

Wooler and Fenwick Youth Hostels

Wooler [Railway Station] Youth Hostel 1932 to 1939

Wooler Railway Station, Northumberland

Historic County: Northumberland

YHA Region:

Northumberland & Tyneside

GR: NT 993284

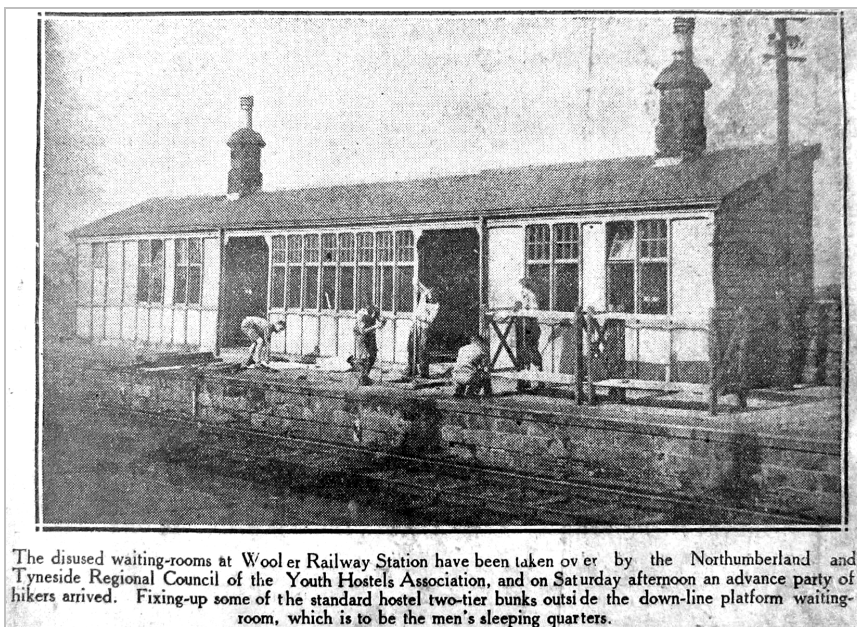
In the 1880s the North Eastern Railway prepared plans to build a straggling 36-mile branch line to connect Alnwick in central Northumberland with a junction at Cornhill-on-Tweed, in the far north of the county, and so close to Scotland that it masqueraded as Coldstream Station. It built the line in response to a territorial threat by the North British Railway, though a huge circuitous compromise had to be made to the route north from Alnwick; the railway was forced to head south at first to avoid the Duke of Northumberland's estate.

Wooler station was provided for the opening in 1887. It was the principal intermediate station, and the only one with two platforms. Initially the line was popular, but in the twentieth century custom soon defected to more convenient local bus services. The line closed to passengers from 22nd September 1930 after barely 40 years, though it continued in use for an occasional goods train to Wooler from Coldstream for local farmers through to 1965.

Negotiations were made at the beginning of 1932 between YHA and the LNER, and Wooler Station was taken on lease, initially for £3.16s.8d. It was fitted out as a hostel for £60.4s.2d, using the mainly redundant station buildings – the public rooms and women's dormitory on the main northbound platform and the men's on the southbound – and opened on 18th May 1932, to form with Wallington and Alnham a triangle of early hostels in the county. The Region's President, Sir Charles Trevelyan, led the formal opening ceremony on 18th June 1932, when *the Scotsman*, ever a close observer of SYHA and YHA activities, observed:

YOUTH HOSTELS – Link in the Cheviot Chain

A link in the Cheviot chain of youth hostels is to be opened to-day at Wooler (Northumberland) Railway Station, which has been closed for lack of passengers, and has been converted into a hostel. Sir Charles Trevelyan, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, will officiate. Dr Fothergill, secretary of the SYHA, will be present, and connecting hostels between Northumberland and the Border chain at Ettrick may be planned.



Coverage by the Newcastle Journal on 16th May, 1932, two days before opening (Gateway Trust Archive, Berwick Records)

A notice later in the year announced that it would remain open through the winter. It was hoped that the hostel would become a centre for winter sports on the Cheviots.

