

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

**CHAIR:**  
**Marian Morrison**

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



# COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

Issue 2: April 2023

## CONTACTS

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Newsletter:**

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Sarah Hillier  
[yb2u15@gmail.com](mailto:yb2u15@gmail.com)

## FORUM COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Marian Morrison  
**Vice Chair:** Margaret Hedley  
**Secretary:** Sarah Hillier  
**Treasurer:** John Banham

Ian Finlayson  
Dawn Layland (The Story)  
June Palmer  
Mark Smith  
Win Stokes

## COMMITTEE RE-SHUFFLE

At our first committee meeting after the AGM we were able to welcome Marian properly as the new Chair and also our new committee member, Mark Smith from the Thorpe Thewles group. The committee wishes them well in their new roles.

We also did a bit of re-shuffling roles on the committee and you will see from the above list the changes we have made to make sure the Forum continues to run smoothly and efficiently.

Although stepping down from their key roles, June and Win have retained their place on the committee as we can't afford to lose their wealth of knowledge and experience.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report from AGM held on 18 March 2023

by Marian Morrison, Chair

Win Stokes, our Chair opened the meeting at Bowburn Community Centre to an audience of 30 plus. She informed us that our President John Grundy was unwell and unable to attend and that she would send him a card wishing him well.

Progressing the meeting, she reminded us that all the papers had been distributed with the expectation we would have read them but asked if there were any points which required clarity or correction. None were forthcoming so they were accepted from the floor of the meeting.

Win then spoke about her report which she expanded on by thanking all of her committee for their support in this her last year in the Chair. John Banham then gave a resume of the accounts proffering an apology for the need for the correction of last year to be carried across the current year due to an oversight. The feeling from the floor was that all was good and the balance favourable for the activities of the forum. Sarah Hillier gave a breakdown of the membership which is stable with an equal balance between new and lost members.

At this point all reports were accepted and Margaret Hedley stepped in to manage the business of Officer posts, nominations and related recruitment to the committee.

Win had declared in her report her intention to resign the Chairmanship but was happy to remain as a committee member. At this point Margaret asked for any nominations from the floor for any of the committee posts from Chair to regular committee member. One brave member offered his time as a committee member and as to the other posts the committee anticipating no nominations for the floor proposed Marian Morrison as Chair with all other post holders willing to continue with their current jobs. With signs of relief from the floor and no objections the meeting progressed with Marian in the Chair. Her first job being to present Win with flowers and thank her for all her hard work supporting History and Heritage through the forum.

The last item on the agenda was to open up a short discussion with regard to changes in the way the forum delivers its objectives post Covid. This was to ascertain views on any way forward the committee would look towards at the next meeting.

I closed the meeting as my first task as Chair, thanking everyone for the attendance and encouraging them to take some refreshment before the training workshops began.

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS

This training event took place after the AGM and was very successful. 14 groups took part and there were 27 people at the four workshops intended to raise awareness of mounting attractive and informative exhibitions.

Feedback from the event was very positive. Some examples:

- Efficiently and professionally fun, kept to time
- Excellent – quality facilitators
- Brilliant. All well delivered. Lots of insights, hints & tips
- An informative and interesting morning
- Format worked well for people with different levels of knowledge and provided good supply of ideas

**AN OPEN LETTER TO BE INCLUDED IN  
THE COUNTY DURHAM FORUM FOR HISTORY AND HERITAGE NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2023**

**Starting a new History and Heritage Group in Brandon and Byshottles Parish**

Dear Forum members

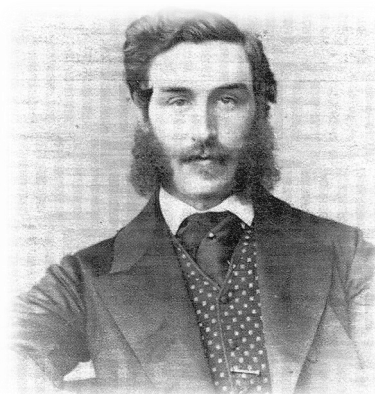
It is clearly a great time to look back into the past and find our roots, with no fewer than six local history and heritage groups currently at an early stage of formation in County Durham. At a time of uncertainty and unrest, people often turn to their roots to discover solace and inspiration. Local history enables multiple connections with your past - not only about the impact of royal and government policy on local people and structures but the way the past has shaped the places where we live or which we love. Local history is also about water-mills, football teams and grand-mother's favourite recipes.

