



Local History Month

Sunderland, May 2019

Programme of events, talks, walks and exhibitions celebrating Sunderland's history



Introduction

Talks, walks and exhibitions

Local History Month aims to increase awareness of local history, promote history in general to local communities and encourage all members of the community to participate. Activities happen across the UK and include trips, exhibitions and local lectures. It is a great way for groups to highlight local history and for local people to get involved.

This Local History Month has been organised by members of Sunderland Heritage Forum and Sunderland City Council to promote local history in Sunderland.

The Sunderland Heritage Forum was established in 1997 with the aim to promote and provide access to the heritage of Sunderland and to pursue objectives, which were of common value and interest to all of the heritage and history groups of the city.

For further information on Sunderland Heritage Forum contact: Stuart Miller on telephone 0191 528 5339 or Janet Robinson on telephone 0191 561 8413.

Front cover image:
Hylton Castle (photo courtesy of Mike Veitch)

Programme

Wednesday 1 May, 10.30am-3.30pm

Snippets of Sunderland's heritage – members of the Time Bandits bringing history to life

The Bridges Shopping Centre, Sunderland SR1 3DR

Come along and meet members of the Time Bandits sharing some fascinating snippets of Sunderland's history and heritage.

For more information contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk (no booking required).

Friday 3 May, 10am

Sunderland's Historic High Streets Heritage Action Zone - guided walk

Meet at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP

Take a guided walk through one of the city's oldest neighbourhoods. Discover the fascinating history of Fawcett Street and High Street West, the principal shopping streets during the 19th and 20th centuries, and the historic buildings that remain today.

Sunderland's historic high streets are the focus of the Heritage Action Zone, a five-year project which aims to revive the historic part of Sunderland and reconnect it with the modern city centre.

Working with local partners, the area will undergo an intensive programme of research, repair and regeneration, alongside community engagement projects to rediscover and celebrate the city's unique heritage.

For more information and to book a



Fawcett Street (photo courtesy Sunderland Antiquarian Society)

free place contact Sarah Carr on
0191 561 8758 or email:
sarah.carr@sunderland.gov.uk

place contact Judith Miller on
0191 561 7892 or email:
judith.miller@sunderland.gov.uk

Saturday 4 May, 10am and 12.30pm

Explore Edwardian Bishopwearmouth

*Meet at Town Park, the green space
behind Sunderland Minster SR1 3ET*

Join us for a heritage walking tour around
Edwardian Bishopwearmouth followed by a
behind the scenes tour of the Sunderland
Empire Theatre with special guest
appearance by a celebrated music hall star.
Tour will last approximately one hour.

This event is funded by the National
Lottery Heritage Fund, working in
partnership with Sunderland City Council,
Theatre Space North East and the
Sunderland Empire Creative Learning
Department and is free to attend.
Maximum 20 places per event.

For more information and to book your

**Saturday 4 May-30 June,
Museum opening times**

Vaux Memories – display

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,
Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

This year marks the 20th anniversary of
the closure of the Vaux Brewery in
Sunderland. Local collector, Richie Morgan,
member of the group Vaux Brewery
Collectables, has created a display of Vaux
related items from his own collection.

From beer mats and bar towels to neck
ties, tankards and Vaux signs, these
colourful, fascinating, items celebrate one
of Sunderland's most iconic brands.

For more information contact
Jo Cunningham
email: jo.cunningham@sunderland.gov.uk

Sunday 5 May, 10am

Bygone Transport and Industry by the Wear – guided walk

Meet at Cox Green Car Park, close to Oddfellows Arms pub SR4 9JS

A three and a half mile walk around the delightful riverside setting of Cox Green. Learn more about local sites like Girdle Cake cottage and the Victoria Viaduct whilst keeping a keen eye out for wildlife like otter and kingfisher!

Please note after heavy rain some of the riverside paths can be very muddy so please dress appropriately for the conditions.

The walk may take up to 2.5 hours to complete so please bring along a drink and snacks to keep you going.