A regional YHA guide of 1932-33 described the facilities:

Wooler Hostel is the most northerly of the English chain, and comprises nearly all the waiting rooms on either side of Wooler Railway Station. Accommodation is provided for 10 men and 14 women. Warden's address: Mr Dunn, North Crossing, Wooler. Method of Access (Bus route, etc): The United and County bus services run from Newcastle and Alnwick and stop in the shopping centre of the town, 2 minutes' walk from the Hostel.



Preparing for the opening of Wooler Railway Station youth hostel.

1: members prepare refreshments. The orderly nature of the crockery suggests that this may have been in preparation for the official opening. Note the timber and glass construction of the main waiting room, which extended for a considerably distance. It must have been cold in winter; 2: Sir Charles Trevelyan (right) and Professor Harvey, regional chairman, at the official opening;

3: a similar view to picture 1, but note the buckets lined up – to provide water for the tea, or to catch the leaks?;

4: more struggles with beds – ‘the First Working Party, 14th May 1932’ (YHA Archive)

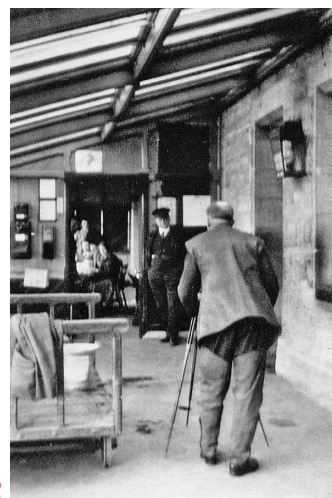
An attractive leather-bound log-book has survived with the Glendale Gateway Trust at Berwick Records Office and contains many treasures of both Wooler hostels. In the early years an anonymous hosteller added these entries:

2nd January 1934. Arrived late from Morpeth after missing a bus connection. A fire blazing, two from the Coast toasting their knees. Coloured paper, sprigs of holly, a bunch of mistletoe. Had forgotten how well the china looks. Toasted bread and cheese for supper. Well content. Thought for the day: Blessings on the early traveller.

3rd January 1934. Awake till after midnight telling myself that draughts don't exist. Don't believe it any longer. Bacon very Real and Good and Beautiful. Set off with the two from the coast to climb the Cheviot. A blue sky and a gentle wind.

In 1938 a shed was provided by Mr BA Parkes to improve the inadequate washing facilities.

The hostel's period of use came to an abrupt halt on the outbreak of war; the LNER company was obliged to give up its leasing arrangements with its tenants and so the Region lost its Wooler hostel and a newly-opened one at Burnhill Station in County Durham; both closed with little warning at the end of the 1939 season. All was not quite finished, however: YHA was allowed to continue to lease a room for the emergency storage of equipment. This arrangement terminated on 19th June 1941, when the hut and other goods were removed to Once Brewed hostel.



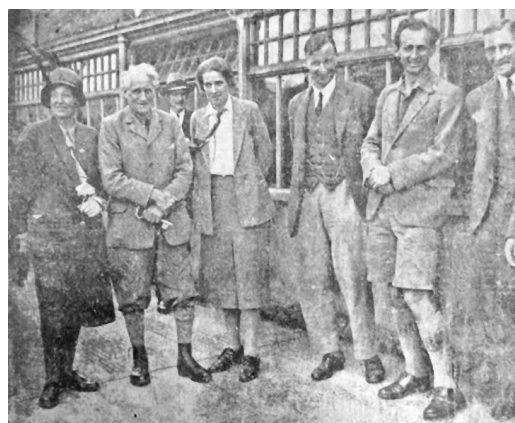
1 2



3 4



5 6



- 1: Wooler Railway Station youth hostel viewed from the south. This shot also probably dates from two or three days before the May opening; the canvas and timber beds seem new and are lined up outside the waiting-room dorms ready to be installed;
 2: a photographer records a railway worker still in uniform, perhaps the goods office clerk. Railway artefacts proliferate;
 3: a railway barrow is filched to help shift and air the hostel's supply of blankets. Like the beds, these appear new; 4: wet day;
 5: a happy crowd at the May 1932 opening. The Scottish interest in Northumberland's hostels was very strong from the outset, with many hardy walkers exploring the long tracks between the YHA and the SYHA Border hostels in the 1930s. The two bodies published a joint handbook of the area's hostels in the late 1930s. Three kilted gentlemen enjoy the occasion;
 6: a news cutting of the official opening in June 1932. Sir Charles Trevelyan stands with Lady Trevelyan to his right and his secretary Edith Bulmer to his left. Professor Harvey stands next to her. A very great supporter of the YHA movement, she was also present at the front of the crowd on the previous illustration (Glendale Gateway Trust / Berwick Records and YHA Archive)

