

Haltwhistle History Group Newsletter

All your history group news, reports, upcoming events and information FREE in your inbox after every meeting.

Edition 8, 18th March 2024

Edited by Steve Gibbon

Our website: <https://history.haltwhistle.org/>
Our Wiki(pedia) <https://haltwhistle.org/history/>

Hello everyone, here is the eighth newsletter of the History Group with a reminder that I am very much dependent on two sources to make this work:

1. My notes taken at a meeting and any other information people can supply, particularly from those people who may have contributed to a discussion or presentation.
2. You, the reader. If you have anything you would like to see in this newsletter, please provide me with information.

I can't do all of this on my own, so all contributions welcome please.

Please note that the group meetings have moved to the second Wednesday of the month due to a clash of meetings in the large room of the library. We now meet in the Community room of the Hospital which at the moment is provided for free, is on the ground floor and accessible. It is an excellent venue with a small kitchen for tea and coffee preparation. We meet at 1030 for a prompt start.

I can be contacted via email at steve@stevegibbon.co.uk or by phone on 01434 344 383.

Also feel free to mail this on to anyone else who might be interested or print a copy for them. If you did not receive this directly from myself then I do not have your email address. If you want to ensure you are on the circulation, please contact me by email and ask to be put on it. Equally if you do not want to be on the circulation let me know and I will remove you from it. Thank you.

In this newsletter:

1. Digital News
2. Summary of meeting held at Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital – 13th March 2024 – The Featherstone Prisoner of War Camp
3. Wanted – your Memories and Anecdotes.
4. Date of Next Meeting
5. Library

Digital News

Steve is happy to receive any stories, anecdotes or recollections you may have of Haltwhistle and the surrounding area so that he can record it in the Wikipedia for posterity. You can find the wiki at <https://haltwhistle.org/history/> (i.e. via the Haltwhistle Partnership website) with some initial information but it can hold any amount of information whether text, images, video or audio.

Summary of Meeting held at Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital – 13th March 2024 – Featherstone POW Camp

Our guest speaker this month, Colin Mills one of our members, illuminated the remarkable story of the Featherstone Prisoner of War Camp, shedding light on its profound impact on re-education, rehabilitation, and enduring international relationships. Colin's expertise and thorough research unveiled unexpected dimensions of the camp's operations, captivating the audience to the point where one could hear a pin drop.

With a focus on the transformative processes of re-education and rehabilitation, Colin painted a poignant picture of the lives of both prisoners and the local community who rallied around them. He highlighted the pivotal role played by three individuals, representing both sides, whose efforts fostered a bond that transcended borders and endured long after the war's end.

The humane approach adopted at Featherstone not only influenced some prisoners to remain in the UK post-war but also empowered others who returned to Germany, many assuming influential roles in society. This narrative offered a compelling testament to the profound impact of compassionate initiatives in achieving significant successes.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Colin for delivering a captivating, emotionally resonant, and profoundly enlightening presentation.

Wanted – your Memories and Anecdotes.

What are your memories of the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's or even more recently. What anecdotes and stories can you tell? One of our objectives is to capture this information before it is 'lost'. If you have anything you can share and any images to go with it please don't hesitate to forward it to me when I can then incorporate it into future newsletters as well as our Wikipedia of information about Haltwhistle and its surrounding parishes.

Thanks, Steve Gibbon steve@stevegibbon.co.uk 01434 344 383

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th April 2024. 10:30 in the Community Room of Haltwhistle Hospital. The new excavations at Magna fort, in the grounds of the Roman Army Museum - Sophie Westlake.

Ideas for Future Talks

Do you have any ideas for a future meeting talk? If so, could you let a member of the committee know so we can keep a full programme developed, many thanks.

Library

You can also find this information on the website at <https://history.haltwhistle.org/>

A reminder from Jan that some people may have borrowed books from the library and may not have signed for them or returned them. If you have a book from the library, could you please just let Jan know that you have it and whether you will be hanging on to it or returning it. Thank you. Jan can be contacted at janmillward@btinternet.com

A small reference library of books, maps and pamphlets has already been built up. For now, it will be available at each meeting or via Jan Millward. A sign in/out book will be used to record who has what so books can be kept track of. The list of available publications is provided below.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
265 Years of a Dissenting Congregation in Haltwhistle	Roberta Wood
A Haltwhistle Christmas	Tony Storey
A Walk Along the Wall	Hunter Davies
Altwesel at the First Millenium 1000 AD	Tony Storey
Bishop Ridley and the Reiving Ridleys	Tony Storey
Carnival News 2002	
Castle Hill Methodist Church Centenary Brochure	
Church of the Holy Cross, Haltwhistle	
Featherstone Castle	John Cornforth
Haltwhistle 8th Walking Festival	Haltwhistle Partnership
Haltwhistle and South Tynedale (1973)	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle and South Tynedale (Pamphlet)	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle and the Great War	Northern Cultural Projects
Haltwhistle Methodist Church Centenary Brochure	
Haltwhistle Methodist Circuit Souvenir Programme	
Haltwhistle Station	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle, Haydon Bridge and South Tynedale	Frank Graham
History of Gilsland	
Holy Cross Church (Pamphlet)	
In Nancy's Memory	Matthew Parker
Legends of Haltwhistle and the South Tyne	Richard and Susan Sim
Letter from Haltwhistle	Brian Lee
Medieval Castles, Towers, Peles and Bastles of Northumberland	T H Rowland
My History of Featherstone Castle	John Clark
Northumberland Folk Tales	Rosalind Kervan
The Church at Hautwysel	Tony Storey
Towers and Bastles	P F Ryder
Tynedale Songster	Frank Graham
War on the Banks of the Tyne	

Deadline for contributions

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome – even short stories or anecdotes. You may also provide an image with your contribution for inclusion in the newsletter and email it to me. Please make sure the image is your own or you have copyright permission for it.

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