



# HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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| <b>Newsletter 64</b> | <b>Editor: Mark Benjamin<br/>(01434) 607746</b> | <b>Autumn<br/>2012</b> |
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## Thoughts from a Chair Peter Rodger

During the last year members and visitors have enjoyed outings to the Theatre Royal and Tyneside Cinema, Capheaton Hall & Gardens and a trip to the Borders to visit Kelso Abbey and Floors Castle. These outings are an important feature of the Society's activities and for some years have been exceptionally well organised by Charlotte Coxon. Members may not be aware that not only did Charlotte find the destinations, she also made a personal visit to each, researching travel times, appropriateness, avoidance of low bridges, accessibility and refreshments, organised the transport, did all the marketing and handled all the finance. Sadly, Charlotte has resigned from the committee in order to be able to travel more widely with Peter. Our thanks go to Charlotte for all her hard work .

The Society has been represented at a number of significant events throughout the year, notably the Annual Family History Fair in Newcastle, the Northumberland Local History Fair at Woodhorn and the Heritage Open Days events in Hexham. The Dukesfield Smelting Mills project is of local importance as a live 'history in the making' project and the Society has endeavoured to give it full support during its fund-raising stage.

Increasingly, we have made better use of email and, in particular, the website where we are developing a library of documents which might not otherwise be published. Sadly, we have just heard that we have been unsuccessful in our bid to attract Lottery funding for our proposed Digital Photo Archive.

## A mystery solved!

Following our challenge in the last issue over the location of the Abbey Café, in which Alfred Wainwright stayed, society member Peter Robson did know better! The Abbey Café was not where I guessed, but was the building slightly further down Market Street that now houses Rosina's Gowns and the RAFA Club. Looking up at its interestingly-bowed upper windows, one can easily imagine it as a café with lodgings.

## So here's another three!

1) Society Member, Jim Hedley, has recently acquired this interesting letter from a 19<sup>th</sup> century solicitor. One word of the handwritten original has defeated all our attempts at transcription! An image of the offending word is given below the transcript. A small prize is offered to any member who can come up with the most convincing answer.

HEXHAM 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1833

*I am desired by the Justices of Tindale ward to advise them on how to proceed under the following circumstances. At their Petty Sessions held here on Tuesday a pauper an Irishman of the name of Hughes was brought before them to be removed by[.....].from the Township of Hexham to Ireland as the place of his birth under the Provision of the Geo.III C12. Hughes did not give such evidence of that being the place of his birth as they deemed sufficient as the first place he recollected himself to have been was Scotland his father being a soldier. His mother being a resident in the Town was therefore brought before the Justices who submitted to being sworn but refused afterwards to state on oath where she was delivered of him. Before she was sworn she stated that he was born in Ireland but would not state on oath as he would have been removed.*

*The magistrate adjourned the case for a fortnight and they desire me to request you to take counsel's opinion how they are to proceed should the woman be again brought before them and refuse to give evidence also if she should refuse to come before them whether they can compel her appearance.*

I am Dear Sir,

Yours truly John Ruddock

Suggestions, please, to Mark Benjamin on 01434 607746 or [enquiry@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:enquiry@hexhamhistorian.org)

2) Martin and Angela Moore, of Norfolk, recently came across this tapestry and would like to know more about it. While it clearly relates to the legend of the Queen & the Robber, they would like any information about the tapestry's origin and age. It is 17" square and beautifully coloured. If you think you may have any information, please contact the Moores at [mmoore5738@aol.com](mailto:mmoore5738@aol.com) or Mark on (01434) 607746



3) Rosey Moffatt has inherited two interesting items relating to Hexham and the Hopper family, and would like to know more about them. They appear to have been the property of Theodosia Hopper (1802-87) The wooden box is dated 1831 and is inscribed *Hexham Church built by Wilfrid AD674* and the lead crystal tumbler *T Hopper*. Any information to Rosey at [roseymoffatt@roseymoffat.com](mailto:roseymoffatt@roseymoffat.com) or to Mark.



