



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

NORTHERN BRANCH

NORTHERN NOTES

ISSUE 9 FEBRUARY 2012



Black Gate in Newcastle in 1855 Photo taken from 'Newcastle Upon Tyne A selection of the Earliest Photographs' by Frank Manders and published by Newcastle Libraries

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012.

Many thanks to our contributors for their excellent articles and as always we welcome any contributions from those interested in the conservation of historic buildings.

This newsletter includes articles from not only the region but also from as far away as the Falkland Islands. Any suggestions for further improvements to the newsletter will be welcome.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in reading the newsletter please forward a copy to them.

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1 What's On

Heritage Skills events continue throughout the year both in the North East and Cumbria. For details of this years programme contact Andie Harris, Heritage Skill Coordinator for details at admin@nect.org.uk. Tel. 0191 2329279

Conservation Forums hosted by English Heritage. Further details can be obtained from Claire Botham at English Heritage at Claire.Botham@english-heritage.org.uk tel. 0191 2691234

IHBC CPD Event at Seaton Deleval Hall and Blyth Battery postponed from last year will be held later this year.

IHBC Summer School to be hosted by Northern Branch in 2013.

If you want to keep up to date with all that is happening in the 'Heritage World' log on to the **IHBC NEWS BLOG** on the IHBC national website www.ihbc.org.uk Up to date information is given including links to other sites to get all the information in full. You can even read all the back issues of Northern Notes on the North Region part of the website. IHBC members can get regular updates as they are published by signing up to the BLOG on their e-mail newsletter@ihbc.org.uk .

2 Committee meeting dates 2012

April 10th, June 12th, October 9th and December 11th all at Blackfriars, Newcastle at 2pm. All IHBC members are welcome to attend the meetings.

3 News from the Ascension Islands

As you know we have IHBC members all over the Northern Region but the Chairman was contacted last year by one of our members working a little to the south of our geographic area.

"Stewart

Thanks for the welcome and the invitation to branch committee meetings, I am at present working on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic Ocean about 4000 miles South of you, this Island was used to guard Napoleon when he was incarcerated on St Helena about 700 miles east of here towards West Africa.

There is a building on the Island that is called "Exiles" building; this was built in the 1800's by the Royal Marines as their barracks/living quarters when sent here on duty to guard Napoleon, I am gathering all of the information I can on the history of this building and photographing the structure to compare with original and historic photography that I am finding, this building is steeped in history and sadly is deteriorating with the tropical heat constant winds and volcanic dust blowing around not to mention the white ant that has taken hold, but I will keep you up to date with my findings if you wish? and use this as part of my CPD.

So thank you for the invitation to the meetings, but I think it is just a little too far to travel at the moment until I return to the U.K.

Many Thanks,

David Reid"

David Reid is Operations Manager of Interserve Defence *Services, Maintenance and Building*.

Website: www.interserve.com

Is David our most distant member at present or do you know of anyone else living or working in foreign parts?

4 Heritage Skills Initiative Goes from Strength to Strength in the North East, Cumbria and North Yorkshire

by

Kathryn Banfield

The below information is taken from the HSI website:

This year (2011) HSI has been active in the North East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria. We have delivered 62 different training events and lectures. Completed over 9100 hours of training and engaged over 4600 people with heritage skills training.

Highlights this year included a conference in Cumbria which attracted 250 delegates, and the first Cumbrian Heritage Skills Fair. In the North East we undertook our third Heritage Skills Festival and 'Took the Plunge' for Heritage with our patron Dr Jonathan Foyle and Grand Design's Kevin McCloud – raising £10,371.87. In North Yorkshire we kicked off our first training and events programme with 5 events which proved very popular with a 88% very satisfied and a 12% satisfied rate.

We are looking forward in 2012 to the prospect of expanding our offer in North Yorkshire, continuing to develop our projects in the North East and Cumbria and working more closely with schools, colleges and universities.

Many other projects are currently in top secret development – so watch this space!

HSI are pleased to announce that next year we are holding a Heritage Skills Festival at Tynemouth Station to celebrate the completion of the English Heritage grant aided restoration works on the station's historic canopy!

The festival will take place on 22, 23, 24 June from 10am until 4pm each day.

