



# HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



<b>Newsletter 74</b>	<b>Editor: Mark Benjamin</b> <b>(01434) 607746</b> <b>editor@hexhamhistorian.org</b>	<b>Spring</b> <b>2016</b>
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## Thoughts from a Chair

Peter Rodger

There will only be a handful of us who have not been touched by the recent floods; either as victims or supporting affected friends or relatives, or maybe you just had to go the long way round to avoid road closures. Living in a river valley is a recipe for ultimate disaster. Looking back, history has served the Tyne Valley well with floods and even as I write this, there are flood warnings in place.

Looking on the bright side, the evenings are lengthening, the weather is getting milder and an exciting Society year is in prospect; already we have been treated to exposés of Abbey treasures and pestiferous women (not simultaneously, I hasten to add) and can expect to hear tales from old churches, forgotten First World War battles 18th Century credit ratings and... well... I rather hope you'll all be in good voice for November's meeting, which for the time-being will remain shrouded in mystery. Very soon, bookings for the summer trips and outings will be taken – all three (Ushaw College, Haughton Castle and Raby Castle) are greatly anticipated.

## Outings 2016

Jennifer Britton

The three outings planned for this years are to Ushaw College near Durham, on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th May, an evening visit to Haughton Castle (Humshaugh) on Tuesday 21st June and a day outing to Raby Castle on Sunday 17th July.

Please note that numbers are limited on the visits to Ushaw and to Haughton, and because of this the committee has agreed that only postal bookings will be accepted, in order to give the same opportunity for everyone. There will be a waiting list (if necessary) in case of cancellations. If either of them are heavily over-subscribed I'll do my very best to organise extra visits! When booking please would you send a separate cheque for each outing, and also make sure that they are made out to Hexham Local History Society, as our banks will not accept cheques made out to 'HLHA'.

## Voice & Choices

Tamsin Beevor

*"Dear Peter, I am writing on behalf of the World War 1 Voices and Choices group. We would like to thank the Hexham Local History Society for their support for the exhibition. The £1000 that you kindly offered to support educational materials made it possible for us to produce the exhibition programme which will be given to all 200 (approx) students who are booked to attend the exhibition from Queen Elizabeth High School. Having most of the content of the exhibition reproduced in the programme is going to make the management of these large school groups far easier and will help to ensure that they get as much value as possible from their visits. Kind regards, Tamsin"*

Following this receipt of this message, we have been informed that the exhibition will now also be displayed in Hexham's twin towns of Noyon and Metzingen, both of which contributed content. An article giving more detail on the Voices & Choices Project will appear in this year's Hexham Historian.

## The History of Langley Barony

L C Coombes

Members may recall that the Society has looked, over a number of years, at publishing the late Charlie Coombes' comprehensive history of the Haydon Bridge area. Various problems forced us to shelve the project, although the original text is available in our online Members' Library. Now, Dennis Telford has undertaken the task of editing and preparing the work for publication. Published in a series of 7 A5 booklets (an 8<sup>th</sup> is planned), the boxed set of The history of Langley Barony is available from The Bridge Library in Haydon Bridge, or from Dennis himself at [dennistelford636@btinternet.com](mailto:dennistelford636@btinternet.com) for £25,00

**Special Offer  
to members**

Colin Dallison is wishing to dispose of the following items and is open to offers. All are mounted and ready for hanging.

*Wood's Plan of Hexham, 1826.* Original map. 20" wide x 16" high

*Hexham: a black and white photo* taken from above Kingsgate and Prior Terraces, looking east along Haugh Lane after it had been widened, but before it was connected to Eilansgate. 11" wide x 13" high

*Hexham: a colour photo* taken from above Sele School, looking north to Prior's Flat, tennis and cricket. 20" wide x 16" high

*Hexham west end: aerial colour photo.* 17½" wide x 13½" high

Offers to Colin, please, on (01434) 602252

**A logo  
comes to life  
Joan Jewitt**

The woodcock, once a familiar but never common bird, has declined in numbers over the last 50 years. Surveys done between 1970 and 2007 show an 86% drop in numbers and a survey currently taking place 2015/2016 is expected to prove a further decline. Woodcock are a very shy, crepuscular, woodland wader with cryptic brown plumage. So, you might think 'not much chance of seeing one of them!' Ladycross Nature Reserve doesn't have a Woodcock as its logo for nothing.

