

HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy

CHAIR:
Marian Morrison

www.durhamweb.org.uk/



COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

Issue 3: July 2023

CONTACTS

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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

NEWSLETTER

If you have information you would like to share, please try and get it into one of the newsletters. Increasingly I am being asked to circulate information between newsletters and whilst I am happy to do so, it is very time-consuming and should be an exception rather than the rule.

After reading the article by Mark and Marian about the use of social media, it occurs to me that it would be great for the incidental events/information that occur between newsletters and it would reach an audience much larger than our forum.

Margaret

BISHOP AUCKLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

With County Durham Forum for History and Heritage

Great news for Forum members! We have been invited once again to hold a history fair in the upstairs theatre and bar at Bishop Auckland Town Hall as part of the festival in 2023, and as a result of its success last year.

I have a list of interested groups that I requested last week and I'll be sending out an official booking form in the coming days. Nothing unusual needed just contact details and evidence of your organisation's public liability insurance documentation, and PAT testing if required.

*The event will take place on Saturday 23 September
open to the public 10.30-3.00 and will need setting up in advance*

There will be a full programme of events happening on the day in the Town Hall and across the town. Check out the flyer on page 2 of this newsletter.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE FORUM

by Marian Morrison & Mark Smith

Local History in County Durham is experiencing a renaissance with new local groups forming and some established groups reviewing and renewing their objectives. We, the forum, need to do the same, but this is not anything new as all our member societies are unique reflections of their collective membership. As new members join the group dynamics changes and may lead to the group focus altering. I am a little saddened that social media with a short term interest in a life in sound bites and pictures may be truncating much local interest into the period since photography and photographs became common. Reading threads linked with pictures commonly generates inaccurate details of the picture and the surrounding history. We have seen this already in family history where a casual checking of details frequently leads to the wrong ancestor being linked to a family.

However there is always a bright side to everything and social media can provide us with a very positive tool to help engage people who otherwise may not contribute to heritage matters and a means to help harvest new information, particularly images that may otherwise get lost for all time once family papers and memories fade into time. It can also provide us with excellent media to showcase and network with many specialist heritage interest groups who we may otherwise remain unaware of.

Taking the above into account we are hopeful that the Forum may be able to help explore a different path for social media and local history as we embark on "grasping the nettle" and improving our social media presence this year.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

bishop auckland

Join in this journey of discovery
and share your stories and memories
of the town and its people. Enjoy free
exhibitions and events whilst
learning our local history and latest
findings!

Vintage Car Show

RADIO BROADCASTS

talks & presentations

family activities

WALKING TOURS

exhibitions

+ more

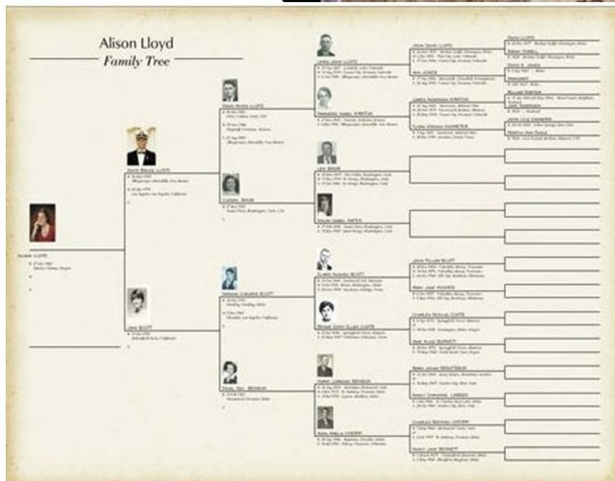
BISHOP AUCKLAND
TOWN HALL
23 SEPTEMBER 2023
1030AM - 3PM



Hetton Local & Natural History Society

Pat Robson

An introduction to RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY



**Pat will do a free
Family Search for
one lucky draw
winner on the
night.**

Everyone welcome, the meeting will be held on

Monday 31st of July 7.00pm

In the

Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall

(Formerly St Nicholas's Church Hall in the centre of Hetton)

Entrance Fee £3—Includes coffee/tea and biscuit

Hetton Local & Natural History Society

For further information contact the Secretary Alan Jackson on 0191 5262804

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2023 PROGRAMME

13 Sept	Rise & Fall of the Pease's	B Stuart
11 Oct	To be confirmed	
8 Nov	RNLI	D Hastings
6 Dec	AGM & 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

