



Newsletter of the South Shields Local History Group



Issue 173

May 2022

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Introduction

In this month's edition of the newsletter, we've some fascinating articles on the ship-owner Robert Whinnem and the Theatre Folk in the North East during the Georgian Period. We've details of the launch of the Local List website and an appeal from our Chairman for members to 'get involved' with this important project. Catrin Galt has been in touch with news of a free course on 'Mining Disasters and the Science of Safety' and David Whale has an update from the Wednesday Heritage Club. Next month is our Annual General Meeting and our Secretary would appreciate it if everyone could pay their subs asap.



Chairman's Notice

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, annual subs of £5 are due for payment and the Committee would be grateful if as many members as possible could pay their subs at May's Speaker Meeting or June's Informal Meeting.

At the May Informal, we announced the launch of the interactive Local List website - <https://app.placechangers.co.uk/s/250> . The meeting was well attended and Terry Ford gave us an online demonstration on how to use the website, as well as a slide show of sites in South Shields on the current Local List.

Terry has also produced a couple of documents to help members navigate the website, which will be available at group meetings. It's very important that members go online asap since the deadline for nominations is the 15th June. It would be shame if the residents of Newcastle and Gateshead participated more than those of 'South Tyneside'.

I'd also like to thank those members who attended a 'drop-in session' at The Word on Thursday 12th May held by Claire Embree-Lalonde, the Local List Project Manager. You can still make your nominations in person at the next Local List event on Tuesday 17th May (12pm - 4pm) at Hebburn Central ('Library'), Glen Street, Hebburn.

Finally, I'd like to invite members to our next Informal Meeting on Monday 13th June (5.15pm – 6.45pm) at Cleadon Park Library. (A week later than usual due to the Bank Holiday). So, please come along and share your local history interests with others, ask for advice with your research and 'get involved' with projects, such as updating the Local List.

Submitted by Alan Newham (alannewham47@gmail.com)

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that our next meeting on Monday 20th June will be the AGM. Business will begin promptly at 5.30 and at the close of the AGM business the Annual Ernest Lewthwaite Memorial Talk will be given. If you haven't already paid your subs of £5.00 for 2022-23 it will be collected at the door. Please Note: Only paid members are able to vote at the AGM and sit on the committee.



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Agenda:

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Auditor's Report
- 5 Election of Committee
- 6 Election of Auditors

The committee may comprise of between 5 and 10 members of the group and all those elected will be expected to hold a role and carry out organisational responsibilities for the SSLHG.

Current committee membership and roles:

- Chairman/Publicity Officer: Alan Newham
- Vice Chair/Programme Organiser: Jean Stokes
- Treasurer and Newsletter Editor: James Mulholland
- Secretary: Lynn Wilson
- Membership Secretary/Assistant Secretary: Joyce Bell

All committee members are up for annual election and new members are welcome. Nominations, proposed and seconded need to be given in writing (using the tear of strip below) to the Secretary at least two weeks before the AGM. Lynn Wilson (Secretary), South Shields Local History Group, C/O Cleadon Park Library, 10 Prince Edward Rd, South Shields NE34 8PS). If more than 10 people are interested in being on the committee then elections will be held.

SSLHG 2022-2023 Committee Election Form

Proposed Committee Member, name and signature.....

.....

Proposer's name and signature

.....

Seconders' name and signature

.....

Date.....

Theatre Folk in the North East in the Georgian Period:

Introducing actor/manager Thomas Bates

The Richmond Theatre Royal (referred to in last month's article) was purpose built as a theatre by Samuel Butler. However, many provincial theatres of the mid eighteenth century were established in existing buildings, often barns. Very few have survived. The Georgian Theatre in Green Dragon Yard in Stockton on Tees has survived, though it has been adapted for various purposes over the ensuing years. At one point in the 1960s, it faced demolition as part of a wider redevelopment scheme. Fortunately the building was saved, along with those around it, for their historic architectural features and charm. The Georgian Theatre was handed over to the Stockton Music & Arts Collective in 1993 and is now a popular music venue run by Tees Music Alliance, with a standing capacity of 200. The photograph below shows the modern extension added in 2016 to improve access to and throughout the venue, provide better facilities, meeting rooms and a bar.



It was in 1765 that an actor manager called Thomas Bates visited Green Dragon Yard in Stockton to survey what had been a tithe barn. Finding the building and its location suitable, he had it fitted up with a stage and gallery, and added a lean-to to the front. He also purchased two cottages in Calvert's Yard, which adjoined the barn, and had these converted to be used as dressing rooms by his company of actors (known then as comedians).