Fenwick Youth Hostel 1946 to 1954

The Manor House, Fenwick, Beal, Northumberland

Historic County: Northumberland

YHA Region:
Northumberland & Tyneside

GR: NU 066400

Fenwick hostel was housed in a long, three-storey building in the small village of that name just off the A1 to the south of the turn for Holy Island at Beal. Its title of Fenwick Manor was curious; it was certainly nothing like the many country estate houses possessed by YHA about this time. Little is yet known of the building's previous history, though YHA regional records refer to its use as a Land Army base in the war. The regional YHA magazine *Tyneside Hosteller* announced the new hostel in 1946:

Don't imagine from its name that another of the stately homes of England has been rented as a youth hostel, because you will find that Fenwick is very modest. Once the Group toyed with the idea of a hostel on Holy Island itself, but the romantic hope foundered on the practical snags of access and high tide.

The hostel opened on 18th April 1946. The Northumberland and Tyneside Regional Group was in expansive mood, like the whole of YHA after the war, and wished to settle in areas not represented on the network map. Fenwick would serve a large district, from Berwick and Holy Island on the coast, to Wooler and the Cheviots to the west – Wooler having lost its hostel on the outbreak of war, and Rock Hall not quite open yet. Fenwick Manor was not owned by the YHA, but leased from the trustees of an estate; the tenancy, which was to prove troublesome, was subject to termination by either side on six months' notice.



The only known illustration of Fenwick youth hostel is this postcard, probably from about the time of opening.
Note the YHA triangle in position (YHA Archive)

The first warden was Jen Alloway, and it was clear from the start that YHA had a successful and very popular hostel here, though circumstances would show that it was difficult to run. It was ideally positioned as a staging post for cyclists on the Great North Road, including those heading to or from Scotland and a good contingency of Scottish YHA members.

Mrs Alloway left in May 1947, though she would continue to serve the Region in a supportive role. Reversing that position, from volunteer to professional, Alec and Chris Clough took over as wardens in that month, and contemporary accounts are laden with fond references to their exceptional dedication and the quality of their catering, both here and later at the new Wooler hostel.

Along with annual reports, the contemporary *Tyneside Hosteller* magazine gave varied and fascinating insights into the running of the hostel. Chris Clough wrote an article for it at the end of her first year, celebrating the variety of her guests:

Visitors come from all the near European countries and from Czechoslovakia, Latvia, Estonia, South Africa, Canada, USA, India, Australia and New Zealand.

We will not forget our two French friends who left their boots outside the dormitory doors, presumably to be cleaned. Memories also of our American friend of 6 feet 4 inches and size 14 boots partnering me in the Schottische and hopping in all the wrong places – was I black and blue! Then there was the ballet dancer and her parents who were stranded and joined the YHA to obtain a bed at 10pm one night. Finally the old age pensioners – one couple, travelling on their post-war credits, tramped to the ‘Island’ and back – we admire them for their pluck.

In 1947 members made voluntary contributions towards a new WC for men.

In August 1948 warden Chris Clough had an emergency on her hands:

You will have read about the storm on Thursday. We were sweeping out water and trying to mop up all day and thought at least we will have an easy night and a rest at last but, alas, about a dozen mad hikers and cyclists arrived – one in a swimming costume – others minus shoes and stockings. Some had to be towed into the hostel by sturdy village lads – couldn’t fight against the current.

Apart from wet walls we only suffered a broke window – the large one in the women’s dormitory blew in.

Peter Flimer wrote enthusiastically of his stay in 1948:

Earlier this month I spent a weekend in Northumberland and I found the hostel at Fenwick superlatively good. The warden was most helpful in giving information on local excursions. The dormies, washrooms and common room were beautifully clean and comfortable, and the food was far better than in most hotels these days, and would have been called ‘excellent’ pre-war.

