gmail.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)



For more details: 0191 5262804

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Entrance fee is £2**

which includes tea/coffee/biscuits

## MIDDLETON ST GEORGE LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

<http://.msglocalhistory>

**Meetings held 7.30pm—9.00pm**

Tea/Coffee available



All Meetings are held at  
The Community Centre, Station Road,  
Middleton-St-George DL2 1JG

**Non-Members Welcome—£3 per visit**

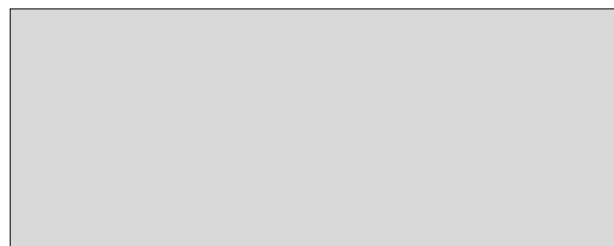
For more information: [msglocalhistory@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:msglocalhistory@hotmail.co.uk)

## Durham County Local History Society

TALKS AT THE CITY THEATRE

SATURDAYS AT 2.30pm

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



e-mail updates available:  
please send an mail to [jdbdclhs@gmail.com](mailto:jdbdclhs@gmail.com)

## TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2021 Programme

**Saturday 14 August 2.00pm**

Meet in St David's Parish Hall Car Park for  
*a walk to examine sites of historic landscape  
and/or archaeological interest around Tudhoe  
and Spennymoor*

led by  
Professor Sarah Semple, Head of Archaeology at  
Durham University  
and resident in Spennymoor

**VISITORS : £2.00**

**For more details:**

SECRETARY: 01388 816850

[www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs](http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs)



## Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

**There will be no meetings  
at this venue**

**Until Further Notice**

## Sedgefield Family History

Meetings are held:

**at 7.15pm**

Methodist Church Hall, North End, Sedgefield TS21 2BT



## Hartlepool Family History Group (Branch of Cleveland Family History Society)

Meet at 7.00pm

Grange Road Methodist Community Centre  
Tankerville Street, Hartlepool TS26 8DU



Website [www.hartlepoolfamilyhistorygroup.com](http://www.hartlepoolfamilyhistorygroup.com)

**DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE  
THIRD THURSDAY TALKS**

Durham County Record Office DH1 5UL

**All of the talks below are hosted online as  
Teams Live Events**

**TALKS ARE FREE  
(donations welcome)**

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

***recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk***

**20 May 2021 10.30am to 11.30am**

**"What can I tell you?"**

**The value of diaries in archives"**

*By Victoria Oxberry, archivist*

**3 June 2021 10.00am to 10.30am**

**ALSO**

**Tuesday 1 June 2.00pm to 2.30pm**

**Children's talk: Snippets from the Archives:  
Investigating County Durham in the Past**

*By Dawn Layland, archivist*

How has Durham changed over time? How do we know? Discover children working in mines, photos that show massive changes in Durham City and maps that explain and illustrate the development of villages and towns.

**We will be making light jars using tissue paper.**

**You will need:**

Glass jar

Tissue paper

Glue (normal PVA children's glue is fine)

Scissors

Tea light

This free half-hour session is aimed at  
Key Stage 2 (7-11-year-old) children)  
though younger children could join in

**15 July 10.30am to 11.30am**

**"The Hoppers of Iveston"**

*by Catherine Meades, family historian*

This is the story of the Hopper family of Iveston, based on research triggered by the discovery of some early land documents in the records of the Consett Iron Company

The Hoppers were in Iveston from at least the reign of Elizabeth I, through the Commonwealth period and until at least 1754 and the reign of George II of the House of Hanover - a very turbulent period of history. Many members of the Hopper family were Quakers, part of one of the earliest Quaker communities in the country, and one of them, Benjamin Hopper, was one of the early settlers in Pennsylvania, USA.

**North East  
Methodist  
History Society**



**October Lecture**

**"Susanna's Seven -  
The Wesley Girls"**

**Speaker: John Hogg**

**Saturday 9 October 2021**

**2.30pm**

**East Boldon Methodist Church**

**LANCHESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Meetings at:**

Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggin  
Lane  
DH7 0JQ

*First Friday of the month at 7.00pm*

Check the [Lanchester Village Voice](#) for details of  
meetings

**There are 7 volumes of Journals from late  
1980s to early 1990s produced by  
Lanchester Local History Society which  
are now available on the Lanchester page  
of DCLHS web site**

**£1.00 for members  
£3.00 non members**

**The Fitzhugh Library**

Fascinated by the history of County Durham?

We have 50,000+ items, maps and photographs.

**Open: Mon & Tues 10.30 – 2.30**

Call in for research or just to browse!

