

GLENDALE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SEASON 2009-2010 NEWSLETTER

Dear Member or Potential Member,

Announcing Our Programme for the New Season

We are pleased to announce our 2009-10 Society programme. This year, as usual, there will be topics on North Northumberland and Border history to suit all tastes. The programme includes archaeology (speakers Chris Burgess and Clive Waddington), commerce (Farming, Drove Roads and Old Breweries), biography (subjects Grace Darling and John Heron, "The Bastard of Ford"), and folklore (the Kirk Yetholm Gypsies). Come along and enjoy learning about all these – and bring your friends too! Full details overleaf.

You will get even more value for your unchanged subscription, as not only is there an extra talk (in February) but we have no less than five field trips planned! In the pipeline are visits to Maelmin, the Grace Darling Museum at Bamburgh, a drove road walk, a new Rock Art expedition, and a return visit by popular demand to Coupland Castle (this one at an extra charge, like this year).

Members' Questionnaire

Accompanying this Newsletter you will find a Members' Questionnaire, aimed at helping to ensure the Society provides what its members want, both now and in the future. There are questions about the arrangements for talks and visits, and about the future of the Annual Dinner. We would also like to find new Committee members and people interested in helping on projects such as researching material for new publications on local history, helping to mount exhibitions, and so on. Not everyone will have the time, ability or inclination to provide active help, but you can all contribute your ideas for the Society's future, so please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire!

Our New Website

Another plus for members (and the public at large) is the Society's new website, which is now up and running thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer Kevin Malloy. This can be found at www.wooler.org.uk (Community>Organisations) and will keep you up to date on news and events, as well as providing an archive of past Society talks and other local history information.

Other Summer News

During the Summer the Society played a major role in two local events, in Wooler and in Berwick. In Wooler in May Rosemary Bell, our Programme Secretary, spoke at the launch of the new Women's Land Army panels at the Youth Hostel, which incorporate research carried out by the Society. In Berwick in June, the Society mounted a display on the History of the Alnwick & Cornhill Railway, Glendale's local line, at an exhibition which formed part of the Stephenson 150 celebrations; over 1,750 people visited in the two days and our display was of much interest. Information on both these events can be found on the Society's website.

Looking Back on 2008-09

The Society continues to thrive, membership rising again in 2008-09 from 55 to 71, the highest level since the Society was founded in 1977. Attendance at meetings was excellent, reflecting the quality of speakers such as Lord Walton of Detchant (on the House of Lords) and Jeremy Paterson (Roman Farming), and the Society's field trips were well supported, particularly the trip

to Coupland Castle, which generated tremendous interest and will as a result be repeated in 2010.

Attendance at the Society's Annual Dinner was however a little disappointing this year, which is why you are asked in the Members' Questionnaire whether you wish to continue to support it – and if not, whether you would support an alternative event.

The Committee had several discussions during the year about possible future projects. Once members' own ideas have been gathered from the members' questionnaire, a shortlist will be drawn up and members asked which they would like to proceed with first.

Membership Benefits

Membership remains only £6 for the entire season (the Annual Dinner and the return Coupland visit will again be additional), with Visitors welcome at £2 per meeting. Just come along and pay at the door.

New members will receive a copy of *Keeping the Past Alive – Glendale Local History Society 1977-2008*, and may buy a copy of *Bondagers* at the discounted price of £8.95 (full price £11.95). This offer still applies also to existing members if they have not already taken advantage of it.

Meetings are held from September to April, normally on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm at the Cheviot Centre at Padgepool Place in Wooler, usually finishing by around 9pm.

Full 2009-10 Programme: Dates for Your Diary

- 09 Sep 2009: *Flodden! – John Heron, The 'Bastard' of Ford* (John Sadler)
- 14 Oct 2009: *Drove Roads of Northumberland* (I. D. Roberts) (and field walk 17 October)
- 11 Nov 2009: *Grace Darling* (Jill Fenwick) (plus Museum visit, date to be confirmed)
- 09 Dec 2009: *Farming in Northumberland* (Roger Manning)
- 13 Jan 2010: *Title to be Confirmed* (Chris Burgess, County Archaeologist)
- 10 Feb 2010: *Lives of Kirk Yetholm Gypsies* (Tom Tokely)
- 10 Mar 2010: *Old Breweries of North Northumberland* (Peter Maule)
- 14 Apr 2010: *Recent Mesolithic & Neolithic Research in North Northumberland* (Clive Waddington) & AGM (and visit to Maelmin 17 April)

(Arrangements for the Annual Dinner or alternative event will be confirmed in the autumn, as will the date for the Coupland trip, which is planned for May when rhododendrons and azaleas will be in flower).

Who Do I Contact?

Members of the Committee, all of whom live locally, are:

Hilda Field (Chairman), 01668-283189
Rosemary Bell (Programme Secretary), 01668-281310
Brian Cox (Secretary), 01668-216375
Kevin Malloy (Treasurer), 01668-283703
Alan Field, 01668-283189
Ruth Humphrey, 01668-281436

Any Committee member will be pleased to help you, either by telephone or at any meeting, and to receive any suggestions or comments about any aspect of the Society or its programme.

We look to seeing you in the autumn for a great 2009-10 programme!