

HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Dr Winifred Stokes

www.durhamweb.org.uk/



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

Issue 4: October 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

PICTURE THIS: THEN AND NOW

Heritage Festival

**With Durham County Forum for History & Heritage
At Bishop Auckland Town Hall**

By Sarah Hillier

First of all, a big thank you to those who took part in this really successful event. It was organised by Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone, aided by CDFHH, in Bishop Auckland Town Hall. This was a very good venue, providing us with plenty of space together with access to an excellent café in the building.

With free entry, there was a constant stream of visitors, drawn in by the publicity surrounding the larger Heritage Festival event, which took place between 9 and 26 September. The Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone had organised free talks to accompany the History Fair:

Chris Lloyd, Northern Echo
Dawn Layland, Durham Record Office
Nicholas Hanks, Heritage England

What makes a good story?
Researching your house history
Becoming a heritage volunteer

However, it is disappointing to report that only a few of our members availed themselves of the opportunity to take part in such a well funded and well organised event. This was a real chance to showcase who you are and what you do. Important events coming up in your area could have been advertised to an audience interested in local history.

Let's hope that the next time there is the opportunity for a small scale local history fair, perhaps as part of a larger event, more groups will see the advantages of taking part.

In the meantime, if you hear of any events happening in 2023 which could include a small history fair element, please let us know.

FORUM MEMBERSHIP 2023

**Your membership of the Forum is due
at the end of**

December 2022

Benefits of Membership are:

Promote your activities in our newsletter

FREE monthly Zoom talks

Networking opportunity

Opportunity to attend Forum events

Be part of the local history & heritage
community in County Durham

How to Pay:

BACS Payment
Cheque

**Details of membership fees and how to pay are on
the membership form attached to the newsletter
email**

To set up a standing order payment:

[application form](#)
(Ctrl & left click to open the form)

by

Project Manager

We couldn't have pictured this scene just a year ago when the annual Bishop Auckland Heritage Festival was largely online. This September we were able to host a History Fair in the Town Hall, while face-to-face talks, walking tours and vintage bus tours brought history to life for some 500 participants. It was a pleasure to work with CDFHH and meet members from local history groups across the County.

An exhibition about the work of the Heritage Action Zone project continues in The Town Hall gallery until 20 November.

www.bishopfm.com/override/bishop-auckland-heritage-festival-2022/

**Images from
The Heritage Festival**

Nicholas Hanks, Historic England

Nicholas Hanks. Historic England

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAMME

9 Nov	Gibside Estate	D Butler
7 Dec	AGM and Social Evening	

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

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

CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAMME

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 Lecture Programme 2022

26 Nov	Excavation at Crowtrees Tileworks, Bowburn	R Annis
3 Dec	Past, Present & Future Bioarchaeology in Sudan	T Jakob
	2023	
21 Jan	'Excavations at Vindolanda exploring the past in the present and future'	A Birley

**Face to face meetings held at 2.30pm in
Room ER140**

Elvet Riverside, New Elvet DH1 3JT

*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*



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

29 Oct	Water, Wind & Wheat A look at some North East Mills	R Annis
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No further meetings this year

Latest newsletter:

https://wheatley-hill.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2022/07/Wheatley-Hill-History-Club-4pp_-_Newsletter-July-2022-1st-Proof.pdf

SEDGEFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm

7 Nov	The Road to Rockliffe	Chris Loyd
5 Dec	Members Evening	

**For more details:
Suzanne 01429 882250**



EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP 2022

20 Oct	The Archaeology of The First World War on Teesside	R Daniels
27 Nov	The Gibside Estate	D Butler
5 Dec	Jack Cunningham VC A gypsy soldier from Hull With links to Darlington	D Layland

**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**

DCLHS & RAILWAYS Occasional Publications

The Society's most recent books make contributions to our railway history. In 2018 we published *A Visit to the Seaside*

A Visit to the Seaside

A history of County Durham railway excursions from the 1840s to the 1960s



Colin Ryder

Durham County Local History Society

A history of County Durham railway excursions from the 1840s to the 1960s.

