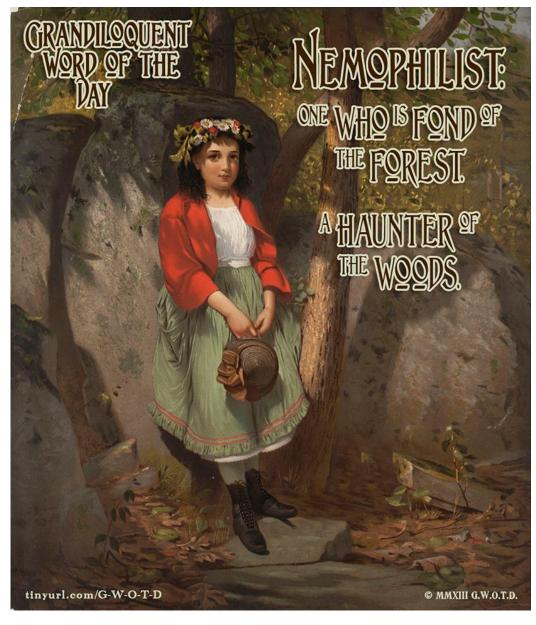
# Making our own luck: becoming a Community Asset

Dukeshouse Woods Hexham Northumberland

**Yvonne Conchie** 







## **Dukeshouse Woods ~ Hexham ~ Northumberland**

















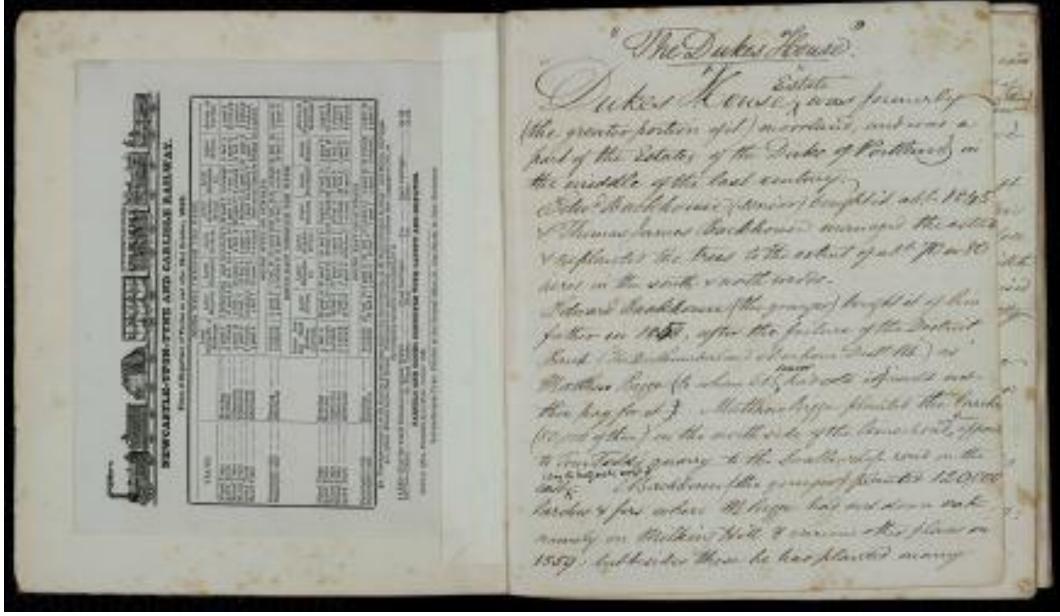
















## Hexham's Leather Heritage, 3000 BC to the Present









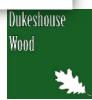
Hexham is unusual in that it has three streams, or burns, which come together in what is now the Cockshaw area, approximately one third of a kilometre to the North West of the centre of modern Hexham. This possibly unique circumstance must logically be the geographical feature for which the town was named in Anglo-Saxon times and for that reason the stream (or streams) or the purpose to which it (or they) could be applied must have been highly distinctive.

