

BLYTH u3a

**LOCAL HISTORY
NEWSLETTER**



**‘You don’t stumble upon your heritage.
It’s there, just waiting to be explored and shared.’**

Robbie Robertson

So, join us for more opportunities to explore and share with a huge variety of topics delivered by enthusiastic and knowledgeable guest speakers

**We meet the first Wednesday of the month
at
St Mary’s Church Wanley Street Blyth NE24 1DP.**

**Doors open at 1pm for refreshments
followed at 1.30pm for the talk of the month.**

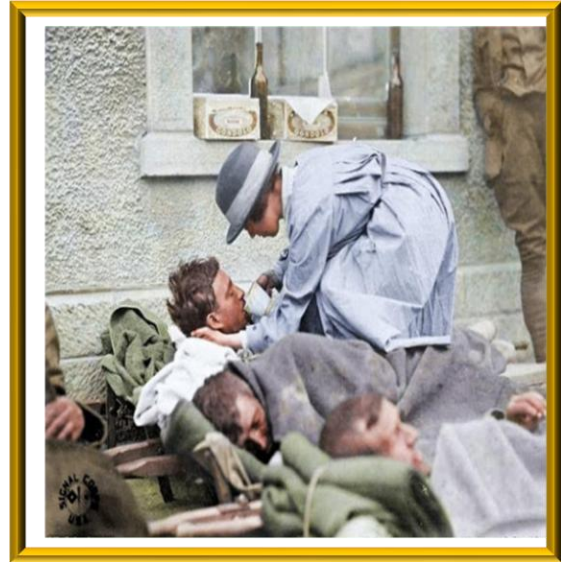
Your comments/questions/concerns/queries are always welcome
Contact me at: u3amarie@gmail.com
I look forward to hearing from you.

**A GLOBAL PANDEMIC
NORTHUMBERLAND
AND THE
SPANISH FLU**

**SEPTEMBER
WEDNESDAY 2nd
1.30pm**

Speaker: Marie

In 1918, the Spanish Flu swept across the globe – but what did it look like in Northumberland? This talk uses rare contemporary accounts to uncover how local communities faced the pandemic and the hidden struggles that shaped their experience.

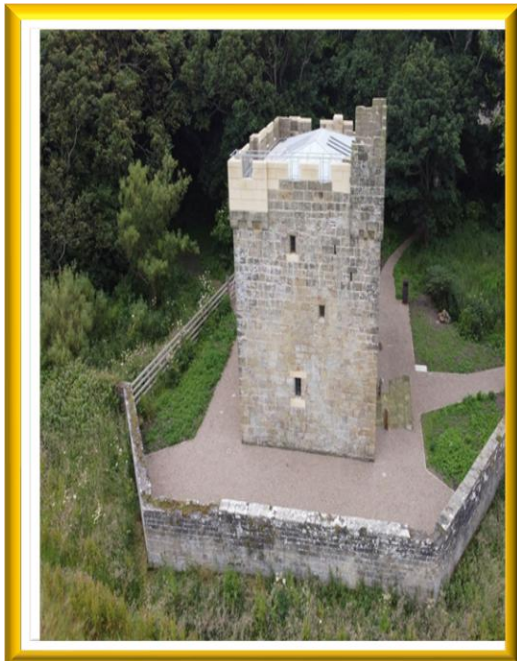


**A VISIT TO
CRESSWELL
PELE TOWER**

**OCTOBER
WEDNESDAY 7th
1.30pm**

An opportunity to explore Cresswell Pele Tower and its walled garden in the company of the volunteer team. Over the past five years the tower has undergone extensive restoration, and the volunteers will share their stories of its history and transformation.

It's a chance to enjoy one of Northumberland's most characterful sites in the company of people who know it best.