The male performs a display flight, called roding, on spring evenings. This ungainly-looking bird with a bill making up 25% of its length, presents a silent ghostly figure in the distant twilight. As it gets closer you may hear 3 or 4 low monotone grunts, a bit like a contented foraging pig, followed by a whistle – warp-warp-warp-pissp. On first hearing this utterance, you'll probably think is this really coming from that bird?

You can book on one of Colin's spring walks timed for the best chance to see this bird, so come along and see for yourself. It's an experience not to be missed. One day, it might not be so easy, if not downright impossible, to have this wonderful wildlife experience.

Walks are scheduled for Wednesday 18th May and Thursday 26th May. Booking is essential so please book with Joan on 01434 673245.

**Those wooden  
boxes!  
Chris Britton**

Following my talk at the January meeting the wooden box which was on my title slide aroused considerable interest. Even before the talk began a member told me of a family association with E Pruddah whose name appears on the box – he was a printer in Hexham in the 19thC.



However, Mark Benjamin remembered an enquiry about a similar box which had appeared in an earlier Newsletter. Contact with the enquirer, who had subsequently done considerable research on the subject, revealed that such boxes were created as souvenirs, often, it seems, of disasters. Hence there were boxes created out of salvaged material from the fires that destroyed the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Exchange, and material from the mediaeval London Bridge (see web links below). The boxes were personalised by the addition of people's names. So it seems that the Abbey boxes may well be from material salvaged during the early 19thC restorations at the Abbey, particularly following the collapse of the east window in 1828. Survivals of these little souvenirs are apparently quite rare!

Thank you to all who showed interest in these items. Further information can be found at the following websites

<http://www.georgeglazer.com/decarts/objects/royalex.html>

<http://www.carolineshenton.co.uk/relics-of-the-old-palace-of-westminster/>

<https://www.georgeglazer.com/decarts/objects/lonbridge-full.html>

**The Ward-Philipson image archive**  
Ian Hancock

Many readers will remember Wards Graphics shops in Newcastle and, latterly, in Dunston opposite the Federation Breweries. They were the last remnants of an amalgamation of the two old-established Newcastle printing firms, Wards and Philipsons, whose businesses dated back to the second half of the 19th century. The company generated an archive of over 150,000 photographs and prints which depict scenery, townscapes, buildings, people, and industrial scenes covering the whole of North East England, from North Yorkshire to the border, with the main focus on Tyneside and Northumberland. Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, a team of volunteers is now digitising the images and making them public on their website. Over 50,000 have been scanned so far, and the website contains over 20,000 images. The collection also contains old advertising and business publicity graphics and a lot of excellent aerial photographs from the 1960s.

Many of the pictures are unidentified, or only poorly documented, and the website enables you to add information and personal comments on individual images. It is easy to find pictures of a particular place or activity, and the collection is of great historical value, as well as being absolutely fascinating to browse.

The pictures can be seen at [www.photomemoriesarchive.org.uk](http://www.photomemoriesarchive.org.uk), where you can also read the fascinating history of the companies and of the discovery of the archive. A sample of the images can be found in book form in *Nostalgic Views of the North*, compiled by John Moreels (Photo Memories Organisation, Durham, 2014)

**The ALLEN y-DNA Project & The ALLEN Guild of One Name Studies**

The Allen DNA Project is partnering with the Allen Guild of One Name Studies in an exciting new Research Endeavor. The Allen DNA Project is a USA based group, but is very interested in expanding our membership to a world-wide audience by actively seeking out Allens from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Mainland Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or anywhere else on the planet. Additionally, any spelling variation of the Allen surname is welcome: Allan, Allyn, Allin, etc.

To this point, FREE yDNA 37 marker tests will be made available to any males carrying the Allen surname and residing outside the United States who are willing to join the project and participate in the testing. The only requirement for a free yDNA test is a known Allen/Allan (any spelling) lineage to at least the participant's Great Grandfather Allen/Allan (any spelling) in any country. Additionally, The Allen DNA Project is setting aside a specific Sub-group within the Project with a full commitment of assistance from Allen Project Co-Administrator Dr. Eric Allen who will be overseeing this specific International Sub-group.

