



HON PRESIDENT:
Mr John Grundy
CHAIR:
Marian Morrison



COUNTY DURHAM **FORUM** for HISTORY & HERITAGE

Issue 1: January 2026

www.durhamweb.org.uk/

Message from the Chair Marian Morrison

Well what a full year 2025 turned out to be and in keeping with that your committee have not eased up over the festive season. The training sessions offered to forum members from the Thorpe Thewles project have now concluded. These have been a wonderful asset to the membership, however I am saddened that although we were told such training opportunities were wanted there were unfilled spaces on most of the dates. Watch this space as it is possible that some more sessions may be advertised if the project requires.

Our social media and online footprint are still slowly progressing. I must accept responsibility for any delay as I feel it is essential when working with a team and groups that depend on volunteers there will always be the risk that we start something without considering how it will be sustained. I say better to have a lower level of profile than one that we are unable to support or keep interactive.

For 2026, our Annual General Meeting will take place on **Saturday, 18 April**, and we are fortunate to be hosting it within a larger event at **Durham Castle** as part of **World Heritage Day**. This setting presents an excellent opportunity for those who wish to attend and exhibit. The anticipated visitor numbers are expected to be considerably higher than in previous years, meaning we will need to elevate the quality and presentation of our displays in order to stand alongside the professional organisations exhibiting at the event. Let us showcase our interactive strengths and ensure we capture the interest and curiosity of the wider audience. If you would like to reserve a table, please contact **Margaret**, who will provide further details regarding exhibition arrangements at this remarkable venue. **See page 2 for further details.**

For the rest of the year we are planning a couple of coffee catch up sessions as you have told us you found them useful, and they help us understand what we need to do to keep the forum fresh for you.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage recipients of our quarterly newsletters to circulate them widely among your respective committees and memberships. The newsletter serves as our principal medium of communication, and it is regrettable that some members within affiliated groups may not be given the opportunity to remain informed about developments across the region.

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: Jan McGraw
Treasurer: John Banham

Sylvia Hall
 Sarah Hillier
 Mark Smith
 Win Stokes

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Message from David Lewis of the above group:

“I am sorry to advise that after 21years the Society is to fold at our AGM on 3rd December. Our numbers have been reducing for a number of years and due to lack of interest in anyone taking on the role of Secretary we will no longer be holding our monthly meetings and therefore we will have no subscription or monthly income.

We intend to keep our website going but that is all”.

[Aycliffe Village Local History Society Homepage](#)

NEWS FROM THE STORY

The Collections room at The Story will be closed on Mondays until further notice

All other facilities are open on Mondays

The Collections room is open on Thursday evenings 4.00—7.00pm

If you would like to go along, you need to book a spot

No need to pre-request records

The People's Story at Durham Castle
With Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site
AND
County Durham Forum for History and Heritage

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

Saturday 18 April 2026

Programme

- 9.30am-4.30pm **Durham Cathedral** open as usual (donations invited)
- 10.00am-4.00pm **Cathedral Museum** (last entry 3.30pm)
Exhibitions and 30-minute talks at 11am, 1pm and 3pm on
"A Treasure and a Legacy: Conservation at Durham, Cathedral"
Adults £7.50, U128's free
- 10.00am Meet outside Palace Green Library for a free walk and talk led by David Butler to explore **St Margaret's Allotments**, constructed on the Medieval Cathedral quarry
- 11.00am—4.00pm **Palace Green Library** will be open free of charge including the **Museum of Archaeology** and **World Heritage Site Visitor Centre** (accessible with films)
- 11.00am-4.00pm Free entry to **Durham Castle** (last entry 3.15pm) with self-guided tours of **the courtyard, Norman Chapel, Tunstall Chapel, Tunstall Gallery and The Great Hall**
- Heritage Fair and Family Activities in the Great Hall** showcasing local History and heritage groups, visitor attractions and the World Heritage Site Youth Ambassadors
- Presentations in the Bishop's Dining Room**
NO NEED TO BOOK
- 10.00am—10.45am **County Durham Forum AGM (members only)**
- 10.45am-11.00am **Welcome to exhibitors by Anne Allen**
- 11.00am-11.30am Keynote World Heritage Site Hon Professor Colleen Batey
"Beyond the classroom: from talks to walks, personalising the archaeological experience for engagement with communities"
- 11.30am-12 noon **"Diaries of David McLaren of Thorpe Thewles"** by Sarah Hillier
- 12.00-12.30pm **World Heritage Site Youth Ambassadors**
- 12.30pm-1.00pm **Volunteering at Durham Museum** by Adrian Green
- 1.00pm-1.30pm **Volunteering opportunities at Newcastle Castle**
by Karan Coates Nieto
- 1.30pm-2.00pm **Durham Cathedral Friends and Volunteering** with Belinda Fullelove
- 2.00pm-2.30pm **"World Heritage—Life Begins at 40"** by Anne Allen
- 2.30pm-3.00pm **"The Romantic Landscape Setting of Durham's World Heritage Site"**
By Martin Lowe, Historic England
- 3.00pm-3.30pm **"The Carlton Thorpe Cross"** presented by Bernard Taylor
- 3.30pm-4.00pm **"The Story at Mount Oswald"** concluding presentation by Carolyn Ball

IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNTY'S PAST?

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 played a major part in the economic and industrial growth of Britain. Like the County Durham Forum for History & Heritage, the area covered by the Society is the historic County Palatine - between the Tyne and the Tees, including the major urban areas south of the Tyne and north of the Tees. In recent years with a decline in membership the Society has concentrated on publishing its annual Journal, the 90th of which has just been published.

DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Journal 90 includes the following articles:

J.J. Vickerstaff, *The College of St Andrew's Auckland and its 'phantom' school before 1470*

Ross Hamilton, *Hopetown 1831-1881: The first 50 years of a new industrial community*

Win Stokes, *The Heyday of the Beehive* - the third in a series of articles on cokemaking.

Membership is £15 a year - and back copies of recent Journals are £5

**HOWEVER, IF THE SOCIETY IS TO
CONTINUE ITS WORK AND UPDATE TO
CONDITIONS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST
CENTURY, IT URGENTLY NEEDS NEW
MEMBERS PREPARED TO SERVE IN
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL
ROLES **such as a major upgrade of the website!****

DETAILS OF HOW TO GET IN TOUCH ARE ON OUR CURRENT WEBSITE

www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2026 PROGRAMME

Meetings held at

7.00pm for 7.30pm
St David's Church Hall, Tudhoe Lane

23 Feb	Tudhoe Village: The Early Years 1100-1500	Jeremy Hutson
23 March	Bentley Beetham: Lakeland Climber, Everest Explorer	Stephen Livingstone
27 April	A68 Darlington to Carter Bar in postcards	George Nairn

**Admission: Visitors £4.00
Annual Membership £20.00**

ARCH & ARCH Lecture Programme 2026

Face to face meetings held at 2.30pm in
Room ER140
Elvet Riverside, New Elvet DH1 3JT

7 Feb	One Giant Jigsaw Puzzle New research on the Archaeological history of Raby Estate	J Ostrum & J Biddlecombe- Brown
14 Mar	Portable Antiquities Durham Discoveries	C Smith B Westwood
18 Apr	Heritage Alive—Fair for World Heritage Day In partnership with DCHH Forum	

*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*

archandarch.dandn@gmail.com



WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB 2026 MEETINGS

Information: history.club2@btinternet.com

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

25 Feb	Thornley VC John Scott Youll	P Chrystal
25 March	George Stephenson Trials, Tribulations & Triumphs	D Williams
29 April	Treasured Photo Memories Memories	J Harrop (Beamish)

Latest newsletter:

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

For more information:

history.club2@btinternet.com

SEDFIELD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

2026 PROGRAMME

Meetings are held in

Ceddesfeld Hall at 7.45pm
First Monday of the Month

2 Feb	Annual General Meeting	
2 March	Durham Castle Walls	R Annis
6 April	TBA	

**For more details:
Suzanne 01429 882250**



NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Check out the following website for details of:

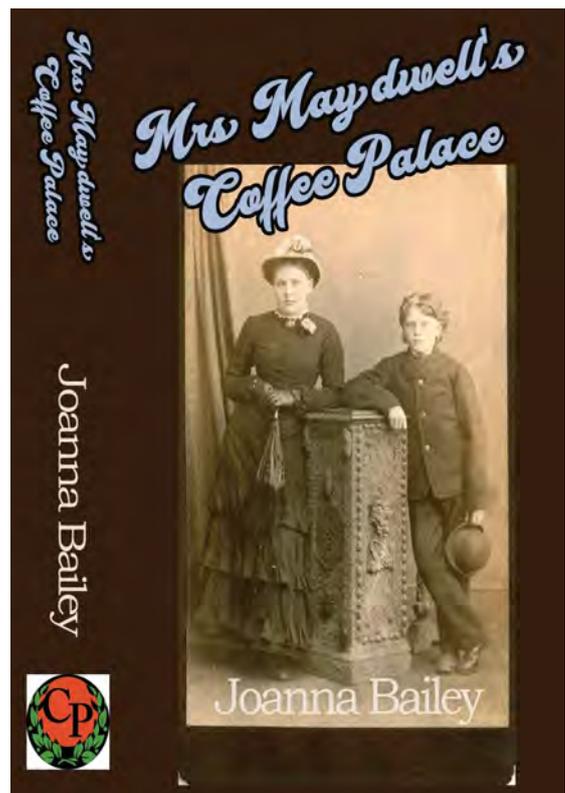
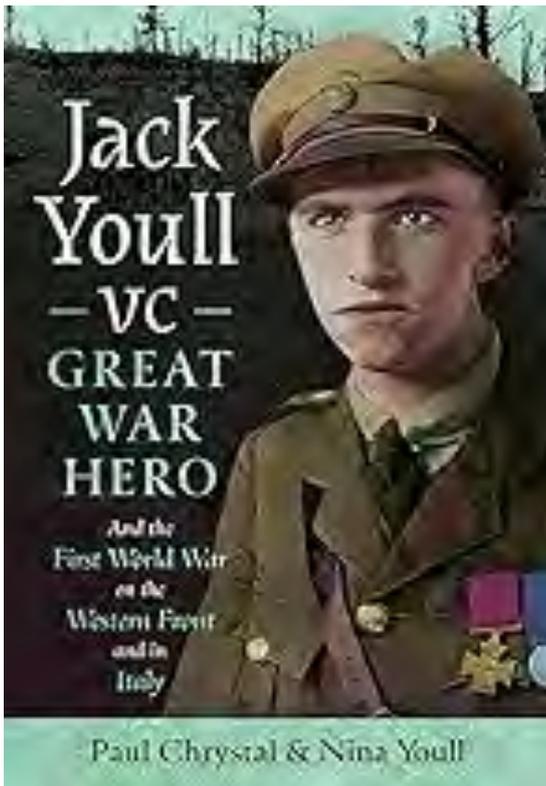
**Branch meetings
Regional Meetings**

<https://www.ndfhs.org.uk/events/>

**NDFHS
Branch Meetings held at:**

Blyth
Belmont, Durham
Consett
Hexham
London
Newcastle
Wansbeck
North Tyneside
South Tyneside

Wheatley Hill History Club, a long-standing champion of local history and heritage, is proud to share its growing reputation for publishing high-quality works by its members. These recent publications are by History Club members Jo Bailey and Paul Chrystal and focus of Durham's rich history and family stories,



Paul brings to light the remarkable story of John Scott Youll (1897 – 1918), a Thornley colliery electrician turned decorated war hero. After volunteering for the Army in 1915, Jack Youll rose through the ranks of the Northumberland Fusiliers, earning the Victoria Cross for his courage during the Battle of Vittorio Veneto. Tragically, his life was cut short just 24 hours before the ceasefire and two weeks before the end of the Great War.

Jo's work delves into the rigid societal norms that shaped women's lives in Victorian England—and the remarkable story of Christiana, Jo's great-grand aunt, who defied those expectations. Against a backdrop of illegitimacy, domestic service, the workhouse, crime and policing, adultery, and divorce, Christiana carved out a prosperous and respectable life for herself and her family.

This work offers a fresh perspective on resilience and rebellion in the Victorian era.

COXHOE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

5 Feb	Castles to Country Houses	R Pears
5 March	Roman Sunderland	G Bankhead
2 April	Durham & Dunbar Identifying Scottish Soldiers at Palace Green	R Annis

Website:

coxhoehistory.org.uk

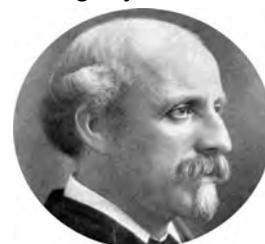
Contact:

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

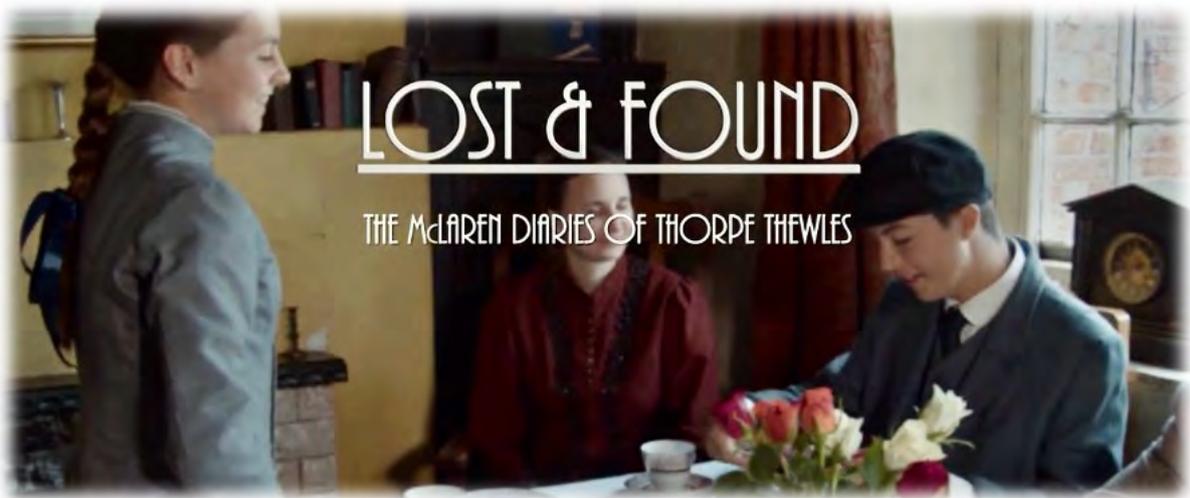
The Story Durham

On Thursday 12 February, we will be joined by researcher and genealogist Margaret Hedley, who will delve into the remarkable life of Peter Lee, the man they named a town after, and uncover the stories behind his legacy.



To book:

<https://www.thestorydurham.org/the-man-they-named-a-town.../>



In 2010 Thorpe Thewles History Group were contacted 'out of the blue' by Brian Powdrell from Hull who had just bought a set of three neatly written antique diaries from a local car boot sale. Once Brian got home and started to read the diaries more fully, he realised their potential historical importance and wanted to find them a permanent home within a library or heritage organisation based locally to where the diarist lived. This was a location unknown to Brian, the small village of Thorpe Thewles in southeast County Durham.

The diaries were written by a 14-year-old boy, David McLaren, who lived at Manor Farm, Thorpe Thewles. David was the eldest son of Hannah and William McLaren who were tenant farmers in the village. He was a keen sportsman and an avid supporter of Newcastle United. He always read the papers and was very much aware of what was happening beyond the confines of the village.

In 1914, he took up a scholarship to study Agriculture at Durham University's Armstrong College in Newcastle. However, by the end of that same year, he had enlisted into the army's Officer Training Corps and subsequently went on to serve as a frontline officer in France during the Great War. This was to be a war in which he played his part with honour but with profound and devastating consequences.

David's diaries present a vivid account of a young man's life in what was then a semi-rural part of southeast County Durham in the years immediately leading up to the Great War. They record much of the young diarist's detailed daily life along with accounts of local, regional and international events of interest as well as village gossip and scandals. Amongst some of the more historic events described in the diaries are the suffragette movement, the Pontypridd and Ais Gill railway disasters, Britain's first national railway and coal miners' strikes, Captain Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole, the sinking of the Titanic and the Universal Colliery disaster in Senghenydd. David's later diary entries intuitively perceive the growing political 'storm clouds' in Europe which ultimately led to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. The diaries contain a veritable 'gold mine' of information for historians, particularly those with an interest in northern England and southeast County Durham.



The 28th of February 2026 will mark the public premiere of TTHG's latest local history documentary, '**Lost and Found – The McLaren Diaries of Thorpe Thewles**'. A flavour of this full length (83-minutes) film can be gained from its trailer which can be viewed via TTHG's website or YouTube Channel - https://youtu.be/ct_7Q_W_2PI?si=YvPDLhBQqnrIZAG_.

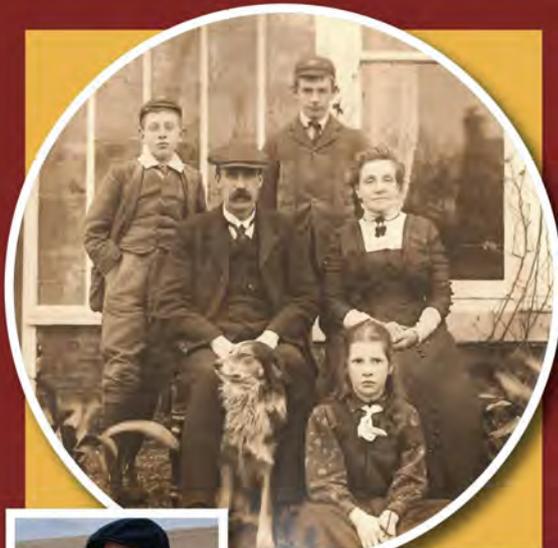
If Group members of the County Durham Forum for History and Heritage want to show the documentary, Thorpe Thewles History Group will be happy to facilitate this, and to provide a speaker to present it and answer any questions if required. This will all be free of charge as it is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Contact tthg@outlook.com