For more information contact Anthony Hindmarch on 0191 561 4578 or email: events@qsunderland.gov.uk

Wednesday 8 May, 1-5.30pm

Magical Mystery Tour – explore heritage sites on a vintage bus

Meet outside Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens entrance to board the bus, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP

Enjoy a trip around several heritage sites in Sunderland with time to disembark and explore inside. Guided tours of the venue will be given by dedicated volunteers.

Please contact Janet Robinson to book a free place on 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk (free).

Wednesday 8 May, 6.30pm

Hylton Castle and Dene Heritage Walk

Meeting at the Hylton Dene Play Area Car Park, Craigavon Road, Sunderland SR5 3PA

Join us for an hour-long stroll around Hylton Dene, discover more about the history of Hylton Castle and its current transformation, take in St Catherine's Chapel, and stroll through the parkland, woods and stream of Hylton Dene.

For more information contact Elanor Johnson on 0191 561 8611 or 07774 331 182 or email: elanor.johnson@qsunderland.gov.uk or visit www.hyltoncastle.org.uk/events (no booking required).

Thursday 9 May, 10am

'Walk the Line' – three stage challenge

Bowes Railway, Springwell Road, Springwell Village, Sunderland NE9 7QJ

Bowes Railway launches its 2019 Guided Heritage Trail challenge, walk one stage or all three:

- Burnopfield to Kibblesworth
- Kibblesworth to Bowes
- Bowes to Blackham's Hill circular

Each participant will receive a 'Bowes Heritage Trail Kit' packed with information about each walk and history of the line. *Awards* up for grabs! Get your Heritage Trail Passport and have it officially stamped at the completion of each stage to be eligible for free goodies and discounts. More information coming soon for smart phone self-guided heritage trail walks.

For more information contact Amanda Cuskin on 0191 416 1847 or 07850 916 484 or email: amandacuskin@communityopportunities.co.uk (booking essential and small cost applies).

Thursday 9 May, 11am

Introduction to Roker Pier & Lighthouse Tours – talk and slide show presentation

RNLI, Unit 3, Marine Activity Centre, Roker Marina, Sunderland SR6 0PW

A talk and slide show presentation on the history, tours of the tunnel, pier and lighthouse. Find out more about the fascinating history of these structures dating back to 1885.

For more information contact Carol Connor email: carolconnor1903@gmail.com (booking essential).

Friday 10 May, 2-4pm

Mining Songs with Keith Gregson and Eileen Richardson

Austin House, Shakespeare Street, Southwick, Sunderland SR5 2JX

Come along and join in the fun singing local mining songs with Keith and Eileen. Members free, visitors £1

For more information contact Elsie Ronald on 0191 548 9976 or email: duffron@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 11 May, 2pm

'Sunderland Radicals – from John Lilburne to the Spanish Civil War' – talk by the Reverend Chris Howson

The Pottery Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP

Rev Chris writes: Sunderland has always been a city on the side of the underdogs. From the chartists to the abolitionists, from suffragettes to war resisters, we will spend an afternoon with these radical folk of Sunderland.

For more information contact The Friends of Sunderland Museums on 0191 514 2235 or email: aps690@yahoo.co.uk (no booking is required - the event is free to members of FOSUMS - visitors are very welcome but are asked to pay £2).

Durham Cathedral by Victor Noble Rainbird (photo courtesy Dave Young)



Tuesday 14 May, 1.30pm

'Victor Noble Rainbird' – illustrated talk by Dave Young

Kepier Hall, Church Street, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 4DN

Victor Noble Rainbird the story of the brilliant Royal Academy prize winning artist whose promising career was ended by his experiences on the Western Front during WW1. His later decline brought on by alcoholism and his re-emergence when he took up residence in Otto Terrace Sunderland. During his stay in Sunderland his new surroundings seemed to inspire him to special effort because he turned out some of the most impressive work that had come off his brush in a long time.

For more information contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk (free).

Wednesday 15 May, 1-3pm (drop in)

Threads

Textile Traditions Gallery, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP

Threads is a social group working with yarn and fabric and a variety of textile techniques: knitting, crochet, rag-rug and hand sewing. The aim of the group is to work on their individual projects and use show and tell to share their skills. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a chat anytime between 1pm and 3pm.

