



# HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



<b>Newsletter 71</b>	<b>Editor: Mark Benjamin</b> <b>(01434) 607746</b> <b>editor@hexhamhistorian.org</b>	<b>Spring</b> <b>2015</b>
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## Thoughts from a Chair Peter Rodger

So, it's February and already we feel settled into the New Year. What does 2015 hold for us as a society? I believe it will be a year of planning; there is new blood on the committee, a full agenda of talks and three excellent outings, a publication almost ready to print and new ideas being formulated for making our published works more accessible. As if that isn't enough we are now beginning to plan for hosting the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies 'Round the County' Event in mid-2016. Traditionally each of the Northumberland societies host an 'Awayday' in turn, organising a day of showcase events for the benefit of visitors from other Northumberland Societies. It's worth mentioning that the Hexham Society is the largest of these and it is something of a privilege to be invited to host the event in ANLHS's 50th anniversary. There is much to savour in Hexham and this will be a great time to share it with others. During the year, there will be many opportunities for members to contribute their time, skills, interests and commitment to making this a truly memorable event. I do hope you will join in.

## Society Committee 2015

The following were confirmed as the Society's officers for the coming year at the AGM.

### Main Committee

Chairman	Peter Rodger
Vice Chairman*	Ian Hancock
Publications Officer	Terry Eccles
Secretary	Yvonne Purdy
Treasurer	Greg Finch
Speakers	Liz Sobell
Outings	Jennifer Britton
Editor	Mark Benjamin
Archivist	Mollie Telford
Without portfolio	Christine Hanley

### Publications Sub-Committee

Mark Benjamin (Chair)
Peter Rodger (Secretary)
Susan Ketelaar
Liz Sobell
Colin Dallison
Greg Finch
Jim Hedley
Ian Hancock
Terry Eccles
Mark Runnacles Goodridge (Social Media)

\*Although his place on the committee was confirmed at the AGM, Ian Hancock was only subsequently appointed as Vice Chairman.

## ANLHS Round the County Day 2016

In June 2016, we shall be hosting the annual study day of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies. Although members of the committee will be fully involved, we can't do it all ourselves and would like to invite members to get involved in a small sub-group to organise the event. In particular, we are hoping that members with experience in event-management may come forward to take a lead on the project.

The structure of the day is completely open at the moment; one of the first tasks of the sub-group will be to decide the programme. (For details of this year's event, see below) If you would like to get involved, or would like more information, please contact Peter at [chair@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:chair@hexhamhistorian.org) or (01434) 607914 or Yvonne at [secretary@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:secretary@hexhamhistorian.org) or (01434) 601237

**Forthcoming  
Occasional  
Publication**

*Hexham: Dirty old town* is the title of the Society's latest in our Occasional Publications series. Due to be published later this year, this is a facsimile reprint of Robert Rawlinson's 1853 *Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the sewerage, drainage and general supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the inhabitants in the town and township of Hexham, in the County of Northumberland*. You'll see why we've not gone with the original title!

Far from being a dry government report, *Hexham: dirty old town* gives a wonderful and atmospheric picture of the rather noisome town of 160 years ago. A new preface, by HLHS member David Jennings, sets the report in context.

The price has yet to be finalised but is expected to be under £10.00. Although it will be available through the usual channels, it would be helpful if members intending to buy a copy could let Terry Eccles, our Publications Officer, know. Email Terry at [sales@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:sales@hexhamhistorian.org) or call him on 07828880107.

**HLHS on FB!  
Mark  
Runnacles  
Goodridge**

The Society's Facebook page is up and running. The Society does a lot of fascinating work; we should shout from the hilltops about our achievements but, today, it is far more effective to put a post on Facebook. The aim of having the page is to share and promote the work we do to a wider and younger audience. The page also gives non-members another way to find out more about the Society. For example, our fantastic monthly talks are available to all comers, not just members.

We hope that those Society members on Facebook will like and post on the page. Please let us know what projects you are working on and what subjects you would like the Society to focus on in the future. There will be regular updates and reminders about the upcoming talks, events and publications as well as any other interesting news. The page will be a little work-in-progress for the moment as we discover how people use it but it is the perfect forum to leave your constructive feedback to let us know how to improve it.

