



# Glendale Local History Society

## August 2023 newsletter

Dear GLHS Member,

I hope you have been having a good, relaxing summer despite the 'changeable' weather (and that's putting it mildly), although we must be thankful that we have not been suffering temperatures of over 40° C or the terrible wildfires that have been raging in many other parts of the world. So far, this year seems to have slipped by incredibly quickly but so much seems to have happened both locally and nationally, from the opening of the Ad Gefrin Distillery (well worth a visit if you haven't yet been), to the coronation of King Charles III. GLHS also had a fruitful information and merchandise stall at the August Farmers' Market.

Last season's programme was very successful and we hope that you will find this year's offerings both enjoyable and stimulating. We are also trying to make one or two meetings more socially interactive and, to that end, we are having a members' evening with wine and cheese next March, and also one GLHS outing this November and the offer to join another one in September. The full programme can be found on the penultimate page of this newsletter.

As you are aware, a short résumé of each talk is posted on the website after the event as a record, and for those who were unable to attend. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with this. If you think you would be able to do a simple write-up (max. 500 words) for any one of this season's talks (journalism qualification NOT required) please contact any of the committee at one of the meetings. We can always do with **more help** so any assistance, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated.

The subscription for this coming year remains at **£10** and we hope you will consider this as good value for 8 indoor meetings with refreshments included. An application form for new members along with information on how existing members can renew subscriptions is at the end of this newsletter. It can also be found on our website, and in the tri-fold information leaflet (see the article at the bottom of page 3).

Just one thing: It would be VERY helpful if people could pay their subscription **in advance**, rather than at a meeting. This will prevent a crush at the September meeting. Many thanks!

Looking forward to seeing you all for the new season

(Alan Sture, GLHS Chair)

Did you recognise the magnificently imposing structure in our February 2023 newsletter? It is **Preston Tower**, a beautifully complete late 14th century pele tower.

The tower, constructed by Robert Harbottle between 1392 and 1399, has walls up to 7ft thick. Two of the four turrets are missing, but the remains are furnished to illustrate life at that time. It is one of 78 that

existed by the 15th century. In those days reivers were a constant threat, so the seats of Border families needed thick walls and tunnel-vaulted rooms to defend themselves and their livestock. Following the Union of Scotland and England in 1603, peace finally came to the Borders. Half the tower was pulled down at this time and the stone used for farm buildings on the estate. The present tower is what remains of the original structure.

Our challenge for you this time:

**What and where is this wonky building with a severe case of subsidence?**

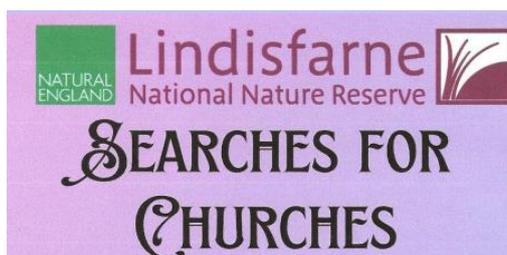


### **Last chance to join the 'Searches for Churches' on Lindisfarne.**

There seems to be a renewed interest in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Century Northumbrian history following the opening of the distillery with its fascinating museum, and the imminent new excavations on the site of the royal palace at Ad Gefrin. Here is something else that ties in quite nicely with this.

Some of you may remember an outing in September 2021 to Lindisfarne when local historian and Natural England volunteer John Woodhurst gave a St. Cuthbert-themed guided walk and talk around the harbour and the then recently excavated Anglo-Saxon church on the Heugh. This summer John has been running a series of walks and talks on Lindisfarne entitled 'Searches for Churches'. There are only **2 dates left** in the schedule: **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 11:00am-1:00pm** and **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 10:00am-12:00pm**.

Join John for a fascinating walk, exploring the origins of the early Medieval Monastery on the island based on the most recent archaeological evidence.



**Walks are free but booking is essential.**

Email [andy.denton@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:andy.denton@naturalengland.org.uk) or call the Reserve office on **01289 381470** to book your place. The walk starts from the Lifeboat Station opposite St. Cuthbert's Island.

Please note that these 2 walks are not exclusively for GLHS members and you will need to make your own way to Lindisfarne.