This year we published

The Hetton Coal Company 1820-1836 : Adventurers or Madmen?

It is the story of how the first steam railway designed by George Stephenson came to be built.

The Hetton Coal Company 1820-1836 ADVENTURERS OR MADMEN ?



JOHN BANHAM

Durham County Local History Society

**Both books will be on sale
at the Hetton Bicentenary
Conference on 19/20 Nov.
This takes place at Easington
Lane Community Access Point
For details see elsewhere in
the Forum Newsletter or
visit : www.hcr200.org**



Durham County Local History Society



The Society was formed in 1964 to encourage and promote interest in the study of the history of Durham County, particularly during those recent centuries when it was playing a major part in the economic and industrial growth of the country, and also making its individual contribution to the industrial, social, religious and political development of Britain. The area covered by the Society's work is that of the historic **County Palatine**.

The Society issues a range of publications and after a break due to Covid is reinstating its free talks. The first of these took place at Ushaw College on 8th October when Professor John Tomaney spoke on *Sacriston - a biography of a County Durham village*. We hope to publish a version of this in our next Journal (no 87) and are looking for contributions for future journals (see our website below for details).

During 2022 the Society published *The Sanctuary Records of Durham and Beverley 1464-1539* in its Documentary Series

These books are issued free to members and present a wide range of edited documents illustrating aspects of the county's past in translation, transcript and/or facsimile form.

More important works of original research on a wide range of local topics are published as **Occasional Papers** and are made available to members at reduced prices. Details of these and of how to join the Society can be seen on our website : www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs

The Fitzhugh Library

Teesdale Chronicles

**An exhibition of scrapbooks, photograph
albums and diaries, spanning 150 years.**

Monday & Tuesday

10.30 – 2.30 pm

September, October & November 2022.

51 Market Place, Middleton, DL12 0QH

(Opposite the Teesdale Hotel
and above the Village Bookshop).

fitzhughlibrary @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)

CHECK MEETING PLACE WITH ALAN

31 Oct	The Part Played by Coal In the Development of Sunderland	S Miller
28 Nov	John George Lambton & Penshaw Monument	B Hope
19 Nov	Christmas in the Past	

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

EVERYONE WELCOME
Entrance fee is £2
which includes tea/coffee/biscuits

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2022 Programme

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

28 Nov	Lewis Carol - The Croft Connection	Chris Lloyd
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VISITORS : £3.00

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

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

21 Nov	Business Meeting
December	No Meeting



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



MIDDLETON ST GEORGE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

<https://msglocalhistory.wordpress.com/>

Meetings held 7.30pm—9.00pm
Third Thursday of month September—June

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

Tea/Coffee available
Non-Members Welcome—£3 per visit
For more information:
msglocalhistory@hotmail.co.uk

Tudhoe & Spennymoor Local History Society

join us in a collaborative project with
Archaeology at Durham University

Historical archaeology - a chance to look at
lives and activities not well documented

- Medieval settlement and the wastes
- Late medieval industry
- Development of industry and settlement on that medieval to early modern landscape
- People – mobility – migration
- Lifeways and housing
- Childhood and education



www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs
or contact our Secretary : 01388 816850

Sedgefield Family History

Meetings are held:
at 7.15pm
Methodist Church Hall, North End, Sedgefield TS21 2BT

£3.00 entrance

For More Information:
contact@slhs.uk

HCR200 Trustees would like to extend an invitation to our

BICENTENARY *Banquet*



Join us for an evening of celebration hosted by
Lord James Joicey and 'George Stephenson'
with a four course feast

Saturday 19th November 6.15-10.30pm

The evening will feature:

The first public appearance of the Hetton Community Sculpture.

The unveiling of the newly commissioned 'Hetton Lyons Colliery' Banner.

On arrival, view the refurbished Chaldron Waggon, illuminated as never before.

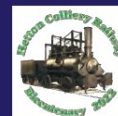
Table entertainment with renowned caricaturist Paul Slattery
and storytelling by 'George Stephenson.'

