

HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Dr Winifred Stokes



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

Issue 2: April 2022

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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 Wooley

The FORUM

Will be at

THE SUNDERLAND HISTORY FAIR

on Saturday
21 May 2022

Bethany City Church
Burdon Road
SUNDERLAND SR2 7DZ

FORUM AGM 2022

by
Chair, Dr Winifred Stokes

This year's AGM was held via Zoom on 12 March almost exactly two years after the pre-covid one in 2020 and provided both an opportunity to report on the Forum's activities during this time, and after the formal business had been concluded, a chance to consult with the attendees on the possible future activities of the organisation.

The committee had continued meeting via Zoom throughout the various government limitations on public gatherings and an enterprising sub committee comprising of Sarah Hillier, Marian Morrison and Margaret Hedley organised a series of very varied monthly talks delivered via Zoom which attracted widespread interest both within the membership and further afield. These continued throughout the various stages of lockdown etc as did our quarterly e-newsletters.

The treasurer presented a healthy financial balance.

In the absence of competition the current committee agreed to continue in office for the coming year but we made it known that we would welcome additional committee members.

In the useful open discussion that took place after the formal business was concluded there was a general acceptance that the organisation should continue its adherence to the principle of facilitating access to the study of the past to its members as expressed in the strapline, *Yesterday Belongs to You*, but queried whether the biennial large scale event was the best way forward.

It was felt that smaller themed gatherings in various parts of the county might be more useful and easier to organise and there were suggestions from the 'floor' of possible themes of current interest such as the 1921 census or a look at Roman sites to tie in with the celebration of Hadrian's Wall 1900.

The meeting empowered members of the committee to look into the practicalities of such a move and report back.

The morning concluded with a typically lively talk from our President John Grundy on his reaction to reading the recent Martin Roberts edition of Pevsner's classic buildings of County Durham.

NEXT FORUM ZOOM MEETING

Tuesday 11 May 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Northerners: A History from the Ice Ages to the 21st Century
by Brian Groom

Waterstones Review:

Making inspired links through time, Groom's monumental history of the North of England abounds in colourful characters and enthralling incident, from the Venerable Bede to the Miners' Strike, and marshals a vast array of material into a compulsively readable whole

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAMME

1 May	Raby Castle Through The Ages	R Hillary
8 June	Outing to be arranged	

New Chairman: David Blair

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

CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAMME

25 April	Hame—My Durham A Reflection on the life of Sid Chaplin	M Chaplin
23 May	Binchester Roman Ford and the Auckland Project	G Henderson
27 June	Secrets of the Attic Part 2	T Nicholson

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

ARCH & ARCH Zoom Lectures for 2022

Saturday 7 May 2.30pm

FREE

Dr Chloe Duckworth, Newcastle University
“Community & Public Archaeology and Making the
Channel 4 TV Show ‘The Great British Dig:
History Garden”

AGM Saturday 11 June 10am-4.00pm

ASDN Members Only
Beramish Museum—includes a tour of new
1950's village
Meeting to be held in the bank

Members of Arch and Arch will be emailed the Zoom
login details a few days before the lecture

Guests Email archandarch.dandn@durham.ac.uk
For the Zoom link



WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2022 MEETINGS

Information: history.club2@btinternet.com

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

27 Apr	An Introduction to DNA For Family Historians	J Heckels
25 May	Geordies & Georgians	R Annis
29 June	Affairs of the Heart Part 3	T Nicholson

Latest newsletter:

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

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

SEDFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2022 PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm

2 May	Cragside— Upstairs Downstairs	G Hughes
6 June	Sedgefield Heritage Trail—a Walk	
4 July	Evening visit to St Mary Magdalene Church, Trimdon Village	

For more details:
Suzanne 01429 882250



EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

2022

19 May	Postcard from Saltburn	P Sotheran
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Meetings are held in
St John's Church, Butts Lane, Egglecliffe
at 7.30pm

Admission £2.00

For more details:
david_j_bate@ntlworld.com

The life and times of HANNAH HAUXWELL

AN EXHIBITION IN THE CONSTABLE TOWER AND ARCHIVE ROOM AT BRANCEPETH CASTLE

Hannah first came to public attention after being covered in an ITV documentary, "Too Long a Winter" in 1979. It followed her solitary existence as a farmer living alone in a remote farmhouse in Baldersdale without electricity or running water.

After her death her estate gifted her many family papers to the Fitzhugh Library in Middleton-in-Teesdale and this exhibition comes to us with the kind permission of the Library.



