

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1173102

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Company number [09472298](#)

Registered 2017-05-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 8 Main Street
Lowick
Berwick-Upon-Tweed
TD15 2UA

Phone 01289 388257

Email twheritageforum@gmail.com

Website www.twhf.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE WITHIN TYNE AND WEAR AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC;TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HERITAGE WITHIN TYNE AND WEAR AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS ; ANDTO PROMOTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HERITAGE.

Activities: TWHF promotes the conservation of heritage within the North East, offering support and guidance to those wishing to protect a significant heritage feature ie. something that links a community to its past; a building, artefact, memorial, statue, street or pathway, view or natural feature providing a reminder of a former historic or industrial past, eg the current Lowick Pilgrim Initiative.

Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham
- Gateshead
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31		£0	£0	-
2024-03-31		£0	£0	-
2023-03-31		£0	£0	-
2022-03-31		£0	£75	-
2021-03-31		£0	£75	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JOHN MICHAEL DANIELS	Chair	2017-05-16
CHARLES WILLIAM MACPHERSON FLEMING		2017-05-16
MICHAEL TURNER		2017-05-16
PAUL GAILIUNAS		2017-05-16

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1173102

Accounts



Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum,

engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage

ANNUAL REPORT, April 2024 – April 2025

Introduction

This has been another year more concerned with developing local heritage concepts rather than the achievement of conservation activities. As time passes it becomes more centred on local issues associated with where members live. This means a concentration on Lowick in North Northumberland and a variety of actual or identified projects there and continued concern to put in place the proposed measures in Wideopen.

There are clear conservation activities which need attention, some that are ongoing and others that identify new concerns. The proposed project for the waggonway has not currently been picked up by the North Tyneside Regeneration Team.

Primitive methodist chapel, Lowick



The Primitive Methodist Chapel on Main Street Lowick is a good example of an important building which marks a particular period in the history of Lowick in the 19th Century as the development of coal mining and lime quarrying brought in numbers from outside the area to work in these flourishing industries.

This attractive chapel with some interesting architectural features was bought by someone from outside the village who left it to his children but it has remained empty and in an increasing state of dereliction over the last ten years. It does however represent, if money could be found for its restoration, a small attractive house in a village which increasingly attracts holiday makers or purchase of properties for holiday lets.



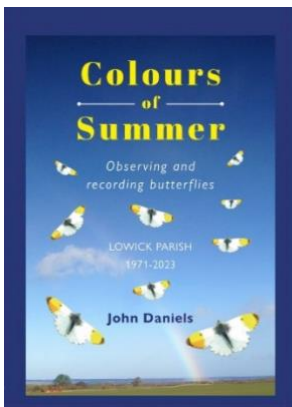
Action:

1. Find current owners of property and communicate with them
2. investigate possibility of some funding for the initial preservation of the property
3. in order for it to be placed on the market.

Colours of Summer

'Colours of Summer' published by the :Lowick Heritage Group on the butterflies of the Lowick Parish area has continued to provide a resource for drawing attention to the importance of local wildlife and the important local sites. A way to extend heritage to include natural heritage which generally does not feature in traditional heritage activities

A talk at Bowsden Village Hall followed up by a field trip and a further talk at Wooler with a number of copies of the 'Colours of Summer; book. The book has been available at various village occasions such as the Lowick fete shown below.



Every opportunity has been made to publicise this, the first publication on any aspect of the local natural heritage. In addition a children's book on the language of butterfly wings is planned using the money raised through donations (an original grant for the publication was given by the local Barmoor Wind Farm Community Fund.).

LOWICK PILGRIM INITIATIVE

Linking Lowick to its medieval past, the creation of a heritage and information centre in St John the Baptist Church



A long term project to tell the story of Lowick's fascinating history for which there is little evidence in the surviving built environment and is therefore not well known. St John the Baptist Church has a key role here. One of 4 chapels associated with the monastery on Holy Island and the place which through history and now in the present time attracts pilgrims and visitors.