Also in that year, hostellers using Fenwick and a few other north-east hostels were selected to enjoy a much-needed windfall of food supplies – a share of 6,000 surplus hermetically sealed tins of assorted foods from the War Department. The dinner pack at 1s 4d (7p) contained ham and beef, cheeses, biscuits, tea, sweets, cigarettes and matches. The breakfast pack at the same price was similar but might contain various savoury items. The lunch pack cost 10d (4p) and had a meat biscuit, biscuits, sweets, chocolate, etc. The supplies were being offered only to members, at about half their shop value, and – this would have appealed to a populace cowed by rationing – required no coupons. There may have been a sting in the tail; Scottish YHA members were offered a similar deal, but the consignment was damaged, the food bad, and SYHA had to fight to get their money returned.

The summer of 1949 was exceptionally dry and Mr and Mrs Clough had to use all their skills to make do with deliveries of water from a cart, water shortages being a recurring theme. In 1950 an anonymous donor provided Calor Gas lighting equipment for the kitchen and common room.

Though only modestly sized, with beds for 20 men and 14 women, Fenwick hostel was consistently recording high bednight figures of 3,500 to 4,000 annually. The 1951 regional annual report was balanced in its enthusiasm, offering a thinly-disguised criticism of the owners’ upkeep, despite the heroic efforts of its own staff: *The excellent interior contrasts sadly with the sorry state of the exterior and a new tenancy agreement is being negotiated.* The expected new tenancy agreement in 1952 did not materialise, however.

Work parties carried out urgent fire precautionary work early in 1953. Further persistent water shortages followed in the summer of that year, yet Fenwick was being maintained *as clean and inviting as ever, through the heroic efforts of Chris and Alec Clough.* Nevertheless, its neglect by the owners was apparent – and one of several factors leading to the hostel’s replacement by a new prospect at Wooler, the wardenship of which passed naturally to the Cloughs. Indeed, the regional body had tried to find a replacement in the area, but to no avail.

Fenwick hostel closed at Easter 1954 and its equipment was transferred to Wooler. In recent years the building has functioned as the Manor House guest house, though that business had ended by 2016.

FENWICK

Wooler [Cheviot Street] Youth Hostel 1954 to present

30 Cheviot Street, Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6LW

Historic County: Northumberland

YHA Regions: Northumberland &
Tyneside, Border & Dales, North

GR: NT 991277



The new Wooler prospect was of a type that the Northumberland and Tyneside Region had first noted with enthusiasm shortly after the loss of its first hostel in the town. The 1942 annual report described several Ministry of Agriculture barracks – Land Army hostels – that it was earmarking as potential YHA premises in the North-East after the war: examples included Alnwick, Belford and Longhorsley, though the base at Wooler was not mentioned. Several of these, including that on Cheviot Street, Wooler, went on to become prisoner of war camps, especially for Italians working the land, so any such promise would be long delayed. Wooler was the only such property to be used by the YHA in Northumberland, though after Land Army days it was put to use differently, as a displaced persons resettlement centre, with Muriel Gardner, the wife of Alan Gardner who was to figure largely in YHA affairs in the region, in charge.

The first published mention of the Fenwick replacement was in *Tyneside Hosteller* of July 1953: *negotiations for the purchase of the Land Army Hostel in Wooler were still proceeding*. There were many complications, however, and, in consequence, little prospect of the hostel becoming available in that year.

By the time of the September issue, negotiations were proceeding more rapidly and the property was purchased freehold, vested in the YHA Trust on 16th October 1953 as *two acres of land and buildings, £1,100*. The layout was very suitable, though adaptations and the installation of cooking facilities and hostel equipment would keep volunteer working parties busy through to Easter 1954, when it was expected the hostel would be ready for members. There would be accommodation for 30 men and 20 women (elsewhere given as 45 beds) and self-catering facilities to match the provision of meals, using plans worked out with the National YHA Surveyor. The Land Army hostel, exclusively for females, had just one very large dormitory, so it was necessary for YHA to divide the entire length of the northern wing by constructing an internal lateral wall. There was a note of caution for neighbouring hostels' viability especially, prophetically, of Alnham hostel.

The following spring the hoped-for opening date had to be quickly revised: *it was not long before we realised that Wooler would not be ready by Easter. Most of the brickwork has now been completed, and plumbing and woodwork are being hurried along to finish the job by the middle of June*.