**Waddilove's  
Supporters**  
Joe Hardwick

*For those members who were unable to attend Joe's October talk:* In 1834 the Rev W J D Waddilove, of Beacon Grange near Hexham, established the 'Upper Canada Travelling Mission Fund' to raise funds for Anglican clergymen to be sent out to British settlers in what was Upper Canada (now known as Ontario). Waddilove's relative, the bishop of Quebec, had sent an appeal to British Christians that painted a grim picture of a colonial Church that had no source of income, could not rely on the state for help and which was losing out to Protestant Dissent and Roman Catholicism. Waddilove's Fund—which in the course of about eight years supported twelve missionaries in Canada—drew support from across the British Isles, but, as the surviving subscription lists reveal, the bulk of funds appear to come from the Hexham area and Northumberland.

I'm trying to build a picture of the social backgrounds of the individuals who supported Waddilove's Fund and their reasons for doing so. I'm interested in accumulating information on Hexham's links to empire, particularly Canada: Waddilove was driven by evangelising zeal and had family links, but maybe the other Hexham subscribers had their own connections to empire and emigration? If you have any details on Waddilove and the individuals from this area who aided his fund — no matter how trivial! — I can be contacted at [joseph.hardwick@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:joseph.hardwick@northumbria.ac.uk) or at: Dr Joe Hardwick, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Lipman Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8ST. *The subscription lists are now available in the Members' Library on our website. If you're not online and would like to see the lists, call Mark on (01434) 607746*

**Be a Hexham  
Town Guide!**  
Sonja Bailes

When I first moved to Hexham from 'Down South' some twenty years ago, not surprisingly, I wanted to find out as much as I could about this 'northern outpost'. So one of the first things I did was to sign up for a guided tour of Hexham and found myself fascinated by the town, its buildings and its colourful history. When I retired five years ago, one of the first things I decided to do was to try and replicate that initial experience and share with others the knowledge I'd gleaned from my first guided tour of the town.

I had to do quite a bit of homework to research the history and the stories of Hexham's colourful past but it was made very easy by the work done by my predecessors, particularly Tom Corfe, and the encouraging help and support of the current guides.

The tours are free and the guides are volunteers. The tours run between June to September each year and are twice a week on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm. They start at the Abbey shop and last about 1½ hours.

I can't emphasize enough how rewarding it is talking to the great variety of people from all over the country, and some from overseas, who are here on holiday, or local people who want to know a bit more about Hexham. At the end of the tour the locals invariably declare their amazement at how little they knew and how much they've learnt. The guides are not particularly special, many of us are fellow members of the History Society and we all enjoy talking about the town and sharing our knowledge with others. It is not in the least bit arduous and, with other guides to share the workload during the summer months, there is a very modest commitment of no more than 6 tours each, if that. The schedule is flexible and we cover for each other if necessary. If you're interested, then don't hesitate to give me or John De Stefano a ring on: 01434 684858 (Sonja) or 01434 683124 (John)

**New on the  
Website**

**Poor Rates for 1834-1839.** Transcribed by volunteers at the Border Library, this database lists all ratepayers in Hexham, along with the owners of the property, and gives rateable values and details of land use. We're very grateful to Janet Goodridge for permission to add this resource to our Members' Library.

**Hexham's leatherworking heritage:** the full, unedited text of Andy Bates' article, the edited version of which was included in HH22. This is the first of what will be a growing collection of otherwise unpublished material that may prove of interest to members researching a variety of topics.

[www.drjohnchapman.org.uk](http://www.drjohnchapman.org.uk) is the website of Society member, John Chapman, author of *The house-dater's toolkit* and *A walk back in time* as well as articles in *The Historian*. Still in its infancy, it currently carries the complete text of his thesis on Hexham as a walled town, including photos for which there was no space in his 2009 article in HH19. His earlier work *A history of High Shield* will follow shortly. A link to John's site has been added to our own website.