LOST & FOUND

THE McLAREN DIARIES OF THORPE THEWLES

— PUBLIC FILM PREMIERE —



Join us for a dive into the fascinating world of the McLaren Diaries (1911 to 1913) and uncover the untold Edwardian stories of the teenage David McLaren's life in and around Thorpe Thewles. Whether you're a history buff or just curious, this event promises intriguing tales and insights into life in southeast Co. Durham, and beyond, during the years leading up to the outbreak of the Great War.

A documentary film created by Thorpe Thewles History Group in association with Lonely Tower Film & Media with contributions from experts at Beamish Museum, The Green Howards Museum and the Northern Echo.

**When: 7:00 for 7:30 pm
on Saturday 28th February 2026**

**Where: Grindon Parish Hall, Durham
Road, Thorpe Thewles. TS21 3JN.**

**Admission: By pre-reserved tickets only.
*This is a Free event and includes light refreshments on arrival.***

Tickets Reservations From:

Carlton Post Office;

By telephone

(Tel:01740 630014)

or e-mail

(tthg@outlook.com)

or eventbright [Link](#)



Thorpe Thewles History Group will be hosting the following special events below as part of the culmination of their grant funded project, **'Preserving our Yesterdays for Tomorrow'**. Both events will be 'free' but with admission by pre-booked tickets **only**. They will be held in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles, TS21 3JN

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PRESENTERS</u>
28th February 2026	<p>Lost & Found – The McLaren Diaries of Thorpe Thewles</p> <p><i>The public premiere of TTHG's full length (83 minutes) documentary film which looks at the discovery, content and historic insights related to the teenage diaries (written in 1911, 1912 & 1913) of David McLaren, the son of a farming family from Thorpe Thewles in Southeast County Durham.</i></p>	TTHG & Lonely Tower Film & Media
19th March 2026	<p>Here be dragons: locating and contextualising the Thorpe(?) cross</p> <p><i>Thorpe Thewles History Group made a truly unprecedented find – the discovery of a rare, and ancient tenth-century Anglo-Scandinavian cross. The cross was in three fragments, weathered and dispersed, but together with the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture and experts from Durham and York Universities, this incredible find has been researched and contextualised in a co-produced project supported by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The cross' designs and decoration are quite unique, although exemplars for some of its motifs exist. This talk explores the find, its sourcing and creation, location and design in terms of broader understanding of the locality and sculpture patronage and production in County Durham and beyond.</i></p>	Prof. Sarah Semple & Roger Lang (Department of Archaeology, Durham University)

Both events to be held in Grindon Parish Hall, Thorpe Thewles. TS21 3JN. They will commence at 7:00 pm, with a selection of complementary refreshments on arrival, followed by the main film/presentation which will commence at 7:30 pm prompt.

To Reserve tickets, contact TTHG on e-mail: tthg@outlook.com or telephone 01740 630014.



R A B Y

Castle, Park & Gardens

The Secret Buildings of Raby

A series of guided walks through Raby's historic parkland on the last Saturday of each month at 2pm.

31st January | With Raby's Head Gardener

28th February | With Raby Castle's Curator

28th March | With Raby Castle's General Manager



The Servant School at Raby Castle

14th February - 1st March | 11am - 4pm

This February Half Term we are looking for little ones to join us here at Raby Castle, Park & Gardens for Servant School as you discover what life was really like behind the scenes as a castle servant.

The Woman Who Saved Raby

Sunday 8th March

This International Women's Day, follow in the footsteps of Lady Grace Fitzroy and her work to re-build Raby Castle by joining this one-off tour. Guided by Raby's archivist, this session will take you to the artworks, spaces, and records left behind by Grace, 1st Countess of Darlington.

Keep an eye on our website's What's On page for timings www.raby.co.uk/whats-on



Mother's Day Tea & Tour at Raby Castle

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th March | 2:30pm

This Mother's Day, treat your loved ones to a refined and memorable experience at the Castle. Our exclusive Mother's Day Tea and Tour offers a unique combination of history, elegance, and indulgence, with a guided tour of the Castle followed by a delightful afternoon tea.