- Setting up a heritage centre a place to visit for pilgrims, visitors and members of the local community.
- Composed of: historic artefacts from the original medieval chapel
- Copies of historic documents: excommunication 1353; 12th century promise to monastery on Holy Island to pay tithes.
- Information on local fauna and flora

Copies of Key historic documents



The 1353 excommunication document the promisory note to pay tithes to the monastery on Holy Island 12th C

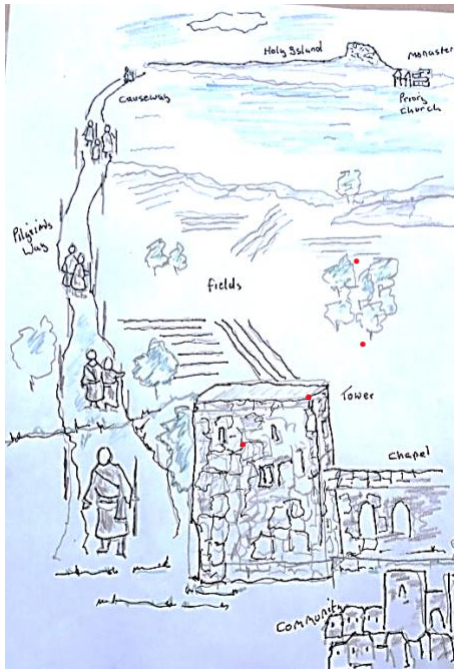
Lowick History, proposal to set up a heritage centre

Lowick has a particularly interesting history uncovered by recent excavations of an iron age settlement by the archaeology section of Lowick Heritage Group at Hunting Hall and evident also, from the cup and ring marks present at Routin Lynn and also elsewhere within the parish. Early references suggest the community moved up the hill to where the Roman Devil's Causeway joined the pilgrim route to Holy Island

In addition to the physical elements used to help represent the history of Lowick, there is a concern to provide further documents and the facility for visitors to consult church documents through the creation of a heritage centre.



12th C. gravestone tympana from above chapel door original window h



Glass door with view of stained glass window of John the Baptist

The back of St John the Baptist Church has a heavy wooden door which is a barrier separating the nave and main church from the tower. The tower is a significant element of the church, a space which needs to be brought more into use. A glass door or partially glass door opens up the tower and brings light into the nave of the church should be the first measure put in place.

A second element is the placing of a mural to the right side of the door representing the journey of pilgrims from the middle ages from Lowick where they would find a guide to take them across the dangerous causeway to Holy Island.

Current searches are taking place to find a suitable artist to produce this mural. A new mural in Berwick Station Waiting room is one avenue being explored.

The church artefacts can be placed on the current bare wall at the back of the nave or possibly in the tower. Although stone objects and therefore heavy, they can be fixed in place with supports as in Brace path Church in County Durham.

Two of the important historic documents as illustrated above can be part of those used to represent the history of the church and the important link with the monastery on Holy Island. There is also, the possibility of providing an illustrated time- line to record the history of Lowick through dates and illustrations of key events in the village's history.

Tyne View Project



Thomas Hare's view of the Killingworth waggonway end where coal is shipped into the colliers.

A positive meeting took place with Vicky Cuthbertson head of North Tyneside Regeneration Team. This provided the chance to explain TWHF's work with the NTR's waggonway project and to express concern that there have been no new developments. This was apparently due to those from the regeneration team charged with the project had either retired or were unavailable.

It was explained that TWHF was very concerned of the need to follow up unfinished business, particularly because those most concerned with the project to have the former waggonway recognised had sadly passed away .

Unfinished business concerned the placing of figures of former miners on the Victorian bridge (as illustrated on Thomas Hare's 1840 sketch of Wideopen colliery). There was also the ambition to create a suitable viewing point to mark the end of the waggonway at the point – as shown in Hare's sketch above – where the coal waggons emptied the coal into colliers for transportation to London. The view of the Tyne from this point was seen as a suitable way to celebrate the whole of this important waggonway with its close links to Killingworth and the creation of the railways.

TWHS's work with North Tyneside's Regeneration Team has – as with many other heritage initiatives to act as a catalyst to help communities to engage with their heritage. In this case it is about persuading North Tyneside that this is a feasible project with huge potential for highlighting the key role of the North East in the industrial revolution.

Vicky Cuthbertson has been contacted to discuss progress on this important initiative and to look to encourage Kim McGuinness, Mayor of North East England to look at the potential for a scheme of this kind.

Conclusion

TWHF can be seen as a catalyst to identify heritage concerns and encourage local groups to take appropriate action. At a time of considerable change when the national emphasis is on building new houses, it becomes increasingly important to be able to protect any buildings or features which provide a reminder of past historic and industrial times. Any change that takes place has to be concerned that the quality of place, which gives each community a special identity is not also damaged.

John Daniels,
Chairman TWHF,

January, 2026

ACCOUNTS

Finance

No separate financial transactions have been carried out for this financial year, with any business covered by the Lowick Heritage Group (*Colours of Summer*).

Therefore, for the financial year 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025 our income total was £0 and our expenditure was also £0

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1173102

Accounts



Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum, engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage

ANNUAL REPORT, April 2023- April 2024

Introduction

There has been little change in TWHF's position during the period under review with only one major development involving an extension of the conservation of local heritage to include natural heritage with the publication of 'Colours of Summer' published by the Lowick Heritage Group on the butterflies of the Lowick Parish area.