**Volunteers  
needed!**

1) Soon to be added to the Members' Library is a massive work on Hexham Workhouse, written in the 1970s as an MLitt thesis. We are looking for someone to compile a names index of the many paupers and officials mentioned therein. If anyone would like to do this, please contact Mark on (01434) 607746.

2) We're also looking for someone to develop the *Hexham Timeline*, as featured on our website. In the short term, we would like to link the various events to relevant *Historian* articles. This does not need anything more than very basic computer literacy! In the longer term, we would like to investigate possibilities of making the timeline more visually attractive, including images and links to other sites, so we're looking for someone with web & graphic experience. Anyone interested in either project should contact Peter at [peter@anick.co.uk](mailto:peter@anick.co.uk)

## The Town Diary

Ever organized an event, only to find that all your audience has gone to something else in town that day? The Town Diary is there to lessen the chances of that happening. It can be accessed through both [www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk) and [www.hexhamcommunity.net](http://www.hexhamcommunity.net) and can be used to share information about events that are open to the public whether they are confirmed or still at the planning stage. For further information, email Lorraine at [lorraine@hexhamcommunity.net](mailto:lorraine@hexhamcommunity.net) or call on (01434) 603022

## Wilfrid Gibson, 1878-1962

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Hexham's most famous literary figure, we include Keith Armstrong's poetic tribute; Keith's short biography of Gibson can be found in *The town of old Hexham* (Peoples' History, 2002)

*'Was it for nothing that the little room,  
All golden in the lamplight, thrilled with golden  
Laughter from hearts of friends that summer night?' (Wilfrid Gibson)*

I'm as happy as a daffodil  
this day;  
sunshine flows around me  
over fences,  
leaping  
with the joy of my poetry.

I am Lord Pretty Field,  
a tipsy aristocrat of verse,  
become full of myself  
and country booze  
in the Beauchamp Arms.

Under branches frothy with blossom,  
I carry a torch from Northumberland  
for Wilfrid Gibson  
and his old mates;  
for Geraldine  
I bear  
my Cheviot heart  
in Gloucester ciderlight.

We can only catch  
a petal from the slaughter,  
a bloom  
to ease the melancholy

of a Dymock dusk;  
hear laughter  
over the gloomy murmurs  
of distant wars.

A swirling rook cries out  
across St Mary's spire  
in dialect  
as I climb  
back to my White House room  
to dream of an England gone,  
and a flash of whisky  
with Abercrombie.

For Wilfrid you are still  
'a singing star',  
drenched in balladry;  
and this I know:  
I will keep your little songs alive  
in this Golden Room in my heart  
and, in my Hexham's market place,  
rant for you  
and cover  
all our love  
with streaming daffodils.

## Flodden 500 5-7 July 2013

Flodden was one of the greatest battles fought on British soil. It was a decisive battle, for there was, subsequently, little doubt of England's military superiority. Yet, Flodden has never had the attention devoted to it that Bannockburn or even Culloden have received.

9 September 2013 will be the quincentenary of the battle and a conference is to be held by the North East of England Historical Institute (NEEHI). There will be a series of lectures on the background to James IV's invasion of England, the English response, the battle itself and the consequences for England, Scotland and the Borders. Speakers will include: Steve Gunn (Merton College, Oxford), Steve Boardman, Tony Goodman & Jenny Wormald (Edinburgh), George Goodwin (author of forthcoming book), David Grummitt (Kent), Tony Pollard (Glasgow), Steve Ellis (Galway), and David Starkey (historian and broadcaster). Further information can be found at: [www.northumbria.ac.uk/floddenconference](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/floddenconference)

**Dukesfield  
Smelters and  
Carriers project**  
Greg Finch

As you might have read elsewhere, the parish councils of Hexhamshire and Slaley have teamed up with the Friends of the North Pennines charity to plan a project to reveal, preserve and celebrate our local lead industry heritage. This is centred on the physical remains of the mill site, but also takes in the lead ways which connected the mines of the high Pennine dales, through Dukesfield mill and onwards to the markets of Tyneside, and also the life and work of the carriers as well as the smelters. Ideas include documentary and archaeological research, a digital animation of the smelt will at work, walks and information material, a whole host of community interpretation events, as well as the physical conservation of the site.