Raby Castle Reopens for the 2026 Season

Saturday 14th February

As another bustling winter season, filled with deep cleaning, conservation and festive events, comes to an end, the Raby Castle Team are delighted to be welcoming visitors from near and far as we reopen for the 2026 season on Saturday 14th February 2026.



Become a Volunteer at Raby Castle

Have you ever considered volunteering in your spare time? We would love to welcome you to the team here at Raby Castle. Volunteers play a crucial role, helping share our rich and fascinating history with visitors.



Visit our website for more information and ticket booking | www.raby.co.uk/whats-on

Scan the QR code to sign up to our newsletter and receive event updates and exclusive promotions directly in your inbox!

HISTORY OF CONSETT STEELWORKS INTERACTIVE SESSIONS FOR LOCAL SCOUT GROUPS

By Richard Judd

The History of Consett Steelworks project team are delighted to have been invited to do some interactive sessions in March 2026 for the 1st Blackhill Scouts and Consett Scouts who use the same building in Central Consett

We will also be leading a guided Steelworks Walk experience for them later in the year

Were you in the local Scouts or have you volunteered for them?

The Scout Association in the UK was founded in 1910 and incorporated in 1912

 Newcastle Castle 2026

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Are you passionate about giving back to your community and creating positive change?

Join our volunteer team to support our mission and help us make history!

We're looking for:

- ★ **Visitor Experience Volunteers:**
Supporting visitors throughout our site.
- ★ **Tourist Information Hub Volunteers:**
Helping to point people in the right direction for their visit to Newcastle.
- ★ **Living History Volunteers:** *Telling the story of the castle and the city in a fun and engaging way.*

No previous experience needed!

What's in it for you:

- ★ Regular social events
- ★ Training and skills development
- ★ Local travel expenses covered
- ★ Free entry for you and your guests
- ★ 10% off in our gift shop



To find out more and apply, please visit:

<https://www.newcastlecastle.co.uk/volunteer-with-us>

Annfield Plain Local History Club

Monday 9th February 10.15 - 11.30am

Annfield Plain Library

'Photos and Feedback'

Join us for a social gathering and to share your ideas for future meetings



A collection of original photos and photo clippings of Annfield Plain have recently been discovered hidden in the library basement.

Come along to view them and see if you recognise the places and faces.

Arrive from 10am for complimentary refreshments. 10.15am start

Annfield Plain History Club meets on the second Monday of the month 10 - 11.30am.

Everyone welcome

Free to attend

Annfield Plain Library 03000 269511

annfieldplain.lib@durham.gov.uk

Monday 10.00am - 7.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.30am—12.30pm

March is Women's History Month

Annfield Plain Local History Club

Monday 9th March 10.15 - 11.30am

Annfield Plain Library

Val Scully

'The Wonderful Women of Gibside'

Join local author and historian Val Scully, as she tells the rich and varied stories of six Bowes women whose lives span 300 years of County Durham history



Strong women have been hugely significant in the history of Gibside.

From Lady Elizabeth Bowes, the pickaxe wielding firebrand who fought to build the family's fortunes, to the 20th century Elizabeth who refused the proposal of an heir to the throne and went on to save the estate for the nation.

Val will have copies of her books available for purchase and signing (cash only)

Arrive from 10am for complimentary refreshments. 10.15am start

Annfield Plain History Club meets on the second Monday of the month 10 - 11.30am. All welcome.

Annfield Plain Library 03000 269511

annfieldplain.lib@durham.gov.uk

Monday 10.00am - 7.00pm

Tuesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 9.30am—12.30pm



All meetings are held in
Shincliffe Church Hall

Starting at 19.30
2026 Programme

19 Jan	The Life & Times of Bentley Beetham	S Livingstone
16 Feb	George Stephenson Tribulations, Trials & Triumphs	D Williams
16 March	Working class sports In the North East	P Welsh
20 April	The Wondrous Whiffy Waters of Croft, Dinsdale & Gainford	C Lloyd

Contact & Website Details

E: contact@SLHS.uk
W: www.sls.uk

NORTH EAST METHODIST SOCIETY

Spring Meeting
Saturday 28 March 2026

2.30pm

Great Lumley Methodist Church

Speaker
Dr Christine Seal

“Wesleyan Methodists from Hull to Swan River Colony”

Visitors Welcome—small fee
Tea available
(but need to book in advance)

Closing date for bookings 10 March

chrisvseal@hotmail.co.uk
01434 608733

City of Durham Trust Talk Living Heritage Inventory

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issued a press release on 5 December 2025:

Communities across the UK are invited to submit their most treasured traditions to a new inventory of living heritage

Living heritage encompasses practices passed down through generations - from tartan weaving and dry-stone walling to cèilidh dancing or Gloucestershire’s cheese-rolling and Eisteddfodau or Burns Night

As living heritage should only be recognised by the communities that practise it, these groups must be involved in any submission.