This year we had 2092 attendees at our Souter Lighthouse Skills Festival, with several demonstrators and exhibitors reporting that they have gained work as a direct result of their attendance, as well as some great local press and radio coverage.

Demonstrators and Exhibitors offering hands on activities to the public can attend all three days of the festival for FREE!

More details will be released in January 2012. If you would be interested in taking part next year please get in touch with Kathryn Banfield at kathryn.banfield@nect.org.uk or 0191 232 9279.

5 Black Gate in Newcastle to be new Gateway

By Ken Hutchinson

A landmark historic building is to be restored and take on a new role.

Following the opening of the Great North Museum in 2010 the Black Gate, formerly part of the Newcastle's Royal Castle defenses, was vacated. The building previously held the library of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The building dates from 1275 and was built as a bastion to protect the north gate of the walled defences surrounding the famous castle Keep built in 1178. It fell out of use after the Town Walls were built to surround the expanding town in the early 1300's. It was later extended and used as housing as seen in the 1855 picture featured on page 1. It got its name from a previous resident Patrick Black who lived there in the 1700's. In the mid 1800's railway engineers built the main east coast railway line between the Castle Keep and the Black Gate and we should be grateful that they still survive unlike the castle at Berwick that disappeared under the railway.

Both the Castle Keep and the Black Gate (now a slum tenement) were under threat and would have been put on English Heritage's List of Buildings at Risk if they had existed at the time. The Society of Antiquaries stepped in to save both buildings. The castle was renovated and opened as a visitor attraction. It had previously been used as a visitor attraction when it was used as a prison as visitors could pay to observe the prisoners held in the dungeons. The Black Gate was used to hold the Society's Library.

A £1.4 Million Heritage Lottery Fund grant has been approved to renovate the Black Gate and install a new external lift to make it a fully accessible heritage, education and community space. It will be used as a visitor attraction housing exhibits linked to the history of the Castle as well as providing a new visitor ticket office for the Castle Keep in an attempt to reunite the two buildings that were ignominiously separated by the railway in the mid 19th century. The restoration project aims to reconnect the 'Black Gate' with its medieval neighbours, the Castle Keep and Cathedral Church of St Nicholas. Innovative digital exhibitions and learning activities will help tell the story of the history of Newcastle and the people who lived there.

6 IHBC Annual School 2013 Carlisle

Having proposed Cumbria as the venue for the 2013 IHBC Annual School earlier in 2011, Richard Majewicz then spent much of the latter part investigating the feasibility of the idea encouraged and supported by a small team of Cumbria IHBC members – Jane Jackson, Sarah Woodcock, Lisa Rothwell-Young and Peter Rogers.

At a meeting in November, this preliminary group had identified Carlisle and Penrith as the main contenders to host the event because of their direct accessibility by motorway and main line rail links. Various venues within each location were considered for accommodation, conference and dining facilities as well as University facilities as an option should there be a need to reduce overall cost to delegates due to the financial climate.

The theme for the School had previously been suggested as Heritage Skills, based on the on-going Heritage Skills Initiative run by the North of England Civic Trust in both Cumbria and the North East. This was to be expanded to cover not only practical skills but also the skills required by professionals when dealing with the repair, adaption, alteration or extension of traditionally constructed buildings. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable speakers would need to be engaged, local if possible. Opening speakers such as the Duke of Gloucester (as NECT patron), John Grundy and Jonathan Foyle were put forward for consideration.



The meeting also looked at options for tours which could be linked to these themes, and which would best illustrate the varied architectural and archaeological history of the Northern region. Apart from a City/Town trail, suggestions for other short tours included Philip Webb's St. Martin's Church, Brampton, with its Burne-Jones' stained glass, Sarah Lush's Wreay Church, Lowther Castle and its Robert Adam model village.

To fully appreciate the attraction of the local historic environment, longer tours were suggested including the Lake District 's Arts & Crafts houses, the viaducts on the Carlisle-Settle Railway, and the bastles, non-conformist chapels and miner farms of the North Pennines.

These proposals were subsequently presented to and supported by the Cumbria Conservation Officers' Group, IHBC North Committee

and IHBC Council with the result that Carlisle was chosen as the location with the best choice of venues. Based on past experience, the option of using University facilities was considered impractical and unpopular amongst delegates.