Establishing this area is an important element in the whole process of community, heritage conservation. This represents a way to extend community identity beyond traditional historic heritage concerns to include the landscape in which the community exists, the woodlands and grasslands fauna and flora that are also a key element in the identity of place. It is also, a way to extend membership of heritage groups to involve those interested in these aspects of conservation.

The natural features which have been a constant element in the history and identity of each place and particularly, during the industrial revolution have shaped the endeavours and employment of each community. Concern for the natural environment on a local community basis is in line with current concern over climate change and appreciating the natural world with the benefits to our health and wellbeing of activities taking place in the countryside around us.

The other more traditional heritage conservation projects with which TWHF has been involved remain as targets for future development but have been dormant due, as reported in the last annual report, to a number of key members being unable to continue as active members due to ill health. These are The Tyne Project and Lowick Pilgrim Initiative which are reported below.

Objectives and issues

The stated objective of the Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum to 'engage communities in the conservation of their local heritage' remains of central importance at a time when large scale housing developments are proposed, adding often to existing communities. There is a danger here that the particular and distinctive elements that give character and identity to a place disappear. There is a role here for existing heritage groups or for forming new groups to work towards linking communities to their past. Those coming to live in a community may be unaware of local history and the significant local heritage features provide an important sense of identity to each community and need to be conserved. which need to be preserved as methods to link a community to its historic past.

Those who engage with local heritage groups are often newly arrived in the community and can bring with them particular skills and experience but also, importantly enthusiasm from their occupation or previous history or heritage work. What TWHF needs to do is provide information and support heritage groups. Perhaps there is a place here for a TWHF publication.

LOWICK PILGRIM INITIATIVE

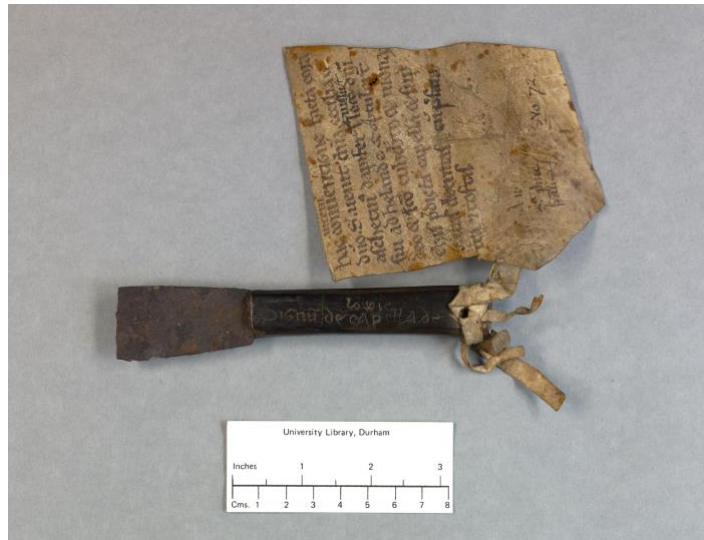
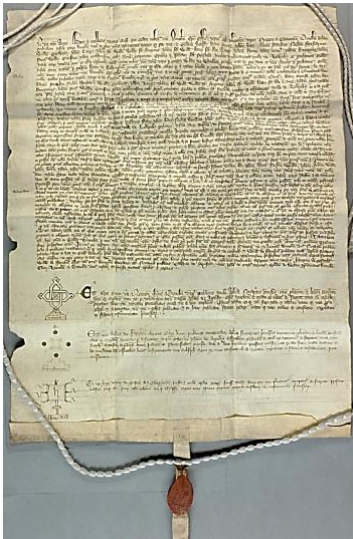
Linking Lowick to its
medieval past, the creation
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John the Baptist Church



A long term project to tell the story of Lowick's fascinating history for which there is little evidence in the surviving built environment and is therefore not well known. St John the Baptist Church has a key role here. One of 4 chapels associated with the monastery on Holy Island and the place which through history and now in the present time attracts pilgrims and visitors.