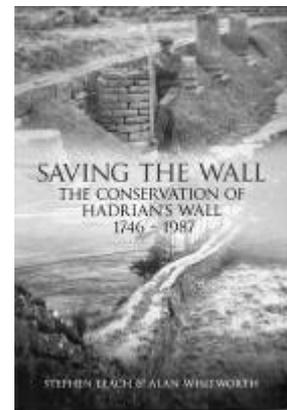
A successful first stage Heritage Grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund earlier this year means we have been able to start drawing up detailed plans for the project. A lease of the site is being negotiated with the landowner, and an architect has been appointed to create a conservation plan for the works required to consolidate the structure. In the meantime a number of volunteer activities are underway. Our appeal in an earlier edition of the newsletter for volunteer document transcribers has been a resounding success. Helped by a grant from the Henry Bell Trust an enthusiastic group of HLHS members and others has been going through a series of 18th century letters from the Blakett company's agents since the spring which is helping to reveal more of the mill's history. Over 2,000 document images have been captured and over 1/4 million words transcribed so far. This summer saw an ecological survey of the smelt mill site and a dowsing workshop. By the time you read this an archaeological survey of the site should have taken place, the first module of the three year North Pennines AONB Partnership's Altogether Archaeology programme described in Paul Frodsham's talk to the Society in April. We are now working towards submission of a full grant application to the HLF in early December, and we should hear the outcome next March. We believe Dukesfield will make a great addition to the network of lead industry heritage sites across the North Pennine region, and there should be lots more opportunities for Society members to get involved. If you'd like to be kept informed about project progress and volunteer events please send an email to [dukesfield@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:dukesfield@hexhamhistorian.org)

**Book Review**  
Jane Brantom

Leach, Stephen and Whitworth, Alan. **Saving the Wall: the conservation of Hadrian's Wall, 1746–1987** (Amberley, 2011) 160pp, ISBN 9781445600185 £12.99

Saving the Wall makes a hugely readable and valuable addition to the social and technical history of Hadrian's Wall. The book is split into two sections. The first half, 'Conservation', is an engaging narrative of the life of the Wall from its destruction during the building of the 'Military Road' to successful protection through the founding of the 1931 Ancient Monument Act, the 1938 'Wall and Vallum Preservation Scheme' and the 1956 Northumberland National Park. It goes into intriguing detail of the campaigns in the 1930s and 40s to save the Wall from being left on a 'knife edge' perched above quarries and gives great insight to the strength of feeling and the tension between economic and archaeological, historical, aesthetic and cultural values of the wall that are still so relevant today. The chapters are short, well referenced, researched and illustrated. They are also intriguingly titled.

Whilst 'Conservation' is a tribute to the combined efforts of archaeologists, politicians and others to save the Wall and the role of the Wall in progressing national conservation legislation, the second half, 'Consolidation', is a tribute to the local workforce of the then Department of Works. Based on diaries of the late Charles Anderson, who started his time on Hadrian's Wall as a mason in 1935 and retired in 1974, it chronicles Anderson's work in getting resources (including a Ford car to transport workers to wall sites instead of relying on bus and bicycle) and of consolidation work at Wall sites. The style is more technical than section one and goes directly into site by site descriptions. These are interesting and readily accessible for anyone wanting to learn more about a particular site. They are also a reminder of what an exciting time it must have been working on the wall during the 1940s and 1950s. The section ends with a useful description about consolidation (perhaps more useful at the start of the section for the lay reader) and interesting insights into differences of opinion between the Ministry of Works and the National Trust about consolidation techniques (made public through a 1958 Observer article, the 'Battle of Hadrian's Wall').



