

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – ON ALSTON MOOR, 2019

Friday 13th to Sunday 22nd September

Contributions by Alston Moor Historical Society.

Monday to Friday - Guided walks by Alastair Robertson, local historian and Chairman of Alston Moor Historical Society.

All walks to begin at 1.30pm and to last about 1½ hours.

Plus - additional opening times of the Society's Archives on both Saturdays.

Saturday 14th - Archives Extra

The Historical Society's Archives will be open all day from 10am to 5pm.

The Society is the custodian of the memory-bank of Alston Moor, which comprises a large collection of documents, maps, and photos donated for posterity, research, education and entertainment.

*Upstairs in the Town Hall, Front Street, Alston. There is a lift for the disabled.

Monday 16th - Alston town

Alston from (Town) head to (Town) foot, to look at the nooks and crannies of this arguably unique town and its general history. Alastair will attempt to answer questions such as 'Why is Alston built on a hill?'

*Meet at the Fairhill Recreation Ground car park off the Nenthead Road at the top of the town.

Tuesday 17th - Alston cemetery

This is an introduction to some of Alston's 'Worthies' of the past. As well as people who had local significance, there is at least one man who was of regional, and even national, importance.

*Meet inside the cemetery gates. Take the turn off the main road opposite the Spar grocer's to the Cottage Hospital; turn right at the road junction that leads to the Firs housing estate and the Cottage Hospital, towards the Youth Hostel; the cemetery is beyond the Youth Hostel.

Wednesday 18th - Nenthead village

Hear about one of the country's earliest planned villages, its one-time international community, the riot of 1905, why Nenthead was once known as 'the village without sin,' and more.

*Meet outside Nenthead Visitor and Arts Centre, the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

Thursday 19th - Industrial Alston

A short walk takes us past traces of lead, zinc and iron mining, stone quarrying, railways, wool making, gas making, steel fabrication and wartime munitions, plus an aside or three (Alston castle for example).

*Meet in the South Tynedale Railway car park.

Friday 20th - St. Augustine's Church, Alston

Learn about the three churches of St. Augustine, the involvement of John Smeaton (the first man to call himself a civil engineer), and meet some of the 'residents,' including a woman who never existed.

*Meet outside the church doors.

Saturday 21st - Archives Extra

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