**ANLHS Round  
the County  
Day 2015**

This year's event is being hosted by Glendale LHS. The programme is entitled *Agriculture in Wooler and its environs, 1800 to the present day* and includes the title talk by Ian Roberts and a talk by Bill Fawcett on Railways and their influence on rural change, with a self-guided tour around Wooler. The event, which is open to all members, takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> June and costs £14.50 (including lunch - £7 without); booking forms, which must be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> May, can be obtained from Yvonne at [secretary@hexhamhistorian.org](mailto:secretary@hexhamhistorian.org) or (01434) 601237

**A mystery  
(almost)  
solved**

We received a communication from a John Makin, asking for information about Hexham notable, J P Gibson. John possesses a sketchbook whose sketches, dating from the late 1930s through to the mid 1940s, bear the initials JP and he has become obsessed with discovering the name of the artist. The full story of his saga can be found at [www.sketchbookmystery.co.uk](http://www.sketchbookmystery.co.uk). Many of the sketches appear to have taken place on board during an international cruise and, amongst the mystery artist's fellow passengers had been a JP Gibson – could this be the well-known Hexham artist? Yvonne did a bit of digging which established that though the dates eliminated John Pattison Gibson, and his son was just plain John; it could have been John's son, John Philip Gibson. John Philip married in 1938 so could possibly have been on his honeymoon. Unfortunately, he died in 1986, leaving no descendants with whom to check! However, upon reporting back to John Makin, we discovered that he had found an alternative, and far more likely, suspect and that Hexham's Gibsons were, indeed, the red herring we had always suspected them to be. After all, not many artists sign their work with only their given names. Still, it might have been.....!

**New light on  
the Riot**  
John Gordon

I am a transcriber of the letter books of the chief agents to Sir Walter Blackett in the Dukesfield 'Reading the past' project. The original documents are held by Northumberland Archives in Woodhorn, and these excerpts are taken from NRO 672/E/1E/3. They appear to add to the accounts used by Tom Corfe in his 2004 book, *Riot!*

The agents were Blackett's managers of his business and political interests in the North East of England, and his eyes and ears on the ground. For many years the post was held by Joseph Richmond of Newcastle, and his son Henry. Some of the letters highlight potential issues of the time that Blackett's business could face. One such issue was the balloting for acquiring men for the militia in Northumberland and Durham because of the grievances of the men which often led to violence and the fact that Blackett would have to find replacements for the men taken. In a letter dated 1st March 1761 Henry Richmond informed Blackett that Colliers Waggon men had assembled at Gateshead to show their disapproval of the balloting. This dispute had ended peacefully after the intervention of a Mr Ridley, but Richmond informed Blackett that Ridley had no authority to do this, thereby showing his concern that the dispute may not actually be over. In another letter Blackett is informed by Richmond of the events of the Hexham Riot on the 9th March 1761 and the many deaths at the hands of the Militia. Richmond does not think that any of Blackett's miners were at Hexham that day as he 'hopes the expectation of their pay kept them at home' and of course not likely to return home with news of what had happened and spread more unrest.

**1 March 1761 Henry Richmond to Sir Walter Blackett**

*To Sir Wr Blackett Bt. M.P. etc*

*London*

*[Newcastle] 1st March 1761*

*Honourd Sir A no. of Colliers waggon men & others assembled in sev[era]l places in the County of Durham last week & took the militia lists f[ro]m the Constables & committed other outrages, & yesterday a large body of them armed with sticks came to Gateshead where there was a meeting of the deputy Lieuten[an]ts. Two of the Ringleaders who I am told are known, distributed to the mob printed papers of w[hi]ch the enclosed is a copy, for I have not been able to get one of the originals. The Yorkshire militia were under arms in the Exch[an]ge & Guildhall to be ready in case of the mischief; But that was prevented by Mr Ridleys going into Gateshead & giving the mob assurances that the present meeting was only to draw ten men out of their ward that in case any of them who were concerned in the coal works sho[ul]d be drawn their owners wo[ul]d find substitutes for them & that after this he was satisfied there wo[ul]d be no more balloting till the law wo[ul]d be altered, w[hi]ch wo[ul]d have been done this session according to the Land tax or poor rate, if it had not been upon the Eve of a new parliam[en]t. This satisfied them, as they look[e]d upon this as having carried their point & they dispersed, all but about 200 of them, who with music at their head came into Newcastle, brandishing their sticks & publishing that they had got all they wanted, that there was to be no more balloting & that the folks in No[rthumber]land ought to follow their example. They were suffered to proceed without interruption thru' the town, as they did no mischief to any one. But many censure the tameness of the proceedings of the proceedings both in Gateshead & Newcastle, and apprehend that if any thing hereafter is to be done in execution of the militia law these folks will be much more difficult to deal with & some of the coal owners say Mr Ridley was not authorized to promise these people such things as he did I am etc HR*