The book is described as being of interest to scholars of the Wall and anyone interested in the history of conservation but I would suggest that the engaging style, especially of the first section, gives it a wider appeal for anyone interested in life around the Wall. Whilst some knowledge of Hadrian's Wall is assumed, the referencing and index system works well to help find your way around this for the less familiar and many of the illustrations, including the Bill Brandt photographs of the Wall in the 1930s and 40s, are intriguing. The book acknowledges that much is written about the archaeology of the wall and in particular the excavations of the twentieth century. This book contributes a valuable insight into the socio-political context of the wall, brings in the human dimension, not just of the archaeologists as experts in their field of discovery, interpretation and research but as shrewd negotiators and campaigners for the interests of the monument as a whole. The book, especially the first part is a delightful and refreshing read.

**Book Review**  
Greg Finch

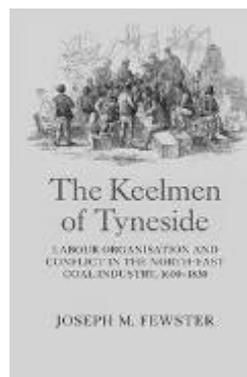
Wrightson, Keith. **Ralph Tailor's summer: a scrivener, his city and the Plague** (Yale UP, 2011) xiv + 208pp, ISBN 978 0 300 17447 2, £20



The plague outbreak of 1636 in Newcastle was, proportionately, one of the most devastating experienced by any English city during the early modern period. It probably carried off close to half of the population, sweeping like wildfire up through the town that hot summer from the dirty, densely populated alleys of Sandgate and Allhallows by the Quayside. The impact and consequences of the epidemic on the ordinary people of Newcastle is studied here in vivid and moving detail by Professor Keith Wrightson of Yale University. A native of the North-East, he is one of the leading social historians of the early modern period, and –fortunately for us– was Visiting Professor in the region in 2009 thanks to the initiative of the North-East of England History Institute, a collaborative venture between the history departments of our regional universities. It was while engaged on a separate research mission amongst the archives of Durham University Library that he was distracted by the flamboyant and confident signature of Ralph Tailor, attesting a court deposition in 1637. Ralph was giving evidence that in the previous August he had climbed onto the town wall to lean against the upper window of a plague victim to take the verbal declaration of his hurried last will and testament through the sealed casement. Ralph was a scrivener, a professional writer of legal documents, and therefore had been much in demand during that dreadful summer. He was just 25 years old, and probably not long out of his apprenticeship. His work, his progress around the stricken city, is the central theme to which Professor Wrightson links in other aspects of the life and death of the city and the response of its people, and their leaders, to the epidemic. It therefore provides a fascinating account of the plague year in its own right, but is also of great value to anyone grappling with wills, inventories and other probate documents from this period. The author brings to life the human process surrounding their creation, and the rising importance of professional scriveners to these and to other legal contracts in providing a confident foundation to commercial transactions over long distances between people who lacked close personal relationships. Above all though, Wrightson makes 'laconic local records speak', reconstructing the human stories of a plague year with a novelist's feeling. This quest to discover, to rediscover, the lives and experiences of local people in a different time is motivation enough for many researchers. This absorbing work, however, also shows how a detailed exploration of a searing crisis in a single location can reveal a broader sense of the structure and resilience of society. Following one young man around Newcastle in that summer of fearsome terror is a compelling way to explore the limits to social order. Was society too brittle and chaotic to avoid falling apart under the strain or was it strong enough to sustain enough order and hope that the human spirit would ultimately prevail? In pursuing Newcastle's answer in 1636 the book provides an excellent example of the value of local studies to the meaning of history, and is an encouragement to us to continue pursuing them.