Bates' theatre opened on 17th May 1766 with a ballad opera called *Love in a Village* by Isaac Bickerstaffe. The opera related the story of Rosetta who had run away from home to escape from an arranged marriage. While working as a chambermaid she met a gardener, who had also run away to avoid a similar fate. They fell in love and decided to marry, only to find out that each had been the other's intended all along. The story was told in three acts, with forty-two ballads – five newly composed by Thomas Arne, thirteen borrowed from Arne's earlier stage works, and twenty-three adapted from songs composed by others, and a new overture by C. F. Abel.

Cont...



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Four days' later, on 21st May, there was a performance "for the benefit of poor housekeepers ". In addition to the opera there was a eulogium on charity written by John Cunningham, and a farce called the Intriguing Footman. As very few theatres were licensed to perform plays then, companies would show a variety of musical entertainments for which the audience paid, and included the drama as a free performance. This was an advance on the situation a century earlier when theatres were closed from 1642 to the 1660s to avoid public disorder.

So who was Thomas Bates? He originally hailed from Baldock in Hertfordshire, where he was baptised in 1725. The earliest reference to him appearing in the north east, places him playing the role of Cassio in Othello, in 1764, in Newcastle. Mr Brimyard played Othello, and Mrs Blanchard played Desdemona. Both were to join Bates travelling theatre company when he moved into theatre management the following year.

It seems that the first theatre on Bates' circuit opened in North Shields in 1765. It was described as "roughly built from the clinker, or scars, from the coal fires of the salt pans", and is thought to have been on Low Street. The salt trade was declining by 1701 and by 1767 all the salt pans had been removed. The Low Street theatre opened on 27 th September 1765 with a play called The Distressed Mother, followed by a farce called The Spirit of Contradiction, then plays such as Hamlet, The Tempest, and Venice Preserved. The season ended in November, when the company moved on to play at Newcastle, then the new Stockton Theatre, Durham and The Assembly Rooms in Sunderland, not returning to North Shields until about October the following year. The Low Street theatre survived until 1783, when Bates' nephew opened a new theatre in North Shields.

While Bates' company did perform at Durham, Newcastle and Sunderland, he did not own these venues. The theatre at Durham was in an alleyway (or vennel) leading from Saddler Street to the river. The slope of the bank provided a natural slope for the seating in the auditorium, with the stage positioned at the lower end, and the dressing room below the stage. It has been said (Northern Echo, 2nd May 2008) that the theatre flourished under Bates' management. The Assembly Rooms in Sunderland were to the west of Trinity Holy Trinity Church. The company played at other venues in the North East, including Alnwick, and in 1771 Bates added a new theatre in Scarborough to his circuit.

Although we have no images of Thomas Bates several testimonies have survived to reveal aspects of his character. For example, in his History of Sunderland, published in 1819, George Garbutt wrote "The memory of this gentleman is still deservedly held in respect, both as a caterer for the public entertainment and for the still rarer character of a friend, and almost a father to his performers."

Stephen Kemble wrote of the financial assistance that both Bates and Thomas Slack [the proprietor of the Newcastle Chronicle and Cunningham's publisher] gave to the actor/poet John Cunningham. It is said that Bates knew his own limitations as an actor and so



developed his role as company manager. He retired around 1790, when his nephew, James Cawdell took over management of his affairs and the theatres on the circuit. Where and when Thomas Bates died, and whether he married or had children of his own, I have yet to discover. I am sure that many in his company of actors, in his audiences would, if they could, join me in thanking Thomas Bates, 1725-?, for his contribution to the development of theatre in the north east in Georgian times.

Forthcoming articles introduce James Cawdell and Stephen Kemble, theatre interiors and audiences and other notable members of the cast. Meanwhile, thank you and take care until next time.

North Shields Theatres, Robert King, Northumberland Press Ltd, 1948 Stockton's Georgian Theatre: A Monograph, Denis Towlard, L.C.P., Stockton MBC. 1991 Stockton's Georgian Theatre: A Monograph, Denis Towlard, L.C.P., Stockton MBC. 1991

See also the Music Hall and Theatre History Website www.arthurlloyd.co.uk , The V&A Museum's www.vam.ac.uk/articles/the-story-of-theatres and for a little more insight into the history of the Georgian Theatre Stockton, please click on the link below https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_Theatre,_Stockton-on-Tees

Submitted by Anne Sharp

Robert Whinnem, Shipowner in Monkwearmouth; Executor of Richard Scott's Estate and Guardian of his children!

