(MG) Northumbria

Heritage Run 2011

Tynemouth Priory

Newcastle MG

Supported by Newcastle MG   Sunday 4th September 2011

Contents

Introduction

Welcome and thank you for joining us on the MG Northumbria Heritage Run 2011; our annual run through the beautiful Northumbrian countryside, starting from Belsay Hall and finishing at Tynemouth Priory and Castle. Whilst both are English Heritage sites, they are completely different in terms of their history and location.

Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens are set in the heart of Northumberland and consist of a hall inspired by the classical architecture of ancient Greece, a medieval castle with rare wall paintings and magnificent gardens full of exotic plants and trees. Commanding a superb defensive position on a headland overlooking the North Sea and River Tyne, the ruins of Tynemouth Priory and Castle was inhabited by monks and soldiers over the course of it's 2000 year history. We hope you enjoy both venues and have provided more information on them later in this booklet.

The run is approximately 94 miles, and we pass through some of the most beautiful parts of Northumberland before taking you towards the coast, finishing at the popular coastal village of Tynemouth.

Throughout the run, there are various locations where you will be able to stop for refreshments; these are clearly stated on your route plan. We have also pointed out places of interest, so please feel free to stop at anytime to take in the amazing views.

You will find your rally board and string in the envelope, along with a voucher for tea / coffee and bacon roll in the cafe at Belsay Hall.

Start the run when you are ready, but we suggest no later than 9.45am, drive at your own pace and stop wherever you wish. On your arrival at Tynemouth Priory Hall please look for the MG Northumbria banner and park where directed by our marshals.

The presentation of awards will take place at approximately 4.00pm and trophies will awarded as follows:
- Furthest distance travelled
- Best MG Northumbria Car
- Visiting Club award

A list of the people taking part in the run, up to the date of printing, can be found at the back of this booklet.

If you require any further information during the day or whilst on the run, please telephone Mike on 07939 581 358 or Susan on 07795 391 333. We hope you enjoy the run. If you do please keep the date free for next year - Sunday 2nd September 2012.

Thanks,
MG Northumbria

About MG Northumbria

A Brief History

MG Northumbria was formed in late 1992 when Tyne & Wear MG Owners Club was re-named. We have been unable to discover when the club started, but in September 1985 it met in the premises of the Hadrian Motor Club on Newcastle Quayside and was being run by Adele McIntyre. In subsequent years it led a somewhat nomadic existence, meeting at the South Northumberland Cricket Club in Gosforth, the Gosforth Hotel where it has been noted only about a dozen people attended, the Holystone pub in North Tyneside, briefly at Sloanes Wine bar near Newcastle Civic Centre then back again to the Holystone. Sometime in 1989 Mrs McIntyre left the area and Chris Wilson took over running the club with Wendy Bingham as secretary.

In 1992 the members decided they wished the club to be more formally run by a democratically elected committee and Chris Wilson stepped down. One of the first actions of this new committee was to change the name to MG Northumbria to reflect the wider area of the growing membership. As the membership continued to grow, larger premises were needed and we moved to Backworth Hall in July 1996.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Backworth Hall at 7.30pm.

Who We Are

MG Northumbria is run by its Officers and Committee who are elected at the AGM held in November each year. The Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Backworth Hall at 7.30pm.

The current committee is:

Chairman – John Pearce   **Vice Chairman** – Paul Humphries
Secretary and Webmaster – Tim Cook   **Treasurer** – George Dalgarno
Events Co-ordinator – Bob Heslop   **Magazine Editor** – Alan Hutchinson
Membership Secretary – Nigel Towers   **Minutes Secretary** – David Dodds
Committee Members – Ian McInnes, Ian McGregor, John Mitchell, Mike Mitchell

Events

As well as our annual Heritage Run, we also hold a Classic Car Show every year. Our first show was held in 1997 at Kirkley Hall Agricultural College. About 250 vehicles of all makes entered, the weather was excellent, and a good day was had by all. In subsequent years, the show has been held in various venues with Tynedale Rugby Club at Corbridge being our venue since 2008. Our last show was held on 3rd July 2011 and was a huge success. The weather was fantastic and we had 500 vehicles on display. We raised in excess of £7000, which will be shared between 5 local charities.