The pasts which we aim to study include different periods – whether prehistory, the Roman period or the Mediaeval period. The mining period in its peak period of a century made massive changes but agricultural life went on in parallel to the mines. After the closure of the mines, the villages changed dramatically, giving birth to the modern places where most people in the Parish live and work. Oral history may well become one focus for the group, since the post-World War II generation is fast maturing. But every period has interesting questions with which we can grapple.

A single example concerns the name of the Parish of Byshottles. What and where is 'Byshottles'? You won't find it on any recent map, even as a split form of name ('By Shottles or perhaps 'By Shotton'). It's a question still to be resolved by local historians. Other questions concern the development of local cinemas and the links of the 8<sup>th</sup> Viscount Boyne to our local mining industry.

A great way to answer such questions is to start up a local history and heritage group for the Parish. Forum members collectively possess vast experience in how best to attract local members to a new group and how to develop its programme. We are open to ideas and approaches from all other groups.

To begin the process, we shall be holding a meeting to promote interest in local history at



8th Viscount Lord Boyne  
(courtesy of Brancepeth Archives)

**6.30pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
in the Parish Council Office, 6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, DH7 8JJ  
parking for cars and bikes in the nearby school car park; Arriva buses 46 and 49; Angel 21**

All those with experience in establishing and growing a local history group are welcome to attend. If you have any ideas you'd like to have discussed at the meeting, please contact me beforehand.

We look forward to meeting you in person at the initial group meeting.

Best wishes

JOHN CHAPMAN  
tel: 0191 378 0641  
email: [j.c.chapman@dur.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.chapman@dur.ac.uk)

## AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2023 PROGRAMME

10 May	Queen Victoria's Troublesome Son	R & J Crouch
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**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 2023 PROGRAMME

22 May	A Journey down the River Wear in Postcards	G Nairn
26 June	The Story of Norman Cornish	J&D Cornish

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

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start  
Admission – Members £5.00/Non Members £6.00

**More information:**

**Dennis Scarr – 07745018272**

## ARCH & ARCH Lectures for 2023

Meetings will be held at 2.30pm:

10 June	Altogether Archaeology Gueswick Hills Project	T Metcalfe
14 Oct	Street House in the Neolithic	S Sherlock
11 Nov	Durham & Northumberland OS Notebooks	D Whaley & R Pearson

Room ER140, Elvet Riverside, Durham City DH1 3JT  
*Afterwards, for those who would like to join us, we will go for a drink (tea/coffee or something stronger if you wish) at the public bar in the County Hotel.*

[archandarch.dandn@gmail.com](mailto:archandarch.dandn@gmail.com)



## WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2023 MEETINGS

Meetings are held in  
Wheatley House, Woodlands Avenue  
at **11.00am** £3.00 includes tea/coffee/raffle

26 Apr	Richard Heckels - A Colliery Engineer	J Heckels
31 May	WW1 Pension Records	J Pasby
28 June	The Suffragettes	S Vincent
26 July	A History of Medieval Archery	I Craggs

**Latest Newsletter:**

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

**E: [history.club2@btinternet.com](mailto:history.club2@btinternet.com)**

## SEDFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2023 PROGRAMME

1 May	The River Tees Story	G Taylor
5 June	Visit to Escomb Church	
3 July	To be arranged	

Meetings are held in  
Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm  
**First Monday of the Month**

**For more details:**  
**Suzanne 01429 882250**



## EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### 2023

18 May	Fountains Abbey "Genius of the Place"	M Newman
15 June	The Old Hall Egglescliffe	K Chapman Heritage Specialist ECUS