INTRODUCTION

Moving on from Richard Scott's life I have considered in this part, his legacy, the early lives of his children leading onto shipping connections between the River Tyne and the River Wear Who was Robert Whinnem, in whom Richard Scott had so much faith in nominating him to oversee his estate and provide guardianship for his children (John Scott, his heir, was aged fifteen)?

JOHN SCOTT (1788-1851)

The son of Hannah Crozier and Richard Scott, he was baptised at St Hilda's Church on the 28 June 1788. Presumably he lived with his parents during his formative years. Later, there is evidence of his shipping interests but to date I have found none relating to an apprenticeship as either shipwright or mariner. He married Ann Horn, the daughter of Elizabeth Pattison (1753-1816) and Thomas Horn (1749-1821) at St. Michael & All Angels Anglican Church, Bishopwearmouth, County Durham on the 8th January 1811.

'John Scott (of this parish) married Ann Horn (of this parish), by Licence
Witnesses: Mary Horn; Robert Horn; Hannah Scott; W. Horn (1)'

I am assuming therefore that Richard Scott's son, John and daughter Hannah re-located to the south side of the River Wear (now Sunderland) before 1810. Their guardian Robert



Whinnem was based on the River Wear at Monkwearmouth at the time of Richard Scott's death in 1803. Hannah (Crozier) Scott, Richard's widow died at Bishopwearmouth in 1816 and was interred in the family grave in St Hilda's Churchyard. To date I am uncertain as to what happened to Hannah Scott after 1820. She was a witness at her brother's wedding in 1811 and in 1820 a beneficiary in the will of her guardian Robert Whinnem who listed her address as Bishopwearmouth.

ROBERT WHINNEM 1765-1820

Who was Robert Whinnem in whom Richard Scott had so much faith in nominating him to oversee his estate and provide guardianship for his children? What was the connection between them? In fact I have been unable to locate any records or indeed to find evidence of Robert Whinnem in South Shields in the 18th or first decade of the 19th century. He may have been a shipwright who worked on the Tyne or a Ship's Captain but this is only supposition as there is no evidence to substantiate this. He evidently had a strong association with Philip Laing who was a shipbuilder on the two rivers.

Parish Records

They provide some enlightenment:

1. Robert Whinnem was born in Monkwearmouth, the south side of the River Wear, on the 12th March 1767 the son of Margaret Robinson and Thomas Whinnam and baptised at St Peter's Church (2).
2. Four years earlier the marriage had taken place of his parents:
17 Oct 1763 Thomas Whinnom ship carpenter, age 26, of Monkwearmouth (he was literate) obtained a licence to marry Margaret Robinson (age 19, of Monkwearmouth, daughter of James Robinson, of Monkwearmouth). Surety: Thomas Davison, shipwright, of Sunderland (3).
3. 20 Jul 1795 Robert Whinnom [Wyndham] (of Sunderland) married Jane Dodds (of this parish), by Licence (4).
4. 15 Jan 1818 Robert Whinnem (of this parish) married Ann Wilson (of this parish), by licence. Witnesses: Philip Laing; George Wilson (5).

Post-1800 Records

The spelling of Whinnem varies in the documents I have been able to access and include Whinnam/Whinnom/Whinney/Wyndham. However, he signed his name as Robert Whinnem the significant example being that of his will which he signed several times.

1. The first reference I have found relates to his membership of a group attempting to maintain law and order in the districts north of the River Wear; Organisation for the prosecution of felons in Monkwearmouth in 1800 (6). A similar organisation operated in South Shields.
2. The second relates to Harton House Farm in 1805:-



HARTON, NEAR SOUTH SHIELDS.
TO BE LET,
And entered upon at May next, for a Term of 4 Years.

ALL that desirable Farm of Meadow, Pasture and Arable Land, situate at Harton, about one Mile and a Half from South Shields, where Manure can be easily procured, and five Miles from Sunderland, containing 103 Acres, more or less, and Free of Tythes, except Corn, with a Quarry of Limestone on the Premises, now opened, and a new erected Thrashing Machine.

The Hird at Harton-house will show the Premises; and the Scheme of Husbandry may be seen, and other Particulars known, at Mr Robert Whinnem's, Monkwearmouth Shore, or Mr Blackburn's Office, South Shields, to either of whom, Proposals, in Writing, (sealed up) for taking the same, may be given, till the 5th of December, now next.

