

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

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



# COUNTY DURHAM FORUM for HISTORY & HERITAGE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

Issue 1: January 2024

## CONTACTS

### Membership Secretary & Newsletter:

Margaret Hedley

T: 07977546332

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

### Website:

John Banham

T: 01388 816209

E: jdbdclhs@gmail.com

### Zoom:

Sarah Hillier

yb2u15@gmail.com

## FORUM COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Marian Morrison

**Vice Chair:** Margaret Hedley

**Secretary:** Sarah Hillier

**Treasurer:** John Banham

Ian Finlayson

Dawn Layland (The Story)

Mark Smith

Win Stokes

## Annual General Meeting & Hannah Hauxwell Exhibition

COUNTY DURHAM FORUM FOR HISTORY AND HERITAGE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at

**Bowburn Community Centre**

**Durham Road, Bowburn DH6 5AT**

on

**Saturday 16 March 2024**

**9.30am – 10.30am**

### AGENDA

- 1 Welcome to the AGM by the Chair
- 2 Apologies for absence including retirements from the committee
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting
- 4 Reports from: The Chair  
The Treasurer  
The Membership Secretary
- 5 Nominations and Election of Officials & Committee 2024/25
- 6 Any other business:

**A full set of AGM papers will be circulated during February**

### A Few Words from the Chair

*Marian Morrison*

Seasons Greetings and welcome to 2024 at the Forum.

The new year finds your committee beavering away with several projects linked to improving what we offer to the membership. The focus of things for spring will be the Annual General Meeting and your opportunity to shape the Forum and what it does in the name of the members. We are trying to freshen up our image and make sure the Forum is **"Fit for Purpose"** to use a business expression. Now I am sure you don't want to hear me bleating on it's just we don't want to make changes if you all really like the old ways but feedback to the committee is sparse and I am sure that the silent majority will have some fantastic suggestions that could be useful for our future.

Clearly history, heritage and archaeology are popular with the public when looking at the many hours of coverage on TV channels so there should be a place for the Forum to support the people who don't yet know they want more in their local area than just watching the telly. We need to be there in the future when they are looking to join in and get involved.

So see you at the AGM with all your positive and negative comments for the committee and any advice you have for us.

*The following exhibition has been organised by*  
**The Fitzhugh Library, Middleton-in-Teesdale**

**The life and times of**  
**HANNAH HAUXWELL**

**AN EXHIBITION AT BOWBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE DH6 5AT**

**Saturday 16 March 2024**

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.

**Exhibition Open to the Public**

**10.30am—3.00pm**

**Admission £2.00 includes tea/coffee/biscuits**

## AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2024 PROGRAMME

**New Chairman: David Blair**

14 Feb	Diet, Disease & Death Captain Cook	M Peagam
13 Mar	The Wizard and the Typhoon	D Reynolds
10 Apr	The History of Ringtons	D Billingham

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 2024 PROGRAMME

22 Jan	Crime, Suicide, Murder Tragedy	T Young
26 Feb	Just a Line—The Soldiers Letter	G Harrison
25 March	The Story of Astronomer Thomas Hughes	D Hughes
22 April	Edith Cavell—Wartime Heroine	I McArdle

**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 Lecture Programme 2024

Face to face meetings held at 2.30pm in  
Room ER140

Elvet Riverside, New Elvet DH1 3JT

10 Feb	Raby Castle	R Annis J Biddlecombe- Brown
9 March	Catholic Country Houses in Durham & Northumberland	R Pears
13 April	Excavation & Building Recording at Egglescliffe Old Hall	K Chapman

*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 2024 MEETINGS

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

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

21 Feb	Hollowed Ground Film Documentary (starts at 10.30am— ends 12.00)	
27 March	Fishburn	Martin Peagam
24 April	Hitler's Women	R & J Crouch

**Latest newsletter:**

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

**For more information:**

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

## SEDGEFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2024 PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm

**First Monday of the Month**

5 Feb	AGM	
4 March	Women of the 1950's	C Dean
9 April	Bus Museum Talk	

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



## EGGLESCLIFFE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### 2024

22 Feb	The Saxon Monastery at Hartlepool	R Daniels
28 March	Capability Brown: His Life & Gardens	M McQuade
25 April	The Social Development of Skinningrove due to Ironstone mining and ironworks	C Hart

**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)



# R A B Y

## *The Rising*

Opening Spring 2024

Think acres of unexpected elegance, complete with heritage buildings, remodelled gardens, stylish shopping and local food. Our magnificent Dutch Barn and Riding School buildings are being repurposed to host exhibitions, conferences and events, and the Vinery Café will enjoy panoramic views of Raby Castle while offering specially-crafted seasonal menus. The Coach House and Stables will house displays telling the story of Raby Castle and the Teesdale Estate, alongside a new and improved retail area.



## *Women of Raby Tour*

16th & 24th March | 10am

These exclusive events at Raby Castle highlight stories of some of the fascinating women who once walked our halls. From the familiar history of Cecily Neville, known as the 'Rose of Raby', to the lesser-known experiences of the women who worked in the household, this surprising tour will put working women, botanists, artists, and court influencers under the spotlight. Join our Senior Guides for a behind-the-scenes glimpse into rooms beyond the public route and gain an insight into women who have shaped Raby's history.



## *Spotlight on the Archives: Lead Mining in Upper Teesdale*

Saturday 27th January & 24th February | 10.30am

Led by our knowledgeable archivist, Gabriel, this event offers a unique opportunity to uncover the hidden gems within the estate's archives. Immerse yourself in a treasure trove of historical documents, including maps, accounts, letters, and various records that shed light on the intricate world of lead mining



## *Housekeeper's Sitting Room and Castle Re-opening*

The re-opening of the castle on the 1st March will also see the launch of a new visitor space; the Housekeeper's Sitting Room, which has been thoughtfully restored by the Raby team. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about the history of the two families who owned Raby, through a new introductory video and family tree, before commencing their journey through the castle.

Stay connected with all the exciting news from across the Raby Estate including Raby Castle and High Force Hotel and Waterfall. Sign up to receive event updates and exclusive promotions directly in your inbox!



Join us for a special screening of this new documentary film at Wheatley Hill History Club

## **HOLLOWED GROUND**

### **The People of the Durham Coalfield**



**Wednesday 21 February 2024 10.30am**

*(the film runs for 90 minutes)*

**Space is limited so please contact:**

**history.club2@btinternet.com**

*to reserve a place*

**£3.00 admission includes tea/coffee/biscuits**

**Woodlands Avenue, DH6 3JX**

#### **Durham County Local History Society Journal 88**

- **PATERNALISM, CONFLICT & DECLINE**  
*The seventh Marquess of Londonderry and the coal industry 1906-1947*  
By Neil Fleming
- **SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS IN DURHAM 'S UNIONS**  
By Margaret Armstrong
- **IRON, COAL AND CINDERS**  
By Win Stokes
- **THE DISAPPEARANCE OF VIOLET HUNT**  
By Naomi Booth

