

Ayton Local History Society

Past syllabuses

2000/2001

October 31st

Bring and Show evening

November 28th

The John Wood Collection

Bob & Mary Thomson

January 30th

Archaeology and Local History

Dr Malcolm Aylett

February 27th

Papermaking in Ayton

John Reid

March 27th

Visit to Ayton Castle

David Liddell-Grainger

2001/2002

September 25th

AGM +

Four Ayton Dwellings

R Bain, B Black, B Drysdale, R Allan

October 30th

The First Railway Across the Border

Tom Thorburn

November 27th

Pre History of the Borders

Rory McDonald

January 29th

Smallholding Colonies of Foulden Mordington & Lamberton

Neta Rae

February 26th

Robert Mennon, the Ayton Bard

Hector Sutherland & George McNair

March 26th

Researching Local History

Alison Fowler

April 30th

Guided Tour of the Berwick Walls

Derek Sharman

2002/2003

September 24th

*The Witch Hunt in Scotland between
1560 and 1727*

Roy Pugh

October 29th

Tracing your Family History

Ronald Morrison.

November 26th

The Borders and East Lothian at War

Jack Tully Jackson

January 28th

The Sawmill in Ayton High Street

Irvine Inglis

February 25th

"Coast is Coast and West is West" - a look at Borders Architecture

Andrew Lester

March 25th

AGM + Ayton Sports Clubs

Various members

April 29th

Visit to Manderston

2003/2004

September 30th

Flodden - a soldier's perspective

Alisdair Hutton

October 28th

History of Berwickshire Newspapers

Tony Langmack

November 25th

The History of Netherbyres

Simon Furness

January 27th

Fast Castle

Robin Murdoch

February 24th

Bygone Days in the Borders

Phil Hayle

March 30th

AGM + Berwick at War (effects of the Second World War)