And to be SOLD by Auction, at the same Farm, on Monday, December 9.

All the FARMING STOCK, consisting of Milch Cows, Cows in Calf, Draught and other Horses, and Swine, and also various Implements of Husbandry; likewise a Stack of good old Hay, and a Crop of Turnips. The Sale to begin at ten o'Clock in the Forenoon.

¶ All Persons having any Demands against the late Mr Richard Scott, are requested to send the same in, immediately, to the said Mr Whinnem, his Executor.

November 18, 1805.

(7)

Despite Richard Scott's wishes that his wife and descendants should remain at Harton House Farm for at least four years, as can be seen in the above notice of sale, this proved not to be the case. The farm was available to let, and the equipment and stock were advertised for selling later in the year that Richard Scott died. The link, however, between Richard Scott and his executor, Robert Whinnem is clearly demonstrated.

3. The next references to Robert Whinnem are on Google:- 'Sunderland Poor Rates Act 1809' he was a contributor to supporting the poor of Monkwearmouth and 'Historical and Descriptive View of the parishes of Monkwearmouth and Bishopwearmouth and the Port and Borough of Sunderland by George Garbutt,' where he is listed as one of the most influential residents in 1818 (8).

Death Notifications

Three locations are given for the death of Robert Whinnem on the 31st January 1820:

1 WHINNEM On the 31st ult, at Monkwearmouth, Robert WHINNEM, Esq. of Hope House, near Whitburn (9).

2 Feb 1820 Robert Whinnem, of Society Lane, Monkwearmouth, age: 55 (10)

3 Doxford Hall, Bishopwearmouth the home of Philip Laing, one of the executors to his estate. (11)

I suggest that he died at Hope Farm, that his residence in Monkwearmouth was in Society Lane which stretched down to the riverside and that his funeral was from the home of his friend Philip Laing. He was interred in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

Will

He made this on the 25th Jan 1820, in preparation for his seemingly imminent death as he died only six days later. Probate was granted on the 8th February with his estate valued at £4,000. The will is written over eleven pages and has proved to be a source of information about the mysterious Mr Whinnem. I say this, because I have been unable to establish the origins of his wealth and I can find no evidence that he had inherited



through his bloodline. His social standing had been elevated to 'Esq.' by the time of his death and his association with Philip Laing firmly places him in Sunderland middle-class society. He did maintain the link with Richard Scott's son and daughter (the reason that initially I looked into his life)! (12)

Relevant Extracts of his Will

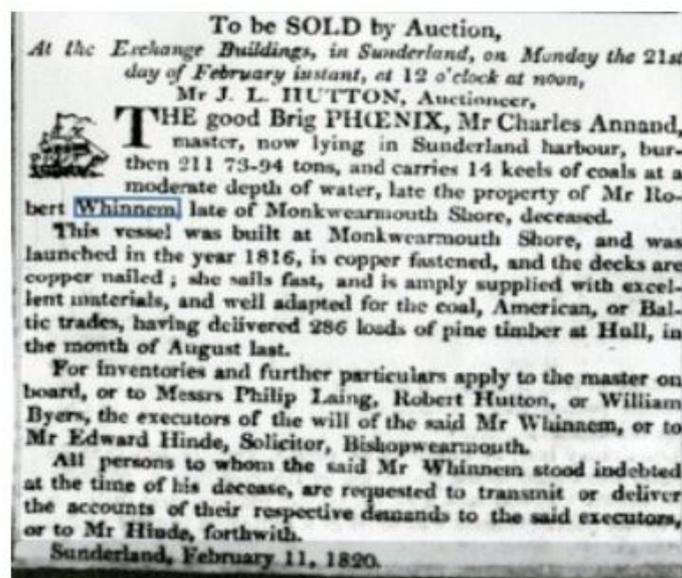
...'To my good friend John Scott of Bishopwearmouth, in the said county of Durham, Gentleman, £1,000 of lawful British money. ...to Hannah Scott of Bishopwearmouth aforesaid, Spinster, the sum of £100 like money'. He also bequeathed to them legacies from various investments including properties and vessels.

Philip Laing of Doxford Hall, Robert Hutton and William Byers were executors of the estate, with financial benefits. They were all linked to shipping. Charles Annand was a witness to the signing who was the Master of his Brig Phoenix which was sold soon after his death.