Guild of One Name Studies: [http://one-name.org/name\\_profile/allen](http://one-name.org/name_profile/allen)

Allen DNA Project: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/allan/about/background>

**Hexham in 1870**  
John M Wilson.  
*The Imperial Gazetteer of England & Wales*

Extract from a book seen recently. *The town is situated mainly on the sloping skirt of a long, broad-based, range of hill, and partly on a belt of alluvial plain. Many portions of it command extensive views of the long, rich, trough-like valley of the Tyne. The environs have diversity of contour, and are studded with villas. The exterior appearance of the town, on all sides, from points both near and distant, is picturesque. The interior aspect is a mixture of the modern, the antique, and the quaint. The street arrangements, though including some good places, and opening into fine outskirts, are prevailingly narrow, irregular, and dense. One long street extends from E to W, throughout the upper side; is part of the main road from Newcastle to Carlisle; and bears, in successive portions, the names of Priest-popple, Battle-hill, and Hencotes. Two streets, called Fore Street and Back Street, go northward, from near the middle of this, to the Market-place; a street called Gilligate, or St Giles-street, descends from the north-west angle of the Market-place into the suburb of Cockshaw; three other thoroughfares, all of curious character, deflect from the Market-place; and a new street, northward from Battle-hill, was opened in 1865. The*

*Market-place, until lately, was one of the most picturesque and interesting squares in England; and, even yet, has strong attractions for both the tourist and the antiquary. Priest-popple, Hencotes, and some other parts, contain many genteel residences. Cockshaw lies wholly on the plain, and is chiefly a seat of manufacture. A fine park, called the Seal, formerly the airing-ground of the monks, ascends from Cockshaw to Hencotes, terminates on the W in a romantic dell, commands charming views, and is used as a charming promenade. A pleasant small suburb, called Quatre-Bras, is a ¼ mile to the W..... A new town-hall, a handsome edifice in the Italian style, with the ground-floor fitted as a market-house, was built in the newly-opened street in 1865....*

The comment about the Market Place presumably refers to the demolition of the buildings in the south-east corner, to make way for the newly-cut Beaumont Street.



It has been just over 12 months since the HLHS Facebook page launched and it falls to me to give you an update. Mark and I have been working to continue to develop the page. The aim has been to have another outlet for the society to appeal to a younger and wider demographic and show them what the HLHS does. We now have over 500 likes and women between 25-34 years old make up our largest group. The page now has likes from all over the world, from the USA and Australia, to Bulgaria and Japan.

I reached out to a perfect example of someone the HLHS could only have reached through social media. Varya lives in Moscow with her fiancé, a Russian/Soviet historian from Hexham. She began following our page to “know more about Hexham”. Varya told me she particularly liked “the post about the hospital and so many comments from people who were born there. It was so warm and emotional for some people”.

Since October we have been posting one picture from our collection every Tuesday. These have ranged from the old Post Office at the top of Battle Hill, the Moothall in the 19th century to the old taxi rink at the end Fore Street. These photos have been seen over 40,000 times which just demonstrates the potential reach that social media can provide groups like the HLHS. Comments and queries have increased as the numbers have grown. The Facebook page provides us with another way to share the knowledge the society has built up over the years.

#### Notes & Queries

1. Michael Rae asks: In the last edition of *Hexham Historian* there is an item about Hexham Turnpike Road. It refers to the collection of tolls at several Toll Gates. One of the gates listed is Dilston Gate which is at the location of the railway level crossing and the house where I live - **Dilston Crossing House**. I understand that the house was built in the 1820's and was originally the Anchor Inn and latterly Dilston Crossing House on the Derwentwater Estates managed by the Commissioners of the Greenwich Hospital which were sold to Lord Allendale.

I would like to find out more of the early history of the building. Do you know of any sources that might be of help? [Michael.rae@LSA.net](mailto:Michael.rae@LSA.net)

2. Val Lyons would like to know if any ... members have ancestors names **Lambert or Robson**. Specifically ones related to John Jewitt Lambert (1865-1935) who married Jessie Robinson (1865-1951): they had 13 children. Also William Robson (1851-1936) who married Mary Reay in 1875. Both families lived on Tyne Green, Ridley Terrace amongst other addresses in Hexham. John Jewitt Lambert was a skater and William Robson a Blacksmith. [vvlyons@btinternet.com](mailto:vvlyons@btinternet.com)

3. Would anyone know of a **Tile Shed Cottage**, my relative William Neilson lived there with his family on the 1901 Census, it must have been in the area of Five Gates, Dukes House, Sunnyside, Coalpit Flats as these are also listed on the same census returns from that time. I have looked on old ordnance survey maps from that time but nothing is listed. (Responses via Mark, please)