**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](mailto:david_j_bate@ntlworld.com)

## BRANCEPETH ARCHIVE & HISTORY GROUP

### THE BRANCEPETH PANDEMIC

The Brancepeth Pandemic  
Dates for Your Diary:

Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 June

Open to the public

Saturday 11.00—16.00

Sunday 12.00—16.00

Free Parking and Entry  
Refreshments will be available

### The Story of the Covid 19 Outbreak through the eyes of our villagers in an exhibition at Brancepeth Castle

Over the past year, a small team, under the auspices of Brancepeth Archive and History Group, has been gathering contributions from individuals, groups and clubs in the village, together with accounts of socially distanced and online activities, support mechanisms, that enabled our village to hold together during the epidemic. The exhibition will enable people to read contributions, see photos, competitions, videos and be reminded of how this small community survived.

### The History of Consett Steelworks (HCSW) project team

Would like to extend an invite to all local schools to get in touch to discuss arranging a School Steelworks Walk.

Rob Moran from our project team has now guided two walks for classes from Lanchester EP school and is ready to guide more children to give them a tour of Steelworks site.

The walks are FREE and are part of the ethos of the project to pass on the memories and history to the next generation, who will hopefully be the next custodians and volunteers

Either comment, pass on to contacts or email: [juddrichard1976@gmail.com](mailto:juddrichard1976@gmail.com)



Northumberland  
& Durham  
Family History  
Society

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## FAMILY HISTORY FAIR



**SATURDAY MAY 27, 2023 10:30 - 3**

**Newcastle Central Library, 33 New Bridge St W**

Representatives of a  
number of family & local  
history organizations will  
be on hand with  
resources and help!



*Scheduled  
Talks*

**11 am LIZZIE BAKER - News from the  
Tyne & Wear Archives**

**1:30 pm JOYCE JACKMAN - Beyond the  
basics: Estate Papers**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE DURHAM MUSEUM

Durham Museum has a new Museum Officer:  
Anna Bridgeman

The Museum are looking for Volunteers  
to assist with opening the museum

throughout April and May

The museum is open from:

11.00am to 4.30pm

Wednesday to Sunday

morning or afternoon shifts available

Please contact

[museumofficer@durhammuseum.co.uk](mailto:museumofficer@durhammuseum.co.uk)

Website: [Durham Museum](http://Durham Museum)

## COXHOE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

MEETINGS HELD THURSDAYS 7.00pm  
St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Street

4 May	East Park, Sedgefield Community Excavation	D Mason
1 June	Sid Chaplin—Pitman's Author	M Chaplin
6 July	'The Durham Miner Illustrated'	G Whales

Website: [coxhoehistory.org.uk](http://coxhoehistory.org.uk)

Contact:

Jack Turton: 0191 3770771

Barbara Leo: [barbaraleo88@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraleo88@gmail.com)

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



## Bishop Auckland Heritage Festival

Bishop Auckland Town Hall

**Saturday 23 September 2023**

**HOLD  
THE  
DATE**

### FREE TABLE HIRE

*fully paid-up group members of the Forum*

Please put this event on your agenda to discuss  
with your group

**It's a great opportunity to showcase your work**

**More Details in the July Newsletter**

### Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

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

**Headland Baptist Church**  
Baptism Street TS14 0QJ

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

15 May	Cuthbert Sharp and his famous relative— Brass Crosby	S Fletcher
19 June	My Family Search	M Leadington
17 July	The First Hartlepool Lighthouse	B Lindsay



### Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

**Bowburn Community Centre DH6 5AT**

Disabled Access  
On Site Parking

**SATURDAY 8 JULY**

**10.00am—3.00pm**

**Entrance £1.00**

**Accompanied children FREE**

**Free Valuations**

## THIRD THURSDAY TALKS—DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

**Booking is Essential—[recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk](https://recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk)**

**ONLINE FREE TALKS via ZOOM**

### Surprised by Parish Registers

By Pete Bradshaw, archivist

**Thursday 18 May 2023**

from 10.30 am to 11.30am

I thought I knew about parish registers. My curiosity about village life in earlier centuries led me to look at the records for an entire parish (1538 to 1900) and I was interested to see how interconnected the resident families were, and to gain an insight into household makeup and changes through time.