Donations of written material, maps and photographs  
always welcome

[www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk](http://www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk)

51 Market Place  
(Above The Village Bookshop)  
Middleton-in-Teesdale  
DL12 0QH  
Tel: 01833 640074

## HISTORY NOW!

Online Talks organised between  
The Durham University History Department and The Gala Theatre

Events this term explore women's history in eighteenth-century Newcastle, radical histories in modern Britain, Holocaust memories in the North East, and current events in Myanmar in a historical perspective. For full details of these events click [here](#).

Our next event, organised in collaboration with Newcastle Libraries, takes place via Zoom next **Tuesday, 27 April** from 5.30-6.30pm. Click [here](#) to register and see below for further information.

### 'Anne Fisher: Breaching the Glass Ceiling in Eighteenth-Century Newcastle' Dr Barbara Crosbie

The British Library Exhibition '[Unfinished Business: The Fight for Women's Rights](#)' looks at women who have had to fight to be recognized as intellectually equal to men. It explores some of the many women who have fought for change in education, work and in wider society.

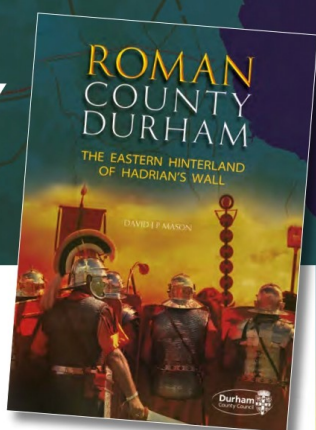
Newcastle Libraries would normally be hosting a pop-up exhibition and arranging some in-person events to coincide with the exhibition. That has not been possible in 2020-21, but we did create an online [short video](#) highlighting items from our collection and sharing the life of a pioneer, Anne Fisher (1719-1778), who in her own profession and life bucked the trends of her times and made a significant contribution to her community and wider society. We're delighted that [Dr Barbara Crosbie](#) from Durham University, who contributed to the video, has created a talk on this pioneering woman.

#### Pre-publication offer

### ROMAN COUNTY DURHAM

THE EASTERN HINTERLAND OF HADRIAN'S WALL

DAVID J P MASON



This book is the first ever comprehensive study in print of County Durham during the Roman period. Perhaps overshadowed in popular perception by Hadrian's Wall, the network of roads, forts and farming communities in its eastern hinterland formed a vital part of the infrastructure that supported the linear frontier and its garrisons as well as exerting a major influence upon the history and development of the county itself.

The county's wealth of Roman military archaeology has long been known comprising no fewer than seven forts with their attendant civilian settlements – including some of the best-preserved Roman buildings in the whole of Britain – as well as a range of other installations. Supplementing this, discoveries made during the last twenty years have transformed our knowledge and understanding of life beyond the military communities revealing a previously unsuspected intensity of settlement along with a range of settlement-types including villages, villas, and farmsteads.

557 pages, 485 illustrations 350 of which in full colour and including reconstruction images and plans especially prepared for this publication.

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be reinvested in archaeological research and publications.



From 6 April until 3 May 2021 this book can be ordered at the reduced pre-publication price of £30.00 (including packaging and delivery). Full price thereafter will be £37.50 (including packaging and delivery). UK orders only. Orders will be despatched following publication on 4 May.

To place and pay for your order please visit the Durham County Record Office online shop: <https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk/pg/home>

For enquiries please call 03000 267 012.



Dr David Mason FSA MCIfA  
Principal Archaeologist  
Durham County Council



When the subject of County Durham's heritage is discussed the conversation frequently concentrates on mining, railways, the army or shipbuilding. Pride in these areas of activity and achievement, along of course with its magnificent cathedral, is fully justified but there is another element of the county's heritage of equal importance and richness, namely its Roman

archaeology. Perhaps overshadowed in popular perception by Hadrian's Wall and its installations, the network of roads, forts and other sites in its eastern hinterland formed a vital part of the infrastructure that supported the linear frontier and its garrisons as well as having a major impact on the history and development of the county itself. The locations of the principal military sites have been known for a very long time but discoveries during the last twenty years have transformed our knowledge and understanding of the character of settlement in the county. Not only is the number of settlements now known to have been far higher than previously thought but also the variety of types is greater than once believed. The discovery of villa sites, for example, has become a regular phenomenon along the middle and lower Tees valley demonstrating that, combined with a few previously known sites farther north, the type of farming and economy so characteristic of eastern and southern England stretched as far north as the outskirts of Durham City. The quality of the county's Roman archaeology is perhaps best demonstrated at Binchester where new excavations have shown that the Victorian excavator's claim to have found 'A Buried Roman City', although an obvious exaggeration, was not that inaccurate as some of the best-preserved Roman buildings in Britain have been revealed here.\*



£30.00



\* These can be inspected at the Binchester Roman Fort visitor centre located on the outskirts of Bishop Auckland. Tel 01288 643 000 [www.durham.gov.uk/Binchester](http://www.durham.gov.uk/Binchester)