The Committee also increased in size with the addition of Graham Darlington (Chair, CCOG) and representatives from the North East, namely, Stewart Ramsdale (Chair, IHBC North), Geoff Underwood, Michael Atkinson, Naomi Atherton, Jules Brown and Lee Wall.

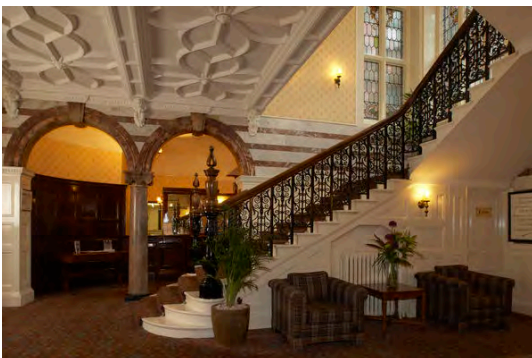
The new Committee met in February at Carlisle Castle to visit and decide upon the suitability of the various proposed venues. The Committee was joined by Fiona Newton, IHBC Projects Officer, who had made the long journey from her home in deepest Lincolnshire. Her background knowledge proved to be an invaluable help to the Committee.

The Crown and Mitre Hotel was the only hotel in Carlisle to provide sufficient accommodation and to also have more than adequate facilities to host the Day School and Annual Dinner. The historic Tith Barn and Cathedral Fraternity were considered for the Civic Reception but it was agreed that this should be held at the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery because of its greater flexibility.



The Crown & Mitre Hotel:

A Grade II Edwardian Listed Building with 95 bedrooms, large ballroom/conference room accommodating between 150-400 people subject to layout, a similar sized undercroft, a number of smaller function rooms seating between 30-100 people and parking to the rear. It is the largest hotel in Carlisle and is located within the city centre pedestrian area, close to all amenities and the city's historic quarter.





The hotel boasts an impressive entrance and reception space together with all the other facilities needed for the Annual School – accommodation and a selection of rooms suitable for the Civic Reception, Conference, AGM and Annual Dinner.



Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery:

A Grade I Listed Building, a converted Jacobean Mansion with modern extensions which provide a number of function rooms in addition to its galleries.

The restaurant and its adjoining function room, both of which open out onto a series of linked private garden spaces, was considered to be an ideal venue for the Civic Reception, with the added attraction of the possibility of a tour of the old and new galleries.



The Fratry, Carlisle Cathedral:

This Grade I listed Building is a former monastic dining room dating originally from the 13th century and rebuilt in the 15th century. It provides a stunning setting for a Civic Reception, and could be coupled with a tour of the Cathedral.

The Tithe Barn:

This Grade I Listed Building was built as a barn around 1480, and has changed use several times since. However, by 1970 it was semi-derelict and was bought and restored by nearby St Cuthberts Church for use as a Church Hall. As with the Fratry, it would provide a splendid setting for a Civic Reception.



Future Committee meetings will now concentrate on expanding and consolidating the Day School Theme, further consideration of tours relevant to the theme, the selection of speakers and sponsors and ultimately providing a ‘strapline’ for the event. Anyone who feels that he or she can contribute in any way to make this event a success should

contact Richard in the first instance either by phone on 01900 815 738 or by e-mail at richard.majewicz@talktalk.net, or alternatively contact one of the other Committee members.

[Editor] Richard Majewicz has been working hard behind the scenes to investigate the possibilities of holding the 2013 IHBC Summer School, scheduled to be held in the Northern Region, in Carlisle.

At the last executive committee meeting in December 2011 he presented a paper outlining possible venues, hotels and events.

It was agreed to set up a working group to help Richard develop the ideas further and report back to the Committee. Watch this space for further updates.

7 Community Planning Event in Newcastle 9th December 2011

By Ken Hutchinson

The North East Historic Environment Forum held a Community Planning event at The Laing Gallery in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The event was organised following the publication of the Localism and Democracy Bill which supports new flexibilities for local government as well as new rights and powers for local communities. It also promotes a reform of the planning system to include new Neighbourhood Development Orders which may affect the decision making processes in historic areas. The event was set up to share learning from early neighbourhood planning pilots and other existing good practice in community planning.

