

**Delving into the Past...
Hexham Abbey Treasures
Friday 8th & Saturday 9th September
10.00am-3.00pm in the Priors Hall**

Over the past five years, Hexham Abbey's Conservation Team have been creating an archive of the Abbey's treasures, artefacts and curiosities. Drop in to see an exhibition of some of the items that have intrigued our team as they have delved into the



Abbey's past. It is also a chance to meet and chat with our conservation experts who have a wealth of knowledge about the Abbey, its history and the hundreds of items and objects that tell

the story of life at the Abbey in the past.

**Ringling the Changes...
Hexham Abbey Bell Tours
Sunday 10th September, 2.00-4.00pm**

From the bottom of the Night Stair inside the Abbey
Exciting changes are afoot with the bells at Hexham Abbey. Following the expansion of the bells from a set of eight to ten in 2000, the Abbey's bell ringers are preparing for the arrival of another two bells to create one of the finest set of 12 bells in the North East. They



have also commissioned another semi-tone bell so that they have a 'light' set of eight bells for young people to learn on. Visit the Abbey's bell tower and find out more about this thriving and heard-

but-not-seen part of our heritage.

**House of Correction
Tyne Green Road, Hexham
Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September – guided walks at 2.00pm**

There will be a guided walk through Hexham's historic tannery area en-route to the House of Correction. At



the House of Correction, visitors will see the 'prison-like' character of this two-storey remnant of a much larger institution which had separate exercise yards and living accommodation for men and women. The background concept

was to 'correct' the fault of being poor, either by teaching a basic trade or by encouraging inmates to move to a different parish so as not to be a local financial burden. Meet outside Hexham Abbey shop. To find out more and pre-book before 8th September, contact Richard Simons on **01434 606034**

**What Lurks Within...
Hexham Old Gaol
Thursday 7th, Friday 8th & Saturday 9th September
Talks at 11.30am and 2.00pm**

Short talks are being offered on nature and gaols – the wildlife and bugs that shared medieval and Tudor prisons, and the way waste from the gaols was used. From gaol fever and plague to cats, rats and lice, and the uses of night soil. And a donkey.



Access to the Dodd Room for the talk is free. Admission charges apply to the rest of the site. Please pre-book: Museum Reception - 01670 624523 or email jgoodridge@woodhorn.org.uk

**Celebrating 80 Years of the Forum Cinema
Thurs 7th, Fri 8th & Sunday 10th September
1.30-7.30pm, Sat 9th 12.00-7.30pm**



Join us in the newly-refurbished Art Deco Café for a photographic and storyboard exhibition documenting the cinema's 80-year history, as told

through tales from many people who have a personal historic connection to the cinema, either through themselves or via a family member.



**Forum Cinema Hexham –
Projection Room Tours
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th September,
2.00-5.00pm**

Take a guided tour up two flights of narrow steep steps to see the projection room at the art deco cinema in the town centre. See the old 35mm projector alongside the new digital satellite equipment which enables the cinema to stream theatre, opera and ballet from around the world – live! Please pre-book on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/england--hexham/events/>

**Hexham Gallery Vault, Hallgate, Hexham
Saturday 9th September, 11.00am-4.30pm**

The Vault's' origins could well be believed as being one of the oldest business premises in Hexham, hailing to the traditions of Medieval brewing. Formerly a malt kiln and malting floor up to Circa 1740's this beautifully constructed stone cellar with its perfect segmented arch may well be one of the few malting floors surviving of its period. The current building was constructed in the 1700s and used by Thomas Miller & Sons for the wholesale distribution of ales and wines up to the late 1950s. Current owner Ben Haslam has sympathetically restored the cellars and The Vault is now used as an alternative arts venue for the enjoyment of music and performance.

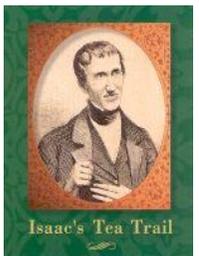


A subterranean gem not to be missed!