- Setting up a heritage centre a place to visit for pilgrims, visitors and members of the local community.
- Composed of: historic artefacts from the original medieval chapel
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Lowick History

Lowick has a particularly interesting history uncovered by recent excavations of an iron age settlement by the archaeology section of Lowick Heritage Group at Hunting Hall and evident also, from the cup and ring marks present at Routin Lynn and also elsewhere within the parish. Early references suggest the community moved up the hill to where the Roman Devil's Causeway joined the pilgrim route to Holy Island

The Roman road from Hadrian's Wall came up through Lowick village to Tweedmouth, a way of supplying the legions as they moved north on their campaigns in North Scotland. The pilgrim route to Holy Island is of central importance to the village with pilgrims coming from the west to make their way to the monastery to worship at the tomb or later after its disappearance to Durham to the place where St Cuthbert lived

In addition to the physical elements used to help represent the history of Lowick, there is a concern to provide further documents and the facility for visitors to consult church documents through the creation of a heritage centre.

Artefacts from the original Lowick Chapel



12th C. gravestone tympana from above chapel door original window h



Glass door
with view of
stained glass
window of John
The Baptist

in the Baptist Church has a heavy wooden door which is a barrier
ve and main church from the tower. The tower is a significant element
pace which needs to be brought more into use. A glass door or
or opens up the tower and brings light into the nave of the church.

The church artefacts can be placed on the current bare wall at the back of the nave or possibly in the tower. Although stone objects and therefore heavy, they can be fixed in place with supports as in Brace path Church in County Durham.

Two of the important historic documents as illustrated above can be part of those used to represent the history of the church and the important link with the monastery on Holy Island. There is also, the possibility of providing an illustrated time- line to record the history of Lowick through dates and illustrations of key events in the village's history.

Tyne View Project



Thomas Hair's view of the Killingworth wagonway end where coal is shipped into the colliers.

A positive meeting took place with Vicky Cuthbertson head of North Tyneside Regeneration Team. This provided the chance to explain TWHF's work with the NTR's wagonway project and to express concern that there have been no new developments. This was apparently due to those from the regeneration team charged with the project had either retired or were unavailable.

It was explained that TWHF was very concerned of the need to follow up unfinished business, particularly because those most concerned with the project to have the former wagonway recognised had sadly passed away .

Unfinished business concerned the placing of figures of former miners on the Victorian bridge (as illustrated on Thomas Hare's 1840 sketch of Wideopen colliery). There was also the ambition to create a suitable viewing point to mark the end of the wagonway at the point – as shown in Hare's sketch above – where the coal waggons emptied the coal into colliers for transportation to London. The view of the Tyne from this point was seen as a suitable way to celebrate the whole of this important wagonway with its close links to Killingworth and the creation of the railways.

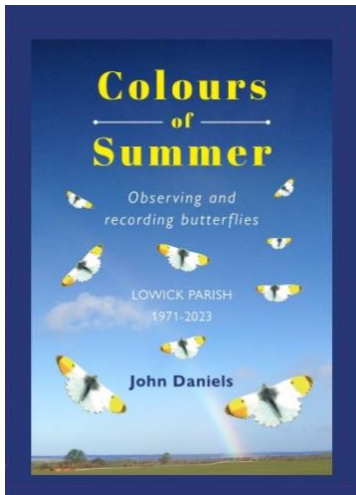
TWHS's work with North Tyneside's Regeneration Team has – as with many other heritage initiatives to act as a catalyst to help communities to engage with their heritage. In this case it is about persuading North Tyneside that this is a feasible project

with huge potential for highlighting the key role of the North East in the industrial revolution.

A further meeting with Vicky Cuthbertson will need to be set up and perhaps look to encourage Kim McGuinness, Mayor of North East England to look at the potential for a scheme of this kind.

colours of summer

TWHF's heritage work has and continues to be concerned with identifying significant



local heritage features and working with local heritage groups as they seek to conserve them. Developing suitable strategies to undertake the conservation required but also, importantly to publicise these historic elements and to identify their importance as providing a way to link the modern world to the community's historic past. Many conservation projects of this kind involve elements of the built environment whose importance to the local community are easy to identify.

The natural heritage is more difficult to identify but one way forward here is to publicise different aspects of the local flora and fauna through researching and publishing details of for example here, the different species of butterflies present within the community.

Working through Lowick Heritage Group it proved possible to apply for a grant with the Community Fund (Barmoor Wind Farm). The £1,200 granted enabled the publication of this study of local butterflies which also, helps identify important areas within the parish for wild life conservation and in this way builds on work already undertaken by the Lowick Heritage Group on significant historic, local heritage features. The publication has been made available to local libraries, schools and to visitors to the region through copies being distributed to holiday lets.

It is hoped to extend this work drawing on field studies already undertaken to provide a more general view of the fauna and flora of the Lowick parish area. Further grant applications would be made to the Community Fund (Barmoor Wind Farm).

This innovative Lowick Heritage Group initiative could act as a template for other local heritage groups to undertake work on the local flora and fauna as a way to identify important wild life sites within their communities.