A rare opportunity to view this unique collection of Hannah`s personal effects, including letters, photos, farm receipts, cards and other items that span four generations of the Hauxwell family.

Saturday 30th April 10.00-4.00

Sunday 1st May 12.00-4.00

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC . ADMISSION FREE

Organised by Brancepeth Archives and History Group

THE FORUM

**will be
represented
at this event**

Ebchester Roman Explore Day

Sat 14th May 2022

**Hosted by the Dere Street- Roman Road - Explore
and Learn about (group) Facebook group**

**9am- 2pm based out of
Ebchester Community Centre**

Parts of the Explore Day

1 To visit the local church which has some
Roman inscripted stonework

2 Explore the possible river
crossing of Dere Street

3 Learn about the past
Archaeological digs and
works in the area

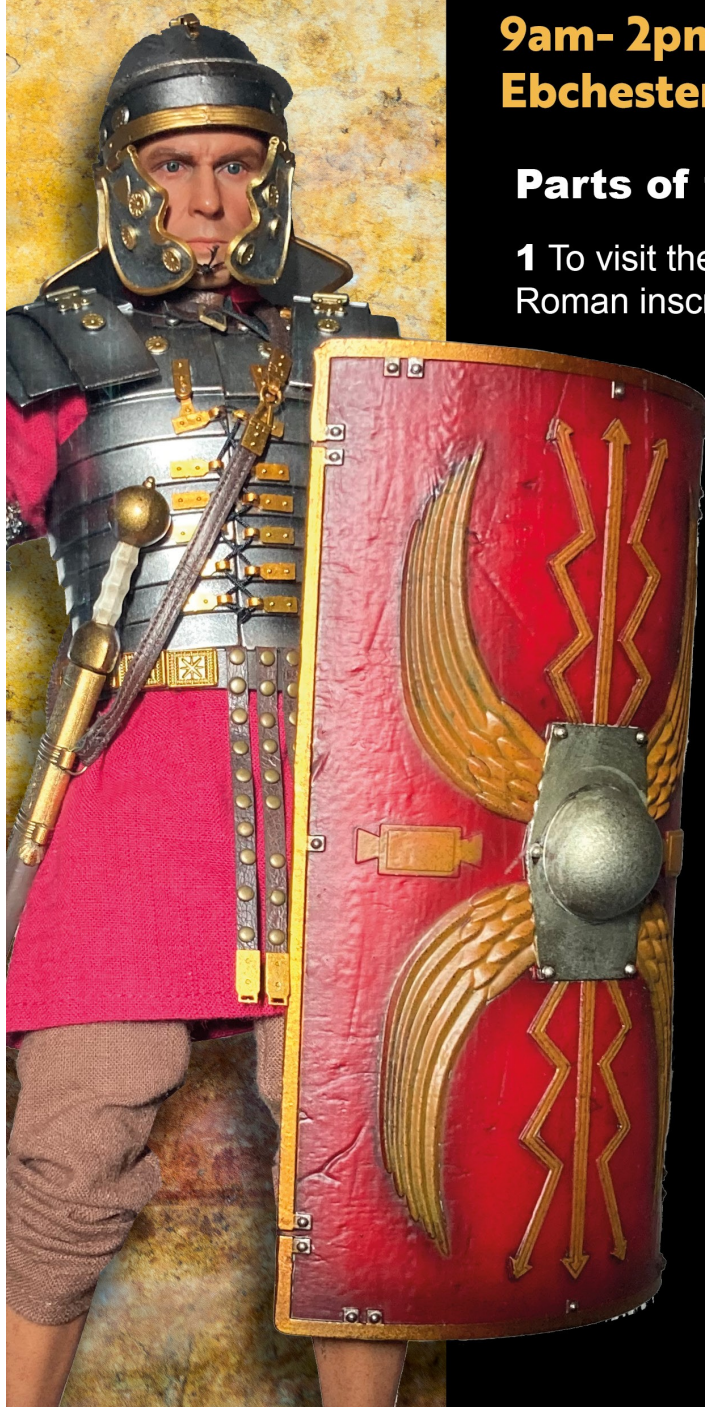
4 Displays on Roman sites in
the area including Friends of
Longovicium (Lanchester
Roman Fort)