**10 March 1761 Henry Richmond to Sir Walter Blackett**

*To Sir Wr Blackett Bt. M.P. London*

*Newcastle 10 March 1761*

*Honourd Sir At the meeting of the deputy Lieutenants & justices yesterday at Hexham S[i]r Lance[lo]t Allgood, S[i]r Robt. Bewicke, Coll[one] Delaval Mr Fenwick Mr Reed & Mr Soulsby were present. The six Co[mpanie]s of the Yorkshire Militia, being about 240 men, commanded by Major Crow were drawn up in the market place before the Gaol Gate a little after 9 o'clock. About 12, the mob armed with clubs became very numerous & riotous in the streets & market place & so bold as to venture almost within reach of the Bayonets. Several of the heads of them declared to the Militia that they meant them no*

*harm, & that if they wo[ul]d lay down their arms they sho[ul]d not be hurt but rather rewarded, but if they obstructed them, they wo[ul]d kill every man of them. By degrees they grew still bolder & more tumultuous & several times tried to put the Bayonets aside. The justices, who were in the senter of the square formed by the militia, now grew apprehensive that the mob wo[ul]d break in upon them, & therefore ordered the proclamation to be read; w[hi]ch was accordingly done three times, But the mob treated it with contempt, & in about a qua[rte]r of an hour began to attack the militia in several parts of their square & actually broke thro[ugh] the line on the left by their weight notwithstanding several were wounded by the bayonets. In this scuffle Lieutenant Hart was shot thro[ugh] the body by a pistol fired f[ro]m the mob, & it is thought cannot recover, one private man was killed & two wounded. Upon this the order was given to fire w[hi]ch was at first done by three files & then by a platoon, but this not at all intimidating the mob, tho' several of them dropt, the fire became general, & then the mob fled & dispersed imediately and I am sorry to acquaint you that 20 of them are killed & numbers wounded. This was a violent, but I realy beleive a necessary remedy for the disorder, w[hi]ch was growing very great & contagious. Several bodies of men having caught it, & ignorant of what passed yesterday assembled this morning on Killingworth moor & other places, but I cannot learn what scheme they are upon. No doubt they will now soon disperse. The 6 Companies at hexham lay upon their arms all last night in the Abbey where they are still; but all, as I hear to day, is quiet in that quarter. I cannot learn that any of your miners were at hexham, I hope the expectation of their pay kept them at home. They will not be disappointed therein, for after this severe example it was thought there wo[ul]d be no disturbance or Interruption to be met with on the road & therefore my Father & the Stewards set off this morning with the money. The behaviour of the Militia seems universally applauded for they were about 6 hours under arms, & bore the insults & attacks of the mob with great composure, till the order was given to Fire. I am etc HR*

**Research  
Guides 3:  
The 1910  
Valuation  
Office Survey**  
Ian Hancock

The 20th Century Domesday Book: an invaluable source for buildings and land ownership history.

In the first decade of the 20th century the Liberal government saw social injustice in the fact that landowners' property could increase greatly in value without any effort or expenditure on their part to improve its quality or profitability). The 1910 Finance Act enabled Lloyd George, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, to tax this capital gain. In order to do this it was necessary to set a datum value on all land, against which gains in

future years could be measured. These gains would then be taxed when the property was sold, or re-let or inherited, at which time it would be revalued. A Valuation Office was established to make the initial national valuation. It began by identifying, and numbering on the OS plan, every land holding and drawing up Valuation Books that listed them. These holdings were then to be surveyed in detail so that subsequent changes and improvements could be identified. This work continued until about 1920. These records form an invaluable resource for studying the history of the ownership of land and the buildings on it, and are particularly useful used in conjunction with the corresponding Tithe Award data.

### **Records at the Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn**

#### **The Working Plans**

You can see part of the plan for Hexham at [www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk)

Each land-holding is outlined in colour and numbered by hand on the plan ( usually in red, but on some plans very small areas are numbered with a finer pen in black.). In cases where bits of the property are separated from one another they are each marked with the same number and 'part' or 'pt'. The base of the plan is the 25 inch/mile OS map current in 1910, which shows individual buildings with reasonable accuracy.

