

Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres Local History Group

A family of collectors, from shells to Hadrian's Wall

by Dr. Frances McIntosh

Monday 23rd February 2026

7.30 p.m. Slaley Commemoration Hall.
£4 adults 50p anyone in full time education.



The Story of 'The Bridget Atkinson Shell Collection' appeared in the Hexham Courant during March 2024. Some of you probably read the article and thought "how very interesting" and many of you will have missed the story, therefore, this talk will explain the significance of a collection of shells and bring you from the 18th century to the present day explaining the twists and turns of any 200-year-old story.

Bridget Atkinson (1732-1814) was the grandmother of the antiquarian, John Clayton.

Bridget's, collection contained more than 1,200 items from around the world. Unlike other women of her era who collected for decorative value, Bridget was a serious student of conchology (the study of marine shells).

Frances will end her talk by telling the audience where they can see some, or all, of the collection.

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