Here John writes to bring us an update:

“I was involved in the archaeological discovery of the stone foundations of two early medieval chapels on the Heugh, the whin sill ridge overlooking the Priory ruins on Lindisfarne, in 2017 and 2018. The archaeology was led by The Archaeological Practice Newcastle (Director Richard Carlton). We ended up with limited radiocarbon dating, so I used a range of historical sources to demonstrate that they were probably the sites of the two original chapels on the island, St Aidan’s (634) and St Finan’s, his successor (651-61), and Richard Carlton is happy with these conclusions.

The 2018 chapel found under the existing Lantern Chapel had skeletons under the altar but not on the right hand side. This eerily echoes the Venerable Bede’s comment that St Cuthbert’s body was placed in a coffin above ground on the right hand side of the altar of Finan’s chapel.

The walk might therefore truly replicate an early pilgrimage to the site of Cuthbert’s final resting place on the island, as there is no evidence to suggest that this was under the Priory which was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The walk/talk, entitled Searches for Churches, is an easy but informative stroll from opposite St Cuthbert’s Island to the chapel sites on the Heugh.

When The Northumbrian published my linked article ‘Searches for Churches’ in its Oct/Nov 2022 edition they changed the title to ‘The Gospel Truth of Lindisfarne’ to coincide with the arrival of the Lindisfarne Gospels at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle- and I actually think it’s a better title!

When I gave an initial walk on this subject to the Society in September 2021, on the ground I was actually doing my ‘Cuthbert – Lindisfarne’s First Nature Warden?’ walk/talk but in my head it was beginning to transform/morph into ‘Searches for Churches’ (!)– as a result maybe it fell between two stools on that occasion. Since then however the walk/talk has moved on apace – it’s been presented to a number of local history societies including Glasgow and Melrose, to Tillivas, and was a sell-out talk at last year’s Gospels Exhibition at the Laing. This autumn it is in the lecture programme for Alnwick and for Berwick Local History Societies.

More importantly myself and Richard Carlton have been invited to give a joint presentation to the Bernician Studies Group later in the year. Here we hope to gain the support of Max Adams and Colm O’Brien in our endeavours to counter received knowledge/the ‘traditional interpretation’ of the early medieval monastery as still recounted by English Heritage at the Priory Museum.”

---

## Updated Leaflet

Jim Bird, our resident photographer and graphics expert, has been busy creating an updated version of our tri-fold leaflet to reflect the new season and with new images, including an interesting one of the distillery under construction. It is available at the Cheviot Centre and other locations around the town offering tourist information.



## November Outing to Lady Waterford Hall.

You will see from our programme that at our November meeting Linda Bankier, archivist at the Berwick Records Office, will speak on the topic of Ford Estate at the time of the Waterford family.

To complement this talk, we have organised an outing to visit Ford Estates' Lady Waterford Hall on the following **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11:30am**. The Hall will be closed to the public from a few days before our visit, but will be opened especially for us, and we will have the services of a guide to talk to us about the origins of the Hall (it started as a school) and about Lady Waterford and her art. Following a short time for private inspection of the displays, we will enjoy a buffet luncheon and a chance to socialise. We aim to be finished at approximately 1:30pm.

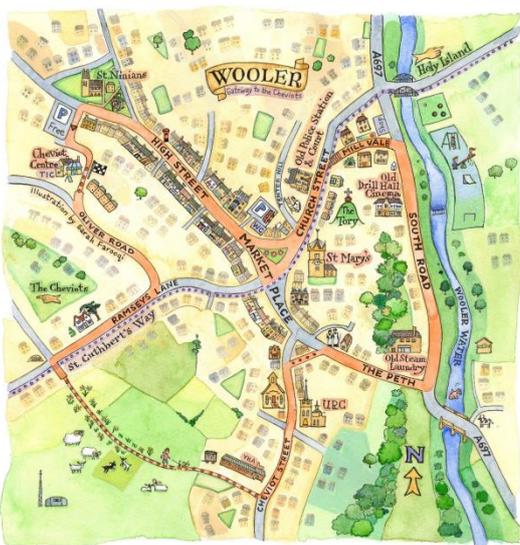


If you would like to come, a sign-up sheet with more detailed information will be available at both the October and November meetings. It promises to be an interesting and enjoyable outing.

