



# County Durham History & Heritage Forum

News from the Forum, Issue 14, May/June, 2012

Dear Members

Summer is almost upon us, hopefully; a time when lots of events and activities will be held around the County. The Forum is currently making the final preparations for the history weekend at Hardwick Park. Please come along with family and friends for a weekend of local history displays and fun activities. Further information below.

The Committee has also been out and about at various local events, the most recent being the Sunderland Heritage Forum's local history day at the Seaburn Centre. It was a good opportunity to promote the CDHH Forum and attract new members. One of the events which we were publicising is next year's *Yesterday Belongs To You* local and family history fair. The Forum has agreed to arrange the event and, following discussions with Durham County Council have booked County Hall as the venue. Many of you will have been to this very popular event in the past and we hope to make this as good, if not better, than previous years. So...watch this space, and the website, for further information.

## Contact Us

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Forum please contact:

The Membership Secretary, c/o 22 Oaklea Mews, Aycliffe Village, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6JP, or via email at [cdhhforum@googlemail.com](mailto:cdhhforum@googlemail.com) or on [blair@bdavid071.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:blair@bdavid071.orangehome.co.uk)

If you have items for the newsletter please send via email to [cdhhforum@googlemail.com](mailto:cdhhforum@googlemail.com) or c/o 19 Aldin Grange Hall, Bearpark, Durham, DH7 7AR

You can forward items for inclusion on the website to John Banham at [cdhhforum@googlemail.com](mailto:cdhhforum@googlemail.com)

Website: <http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/index.html>

Hon. President: Mr John Grundy.

Hon. Chair: Dr Winifred Stokes

## Colliery Banner Restored.

The Wheatley Hill Heritage Society has recently celebrated the restoration of a colliery banner which was made in 1937 to commemorate the life of Peter Lee. The Heritage Society decided to restore the original banner as a tribute to Peter Lee who features on the banner. The article below tells the story of the celebration events.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

northernecho.co.uk

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# Celebrating the life and times of Peter Lee

A NORTH-EAST community is celebrating the restoration of its miners' lodge banner with a series of events.

The Wheatley Hill Heritage Society, in east Durham, has given a new lease of life to the 1937 banner carrying the image of Peter Lee.

Mr Lee, after whom the nearby town was named, was chairman of the parish council, check weighman at the pit, president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, chairman of County Durham Water Board and Durham County Council.

Society chairwoman Margaret Hedley said: "It would have been cheaper to buy a new one, but we decided that because it was made to celebrate Peter Lee, we felt that we owed it to him to restore it."

Next week, the Peterlee GT Brass Band will perform at the village's workingmen's club, tickets costing £2.50, at 7.30pm on Wednesday, followed by

an exhibition in the village's heritage centre from 10am to 4pm on Thursday.

The banner will be blessed at a service at All Saints' Church at 10.30am next Friday.

On Saturday, May 5, local banners will be raised along with the refurbished banner at the graveside of Peter Lee from 10.30am, followed by entertainment by brass bands at the workingmen's club from 11.30am. A dance will be held at the community centre at 7.30pm, tickets costing £5.

For further information contact 07977-546332 or visit [wheatleyhillheritagecentre.btck.co.uk](http://wheatleyhillheritagecentre.btck.co.uk)

■ Milliband to speak at Gala –  
Page 14

**NEW LOOK:** Billy Middleton with a restored miners' banner depicting Peter Lee

Picture: TOM BANKS



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## Summer Lecture Series at Beamish Museum

Come along to any or all of the talks that interest you!

For the first time ever, we're hosting a series of fascinating lecture evenings, led by the Curatorial experts here at Beamish.

It's a fantastic opportunity to gain an amazing insight to behind-the-scenes stories at an internationally renowned museum.



**Jim Rees – (Museum Curator) 'Moving a Medieval Church'**

Friday, 22 June 2012: 6.30pm – 7.30pm

**Julian Harrop– (Assistant Collections Project Officer) 'Snooping on Snaps'**

Friday, 20 July 2012: 6.30pm – 7.30pm

**Paul Jarman – (Keeper of Transport) 'Restoring Victorian Steam Locomotives'**

Friday, 21 September 2012: 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Please email [celynwilliams@beamish.org.uk](mailto:celynwilliams@beamish.org.uk) for further information or 0191 3704000 ext. 2063,

**£5 per ticket. Please book your ticket over the phone by calling 0191 370 4000**

Website: [www.beamish.org.uk](http://www.beamish.org.uk)

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## Local History Courses in Durham with Dorothy Hamilton

Dorothy is currently running a programme of adult education courses for everyone who would like to know more about the fascinating history of this area. There is no obligation to do written work or verbal presentations. Just come and enjoy a sociable study course which will get you thinking.

