

Gibside Timeline

- 1200 – 1538 Gibside belonged to the Marley family of Marley Hill
- 1538 Elizabeth de Marley married Roger Blakiston of Coxhoe. In the absence of any male heirs, the estate passed into Blakiston ownership.
- 1603-20 The main house was built by Sir William Blakiston (1562-1641) probably incorporating the older building.
- 1693 Again in the absence of a male heir, the marriage of Jane Blakiston took it into the ownership of Sir William Bowes (1657-1707) of Streatlam Castle.
- 1721 Their third son, George Bowes, inherited both estates on the death of his two elder brothers.
- 1726 He and the other 'Grand Allies' built Causey Arch to carry coal more quickly to the Tyne.
- 1729 Extensive plantations began at Gibside as part of Bowes' landscaping design plans.
- 1733 Bath house & new walled garden begun. Retaining walls built along the Derwent.
- 1735 Bowes bought Hollinside Estate & altered the approach to the house
- 1738 New Coach Way completed
- 1740 Octagon Pond begun after visit to Stowe
- 1742 Gothic Banqueting House started. Temple of Liberty being built at Stowe.
- 1743 George Bowes marries Mary Gilbert, from St Paul's Walden in Hertfordshire.
- 1745 He raises a cavalry regiment to defend Durham from the Jacobites. The Scots & French Catholics got as far south as Derby
- 1746 Grand Avenue built
- 1746 Strawberry Castle built in the Strawberry Gothic style (cf Walpole's house)
- 1748 Ice house built
- 1749 Mary Eleanor was born and the column to Liberty was started.
- 1759-60 Work on the Chapel began the year before George Bowes died
- 1767 Mary Eleanor's marriage to John Lyon, 9th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne transferred Gibside and Streatlam into the ownership of the Lyon family of Glamis. George Bowes' will stipulated that his daughter's husband should take her name, so John Lyon became John Bowes. The surname Bowes-Lyon was adopted later by some of their children.
- 1772-3 The Orangery or Green House was built and improvements made to servants' quarters in the east wing, including a new bakery.

- 1790 Eleanor's son John, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, came of age and took over.
- 1800 Mary Eleanor died.
- 1805 The third floor was removed and converted into a battlemented parapet.
- 1820 John Bowes-Lyon died, having married Mary Milner of Staindrop on his deathbed. Their illegitimate son, John Milner Bowes, inherited the English estates. Henceforward known as the Dowager Countess of Strathmore, Mary Milner Bowes lived on at Gibside, later marrying William Hutt, who became Sir William Hutt, MP for Gateshead in Gladstone's government. The Scottish properties and title passed to Thomas, Eleanor's only surviving son.
- 1860 Mary Milner Bowes, Dowager Countess of Strathmore, died. From then onwards, Gibside was little used by the family, being let to various tenants.
- 1885 John Milner Bowes died without an heir, so the English estates of Gibside, Streatlam and St Paul's Walden reverted to the Earls of Strathmore.
- 1900 Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the 14th earl, was born. The mother of Queen Elizabeth II, she was very fond of Gibside and remembered coming for picnics when she stayed at Streatlam. She last visited the crypt in 1968.
- 1920 The drawing room chimneypiece, depicting Samson and Hercules supporting a huge mantelshelf, was taken to Glamis with other items of value.
- 1930 – 1939 The great oaks and beeches, many of which were planted 1790-1812 to replace those cut down by Stoney, were felled.
- 1950-60 The roof and floors had become dangerous and were removed.
- 1965 The National Trust acquired the Chapel to protect it. The Queen Mother came to the hand-over ceremony.
- 1974 The executors of the 16th Earl donated a large part of the estate to the National Trust.
- 1994 The column was repaired
- 1997 The old home farm at Cut Thorn was bought by the National Trust
- 1998 The riverside meadows of Warren Haugh and Lady Haugh were purchased.
- 2002 The house was consolidated
- 2004 The Orangery was made safe and the Stables purchased: renovations began.
- 2013 The walled garden was re-instated when the new car parks were built.