**Dates for your diary**

**27 February – 27 March 2016 AV Festival** is an international, biennial festival of art, film and music based in Newcastle and the North East. The 2016 edition of the Festival, called *Meanwhile, what about Socialism?*, takes place from 26 February to 26 March and takes its theme and title from George Orwell's 1936 book *The Road to Wigan Pier*

**THE SOCIALIST CAFÉ: AMBER FILMS**, The Mining Institute

As Orwell was making his journey across the industrial North in 1930s Newcastle, the Socialist Café in the Royal Arcade became a meeting ground for the Left and all its factions. In the early 1980s Amber/Side Gallery interviewed veterans of Tyneside's anti-war movement, Spanish Civil War volunteers, activists and campaigners T Dan Smith, Jack Johnson, Ken Skethaway and Mary Lowther of the famous Lowther family in Chopwell (Little Moscow) active during the 1926 General Strike.

**TYNESIDE STORY: JACK COMMON**. The Mining Institute

This propaganda film about the re-opening of the Tyneside shipyards during World War Two was made for the Ministry of Information in 1944, with a script written by Jack Common and a cast drawn from the progressive People's Theatre in Newcastle.

**RESISTANCE: BRITISH DOCUMENTARY FILM**, Tyneside Cinema & Northern Charter  
**Tue 1 – Thu 24 March 2016**

**LEFT BOOK CLUB**, New Bridge Bookshop

During the Festival, New Bridge Bookshop becomes the Left Book Club, a reading room and meeting point, influenced by the original Left Book Club pioneered by Victor Gollanz from 1936–1948. The first socialist book club in Britain, it aimed to revitalise and educate the British Left, specifically in the fight against fascism, poverty and war.

Each Monday throughout March, the Left Book Club hosts the Festival Reading Group, from 6pm - 7.30pm. Attendance is free and refreshments will be provided. Please email [visit@avfestival.co.uk](mailto:visit@avfestival.co.uk) to reserve a space, or telephone Anna McCully Stewart on 0191 261 4949. On Mondays 29th February and 7th of March we will be discussing Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*. On Mondays 14th March and 21st March, we will be discussing Ellen Wilkinson's *The Town that was Murdered*.

For more information on the AV Festival email [visit@avfestival.co.uk](mailto:visit@avfestival.co.uk) or telephone Anna McCully Stewart on 0191 261 4949

**Reviewers required**

All sorts of books, both popular and academic, are available for review. Some publishers regularly contribute titles for review, others will supply copies on request. Reviewers get to keep the book – regardless of what they think of it! We're always looking for members to write the reviews; if you would like to join our panel of reviewers, please contact Mark – contact details on front page.

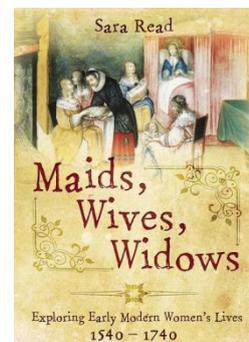
Currently awaiting a reviewer is an oddity! *Brutus of Troy and the quest for the ancestry of the British*, by Anthony Adolph. If you're intrigued by the mythical connection between the Trojans and the British, Mark would love to hear from you.

**Book Review**  
Helen Rutherford

Read, Sara **Maids, wives, widows: exploring early modern women's lives, 1540-1740** (Pen & Sword, 2015) ISBN 9781473823402 £19.99

The majority of accounts of the past may be said to concentrate upon the experience of men. Further, the roles played by ordinary women, as opposed to queens and aristocrats, are rarely mentioned except as a footnote to the main narrative. *Maids, Wives, Widows* places women at the centre of the historical picture.

The period covered by the book is broad, starting in Tudor times and ending in the Georgian period in 1740. It is quite a slim volume to cover such a wide



period of time. The book is divided into sections covering work, personal care, reproduction, religion and public life and each section is then subdivided into chapters that provide a short, comprehensive, and wide ranging account of a particular aspect of the lives of women.

Many of the sections are very brief and leave the reader wanting to know more: such as the section on mothering teenage girls or that looking at the role played by women in politics in the seventeenth century. Other sections, perhaps, leave the reader knowing too much (attempting to use a puppy to aid lactation)! Sara Read provides a comprehensive bibliography of her sources, divided into contemporary items and then post 1750 material; however, on occasion I would have welcomed footnotes to pinpoint the precise source of her information so that I could follow up the story and read more. There are a number of well-chosen illustrations, mainly from the Wellcome library, in the centre of the book that help to bring the text to life.