Since our first Classic Car Show, we are proud to have donated £26,500 to local charities. Our next Classic Car Show will be 1st July 2012 – please join us if you can!

MG NORTHUMBRIA 2011 CLASSIC CAR HERITAGE RUN

Note: If possible do not deviate from route to avoid mileage discrepancy

Drive with due care as many small roads, the general public and possibly cyclists

Be aware of movement restrictions whilst within Tynemouth Priory

TRIP	ACTION	DIRECTIONS	SEE PAGE
0.0 mile		Zero trip on exit from Belsay Hall drive and turn LEFT onto main highway A696 SP = Sign posted	10
0.2	Turn right	SP Scots Gap and Bolam Lake	10
2.3	Turn right	SP Whalton	
2.9	Turn left	SP Scots Gap	
3.6	Turn right	No SP	
5.4	Turn left	SP Wallington	
6.7	Turn right	SP Rothbury / Wallington Hall	11
9.5	Turn right	SP Hartington	
		Pass under old railway bridge serving Northumberland in past	
10.7	Turn left	SP Rothbury	
12.0	Turn right	SP Netherwitton	
16.4	Turn right	SP Longhorsley	
16.5	Turn left	SP Longhorsley	
16.7	-	Netherwitton Hall on left through the trees GPS Assist: NE61 4NW	12
19.1	Turn left	SP Wingates	
21.0	Turn left	SP Rothbury	
22.5	Turn left	No SP	
22.6	Turn right	SP Rothbury	
23.1	Turn right	SP Rothbury	
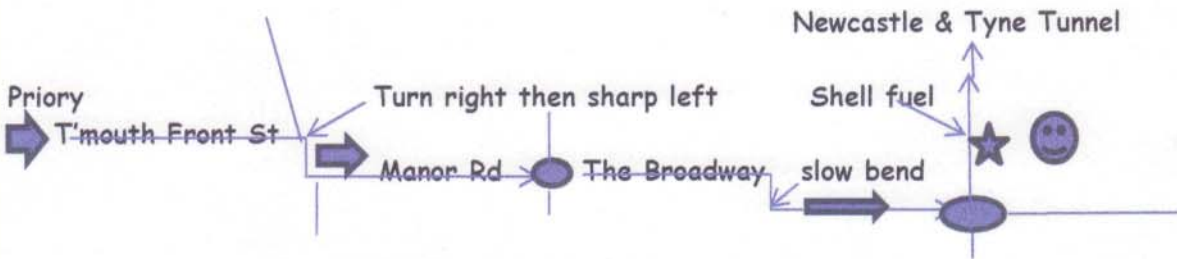
TRIP	ACTION	DIRECTIONS	SEE PAGE
24.1	Turn left	SP Simonside	
25.0	Option to stop	Picnic site on right	
26.1	Option to stop	Picnic site on left	
26.7	Straight on	Ruins of Tosson Tower across the fields on left	12
26.9	Very sharp right turn	No SP / telephone box close by / hairpin bend	
27.2	Turn right	SP Rothbury	
28.7	Turn left	SP Rothbury	
29.2	Option to stop	'Pay & Display' car park on left. Free toilets just over footbridge across river. Have a picnic / walk into Rothbury	
29.3	Turn left over bridge	Possible traffic lights to control bridge reconstruction. Cross River Coquet and enter Rothbury one-way system Centre of Town GPS Assist: NE65 7TE	
		FOLLOW ONE-WAY SYSTEM THROUGH ROTHBURY	13
29.5	Turn right at 'T' junction	SP Morpeth / you should be on the main road through town	
29.9	Straight on	Proceed NORTH on B6341 towards Alnwick and Wooler	
30.5	Straight on	Note: Cragside House and Gardens on right	13
33.9	Straight over X' road	Take care to cross this very busy highway and take direction onwards towards Alnwick	
36.9	Option to stop	Pull over to left near top of hill and enjoy the beauty of Northumbria. Note Edlingham Castle and the railway viaduct. One of the best views of Northumberland	14 15
39.5	Turn left	SP Broomhill (note radar dome on right)	
42.0	Turn right	'T' junction / No SP	
43.0	Turn left	SP Edlingham (Take care... as sign is partially hidden by bushes)	
45.5	Option to stop	In Edlingham Village, look for small offshoot road to the left that leads to the Castle 'car park'. Well worth the short walk to view the church, Castle, and viaduct in the distance	