#### **The Valuation Books**

You can see part of a Valuation Book for Hexham at [www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk)

The information is in tabular form, starting with the Assessment Number from the Working Plan and giving the name of the occupier, the name and address of the owner, a brief description of the property (eg 'shop') , its location/address, area and assessed value

### **How to find what you want**

The above records are at the Northumberland Record Office at Woodhorn. The Valuation Books are listed in their online catalogue. Five books cover our area : NRO 0200/74-78. 74, 75 and 76 cover Hexham, 77 is for Hexhamshire and Slaley, and 78 covers the rest of what was Hexham Rural District Council.

To use the Valuation Books, you first need to get the Assessment Number of the property you are interested in - the number on the Plan. The Plans are not indexed in the NRO catalogue - you need to identify the appropriate OS sheet with the help of the archivist. You may also be able to get the OS sheet number using the online Valuation Office Map Finder (see below).

### **Additional information only at the National Archives (TNA)**

TNA has the finished Valuation Plans (updated versions of the working plans), and you can find the one containing your property of interest using a TNA website - do a Google search for '1910 Domesday' and select the National Archives link listed as *Valuation Office survey: land value and ownership 1910-1915*. This will take you to a TNA guide to the Valuation Survey which contains the link to the 'Valuation Office Map Finder'.

This shows you the large scale OS map, enabling you to locate individual houses, for example. It will give you the TNA catalogue number (Hexham town is about covered by four plans, though most is on IR 135/7/988. It also gives you the original OS sheet number, which should help you find the map at NRO. Given the Assessment Number of a property from the Plan, you can then find it in the Field Book at TNA. These are listed on the TNA Discovery website (search for 'valuation office Hexham' or Hexhamshire).

Sadly, the Field Books are not available on-line, but they contain much more information than the Valuation Books, including the dates of erection of buildings, the form of tenure of both the owner and tenant, rights of way over the property and, sometimes, a detailed plan of the property.

**Report to the  
Commissioner  
Jim Hedley**

In 1869 the First Commissioner of her Majesty's Works requested the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of London to furnish him with a list of such Regal and other Historical Tombs or monuments, existing in Cathedrals, churches and other public places and buildings as in their opinion it would be desirable to place under the protection and supervision of the Government, with a view to their proper custody and preservation. In the case of Northumberland the request was passed on to William Dickson, a noted antiquary and partner in the Alnwick solicitors Thorpe and Dickson. He in turn passed the request on to Joseph Fairless, the Hexham antiquary and author of "A Guide to the Abbey Church at Hexham" (1853). The response from Joseph Fairless has just come to light for the first time since it was written 145 years ago and follows verbatim. The presentation is a little disjointed because it seeks to answer a number of questions sent by the First Commissioner.

*Hexham April 30th 1869*

*Shortly after your call on me last July I was pressed by the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral to let him have my collection of inscribed and other Saxon stones to add to the museum forming under the supervision of Mr.Greenwell, a wagon was sent out from Durham and two men to pack on the 17th July 1868 according to our bargain and arrangement.*

*One of the stones covered with beautiful interlace work on three sides admitted to be the shaft of the cross that stood at the head of the grave of Bishop Acca, who was buried in the church at Hexham.etc, etc.*

*There is a tomb in the church here rising about 2 feet above the level of the floor under an ornamented arch covered by a slab about 7 feet long entirely carved with interlaced vine leaf and fruit thought to be the grave of Aelfwald King of Northumbria AD 788. I sent a drawing to the Archaeological Institute some years ago, it was engraved in one of their quarterly journals.*

*Then the Roman stone in the Saxon crypt beneath the church of the Emperor Severus and Caracalla with the chiselling out of the name Geta is a monument of great historical interest.*

*The celebrated Frith stool, that most venerable monument of Saxon antiquity said by Alexander Gordon to be the most interesting stone in Britain.*

*Five recumbent effigies, one is a member of the extinct name of Umfraville, the other doubtful, said to be the Duke of Somerset who fell at the battle of Hexham.*

*Eleven grave slabs all inscribed with names, probably some of the six and twenty Priors that presided here. An interesting oak shrine said to be that of Prior Leschman. A rood screen of oak covered with beautiful tracery and painting including four panels of Holbein's dance of death and an inscription in ligature letters of Lord Thomas the second of York. These selections all from the church have all historical interest but not in the limit of the category of the present enquiry.*

