

# Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 20 Issue 1

January 2016

## LIMESTONE LANDSCAPE Wheatley Hill and Thornley Village Atlas

### Summary document—Two Communities of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau

This publication is designed to provide an accessible summary of the history, ecology and geology of Thornley and Wheatley Hill and their surrounding areas. It draws on the work of the recently completed Wheatley Hill/Thornley Village Atlas which was the first to be commissioned through lottery funding by Durham County Council and undertaken by members of the local community and a team of specialists directed by the Archaeological Practice Ltd.

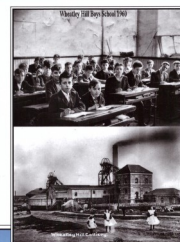
The Village Atlas covers a period in the history of Wheatley Hill and Thornley which has previously been overlooked by researchers. It provides us with the most complete history of the villages and surrounding area ever produced. We now have a time-line of our area from before the Romans to the present day including information on historic buildings, geology, hydrology and ecology, and this, together with research carried out by History Club members mostly concerned with the industrial period, provides a firm basis for further research in the future.

#### THE WHEATLEY HILL & THORNLEY VILLAGE ATLAS

##### 'A SUMMARY'

TWO COMMUNITIES  
OF THE MAGNESIAN  
LIMESTONE PLATEAU

Edited by Alan Rushworth  
with text and illustrations by  
Alan Rushworth, Claire MacRae,  
Marc Johnstone, Paul Williams,  
Lizzie Willows and the Wear  
Rivers Trust



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**These books are available free of  
charge from Wheatley Hill  
Heritage Centre or from  
History Club meetings**

## BOXING DAY DIP 2015

It was a rainy Boxing Day at Seaham but it didn't deter the 200 or so dippers that turned up, including our own Bob Waite, who was raising money for the History Club. He ran into the North Sea, motivated only by lists of sponsors names that History Club members had managed to collect!! Well done Bob, we are very grateful for your support and sorry about the cold you got on our behalf! Thank you to everyone who went along to support Bob.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**No Meetings until March 2016**

**30 March** History of TV Game Shows  
**27 April** Growing up in a Pit Village in the 1930's  
(a talk by an ex-resident)  
**25 May** Postcards of World War 1

## CALLING ALLEN FAMILY HISTORIANS

If you are researching any variation of the name **ALLEN** in your family tree the following is an ideal opportunity to try and join up your research with EVERYONE researching that name:

### The ALLEN y-DNA Project & The ALLEN Guild of One Name Studies

The Allen DNA Project is partnering with the Allen Guild of One Name Studies in an exciting new Research Endeavor. The Allen DNA Project is a USA based group, but is very interested in expanding our membership to a world-wide audience by actively seeking out Allens from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Mainland Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or anywhere else on the planet. Additionally, any spelling variation of the Allen surname is welcome: Allan, Allyn, Allin, etc.

To this point, **FREE yDNA 37 marker tests** will be made available to any males carrying the Allen surname and residing outside the United States who are willing to join the project and participate in the testing. The only requirement for a free yDNA test is a known Allen/Allan (any spelling) lineage to at least the participant's Great Grandfather Allen/Allan (any spelling) in any country. Additionally, The Allen DNA Project is setting aside a specific Sub-group within the Project with a full commitment of assistance from Allen Project Co-Administrator Dr. Eric Allen who will be overseeing this specific International Sub-group.

Guild of One Name Studies: [http://one-name.org/name\\_profile/allen/](http://one-name.org/name_profile/allen/)

Allen DNA Project: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/allan/about/background>

Direct Contacts:

Mr. Chris Allen: [cdpallen@gmail.com](mailto:cdpallen@gmail.com)

Dr. Eric Allen: [ericallen@alton.k12.mo.us](mailto:ericallen@alton.k12.mo.us)

## THE LAST SHIFT—UPDATE

Since the last update in the October newsletter, the fund has really taken off and is well on the way to raising the £10,000 target set by the Mothers Club representing local fundraising.

The following have all contributed to the fund: The Co-operative Funeral Care, Ena Robson's coffee morning, Simon Lowther Coast to Coast bike ride, Conshies Club, Conshies Leek Club, Heritage Centre, History Club, online funding, All Saints Church, Abbots Court Nursing Home, Family Fun Night at the Scouts Club, Thornley Ladies Bingo Club, Co-op raffle, sale of Last Shift Bags, Boxing Day Dip as well as the continuous fund raising from members of the Mother Club such as Eleanor's cake sale, Win Lord's sale of hats, Jennifer Middleton's raffle, Rose Rowbotham's raffle of Christmas Cake.