TRIP	ACTION	DIRECTIONS	SEE PAGE
45.7	Turn right	'T' junction / SP Rothbury/ busy road / take care	
48.0	Turn left	SP A697 Morpeth	
52.1	-	You are now in Longframlington. Two pubs and cafe GPS Assist: NE65 8DP (food, drinks, toilet)	
52.2	Turn right	SP Rothbury	
54.2	Turn right	SP Rothbury	
54.7	Turn left	SP The Lee	
55.2	Turn left	SP The Lee	
56.5	Turn left	SP Todburn	
57.3	Straight on	Cross the shallow ford	
60.0	'T' junction /turn right	Small sign: 'West Moor Farm'... in hedge	
60.2	Turn left	SP Blackpool	
63.6	Turn right	SP Pigdon	
64.9	Turn left	SP Morpeth	
66.3	Turn right	SP Mitford	
67.3	Turn right	Small sign for 'Plough Inn Public House' in Mitford GPS Assist: NE61 3PR (food, drinks, toilet)	
67.6	Turn left	SP Mitford Church /Mitford Steads	
68.2	Turn left	SP Mitford Steads	
69.5	Straight over	SP Saltwick	
71.9	Turn left	SP Stannington	
73.2	Turn right	SP Stannington	
73.3	Bear right	Follow large blue sign indicating Restricted Road	
74.7	Straight on	Go slowly over small steep bridge. MGB's have crossed no problem. Visual check, sound horn, take care regarding on-coming traffic	15

TRIP	ACTION	DIRECTIONS	SEE PAGE
76.1	Turn left	SP Seaton Burn	
78.2	Turn right	SP Newcastle	
79.4	Large r'bout Follow lane markings on road	Take 2nd exit to A19 South towards Tyne Tunnel	
81.4	Approach r'bout in A19 South lanes	Cross this large R'bout taking care to stay in A19 South lanes and take 3rd exit towards Tyne Tunnel	
83.2	Take downhill exit ramp to left	SP Seghill and Killingworth	
83.3	Turn left	Turn LEFT at bottom of ramp and proceed ahead 50 metres	
83.3	Turn left at 'T' juction	SP Seghill B1322	
84.5	Turn right at mini -r'bout 'T' junction	SP Seaton Delaval	
85.8	Straight across	Small r'bout / take 2nd exit	
86.0	Cross r'bout	Take 2nd exit SP Blyth and Seaton Sluice	
87.4	Straight on	Passing Nat. Trust property Seaton Delaval Hall on right. GPS Assist: NE26 4QR	16
88.1	Turn right	Take 3rd exit SP Whitley Bay on r'bout	
89.2	Straight over	Take 2nd exit on r'bout SP Whitley Bay	
89.7	Straight on	Note St. Mary's Island lighthouse over to your left	17
		KEEP TO SEAFRONT AT ALL TIMES FROM NOW ON	
91.0	Straight over	Mini r'bout. Straight over taking 2nd exit to Tynemouth	
91.4	Straight ahead	As you approach junction traffic lights stay in LEFT lane. The large white dome very close by is the famous Whitley Bay landmark 'Spanish City'	17
		Continue along the Whitley Bay Promenade towards Cullercoats and Tynemouth	
93.3	Keep LEFT and straight ahead	Cross r'bout (large white hotel to your right) SP Tynemouth Village	

TRIP	ACTION	DIRECTIONS	SEE PAGE
93.8	Straight ahead	Cross this r'bout taking 1st exit and hugging the coast	
94.1	<u>Arrival</u> Drive slowly past the white pub on the left	Watch out for MG Northumbria marshals in yellow Hi-Viz jackets and sweep very carefully into the Priory Drive. <u>Take extreme care with respect to pedestrians who have right-of-way</u> <u>PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM MARSHALS</u>	18
		Pay Toilets: available at entrance to Tynemouth Priory drive. Ask marshals. Free toilets available INSIDE the Priory grounds	

FUEL: nearest fuel is the Shell Garage, Beach Road, Tynemouth
NE30 2TU

Distance about one mile – not drawn to scale

Places Of Interest

Belsay Hall and Castle

Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens are the creation of the Middleton family, over more than seven centuries. First came the castle, still dominated by its massive 14th-century defensive 'pele tower'. Built as a refuge at a time of Anglo-Scottish warfare, it was also designed to impress: it still displays rare traces of elaborate medieval wall paintings. In more peaceful times a Jacobean mansion wing was added: here the family lived until Christmas Day 1817, when they moved into Belsay Hall.

