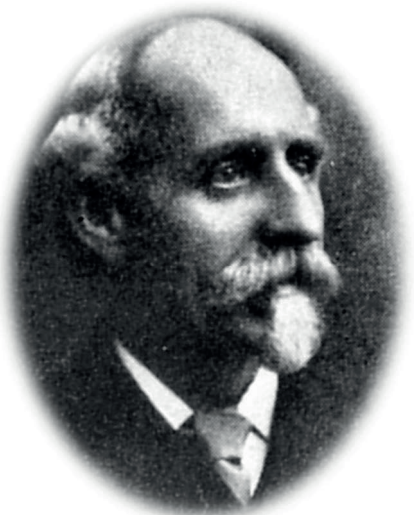


## FAMOUS GRAVES



**Peter Lee**  
**Wheatley Hill Cemetery**  
**Wheatley Hill, County Durham**

July 1864 - 16 June, 1935 (aged 71)

Trade unionist Peter Lee began work in a county Durham colliery aged just 10 and later had a town named in his honour. As a miner's leader, preacher and local politician, he improved work and living conditions for the local mining community. It was later said of him: "He gave all, asking nothing in return, little dreaming that a great New Town would bear his name."

His grave in Wheatley Hill cemetery is a listed monument.

We have managed to have Miners Leader, Peter Lee included on a website "Famous Graves Finder". It's a website that gives details of where late-greats, legends and historic figures are laid to rest in the UK. We are delighted that Peter Lee has been included. The site is administered from South Africa, so naturally when the History Club made an application to have Peter added, they had never heard of him. It took almost three years, whilst they carried out their own research, but eventually agreed that he was famous enough to be included. This makes his inclusion even more special - someone else recognising his achievements!

### NEW SEASON OF HISTORY CLUB MEETINGS

2018 is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year that the History Club has been running in Wheatley Hill and for the first time, we changed the time of our meetings from evening to morning.

We were delighted with the turn-out to hear the talk on Ludworth Tower by Geoff Wallis. Over 30 people attended which the committee felt was exceptional. All existing members who turned up to the meeting renewed their membership and another four people joined as members for the first time.

The start time of 11.00am seemed to be very popular and we hope that we can continue to attract similar size audiences in the future.

The talk was very informative and covered a huge period of history in the life of Ludworth, always thought of as the "poor relation" of the three collieries - Thornley, Ludworth and Wheatley Hill.

Geoff informed us that there was a tenuous connection to royalty resident in the tower during medieval times and that's something that Wheatley Hill and Thornley never had!

The tower has a grade II listing.

### OUR MOTHERS

A few years ago, History Club members took part in a project looking at the lives of our grandmothers. Each prepared a short presentation, with photographs, and they were made into booklet form. The contributors read out their work at a history club meeting and it was very successful. We think it would be a good idea to carry out a similar task, this time with the heading "Our Mothers", following the same format as before. If you would like to take part, please write out the information you would like others to know about your mother, together with a photo and bring it to the history club. We will publish it to coincide with Mothers Day 2019.

### JOAN GOWLAND



It was with great sadness that we learned of Joan's death in February. She was a long-standing member of the History Club and also a volunteer at the Heritage Centre until a few years ago. Joan is remembered by most of us from her time working in the local Post Office.

We sent a letter and card to Joan's sister and representatives attended her funeral at the Durham Crematorium.

### CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813

TREASURER: 01429 823198

E: [history.club2@btinternet.com](mailto:history.club2@btinternet.com)

W: [wheatley-hill.org.uk](http://wheatley-hill.org.uk)



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### ALL MEETINGS START AT 11.00AM

25 April Thomas Kenny VC

30 May To The Workhouse Born

27 June Pitmens Cures & Potions

£2.00 per meeting

Includes tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle

## THE LAST SHIFT - EVENTS UPDATE

### Thursday 3 May

- 10.30 Brass band playing in Wheatley Hill Cemetery  
Display of miners banners in attendance**
- 11.00 Formal welcome and introduction to the event  
Gordon Tempest**
- 11.07 "I had a dream" and unveiling of the statue  
Irene McTeer**
- 11.15 Blessing of The Last Shift statue by  
The Bishop of Jarrow**
- 11.30 Brass band playing Gresford - The Miners Hymn**
- 11.40 Final thanks by the Chair of the Last Shift Committee  
Dorothy Peacock**

**HERITAGE CENTRE OPEN 10.00 - 4.00 Mining Displays & Refreshments**

### DATA PROTECTION ACT

If you have been a member of the History Club for a number of years, you will have been surprised this year when we asked you to complete a new application for membership that included Data Protection information.

As from 25 May 2018, local groups such as ours must be accountable for how we collect, use and store your private data, and so we asked for your permission. You can ask to see the information we hold on you at any time or ask for it to be deleted from our systems.