The May 1954 Tyneside Hosteller announced a delayed opening, and illustrated the ongoing adaptations with this picture of workers building up the wall for the members' kitchen structure linking the two long wings of the building (YHA Archive)

Eventually, on 1st August 1954, the hostel opened. The final cost was reckoned at £2,307, of which the region contributed £932 and YHA National Office £750. The Ministry of Education assisted the works with grant aid, at first £550 for general adaptations and, when it was recognised that hard concrete floors were far too cold for peacetime, a further £75 was granted to cover them with timber in the dormitories and the self-catering kitchen. Most of the equipment had come from Fenwick hostel, but the main explanation of the low cost was the grand work of voluntary parties at weekends over nine months, with frequent interruptions from the weather.

The first brief season went well, with almost 1,000 staying in August and September, though maximum weekend usage was urged through the winter months.



These two postcards date from about the time of opening of Wooler hostel.

1: view to the north-east, with the little town beyond. The offset of the two wings is clearly shown, a common barrack feature. It is said that the connecting corridor was at first a covered open walkway, but now the dark entrance door leads to an enclosed passage. Left of that is the YHA-built sloping-roofed members' kitchen. At the rear right is the boiler room and tower. The far block contained the two dormitories and washrooms, while in the near one the common room led to the self-catering kitchen. Further left was the warden's kitchen and office and the private quarters. In front was the brick-built cycle shed and greenhouse;

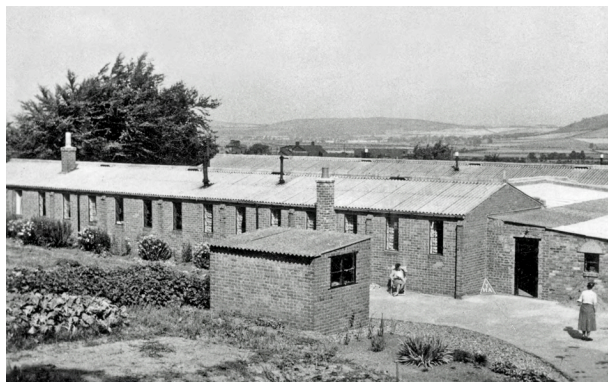
2: the common room, with door leading to the warden's kitchen. The signing-in hatch is plastered with flags, pennants and badges from an international clientele, while the furniture is basic but serviceable. The coke stove survived to the 1990s. Tom Johnston remembers that it took two days to heat up in winter, after which it glowed and everybody melted (author's collection)

The Cloughs were instantly as popular as they had been at Fenwick. In the autumn of 1955, and again in 1956 and 1957, they provided accommodation for a party of children from South Shields afflicted by polio. By 1956 *Tyneside Hosteller* was reporting that here, as at other local hostels, wardens were trying hard to make their establishments attractive. At Wooler the common room was now particularly gay, and bedrooms were beginning to sport bright Northumbrian scenes painted by member James MacKenzie. A new phrase entered the magazine's vocabulary when, in March 1957, a dance was reported on at the hostel featuring an unknown guitar player who sang and played Rock'n'Roll songs to an enthusiastic audience.

In 1958 Alec Clough fell dangerously ill and required an operation. Nevertheless, Mrs Clough provided over 500 meals in one week during the summer, despite a promised new cooker not being ready on time; this may have proved too much for her, as the provision of meals was stopped in 1960, not resuming in full until 1968. An electric heated drying room was provided in that year.

Pat Packham toured the YHA extensively at this time and wrote a fascinating log of her adventures. She visited in 1962 and wrote:

It was a hut similar to Hodgeston Hill [a youth hostel in Pembrokeshire]. In the members' kitchen were stacks of tins of food and I thought the warden must be a very trusting person to keep his store there.



Photographs by Pat Packham of the hostel in 1962. The greenhouse had by now disappeared, but note the vegetables and neat flower beds. The YHA tin triangle sat propped up near the entrance door, too common to interest thieves (YHA Archive)

In 1965 improvements planned for the winter included constant hot water in the washrooms and hot showers were promised, though these were perhaps delayed.