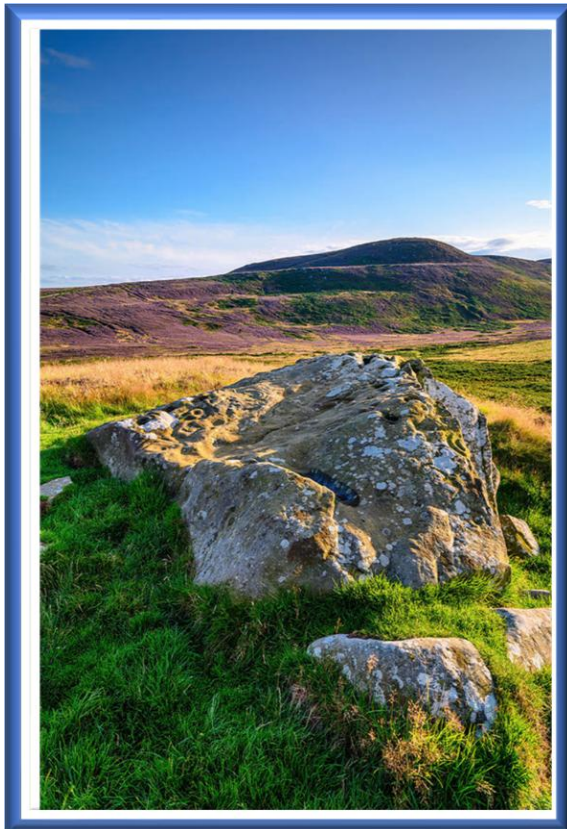
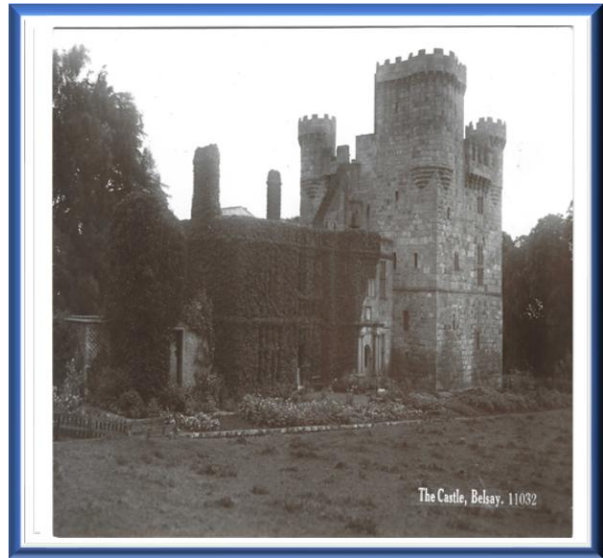
The day will include a lunch at The Widdrington Inn – a perfect outing before we all slip into winter hibernation.

BELSAY CASTLE

NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 4th
1.30pm

Speaker: Tony Lamsdale

The well-known castle nestled at the heart of the Belsay Estate. When was it built? Who lived there? What is its significance in relation to the family, the landscape and how it survived? All these questions and much more will be looked at using historical records, archaeological studies and a dash of interpretation!



DEFINED BY STONES

DECEMBER
WEDNESDAY 2nd
1.30pm

Speaker: Ian Jackson

In his book
‘Defined by Stones’,
Ian Jackson argues that we cannot understand the North’s earliest inhabitants without first understanding the geology they lived upon. In this talk he explains how essential stones were to the lives of our ancestors and how they provide prehistory’s most enduring record.