An important piece of information for all computer users: **no-one should get to know anyone's email address from an email you send - always use bcc for multiple copies.**

### WHEATLEY HILL HERITAGE CENTRE

Have a new website. This is the link:

[www.wheatleyhillheritagecentre.org.uk](http://www.wheatleyhillheritagecentre.org.uk)



The Virtual Tour is well worth a visit

# THE MEMOIRS OF THOMAS RUSSELL

## (1847 - 1928)

*(During the short time he lived in Wheatley Hill)*

### 15 November 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

In Affectionate Remembrance of John Morley who died October the 7, 1872 aged 30 years. Can pen describe the mornful sigh to hear the widows children cry. O come dear Father come to me but no he's in Eternity.

### 24 November 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

I went to Wingate Station with our Ellion and Mary Ann. Thay were goen to see their father and mother and when I came back I had to cut Thomas Grenwell's pig up and I am tired but I think I will go to my bed and I hope I will get a god night's rest and trust to the Lord.

### 27 November 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Was the day I toke the forst payment for killing a pig and Thomas Grenwell was the man. I charged him 1s.2d but Sarah gave me 1s.6d for it so I toke it.

### 30 November 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

This was the day that we gave in for Shotton a enging house in the main coal seam and our price was £85. Thomas Grenwell, John Grenwell, William Greenwell, Thomas Russell.

### 7 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

This is the day that I made my sones little horse and we were ideal today. But we are goen to work tomorrow and that is pay Friday. Thinges is loken very dull.

### 7 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

It did not say the date when this was rote but I think it would be 18 of April.

"Dear wife and famley I am sorry that I can give no account for this action but a depressed state of mind. Hoping God will show more kindness than the earthly father and by you get this I am no more your husband and father. My loving all. John Howie".

### 8 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

This bein pay Fridda night me and our Ellion has ben to Thornley and it was a fine night and I went to see Gorge Lonsdale but he was not in. So we went to the stor and got some thinges and came down home again and had our supper and went to bed. So I will bid you good night pen and ink and book.

### 10 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Well Ellion I think you have done well. You have got the stockin a long way on. You are goen to finish them sone if you do not mind excuse me Ellion *(It looks as if Ellen is making stockings, maybe for Christmas)*

### 10 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Dear Reader. You may think it strange of me for making a mamerand (*memorandum*) of this but it toke me about ten years to complete. I was married at Brancepeth Colliery in sixty-seven and I finished in seventy seven paying for furnutey (*furniture*) and I have paid a good amount to Spark of Haswell Lane. *(Henry Spark was a cabinet maker living in Haswell Lane, Haswell, so this entry could refer to a piece of furniture that Thomas had made at the time of his marriage to Ellen)*

### 11 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Myself and William Stoker was hewen at the Clippers flat but we started for William Burt in the main coal seam and we like it verry well and we started on this date.

### 11 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Mary Ann and Ellion and myself were talking about shifting to Monkwearmouth Colliery but we do not know that thay can get there yet but tyme will try it

### 11 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

Ellion Russell do good with what thou have or it will do thou no good

### 17 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

This was the day that Mary Ann got word from South Wingate by to boys and thay called themselves Butterfield. William was away on that day and thay said he had to go to see the master. *(The Mary Ann referred to here is probably Thomas's brother William's wife)*

### 26 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

I thought I would make a note of the day that Mary Ann shifted to Hardbushes and it was on this date and two days after Christmas day. *(Thomas probably means that his sister-in-law (sister of wife Ellen and her husband William Heseltine) moved to Hartbushes, South Wingate on 27 December)*

### 28 December 1877, Wheatley Hill Colliery

I was at a temperance meeting on this date but it stayed on rather long. There was a little reding and a little singen but not much of either and I hope it will get better soon. The night is clarty and dark and cold so I will have my supper and go to bed.

### 10 January 1878, Wheatley Hill Colliery

This been about half past eight at night I thought I would sit down and emuse myself a little. Well I have to go to my work at nine o'clock and thought I would read a little of Robert Burns but I am stif with sitting and can do nothing. William shifted from Thornley today. *(This entry may refer to Thomas' brother William Russell)*



Wheatley Hill Community Association T: 01429 820214



### 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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  - 3 SMALL SAUSAGE & CHIPS
  - 4 KEBAB & CHIPS (SMALL)
- (SUPPLIED WITH A CHOICE OF PEAS, CURRY, GRAVY, BEANS OR GARLIC)

THREE FISH FINGERS & CHIPS £3.20  
(SUPPLIED WITH A CHOICE OF PEAS, CURRY, GRAVY, BEANS OR GARLIC)



**Slimming  
WORLD**

### Mondays

5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Wheatley House  
Wheatley Hill

### Wednesdays

5.00pm & 7.00pm  
Wingate Com. Centre

**Contact**  
**07815 776106**  
For more details

Hi my name is Ali and I run your local Slimming World Groups. I will always be a member first and foremost so I know how daunting joining a group can be and I'll be there with you 100% of the way! My life mission is simple: I want to help as many people as possible achieve their weight loss dreams, but it's not just about weight loss, sometimes it can be life saving! Lots of our members are no longer on medication for Type 2 Diabetes and other medical conditions as a DIRECT result of their weight loss efforts.

I would love to welcome everyone new or returning members to one of my fabulous groups. I'm looking forward to welcoming you soon. X

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