Wooler hostel entered a period of much greater uncertainty after the retirement of the Cloughs in 1973; for a period of 12 years or so it proved difficult to persuade wardens to stay in the YHA's most northerly outpost for more than two or three years, though the place was popular with hostellers during the 1970s at least, and achieved a new record



of just under 5,000 overnights in 1976. Dick and Anne Warren arrived in 1973, from Derbyshire, where he was an art teacher. They moved on after two years. Mrs Peggy Whiteley took over, in post from 1975 until 1977. During her period of office there was modest modernisation: the men's washroom was quarry-tiled, showers installed, windows repaired and a new catering-size cooker installed in the warden's kitchen.

Left: cheerful hostellers, about 1970. The headstone dated from YHA's acquisition but was lost on the rebuilding of the entrance in the 1990s (YHA Archive)

Val Spencer came in October 1977. She was a young geography graduate of Leicester University, from the city of Durham. During Val's stay modest improvements continued with the quarry-tiling of the women's washroom. She remarked in a news article that her main trade was weekend walkers in the Cheviots; the earlier popularity of Wooler as a skiing centre had diminished, and apart from a dozen or so school parties in the summer, that business went mainly to Rock Hall hostel. In the summer, however, her job entailed a seven-day working week.

Val left in 1979, to be replaced by Joanna Nunn. The old Land Army barracks were by now over 30 years old, and feeling their age. Joanna tried hard to freshen up the premises and shortly after her arrival turned her attention to Jim Mackenzie's murals. The local newspaper *the Journal* took up the story:

Fading murals in a village youth hostel may soon be brightened up through a reunion between the artist and his work. For when painter and decorator Jim Mackenzie dabs a splash of fresh paint on the scenes of rural Northumberland at Wooler Youth Hostel, it will be the first time in more than 25 years that he has cast eyes on

his handiwork. Jim, aged 50, of Stakeford, was tracked down by hostel warden Joanna Nunn, and the two were put in touch with The Journal's help.

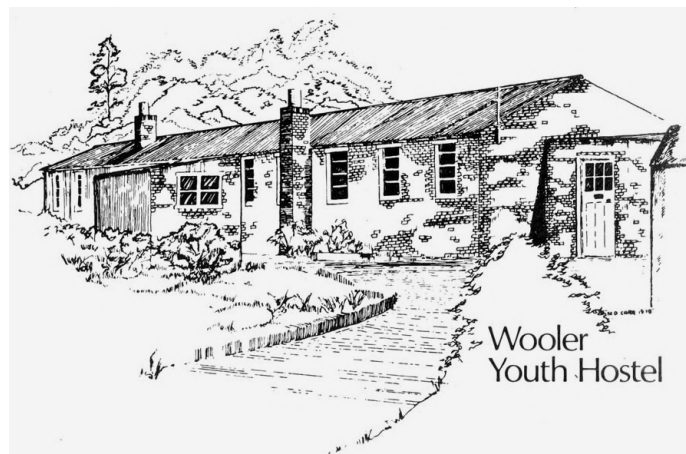
'Since starting at the hostel last November I have always meant to discover who painted the murals,' she said. 'There are about 18 of them, all of well known scenes throughout the county, but over the years the paint has faded here and there, and they need touching up again. I thought it would be rather nice if I could get whoever did them to come back and brighten them up.'

Jim, who is still a keen amateur artist, painted the murals shortly after the hostel opened in 1954.

'I was staying there convalescing after breaking my leg in a motorbike accident,' he said. 'As I was staying for free, I thought I would do the murals to pay for my keep. They only took a few days; I painted them all from memory.'



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Wardens (1) Val Spencer, with her greyhound Dill, and (2) Joanna Nunn, alongside one of Jim Mackenzie's fading murals (Glendale Gateway Trust / Berwick Records); 3: postcard, 1980s. The separate brick cycle outbuilding seen here was demolished in 2007-08, and a new set of timber bike sheds provided further away from the hostel (YHA Archive)

A sudden and severe downturn in usage indicated that the hostel was becoming old-fashioned, outdated and in poor repair. In the early 1980s barely half the record numbers of 1976 were coming to stay. The hostel was now under severe threat of closure, at least until July 1983, when a reprieve was granted. This seemed temporary, though, as in 1984 it was downgraded to operate only as a short-season facility with warden's discretion for winter opening. In 1982 Joanna married Austin Leask, warden at Baldersdale hostel. The couple stayed until February 1983, when they moved to Scotland. Austin's brother John took over for a spell of two years.