**Book Review**  
Greg Finch

Fewster, Joseph M. **The Keelmen of Tyneside: labour organisation and conflict in the North-east coal industry, 1600-1830** (Boydell Press, 2011) x + 222pp, ISBN 978 978 1 84383 632 2, £60



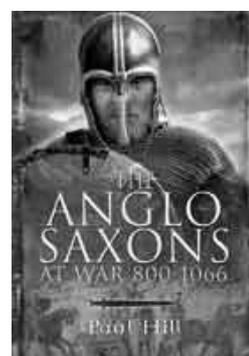
The keelmen of Tyneside, long celebrated in song, provided for centuries a vital link in the intricate chain of the coal trade. Because few seagoing ships could navigate the dangerous sandbanks, reefs and dumped ballast in the lower reaches of the Tyne, and none could pass Newcastle bridge, coal had to be brought downstream from the pits and staithes by these small boats. With shallow draught, up to 26 tons of coal on board, and the weather and tides of the Tyne to contend with, the navigation and manoeuvre of keels by a large oar and smaller rudder in the hands of a skipper, two men and a boy required great strength and skill, and a deep knowledge of the river. "Weel may the keel row" indeed. Keelmen were seen as hardy and insular, living apart from Newcastle by the river in Sandgate, their numbers swelled each summer by seasonal migrants from Scotland. This new scholarly study of the keelmen, and their relationship with those who controlled Newcastle and the coal trade, is the work of decades of research. Unfortunately its price will deter many with an active interest in the development of our region (though see below), but all decent libraries should be encouraged to obtain copies! From our distant vantage point in time, the achievement of the coal industry in supplying London and other markets with ever increasing quantities of fuel in the early modern period is impressive. Viewed closely in this book, the interests jostling for monopoly control at every stage of the process – mine owners, fitters, staithmen, keelmen, shipowners and London merchants are less edifying. To the owners, the keelmen were often seen as more than just another group to be outwitted – they were a formidable and threatening body of men capable of visiting civil disorder on the district. Even the recurring attempts by keelmen to contribute to mutual support in the form of charitable bodies and the hospital which overlooked the quay were regarded as a potential threat, lest they be used as warchests to sustain strikes. Persistent attempts to control the charity over more than a century by the Hostmen's Company and local magistracy, (both greatly influenced by Tyneside's coal owners and merchants) were hardly conducive to trust and constructive engagement. Details of several strikes throughout the period are provided, documenting the blockades by keels, intimidation of strikebreakers, riots, and deployment of troops by authorities acutely aware of the potential for chaos. A keen sense is portrayed of the arduous and unrewarding work of the keelmen, and how it was treated with contempt by many employers. Yet some of most bitter struggles, in early 19th century, originated in doomed attempts to preserve this precarious and hard way of life in the face of the introduction of far more efficient and cheap means of getting coal from pit to ship through chutes, coal drops and steam barges. We like things to get better but we don't like change.

*The publisher has agreed to offer copies to members of the Hexham Local History Society at £45 rather than £60. Offer code 12154. Offer ends 28th February 2013. Orders can be placed by phone on 01394 610600, by fax on 01394 610316, by email at [trading@boydell.co.uk](mailto:trading@boydell.co.uk) or on-line at [www.boydellandbrewer.com](http://www.boydellandbrewer.com). Postage rates are £3.00 in the UK, £6.50 per book (up to a maximum of £26.00) to mainland Europe and £10.00 per book outside Europe. Free postage if orders are placed online.*

**Book Review**  
Tim Owen &  
Mark Runnacles  
Goodridge

Hill, Paul. **The Anglo Saxons at war 800-1066** (Pen & Sword, 2012) ISBN 9781848843691 £19.99

Paul Hill's fifth Anglo-Saxon history book is a truly fascinating, detailed and thorough account of all aspects of warfare in the period – beginning with the rise of the Kingdom Wessex and detailing the developments up to the Norman Conquest. Hill, the former Kingston upon Thames Museum curator, discusses the societal framework into which warfare fitted in the later Anglo-Saxon period as well as how armies were raised and ultimately how battles and sieges were fought. He includes a number of case studies of significant battles which are used as exemplars to help explain tactics and strategy as well as a lengthy chapter detailing the weapons and armour used in the era. His insights about the Anglo-Saxon use of cavalry are fascinating and dispel a few long-standing myths too.