For more information contact the Museum Learning Team on 0191 561 2323.

Thursday 16 May, 10am

Centres of Learning and Shipbuilding – guided walk

Meet at St Peter's church, St Peter's Way

Join a local guide to discover more about the historic riverside setting of St Peter's. From the days of the Venerable Bede to the age of industry, this part of Sunderland has played a hugely influential and significant role in the local and national story.

This walk is an opportunity for participants to download the new Sunderland Riverside Heritage Trail app. Please dress appropriately for the conditions. The walk may take up to two hours to complete.

For more information contact Anthony Hindmarch on 0191 561 4578 or email: events@sunderland.gov.uk



Pre-war image of Roker Pier Lighthouse

Thursday 16 May, 11am

Introduction to Roker Pier & Lighthouse Tours – talk and slide show presentation

RNLI Unit3, Marine Activity Centre, Roker Marina, Sunderland SR6 0PW

A talk and slide show presentation on the history, tours of the tunnel, pier and lighthouse. Find out more about the fascinating history of these structures dating back to 1885.

For more information email: carolconnor1903@gmail.com (booking essential).

Friday 17 May, 2-4pm

Art Workshop with visual artist Lyn Killeen

Austin House, Shakespeare Street, Southwick, Sunderland SR5 2JX

Try visual art techniques and learn new skills inspired by coal mining. Materials provided. Members free, visitors £1.

For more information contact Elise Ronald on 0191 548 9976 or email: duffron@yahoo.co.uk (booking essential).

Monday 20 May, 7pm

The Horse Keepers Daughter by author Jane Gulliford Lowes

Hetton & Eppleton Community Hall, Hetton DH5 9JG

The story covers the years between 1880 and 1942, and chronicles poverty, destitution, adventure, love, tragedy and an incredible coincidence, with the narrative weaving between County Durham and Queensland. The book will also be available for sale.

For more information contact Alan Jackson on telephone 0191 526 2804 or visit the website: www.hettonlocalhistory.org.uk which has many photographs and includes the complete Hetton Village Atlas.

Tuesday 21 May, 1.30pm

75th anniversary of D-Day – talk by historian and author John Sadler

Washington Town Centre Library, Independence Square, Washington NE38 7RZ

An informative and illustrated talk by John Sadler author of the recently published book D-Day – the British Beaches.

For more information contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk (free).

Wednesday 22 May, 1.30-2.30pm

Sunderland's First Female MP – talk by Dr Sarah Hellowell, University of Sunderland

Mayors Parlour, Conference Room, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR2 7DN

Dr Marion Phillips represented the constituency of Sunderland between 1929 and 1931. She was elected at

the 'flapper' election, the first general election after the extension of the franchise to all women.

As the city's first female MP, she lobbied Parliament on issues of local, national and international concern, including poverty, unemployment and training schemes for young women. This talk will explore Phillips' work as the first female MP for Sunderland.

For more information and to book a free place contact Janet Robinson on 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk

Friday 24 May, 7pm

Edith Cavell Commemoration

Donnison school Heritage & Education Centre, Church Walk, Sunderland SR1 2BJ

Come and hear the story of Edith Cavell, her bravery and sacrifice as a British nurse in WWI. Enjoy some dramatization as we re-tell her poignant story and celebrate her life.

Pie, peas and mash and a glass of wine/beer £12 per ticket.

For more information contact 0191 565 4835 or email: info@donnisonschool.org.uk

Saturday 25 May, 10am

The Defence of Roker – guided walk

Meet at Fausto Coffee, Marine Walk, Sunderland SR6 0PL

For many years Sunderland and the River Wear were a source of much of the nation's wealth. At times of war Sunderland was therefore potentially vulnerable to the actions of hostile forces.

Join this two-mile guided walk to find out more about how Sunderland defended itself during conflicts like the Napoleonic wars and WWI.

Please dress appropriately for weather.
For more information contact Anthony Hindmarch on telephone 0191 561 4578 email: events@qsunderland.gov.uk (free).

**Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May,
11am-4pm**

Whitsuntide Steaming Weekend at Ryhope Engines Museum

Ryhope Engines Museum, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0ND

The 1868 Victorian Beam Engines of the former pumping station will be working under the steam power powered by hand fired Lancashire boilers.