He died without any direct descendants with both marriages, childless. The will provides an insight into his origins, Thomas Whinnem his father married twice and he named his father's half-siblings as beneficiaries, 'Robert Whinnem of Felling, William Whinnem/Whinney of South Shields a shipwright (the only reference to South Shields) and the wife of Michael Pearson of Felling (Mary Whinney) at or near the toll bar he has a dwelling house' All three of them received £100.

There were several other legacies 'Isabella wife of George Bootflower, Thomas Swann, Ann wife of George James' to name a few.

Assets: There appears to have been no delay in disposing of some his assets, firstly that of the relatively new Brig Phoenix which was not only a collier but also involved in Trans-Atlantic trade. It was built at Monkwearmouth Shore in close proximity to the home of Robert Whinnem.

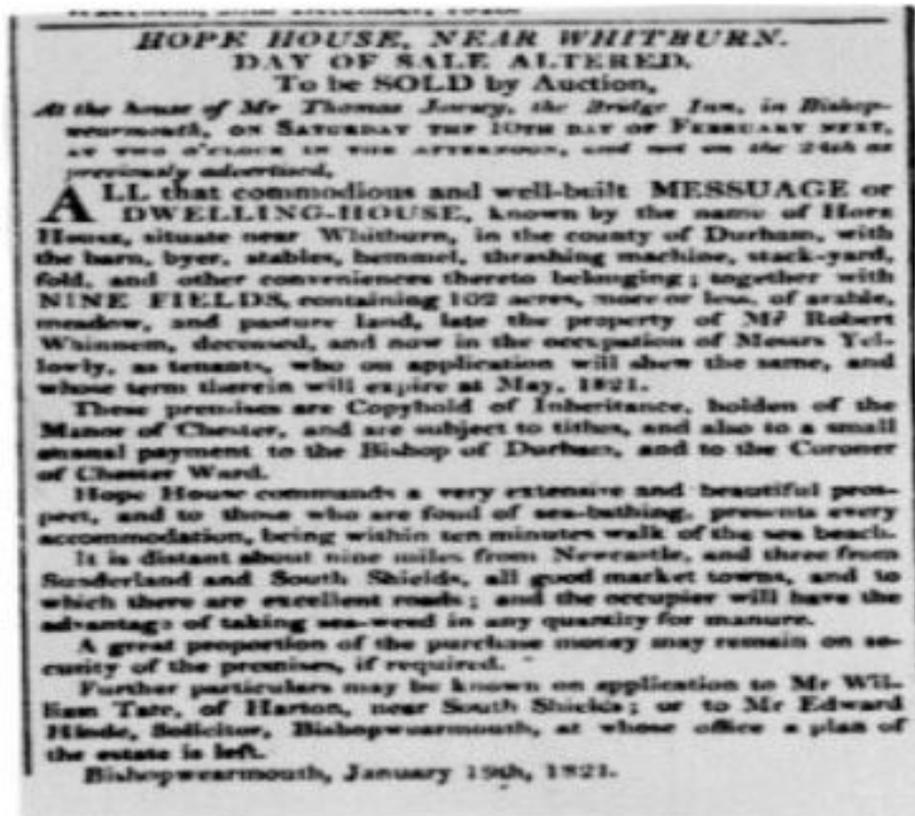


(13)



The names of the executors are re-affirmed: Messrs. Philip Laing, Robert Hutton and William Byers.

Hope House Farm, Whitburn, County Durham



(14)

Hope House Farm was located in close proximity to Harton House Farm both of which are now part of South Tyneside. Presumably Richard Scott and Robert Whinnem would have shared experiences of their agrarian lives sharply contrasting with those maritime.

The original proposal according to an earlier advertisement was to let the property and sell the stock, but a year after Robert Whinnem's death the decision was made to sell Hope House Farm in it's entirety which would have been advantageous to the beneficiaries.

Land in County Durham was owned by the Palatinate of Durham and in fact this is still to some extent the case today, with the payments of Ground Rent. In addition the purchaser of the farm would have been subject to the payment of tithes as the farm was in the area then designated as the 'Manor of Chester'.

The coast line of Whitburn is an area of outstanding beauty of which Hope House Farm would have had an uninterrupted view. 'Sea-bathing' appears to have been a popular pursuit and in one example from my earlier research, the writer of a letter of 1800 a prosperous family in 1800 were sailing from Shadwell, East London to Cleadon, close to Whitburn and anticipating that her son would benefit from regular sea-bathing.