Accounts

Financial Report

There have been no direct financial transactions involving the Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum. The only funding coming from the Barmoor Wind Farm, Community Fund of £1,200 towards the publication of 'Colours of Summer' reported above and this was organised through the Lowick Heritage Group.

Conclusion

While this report does not indicate high activity on the part of TWHF. The need for the continued existence of the charity is clear.

The Lowick Pilgrimage initiative is one project which is now moving forward again and has considerable potential. There is also, the incorporation of the natural world as a valid element in any local heritage conservation work.

The problem in the past few years is the lack of a structure of governance and of enthusiastic members prepared to carry out the work as secretary and/or project manager. Persuaded of the value of an organisation that encourages local heritage groups to protect significant local heritage features at a time when the dramatic programme of new house building is likely to lead to communities ignoring local heritage and the sense of place which is such a key feature in making people feel they belong, a way to provide a sense of identity.

A way forward is perhaps to produce a guide to Heritage ACT! Setting out the experience of TWHF with those innovative ideas such as 'make your own heritage trail' – set up during the pandemic and the work done to access different local communities with Northumberland Libraries which definitely raised TWHF's

A priority for TWHF would therefore be to seek sponsorship towards the publication of a guide to community conservation heritage projects, drawing on the experience of the last few years.

John Daniels,
Chairman TWHF,
January, 2025

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

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Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum, engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage

ANNUAL REPORT, April 2022- April 2023

LOWICK PILGRIM INITIATIVE

Linking Lowick to its medieval past, the creation of a heritage and information centre in St John the Baptist Church



Introduction: At one point over the period under consideration it looked as though the Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum might be disbanded with limited committee members and an end to a number of active heritage projects.

However, the need to develop two long running projects the Lowick Pilgrim Initiative and The Tyne View and Killingworth Waggonways Project have emphasised the importance of TWHF and its aim to engage communities in the conservation of their local heritage. A certain long term commitment to heritage projects seems to be a prerequisite for success where periods of enthusiasm tend to be followed by lean periods when nothing much seems to happen, before another bout of energetic engagement returns.

It becomes important therefore to be in tune with this pendulum, ready to respond to changing circumstances such as the pandemic, a process which seems to reflect the historic nature of the topics under consideration. While funding will always be a central consideration it is also, important to have the commitment of a number of volunteers keen to give their time and energy to the heritage project.

It has never been more important to engage with local conservation projects as many communities lose identity and their sense of place, swamped by new housing developments. It becomes important therefore to reinforce a sense of belonging through the conservation of significant local heritage features. The past may be invisible in many communities and the particular story that gives a place identity, may no longer exist absent. Surviving significant local heritage features: cover a wide range of different elements historic buildings, place names, old routes and pathways and a particular view. And where there are no longer elements from this previous historic or industrial past, a new monument or plaque can be put in place to act as a reminder

TWHF; objectives and purpose:

This is a useful time to consider the stated purpose of TWHF: '*engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage*'. To drive around the North East today is to be aware of the large scale developments taking place with new housing estates being built throughout the region. Post pandemic, there is a new phase in these new builds with many rural villages being extended to include new housing, to answer an increased demand for country living. While there are many positives from this new housing in terms of more customers and clients for any commercial ventures - such as local shops and pubs and often increased number of children to attend local schools - something of the past history and culture of a community may disappear, drowned out by the scale of new developments.

In this rapidly changing world it becomes important to be able to identify and conserve those significant local heritage features which enhance a sense of place for a community and the work of TWHF has been associated with projects of this kind around the region. The '*HeritageACT! Guide, conserving local heritage features*' is designed to help communities identify and conserve key local heritage features which enhance a sense of place in this rapidly changing world.

The two current projects with which TWHF have begun involvement over this period are both concerned with putting back an element of the past history of communities, the Lowick Pilgrim Project in North Northumberland and the Tyne View, creating the final section of the North Tyneside waggonways working with NTRthe North Tyneside Regeneration Team.

Lowick Pilgrim Initiative

This is about extending and developing a welcoming church, linking the building to its important medieval past as one of four chapels of the monastery on Holy Island, where there was a hostel and guides for pilgrims before their final, dangerous causeway crossing. A TWHF project working with the Parochial Parish Council and Lowick Heritage Group.



There are two parts to this proposal: Developments taking place within the church, creating a heritage centre; providing information on the history of St John the Baptist Church and in particular the important narrative of its fascinating medieval past; placing existing historic artefacts in a prominent position on the back west wall of the church. A final element to make the church more welcoming, would be the replacement of the existing interior wooden door of the church with a glass entrance to the nave.



