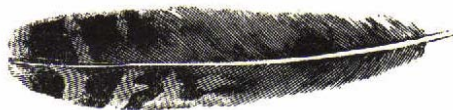


THE
BEWICK SOCIETY



Thomas Bewick

Programme of Events for Spring - Summer 2010

Thursday 1 April 2010

THOMAS BEWICK, LAPLAND AND THE GRAND TOUR



THE REIN-DEER.
(*Cervus Tarandus*, Lin.—*Le Renne*, Buff.)

Local art historian, Anne French, will introduce us to the world of the affluent northern families who set off on their grand tour adventures. Notably, Sir Henry Liddell of Ravensworth Castle and Captain Matthew Consett whose tour through Sweden and Lapland caused a great stir in Gateshead when they eventually returned with their 'art' treasures. Consett's subsequent travelogue *A Tour through Sweden* [etc] (1789) was illustrated with copperplate engravings by Bewick.

Copies of Anne's latest book *Art Treasures in the North: Northern Families on the Grand Tour* will be available for sale on the evening.

Venue: The Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, 23, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Date and time: Thursday 1 April 2010 at 6pm

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 232 6386 or e-mail nhsn@ncl.ac.uk (FAO June Holmes).

Saturday 24 April 2010

**A BEWICK ENTHUSIASMS AFTERNOON AT THE
HANCOCK**

Bewick Enthusiasms will be an afternoon of brief talks by speakers with enthusiasms for particular aspects of Bewick's life and work or that of his associates. This event has proved very popular in the past so please do come along. Let us know if you would like to contribute a five minute lecture on something you find fascinating about Bewick.

Venue: The Natural History Society of Northumbria Council Room, 2nd Floor of the Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT. Access via a lift at the rear of the museum.

Date and time: Saturday 24 April at 2pm

Contact: June Holmes as above.

Saturday 8 May 2010

THE BEWICK SOCIETY OUTING - A VISIT TO WYCLIFFE



Thomas Bewick began work on his planned 'History of Birds' (sic) by visiting the private museum of the recently deceased Marmaduke Tunstall of Wycliffe Hall in July-September 1791.

We shall meet in the village of WHORLTON on the north side of the Tees at the SE corner of the village green (near the church) at 11 am. Some may wish to take a 7-mile circular walk via Winston bridge, starting by exploring Wycliffe and then following in Bewick's footsteps along the attractive steep-sided valley of the Tees. Others (and in doubtful weather perhaps all) may prefer a two or three mile trip, back and forth on each side of the river, to see the village, the cottage where Bewick stayed and views of Wycliffe Hall where he worked.

Bring lunch and weather-proof clothing and be prepared for two or more uphill stretches of about 100 feet or less, though most of the route is fairly flat; binoculars and walking boots strongly recommended. We shall forgather in a tea-room after the walk.

Whorlton is about 50 miles (about an hour and a half) from Newcastle. Please share cars if possible and contact David Gardner-Medwin (01661 852318) by May 5th, leaving your telephone number or e-mail. He will then try to coordinate car sharing and will let you know of any late change of plan.

Venue: Whorlton (4½ miles ESE of Barnard Castle) map reference NZ 106148.

Date and time: Saturday 8 May at 11am

Contact: David Gardner Medwin as above.

Sunday 15 August 2010

BEWICK'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT CHERRYBURN

Thomas Bewick said that his birthday was on Lammas Day, the 12th of August, so we will have to be forgiven for celebrating three days late with our 'after lunch conversation.' However, this is an excellent opportunity to meet the experts of the Bewick Society, show them your collection and maybe join in the after lunch conversations. There may even be a Birthday Cake!

Date and time: Sunday 15 August from 1.30 pm. The 'Conversation' starts at 2.30 pm.

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

Admission: Admission charges apply. National Trust and Bewick Society members free on production of a valid card.

Saturday 25 September 2010

BEWICK SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Last year we celebrated the re-opening of Newcastle City Library and the return of the Pease collection to the public domain by holding our AGM there. This year we turn our attention to the Hancock Museum and its splendid new library.

After the business of the AGM there will be a tour of the library led by Archivist June Holmes and David Gardner Medwin. The Natural History Society of Northumbria, which owns the Hancock, and all of its natural history collections, has a wonderful collection of original works by Thomas Bewick and his apprentices. This visit will be a rare opportunity to look at some of the drawings, books and other artefacts housed in the library.

Date and time: Saturday 25 September at 2.00 (AGM) for 2.30 (visit).

Venue: The Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4PT.

Contact: June Holmes as above.

Bewick News

Illustrating Fables – Bewick and Beyond Friday 26 February 2010 – A Review by Peter Osborne

This was an enjoyable day with a good attendance, well provided with tea, coffee and sandwiches as well as no less than six talks and a panel discussion. It was jointly chaired by David Gardner-Medwin for the Society and Matthew Grenby for the University. Brian Alderson's broad introduction was followed by Peter Quinn's entertaining and

informative talk on Bewick's early fables work. Graham Williams and Peter Osborne spoke about his Aesop, Professor Andrea Immel extolled the liveliness of fable texts and John Lord gave an interesting talk about his own fable illustrations.

The day significantly raised the profile of Bewick's Fables, showing, for his admirers, his continued development as an expressive artist, and, for others, something of his thought and intensity as an artist. He emerged as a watershed in fables illustration, looking back in his use of several old motifs, but looking forward in his early realism, the entanglement of himself in his work, his sharp juxtaposition of fables with socio-political concerns, and his shift towards expressive style. His strong editorial control of Aesop was clearly shown.

After this event Bewick's reputation stands higher, and especially his work on fables.

A BEWICK BESTIARY



As a celebration of his life *A Bewick Bestiary* by James Kirkup (1918 - 2009), has been re-printed by Red Squirrel Press. South Shields born Kirkup, who died, aged 91, in Andorra early last year, was a prolific poet and translator. His work includes several dozen poetry collections, six volumes of autobiography and over a hundred monographs of original work and translations. Having taught for many years in Japan he was also a skilled writer of haiku and tanka.

Originally published in 1971 and launched at Newcastle's Hancock Museum, the book brings together original poems by Kirkup and illustrations of the animal woodcuts by Thomas Bewick which had inspired his work.

To obtain a copy send a cheque for £7.98 made payable to *Red Squirrel Press* to Red Squirrel Press, PO Box 219, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 9AU.

Exploring Bewick.

Members of "Explore", the popular initiative of Sunderland and Newcastle Universities working in partnership, will have two opportunities, in August, to investigate the legacy of Thomas Bewick. A "Bewick in Newcastle" walk will be followed with a visit to Cherryburn the following week both led by popular lecturer and Society member Dr Peter Quinn.

Please note that these two events are open to Explore members only.

All details on the events and how to join "Explore" are available from the North East Centre for Lifelong Learning at <http://explore.sunderland.ac.uk>, phone 0191 515 2800 or email lifelong.learning@sunderland.ac.uk.