There are a very limited number of profitable uses for a stream or a burn, and a burn rather than a river. The most obvious is the production of vegetable-tanned leather which requires a continuous flow of easily manageable water (ie not a river) to wash away the odious substances used in pretanning processes and to continually refill and top up the pits in which the leather would be tanned, usually in a solution of oak bark of various concentrations.

The map of 1860 shows six tanneries, including that which became the contemporary 'Tanner's Yard' at the north western end of Gilesgate. This was offered for sale as a tanyard and house at No.8 Gilesgate in 1830 and had been previously rented by Mr Edward Nicholson, Tanner (it must also therefore have been constructed between 1826 and 1830). It was bought by Henry Bell who ran it as a tannery and as a woolstapling operation from 1837. Henry Bell and his two sons George Hogarth Bell and Harry Bell Jr. (who ran the business after their father's death in 1875) were clearly still producing tanned leather in 1889, as a newspaper article of the time indicates, but they had also

n this naming occurred, there ependant on the burns fragments of information, we



















Dukeshouse Heritage Woodland Community Interest Company

permaculture Design & operation







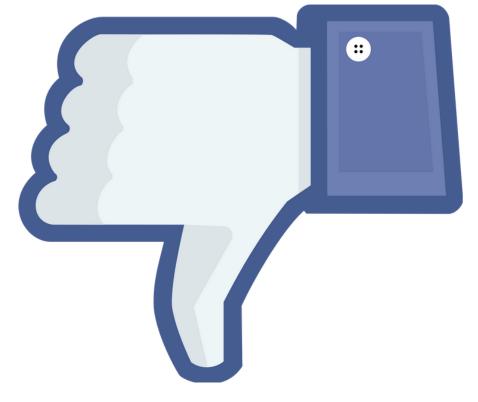
















**Heritage Lottery Fund** give grants to create **benefits** for **people**, **heritage** & **environment** but only if well evidenced, well planned & sustainable.

Heritage includes both Natural and Cultural Heritage:

- **Natural** Heritage = landscapes, wildlife, habitats, geology, ecosystems...
- **Cultural** Heritage = historic buildings, traditions, stories, skills, archives...

#### Heritage is active:

- discovering, preserving and connecting from the past,
- enjoying, understanding and sharing in the present
- curating, conserving and adapting in the future



evidence

planning

sustainability



#### **Evidence:**

Do people support your ideas?

What are their ideas, knowledge, experiences, concerns and needs?

What help could they offer? What do they enjoy doing?

Can you contact them again? Would they like to get involved?





### **HOWEVER...**

No matter how brilliantly evidenced and planned your project is, if you can't demonstrate that the hosting organisation is sustainable, then the funders are not going to invest in you.





# Skills a sustainable organisation needs:

Finance Fundraising People management

Marketing Legal Business management

Business development Community Engagement

All these skills are necessary, either bought in or held by the directors/trustees or their employees.





# Planning using Permaculture principles

**O** Observation

B Boundaries/edges

R Resources

**E** Evaluation

D Design

I Implementation

M Maintenance















"Locality is the leading nationwide network for community-led organisations. We believe that every community is a place of possibility"

# www.locality.org.uk





## **Localism Act: Assets of community value**

- If can demonstrate that the local community consider that the building or landholding is of value, it can be put on the register by the Local Authority's planning department (8 weeks or less)
- Once this is in process, can apply to the **Social Investment Business** for feasibility, development, and capital funding
  <a href="https://www.sibgroup.org.uk">www.sibgroup.org.uk</a>
- If the Asset subsequently comes on the market, 'the community' have the Right to Bid, essentially 6 months to come up with an offer, which the vendors have to consider, but don't have to accept.





## Our new plan:

- Choose people we want to work with: skills, capacity, commitment
- Incorporate our new organisation:

www.gov.uk/set-up-a-social-enterprise

- Collectively develop our case for support:
   why, what, who, when, how much
- Approach funders:

grants, donors, landowner, in-kind





# Listen to lots of different people

Discover how their edges overlap with yours

Choose the people you work with

Ask for the help you need

Make your own luck

















# **PEOPLE, HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT**Community project advice, research, funding, delivery and management

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