Bill Griffiths Hub Manager for Tyne & Wear Museums chaired the meeting and introduced the following speakers:

Jules Brown, North of England Civic Trust

Spoke about conservation area appraisals and management plans, learning from existing good practice in community-led planning and heritage management. He cited

examples of community involvement in the planning process at Tynemouth and Fish Quay, North Shields where residents prepared their own locally based heritage guidelines for their areas, facilitated by the North of England Civic Trust. This guidance was subsequently adopted as supplementary planning guidance by North Tyneside Council.

Sally Childes, Middlesborough Council gave the background to preparing a Local List of buildings that were not formally listed but were still deemed as important buildings to the local community. They varied considerably in design, style, type and historical associations. Not surprisingly a number of local pubs were put forward by members of the public who engaged in the exercise.

John Davies, English Heritage gave a presentation on English Heritage's publication 'Heritage Counts' for 2011.

Kate Percival, Northern Architecture gave her ten top tips for Community Planning.

Peter Watts, Berwick Community Development Trust gave a locals view of Neighborhood Planning linked to regeneration and local Priorities in Berwick.

Dr. Rob Young, English Heritage and **Chris Jones**, Northumberland National Park explained how they used community planning very successfully in Northumberland National Park. The Village Atlas Project involved local people from the outset in researching the archaeological and social history of seven small villages in the national park. The results were fully publicized in the local villages as well as reports used by the Council. The National Park, English Heritage and other bodies.



8 Tales from the :Lakeland Fells and Solway Plain.....

OUT BUT NOT DOWN.....

Re-structuring of Carlisle City Council's Planning Department early in 2011 led to the appointment of Roger Higgins, former Urban Design Officer to Carlisle Renaissance, to the newly created post of Heritage Officer, taking over from Principal Conservation Officer Peter Messenger (23 years' service) and Conservation Officer Richard Majewicz (5 years), whose posts had been made redundant. Richard and Peter are here seen 'celebrating' with gifts bestowed upon them by their colleagues following May's CCOG meeting in Kendal.

VAR (Vernacular Architecture Revival...) INITIATIVE

Just to prove that Peter Messenger has not retired from his involvement in heritage matters, he has been working with the VAR Initiative Ltd, based in Alston and Wigton, to secure funding through the EU Leonardo programme to finance a series of vernacular architecture study tours between September and October 2012 to 6 countries (Iceland, Netherlands, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus) for up to 30 people. The programme enables organisations involved in vocational education and traditional skills training to work with both UK partners with others from across Europe to exchange best practice and increase expertise.

Similar tours had previously been arranged by Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd, who are based near Wigton and are a partner to VAR. Peter has been involved in visits to experience the traditional skills still alive in Romania, Germany and Sweden, and Bridget Turnbull, Chair of CCOG, has also visited Iceland and Cyprus on similar projects.



Contact VAR and Grampus for further information:

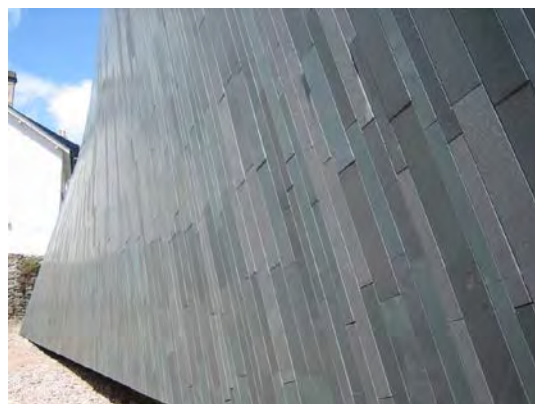
Telephone: 016973 21516 Email:

enquiries@grampusheritage.co.uk or Email: info@thevarinitiative.co.uk

info@thevarinitiative.co.uk

CCOG CPD EVENTS - MAY 2011

Following May's business meeting, CCOG members were taken on a tour of new and existing landmarks in Kendal's town centre. The most striking of these was the unusual new performing arts studio for Kendal College, commonly known as 'The Box'.



The building is located on backyard land behind the College's Arts and Media Complex and the Kendal Museum. As the name implies, this is a rectangular structure which has been twisted in its height and very cleverly and skilfully clad in local slate. Despite its small size, the interior has been designed with flexibility in mind and its studio can, therefore, be adapted to simulate a variety of lighting and audio scenarios for students to practice their technical skills. The studio can also be used for performances and exhibition and will seat up to 120, providing performing arts and technical theatre students with a dedicated, professional theatre space.