There has also been a large number of private contributions from people to whom Wheatley Hill pit held special memories. All contributors names are being placed on a list which will be buried in a time capsule under the statue.

The next major fund raiser will be in March when an Elvis tribute night is planned in the Workingmens Club. If you would like tickets please let someone from the History Club know. It's being organised by one of our members.



**50 Years  
Without our Pit**

Letter from Nicholas and Joanna Smith, step-father and mother to Mary and her husband Walter Buckley who emigrated to West Virginia in 1863. Nicholas Smith was Joanna Proudlock's second husband. Mary is the sister of Lewis Proudlock, the writer of the last letter in this newsletter.

29 April 1889

62 Millbank Terrace  
Station Town  
Near Wingate  
England

My dear sun and doter and grandchilder. I sit down to right hoping to fine you all well as this leaves us beter than we have been. Father has been sick all the winter but he is beter now and rest of us is well and we hav been looken for a leter from you week after weak. We herd from you wen Thomas rot and told us of anns marige we onley got one leter to hear from you as I think I shall never see you in this world but I hope you will meet me in the next. Many a time I wonder wat ceeps you from riten to your mother I no that neither you nor walter can right but the boys can and ann has got married and has no time but tell her to right and let us no how she is getin long with a man. Joanna is downen well with her man and they have meggys child ceepin and meggy is in place at Coundon and she is beter in her helth. We hope she will ceep her helth and strength. Ralf and his wif was well and john has got his 2 boys to work. We have not sen bell lately and mr flecher is dead and old James haw is dead and we are getin old so our times will com to leave all our frends behind us hoping to meet all our friends in heaven so I close this. Send our love to all and father and mother. Best love and do right soon.

Mr Nicholas Smith

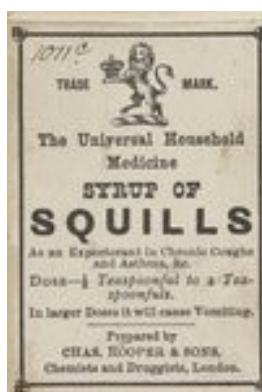
*This letter has been written in the Durham dialect by Nicholas Smith who was about 70 years old at the time of writing. He was born in an age when education was not compulsory and so has done well to have acquired any skills of writing. By 1891 Nicholas had been widowed, his wife Joanna died in 1890 and was buried on 26 March in Wingate. Nicholas continued to live with Joanna's son, Lewis Proudlock and his family at Station Town.*

## RECIPES FROM A VICTORIAN 'RECEIPTS' BOOK

The following is from a Victorian receipts (now called recipe) book which was handed down by husband's great grandmother but not examined closely—until now! All the recipes are hand-written and we estimate date from the 1890's. This is one of her recipes for cough mixture—there were a further two which contained even more obscure ingredients such as syrup of squill!

### COUGH MIXTURE(1)

Boil together 1 stick of liquorice, 1lb of treacle, 1 quart of water till reduced to 3 gills. When cold add following ingredients: 1oz of paregoric, 4 drachms laudanum, ½oz of spirits of wine, 1d worth of aniseed.



### KEY TO THE TERMS:

**Paregoric:** camphorated tincture of opium  
**Laudanum:** a tincture of opium  
**Spirits of Wine:** an archaic name for ethanol  
**Syrup of Squill:** medicinal plant of the lily family

### Units of measure used in the preparations

There are eight drachms to the ounce  
and three scruples to the drachm  
and 20 grains to the scruple.  
One Troy ounce is equal to 31.1 grammes,

**WARNING: please do not try this recipe**



Wheatley Hill Community Association T: 01429 820214

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## Past Uncovered

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Are you curious about your family tree?  
Pre-1837 records difficult to find?  
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Do you have missing ancestors?

**Margaret Hedley, MA, B.Ed(hons)**

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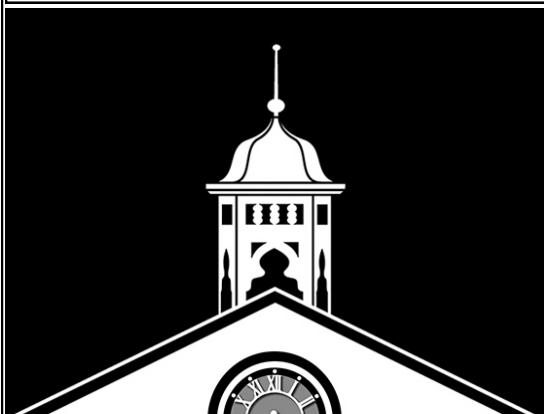
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