#### **MIDDLETON ST GEORGE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

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

**Meetings held 7.30pm—9.00pm**

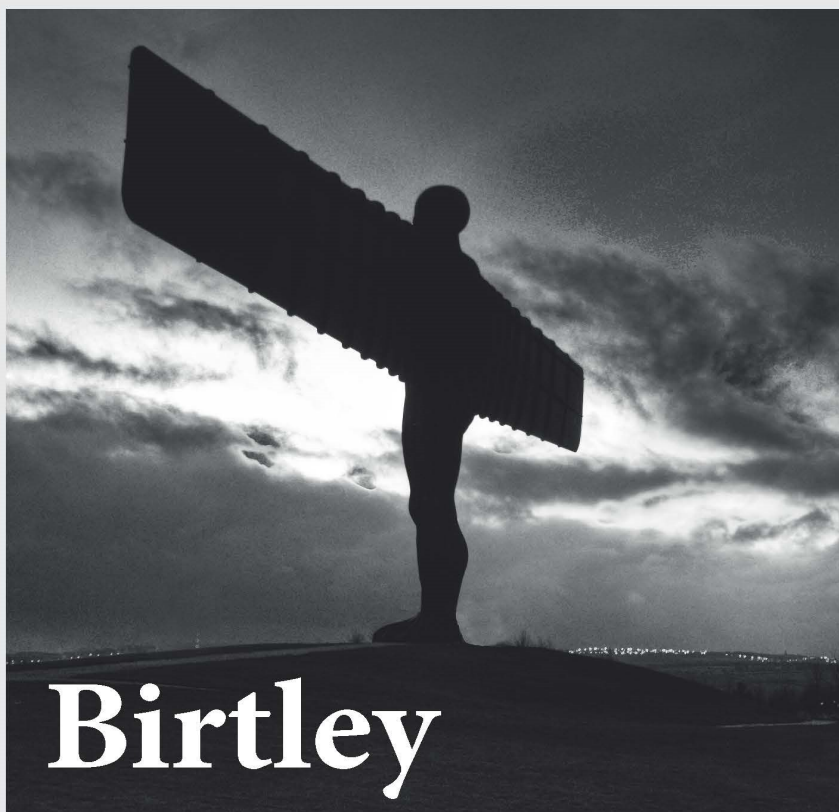
**Third Thursday of month September—April**

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

18 Jan	The Road to Rockcliffe	C Lloyd
15 Feb	The Old Hall in Egglescliffe	K Chapman
21 March	A Roman Settlement in East Park, Sedgfield	R Annis
18 Apr	Changes in Womens' Lives in the last 60 years	F Laverick

Tea/Coffee available  
**Non-Members Welcome—£3 per visit**  
For more information:  
[msglocalhistory@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:msglocalhistory@hotmail.co.uk)

# *AT THE FEET OF THE ANGEL*



## The Growth of an Industrial Community in the Nineteenth Century

**Robert Hull**

with a Foreword by  
**Sir Antony Gormley**

**Durham County Local History Society**

**Paperback—£15.00**

(192 pages/6 maps/115 black & white illustrations)

The book is available at:  
Gateshead Central Library  
Birtley Branch Library

Or from Society Secretary John Banham  
21 St Mary's Grove, Tudhoe Village, Spennymoor, County Durham DL16 6LR  
(e: [jdbds@gmail.com](mailto:jdbds@gmail.com))

**P&P £3.00**

Cheques should be made payable to *Durham County Local History Society*.



## HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

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

**2024**

19 Feb	AGM—Members Only	
18 Mar	Hartlepool Chapels	O Hart
15 Apr	Devils Island	J Oxley



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



**2024**

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

1 Feb	Starting the Next Chapter The Story at Mount Oswald	C Ball
7 Mar	Coxhoe's Methodism Story	History Grp
4 Apr	The Battle of Britain in North East England	D Fox

### Website:

coxhoehistory.org.uk

### Contact:

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

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

## Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

**Saturday 24 February 2024**



**Free Valuations**

**Bowburn Community Centre**  
**DH6 5AT**

**Disabled Access**  
**On Site Parking**

**10.00am—3.00pm**  
**Entrance £1.00**

**Accompanied children FREE**

## HETTON LOCAL & NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2024

Meet at 7pm in the Hetton and Eppleton Community Hall  
(formerly St Nicholas Church Hall in the Centre of Hetton)

29 Jan	15th AGM Churches & Chapels of the Hetton area	S Newton
26 Feb	John Lambton—3rd Earl of Durham	P Welch
25 Mar	The Creation of the Mining Institute	S Porthouse

**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**Entrance fee is £2**  
Includes tea/coffee/biscuits

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

## TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### 2024 Programme

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

26 Feb	Archaeology of earthquakes in the middle ages	Prof C Gerrard
25 Mar	Tudhoe Colliery Explosion of 1882	Dr F Snith
22 Apr	A Plan so replete with advantages—the building of North Road, Durham City	D Butler