Virtually next door to The Box is the Grade 1 listed medieval hall, known as Castle Dairy. Built in the 15th century, reputedly as a farmhouse associated with Kendal Castle, it was later used purely as a residence, and more recently as a restaurant. At the time of the visit, the building was being restored, with partial funding from its owners, the Council, as an Art Gallery and Restaurant for Kendal College, so only an external viewing was possible. The building has since opened to the public and is now run by the students. It complements 'The Box' and the Wildman Street Studios next door, where art and design students are taught, as well as providing refreshments for Kendal Museum visitors and pre-theatre drinks for performing arts and music shows.



Back into the town centre is Stricklandgate House, an imposing Grade II listed mid-Georgian property which has been in use since the late 1990's as centre for voluntary organisations in South Lakeland. With the assistance of various grants, principally from the HLF, the building was restored to its former glory in 2009. Externally, painted render was replaced with lime render and railings which replicated those that had been removed to 'assist' the war

effort were installed around the frontage of the building. An introduction by the Centre Manager, was followed by a brief tour of the principal elements of the internal restoration.



Finally, a long trudge uphill to the completed Greenside Limekiln, which, when last visited was overgrown and in some distress. With funding from the Council, HLF and EH, however, this scheduled ancient monument, has since been preserved to prevent further dereliction and to show visitors the link between the lime burning industry and the Kendal canal, by

which the town prospered in the 9th century. The newly rejuvenated kiln here at Greenside, is now the sole surviving kiln in this area, the others all having been demolished and built over. The kilns here would have been used to burn lime that had been extracted from the quarries a few hundred yards away, and lime brought to Kendal on the canal, around a mile and a half to the East.

The kiln has been excavated, consolidated and saved for future generations to enjoy, and the top of the kiln with its pot holes exposed, seats, protective railings and information boards, now forms a pleasant area in which to sit and contemplate the magnificent panoramic views out across the rooftops of Kendal and the valley beyond.

CCOG CPD EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2011



Following a tour of the Heron Corn Mill and a pleasant lunch break in a local hostelry, the Group convened back at the Heron Mill Barn for an afternoon's thought provoking presentation on Barn Conversions by local Conservation Architect, James Innerdale. The presentation was part of the NECT Heritage Skills Initiative series of lectures.



CCOG MEETING - DECEMBER 2011

MOVING ON.....

December's meeting began with the sad confirmation that Nick Grimshaw, English Heritage North West's representative to CCOG, would be leaving EH at the end of the month. The meeting thanked him for his invaluable assistance not only as the Cumbria heritage advisor, but also for his detailed updates to CCOG.

Also moving to pastures new is Bridget Turnbull, who confirmed that she was to take up a new post in Aberdeen at the start of the New Year, and would, therefore, with great regret, have to relinquish her position as Chair of CCOG. Her post at Eden District Council had become more orientated towards Planning rather than Conservation, and indeed, when her post was advertised shortly afterwards, there was little mention of conservation work in the job description. The meeting expressed its sincere thanks to Bridget for all she had done as an officer within the County both as a member and also as Chair of CCOG to promote and champion the cause of Conservation

Graham Darlington (South Lakeland district Council) has now taken over as the new CCOG Chairman.

CPD EVENT 1: NATURAL ENGLAND'S WORK & BOUNDARIES

Presentation by: Tom Gledhill, Historic Environmental Advisor, Natural England

Reorganisation of Natural England has dispensed with the previous Regions. Cumbria is now in Area North, with local teams looking after the Solway, Borders and Eden area, Lake District National Park, Yorkshire Dales, Cheshire and South Lancashire and the Morecambe & Bowland area. Three officers will be responsible for offering Historic Environment Advice; Tom Gledhill will act for the Solway, Borders and Eden, Frances Fewster for the Lakes, and Christine Hopwood-Lewis for the remainder.

There is to be a 3 tier HLS process dependent upon the complexity of proposals. The need for Historic Environment reports and Farm Environment Plans remains unchanged, but for simple 'fast track' applications Natural England will be conducting the Farm Environment Plan and there is a slightly different process and format for the Historic Environment Reports. Details of this are available on the ALGAO website.

