

Winter 2008 Newsletter

History of Alcohol establishments in Coquetdale

The Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) has made CCA an award to carry out research (mostly in archives) on the history of the production and use of alcohol in the valley. We will build on the previous research carried out for the John Barleycorn Project and that carried out by individuals under the Family History project. Once we have more information, we will plan more physical work on potential sites. To start the research rolling, we have called a first meeting on XX January at pm in YY. Come along to find out how you can get involved in this research which will involve looking at the archives in Woodhorn and other places.

Pill Box Surveys

Members of the group surveyed two pillboxes at Hepple at the end of November in bright cold weather. One box is disappearing into the gravel on the haugh so recording was urgently needed. The riverbed has changed substantially since the boxes were constructed in 1940. In this case the box was originally built on the south side of the Coquet, but the river has moved so much that it is now on the north bank. We've plotted the riverbed from old maps onto Google Earth (see below) and the river's course during the 1940s is clearly visible as a line of trees on the edge of a wide ditch.



The other box (easily seen from the road) is in good condition and has bigger gun apertures for (possibly) Bren guns. Drawing work is now in hand to complement the many detailed photographs.

Talks in 2009

Thursday 15 January	World War 1 Chris Burgess(to fit in with our work on the practice trenches: a further dig for 2009 is being considered)	Thropton Memorial Hall 7.30
Saturday 17 January	Ceramics Workshop on fieldwalking finds Jenny Vaughn	Dovecote Room Jubilee Hall 1-5 Cost: £2.50
Tuesday 10 February	Abandoned Places Workshop Colm O'Brien	7pm Parish Hall Rothbury Cost £2.50 Provisional
28 March all day	Children's Day with indoor and outdoor activities target age group 7-12 Children must be accompanied	Rothbury & Lordenshaws Cost £2.00 per child
31 March	Whisky, Pubs and Drinking in Coquetdale Richard Carlton	7pm Rose and Thistle Alwinton
Tuesday 14 April	High Pasture Cave Dig Isle of Skye Steven Birch	7.30 Jubilee Hall, Rothbury Donations for the High Pasture Cave Project
Wednesday 15 April	Clennel Street in the Bronze Age Rachel Pope	7.30 Jubilee Hall Rothbury

These talks have been planned around the work which we are doing and plan to do over the coming year. The exception is the talk on the High Pasture Cave dig on the Isle of Skye which is a remarkable site near Broadford. So far there have been many finds from indicating lengthy use mostly during the Iron Age. Finds include querns, spindle whorls, bone points, a large assemblage of animal bones and the remains of three humans in a blocked stairwell. The website is www.high-pasture-cave.org .