

Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 20 Issue 2

April 2016

Thomas Kenny VC

Thomas Kenny was presented with this clock and two bronze statues by the pupils and staff at his former school—St Mary's RC, Wingate, in 1915 after he was awarded his Victoria Cross.

The items have been missing for many years and despite a newspaper article informing that they had been added to the DLI collection, this turned out to be untrue. However after the dedication ceremony in November when Kenny's paving stone was erected in the cemetery, a member of the Kenny family offered the items for display in the Heritage Centre. It is a fantastic 'find' for Wheatley Hill.

Our website is in the process of being updated with a Thomas Kenny VC section which will have a spinning image of the clock so that it can be viewed from all angles. Keep looking for the updates at:

wheatley-hill.org.uk



WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB & The Pitmen Poets

On 31 January 2016 Bob Fox, Benny Graham, Jez Lowe and Billy Mitchell, four brilliant individual folk-artists, got together at The Gala Theatre and provided a wonderful night of nostalgia through song, verse and humour about the Durham Coalfield. It was the last night of their 17-date tour around the country and they were well impressed with the reception they received in Durham.

Throughout their performance they projected photographs significant to the days when coal was king in this area, including about 15 images from Wheatley Hill History Club. Our History Club has received free advertising and publicity across the country as a result of these concerts and we should be proud that they chose our photos to represent the past of the coalfield.

MEMORY TOKENS

In order to raise money for The Last Shift, Gordon Tempest is making personalised memory tokens, based on the Pit Tokens that miners took down the pit with them. The scheme is very similar to that offered by Woodhorn Mining Museum, who have a big display of the tokens which have been bought by people wishing to remember their family members who worked in the pits.

Our tokens will be manufactured to order and will be approximately 4" square (or an equivalent size for other shapes). They will be made from metallic-coated brushed bronze-effect, black rigid acrylic and the memory details will be laser-etched onto the surface.

The tokens will cost £10 each, with all proceeds, after costs, being donated to The Last Shift. They will be mounted for display on a memory wall in the Community Centre and/or additional ones for personal possession.



This is an example of a round token but other shapes are available, and all information is specific to the token you order. If you would like a token, please complete the form which accompanies this newsletter. Payment will be expected at the time of order.

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813
TREASURER: 01429 823198

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W: wheatley-hill.org.uk



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

25 May **Postcards of World War 1**
George Nairn

29 June **From Hetton to Buckingham Palace**
Brenda Graham

27 July **Victorian Food**
Sharon Vincent

BOXING DAY DIP

Thank you to all of our members who supported Bob Waite in the Sponsored Boxing Day Dip which raised money for electronic projection equipment to improve the quality of presentations at our monthly meetings from which will all benefit from.

Bob managed to attract £155 worth of sponsorship himself and our contribution took the total to £346.00. Thank you for all your efforts. It is much appreciated.

MARCH MEETING

The History of TV Game Shows

This was a history club meeting that was so different to anything we had seen before!! Barbara and Eileen from Spennymoor arrived late but more than made up for that with their excellent presentation, mostly from their joint personal experiences of being involved in TV game shows over the years. They have more to share with us so watch out for them appearing again in the future.

Wheatley Hill History Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The above meeting will be held on

Wednesday 25 May

at 5.30pm

Wheatley House

Everyone Welcome

VILLAGE ATLAS

Following on from the excellent summary document that is still available FREE from History Club meetings or the Heritage Centre, the full version of the Atlas (all 322 pages of it) is now available to view on our website - wheatley-hill.org.uk. Other villages who have been involved in this project have offered the full version for sale. Please let us know if you would like a copy—the more orders we get, the cheaper it will be.

LOCAL HISTORY DAY

Saturday 2 July 2016

10.00am—1.00pm

All Saints Parish Church, Wheatley Hill

The Local History Day is being held early this year

So that we can commemorate

THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

and we feel that the Church is a very fitting venue

Displays relating to local men and their contributions to the Battle of the Somme

An opportunity to look at the Church War Memorial to the WW1 Fallen

Usual local history sales including 2017 calendars

Displays of 1916 Wheatley Hill

Refreshments

Other Somme related events in Wheatley Hill

Friday 1 July

Service at The Village War Memorial
1.30pm

Followed by short service at
All Saints Parish Church

Sunday 3 July

Somme Commemoration Service
All Saints Parish Church

Sunday 3 July

A talk on The Battle of the Somme
All Saints Parish Church
6.00pm

Ending with the reading of Poetry from WW1

HOLIDAY DIARY

This is a diary kept during a holiday taken in 1948 by Billy and Bella Carr of No 3 Gowland Terrace. They travelled to Scotland with their two sons, Alf and Gordon in their Humber and stayed in a guest house in Ayr for two weeks. Billy kept a diary of their activities during the holiday.