**Shincliffe: Old and New:** Shincliffe village and High Shincliffe have a history stretching back to medieval times, and its story involves farming, railways and colliery cottages. 5 Fridays, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm from 22nd June 2012 to 20th July 2012. 4 sessions at Alington House, North Bailey, Durham City, and 1 session exploring Shincliffe. (on 6th July). Course fee: £47; concession fee for people receiving a means-tested benefit £24.

**An Eighteenth-century Garden: understanding Hardwick Park:** Find out about the ideas which influenced this particular style of 18th century garden. 1st session Monday 9th July 1.30 – 3.30 pm at Shakespeare Hall in Durham City. 2nd session on 16th July is a gentle walk around Hardwick Park, Sedgefield, 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm. Course fee: £18; concession fee for people receiving a means-tested benefit £9.

**Summer School: Pelaw Woods:** Discover this historic woodland and its more recent social history. Monday July 23rd to Friday July 27th, 4 two-hour sessions over the week, 3 based at Shakespeare Hall in North Road, plus a walk to look at the woods. (Monday & Thursday afternoons, Tuesday & Friday mornings) Course fee: £38; concession fee for people receiving a means-tested benefit £19.

**Evening Course: Western Hill:** Western Hill is no ordinary street – come along to find out its story, and to discover some methods of studying the local history of an urban area. 4 Wednesday evenings, 7pm – 9pm, from 27th June 2012 to 18th July 2012. 3 sessions at Elvet Methodist Church Hall, and one session walking round Western Hill. Course fee: £38; concession fee for people receiving a means-tested benefit £19.

**Further information:** These courses are not lectures. The classes will involve discussing historical evidence provided by the tutor, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Venues are ground floor rooms or have access via a stair lift. Field trips and other associated activities may involve premises with steps and lifts. Please phone or email in advance to discuss any special needs you may have. These courses are not subsidised by government funding, therefore it is only possible to offer a limited number of concession fee places on each course.

Dorothy Hamilton has been teaching local history courses in and around Durham since 1992. She has an MA in Local History from the University of Teesside and a PhD from the University of Durham

**Booking a place:** To book a place on a course, please send your name, address and course choice in an email to [drdorothyhamilton@btinternet.com](mailto:drdorothyhamilton@btinternet.com) or phone 0191 373 9252.

Hon. President: Mr John Grundy.

Hon. Chair: Dr Winifred Stokes

## JOB VACANCIES



### TWO VOLUNTEERING OFFICERS

#### Barnard Castle

To help develop, manage and co-ordinate the Partnership's volunteering programme, working directly with volunteers, communities, partner agencies & projects.

#### Post A Specialism

#### CULTURE AND HERITAGE

(Managed by Durham County Council)

#### Post B Specialism

#### GREEN & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

(Managed by Groundwork North East)

Both posts 18.5 hours pw for 2 years. Salary Scale 6: £ 22,221 (pro rata)

Closing date: Noon 20 June 2012.

Opportunities for volunteers and placements will be available in due course

Application packs available from websites below or via Groundwork North East,

Grosvenor House, 29 Market Place, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL14 7NP

[www.heartofteesdale.net](http://www.heartofteesdale.net) [www.northeast.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.northeast.groundwork.org.uk) [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk)



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## Forthcoming Events

### Historic Environment Events within the Limestone Festival

#### Introduction to Limestone Landscapes Day School

Thursday, 14 June, 10am – 4 pm

Venue: Quarrington Hill Community Centre

Tutor/Guide: Ken Bradshaw

Morning Lecture followed by guided walk of the Crowtrees Nature Reserve, Crowtrees Hamlet and Geology of the Coldknuckles Quarry

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#### Historic Environment Day School

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 10am – 4 pm

Venue: Bishop Middleham

Tutor/Guide: Niall Hammond

Morning Lecture followed by guided walk of the village

Further information on these and other events can be found at

[www.limestonelandscapes.info](http://www.limestonelandscapes.info)

### County Durham History & Heritage Forum

#### Hardwick Park Family Day

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June, 2012, 11am – 4pm

Venue: Hardwick Park, Sedgfield

The Forum will be hosting the second History Awareness Day for families at Hardwick Park, Sedgfield. Local history displays in the marquee, old time toys and games from Beamish Museum and much more. Further information from Allan Harley (01207 504392 or email [allanharley@aol.com](mailto:allanharley@aol.com))

#### National Family History Fair

Saturday, 8th September

Venue: Newcastle Central Premier Inn, New Bridge Street West. Newcastle NE1 8BS.

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Admission is £3.00. [www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com](http://www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com)

#### Yesterday Belongs to You, 2013

##### Local and Family History Fair

Saturday, 18 May 2013

Venue: County Hall, Durham

Information to follow

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# Durham

## Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair



**Durham County Hall**  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

Saturday 04 February 2012, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday 21 July 2012, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Saturday 17 November 2012, 10.00am - 3.00pm

Entrance fee: Adults £1.00

Free entry for accompanied children

Disabled access

Free Valuations Provided

*Further details available from Gareth Burgess*

*Bass Rock Fairs Tel: 01368 860365*

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