Details on how to submit, including support and advice, can be found at www.livingheritage.unesco.org.uk.

The first step is simply to submit an Expression of Interest.
Submissions must be completed by
Friday 27 March 2026

Further details can be obtained from John Lowe, Chair, City of Durham Trust
chair@durhamcity.org

Hartlepool Headland Local History Group

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

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

19 Jan	Social Night	
16 Feb	AGM—members only	
16 March	RNLI	M Cook
20 April	TBC	



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



Framwellgate Moor & Pity Me Local History Group

2026 Meetings

framlochistsoc@gmail.com

29 Jan	The Great North Road	G Nairn
26 Feb	Durham and its Turnpike Roads	D Butler
26 March	Underwater Archaeology	G Bankhead
23 April	AGM (which will be brief) and then a club night where we can share our own local insights into parish history in small groups	

Meetings will be on a Thursday
(usually the last Thursday of the month)
Framwellgate Moor Community Centre DH1 5BL
Please use the rear door from the car park

Doors 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start
Teas and coffees after the talk

Durham Postcard, Cigarette Card & Stamp Fair

Bowburn Community Centre DH6 5AT

Disabled Access

10.00am—3.00pm

Entrance £1.00

Accompanied children FREE

**SATURDAY
21 February 2026**



Free Valuations

If you would like a booking form for this event, email Margaret— history.club2@btinternet.com

Sunderland History Fair 2026

Saturday 30 May

10am to 4pm

Free Admission

Bethany Church

Bede Tower

Burdon Road

Sunderland SR2 7EA

Celebrating our region's rich heritage



Did you volunteer in an NHS hospital in Cumbria, Northumberland, or County Durham, 1979-1997?

Are you interested in sharing your experiences?

Are you willing to give 1 or 2 interviews, at a time that works for you?

I need your expertise !

I am a PhD researcher studying links between volunteering in the NHS, North-South health inequalities, and regional identity.

I want to interview people who volunteered in [Leagues of Friends](#), [hospital radio](#), and other healthcare tasks!



If you or someone you know may be interested, or if you would like more information, get in touch:

[Lily Tidman](#)

Email : L.tidman2@newcastle.ac.uk

Phone: 07977326960



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

NORTHERN BRIDGE
CONSORTIUM
DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP



Sip & Discover: An Introductory

Wine Tasting Experience

Join us for an informal evening of wine tasting, where our host Chloe from Field & Fodder will guide you through an introduction to wine tasting, a relaxed and friendly way to build confidence in understanding what you enjoy and why.

You'll enjoy a welcome fizz upon arrival, followed by five wines: 2 whites, 1 rosé, and 2 reds.