COMMENTS

I have established that Richard Scott's widow and her surviving son and daughter relocated to Bishopwearmouth on the south side of the River Wear probably soon after his death. Robert Whinnem, Richard's executor, a wealthy and prominent shipowner lived in Monkwearmouth on the north side of the river and Whitburn. The two men had shipping as a shared interest although I have no evidence of joint ventures. Perhaps they were indentured as shipwrights on the River Tyne and I have not ruled out that they were also associated with James Evans (my direct ancestor) shipbuilder and ship owner.

Farm ownership was a surprise area of commonality; Harton House farm in Harton and Hope Farm in Whitburn were approximately three miles apart so prior to Richard Scott's death in 1805, they lived in close proximity.

It was Harton House Road, built after World War 1 on land that belonged to Harton House Farm that Ridley Scott, the film director born in South Shields in 1937, spent his early years.

The gist of Part 3, the concluding part is the descendants of John Scott, shipping builders on the rivers Tyne and Wear and their family connections with special reference to 'Notes on The History of Shipbuilding in South Shields 1746-1946 by Amy C Flagg' -1979

REFERENCES

1. Marriages, Sunderland District - Record Number: 317580.1
2. Family Search (2)
3. Marriages, Sunderland District - Record Number: 406700.14
4. Marriages, Sunderland District - Record Number: 275417.1
5. Marriages, Sunderland District - Record Number: 413142.1
6. Newcastle Courant - Saturday 19 July 1800
7. Newcastle Courant - Saturday 30 November 1805
8. Google references
9. Durham County Advertiser - 9 February 1820
10. Sunderland District Burials-record Number 441670.2
11. Wills-Durham Wills and Inventories (Family Search)
12. Wills-Durham Wills and Inventories (Family Search)
13. Durham County Advertiser - 19 February 1820
14. Durham County Advertiser - Saturday 27 January 1821

The final instalment of the Richard Scott legacy will follow in a future edition of the newsletter.

Submitted by Heather Thomas

(<https://heathershistoricalsociety.neocities.org/>)



The Local List Official Press Release

What makes your area special? Nominate your favourite buildings and sites for our 'Local List'.

Communities across Gateshead, Newcastle and South Tyneside are being invited to nominate locally important sites to be considered for a new Local Heritage List for their area. The areas' three councils are working together to update their Local Lists of buildings, structures and places that are recognised as being important heritage assets at a local level – even if they don't meet the criteria for national listing by Historic England.

A Local List identifies unlisted and non-designated heritage assets which have special local architectural or historic interest and contribute to the character of the area. Assets included in a Local List are given special consideration in the planning process.

Residents are now being asked for their views on which local buildings, structures, sites and landscapes they feel have community value and are worthy of inclusion on their Local List.

Claire Embree-Lalonde, project manager for updating the Local Heritage Lists, who is leading the drive to update the lists for Gateshead Council, said:

“This is a fantastic opportunity to refresh our listing of the sites people consider most worthy of recognition in their local area. “The lists for all three boroughs have not been updated for over a decade, so it's important to ensure we have a proper understanding of all the valuable assets we have, and to celebrate their significance for the local area.

“So we are asking local communities to nominate what they would like to see recognised as a local heritage asset, what they feel should be preserved and protected for the future. “That could be anything from a garden, landmark or landscape to even street furniture such as a post box, statue or lamppost.”

Louise Sloan, South Tyneside Council's Senior Development Services Manager, said: “South Tyneside has such a unique and rich history and heritage. No-one knows the value of local heritage better than the people in our towns and villages.

“This is a chance for everyone to have their say on what they feel is important, contributes to the Borough's sense of place or represents the history of their local area in some way.”

Planning Team Manager, Ian Ayris, at Newcastle City Council, said: “Being included on the Local List recognises the importance of a site to the community and, before any planning decisions are made, its special local architectural or historic interest will be taken into account, so it's important that if people care about a particular structure or building, they nominate it for consideration to be added to the Local List before June 15.”

To be included on a Local List, a building, object or site must meet one or more of the following criteria: historic interest, architectural interest, or an association to significant figures or historic events, townscape merit or group value.

Cont...



Newsletter of the South Shields Local History Group



Gateshead has linked up Newcastle and South Tyneside to review all our Local Lists this year, with the launch of a new interactive website:-

<https://app.placechangers.co.uk/s/250> giving guidance and supporting residents to nominate sites to be considered on their Local Heritage List.

Gateshead residents can also make their nominations in person at two public engagement events on: • Mon 9th May, from 10am to 2pm, at Gateshead Central Library, Prince Consort Road • Mon 16th May, from 10am to 1.45pm, at Gateshead Central Library, Prince Consort Road.