Saturday 14 August 1948

Arrived 4pm. Had tea. Went and had a look around the town. Showery.

Sunday 15 August 1948

Very fine. Went on a mystery tour after tea. Passed Mauchline, Cumnock, New Cumnock, Dalmellington. 3½ hours ride—coach fare 3/9.

Monday 16 August 1948

Morning fine on sea front. After dinner went with car to Maybole and visited Robert Burns cottage and his monument and gardens. Started to rain so after tea we were off to Odeon Theatre.

Tuesday 17 August 1948

After breakfast off on visit to 3 lakes—Erskine Ferry, Loch Lomond. Route was Ayr, Prestwick, Irvine, Killwinning, Largs, Port Glasgow across Erskine Ferry then on to Balloch for dinner then around Loch Lomond back south down Loch Long onto The Gare Loch. Tea at Helensburgh then Dunbarton, Kilpatrick, Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Ayr. Rain until 2.45pm then fine for rest of day.

Wednesday 18 August 1948

Left Ayr 10.00am. Sailed to Largs then onto sail up 3 lakes. Stopped at Dunoon at 3.10pm for 1 hour. Left Dunoon for Ayr at 4.10pm. Arrived at Ayr 6.45pm. A grand day.

Thursday 19 August 1948

A lovely day. Had a look around town in morning. After dinner got car out and went to Dunure and back to have a look through Butlins Camp at Heads of Ayr.

Friday 20 August 1948

Another lovely day. Went along sea front on morning. Afternoon spent on putting green and at night went to Gaiety Theatre—a grand day.

Saturday 21 August 1948

Rain until tea time. Played cards in lounge then went to Orient Pictures at night. Saw The Swordsman—good show.

Sunday 22 August 1948

Went down by river in morning and after dinner we did about 60 miles in car. Cumnock, Muirkirk, Glenbuck, Drumclog, Darvel, Galston, Ayr.

Monday 23 August 1948

Went to Portpatrick. A lovely ride but showery all day. Dinner at Stranraer and tea at Girvan.

Tuesday 24 August 1948

Went to Isle of Arran in ship. Very rough sea glorious weather on island. Had dinner and tea. Good sailing all the way back.

Wednesday 25 August 1948

Went to Belle Isle Park in morning.

Thursday 26 August 1948

Had look around town and along pier before dinner. After dinner went to Prestwick airport and visited Dutch tearooms. Had tea at Eldon House and later went to pier and saw the boats return with fish.

Friday 27 August 1948

Went shopping in morning. Had dinner went to Prestwick airport. Boys had a trip in plane. After tea played golf then went for a stroll on prom. Packed bags for home before supper.

Saturday 28 August 1948

Had breakfast. Got photo of group staying in same house. Left Ayr 9.40am. Called at Gretna Green. Acted as bride and bridegroom at mock marriage in Smithy. Had dinner in Longtown. Stopped for short time in Hexham. Arrived Home 4.45pm. A grand holiday.



*The photo mentioned by Billy in his diary
Bella (3rd left), Alf standing, Gordon & Billy at front*

Wheatley Hill Community Association

T: 01429820214



OPENING HOURS

Mon—Thurs

8.30am—8.45pm

Fri—8.30am-6.45pm

Available for functions outside of these hours—please ask for details

OUR FACILITIES INCLUDE:

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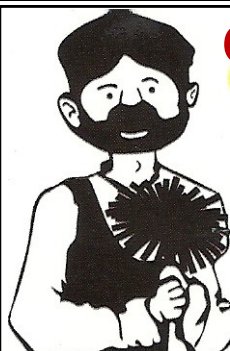
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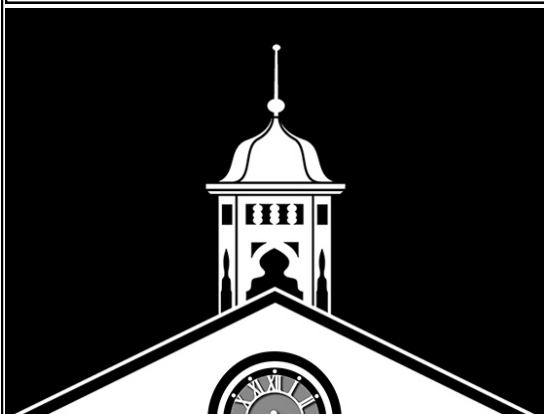
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Membership

**History Club Membership of £6 per Year was due at
the March Meeting**

If you would like to renew your membership please contact the Chair
(contact details on page 2)