CROOK & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2023 PROGRAMME

25 Sept	Mary Ann Cotton	T Hutchinson
23 Oct	Winterton Hospital In Words & Pictures	J Turton

**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

2.30pm

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*

9 Sept	Excavations of the Iron Age palisaded enclosure and Bronze Age burial cairn, Wether Hill, Ingram, Northumberland	P Topping
14 Oct	Street house in the Neolithic	S Sherlock

archandarch.dandn@gmail.com



WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB

2023 MEETINGS

Meetings are held in
Wheatley House, Woodlands Avenue DH6 3JX
at **11.00am** £3.00 includes tea/coffee/raffle

30 August	History of Peterlee New Town	C Robson
27 Sept	A Necessary History: The British Toilet	R Pears
25 Oct	A Social History of Wheatley Hill Cemetery	M Hedley

Latest Newsletter:

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

**E: history.club2@btinternet.com
wheatley-hill.org.uk**

SEDFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2023 PROGRAMME

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

4 Sept	Thomas Kenny VC	M Hedley
2 Oct	100 Years of Darlington Hippodrome "Of Fish & Actors"	C Lloyd

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

28 Sept	The Tale of Two Piers Redcar & Coatham	P Sotheran
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NEW MEETING TIME

**Meetings are held in
St John's Church, Butts Lane, Egglecliffe
2.00pm**

Admission £2.00

For more details:

david_j_bate@ntlworld.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23 September	Bishop Auckland Heritage Event
20 October	Items for newsletter to Margaret
27 October	Newsletter circulated



THE AUCKLAND PROJECT



Save the Date!

The new Faith Museum at Auckland Castle will open its doors on Saturday 7 October

Be one of the first to visit this unique museum and discover stories of faith in Britain spanning 6,000 years

The Faith Museum has been generously supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Jerusalem Trust

Free entry for Annual Pass holders and Friends of The Auckland Project.

One unique museum

The Faith Museum explores the myriad ways in which faith has shaped lives and communities across Britain, inviting visitors to consider how people across history have encountered faith

Four dynamic galleries

Leading visitors on a journey through British history, the museum comprises four dynamic gallery spaces with an active programme of changing displays and temporary exhibitions

6,000 years of history

The museum's story begins 6,000 years ago and takes visitors on a journey through time, considering the ways faith has shaped lives throughout history and continues to do so

NORTH EAST METHODIST HISTORY SOCIETY

Autumn Lecture

Saturday 14 October 2023
2.30pm

At St Andrew's Methodist/URC, Crook

"General Oglethorpe"
Associate of the Wesley's

Speaker—Nigel McMurray

Cost £5 per person to include light refreshments

Bookings: chrivseal@hotmail.co.uk

COXHOE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

7 Sept	A Journey in Postcards Along The Great North Road	G Nairn
5 Oct	Secrets of the Attic	T Nicholson

Website: coxhoehistory.org.uk

Contact:

Jack Turton: 0191 3770771

Barbara Leo: barbaraleo88@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



MEMORIES OF THE ROXY CINEMA WATLING STREET, LEADGATE (Opened 1938)

By Richard Judd

The good news is that the Roxy on the verge of partly re-opening as a community venue after years of restoration work by the Barnes Family:

<https://www.facebook.com/WatlingSpaces.TheRoxy/>

What are your memories of the Roxy? Did you or family members work there? Do you have any pictures to share?

More images on this Facebook Album:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=1913827755567448&set=a.2363200263963526>

<https://memoriesofleadgate.com/?p=1012>



Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

Drop in Sessions are held

Headland Baptist Church
Baptism Street
HARTLEPOOL TS24 0QN

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

AUGUST No Meeting

1 Sept	The Excelsior Choir	I Lightfoot
16 Oct	Birth of the Central Estate	R Codner

Second Tuesday of the month
DROP INS
11.30am—3.30pm



Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

Bowburn Community Centre DH6 5AT
Disabled Access
On Site Parking

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

10.00am—3.00pm
Entrance £1.00
Accompanied children FREE

Free Valuations

PHIL TOWNSEND

Sculptor

A Retrospective.

Carvings in the Durham landscape.

A local sculptor looks back over his artistic career.



The Fitzhugh Library

51 Market Place, Middleton-in-Teesdale, DL12 0QH

(Above the bookshop & opposite the Teesdale).