Music and specially commissioned performances by Houghton Brass Band
and Sunderland Male Voice Choir with The Lake Poets.

Exclusive live auction with
Lord James Joicey and 'George Stephenson.'



£45.00 per ticket



Tickets can be booked online from EventBrite - just scan the QR code,
via the link on our website or call Gemma on 07709 895493

WWW.HCR200.ORG

E: HCR200@GMAIL.COM

T: 07709 895493

Booking for the Bi-Centenary Events (Conference & Banquet)

Conference Day 1

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/392679885107>

Conference Day 2

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/392718891777>

Banquet

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/393000433877>

THIRD THURSDAY TALKS—DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Booking is Essential—recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk

ONLINE TALK—ZOOM

(This is a FREE talk)

Thursday 17 November

10.30am—11.30am

“Margaret Farrington -
A tale of Sociability & Sanity
in Georgian Britain”

by
Richard Pears
Architectural Historian



Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

NEW VENUE

Bowburn Community Centre

Disabled Access
On Site Parking

Further Details:
01368 860365

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

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

3 Nov	From Source to Sea A trip through Weardale In Old Postcards	G Nairn
1 Dec	Christmas activity	

Website:
coxhoehistory.org.uk

Contact:
Jack Turton: 0191 3770771
Barbara Leo: barbaraleo88@googlemail.co

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

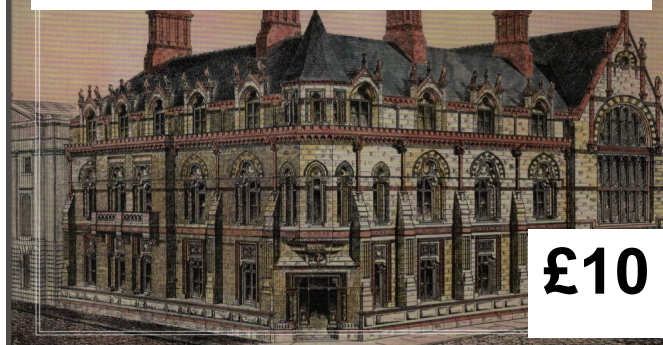


THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD

— BILL LANCASTER —



Discover the Mining Institute and the founding members whose inventions and engineering innovations cascaded down into other industries new and old and, in the process, created what is now the modern world.



£10

What's happening at Durham County Record Office

By Dawn Layland

Packing continues apace and some documents are proving more challenging than others. The tithe maps for Stanhope parish are some of our biggest records. Getting them out of the strongrooms requires two people and packaging them required moving together tables in our former searchroom space to make a surface big enough to hold the map. It then needed two people to work together, rolling and fastening the Tyvek around the map. Finally, the map could be carried back to the strongroom to await the move next year and it was on to the next map of the tens of thousands on our list.



While all this is happening, we're determined to continue as much of our service as possible. Obviously, with the searchroom now used for preparation work, we can't open for research, but we can reach out in other ways. We are continuing to answer enquiries by email, as well delivering our digitisation and research services.

Our Third Thursday talks were popular for several years before they were moved online during Lockdown. We now have a regular following, many of whom couldn't attend in-person talks due to caring responsibilities, increasing fuel costs or simply because they live too far away. With this in mind, we have decided to keep these talks going into next year and are currently firming up our plans. Possible talks include conservation of our Consett Iron Company records, giving an insight into how we conserve and preserve documents in our care and some of their complexities.



We also haven't stopped taking new archives into our care. Some of the more memorable recent additions to our collections were books of condolence following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. These books were set out in council venues across the county for anyone who chose to leave a message. They highlight a time of national mourning and provide an insight into people's thoughts at this time that future researchers will doubtless appreciate.