Thursday 12 February 2026
from 7pm

Ushaw Historic House, Durham
DH7 7DW

£28-38 per adult

Book now at ushaw.org



GROUP MEMBERS 2026

<p>Annfield Plain Local History Group </p> <p>2nd Monday of the month 10.00 Annfield Plain Library E: Suzanne.green@durham.gov.uk</p>	<p>Architectural Archaeological Soc </p> <p>of Durham & Northumberland 2.30pm Second Saturday in month Elvet Riverside DH1 3JT www.aasdn.org.uk/</p>	<p>Brancepeth Archives & History Group</p> <p>First Saturday in month 9am—1pm Brancepetharchive@outlook.com 17vivienne@gmail.com</p>
<p>Chester-le-Street Heritage </p> <p>First Wednesday in month 7.00pm Lambton Arms www.chesterlestreetheritage.org</p>	<p>Cleveland Family History Society </p> <p>See Website for Zoom meetings https://clevelandfhs.org.uk/meetings/</p>	<p>Cleveland & Teesside LHS </p> <p>Saturday mornings Sept-Apr 10.30am Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough See www.ctlhs.co.uk for dates</p>
<p>Coxhoe Local History Group </p> <p>First Thursday in month 7.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall DH6 4DD coxhoehistory@gmail.com www.coxhoehistory.co.uk/</p>	<p>Crook & District Local History Soc </p> <p>Fourth Monday in month 7.00pm for 7.30pm Meth Church Hall, Dawson Street Dennis Scarr 07745018272</p>	<p>Darlington Historical Society </p> <p>Quaker Meeting House, Skinnergate 3rd Wed of month 7.30pm borofan45@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Framwellgate Moor & Pity Me LHS</p> <p>Framwellgate Moor Community Centre Some Thursday Evenings 7.30pm E: FramLocHistSoc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hartlepool Headland LHS </p> <p>Third Monday in month 6.45 – 9.00pm Headland Baptist Church TS24 0QN eileen.manners@ntlworld.com</p>	<p>Hetton Local & Natural History </p> <p>Last Monday in month 7.00pm Hetton & Eppleton Com Hall DH5 5HR www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk/</p>
<p>Lanchester Local History </p> <p>First Friday in month 7.00pm Lanchester Com Centre DH7 OJQ www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum/ cdfhhlanchester</p>	<p>Middleton St George Local History</p> <p>Third Thursday of month 7.30pm Community Centre DL2 1JG www.msglocalhistory.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Newcastle Antiquaries </p> <p>Last Wednesday in month Check website for details events@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk</p>
<p>NE Vernacular Architecture  </p> <p>First Saturday in month Mar-Oct Guided walks etc various times & places throughout the region https://northeastvernaculararchitecturegroup.wordpress.com/</p>	<p>Northumberland & Durham FHS  </p> <p>See website for individual group meetings https://www.ndfhs.org.uk/events/</p>	<p>Peterlee Local History Group </p> <p>https://peterleehistory.co.uk/ E: flossienoah@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sedgefield Local History </p> <p>First Monday in month 7.45pm Ceddesfeld Hall, TS21 2AE 01740 620912</p>	<p>Shincliffe Local History Society </p> <p>Third Monday in Month 7.30pm Shincliffe Church Hall E: contact@SLHS.uk W: www.slhs.uk</p>	<p>Teesdale Record Society </p> <p>First Wednesday in month 7.30pm Cotherstone Village Hall DL12 9PG https://www.teesdalerecordsociety.org.uk/</p>
<p>Thorpe Thewles History Group </p> <p>Contact below for meeting dates 1.30pm Grindon Parish Hall TS21 3JN www.thorpe-thewles.org.uk</p>	<p>Tudhoe & Spennymoor LHS</p> <p>Fourth Monday in month 7.30pm St David's Church Hall DL16 6LL www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs/</p>	<p>Wheatley Hill History Club </p> <p>Last Wed in month Mar-Nov 11.00am Wheatley House DH6 3JX www.wheatley-hill.org.uk</p>
SPECIFIC INTEREST GROUPS		
<p>Altogether Archaeology  </p> <p>E: altogether.archaeology@gmail.com W: Altogetherrchaology.org</p>	<p>Auckland Project    </p> <p>https://aucklandproject.org enquiries@aucklandproject.org</p>	<p>City of Durham Trust  </p> <p>E: trust@durhamcity.org W:https://durhamcity.org/</p>
<p>DAFT</p> <p>www.thedaft.org.uk/</p>	<p>Durham County Local History Soc</p> <p>www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs</p>	<p>Durham Victoria County History Trust</p> <p>s.m.hingley@durham.ac.uk</p>
<p>The Fitzhugh Library </p> <p>Open 10.30—2.30 Mon & Tues www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk</p>	<p>History of Consett Steelworks </p> <p>www.historyofconsettsteelworks.com/ juddrichard1976@gmail.com</p>	<p>Memories of Leadgate </p> <p>www.memoriesofleadgate.com/ juddrichard1976@gmail.com</p>
<p>North East War Memorials Project </p> <p>dahall52@aol.com https://www.newmp.org.uk/</p>	<p>North East Methodist Society</p> <p>northeastmethodisthistory.weebly.com</p>	<p>Picture the Past Postcard Collector</p> <p>g.l.nain@btopenworld.com</p>
<p>Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade </p> <p>admin@sunvlb.com</p>	<p>Tees Archaeology</p> <p>https://teesarchaeology.com/ teesarchaeology@hartlepool.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Story   </p> <p>www.thestorydurham.org/</p>
<p>NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Friends of St Cuthberts Church, Billingham</p> <p>stcuthbertschurch845ad@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Weardale Museum   </p> <p>www.weardalemuseum.org.uk info@weardalemuseum.org.uk</p>	<p>Durham County Council Archaeology Department</p> <p>archaeology@durham.gov.uk</p>