Rachel Sinton arrived in May 1985, expecting her appointment to be short-lived and closure inevitable. She stayed, however for a dozen years and her hard work, and the appointment of Tom Johnston as her assistant in 1987, reversed the hostel's ill-fortune and stabilised its position in the network. Considerable work was done to improve the hostel and its grounds. The drying room was improved, ceilings lowered and a quiet room and two small family dormitories created. The garden was levelled off and flower beds planted.

Left: in Rachel Sinton's image she is with deputy Tom Johnston at work in the hostel grounds. They both now work for the Glendale Gateway Trust

In a drive to improve the Association's professionalism and image at the end of the 1980s, YHA embarked on a major scheme to upgrade certain locations while investing the funds from closed failing properties that were closed. Wooler was a fortunate recipient of this Product Development Marketing Plan, and the first phase of this work in 1991 provided new showers and toilets for the disabled as part of a wider improvement project. The central dividing dormitory wall in the north wing was demolished, replaced by a central corridor with more fashionable smaller rooms off. Further grants of £16,500 from a dozen local trusts and organisations such as the Northumberland National Park, the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission made it possible in the winter of 1992-93 to extend wheelchair access throughout the hostel, to carry out much needed improvements to the reception lobby and to refurbish the self-catering kitchen. The total spend was £60,000.

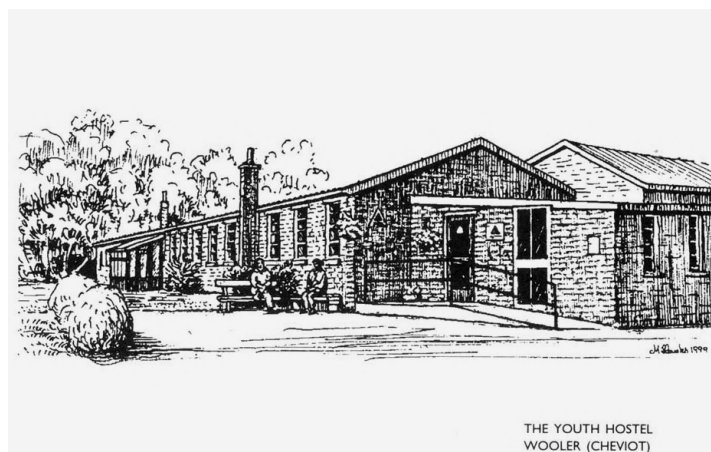
One consequence of these improvements was the loss of the murals. *YHA News* of May 1993 took up the story:

To convert Wooler YH to a Youth Hostel for both sexes a dividing wall was built down the centre of the dormitory (northern) wing. Even when colour washed, the wall was still bleak, so when in 1954 Jim Mackenzie was convalescing after a motor-cycle accident, he painted a beautiful series of murals on both sides of the wall, featuring castles, land-scapes and birds. They lasted very well, with only the very occasional need to be touched up. Last year Wooler YH was modernised, dictating the destruction of the long wall and so, regretfully, the loss of all these paintings. Shortly after the Hostel's reopening Paula Sellers, a young art teacher from Scarborough, was staying there, and offered to paint murals on the new corridor walls, of castles and their surroundings, and of puffins. They were so admired that she was persuaded to come back and paint eight more.

Paula's Wooler murals survive in 2016; a selection is shown here, with her kind permission. The final painting is a stylised contemporary scene, except that entering on the right is the pair of 1930s YHA hikers made famous in publicity material of that era. She went on to provide other famous wall-paintings at the old Whitby hostel.



Rent-a-Hostel, a new marketing idea, was extended to Wooler hostel in the winter months of 1994. In 1997 Rachel left the post of hostel manager, with the hostel doing well and achieving record overnights. Both she and Tom Johnston would continue to be linked with the hostel in later years. Her replacement up to the key date of 2006 was Mrs Linda Rhind, from Carlisle hostel, whose assistant was Mick Goodwin.