*There is a sort of dedication stone lately removed from an old house in the Market Place (now rebuilt), three shields within a moulded frame. First shield the cross keys of York, the second shield the cross of St Andrew, the third shield the monogram of the second Thomas of York with MA.IHS RIA + monogram.*

*And last, not least I have a collection of ancient coins found in the church yard peculiar to the County of Northumbria in the time of the Heptarchy, amounting to near 700 varieties admitted by some numismatists to be the best collection of stycas known saving the British Museum. At a sale of Mr.Brummel's antiquities in London a styca of Archbishop Enbald sold for £2-17-0, my collection contains 35 stycas of this class, all varieties.*

*When the late Mr.Hodgson historian of Northumberland was at Jarrow, 5 stycas were found at Heworth of Ecgfrid AD670. One of them was sold in London two years ago and made the sum of £20.*

*I have perhaps branched out into objects irrelevant to the enquiry but I scarcely knew how to limit it.*

*I am Dear Sir, Yours truly,  
Jos. Fairless.*

### **Herbert Sulzbach**

The former POW camp at Featherstone Park continues to spark interest in both British and German researchers. One of the men primarily responsible for the camp's pre-eminence in the immediate post-war period was its German Jewish Intelligence Officer, Herbert Sulzbach. Sulzbach later played a major part in Anglo-German reconciliation.

Members wishing to learn more about this fascinating character may be interested in the blog maintained by the historian Ainsley Hepburn, which can be found at her website [www.ainsliehepburn.eu](http://www.ainsliehepburn.eu)

### **History in (& of) the Hexham Courant**

As part of its celebration of 150 years of publishing, the Courant's website, [www.hexham-courant.co.uk](http://www.hexham-courant.co.uk) now has a fascinating section, found by clicking on *150 Years*. Various pages cover different aspects of the paper's history, including brief histories of all the editors. Although the section is quite well illustrated with scans from the paper, Sandy Rutherford, in his introduction as Managing Director, makes no mention

of his first day in the office when he remarked on the sound of breaking glass, only to discover someone was having a clear-out of the historic glass plates from the early years of the paper!

**New to the  
Members'  
Library**

The listing of **Hexham's Pubs & Hotels** has been revised and enlarged and now includes un-named or generic establishments. As well as some entirely new names, it also makes potential links between known pub names and previously unknown locations, and now covers Lowgate.

**Lost houses  
of Weardale**

On Friday March 20th there will be a talk by Christine Ruskin on The Lost Houses of Weardale; a fascinating look at the people who once occupied these farms and houses explaining how they eked out a living in this harsh landscape. Tickets are £5 and the evening starts at 7.30pm in Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

**The books are  
singing!**

Last year the Library at the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers was home to Singer/songwriter Gareth Davies-Jones who revelled in creating new work from the stories contained in this world renowned library.

The world of mining and mechanical engineering is no stranger to song, and there is a rich legacy of music in the industry, which any visit to a mining Gala will confirm. However, this residency was not a historical 'round-up' of mining ballads, but a new approach to telling the story of the library collections through song.

Gareth's first piece from The Seam is Practical Coal Mining based on the engineering manual of the same name. 'Looking through the volumes of the 1951 2nd edition, the flow and eloquence of the writing in what was principally a very technical tome really struck me. It was so very lyrical. The introduction and contents pages in particular appeared to have a rhythm and metre all of their own. *Practical Coal Mining* is a real celebration of the knowledge and skills required to mine in the mid- 20th Century' said Gareth.

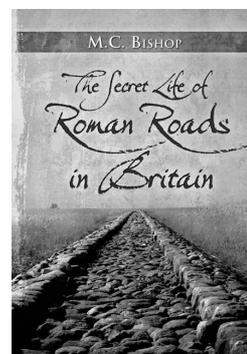
Other themes which have emerged from his research and from chatting to the volunteers who are passionate about the Library's collections include: stories of the subterranean dance halls, the lyricism of adverts of the first edition of *The Mining Journal in 1836*, the debate around the 1883 parliamentary select committee report on a proposed channel tunnel, the 50 year retrospective memoirs of a former colliery manager in County Durham, musings on a fabulous collection of glass plate photographs and much more.