**VISITORS : £4.00**

**For more details:**  
**SECRETARY: 01388 816850**

**www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs**



## Hetton Local & Natural History Society

**Shaun Newton BEM**

**Will give a presentation at our AGM on  
The Churches & Chapels  
of Hetton**

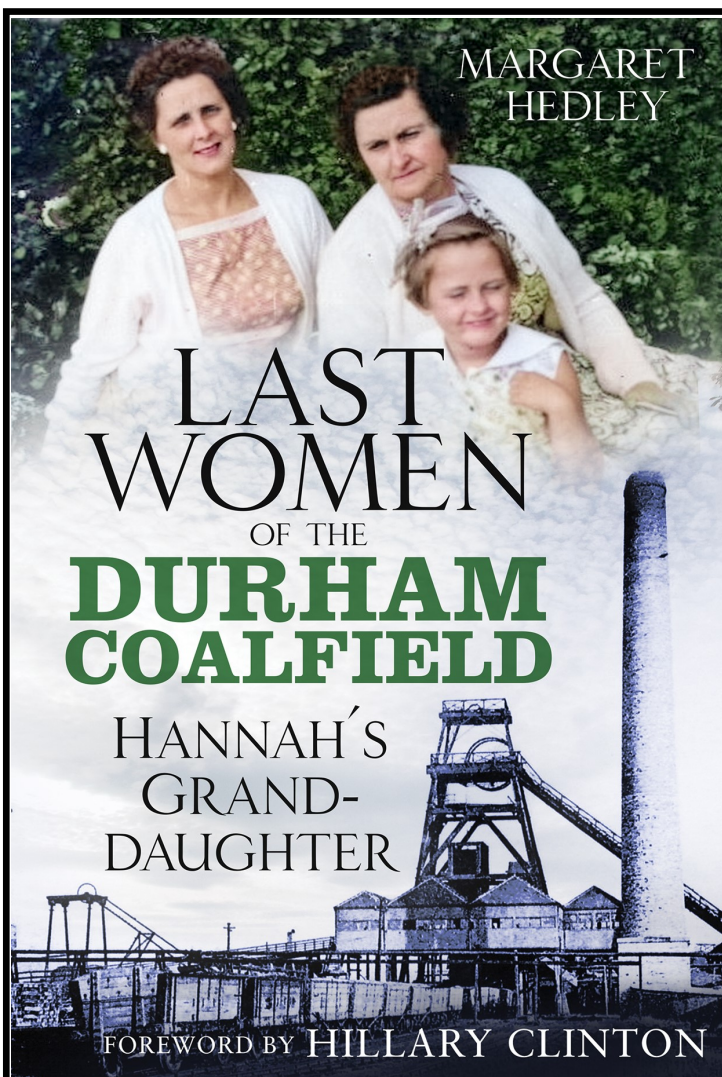


Everyone welcome, the meeting will be held on  
**Monday 29th of January 7.00pm**  
In the  
**Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall**  
(Formerly St Nicholas's Church Hall in the centre of Hetton)

**Entrance Fee £3—Includes coffee/tea and biscuit**

Hetton Local & Natural History Society  
For further information contact the Secretary Alan Jackson on 0191 5262804





When my first book, Hannah's Story was published in 2019, I had never planned for a follow-up and was surprised/amazed when readers told me that they wanted to know what happened to Hannah's family after her death.

This led to the publication of Hannah's Daughter in 2021. This book continued the story of the life of a typical coal mining family in County Durham from the beginning of a new century until the outbreak of the Second World War. It was set mainly in Ludworth and Thornley.

Probably the same readers were now asking for a third book and it seemed logical to follow the fortunes of the family through to the pit closures of the 1960's and so The Last Women of the Durham Coalfield will be published in 2024. It is set in Wheatley Hill and starts in 1941 until the closure of the pit in 1968, and yes that's me on the front cover with my mam and grandma, because we were all there when Wheatley Hill pit closed in 1968.

You will see that Hillary Clinton has written the foreword of my latest book. Her family left the Durham Coalfield in 1882, as did so many coal mining families, to find their fortune in Pennsylvania, USA, many returned but hers didn't and she's very proud of her connection to the Durham Coalfield.