Newcastle residents can attend public engagement events on: • Wed 11th May, from 10am to 4pm, at Newcastle City Library, New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne • Wed 25th May from 10am to 4pm, Newcastle City Library, New Bridge Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne.

South Tyneside residents can attend events on:- Thurs 12th May, 10am-2pm at The Word, Market Place, South Shields and Tuesday 17th May, 12pm-4pm at Hebburn Central, Glen Street, Hebburn.

Members of local history groups and heritage experts will be on hand to support visitors with the criteria, lists of current sites and interactive maps of the area. Nominations can also be made direct to Gateshead Council as the lead authority by emailing Project Manager ClaireEmbreeLalonde@Gateshead.Gov.UK The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 15th June.

The nominations will then be assessed and considered by an independent panel of experts, before being taken forward for adoption on the Local List later in the year. Successful local list nominations will also be included on the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record at www.twsitelines.info

The Local List for each area will be used as a reference document to be consulted alongside each authority's Local Plan.

Successful nominations will join a wide range of assets already included on the three authorities' Local Heritage Lists.

To check whether a building or structure is already on the Local List, or for further information about the consultation or eligibility criteria, visit <https://app.placechangers.co.uk/s/250> . or attend one of the public engagement events.

Tips and Guidelines to Using the Local List Website

Group member Terry Ford has produced two documents to assist members using the Local List Website - 'What is the Local List?' and 'A Guide to Using The Local List Website' and copies will be available at group meetings. Finally, If you have any queries or questions, you can email Terryford1@blueyonder.co.uk or come along to our next Informal Meeting for an online demonstration.

Submitted by James Mulholland



Wednesday Heritage Club @ The Word

As I write this – it's a day after a 'pub crawl' around the pubs of 'downstreet Shields' with Terry Ford. Terry was excellent as he took us on a whistle stop tour around the history of the pubs in The Market, down King Street and briefly up Mile End Road and Fowler Str. Did you know there were 5 pubs on the sight of The Word - I didn't.

So, we move on to the next event - which will be on Wednesday June 8th at 2.00pm in The round - at The Word, Market Place South Shields. It will feature someone who was very recently at SSLHG- Sheila Graber- Sheila has told me that it will be different material for this event, to the one she delivered at Cleadon. Although the title is very similar.

Tickets at £2.00 went on sale on the 11th May, at The Word - so do not delay - knowing Sheila it'll be well worth a visit.

Just to briefly give you a few details about forthcoming events. July will be playwright and poet Tom Kelly talking about growing up in Jarrow.

August will be a play from a group of amateurs about The St Hilda Colliery Disaster (this was originally planned before Covid - but of course had to be postponed along with all other events - including a look back at the war damage to South Shields during World War Two).

Finally, there will definitely be a visit by Janis Blower later in the year when she will look back at those little shops of Shields, including the 'corner shops'

For a wide range of activities at The Word, please visit www.thewordUK.org and don't forget to check out the website <https://southtynesidehistory.co.uk/search> for amazing local images.

Best wishes to everyone

David Whale.

Email: tyneholme@btinternet.com



Mining Disasters and the Science of Safety

Adults in Tyne & wear are invited to join a free 9-session course at The Common Room (Newcastle) formerly known as The Mining Institute, to explore local mining disaster and the lessons learned from them.



The course looks at the contributions made by the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, and how its members helped save lives in the mines. The sessions will be led by Dr. Dorothy Hamilton, and will use The Common Room's historic archives and collections.

The course is Free to attend but places are limited. No previous knowledge is needed – just an interest in local history.

The course takes place on Thursday from 2.00pm – 4.25pm, starting 9th June until 4th August 2022. Venue: The Common Room, Westgate Road, Newcastle NE1 1SE
To book your place, or for any queries, contact Lucy Stockdale at Tel. 07557 991 149

Submitted by Catrin Galt

The Pubs of South Shields (Then and Now)

Terry Ford has produced a double DVD – a historical journey through the pubs of South Shields from the 1800's to the present day. There are over 800 photographs of 241 pubs covering five different areas: 1. Riverside and Lawe Top, 2. Holborn and Mill Dam, 3. Ocean Road through to West Harton, 4. Market and Town Centre and 5. Twentieth Century Pubs (mainly).