Wooler hostel in 1999, a postcard sketch by Martyn Hanks. Half way along the southern block is the warden's porch, built in 1990 to shelter a new private entrance to the manager's flat, the previous approach being through the hostel; it has recently been removed. The hostel entrance had already been rebuilt during PDMP but was modified cosmetically in 2007 (YHA Archive)

YHA was in deep financial crisis in the mid-2000s, with factors outside the Association such as the foot and mouth outbreak, the Twin-Towers attacks, the bird flu epidemic and world prices affecting its performance at least as much as its own problems of modernisation. Despite a reasonably strong performance at Wooler, the hostel was one of 32 slated for closure in 2006 to help address these issues, and was sold in July 2006 to the Glendale Gateway Trust, an organisation based in the town intent on promoting the region. The hostel was one of several to join YHA's Enterprise scheme and continued to trade as normal under its new owners. Northern Rock Foundation granted the Trust £170,000 towards the purchase and management of the hostel. The rest of the funding was approved by Northumberland Strategic Partnership and came from the capital receipt of the sale of land behind Wooler High Street, and from the Lankelly Chase Foundation. Mick Goodwin was retained as hostel manager.

After 2006 the Trust invested heavily in the hostel, providing a more attractive guest entrance, central French windows, three en suite rooms and a novel solution to meet the demand for more small rooms for couples: Tom Johnston designed and built a prototype for an outdoor sleeping unit based on a traditional shepherd's hut, and four were built by a local craftsman. Named *Humbleton*, *Yeavinger*, *Hedgehope* and *Cheviot*, the huts are an attractive and popular asset. Consequently, the hostel's capacity has risen to 54 from the established 45 to 50.



Wooler as a YHA Enterprise hostel in private ownership, showing the attractive redesigned entrance, landscaped area, picnic tables and enhanced car parking facilities (author's photographs, September 2008)

An attractive feature of the present youth hostel is the very considerable care and research that has gone into presenting personal reminiscences of life and work here by some of the previous inhabitants, the Land Army Girls. Their stories are told on a number of display boards around the premises, and hostel bedrooms are dedicated to them: Monica Lowrey, Muriel Willis, Ruby Fairbairn, Violet Carr, Joan Pringle, Joyce Ogle, Audrey Forrester and Eileen Slater. Like the early hostellers at Wooler, they were mainly Tyneside folk.



The shepherd's hut 'Cheviot'. A dedicated shower room and toilet is provided for the huts at the end of the dormitory block
(author's photographs, October 2016)

Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows									
1932-1991: previous Oct to Sept; 1992: Oct 1991 to Feb 1993; 1993-2006: Mar to following Feb									
§: Wooler Station Hostel; ¶: Fenwick Hostel; Δ: Wooler Cheviot Street Hostel									
*: 17 month period									
...	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
...	...	314§	800§	875§	1146§	1237§	1498§	1622§	482§
1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
...	...	...	...	...	...	1945¶	3539¶	3652¶	3823¶
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
3795¶	3826¶	4182¶	3653¶	1060¶	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	935Δ	3722Δ	4726Δ	4245Δ	4764Δ	4442Δ
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
3723Δ	3514Δ	3815Δ	3417Δ	3732Δ	3553Δ	2846Δ	4028Δ	3152Δ	3358Δ
1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
3312Δ	4086Δ	4251Δ	4336Δ	4270Δ	4898Δ	4939Δ	4505Δ	4819Δ	4271Δ
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
3739Δ	2978Δ	2461Δ	2494Δ	2714Δ	2310Δ	openΔ	2945Δ	3775Δ	4681Δ
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
4970Δ	5094Δ	7594*Δ	6830Δ	6851Δ	6475Δ	6309Δ	6601Δ	6198Δ	6597Δ
2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
5749Δ	5295Δ	5209Δ	5686Δ	5487Δ	5850Δ	4794Δ	5200Δ	5769Δ	5063Δ
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
4597Δ	4623Δ	4223Δ	4151Δ	4833Δ	5565Δ	openΔ	openΔ	openΔ	openΔ

Chevy Chase

Hostel stamps. Chevy Chase is a reference to the famous annual dash over the Cheviot, inaugurated in 1954 by the region's dedicated Honorary Secretary Alan Gardner, whose work is celebrated in the hostel