### 'A Plan so Replete with Advantages' - the building of Durham's North Road

By David Butler, archivist

**Thursday 20 July 2023**

from 10.30 am to 11.30am



North Road is a comparatively late addition to the city's roads, opened in 1831. Why was it built and what problems did the project face?

### 2K FREE GUIDED WALK

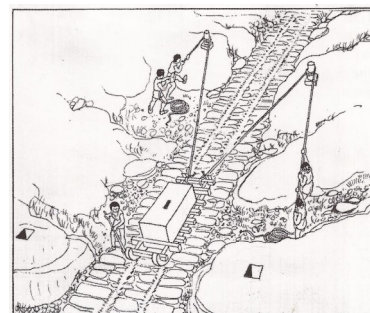
#### TO INCLUDE A FEATURE THAT MIGHT BE A ROMAN GLISSAGE (PASSAGE) AT WEST RAINTON

(and featured in Raymond Selkirk's Book—"On the Trail of the Legions")

The walk will be looking at a possible Roman bridge crossing at Brasside  
And an interesting Saxon site called St Godric's Garth

Meet at

**Rainton Scout Centre at 10.30am on Sunday 21 May**



*Drawing of Roman Glissage*

This is not a long walk, maybe 2K in total but there are some steep steps so anyone with mobility issues should avoid it.

## LOVE OUR HERITAGE

### Call-out to local history & heritage groups

**Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre are planning an event to bring various local history groups and historians together for a day celebrating the rich heritage of the Derwent Valley and beyond**

We are looking for local history groups or historians who would like to have a space at the Heritage Centre to showcase the heritage of your particular area, engaging with visitors and helping them to find out more about local history and how they can get involved in their local groups.

There is also the opportunity to host short talks and guided walks on the day if any groups or individuals would be interested.

If you would like to be involved and have your history group and area represented please get in touch.

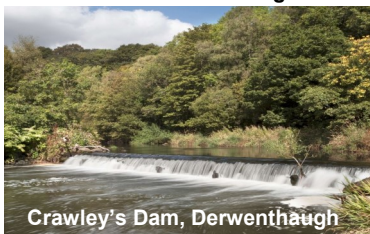
**E: [susan.mackell@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:susan.mackell@groundwork.org.uk)**

**The Land of Oak & Iron**

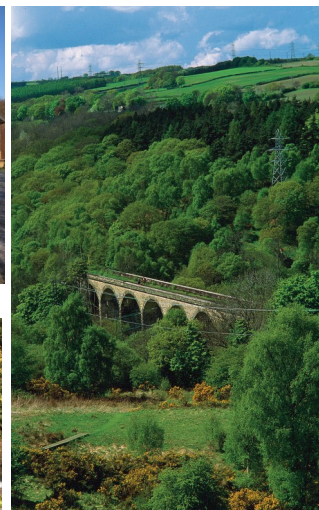
**W: [landofoakandiron.org.uk](https://landofoakandiron.org.uk)**



**Land of Oak & Iron Heritage Centre**



**Crawley's Dam, Derwenthaugh**



**Nine Arches, Derwenthaugh**



Historical Association  
The voice for history

# Local and Community History Month – May 2023

## Local History Month @ Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre

**Informal drop-in events—free and open to everyone—  
no need to book**

**10.00am—12.00**



**Thursday  
4 May**

Meet the author—Glenda Young—some of her saga books are based in Ryhope in 1919 and her cosy crimes at The Seaview Hotel, Scarborough in the present day  
Glenda's books will be on sale

**Thursday  
11 May**

Women of the Durham Coalfield in the 19th Century and 20th Century - a chance to talk to Margaret Hedley about her new book due out this year  
Margaret's books will be on sale