**Refreshments will be
available throughout
the day**

**A donation towards venue
hire would be welcome**

**To contact and express an
interest in attending please
email -**

juddrichard1976@gmail.com

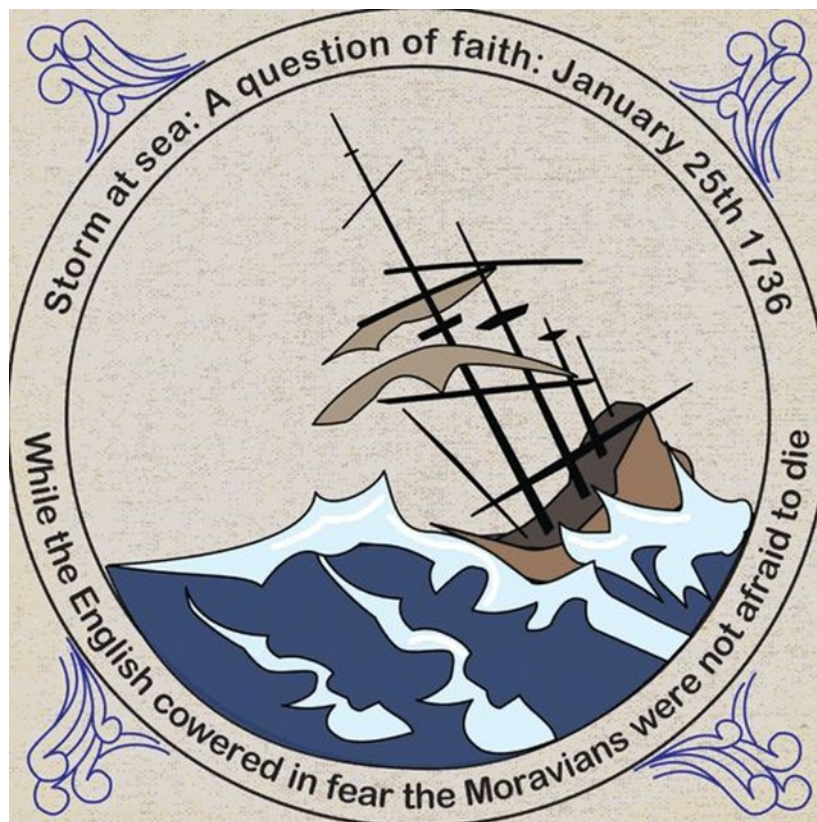


The Weardale Society

A Talk on Thursday 12th May 7.30pm

at St Thomas's R C Church Hall, Wolsingham

David Heatherington of the Weardale Museum



The Methodist Tapestry Project

Members Free

Non members £2

Light Refreshments and Raffle

Visitors Welcome



Weardale Society

HETTON LOCAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Meet at 7.00pm

*the School Room, Union Street PM Chapel
(Access from car park in Barnes Street DH5 9DB)*

25 April	History Brought to Life Virtual Reality Model of Murton Station	Alan Jones
30 May	DNA in Family History An intro & personal exp	John Heckels
27 June	Durham Wildlife Trust & Elemore Park	Jim Cokill
25 July	The Pleasure Grounds Of Gidside	Geoff Hughes

EVERYONE WELCOME

Entrance fee is £2

which includes tea/coffee/biscuits

**For more details: 0191 5262804
www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk**

CULTURAL SPRING PROJECT ON THE STEPHENSON TRAIL

[Stephenson Trail Project — The Cultural Spring](#)

HETTON COLLIERY RAILWAY BICENTENARY 2022

(Registration Information)

Provided by John Banham Secretary of DCLHS)

[HCR200 Subscribe](#)

Your information then goes back to the *mail chimp* website securely. The HCR200 project & events officer then can manage the database accordingly.

**Further details are available from
hcr2001822@gmail.com**

Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

New Meeting place from January '22

**Headland Baptist Church
Baptism Street
HARTLEPOOL TS24 0QN**

**Meetings are held on the
Third Monday of the month 6.45pm—9.00pm**

25 April	The Gates & Walls of Hartlepool	R Corder
16 May	North East Seaside	F Wilson
20 June	Postal History of The Hartlepoons	I Lightfoot
18 July	Northgate Wesley & Early Chapels	O Hart

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



Leadgate Community History Club

Monday 18 July 7pm

**at Eden Miners Centre, Watling Street,
Leadgate DH8 6DP**

A talk by local author & historian Andrew Clark

North East Life in the 1930s, 40s & 50s' recalls life at home when the washing was done in a poss tub; the wireless was the main form of entertainment; every community had a cinema and a holiday would be a trip to the seaside.