The book is consciously thematic in structure and this could pose problems for a reader lacking a good grounding in the chronology of an age which is littered with Edwards, Eadmunds and Eadreds among many other characters. Hill does include a helpful appendix detailing the rulers of the English through the period but it would have been nice for the beginner if he had included a brief outline chronology in his introduction which would have provided more context. Similarly beginners might have profited from a brief discussion of the Old English alphabet. Where Old English words appear in the text Hill does provide the modern meaning, however anyone lacking a grounding in the language will probably find themselves confused by the use of letters such as the Thorn(y) and the Ash(æ).

This book would be a very worthwhile acquisition for anyone with an interest in military or Anglo-Saxon history but we recommend that beginners should read a general history of the period first to get the most out of it.

### Notes & Queries

1) Barry Wood writes: "I am in the process of restoring an Aveling and Porter traction engine which is almost finished after 16 years. Thought it would be a good time to research the history. I have been told it worked for a company called the Tyne Steam Cultivating company. I am not convinced this is correct. However, after looking through the manufacturer's record in Lincoln there is reference to a William Benson. A good friend of mine who works for Old Glory magazine as found a gentleman by the name of William Benson of Allerwash, Northumberland who I believe owned Coal Mines in the area. Do you have any photographs of the Engine whilst working in the area?" *Barry can be contacted at 52 Mill Lane, Ryther, North Yorks. LS24 9EG (01757) 269478*

2) The Friends of Merton Priory are looking for information about one of their Augustinian priors, Richard de Hexham, who served from 1238/9-1249. He doesn't appear to have held any significant office at Hexham priory. FOMP can be contacted at [friendsofmertpri@aol.com](mailto:friendsofmertpri@aol.com)

3) We have been given a school photograph showing the entire student body and staff of the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School for Girls which, annoyingly, has no date! We know that it predates 1950 and, looking at the hairstyles and staff costumes, it could be anytime from the late 1930s onwards. If anyone thinks they could date it, or identify girls or staff, please contact Mark Benjamin on (01434) 607746 or [enquiry@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:enquiry@hexhamhistorian.org)

4) I am writing an article about a Scottish landowning family- John BUCHANAN and his wife Margaret nee LOCH of Carbeth and Auchenreoch and cannot fathom out why, with 2 mansion houses in Scotland, they were living in Hexham c 1807- 1811. 3 of their children Ann, John and James were christened at St John Lee Church. Correspondence to them is addressed only Hexam, no house name. Back home, they receive letters from Hexam [sic] mentioning :- Mrs Kissop, Miss Lambert, Thompson of Stagshaw, The Bensons, Mrs Lister. If anyone can shed light on where they lived and what they were doing there I would be most grateful. *Answers via Mark please.*

5) Does anyone know anything about Swinburne Folly? Jim Robson has ancestors who apparently lived there. It is thought to have been on a hill to the south of Little Swinburne Reservoir. Little Swinburne Tower has been suggested but was never a folly. Email Jim at [jimrobson462@yahoo.com](mailto:jimrobson462@yahoo.com) or phone Mark on (01434) 607746

## THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Lost for ideas for a Christmas present? Gift Vouchers for membership of the Society for £10 for an individual or £15 for a joint membership are a gift that lasts the whole year and every Voucher comes with a free copy of the Hexham Timeline! The vouchers are available from the Secretary, Yvonne Purdy, at 31 Dukes Road, Hexham NE46 3AW (01434) 601237  
[membership@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:membership@hexhamhistorian.org)