Derek Sharman

April 27th

Visit to Coldingham Priory

2004/2005

September 28th

Silences that Speak

Robin Sinton

October 26th

Border Murders

Norrie McLeish

November 30th

The Knights Templar

Archie Shields

January 18th

Berwick and its Archives

Linda Bankier

February 22nd

History of Borders Folk Music

Michael Yates

March 29th

AGM + The Bondagers

Ian MacDougall

April 26th

Visit to Eyemouth Harbour

2005/2006

September 27th

The Limestone Industry of Lindisfarne

Roger Jermy

October 25th

The Lowland Clearances

Peter Aitchison & Andrew Cassell

November 29th

The History of Berwickshire's Towns

and Villages

Elizabeth Layhe

January 31st

Queen Margaret's Legacy

Rev Donald Gaddes

February 28th

History of the KOSB

Lt Col George Wood

March 28th

AGM + Coal-mining in North Northumberland

David Heywood

April 25th

Visit to Mellerstain House

2006/2007

September 26th

The Jim Clark Story

Ian Scott-Watson

October 31st

No Cheese after Dinner – the story of Berwick men captured at St Valery in 1940

Fred Kennington

November 28th

Maritime Berwick

Jim Walker

January 30th

Along the Border Line

Bryan Webster

February 27th

Swords, Loaves and Fishes – A History of Dunbar

Roy Pugh

March 27th

Working the Land, Harvesting the Forest

Walter Elliot

April 24th

Visit to Paxton House

2007/2008

September 25th

The Aytons of Ayton

Jim Eaton

October 30th

“Memento Mori” – Gravestone inscriptions

David Eaton

November 27th

The Lindsay Family - From Down Under to Ayton

Alistair Lindsay

January 29th

Destiny – the story of the stone

Jim Barrie

February 26th

Ayton of Yesteryear

Irvine Inglis

March 25th

Gunsgreen House

Simon Furness

April 29th

Visit to Abbotsford

2008/2009

September 30th

Berwick and the Coldstream Guards Connection

Rev Alan Hughes

October 28th

The Great North Road

Netta Rae

November 25th

People on the Road

Hector Sutherland & George McNair

January 27th

Roman Frontier Policies in Scotland

Ian Goldsack

February 24th

A Topic from Chinese History

Jan Conway

March 31st

AGM

John Knox in Berwick & Newcastle

Michael Cook

April 28th

Visit to Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth

2009/2010

September 29th

Public Health in 16th century Scotland

Dr Peter Symms

October 27th

The Big Bang and what followed

Tom Conway

November 24th

James Logan, formerly of Reston

Sheila Stoddart

January 26th

A Berwickshire Boy

Bryan Webster

February 23rd

Ayton's Churches

Rev. Norman Whyte

March 30th

AGM

David Hume of Ninewells, Chirnside

Prof. Fenton Robb

April 27th

Visit to be arranged

2010/2011

September 28th

Cromwell was here

Laurie Petit

October 26th

Yorkshire Lad looking for Mac

Tony Bolton

November 30th

Celtic Connections

Rev Robert Higham

January 25th

A History of Robert Burns

Rev Bill Paterson

February 22nd

The Irish Potato Famine

Ernie Cox

March 29th

AGM

The First Railway Across the Border

Tom Thorburn

April 26th

Visit to Gunsgreen House, Eyemouth

2011/2012

September 27th

Educating Women - a long unexciting history

Fiona Sutherland

October 25th

A History of Berwick through its Archives

Linda Bankier

November 29th

Celtic Connections

Rev Robert Higham

January 31st

Flodden

Christopher Burgess

February 28th

A Year in the Life of a Laird 300 years ago

Bryan Webster

March 27th

AGM

Sir Walter and "Wandering Willie's Tale"

Hector Sutherland

April 24th

Visit to Manderston House

2012/2013

September 25th

A Fiddler and a Poet - Songs of Robert Burns
Dr Fred Freeman

October 30th

The RNLi
Michael Avril

November 27th

Eyemouth's World of Boats
Stephen Walters

January 29th

Spittal – Berwick's Powerhouse
Michael Cullen

February 26th

The Stories Behind the Pictures
Chris Veitch

March 26th

AGM
Papermaking in Ayton
John Reid

April 24th

Visit to Duns Castle

2013/2014

September 24th

Mauchline Ware - Victorian Souvenir Wood Ware and its Border Connections
Jane Bowen

October 29th

Wilson's Tales - A Local legacy of literature and social history
Andrew Ayre

November 26th

Someone to Watch Over Me - Kirk and Community
Margaret Fox

January 28th

.....the far greatest part of them became bankrupt: John Nisbet of Gunsgreen House and the Smugglers of Berwickshire
Derek Janes

February 25th

A Family Life Revealed: the Stuarts at Traquair 1491 – 1875
Catherine Maxwell Stuart

March 25th

AGM
Why we may all owe a debt of gratitude to John, 1st Baron Eyemouth
Fenton Robb

April 29th

Visit to Berwick Town Hall

2014/2015

September 30th

Sir Walter Scott and Abbotsford

Hamish Reid

October 28th

Churchill's Secret Army

Bob Thomson

November 25th

The Flodden Transcription Project

Linda Bankier

January 27th

Crimes of a Heinous Nature

Margaret Fox

February 24th

The Fermhoose Lang Syne

Jim Morton

March 31st

(AGM)

The Foul Death of the English

Mary Craig

April 28th

Memories of Ayton – a guided walk round the village with Raymond Allan and Irvine Inglis

2015/2016

September 29th

John Cairns: a lad o' pairts

Dr Adam Hood

October 27th

Berwick's Victorian Food Heritage

Derek Sharman

November 24th

The History of Sport in the Borders

Henry Gray

January 26th

Polish Soldiers in the Borders 1942 - present

Lady McEwan

February 23rd

The History of the Union Bridge

Gordon Miller

March 29th

(AGM)

From the Borders to the "Bough" - the story of a pottery painting family

Heather Jack

April 26th

Visit to Eyemouth Fort

2016/2017

September 27th

Why is the old church at Ayton dedicated to a 6th century Greek Pope?.... A discussion

Michael Fenty

October 25th

The 40's Remembered

A Knowles & Kenny History in Context production

November 29th

Improvement and Clearance:

The Lowland Countryside 1750-1850

David McLean

January 31st

Kelt Fishcakes and Gilse:

Net Fishing on the Tweed

Martha Andrews and Jim Gibson

February 28th

Shipwrecks off Scotland:

When an interest gets out of hand

Ian Whittaker

March 28th

(AGM)