Also to see around Hexham:

**Four Weddings and a Funeral – Tea and Tales
from Isaac's Hearse House
Chapel Bank, Ninebanks, West Allen, Hexham
NE47 8DB
Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th
September,
2.00-5.00pm**

Step back to mid-Victorian Northumberland for a memorable visit to a historic building which until recently has been overlooked.



Hear the strange story of how Ninebanks and the West Allen came to have its own hearse house. You can also see inside an exhibition about life and death in the dale in this period. It will also be the chance to see the present day use of the building as a walkers' shelter (and tea stop) on Isaac's Tea Trail, a 36-mile celebration of North Pennines heritage.

Allen Smelt Mill, Allen Mill, Allendale NE47 9EA
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September,
10.30am-12.30pm

Allen Smelting Mill, at the height of its production in the mid 1800s, has been described as an enormous lead factory. The tour will give you an insight into the mill's past glory, the lead and silver smelting processes and its recent history and consolidation. Get up close to the structures and go down into a hearth and flue. New interpretation on site has a large illustration showing the site as it might have been in the mid 1800s. There will be a minerals and historic document display for people to browse. Teas and coffees will be available.



Allen Valleys – Old Allendale Railway Station,
Allendale Caravan Park, Hexham NE47 9QF
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September,
12.30pm

Allendale Caravan Park are leading a short walking tour of the railway remains at the old station and a chance to see railway pictures and documents in the caravan park reception. The station was the terminal station on an old mineral line, taking lead from the Allen Smelting Mill out to the world. The timing of the Allendale Station event has been arranged so that visitors can visit both this and the Allen Smelt Mill tours. Contact Verona Woodhouse on info@allendale-holidays.co.uk

Bellingham Heritage Centre, Bellingham,
Hexham, NE48 2DG
Thursday 7th-Saturday 9th Sept, 10.00am-4.30 pm
Sunday 10th Sept 11.00am-4.00pm

A gem of a museum, situated at the old railway station, telling the story of rural and industrial life in the North



from the past or perhaps trace your ancestors on our local genealogy database. Temporary exhibitions run throughout the season Refreshments available at Carriages Tearoom. No booking required.

The Old Railway Station, Haltwhistle NE49 9HG
Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September,
10.00-4.30pm

Haltwhistle Station is on the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line, Britain's first cross country railway, running parallel to Hadrian's Wall. The Tyne Valley Rail Partnership is opening the station for two days only giving access to the historic 1901 Grade II listed signal box and the 1855 station booking hall A key feature is its booking office wooden wall with all the furnishings for Edmondson ticket issue, which were the classic railway tickets invented on this line in the 1830s. Other significant structures include the water tower and crane, station master's house, waiting rooms and the magnificent Alston Arches viaduct across the Tyne. Guided walks to the viaduct will start in the booking hall.

Coanwood Quaker Friends Meeting House
Coanwood, Haltwhistle NE49 9PU
Thursday 7th-Sunday 10th 8am-8pm

1760 Quaker Friends Meeting House, unspoilt with graveyard attached. A step back in time. Doors will be open to the public from daylight to dusk. Free entry donations welcome. Sit in the peace and tranquillity of a beautiful building.

y quiet countryside. All welcome
The Black Barn, Burncliffe, Hexham, NE47 7EQ
Thursday 7th September 12.00-4.30pm & 5.30-7.00pm,
Friday 8th September 9.30am-2.00pm

The Black Barn is a small Grade II* listed heather-framed building dating from the early 18th century which has been recently restored. (Please note these details were not confirmed at the time of going to print – please check www.visithexham.net for updates.)

Cover image © Graeme Wilson

heritage open days

A weekend of FREE events in and around Hexham

Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September

Offering the chance to see hidden places and spaces and try out new experiences – all for free!

See www.visithexham.net for a downloadable version of this leaflet