

DAY COACH TOUR TO NORTHUMBERLAND

Visiting Shepherds Law Hermitage, Biddlestone Chapel and Callaly Castle

Saturday 11th June 2022



The chapel at Shepherds Law



Biddlestone Chapel



Callaly Castle

We will be visiting three remarkable sites where new works have been grafted onto existing (sometimes ruinous) older structures.

The Hermitage at Shepherds Law has been developed over the last fifty years by Brother Harold Palmer, with Ralph Patisson as his principal architect. Set within the ruins of what seems to have been an agricultural compound with curious architectural pretensions, the new work includes a range of hermits' cells with arcaded frontage intended to form one side of a future cloister, and a splendid chapel (pictured) in a timeless Anglo-Romanesque style combining Orthodox, Catholic and Anglican Christian traditions. The project won an RICS Renaissance award in 2007 and an Art+Christianity Enquiry/RIBA award in 2015.

At Biddlestone the Catholic chapel (listed grade II*) sits atop, and incorporates the structure, of a pele tower or bastle house (Scheduled Ancient Monument) with vaulted ground floor. Originally attached to the very plain barrack-like Biddlestone Hall (erected c. 1796, demolished 1957) this was the private chapel of the Selby family but shared with the local Catholic community, the latter continuing to use it until 1992. It is now owned by the Historic Chapels Trust. Sometimes attributed to John Dobson, who is known to have worked on the Hall in the 1820s, the chapel as we now see it seems more likely to be the work of the catholic architect A.M. Dunn (of Dunn & Hansom who completed St. Mary's R.C. cathedral in Newcastle) in the 1860s. The stained glass in the east window dated 1862 is attributed to William Wailes of Gateshead.

Callaly Castle also incorporates the structure of a Pele or Bastle – maybe even two – and shows several layers of historic development. The exterior of the South Wing was remodelled in 1676 (very probably by Robert Trollope) whilst its drawing room displays a tour de force of decorative plasterwork dating from 1757 by Italian Stuccatori (members may recall the splendid lecture on these craftsmen by Christine Casey last May). Elsewhere, much of the present exterior of the castle dates from a substantial enlargement in the 1890s to designs following Trollope's style by James Stevenson of Berwick.

More detailed architectural/historical information will be handed round on the coach.

ITINERARY

- 09:00 Prompt Coach leaves Bewick Street, Newcastle (over the road from Central Station)
- 09:10 Pick-up at bus stop at south end of Gosforth High Street
(between Moor Crescent and The Drive)
- 09:30 Pick up at Stannington – car park outside Stannington Village Hall
- 10:30 Coach arrives at disembarkation point for Shepherds Law
We walk up stony/grassy track to the Hermitage
(approx. half a mile – 0.8 kilometres, taking 15-20 mins)
- 10:45 – 11:45 Visit to Shepherds Law, guided by Ralph Patisson
- 12:00 Coach departs from Shepherds Law embarkation point
- 12:30 Coach arrives at disembarkation point for Biddlestone
We walk up grassy track to the chapel, approx. 10-15 mins.
Visit to the chapel, guided by Chris Downs
Picnic lunch (bring your own) outdoors or (if wet) in the chapel
- 14:00 Coach departs from Biddlestone embarkation point
- 14:30 Arrive at Callaly
Visits to the South Wing Drawing Room guided by Professor Katherine Clark,
and walk around the exterior of the castle and the courtyard Museum
guided by Professor Jonathan Clark. Cold drinks will be provided by the Clarks.
- 16:30 Coach departs from Callaly
- 17:30 Drop-off at Stannington
- 17:50 Drop-off at Gosforth
- 18:00 Coach returns to Bewick Street

All timings except the first are approximate.

Cost: £22.50 to include the coach fare, something for the guides and group donations to the places we visit (please feel free to add personal donations in addition).

Comprehensive guide books to Biddlestone Chapel are on sale in the building, £3.00 each.

For any wishing to undertake the tour in their own transport, the cost will be **£12.50**. Please note, however, that parking at the disembarkation points is very limited and priority must be given to the coach. A map will be provided to any wishing to adopt this option.

Members should note that no morning or lunchtime refreshments will be provided – please bring your own flasks and hampers! The Clarks have very kindly offered to serve cold drinks at Callaly in the afternoon.

The coach will have an on-board toilet.

Two of the visits involve significant walks up and down stony/grassy tracks. Stout footwear is advised.

Please check the weather forecast for the day and come equipped with sunscreen/hats or waterproofs/wellies accordingly as much of our time will be spent out of doors.

NAHS Coach Tour to Northumberland Saturday 11th June 2022 – Booking Form

Please return this form to: Chris Downs, 8 Holmside Place, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5AJ

E-mail: chris-downs@outlook.com Tel: (0191) 2760060

Book early to avoid disappointment and by Friday 27th May at the very latest.

Name/s.....

I/We would like to come on the coach and enclose a cheque (payable to NAHS) for £.....

OR: I/We will pay £..... by electronic transfer

AND: I/We would like to join the coach at (please tick):

a) Bewick Street.....

b) South Gosforth.....

c) Stannington.....

OR

I/We would like to travel independently and enclose a cheque (payable to NAHS) for £.....

OR: I/We will pay £..... by electronic transfer.

AND: I/We would like a map of the intended route to be sent by e-mail (...) or post (...)

NAHS Bank details: Barclays Bank PLC Sort Code: 20-59-59 Account No: 70694274

All bookings received will be acknowledged. ***If you do not receive an acknowledgement your booking has not been registered.***

Address.....

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Contact E-mail..... Phone No.....

I/We have understood that the tour involves some exertion walking up inclined stony/grassy tracks and that I/We are responsible for ensuring I/We have suitable footwear together with clothing/protection appropriate to outdoor activity in the forecast weather conditions. (please tick.....)

Person(s) to contact in the event of accident or illness on the tour:

Address.....

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Contact E-mail..... Phone No.....

Any pre-existing medical conditions of which emergency services may need to be informed in the event of accident or illness (This information will be retained by the organiser for the purposes of this tour only and will be divulged to medical personnel only in the event of an incident occurring):

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