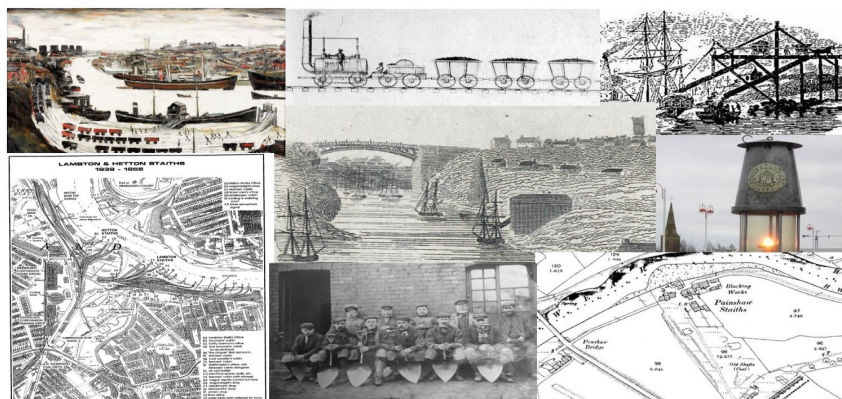


**Hetton Local & Natural
History Society**

Stuart Miller

Will talk on

**THE PART PLAYED BY COAL
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUNDERLAND**



**Monday
31 October 2022**

7.00pm

**In the
School Room
Union Street PM
Chapel**

£2.00 Admission


COXHOE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

‘A Trip in Old Postcards down Weardale

**from
Source**



to Sea’

**Presentation by
George Nairn**

THURSDAY 3rd November

7 pm at St Andrews Church Hall

£3 including refreshments.

All Welcome

Life on the the Railways of Consett

Article submitted by Richard Graham Judd



Steve Shields

Back in July, we held our first in-person event in a long time, we invited “Steve Shields” an ex-Br train guard to talk about his life and experiences working the Consett to Tyne Dock route used primarily for shipping in Iron ore, and shipping out the finished product’s from Consett Works.

Steve was a mine of information and knowledge about the inner workings of the line and the various character’s that inhabited its world, as well as revealing some very funny anecdotes of life on the rails (and off the rails in some cases...)

I know the route myself pretty well (Having done the work I have to map it out in digital form) and I was there hanging on every word, every incline, every slipped brake story as Steve skilfully recounted tales from his time as a train guard, I could picture in my mind’s eye every curve in the track, and each of the main signal boxes, it truly was fascinating listening to him describe things as they used to be.

After Steve finished his talk, we all had a good chat together, and Steve showed us some items from his personal collection of memorabilia collected during his career.

Steve had many interesting items with him, including one of his most treasured, the “Annfield Branch” name plate from Consett North signal box.

In the later years of his career, Steve was the signalman at Consett North and was responsible for helping to get the wagons in and out of Consett Steelworks.

He still works on the railways today, and even though it’s not Consett, still loves every part of his job.

The event was recorded in 2 parts, as we stopped for a break half way through.

Steve also previously wrote us a blog post recounting some of what he talked about in his presentation, you can find the post here:

<https://historyofconsettsteelworks.com/2021/11/29/consett-railway-rip-my-friend-by-steve-shields/>



Steve’s most prized possession – A name plate that used to sit atop the signal leavers in Consett North signal box



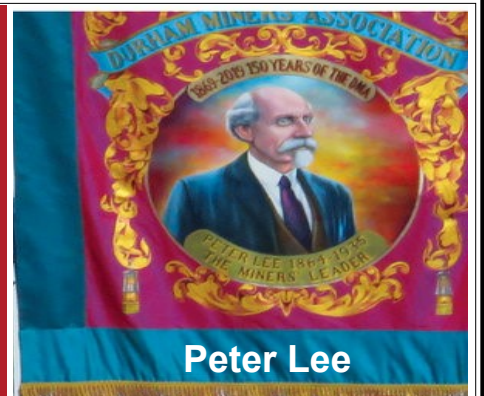
Signal Bell from Baxter Wood Signal Box at the start of the line Scotswood to Durham line (SBC)

The Durham Miners' Association Brass Band

THE BIG MEETING

Celebrating
The music of
THE MINERS GALA

Durham Miners Association Brass Band





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

Opening Dates and Times 2022

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

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.

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

www.weardalemuseum.org.uk

**or call Kate Gill on
07990786220**

To make an appointment call

Ken Heatherington on 01388 517208

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