



Coal and Iron

In the 19th Century both valleys were home to heavy industry. Iron ore from Bellingham was used in Newcastle's High Level Bridge. See our maps, photographs and artefacts and let the children crawl through the mine entrance - **if they dare!**



Welcome to our newly-extended premises which will help bring the past alive for you and your family.

The Centre is a splendid starting point for local or family history research.

The collection of more than 2,500 historic photographs is freely accessible as is a Names Database with over 50,000 entries with valley connections.

Oral history recordings can be dialled up on an old red telephone box and there are 'Chatterboxes' where locals talk about the old days. Our art gallery displays local work by visiting artists and historical exhibitions for short periods throughout the year.

Collier's Corner

Walter Percy Collier (1875 – 1937) had a photographic shop in Lock-Up Lane in Bellingham. Between the two world wars he captured street scenes, community celebrations and everyday working life.

SHEEP

Blackfaces, Cheviots, Mules and much more

Clipping the flock, killing the pig, milking the house cow are all here. See the 'little grey Fergie' in the tractor shed, and the way we still repair stone walls.

Single Track Line

The Border Counties Railway ran from Hexham up the North Tyne valley, over the border, joining the Waverly line from Carlisle to Edinburgh. It was the main form of transport for this area serving collieries and small mines. Come and see our extensive display.

