

THE
BEWICK SOCIETY



Thomas Bewick

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR AUTUMN — WINTER 2011

Sunday 4 September 2011

(Please note the change of date from Saturday 3 to Sunday 4)

A Walk from Cherryburn to Ovingham

Come and join us on a short post lunch walk to Ovingham and back exploring Bewick's childhood by the Tyne. Meet and park at Cherryburn and bring appropriate footwear. Refreshments will be available to buy from the Cherryburn farmhouse shop on our return. Distance approx 3 miles round trip.

Date and time: Sunday 4 September 2011 at 1.30pm prompt.

Venue: Cherryburn, Station Road, Mickley Square, near Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7DD.

Contact: June Holmes: The Bewick Society, c/o The Natural History Society of Northumbria, The Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4PT.

Tel no. 0191 222 5834 or e-mail bewick.society@newcastle.ac.uk



Saturday 24 September 2011

BEWICK SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year we are grateful to Newcastle City Library for allowing us to hold our AGM in their splendid Bewick Hall once again.

After the business of the AGM we will be showing a nostalgic short film 'The Bewick Man.' This documentary, made in the 1980s as a North East BBC production, takes the form of an interview with the Society's recently elected President Iain Bain in his home and discusses his enthusiasm for Thomas Bewick.

We acknowledge our thanks to the BBC for permission to show the film to our members and to the Natural History Society of Northumbria who own the copy of the original film.

Date and time: Saturday 24 September at 2.00 (AGM) for 2.30 (film).

Venue: The Bewick Hall, Newcastle City Library, Charles Avison Building, 33, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8AX. **Contact:** June Holmes as above for further details

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Saturday 8 October 2011

Thomas Bewick: *An Introduction*

Our Chairman, Dr Peter Quinn, will give a lecture to the South Tyneside Library Group in South Shields. Although aimed at introducing Britain's greatest wood engraver to a new audience, all Bewick Society members are very welcome to attend.

Date and time: Saturday 8 October at 2pm

Venue: Central Library, Prince Georg Square, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2PE

Contact: Valerie Donnington 0191 4569007

Saturday 26 November 2011

MEET THOMAS BEWICK: *Bewick and Natural History*

You are invited to a joint meeting between The Bewick Society and The Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Bewick Society Chairman, Dr Peter Quinn, will give a short talk on the North East's famous artist and woodengraver Thomas Bewick, highlighting his role in the field of natural history. Peter, will look at some of the naturalists who influenced Bewick and go on to discuss how his work was admired by his contemporaries including the great American artist John James Audubon.

This will be followed by a rare opportunity to examine key works by Bewick and other naturalists held in the special collections library of the Natural History Society. Volumes on display will include Marmaduke Tunstall's *Ornithologia Britannica*, 1771, Pierre Belon's *L'Histoire de la Nature des Oyseaux*, 1555 and material by other well known naturalists such as Thomas Pennant and Audubon.

Date and time: Saturday 26 November at 2pm

Venue: The Clore Lecture Theatre, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT.

Contact: June Holmes as above for further details.



BEWICK SOCIETY NEWS

The York Antiquarian Book Fair Friday 9 and Saturday 10 September 2011

Europe's largest antiquarian, rare and out of print annual book fair will be held in the Knavesmire Suite, York Racecourse, York again this year.

This is a great venue offering a wonderful range of books for experienced collectors and first-time buyers alike. In order to raise our profile and hopefully recruit new members the Bewick Society will have a stand this year for the first time with information and leaflets.

Visit <http://www.yorkbookfair.com> for more information and opening times.

NEW EXHIBITION

Saturday 15 October to Saturday 19 November 2011

Good Times, Bad Times, All Times Get Over
Work by Thomas Bewick, Graham Gussin, Lutz and Guggisberg, and Bedwyr Williams

Queen's Hall Gallery One, in partnership with Ikon Gallery, Birmingham.

Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3LS.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10am-4pm.

This exhibition is centred on the wood engravings of Thomas Bewick (1753-1828) the acclaimed eighteenth century artist based in Newcastle and Tyneside. In particular, it is his "tale-pieces", little vignettes of everyday rural life that convey humane philosophy – often as illustrations of cautionary tales or fables – that continue to make a strong impression. Their aesthetic economy, the wonderful skill they embody, and sense of humour, have appealed not only to successive generations of book lovers and connoisseurs, but also to many artists working today.

Taking its title from Bewick's depiction of a gravestone with the words "Good Times, Bad Times, All Times Get Over", this exhibition includes 24 tale-pieces and a selection of work by four contemporary artists, similarly thoughtful. The proposition of Graham Gussin's multifaceted work, whereby natural force edgily meets manifestations of human culture, fits well. So too *Man in the Snow*, a video by Swiss duo Lutz and Guggisberg, with its endlessly looping footage of a figure tramping through difficult frozen circumstances, thus recalling Bewick's many pictures of travellers in the landscape. Facsimiles of books by Lutz and Guggisberg make direct references, involving playful appropriations of Bewick's imagery. Bedwyr William's interest in life beyond the metropolis is wholly relevant here, and a recent sculpture by him involving a small silver rat suspended from the bough of a bonsai tree is uncannily reminiscent of tale-pieces that touch on the theme of animal cruelty.

The Bewick Society promoting and preserving the work of England's greatest wood engraver

Whilst being an homage to a great historical figure, *Good Times, Bad Times, All Times Get Over* could not be less antiquarian. It is both a fresh look at the extraordinary artistic output of Thomas Bewick and an encounter with work by another four artists who might one day be revered as he is.

Jonathan Watkins, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

Thursday 27 October 2011

THOMAS BEWICK: A *Beginner's Guide*

A lecture by Dr Peter Quinn to accompany the exhibition *Good Times, Bad Times, All Times Get Over*. The exhibition will be open before and after the lecture.

This exhibition and talk are part of the programme for the International Print Biennale taking place across the region 17 September – 19 November 2011. Free Entry.

Date and time: Thursday 27 October 6.30pm.

Venue: The Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3LS

Contact: Booking required with the box office Queen's Hall. Tel 01434 652 477 or email boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk.

Jonathan Watkins will also give a lecture, date to be confirmed. Please contact the box office or view the International Print Biennale website for further details.

Keep looking on the Bewick Society's website blog *Tale-Pieces* for further updates. Peter Quinn keeps it up to date with all the latest Bewick related stories and information, new exhibition venues or events.

<http://tale-piecestheblogofthebewicksociety.blogspot.com>

Stewart Thirkell Retires!

Stewart Thirkell, National Trust Visitor Services and Collections Manager, has dedicated twenty years of his life to looking after Cherryburn and its collections. He was appointed in 1990 when the responsibility of caring for the property and museum was formally handed over to the National Trust by the Trustees of the Thomas Bewick Birthplace Trust.

The Bewick Society would like to wish him all the best in his retirement and to thank him not only for the care and commitment he has given to Cherryburn but also for his service to the Society and its members over the years.

British Museum: Galleries of the Department of Prints and Drawings

Nigel Tattersfield is mounting a small display of Bewick material – the Graphic World of Thomas Bewick - in the BM from the beginning of October to the end on 2011. There will be a selection of material including commercial work such as invoice and bill of fare headings, banknotes, tobacco cuts and handbill decorations. One exhibit will be a full-size poster for Pidcock's menagerie printed on yellow paper.

More information on the Society website in due course.

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