12th Century Grave cover one of the monuments to be place on the wall at the back of the church.

Linking Lowick to the existing St Cuthbert's Way as an additional route to be taken by pilgrims following the historic path through the village to Holy Island. This has been a key new development over the period with £165 available from targeted church events in order to pay for a brochure setting out the route and information about the trail leading from St John the Baptist Church to Mount Joy, the place where pilgrims would have had their first view of Holy Island after their long and probably difficult journey.

Tyne View Project

TWHF has been working with Wideopen History group and North Tyneside Regeneration Team to put in place information boards on the history of the waggonway in this area over a number of years with the support of Wideopen Library where meetings have been held. It proved possible through the contacts of Tony Gilchrist to talk to Port of Tyne to inform them of our ambitions and aims.

It is sad to report that two key members of the Wideopen Waggonway group of which TWHF were closely involved have died: John Harbottle and recently Tony Gilchrist whose contribution to the project in organising the placement of noticeboards in the new Bellway housing estate and the considerable research that went into finding the maps and photographs to illustrate a Wideopen mining history which is no longer visible. Further tribute should be given to former Councillor Muriel Green of the Weetslade ward (now retired) who has been instrumental in setting up meetings and engaging the North Tyneside Regeneration Team in this project.

It is because of the commitment of these members of the Wideopen Waggonway Group that it is essential that the work they achieved should not be forgotten but take the waggonway beyond the current walking and

cycling facility to become a symbol of the industrial revolution in the North East.

The work of NTRT in initially saving the waggonways in the past and now working on improving the stretch of waggonway from Wideopen to Camperdown has been essential for the survival of this internationally important industrial heritage site which includes Killingworth colliery where Robert Stephenson first developed the steam locomotive to transport coal and the North Tyneside Railway Museum with working locomotives. The sketch below from the 1840s shows how horses were originally pulling the coal wagons.



Thomas Hair's sketches (1840s) of Wideopen Colliery with horse drawn coal wagons

The Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum has been looking over this period at how the final section of the waggonways can be restored and given the prominence it deserves. This has considerable importance from the view it provides looking down from a height onto the Tyne where the coal was loaded through the use of special equipment onto the waiting colliers for transport to London. James Cook at one time skipper of a Whitby collier working out of the Tyne, later a navigator and explorer associated with the discovery of Australia is an important figure associated with this site.



and showing how the wagons delivered coal through special machinery to waiting colliers for transport to London..

Alan White, TWHF member and architectural designer has produced illustrations to suggest what a specially constructed view-point could look like and where it might be placed. This would provide the finale for a waggonway visit, a key site to demonstrate the importance of the industrial revolution and the contribution of Tyneside to this innovative time.

A new series of meetings have been arranged with North Tyneside Regeneration Team and their new director Vicky Cuthbertson

Conclusion: There has been change in the workings of TWHF since the pandemic. Our role seen more as a consultative body of experts available to help out on community heritage and history projects. There are unlikely to be the same regular meetings as before but zoom sessions when required, to discuss current and future business. However, as can be seen from the two major projects reported here the forum can act as a catalyst to bring to fruition heritage projects which sometimes take a good deal of time to implement.

We thank all our colleagues and supporters and look forward to continue working with you in the future.

Dr John Daniels

Chairman TWHF

March 2024

TWHF Financial Report 2022-2023

There have been no major costs or outlays, eg conferences or staffing expenses, and despite a good deal of activity going on behind the scenes, all contributions have been made on a voluntary basis therefore we also have not needed to apply for any grants or fundraise this year in spite of providing a valuable service to the community/communities

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1173102

Accounts



Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum, engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage

ANNUAL REPORT, April 2021- April 2022



Introduction:

The period has seen the ending of the very successful partnership with Northumberland Libraries. **'In My Footsteps'** gave us the chance to extend the concept of personal heritage trails working with Diane Wright, Senior Librarian and Kate Saint Claire Gibson, local studies director with very positive sessions in Ashington and Haltwhistle through funding from the 'Northumberland Caring Community Project'.

Libraries make a very positive contribution to history and heritage work and are often the place where information on the past heritage of a community can be found. It is hoped to be able to renew this collaboration in the future and hopefully, to extend this to work in North Tyneside where TWHF has had good contact with Wideopen Library, associated with the waggonways, a continuing engagement as detailed below.

A special thanks needs to be given to Denise Lovell who is retiring as trustee and has been a key member of the Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum over many years, a most efficient secretary and long-term trustee. Ged Parker also needs to be thanked for his contribution, a key and founder member of the trust, vice-chairman and more recently treasurer and trustee. We thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm.