Open Monday and Tuesday 10.30 – 2.30.

Twilight Talks

at

The Museum of Archaeology, Palace Green Library

5.45—6.45

Thursday 24 August

A library full of good books – the story of Cosin's Library

Founded in 1669, Cosin's Library is one of the earliest public libraries in the North of England. In this talk Dr Danielle Westerhof Rare Books Curator will explore why Bishop John Cosin created this library and why it is so significant

Thursday 25 September

Piercebridge River Assemblage, meet the diver

Bob Middlemass and the late Rolfe Mitchinson are known as the Piercebridge Divers. Over 30 years they recovered nearly 4,000 objects from the riverbed at Piercebridge

Thursday 26 October

Celebrating 20th Century County Durham

In this talk Archivist Andrew Gray will explore new additions to the archive, relating to the development of County Durham towns and villages in the early 20th century



THE AUCKLAND PROJECT ANNUAL PASS

The Auckland Project has launched a new annual pass which gives unlimited access to Auckland Castle and Gardens, the Spanish Art Gallery, the Mining Art Gallery and the Faith Museum, opening this autumn.

Discover everything Bishop Auckland has to offer, including seven amazing attractions and over 2,000 years of history, plus free entry to events and exhibitions throughout the year.

The Annual Pass costs £25 for adults with family passes available. Save 10% when you buy an Annual Pass online at

<https://aucklandproject.org/plan-a-visit/ticket-prices/>
using the code **CDFHH10** before 31 July

MINING ART GALLERY

Every Thursday at 2.00pm

UNTIL 1 OCTOBER

Mining Art Gallery Highlight Tours

Weekly spotlight tours exploring the
Mining Art Gallery
home of the Gemini Collection of
Mining Art

460 artworks by mining artists
Norman Cornish & Tom McGuinness

FREE with an Annual Pass OR
Spanish Art Gallery Ticket

[https://aucklandproject.org/whats-on/
free-spanish-gallery-highlight-tours/](https://aucklandproject.org/whats-on/free-spanish-gallery-highlight-tours/)

THIRD THURSDAY TALKS—DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Booking is Essential—recordofficeshop.durham.gov.uk

ONLINE FREE TALKS via ZOOM

Country Banks and the Durham Advertiser circa 1815

By Dr John Banham, local historian

Thursday 21 September 2023

from 10.30 am to 11.30am



John Banham, Secretary of the Durham County Local History Society, researched early banking in North East England for his PhD thesis in the 1990s. With the advent of the online British Newspaper Archive, this talk extends that research to cover the reporting of the activities of local banks in the Durham County Advertiser in the early years of the nineteenth century.

At the time the Advertiser pronounced itself "the only newspaper between York and Newcastle" and covered the activities of country banks in County Durham and North Yorkshire, particularly during the banking crash of 1815/16.

HISTORY OF CONSETT STEELWORKS AT LAND OF OAK AND IRON LOCAL HISTORY DAY 29 MAY 2021

Our members History of Consett Steelworks were invited to the above event at the Land of Oak and Iron Heritage Centre, Winlaton on 29 May.

The Consett group were able to allow people via the Virtual Reality Headset to "enjoy" a wander in the old site (more work on this is ongoing)

They were also able to share some items from Building Self Belief who we are working with on their 2 year National Lottery Heritage Funded project - see link –

<https://www.buildingselfbelief.org/what-we-do/projects/consett-iron-company-community-heritage-project>



*Wandering around the Consett Steelworks site
Via the virtual reality headset*

NEW FORUM ZOOM ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024

Jan	Cramlington Train Wreckers	E Waugh
Feb	Secret Darlington or Teesdale Tracks	C Lloyd
Mar	The Tyne Brewery Site	R Annis

NO ZOOM MEETINGS OVER THE SUMMER

Sep	The Woman in Question	T Nicholson
Oct	Durham County & its Turnpike Roads	D Butler
Nov	Tony Blair	A Atkinson

CHESTER-LE-STREET HELP

Can anyone help with this query?

One of our members, for family history purposes, is looking for a man of Italian descent who ran a restaurant or cafe in Chester-le-Street or Houghton-le-Spring in the 1960's and 1970's.

He may have changed his name to Bell (his original name was possibly Bellini or Billini).

Does anyone remember the name of the restaurant or Mr Bell's first name?

Please contact Margaret if you have information and she will pass it on