Andrew also shares memories of Christmas, childhood games and early television.

Donations to cover the cost of hire of venue and speakers fees will be requested with £3 suggested donation but is optional

Any "profits" will be used to support future events and activities by the Leadgate Community History Club

leadgatecommunityhistoryclub.co.uk

History of Consett Steelworks

Website:

[History of Consett Steelworks – Connecting the community with the past, sharing memories for the future](#)

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2022 Programme

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

VISITORS : £2.00

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

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**



Hetton Local & Natural History Society

Alan Jones

Will give a presentation on

HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE 3D MODEL OF MURTON STATION



See how
scenes of
the past can
be recreated
with modern
technology.

Everyone welcome, the meeting will be held on
Monday 25th of April at 7.00pm

In the

School Room of Union Street PM Chapel

(Access from Car Park in Barnes Street, DH5 9DB)

Entrance Fee £2—Includes coffee/tea and biscuit

Hetton Local & Natural History Society

For further information contact the Secretary Alan Jackson on 0191 5262804

Or visit our web site www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk

THIRD THURSDAY TALKS—DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Booking is Essential—recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk

ONLINE TALK—ZOOM

(This is a FREE talk)

Thursday 19 May
10.30am—11.30am

“Business, Employment & Communities”—a theme from
A Tyneside Heritage

by
Peter Chapman
Author

ONLINE TALK—ZOOM

(This is a FREE talk)

Thursday 21 July
10.30am—11.30am

“Finding Wilfred—
A Great War Mystery”

by
David Yeoman
Military Researcher

Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

NEW VENUE

Bowburn Community Centre

Disabled Access
On Site Parking
Further Details:

SATURDAY 9 JULY

10.00am—3.00pm

Entrance £1.00
Accompanied children FREE

Free Valuations



2022

MEETINGS HELD THURSDAYS 7.00pm

St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Street

5 May	Mary Ann Cotton Notorious Serial Killer	T Hutchinson
2 June	A Visit to St Helen's Church Kelloe	
7 July	Charles Dickens & 19th Century England	G Wales

Website: coxhoehistory.org.uk

Contact:

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



CLEVELAND & TEESSIDE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Thanks to a bequest from the late Mr J T Packett, the CTLHS is offering a prize of **£250** for a newly researched essay on a local history topic. We are looking for entries of roughly 2000 or more words from amateur historians. (Not professionals). You don't have to be a CTLHS member to enter but your subject must relate in some way to at least part of the Cleveland or Teesside area. If you're not sure whether your essay meets our competition rules, please contact the Society or look on our website.

The competition rules can be found in the
"about" section of our website

www.cctlhs.co.uk

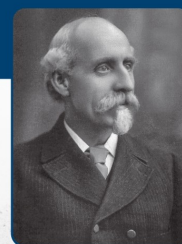
***There is also a £50 runner-up prize for an
essay that shows promise***

**The closing date for entries is
31 March 2023**

NEW INFORMATION BOARD FOR PETER LEE'S GRAVE in WHEATLEY HILL CEMETERY

PETER LEE (1864 – 1935)

"Peter Lee gave all, asking for nothing in return, little dreaming that a great new town would bear his name"
- Rt Hon Jack Lawson, Lord Lawson of Beamish



"That grand old man of Durham County - Peter Lee. He led his county through lean and half-starved years. He showed by example the highest form of public service and idealism. He kept the spirit of the miners loyal, clean and wholesome through a poverty such as, please God, the other counties in England will never know."

- Rt Hon Thomas Johnstone MP, 1934

"He typified the courage, integrity and humanity of the mining community which he served so well."

- Clement Attlee, Leader of the Labour Party, 1935

"There is a general agreement that Peter Lee was the most outstanding figure of the North East never to become an MP, preferring to serve among his own people"

- Rt Hon Jack Lawson, Lord Lawson of Beamish

"A local man who, during his lifetime, went fearlessly and courageously forward for the good and uplift of the people of this district. A man who was a power both in bodily physique and mental ability, a man who had the courage of his own convictions, a man whose presence commanded respect and attention. A man who worked to improve the living conditions of the people of the Easington District. A man whose memory could be perpetuated by the naming of a new town after him"