Coldingham Priory in context

Dr Chris Bowles

April 25th

Visit to Coldingham Priory

2017/2018

September 26th

Cross Border Crime

Linda Bankier & Margaret Fox

October 31st

The Farm Servants of South-East Scotland 1750-1914

David McLean

November 28th

Roads and Travel in Berwickshire 1750-1900

David McLean

January 30th

Ayton Castle: Past, Present and Future

Brian Parsons

February 27th

Lifting the Veil on Past Lives—looking at our ancestors' wills and testaments

Margaret Fox A look at the Society website – Bill Black

March 27th

(AGM)

The Eyemouth to Burnmouth Railway

Roger Jermy

April 24th

Guided Tour of Berwick Walls

2018/2019

September 25th

The History of Animal Farming

Prof Colin Whittemore

October 30th

Lifting the Veil on Past Lives – looking at our ancestors' wills and testaments

Margaret Fox

November 27th

William Collin (1880-1918) and the Christina Craig (1913-1918)

Will Collin

January 29th

Wm Cowe & Sons and the Berwick Cockle - the famous Berwick sweet

Cameron Robertson

February 26th

Berwickshire's Poor 1800 – 1914

David McLean

March 26th

(AGM)

The Battle of Halidon Hill, Berwick – the 1333 battle between English and Scottish forces

Jim Herbert

April 30th

Visit to Household and Farming Museum, North Charlton Farm, Chathill near Alnwick

2019/2020

September 24th

Churches and Sepulchres of the Medieval Borders

Peter Ryder

October 29th

The impact of the First World War on Policing in the Scottish Borders

Dr David Smale

November 26th

The Rise and fall of Roxburgh

Christine Henderson

January 28th

Bridgescapes - a journey through history celebrating Scotland's bridge building heritage

Bruce Keith

February 25th

Calamity & Catastrophe - the Tragedies & Disasters of Berwickshire

Kenneth McLean

March 31st

(AGM)

~~*Whisky and Gin Smuggling in the Cheviots & the Borders*~~

~~Graeme Watson~~ cancelled due to corona virus

April 28th

~~*Visit to John Muir's Birthplace and Museum, Dunbar*~~ cancelled due to corona virus

2020/2021—All cancelled due to covid

September 29th

The Scholar the Wizard and the Seer—13th century Borders through the lives of Duns Scotus, Michael Scott and Thomas the Rhymer

Isabel Gordon

October 27th

Lindisfarne Castle, it's the fort that counts

Nick Lewis

November 24th

Whisky and Gin Smuggling in the Cheviots & the Borders

Graeme Watson

January 26th

Berwick Photo Centre Collection

Cameron Robertson

February 23rd

Our River Stories of the Tweed

Jim Gibson

March 30th

(AGM)

Herstory—A look at some aspects of history through women's eyes

Isabel Gordon

April 27th

Visit to John Muir's Birthplace and Museum, Dunbar

2021/2022

September 28th

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(AGM)

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Isabel Gordon

April 26th

Visit to John Muir's Birthplace and Museum, Dunbar

2022/2023

September 27th

The Eyemouth Fish Teind Riots of 1861

Norrie McLeish unable to come. Replaced by

Berwick's Maritime Stories

Derek Sharman

October 25th

Lost Churches of the Borders

Kenneth McLean

November 29th

Irregular Border Marriages

Linda Bankier

January 31st

Louisa Waterford and the mystery of the Labyrinth

Jac Kurio

February 28th

Are we nearly there yet? - distance markers, maps, early measurement systems and great journeys in Scotland

Bruce Keith

March 28th

(AGM)

Berwick Boyhood between the Wars

Elisabeth Wilson

April 25th

Visit to Paxton House including the restored waterwheel

2023/2024

September 26th

Jacobites, Hawksmoor and Heritage: the Barracks in Berwick.

The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Platten

October 31st

Evacuation to the Border Counties 1939-1945: Myth & Reality

Kenneth McLean

November 28th

Politics and Corruption in the Nineteenth Century Borders

David McLean

January 30th

A Brief History of Union Chain Bridge and its recent restoration

Edward Cawthorn. Hon Sec

The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge

February 27th

Scotland - Beneath the Surface

Bruce Keith

March 26th

(AGM)

The Bondagers and the Bondage system

Dinah Iredale

April 30th

Visit to Coldstream Museum