Capital funding continues to be only available for HLS proposals. Historic farm buildings are eligible for 80% grants, whilst works to protect the historical or archaeological features of Scheduled Monuments or Grade I or II* buildings could receive 100% assistance. Projects are to be assessed by a system of scoring and judgement. It should however be noted that the current round of RDPE funding ends in December



2013 and that funding for Historic Farm Buildings up to that date is now largely allocated so that there will be few, if any, opportunities to add more projects to the existing programme. The shape of the scheme after 2013 has not yet been determined.

CPD EVENT 2: WHITEHAVEN TOWN HERITAGE INITIATIVE



Sherrie Robinson, Regeneration Projects Officer at Copeland Borough Council, had completed and issued the application the night before, but nevertheless managed to give a short presentation outlining the history behind the current THI application and NECT's involvement in the project.

The THI is centred on the Market Place and the former YMCA building, a grade II listed building in need of comprehensive refurbishment. The project includes the restoration of original features to the properties in the Market Place area, maximising the potential of vacant or under-used upper floor space and the improvement of rear elevations, courtyards and the public realm. A short tour of the area followed.



As a consequence of the application and regardless of its success, the Council has agreed to the appointment of a part-time Conservation Officer, news which was warmly welcomed by the meeting.

CPD EVENT 3: SPAB RESEARCH ON THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS:

Presentation by: Diane Hubbard, Green Build Project Officer, CAfS.

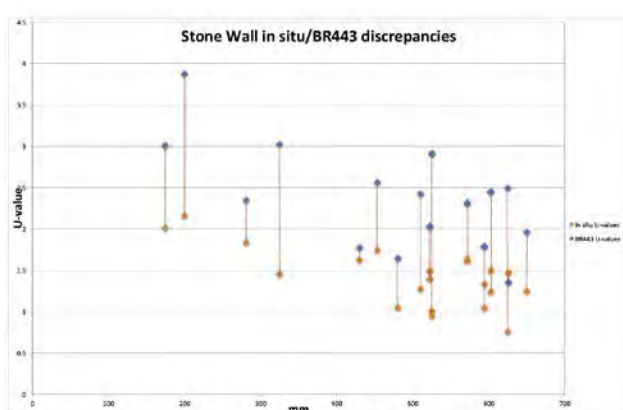


Figure 18. BuildDesk/*in situ* U-value comparison discrepancies for stone walls.

Diane gave a very detailed and informed presentation on the progress of the SPAB project so far. Essentially sampling of traditionally built properties has revealed that they perform much better than was originally thought, and that their U-values are better than the standards laid down in the Building Research Establishment's document BR443. A copy of SPAB's report can be found on the SPAB web site.

Diane is currently involved in a building performance survey of 7 properties nationally which will include measuring heat loss and the effects of air infiltration. She stressed the importance of monitoring air movement, particularly through open flues, which can cause discomfort through drafts in addition to contributing to heat loss. Conversely, ventilation by natural means also helps to minimise condensation.



Figure 26. Interstitial monitoring set up at White House Farm, Skipton, 2011.

Part of the study will look how different forms of internal insulation affect the performance of traditionally built walls – solid or timber framed. The key issue is interstitial condensation, and a new German method of calculation is now to be used as it improves upon the methods used in the past.

Suggested further reading: Islington Council's residents' Guide 'Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change in historic buildings', and Bath Preservation Trust's publication 'Warmer Bath'.

Diane has recently had a paper published in the Journal of Architectural Conservation (Nov 2011), which outlines the background to her own research.

9 Caption Corner

Have a go at thinking up suggestions for this postcard of Tynemouth Station dating from about 1905 taken from the recently published book 'Tynemouth & Cullercoats Through Time' by Ken Hutchinson.

e.g

This fancy new architecture will never last; the fancy glazed canopies and decorative filigree cast iron columns will soon be out of date. All this jungle foliage is a bit over the top as well; no wonder the fares are so high.

Or

I can remember when I could catch a train from Wallsend, have fish and chips, a ride on the donkey, row the boats on the park lake and still have change from a tanner!

Or

Have you got a good tip for the 2.30 at Newcastle Races?

Or

It is a pity you lost your spectacles on the beach. You should have gone to Specsavers for that free second pair!



10 Contact Details

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