Gareth will be performing at Stocksfield Community Centre on 24 April at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at [www.wegotickets.com/event/301859](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/301859) or from the Mining Institute on 0191 233 2459

**Book Review  
Chris Andrews**

Bishop, M C. The secret history of the Roman roads of Britain (Pen & Sword, 2014) ISBN 9781848846159 £19.99

Initially, this comprehensive analysis of our current understanding of the evidence for the Roman road network of Britain appeared better suited to the needs of the academic community. Bishop's style and clarity of presentation, with its painstaking attention to attribution and cross-referencing, is supported by Notes for each chapter and a comprehensive Bibliography and Appendixes, as well as timely located illustrative examples, maps and photographs. However, his amusing asides and explanations of acronyms and modern techniques enlightens students and those with an interest in the subject.



The chapter 'Rediscovery' provides an excellent overview of the variety of activities and opportunities open to volunteers wishing to contribute their expertise. The accessibility of much

of the evidence on-line permits armchair participation. It would appear that, without the support of local societies such as our own, a modern re-interpretation of this data cannot be achieved.

Bishop's book provides an insightful read, drawing upon historical and archaeological perspectives for the persistence of the Roman road network across Britain, particularly through analysis of documented military movements of the medieval period, royal tours with vast entourages, the maps of the Ordnance Survey, aerial photography and digital mapping giving us Google Earth. His methodology draws the reader into this fascinating area of our past, starting with prehistoric movement through the landscape, the impact of mass movements using wheeled transport for armies, kings and tradesmen before, during and long after the Roman period. His study provides context and reasoning for the persistence of some and the loss of other roads making up the Roman roads that have left an influence upon our movement around Britain, even today.

**And you  
thought the  
weather's  
been bad  
recently!**

From the Caledonian Mercury (Edinburgh) Saturday, September 11 1824.

*TERRIFIC THUNDER STORMS: Newcastle, Sept. 7.*

*On Thursday last we were visited by one of the most alarming storms of thunder and lightning we remember to have encountered. The dark and troubled clouds "gave dreadful note of preparation," and it commenced about half past five o'clock in the evening, the rain falling in torrents. The thunder was loud and threatening, and seemed to roll immediately above our heads, while the rapidity, the frequency, and the brilliancy of the flashes of lightning, were at once dazzling and awful. – The electric fire seemed to be both of the sheet and forked description, and was accompanied occasionally by a blue beauty and grandeur of the sight. The storm appears to have been by no means confined to this district, for they had a similar visitation at Sunderland, Shields, Hexham, Carlisle, and throughout that part of the country. Several balls of fire fell in this neighbourhood, but fortunately without doing any damage. Towards the westward, however, the effects have been more serious. As Michael Anderson, herd to Messrs Ward and Armstrong, was riding with his wife on horseback between Riddlehamhope and Westburnhope, near Hexham, both the horse and Mrs Anderson were instantaneously struck dead, and what is remarkable, her husband escaped unhurt. She has left a numerous family to lament her loss. Mr Ralph Forster, of Riverhill, near Barrasford, had three fat kyloes, two queys in calf, and one steer, all killed at the same moment by the lightning. A horse, the property of John Wally, at Whittonstal, in the parish of Bywell, was also struck dead. A stook of barley, belonging to Mr J. Harrison, was, on the same evening, burnt in a field adjoining Styford bar, near Corbridge*

(kyloes = Highland cattle; queys = cows)

**Hexham Book  
Fair: 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March 2015**

The Society will be having a stall at the book fair organised by Hexham Community Partnership. The fair is on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be at Hexham's Torch Centre (on Corbridge Road, opposite the hospital) from 10am to 4pm. Any member willing to help staff the stall for an hour or so, please contact our Publications Officer, Terry Eccles, on

07828880107. He'll be delighted to hear from you – and you'll get to save the £1 entry fee!

**And finally: A  
special offer  
to members**

Bennor Books (i.e. your Editor!) has acquired an original copy of the 1896 edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of Hexham which it is offering for sale to Society members at a special price of £8.50 as the map was previously the property of former member, John Chapman. The map has been tightly rolled for many years and has

some damage and staining to the outer, right-hand edge and minor tearing to the top and bottom but is still perfectly useable and a fascinating source of information on Hexham before the housing explosion of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prospective purchasers should contact Mark on 07879263848 or [bennorbooks@gmail.com](mailto:bennorbooks@gmail.com)