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There are two parts to this proposal: Developments taking place within the church, creating a heritage centre; providing information on the history of St John the Baptist Church and in particular the important narrative of its fascinating medieval past; placing existing historic artefacts in a prominent position on the back west wall of the church. A final element to make the church more welcoming, would be the replacement of the existing interior wooden door of the church with a glass entrance to the nave.



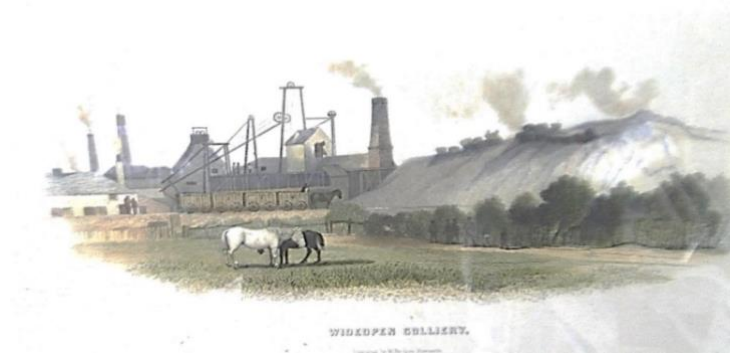
12th Century Grave cover one of the monuments to be place on the wall at the back of the church

Linking Lowick to the existing St Cuthbert's Way as an additional route to be taken by pilgrims following the historic path through the village to Holy Island.

Tyne View Project

TWHF has been working with Wideopen History group and North Tyneside Regeneration Team to put in place information boards on the history of the waggonway in this area over a number of years with the support of Wideopen Library where meetings have been held. The

work of NTRT in initially saving the waggonways in the past and now working on improving the stretch of waggonway from Wideopen to Camperdown has been essential for the survival of this internationally important industrial heritage site which includes Killingworth colliery where Robert Stephenson first developed the steam locomotive to transport coal and the North Tyneside Railway Museum with working locomotives. The sketch below from the 1840s shows how horses were originally pulling the coal wagons.



Thomas Hair's sketches (1840s) of Wideopen Colliery with horse drawn coal wagons

The Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum has been looking over this period at how the final section of the waggonways can be restored and given the prominence it deserves. This has considerable importance from the view it provides looking down from a height onto the Tyne where the coal was loaded through the use of special equipment onto the waiting colliers for transport to London. James Cook at one time skipper of a Whitby collier working out of the Tyne, later a navigator and explorer associated with the discovery of Australia is an important figure associated with this site.



and showing how the wagons delivered coal through special machinery to waiting colliers for transport to London..

Alan White, TWHF member and architectural designer has produced illustrations to suggest what a specially constructed view-point could look like and where it might be placed. This would provide the finale for a waggonway visit, a key site to demonstrate the importance of the industrial revolution and the contribution of Tyneside to this innovative time.

Conclusion: There has been change in the workings of TWHF since the pandemic. Our role seen more as a consultative body of experts available to help out on community heritage and history projects. There are unlikely to be the same regular meetings as before but zoom sessions when required, to discuss current and future business. However, as can be seen from the two major projects reported here the forum can act as a catalyst to bring to fruition heritage projects which sometimes take a good deal of time to implement.

We thank all our colleagues and supporters and look forward to continue working with you in the future.

Dr John Daniels

Chairman TWHF

Tyne wear Heritage Forum Accounts 21-22					
Date	In	Out	Description	Notes	Balance
					£1,292.57
21/07/2021		£15.00	Framed print	To Allan white	£1,277.57
07/02/2022		75	Membership BALH		£1,202.57
Financial yr	£0.00	£90.00			£1,202.57

TYNE & WEAR HERITAGE FORUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1173102

Accounts



Tyne & Wear Heritage Forum

engaging communities in the conservation of their local heritage

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Introduction: the period covered has seen the impact of Covid 19 with the need to curtail normal meetings and activities. It was therefore a question of finding new ways to encourage heritage support. As the accounts for 2020-21 shows the Forum received no income and spent just £75, leaving a balance at 1 April 2021 of £1,292.57.

It is to the considerable credit and hard work of Joanna Pullen our secretary and Amanda Cuskin, committee member and later secretary (succeeding Joanna) that we were able to develop the successful activities described below. It has meant that instead of shutting down, TWHF has been able to move into new areas, working with a new set of people, not -as previously - associated with a particular history or heritage group but rather working as individuals or groups of friends.