03000 267012

## BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE AND HISTORY GROUP

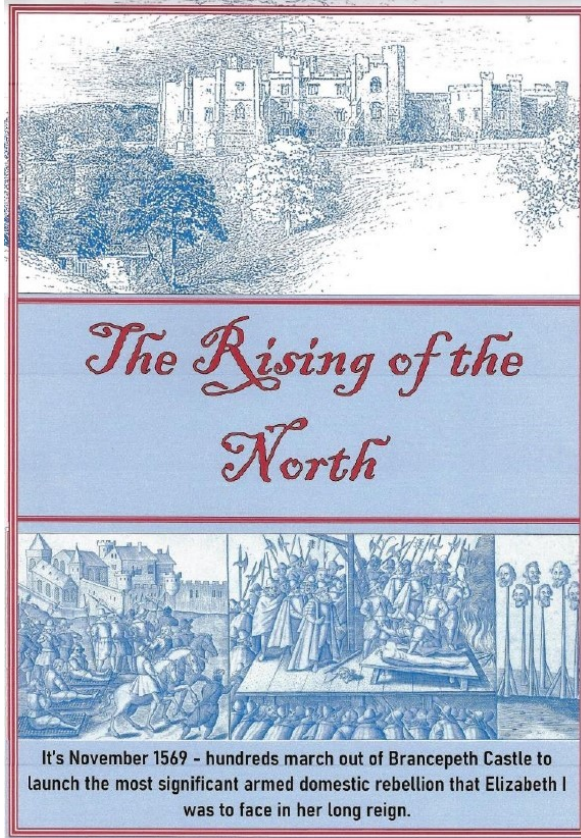
Back in the autumn of 2019, the Group organised a series of events in the Castle to mark the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rising of the North which was plotted and began from Brancepeth Castle. This was the most significant domestic armed rebellion of Elizabeth I's long reign. The events included an Exhibition telling the story of the Rising and the people involved.

The Group has now published a booklet incorporating much of the material from the Exhibition, in the same style and, hopefully, very readable.

If you missed the events, or would like to be able to read the story again at your leisure, you might like to buy a copy.

**A5 size, 50 pages long and costs £4.00  
(+£1.55 p& p if posted).**

**Copies available from Vivienne Lowe 0191 374 0974 or  
Geoff Harrison 0191 378 4813**



It's November 1569 - hundreds march out of Brancepeth Castle to launch the most significant armed domestic rebellion that Elizabeth I was to face in her long reign.

## Tommy's Notebook

*Authors*

*Michael Purches and The Weardale Museum*

For a few years, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Thomas William Thompson, a quarryman living in Stanhope, kept a notebook in which he jotted down what was on his mind. His notes varied from major events, like the sinking of the Titanic, to mundane weather reports. Among these are fascinating gems of local information which provide an insight into life in Weardale just before the First World War.

The first section of the book is the reproduced pages from Tommy's notebook showing his handwriting and his actual notes. The latter part provides the historical context within which Tommy was writing and covers topics such as quarrying, politics, religion, education and illness; it is illustrated with photographs from the Museum's collection. The book provides a real insight into life in Weardale at this time from an ordinary man's perspective.

### **Tommy's Notebook**

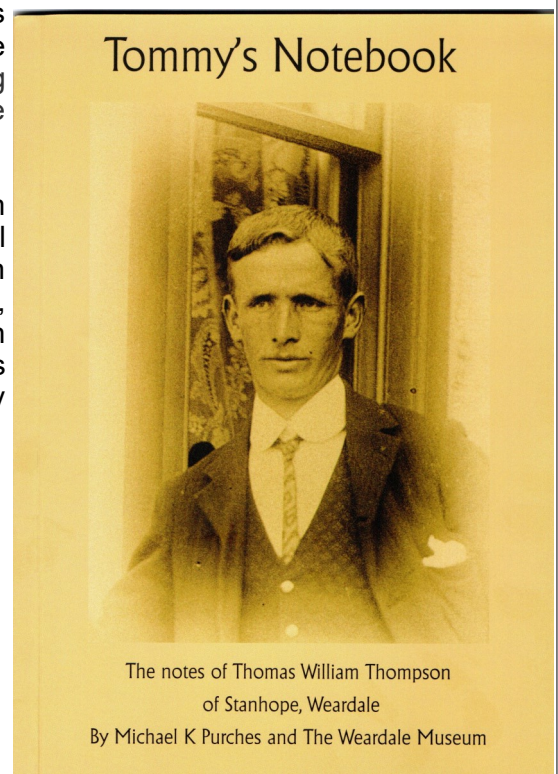
*is available to buy—56 pages £5.99 + £2 p+p*

**from the website of**

**The Weardale Museum**

**[www.weardalemuseum.org.uk](http://www.weardalemuseum.org.uk)**

**by contacting Andy Pidd [andrew\\_pidd@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_pidd@hotmail.com)  
or call Kate Gill on 07990786220**



The notes of Thomas William Thompson  
of Stanhope, Weardale

By Michael K Purches and The Weardale Museum