Belsay Hall is an austerely Classical Greek Revival villa, now displayed without furnishings to reveal the fine craftsmanship of its construction. Begun in 1807, it was designed by Sir Charles Monck (formerly Middleton), a man inspired by Ancient Greece and the buildings he had seen on his honeymoon in Athens. Yet despite its austere façade, it had a comfortable interior, arranged round its amazing central two-storey 'Pillar Hall.'

Bolam Lake

Constructed between 1816-1818, Bolam Lake is an artificial stretch of water ideal for fishing, canoeing and paddling. This 25 acre lake is particularly famous for its birdlife, particularly its resident Mute Swans. Along with the surrounding grounds, it was constructed for the Hon. J.W. Beresford 'to give employment to the poor in the scarce, disastrous winters of 1816 and 1817'.

Bought by Northumberland County Council in 1972 for use as a Country Park, it attracts over 150,000 visitors per year.

During the day, this vast lake and surrounding dense woodland attracts many visitors looking for the many woodland animals living there, in particular red squirrels. After dark it is a very different story; pitch black, quiet and very eerie and you might wonder what creatures have actually made their home here. In early 2002, a party of pike fisherman were at Bolam Lake at night when they encountered what they later described as an 8ft tall creature, covered head to toe in thick, dark hair, glowing red eyes and sharp teeth. There have been several sightings since and it is said that the creature stomps so hard that the ground shakes as it walks!

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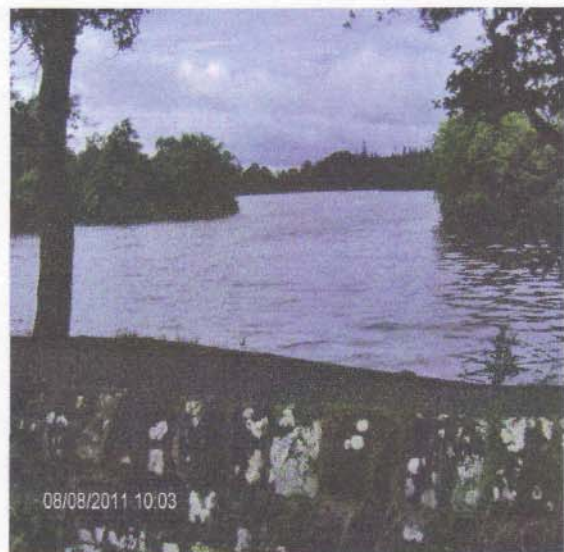
Bridge at Wallington

A very attractive bridge designed by James Paine bringing the B6342 road from the south across the Wansbeck and up to Wallington Hall. Built using a pleasing honey-coloured sandstone it has a main arch with two flood arches on either side. There are sculptured stone parapets and the single track roadway climbs at either end with a severe hump in the centre. Traffic collisions are common, requiring replacement of damaged balusters – so please be careful! It is Grade 1 listed and constructed in 1755.

Wallington Hall

Wallington Hall was built on the site of a medieval castle which had been extended into a Tudor house. Both buildings were demolished to make way for a new house in 1688. The foundations of the medieval building formed the cellars of the new building.

The house was built for Sir William Blackett who had inherited and made a great deal of money from mines and shipping. He already had a town house in Newcastle and bought the Wallington estate to give him a place in the country. Sir William built a square house with a courtyard at its centre but left the interior of the building fairly spartan. His son had the staircase built and employed Italian craftsmen to carry out the fine plasterwork in the principal rooms. He also built the stables and clock tower.