This is a general history and covers women's lives from the everyday and personal (Dr Reid's PhD was a historical analysis and discussion of attitudes to menstruation in the early modern period) to a brief account of the role of women in historical events such as the Civil War and in politics. It concentrates on the everyday lives of women, sometimes illustrated by the experience of women higher up the social scale (due to the fact that they left written accounts of their lives via diaries or letters), and therefore reflects the experience of the majority of women in the period covered who neither distinguished themselves in public life nor left a publicly recorded legacy.

*Maids, Wives, Widows* paints a colourful and fascinating picture of the part that women played in of the development of society in the early modern period and emphasises the vital importance to society of their vital role in bearing and nurturing children; providing food and sustenance for families and working in partnership with men to ensure the smooth functioning of society.



**Book Review**  
Valerie Robson

Scott, Jonathan **The family history web directory** (Pen & Sword, 2016) ISBN 1473837995 £14.99.

The subtitle of the book is '*The genealogical website you can't do without*', a very sweeping statement, and the author/compiler Jonathan Scott is a freelance writer who specialises in family history. After a brief introduction, which describes the author's reasons for compiling the book, the remainder is divided into six sections including an index.

The sections have clear headings with a brief introduction in each about their contents. They are then divided into subsections beginning with what the author considers to be the most important or useful, this is not an alphabetical list.

The first section is titled 'First Steps' with the first subsection 'Getting Started'; for anyone starting their family history today unable to visit archives or large libraries it gives some helpful advice along with the most relevant websites. But the author does give a warning that because of the wealth of information on some of the earliest and largest sites they can be overwhelming so background reading is advisable. This is often available on the website. The most useful general websites are then given a short description about what they contain but the specialised ones such as that of the



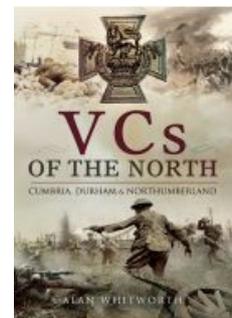
Federation of Family History Societies have the web address (ffhs.org.uk) and a couple of lines of what is available, or like Family Relatives (familyrelatives.com) no description at all. As a long time family historian when assisting at a family history fair one of the most asked questions is 'how can I get a birth, marriage or death certificate?', especially relevant if living far away from the area concerned, not all register offices are helpful. This item was clearly shown with a brief description for England and separate titles elsewhere for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Later sections include 'Digging Deeper' which includes subsections on burial records and memorial inscriptions, poor law and workhouses, Catholic records, Jewish records, and slavery; Military and Conflict, including the Commonwealth War Graves, Imperial War Museum and individual regiments; Occupations which is quite wide ranging; and a very useful Miscellaneous which includes resources by region and software and apps.

It is a useful reference book particularly for some specialised areas and for researchers relying on their computer searches.

**Book Review**  
Terry Eccles

Whitworth, A. **VCs of the North: Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland** (Pen and Sword, 2015)  
£19.99 ISBN 978 1 47384 822 1



The Victoria Cross (VC) was established in 1856 to be awarded to soldiers for their gallantry. This easy to read book documents 47 men in Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland who were given this 'supreme' award. It describes each of their actions in the official 'Accounts of Deed' and their connection to the region. The author fully researched their lives and portrays the many humble stories and hardships they experienced both before and after their military service. These move the reader when realising the conditions and circumstances in which the actions took place. There is one holder who is still alive in the North.

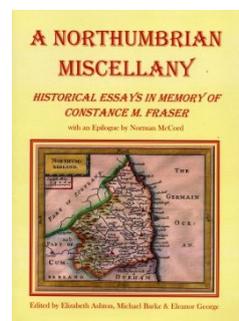
Alan Whitworth examines the history of the VC which has only been given to 1357 people from the Crimean War to the present, when it can now also be awarded to any citizen under military command. From its inception, the VC has been the highest possible award to be bestowed, yet it was deliberately designed to be worthless. Measuring 35mm square and weighing 27gms, each one is made from metal melted down from the large knob at the rear of the canons captured from the Russians at Sebastopol 1854-5.

The book includes a long list of British Army campaigns and the range of military awards from 1660 to 2014, but what holds the reader is the bravery told in the individual accounts of those who gained the VC. Some were welcomed back by whole communities and celebrated, and others slipped back quietly and simply returned to their old lives.