**Publication due in March but available for pre-order now via Amazon/Waterstones etc**

## CLEVELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY SEDFIELD & HARTLEPOOL BRANCHES

Our Zoom meetings are open to all Cleveland Family History Society members

**Held First Monday in the Month  
2.30pm**

5 Feb	The History of the Toilet	R Pears
4 March	Women of the Durham Coalfield	M Hedley
8 April	Obsession, Enterprise & Death—the contrasting stories of those who made a fortune in the industrial revolution and their workers	Dr F Hurd

For more information on  
Joining the CFHS & Zoom Talks:

Contact Sylvia Hall  
[sylvia.hall2@googlemail.com](mailto:sylvia.hall2@googlemail.com)

## Brancepeth Archive & History Group

### Open Meeting to hear about the "The Story"

You are warmly invited to come and hear the latest about "The Story", the new Record Office/Registry Office that will be opening in Durham before too long.

Carolyn Ball, the County Archivist, is coming to Brancepeth Village Hall, Brancepeth Village, on **Friday 1 March, 2024 at 7.30pm** to talk about all that this building at Mount Oswald will be offering. It promises to be a very interesting evening. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to meet Carolyn and learn more about this exciting project.

The meeting is being organised by Brancepeth Archive and History Group. It will be in the upstairs hall but there is a chair lift.