It consists of Title, photos of the old pub, photos of the current location, Google maps, Dash Cam video of some streets, some Geordie music (Ukelele/Accordion), with commentary by Terry, and some commentary by 2 local characters from the 19th Century "Geordie Ford" (Pitman) and Joseph Moore (Magistrate) both of these are Terry adapting his voice accordingly. The DVD is on sale at The Word and costs £10.



Local History Books

A variety of books penned by members of South Shields History Group are now on sale at group Meetings, The Word and/or South Shields Museum.

The People's Roman Remains Park (by David Kidd and Jean Stokes) is based on a scrapbook kept by Robert Blair, who led a successful campaign to dig up Roman remains and then preserve them as the first publicly owned archaeology park in Britain. It also tells the story of the people and is a portrait of the Victorian boomtown of South Shields.

Harton Township 1921 (by Jean Stokes) commemorates the existence of Harton Township, which stretched in the east along the coast from Trow Point to the Velvet Beds at Marsden and westwards in an increasingly narrow manner to Jarrow Slake. This beautifully illustrated book celebrates the rich history of Harton Township in five chapters – Harton Township, Harton Farms, Residential Harton, Harton Coastline and Harton Moor. The book costs £15 and all profits go towards St. Peter's Church.

Peter Chapman's lavishly illustrated book *A Tyneside Heritage* is available to buy for £10 at group meetings. Or to have the book delivered to your home address, the price is £15.00 (incl. Post & Packaging) or for 2 copies, its £20 (incl. P&P). To order please:

- Email: peterschapman@chapmanlondon.com; or
- Write to him at 53 Highlever Road, London W10 6PR.
- Provide your name and postal address. An invoice will be included with the book(s).

The highly successful 'Westoe' book (by Dorothy Fleet) is a fascinating history of the village and its residents. All proceeds go towards South Shields Local History Group.

The Angel and the Devil (by Malcolm Thomson aka Malcolm Spence), is the seventh, and final, Jack Horner Mystery tale, is available to borrow from the local history section at the Word. *The murder of an elderly jeweller, Mr Doyle, shocked the citizens of South Shields in the early years of the Edwardian era. So, once again, it fell to former detective sergeant Jack Horner, now in private practice, aided by his youthful assistant, Ned Murphy to attempt to succeed where the police had failed.* Other books by Malcolm available at The Word include "The Penny Pie Stairs", "At Barker's Dock", "The Limping Man", "The House on Lizard Lane", "Death in the Dark", and "The Wellesley boy and the Eye of Kali".



Notice Board

A community group ‘Friends of Westoe Cemetery’, set up by Ann Clouston and Fay Cunningham, would welcome any information members may already have about the cemetery or those interred there and any copies of old photo’s. Anyone who wishes to join the group are very welcome. Contact the secretary:- faycunningham1@icloud.com

Join the ‘Newcastle City Guides’ on their ‘Heritage Walks’ for an amazing journey to uncover the fascinating history and stories of Tyne and Wear. The walks cover Newcastle, Gateshead, Gosforth, Jesmond, Sunderland plus North and South Tyneside including ‘Always Ready’ (South Shields) on Sunday June 26th at 2.30 pm.

All walks must be booked in advance online at newcastlegateshead.com/heritage-walks

South Shields Museum staff are busy working on an exhibition for summer and they would like to record oral histories to capture people’s memories of working in the yards and the docks. They are also on the hunt for items to display in the exhibition, such as photos, certificates and paperwork, tools, workwear, models, commemorative items and any associated memorabilia. Adam Bell at adam.bell@twmuseums.org.uk or (0191) 2115599

And finally, on behalf of the Committee, I’d like to thank Sheila Graber for her colourful and highly entertaining presentation at last month’s Speaker Meeting.

Contacts / Membership Details

If you have an article, a request for information or anything to do with South Shields’ History that could be included in the newsletter, please leave details with our Editor James Mulholland at any of our group meetings or email sslhg999@gmail.com Membership of the group is only £5 per year and this entitles you to free entry to the group’s monthly speaker meeting and a copy of our monthly newsletter. We hold all of our meetings at Cleadon Park Library, The Primary Healthcare Centre, The Nook. An Informal Meeting of the group takes place on the 1st Monday of the month, while our monthly Speaker Meeting is on 3rd Monday - both take place between 5.15–6.45pm (except for Bank Holidays when the meetings take place the week after). For details of our activities, please visit our website www.southshieldslhg.org.uk

Chairman: Alan Newham Library Liaison Officer: Catrin Galt Museum Liaison Officer: Adam Bell Patron: Janis Blower