Make your own personal heritage trail, September 2019

The sketch below and text beside it, were the first resources used to promote 'making your own heritage trail'. This activity proved popular for people only allowed during the first wave of the pandemic to take a single hour of exercise each day. A special website was set up www.myheritagetrail and a number of personal trails recorded based in Northumberland, Newcastle or County Durham. To show the export potential of a scheme of this kind, one personal heritage trail came from the port of Le Havre in France.

Make Your Own Heritage Trail

'A person creates their own heritage trail, drawing on a place they know well, providing their own take on the heritage and historic features, explaining why they like them. Possible here too, to include places with a special family connection, places directly associated with their past – the house where they were born, the school they went to with old photographs to show this connection and give life to the experience.'

'My Heritage Trail' proved popular with some doing more than one trail. The list of trails currently available on the website is as follows:

- *Neville and Margaret's 3 Trails: Seaton Sluice (see above); Old North Shields and Tynemouth.*
 - *Joanna and Mark's Ovingham Trail*
 - *John's Lanchester Trail*
 - *Geoff's Old Colliery Railway Trail (Angel of the North area)*
 - *Monica's Penshaw Monument and Herrington Park Trail*
 - *Henry and Zelia's Le Havre, France Trail*

- John D.'s Doddington Trail, North Northumberland
- Dom and Margaret's Washington Trail
- Amelie and Alex's Jesmond Trail

This very positive response was partly due to covid restrictions during lockdown. It was clear, however that



there is a place for people, making up their own heritage trail, instead of following existing trails. Selecting for their personal trail not just a significant local heritage feature which helps give identity to a place but also, introducing those places which have particular importance to a person as part of their own personal heritage. Instead of the rather dry explanations found on information boards or in guide books of trails- 'on your left you will find a statue of ...' This can become a personal trail- 'This is a statue I really like, as a child my Mum used to bring me here, to sit in the park to enjoy a sunny morning and feed the ducks.'

The question became, how to further develop the concept of personal heritage trails, perhaps linking the idea to existing heritage and history groups as a way for them to further develop their role. Going out and making up their own heritage trails would be a way to identify significant local heritage features which give a particular identity to a place with the need sometimes to ensure they survive. This might be a way to start up new history or heritage groups with individuals going out to identify important local features and those associated with their own personal histories.

TWHF work with Northumberland Libraries

January 2021 development of 'In My Footsteps' Project.



One of the problems for TWHF has always been how to promote and publicise the work to have communities identify and protect significant local heritage features. Libraries are an important history and heritage resource for local communities and the chance to work with Northumberland Libraries with Diane Wright, senior librarian and Kate Saint Claire Gibson, local studies director was very welcome.

A webinar was set up with Northumberland Libraries and I was able to give a wellreceived talk about personal heritage trails and the concept of extending this project to involve senior citizens particularly at a time when many grandparents had not had the chance to see grandchildren.

This developed into '*In my footsteps*' a project which received funding as one of a number of chosen schemes as part of the 'Northumberland Caring Community Project'. Initially this was about setting up a pilot scheme with Ashington and Haltwhistle chosen as communities to develop this project. While the idea was to focus on people with dementia or learning difficulties it became evident that it was better to be more inclusive and to extend the project to anyone wishing to participate. Heritage Trails were held in Ashington and Haltwhistle, followed by workshops in the libraries of these communities. We are now looking to extend the project into other areas and to develop the scheme across Northumberland, seeking further funding through the 'Northumberland Caring Community Project'.

Many older members of the community have had to isolate themselves during the pandemic, their lives limited to what they can see out of their window. But they have a story to tell..... by retracing their lives with them, we are able to follow in their footsteps.



Conclusion

During very difficult times it has proved possible to continue TWHF work. In the next year we will attempt to meet up again – probably virtually - to discuss ways forward, perhaps refocusing the charity to reflect recent changes and developments in our work.

Accounts 2020-21

Tyne and Wear Heritage Forum				Cash Account																							
Month	Date	Cheq No/ref	In	Out	Balance at Bank	Credits due	Description																				
					£ 1,367.57																						
Dec	18 th			£ 75.00	1292.57		BALH membership																				
Summaries			£ -	£ 75.00	1292.57																						
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>01/04/19</td> <td>£</td> <td>1,367.57</td> <td>Opening Balance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> <td>-</td> <td>Income</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>£</td> <td>75.00</td> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31/03/20</td> <td>£</td> <td>1,292.57</td> <td>Closing Balance</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								01/04/19	£	1,367.57	Opening Balance			£	-	Income			£	75.00	Expenditure		31/03/20	£	1,292.57	Closing Balance	
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John Daniels

Chair

Tyne and Wear Heritage forum 23 December 2021