In the 18th century the Trevelyans came to Wallington from Cornwall when a Blackett heiress married a Trevelyan. The following century Pauline, Lady Trevelyan, made Wallington a salon and attracted such notable writers and artists as Swinburne, Ruskin and Millais. Ruskin suggested to Lady Trevelyan that the centre courtyard should be roofed. This was carried out and the courtyard became a picture gallery. The pillars and arches were painted by Lady Trevelyan and her friends.

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In 1942 Sir Charles Trevelyan gave the house and its contents to the National Trust but today it still retains the atmosphere of a family home. Wallington has many unusual collections including dolls houses, model soldiers, kitchen utensils, and Lady Wilson's Cabinet of Curiosities. Works of art include William Bell-Scott's famous paintings of Northumberland and a splendid collection of ceramics.

The house is set in 100 acres of lawns, lakes and woodland. There is a beautiful walled garden, an Edwardian conservatory, ornamental ponds and woodland walks.

Netherwitton Hall

Netherwitton Hall is a privately owned mansion house, and a Grade I listed building. The estate was owned by the Thornton family from the 14th century. Margaret Thornton, heiress of Netherwitton, married Walter Trevelyan, second son of Sir George Trevelyan. In 1772 and the property has remained in the Trevelyan family ever since.

The present house, which was built in about 1685, to a design by architect Robert Trollope, has an impressive three storey, seven bayed frontage with balustrade and unusual irregular window pediments. The rear presents some earlier features including a stairway tower which may contain remnants of ancient fortification. The interior includes a former and disused Roman Catholic chapel. The gardens contain a folly and masonry features which are protected by Grade II listed building status.

Tosson Tower

Though ruinous, Tosson is a good example of the 'Pele Towers' to be seen throughout the Border region. It was probably built at the end of the 15th century, but, from 1553, it was used as part of the Lord Deputy General of the Marches' system of watch towers designed to curb the lawless reivers of Redesdale and Tynedale. Two men were stationed to keep watch every night. Coquetdale was a Royalist area during the Civil War when the garrison was increased to a lieutenant and six dragoons. Asleep in their beds, they were easily captured when parliamentary troops arrived in July 1648.

There is a little car park and a good information board at Tosson; and you're allowed to walk through the field of sheep to really get up close and examine those sturdy walls. There are also fantastic views over the Coquet Valley from here.

Rothbury

Rothbury is a small market town which straddles the River Coquet. The town has a pleasing mix of old stone and newer brick-built properties. Although technically a town, with a proposal a year or so back to install a town mayor (defeated), everyone still tends to call it a village and it certainly has a village feel about it. Shops, hotels and houses are clustered on the sloping banks of the river which bisects the village with the majority of the commercial properties situated on the north side. From all sides the views are magnificent - Cragside, Blaeberry Hill, Simonside, and in the far distance, the Cheviots.

Rothbury has had a turbulent and bloody history. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the Coquet Valley was a pillaging ground for bands of Reivers who attacked and burned the town with terrifying frequency. Near the town's impressive All Saints' Parish Church stands the doorway and site of the seventeenth century Three Half Moons Inn.

Older inhabitants look back with fond memories to the days when Rothbury had a railway line, a cattle mart and full employment. These are now mostly gone, but Rothbury remains a progressive and bustling centre with excellent first and second schools, a hospital, library, football team, tennis, bowls, excellent shops and an abundance of good places to eat.

Cragside House and Gardens

Described in 1880 as 'a palace of modern magician', Cragside House, Gardens and Estate is a truly unique visitor attraction in the heart of Northumberland. Situated near Rothbury and built into a rocky hillside, above a $4km^2$ forest garden, it was the family home of Lord Armstrong, Victorian inventor and industrialist. Cragside was the first building in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity and a walk around the National Trust property reveals a wealth of ingenious gadgetry including fire alarm buttons, telephones, a passenger lift and a Turkish bath suite.

Cragside, named after Cragend Hill above the house, was built in 1863 as a modest two-storey country lodge, but was subsequently extended to designs by Norman Shaw, transforming it into an elaborate mansion in the Free Tudor style. At one point, the building included an astronomical observatory and a scientific laboratory.