For more information, ring  
**0191 378 0974**

Groups Holding Regular Monthly Meetings		
<b>Architectural Archaeological Soc of Durham &amp; Northumberland</b> 2.30pm Second Saturday in month Elvet Riverside DH1 3JT <a href="http://www.aasdn.org.uk/">www.aasdn.org.uk/</a>	 <b>Aycliffe Village LHS</b> Second Monday in month 7.00pm Aycliffe Village Hall <a href="http://www.aycliffehistory.org.uk/">www.aycliffehistory.org.uk/</a>	<b>Bowburn LHS</b> Second Monday in month 7.00pm Bowburn Com Centre DH6 5AT <a href="http://www.bowburnhistory.co.uk">www.bowburnhistory.co.uk</a>
<b>Brancepeth Archives &amp; History Group</b> First Saturday in month 9am—1pm Brancepeth Castle Brancepeth archive@outlook.com 17vivienne@gmail.com	 <b>Brandon &amp; Byshottles</b> New Group	 <b>Chester-le-Street Heritage</b> First Wednesday in month 7.00pm Lambton Arms <a href="http://www.chesterlestreetheritage.org">www.chesterlestreetheritage.org</a>
 <b>Cleveland &amp; Teesside LHS</b> 8 Saturday mornings Sept-Apr 10.30am Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough See <a href="http://www.ctlhs.co.uk">www.ctlhs.co.uk</a> for dates	 <b>Coxhoe Local History Group</b> First Thursday in month 7.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall DH6 4DD coxhoehistory@gmail.com <a href="http://www.coxhoehistory.co.uk/">www.coxhoehistory.co.uk/</a>	<b>Crook &amp; District Local History Soc</b> Fourth Monday in month 7.00pm for 7.30pm Meth Church Hall, Dawson Street Dennis Scarr 07745018272
<b>Egglescliffe Local History</b> Third Thursday in month 2.00pm St John's Church, Butts Lane david_j_bate@ntlworld.com	 <b>Hartlepool Headland LHS</b> Third Monday in month 6.45 – 9.00pm Headland Baptist Church TS24 0Q eileen.manners@ntlworld.com	 <b>Hetton Local &amp; Natural History</b> Last Monday in month 7.00pm Hetton & Eppleton Com Hall DH5 5HR <a href="http://www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk/">www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk/</a>
 <b>Howden-le-Wear History Soc</b> Third Monday in month 7.00pm, Village Hall <a href="http://www.howdenlewearhistsoc.co.uk">www.howdenlewearhistsoc.co.uk</a> joan.topsat@gmail.com	<b>Lanchester Local History</b> First Friday in month 7.00pm Lanchester Com Centre DH7 OJQ <a href="http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/cdfhhlanchester">www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/cdfhhlanchester</a>	<b>Middleton St George Local History</b> Third Thursday of month 7.30pm Community Centre DL2 LJG <a href="http://www.msglocalhistory.wordpress.com">www.msglocalhistory.wordpress.com</a>
 <b>Newcastle Antiquaries</b> Last Wednesday in month Check website for details events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk <a href="http://www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk">www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk</a>	   <b>NE Vernacular Architecture</b> First Saturday in month Mar-Oct Guided walks etc various times & places throughout the region <a href="http://www.northeastvernaculararchitecturegroup.com">www.northeastvernaculararchitecturegroup.com</a>	  <b>Northumberland &amp; Durham FHS</b> See website for individual group meetings <a href="http://www.ndfhs.org.uk/">www.ndfhs.org.uk/</a>
 <b>Sedgefield Local History</b> First Monday in month 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall, TS21 2AE 01740 620912	 <b>Teesdale Record Society</b> First Wednesday in month 7.30pm Cotherstone Village Hall DL12 9PG <a href="https://www.teesdalerecordsociety.org.uk/">https://www.teesdalerecordsociety.org.uk/</a>	 <b>Thorpe Thewles History Group</b> Contact below for meeting dates 1.30pm Grindon Parish Hall TS21 3JN <a href="http://www.thorpe-thewles.org.uk">www.thorpe-thewles.org.uk</a>
<b>Tudhoe &amp; Spennymoor LHS</b> Fourth Monday in month 7.30pm St David's Church Hall DL16 6LL <a href="http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs/">www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs/</a>	 <b>Wheatley Hill History Club</b> Last Wed in month Mar-Nov 11.00am Wheatley House DH6 3JX <a href="http://www.wheatley-hill.org.uk">www.wheatley-hill.org.uk</a>	
Groups Holding Zoom Meetings		
 <b>Cleveland Family History Soc</b> First Monday in month sylvia.hall2@googlemail.com	 <b>The Forum</b> Usually a Tuesday once a month yb2u15@gmail.com	 <b>Cleveland &amp; Teesside LHS</b> Last Saturday in month <a href="http://www.ctlhs.co.uk/">www.ctlhs.co.uk/</a>
Specific Interest Groups		
   <b>The Auckland Project</b> <a href="http://www.aucklandproject.org/">www.aucklandproject.org/</a>	<b>Durham County Local History Soc</b> <a href="http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs">www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs</a>	<b>Durham Victoria County History Trust</b> s.m.hingley@durham.ac.uk
   <b>Durham University Special Collections</b> <a href="http://www.dur.ac.uk/departments/library/archives-and-special-collections/">www.dur.ac.uk/departments/library/archives-and-special-collections/</a>	 <b>The Fitzhugh Library</b> Middleton-in-Teesdale, DL12 0QH fitzhughlibrary@gmail.com 01833 640074	<b>Friends of Vindomora</b> <a href="http://www.friendsofvindomora.com/">www.friendsofvindomora.com/</a> juddrichard1976@gmail.com
 <b>History of Consett Steelworks</b> <a href="http://www.historyofconsettsteelworks.com/">www.historyofconsettsteelworks.com/</a> juddrichard1976@gmail.com	 <b>Memories of Leadgate</b> <a href="http://www.memoriesofleadgate.com/">www.memoriesofleadgate.com/</a> juddrichard1976@gmail.com	<b>North East Methodist Society</b> northeastmethodisthistory.weebly.com
 <b>North East War Memorials Project</b> <a href="https://www.newmp.org.uk/">https://www.newmp.org.uk/</a> dahall52@aol.com	 <b>Picture the Past Postcard Collector</b> g.l.naim@btopenworld.com	   <b>Raby Castle</b> <a href="http://www.raby.co.uk">www.raby.co.uk</a>
 <b>Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade</b> admin@sunvlb.com	  <b>The Story</b> <a href="https://durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/">https://durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/</a>	  <b>Weardale Museum</b> <a href="http://www.weardalemuseum.org.uk">www.weardalemuseum.org.uk</a>
  <b>Weardale Railway</b> <a href="http://www.weardale-railway.org.uk">www.weardale-railway.org.uk</a>		