It is hard not to be affected when reading the stories of these courageous men, and to come to an appreciation of their contributions to our current freedoms.

**Book Review**  
Jim Hedley

Ashton, Elizabeth et al – eds. **A Northumbrian miscellany: historical essays in memory of Constance M Fraser** (ANLHS, 2015) ISBN 978 0 9933847 0 7 £10



Dr Constance Fraser was a founding member, Chairman and Secretary of the Association of Local History Societies and Editor of Tyne and Tweed. She was also a past president of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne 1990-1992 and wrote many articles for Archaeologia Aeliana. She died in 2013. She was best known for the meticulous transcribing of numerous Rolls and Medieval records such as The Northumberland Lay Subsidy Roll of 1296 and The Accounts of the Chamberlains of Newcastle upon Tyne 1508-1511.

The Historical Essays in the Northumbrian Miscellany are by well-known local historians who all recognise the debt they owe to Dr Fraser by incorporating reference to her work. The essays and authors are as follows.

*Why was Pandon merged with Newcastle upon Tyne in 1298* by Colm O'Brien; *Migration in medieval Northumberland: the evidence of surnames* by Michael Barke; *Northumberland in the fifteenth century* by Anthony J Pollard; *A book with fragments of sixteenth century history* by Ian Doyle; *The elites of Newcastle upon Tyne in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries* by Diana Newton; *Learning the tricks of the Northumberland hearth tax* by Adrian Green; *A matter of honour or good management?: an account of events leading to the Parliamentary election for the city of Durham 1754* by Elizabeth Fewster; *Lord Garlies and the Morpeth election of 1761* by Joseph Fewster; *Traditional buildings of Northumberland and Newcastle* by Grace McCombie; *Education eight miles east of Newcastle upon Tyne: Murton primary school 1878-1991* by Elizabeth Ashton; *Epilogue: An essay on Acceleration* by Norman McCord. Well worth the cover price of £10.

**Book Review**  
Trevor Field

Symes, Ruth A. **Family first: tracing relationships in the past** (Pen and Sword, 2015). ISBN 9781473833883 £19.99



This book claims to be both a social history of the period 1800-1950 and a practical guide to genealogy. Sadly, the coupling between these two compartments is rudimentary, which makes for a bumpy ride. The format is identical for seven chapters, which deal with “Husbands and Fathers”, “Wives and Mothers,” and so on; within each chapter there is a section dealing with how these family members appear in photos, before a description of social conditions and advice on tracing ancestry, rounded off by two relevant “Issues”.

This rigid format leads to repetition, for example the question of inaccurately recorded ages, which might apply to the very young or the very old. As social history the text is too general, with a lot of trite observations (being a father in the mid-nineteenth century was apparently very different from after the Second World War; while stepchildren were a “complicating factor” in families). Wow.

Stylistically the prose never leaves second gear. The word “fascinating” is over-used, as are exclamation marks, but the real killer is “ancestor”: the forms “(y)our ancestor(s)” recur hypnotically, qualified by female, young, child, grandparent, etc. Examples are overwhelmingly drawn from middle- or upper-class families and royalty, not to mention characters from literature, who even manage to appear in the section of actual photos.

In fairness there are a few interesting points, such as the comments on the registration of births and deaths, the issue of infanticide or the conventions of naming babies. But then we suddenly hit a pothole like the claim that the name Cecilia came into English from Welsh – ouch! The bibliography contains some good leads, but the index is poor, simply noting where certain words appear, irrespective of context.

All in all, then, not a comfortable journey – but if you wish to know that becoming a mother is a “momentous change”, or that Prince William is rumoured to be a member of White's Club, this is the book for you.

**And finally...**  
Jim Hedley

In a heavily Grangerised\* and annotated copy of Sykes' *Local Records* (1833), the then book owner James Clephan of Saville Row Newcastle includes an item relating to Hexham extracted from the *Newcastle Chronicle*. “August 17th 1799 the Chronicle records the recent death at Hexham of Gilbert Young well known as a bookbinder in many parts of England. He was famous for dancing, leaping and fencing. At a standing leap he crossed the pant cistern at Hexham market place 7 feet 9 inches wide and the parapets 2 feet 3 inches high”.

\*For those readers who, like me, had not come across the term “grangerised”, it means the insertion of illustrations after a book has been published – otherwise referred to as “extra-illustration” – ed.