In 1868, a hydraulic engine was installed, with water being used to power labour-saving machines such as laundry equipment, a rotisserie and a hydraulic lift. In 1870, water from one of the estate's lakes was used to drive a Siemens dynamo in what was the world's first hydro-electric power station. The resultant electricity was used to power an arc lamp installed in the Gallery in 1878. The arc lamp was replaced in 1880 by Joseph Swan's incandescent lamps in what Swan considered 'the first proper installation' of electric lighting.

The generators, which also provided power for the farm buildings on the estate, were constantly extended and improved to match the increasing electrical demand in the house.

The Grade I listed house is surrounded by one of Europe's largest rock gardens, a large number of rhododendrons and a large collection of mostly coniferous trees. There are rock gardens, a rustic bridge, a Clock Tower and a walled garden with terraces, grottoes, a canal and 40 miles of footpaths. Armstrong constructed 5 lakes, one of Europe's largest rock gardens, and planted over 7 million trees and shrubs.

The revolutionary home of Lord Armstrong, Victorian inventor and landscape genius, was a wonder of its age. Cragside is a garden of breathtaking drama, whatever the season.

Edlingham Castle

Edlingham Castle is a small castle ruin, in a valley to the west of Alnwick. Edlingham itself is little more than a hamlet with a church alongside the castle.

The ruins are mostly laid low though much of the solar tower still stands despite an impressive crack running several stories down to ground level. The foundations and part of the walls of the hall house, gatehouse, barbican and other courtyard buildings are still visible, most dating from the 16th century.
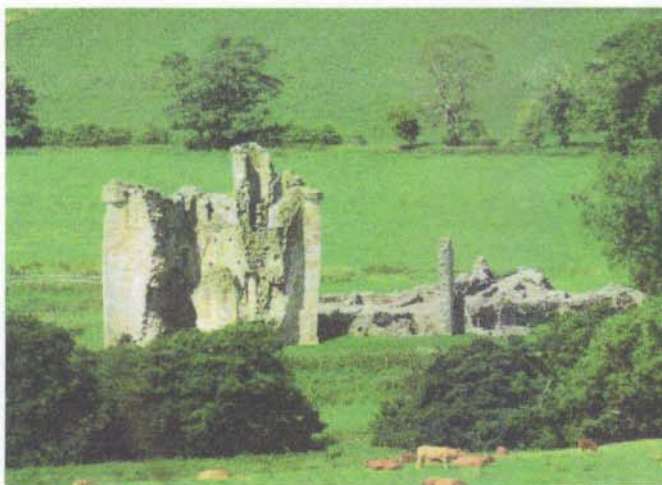
The castle - more properly a fortified manor house typical of many medieval houses in the North of England - guards one of the few approaches to Alnwick through the hills to its west. Its fortifications were increased in response to the border warfare which raged between England and Scotland in the period from about 1300 to 1600.

By 1174, a manor house at the location was in the possession of a John of Edlingham. In 1294, a descendant, Walter of Edlingham sold it to William de Felton, who strengthened it by building strong ramparts and a gatehouse, fortifying the main hall and adding other buildings inside a courtyard. In 1396 Elizabeth de Felton inherited it, marrying Sir Edmund Hastings, who added a strong solar tower. Their descendants occupied the castle and estate until 1514; it was then leased to George Swinburne of Capheaton, whose family held it until the 1700s.

During this time it gradually fell into disrepair, with most of the buildings dismantled to build nearby farmhouses in the 1660s, but leaving the solar tower intact. In 1978 the Department for the Environment acquired the site and conducted extensive archaeological excavations, prior to which rubble filled the solar tower to a height of three metres.

The site is now in the care of English Heritage and is easily accessible from the nearby church of St. John the Baptist.

Edlingham Viaduct

The viaduct is listed grade II and is part of the dismantled railway that ran from Alnwick to Coldstream. Opened in 1887, passenger services were discontinued in 1930 although there was a brief revival during World War II to serve RAF Milfield. Freight continued on the line, some parts not closing until 1965.