**Thursday  
18 May**

Chat with Dr Louise Powell who is researching dog racing in County Durham. No formal interviews, just a chance to reminisce about the sport

**Thursday  
25 May**

An opportunity to meet with Win Colman the grand-daughter of miners' leader, Peter Lee

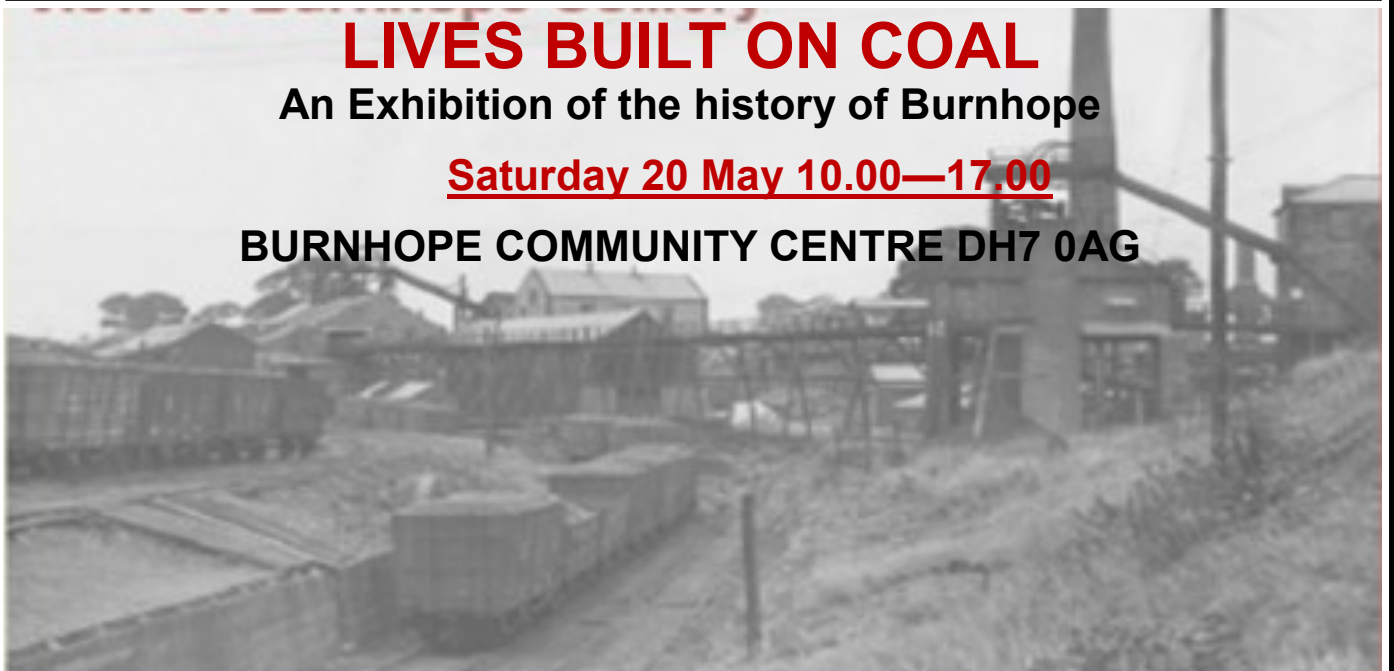
**Refreshments available**

## **LIVES BUILT ON COAL**

**An Exhibition of the history of Burnhope**

**Saturday 20 May 10.00—17.00**

**BURNHOPE COMMUNITY CENTRE DH7 0AG**



**Free entry  
tea/coffee/biscuits available**

**For more details:  
01207 775069**



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*The Family History Show*

**York**

**Saturday 24th June 2023**

**York Racecourse**

**LONDON**

**Saturday 2nd September 2023**

**Kempton Park Racecourse**



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*Ask the Experts*

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**[TheFamilyHistoryShow.com](http://TheFamilyHistoryShow.com)**