THAT VITAL DIRTY CARGO
JANUARY
WEDNESDAY 6th
1.30pm

Speaker: Brian Pinkerstone

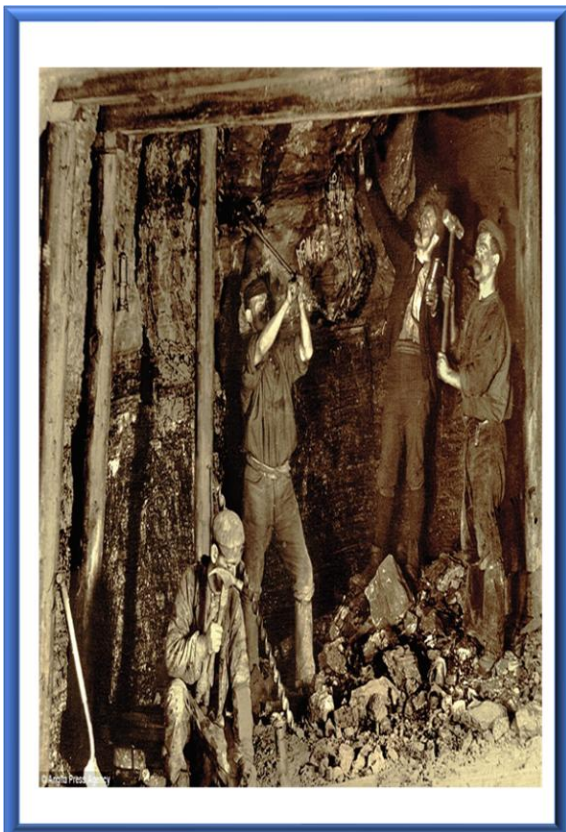
Throughout the Second World War, collier ships carried coal from north-east ports to London. Their crews faced constant danger from enemy e-boats, aircraft, and mines – but, as Brian reveals, their work was made harder still by indecision and dishonesty at the Admiralty. Did they face not just the enemy at sea, but an enemy within?



GREAT MINING DISASTERS IN THE
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM
COALFIELDS
FEBRUARY
WEDNESDAY 3rd
1.30pm

Speaker: Brian Godfrey

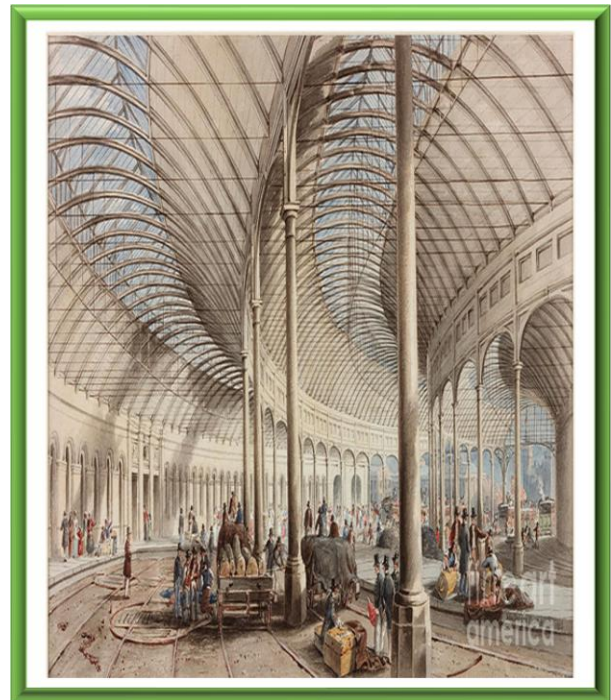
The mining industry has left an indelible mark on the history of the North East – a hard, dangerous world where disaster was an ever-present threat. This talk looks at the major mining catastrophes that shaped the Northumberland and Durham coalfields. Brian will explore not only the events themselves but also the human stories behind these tragedies.



**THE MAKING OF NEWCASTLE:
THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF
JOHN DOBSON
MARCH
WEDNESDAY 3rd
1.30pm**

Speaker: Chris Tipple

John Dobson transformed nineteenth-century Newcastle through his architecture and planning. This talk outlines his life, his major works and the developments that helped shape the city we know today.



**HEROES AND VILLAINS
APRIL
WEDNESDAY 7th
1.30pm**

Speaker: Michael Gatherar

In this talk, Michael explores the history of the Victoria Cross – the highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy – and shares the stories of several local men who received it during the Great War. He also reflects on the experiences of local soldiers who were ‘Shot at Dawn’, including Robert Gillis Pattison of Cramlington.

**THE MAKING OF
NORTHUMBERLAND
MAY
WEDNESDAY 5th
1.30pm**

Speaker: Marie

A journey into Northumberland's deep past, revealing how fire, ice, and water shaped the landscape we know today. From ancient volcanoes to drowned forests and Mesolithic footprints beneath the waves, this talk uncovers the hidden stories written into the land itself. By the end, you'll never look at Northumberland's scenery in quite the same way again.



**JUNE 2nd 2027
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