Bellasis Bridge (Hog Back Bridge)

Aptly named a hog backed bridge, it is impossible to see oncoming traffic on this Grade II listed bridge. Deep gouges on the tarmac are testament to drivers who chose to ignore the acute angle of the parapet! This is probably a 17th century bridge though it could be earlier. It replaced a 13th century bridge dating from the time when Ballasis was a village, though only a farm now exists nearby. There are two arches, one of 40 feet, the smaller one a flood arch of 17 feet. There is a cutwater with a refuge on the west facing side, very useful for pedestrians on this narrow bridge. The centre pier is 14 feet wide. The bridge has been rebuilt several times due to vehicle damage and has both weight and width restrictions.

Seaton Delaval Hall

The Delaval family had owned the estate since the time of the Norman Conquest. Admiral Delaval, having made his fortune from bounty while in the navy, purchased the estate from an impoverished kinsman. (He had also served as a British envoy during the reign of Queen Anne.)

Calling on the services of architect John Vanbrugh in 1718, the Admiral had originally wanted to modernise and enhance the existing mansion. But upon viewing the site, Vanbrugh felt he could do nothing and advised complete demolition of all except the ancient chapel near to the mansion, which is now the parish church of Our Lady. The works were completed in 1728, completed two years after the death of the Admiral, with the resulting new mansion the last country house Vanbrugh designed – it is regarded as his finest work.

On completion, the Admiral's nephew Francis had inherited the property, and moved in immediately. However, in 1822 the Centre Block was gutted by fire, said to have been caused by jackdaws nesting in the chimneys of the section of the east wing closest to the main house. This wing was subsequently demolished and various openings can still be identified to show where it joined the Centre Block. The house was partially restored in 1862–63, when the central block was re-roofed, although it remained a shell internally. The effects of the fire are clearly visible in the great hall, originally 30 feet (9.1 m) high but still open to the roof, with blackened walls and muse statues.

Further restoration was completed in 1959 and the early 1960s, including replacement of windows in the central block, restoration of the upstairs gallery in the main hall and paving of the floors on the piano nobile. However, the house was to remain unoccupied until the 1980s, when after a period of 160 years, Edward Delaval Henry Astley, 22nd Baron Hastings moved into the west wing. It became his permanent home until his death in 2007.

The new Baron Hastings, burdened with a large inheritance bill, decided to seek a buyer for the Hall, and on 1 September 2008 the National Trust launched an appeal for £6.3m to bring the hall, with its gardens and grounds, into the Trust's custody. In December 2009, the Trust announced that its appeal had been successful, and the purchase having gone through, the Grade I listed Hall opened to visitors again on 1 May 2010.

St Mary's Island

St. Mary's Island is a small island made of sandstone near the seaside resort of Whitley Bay. Originally it was called Bates Island, Hartley Bates or Bates Hill as it was originally owned by the Bates family who were prominent locally. It is sometimes known as Bait Island, probably due to a misunderstanding of the meaning of the name. The island is opposite Curry's Point on the mainland and is connected to the coast at low tide by a rocky causeway. The main feature of the island is St Mary's Lighthouse which was built in 1898. The lighthouse and adjacent keepers' cottages were built in 1898 by the John Miller company of Tynemouth, using 645 blocks of stone and 750,000 bricks. It was built on the site of a monastery where a small sanctuary light would have acted as a guide to passing ships. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1984.

In medieval times there was a chapel on the island dedicated to St Helen. Within the chapel was the Lady Light, also known as St. Katherine's Light. The light was later, wrongly, ascribed to St. Mary and, as a result, the island became known as St. Mary's Island. It is debatable whether the light was used as a warning to shipping or was purely religious. Next to the chapel was a burial ground where monks and local people were interred. Traces of St. Helen's Chapel were destroyed when the lighthouse was built in 1898.

During the 19th century there was an inn, known as the 'Square and Compass', on the island, run by a Mr. George Ewen. In 1895, after complaints about rowdy customers trespassing on nearby land, the landlord, Lord Hastings, had Mr. Ewen and his family evicted from the island. The lighthouse continued to function until 1984, when it was taken out of service. The lighthouse is now open to visitors who can climb the steps to the lantern room, if they wish, or see the Visitors' Centre.