- C W Clarke, Easington Rural District Council in "Farewell Squalor", 1947



- 1864** Born at Duff Heap Row, Trimdon to coal miner Tom Lee and his wife, Hannah. Left school without any skills of reading and writing, quickly realising what a disadvantage this was.
- 1884** Returned to the classroom (night school) to learn skills of literacy and numeracy. He could see that pitmen needed representation at work by someone who knew the industry.
- 1886** Travelled to Philadelphia, USA and worked in coalmines there, realising that conditions for the working man were no different than they were in England.
- 1887** Returned home. Started work at Wingate Colliery and was elected as delegate to the Miners' Council where he enjoyed the good fellowship and debate.
- 1888** Married dressmaker, Alice Thompson from Thornley at Haswell Wesleyan Chapel.
- 1892** Worked as a checkweighman at Wingate Colliery.
- 1896** Travelled (alone) to Capetown, South Africa; once again in order to broaden his horizons.
- 1897** Travelled home from South Africa after incorporating The Grand Tour into his homeward journey.
- 1898** Worked at Thornley Colliery and then Sacriston Colliery.
- 1902** Offered the job of checkweighman at Wheatley Hill.

- 1903** Elected as the Wheatley Hill representative on Wingate Parish Council.
- 1903 - 1907** Used his influence on the Parish Council to bring about changes in Wheatley Hill including a road to Thornley, a cemetery, a tap in every house, a sewage system and street lighting.
- 1907** Elected to Easington Rural District Council. Elected Chairman of the local Co-operative Society, Local lay Preacher.
- 1909** Elected to Durham County Council (continued working as a coal miner).
- 1914 - 1919** District Food Controller.
- 1919** First Chairman of the first labour-controlled County Council in England - Durham.
- 1919** Chairman of the Durham County Water Board.
- 1930** General Secretary of the Durham Miners' Association.
- 1934** President of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.
- 1934** Chairman of the International Miners' Conference in France.
- 1935** Died and was buried in Wheatley Hill Cemetery.



The Wheatley Hill Heritage Society and Parish Council have invested in a new information board for the grave of Peter Lee in Wheatley Hill cemetery after the print on the old one just faded away. The artwork for the new board was created by White's Printers of Ludworth and the content is a great reminder to us all of the important work carried out by Peter Lee in the East Durham area during the early 1900's. It's amazing how many people visiting Wheatley Hill, from the local area and farther afield, who don't know that the town of Peterlee was named after a man, and those that still ask, "what did he do?" The new sign gives a timeline of his achievements together with some quotes from people of his time, showing how highly thought of he was at all levels of society. A quote from *Farewell Squalor*, the planning document for Peterlee new town, is perhaps worthy of reproducing here:

"A local man who, throughout his lifetime went fearlessly and courageously forward for the good and uplift of the people of this district. A man who was a power in both bodily physique and mental ability, a man who had the courage of his own convictions, a man whose presence commanded respect and attention. A man who worked to improve the living conditions of the people of the Easington District. A man whose memory could be perpetuated by the naming of new town after him".

C W Clarke, Easington Rural District Council, in Farewell Squalor, 1947





Visit the Museum of Weardale History and Heritage Lots of Things in a Small Space

Opening Dates and Times 2022

1 April to 1 June

Wednesday to Sunday plus Bank Holiday Mondays 18 Apr and 2 May

1 June to 2 October

7 days a week

5 October to 30 October

Wednesday to Sunday

(Opening times are 1pm to 4.30pm)

We can open at other times, by arrangement, for groups

Prices

Children and young people under 18 years FREE

Adults £4.50 OR £5 inc 10% Gift Aid

OR

join the 'Friends of the Museum' for £10 per adult and get free entry for a year!

WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

Visit us to see our Victorian kitchen, displays on mining, quarrying, emigration, Methodism, railways, WWI and much more. There are children's activities and touch screen displays.

All focussed on the history and heritage of Weardale.

Want to get involved?

We are looking for Volunteer Stewards to meet and greet visitors and help with exhibitions

More information about the Museum's Collections and Family History Resources on our website

www.weardalemuseum.org.uk

or call Kate Gill on
07990786220

RESEARCHING YOUR WEARDALE FAMILY HISTORY?

The Museum volunteers have done hours of research and built up a database of over 70,000 individuals and 600 Weardale families. Visit to explore our records and, if you wish, get the help of an experienced family history researcher. The Museum volunteers have done hours of research and built up a database of over 70,000 individuals and 600 Weardale families. Visit to explore our records and, if you wish, get the help of an experienced family history researcher.

To make an appointment call

Ken Heatherington on 01388 517208

We also offer 'research from a distance' if you don't live locally