---

## New Publication - and it's not a book!

You may be aware of the special history map of Wooler commissioned from artist Sara Farooqi in 2018 which appears in the *Wooler Town Trail* walking leaflet and the *Ten History Walks* book (both GLHS publications). The copyright has now been bought by the Society and, thanks to the hard work of our Secretary Pam Ratcliffe, this delightful image has been reproduced in the form of postcard, greetings card, poster and print and should appeal to resident and visitor alike.



We had some of these for sale on our stall at the Farmers' Market recently and we sold some of every format which was encouraging.

Currently they can be bought at Logos Bookshop in the High Street but, depending on demand and the need to do a bigger print run next time, we are hopeful that we can extend this to other outlets.

## GLHS oak tree still growing - slowly but surely - after 4 years.



The tree, planted by GLHS in May 2019 with a plaque commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, is doing well, but still has a long way to go before it becomes a 'mighty oak'.

It stands on the river bank opposite the Ad Gefrin distillery and close to one of two information boards, designed and produced by GLHS and erected a year later in October 2020. This board shows photographs of various locations in the town as they were in days gone by next to images of how they look in more recent times. The bottom right-hand corner shows the old Wooler Steam Laundry, but as the first brick of the distillery had yet to be laid, its modern counterpart is an



artist's impression. Has anyone checked to see how close to reality the drawing is? Incidentally, the second display board is in the Marketplace next to the Flower Fountain. There are two 'talking benches' intended for people to rest and have conversations. Recently four people were seen occupying both benches. Were they chatting to each other? No, they were, each one of them, staring at their smart phones in stony silence. Is it a sign of the times?

---

## And Finally ....



I don't like to mention the 'C' word but the speed at which this year seems to be passing it won't seem long until Christmas is upon us.

If you're stuck for ideas for Christmas presents then why not think about one of Glendale Local History Society's publications, either a book or one of the map reproductions mentioned above?

We hope to have a selection of these for sale at our October, November and December meetings.



# Glendale Local History Society

## PROGRAMME 2023-2024

<u>2023</u> Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm	Elizabeth Devon	Plants through geological time - how the underlying geology influenced flora in Glendale.
Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm	Mark Hatton	The history, mystery, meaning and beauty of Northumberland's 18th century gravestones.
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm	Linda Bankier	Ford estate at the time of the Waterford family.
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> November 11.30am	Outdoor Meeting	<i>To follow on from Wednesday's meeting:</i> Outing to Lady Waterford Hall, Ford with a Guided Tour followed by a buffet luncheon
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm	Roddy Johnston Nancy Marshall Seonaid Lynn	'Petticoat Tales' - a musical interpretation of Border Tales by the Borders Trio.
<u>2024</u> Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm	Patsy Healey	'Containing the unruly uplands: the Norman conquest in Wooler and Glendale'.
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm	Nick Lewis	The Chapel of St Cuthbert on the Inner Farne
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	Mainly Yourselves	Members' evening and social - two topics with half-time cheese and wine.
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm	Dr. Liz O'Donnell	'Mr Bevin's raffle' - the Bevin boys of WWII. Followed by <u>short</u> AGM

**All evening talks are held at the Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler**



# Glendale Local History Society

## Membership application form 2023-24

**Renewing membership? Please just pay per instructions below, but DO provide details of any changes.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to: become a member / change my details: (delete as applicable)**

-----

By completing this form and paying your annual subscription of £10, your name and contact details will be included on our lists of GLHS members. This list will be used only for GLHS purposes.

(Our full GDPR policy can be found on our website at <http://www.glendalelocalhistory.org> ).

### You can pay for membership:

- **by BACS** (Sort Code 20-58-17; Account 90417351. Please use Ref: GLHS + Your surname & email
- **OR cheque** (payable to Glendale Local History Society, & posted to:  
GLHS Box, c/o Administrator, Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler, NE71 6AD
- **OR** you can pay at a meeting.

**We usually meet on the second Wednesday each month from September to April at the Cheviot Centre. Talks start at 7.30pm - coffee/tea is available from 7:00pm.**

Visitors are welcome to attend meetings at £3.00 per person.

**For more information, please see our website: <http://www.glendalelocalhistory.org>**

**or [email: GLHSoc@gmail.com](mailto:GLHSoc@gmail.com)**