Spanish City Dome

This building formally opened in 1910 as a concert hall, restaurant, roof garden, and tearoom. A ballroom was added in 1920, then the funfair. Spanish City permanent funfair soon became one of Tyneside's most famous landmarks. Its classical white "pleasure dome" was designed and built by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne architectural firm of James Thoburn Cackett (1860-1928) and R. Burns Dick (1869-1955), who were also the architects for Newcastle's Laing Art Gallery. It became known for its distinctive dome, believed to have been the second-largest unsupported concrete dome in the UK when it was built, now a Grade II listed building. There are towers on either side of the entrance, each of which carries a half-life-size female bacchanalian figure in lead, one holding cymbals, the other a tambourine.

The band Dire Straits mention the location in their 1980 song "Tunnel of Love" thereafter played every morning when the park opened:-

And girl it looks so pretty to me just like it always did
Like the Spanish City to me when we were kids
Oh girl it looks so pretty to me just like it always did
Like the Spanish City to me when we were kids

And now I'm searching through these carousels and the carnival arcades
Searching everywhere from steeplechase to palisades
In any shooting gallery where promises are made
To rockaway rockaway from Cullercoats and Whitley Bay out to rockaway

By the late 1990s, the building had fallen into disrepair and was closed to the public in the early 2000s. In June 2011, ADP Architects won a commission to regenerate it, with a plan that includes a 50-bed four-star boutique hotel, 20 apartments, a 1950s diner, and a pleasure garden. The completion date is 2014.

Tynemouth Priory and Castle

Tynemouth Priory is a 7th Century monastery, burial place of Oswin, sainted King of Northumbria. Following destruction by Danish raiders, the present Benedictine priory was re-founded on its site in 1090. The towering east end of the priory, built in 1200 with slender lancet windows and soaring arches, still survives almost to its full height, dominating the headland. Beyond it stands a small, complete and exceptionally well-preserved chapel, with rose window and an ornately sculpted roof vault, built in the mid-15th Century as a Chantry for the souls of the powerful Percy family, Earls of Northumberland. Tynemouth Castle, built by Edward I in 1296, was

strengthened and updated in the 15th Century. and when the priory's 19 monks surrendered Tynemouth to Henry VIII in 1539, it was immediately adopted as a royal castle. Thereafter it continued to play its centuries-old part in coastal defence, both against Napoleon and during the two World Wars

The Percy Chantry is the only part of the priory church to survive completely, although it is much restored. Built in the 15th century, it contained ingenious vaulting with carved roof bosses. In 1810 it was converted into a magazine for storing ammunition but was restored in Victorian times.

The Gatehouse is the only building of medieval defences to have survived more or less intact. Begun in 1390, it was the main entrance to the headland. Heavily fortified and conceived on a huge scale, it expresses the wealth and power of the institution it protects.

Gun batteries were built at the end of the 19th century and used in the First and Second World Wars. They were the last of many guns in this strategic location, commanding the river entrance, which protected the industrial, military and naval installations of the Tyne since the 16th century.

More recently the site has hosted the modern buildings of Her Majesty's Coastguard. However the new coastguard station, built in 1980 and opened by Prince Charles, was closed in 2001.

Origins of Place Names

Belsay – Old English *'Bill's ridge'*

Bolam – There is considerable disagreement about the origin of this name. The two main contenders are Old English *'Bol's homestead* (ham)' or –*'the place at the tree trunks'*

Wallington – Old English *'farmstead of Wealh's people'*

Netherwitton – A fairly common name throughout England. Unfortunately the precise derivation is uncertain. Amongst the possibilities are *'farmstead by a diary', 'white farmstead'* and *'farmstead by a wood'*

Tosson – Maybe derived from Old English *tot-stan*, 'look-out stone'

Rothbury – Old English *'Hrotha's fortified place'*

Cragside – Middle English *'hillside by a crag'*

Edlingham – Old English *'homestead of Eadwulf's people'*. Many locals pronounce the name *edlinjm.*

Bellasis – First appeared at the turn of the 14th century, and comes from Old French *'bel assize'* or *'beautiful site'.*

Seaton Delaval – Old English *'farmstead by the sea'* and *'de la Val'* – a family name which originates from *le Val* in Normandy.

Tynemouth – Although the meaning is obvious, this is a very old Saxon name; it was *Tinan muthe* in AD792