See also a working blacksmith's forge, many engineering exhibits and a super tea room.

Lifting the South Beam 1866
(photo courtesy of Ryhope Engine Museum)



Bring your tablet or other device to enjoy much more information, liveweb-cams and historic images on our free to use Info-Point system.

For more information email: info@ryhopeengines.org.uk
www.ryhopeengines.org.uk

Sunday 26 May, 11-4pm
Medieval Mayhem

Hylton Castle, Craigavon Road, Sunderland SR5 3PA

A free fun day filled with a variety of medieval themed activities for the whole family to enjoy in the grounds of Hylton Castle. Please note the interior of the castle will not be open.

For more information email: Info.heritage@qsunderland.gov.uk

Tuesday 28 May, 1.30pm

Mowbray Park – family heritage trail

Meet outside Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP

Family focused Heritage Trail – led by a member of the Time Bandits bringing history to life Discovering interesting facts about the walrus, Jack Crawford and the Victoria Hall Disaster.

For more information contact Janet Robinson 0191 561 8413 or email: janet.robinson@qsunderland.gov.uk (free).



Statue of General Havelock in Mowbray Park (photo courtesy of Mike Veitch)

**Wednesday 29 May,
11am-12.30pm and 1.30-3pm**

Deep Down in the Mine

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,
Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Join us for coal related crafts. Make a miner's lamp and find out more about fossils. No need to book – just drop in suggested donation £3.

For more information contact
0191 561 2323 or email:
Museumlearning@sunderland.gov.uk

Thursday 30 May, 1.30-2.30pm

Remarkable Rocks in the city of Sunderland

*Bede Tower, Burdon Road, Sunderland
SR2 7EA*

Most people in Sunderland have heard of the Cannon-ball rocks, but perhaps not everybody knows exactly what they are, and why they should be so famous.

There's something about this in the talk together with a lot more about our other rocks – not just those sitting naturally in the ground, but also some of the huge variety that have been cut, and shaped to make up our streets, buildings, walls and the seafront.

Many of our older buildings are built from local rock, while others old and new showcase some spectacular rocks imported from across the world. Thus, our geology plays a huge part in our history and heritage.

There's so much to see – a trip to the shops, a walk in the park, even a visit to the pub will never be the same if you start looking up and down and around you as you move along. It all starts here.

For more information contact Sandra Lane at sandra.lane1@qntlworld.com
Free – no booking required.

**Friday 31 May,
11am-12.30pm and 1.30-3pm**

Sunderland Folk

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens
Find out facts about Sunderland's history and dress up as some Sunderland characters then draw your portrait. No need to book – just drop in. Suggested donation £3.

For more information contact:
0191 561 2323 or email:
museumlearning@sunderland.gov.uk

Saturday 1 June, 2pm

Norman Cornish Centenary Lecture

*Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,
Burdon Road, Sunderland SR1 1PP*

Mike Thornton, the son-in-law of Norman Cornish MBE (1919-2014) will give an illustrated lecture to mark the centenary of the artist's birth. The lecture includes many images previously unseen by the public and which refer to Norman Cornish's career from the early days to his death in 2014.

For more information please contact The Friends of Sunderland Museums on 0191 514 2235 or email: aps690@yahoo.co.uk

No booking is required but all attending the lecture are asked to pay £2.

SAVE THE DATE

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of architecture, history and culture and it's all FREE. Lookout for various venues and activities taking part across the city from 13-22 September, regional booklets with full details will be available from August.

Great Radicals of the North East

Symposium on Saturday 14 September at Bede Tower from 10am-4pm.

Sunderland Heritage Forum are organising a full day of fascinating talks on local radicals such as Tommy Hepburn, John Lilburne and Joseph Cowan. For More information contact
janet.robinson@sunderland.gov.uk



Sunderland Maritime Heritage
(photo courtesy of Fred Gooch)

If you require this leaflet in an alternative format (Braille, large print, audio tape) or in your own language, please contact the Communications Team on 0191 520 5555 or e-mail: communications@sunderland.gov.uk

