



may you have many words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night and the road be downhill all the way to your door

Wheatley Hill History Club

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1995 *History Club is 15 Years Old* 2010

PHOTOS OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS

I am still awaiting the above photos for our July meeting - I only have two at the time of going to print!! The meeting cannot go ahead unless more people take part. **PLEASE** Let me have your photos.

GRAND CONCERT IN TEMPERANCE HALL WHEATLEY HILL

Held: 14 October 1901 at 7pm

The following children received special prizes for the highest number of attendance at the Children's Services:

THORNLEY CHILDREN:

Robert Swinburn
Ellen Bosomworth
Daisy Swinburn
Annie Barker
Kate Swinburn

WHEATLEY HILL CHILDREN:

Stanley Morgan
Herbert Willets
Thomas Morgan
Lilian Armstrong
Julia Hutchinson
Phoebe Newall
Ethel Hird
Beatrice Morgan

Each of the prize winners obtained the highest possible number of marks.

NEW LEAFLET

For the first time, the History Club has produced a leaflet to promote its work, if you would like any leaflets to give out in order help us in promoting ourselves, please ask at a History Club meeting.

BOOK REVIEW

The following review appeared in the December journal of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society. It was written by their editor, Patrick Brennan, after he had a look at our latest book:

"The title of this book might suggest a dreary account of the achievements (or otherwise) of the first major post-war nationalised industry. This would do it an injustice. It is instead, an entertaining and fascinating account of life in three mid-Durham colliery villages, in the first seven years following the transfer of their main source of employment from private hands into state ownership. Put together from newspaper clippings of the era, it reveals, for example, that this transfer, for which the miners had been campaigning for years, did not immediately resolve the problems of the industry. 1947, the first year covered, was marked by a number of strikes and demarcation disputes as the new organisation struggled with the need to modernise not only the infrastructure of the pits, but also working practices. A number of references also illustrate the conditions under which the miners had lived previously; an account of the Golden Wedding celebrations of Mr & Mrs William Hird recalls the days when they first moved to the village - unmade roads, no street lights and grass growing in the kitchen of their new home! And other entries remind us that although the miners had thrown off the yoke of the coal owners, they were still to some extent treated as peasants by the establishment. For example an application by several local cinemas to open earlier on a Sunday (the normal hours being 7.30-10.00) was turned down by magistrates on receipt of objections from the local Anglican and Methodist churches!

This book is full of little vignettes of village life in those times, and will be interesting to anyone associated with the area, or with a general interest in this historical period".

WHEATLEY HILL MISSION CHURCH

The Wheatley Hill Brass Band attended Church on Sunday morning, 22 November 1908 in their new uniforms and took part in the service by accompanying some of the hymns and at the close playing the Hallelujah Chorus. We were glad to give them a welcome and congratulate them on their smart appearance and playing. We hope they may advance to a foremost place amongst the bands in the country and give our village reason to be proud of them.

We would again remind our people of the great importance of keeping the joyous Festival of Christmas in a religious manner. As a holiday it was given to the world by the Church, the Church therefore ought not to be forgotten on that day; while not keeping it so strictly as the Sunday all Christian people ought to attend God's House at least once on that sacred day to honour the Infant Redeemer. We observe the birthday's of our friends, with how much greater regard ought we to observe the birthday of the Friend of Friends. We hope for good congregations.

The services will be as follows:

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Children's Instruction
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.00pm Evening Prayer (with anthem and carols)

Communicants are reminded that Christmas Day is one of the days on which they ought to communicate!

(From the Church Magazine, 1908)





CONTACT DETAILS

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Look at What We've Achieved in 15 Years

PUBLISHED WORKS

- ❖ Book of photographs in conjunction with Durham County Council
- ❖ 4 volumes of the history of the village and the pit from 1830-1955 (*volume 5 to be published in 2010*)
- ❖ 2 volumes of local contributions to both world wars including casualties, gallantry awards and absent voters
- ❖ Book of photographs "Around Wheatley Hill"

TRANSCRIPTIONS

- ❖ All census returns 1841-1901
- ❖ Burial Index - Wheatley Hill Cemetery 1907 - 1999
- ❖ Fatalities - Thornley Ludworth & Wheatley Hill Collieries 1830-1976
- ❖ School Registers 1930-1965
- ❖ School Log Book 1877 - 1911
- ❖ List of Widows Receiving Permanent Relief
- ❖ Baptisms from Thornley Church 1898 - 1912 (*includes Wheatley Hill families*)

THE AGED MINERS' THANKS

Now early in the morning, before the heat of day,
 We heard someone hammering on the 30th of May;
 It was a kindly neighbour, with chisel, wedge and mell,
 He worked hard at the monster with all his strength and skill.

He worked at this so eager till eleven upon that day,
 Then had to go for dinner, no longer could he stay.
 Alas, my friends and neighbours, sad news then came to me,
 My friend could work no longer, for he had lamed his knee.

By striking at this monster, the mell did slip you see,
 By some mishap or other, was struck upon his knee
 But now he's getting better, we are so glad to tell,
 And if we get another, we hope to strike it well.

For we are very thankful, although we're getting old
 To face another struggle, to save us from the cold.
 This monster will be useful, in winter's cold dark night,
 And we shall be so thankful, if God permits the sight.

To see another winter, for some in Haswell Moor,
 Already lived together, sixty years or more,
 For some are over eighty, and ninety, too we say,
 Well deserve your pity, we've borne the heat of day.

Oh, Christian friends do listen to what we have to say;
 We give you all a blessing while you are on your way
 To always do to others as you would like done to you
 And love each one as brothers, and God will love us too.

Concludes next month ...

MEETINGS

27 January

The History of Aerial Surveillance by Arthur Dodds
(member of the history club)

24 February

The History of Town Kelloe by Mr G Staff

31 March

Benjamin Flounders by Jim Fox

28 April

Have Brush will Travel by Fred Atkinson (artist)

MINING MARRAS

Durham County Record Office are giving local people the opportunity of becoming involved in a new project indexing the Durham Mining Association (DMA) records. The DMA records will help both family and local historians to focus on miners who worked in the coal industry and their input into colliery life.

Volunteers will receive full support and training to:

Index Records
Help create an online catalogue and index
View the original DMA records

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

<u>Ticket No</u> (all pink)	<u>Winner</u>
173	J Gowland
49	A Dodds
401	M Swinburne
123	Unclaimed
342	M Hedley
381	F Bromilow
10	J Scott
125	Unclaimed
288	Unclaimed
239	Unclaimed
292	Unclaimed

Thank you to all who bought tickets and provided prizes

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre will be offering family history researchers the opportunity to search online via ancestry.com and findmypast.com in order to locate missing ancestors.

Find My Past is the first organisation to be offering the 1911 census and for the first time researchers can see their ancestors hand-writing as they filled in the census forms themselves!

There will be a small charge for booking a 2-hour slot and also for your print outs.

It is hoped that this will start in January.

Please contact the Heritage Centre to make a booking or for more details.

MEMBERSHIP

Due NOW - **£5.00** for all - no concessions.

QUILT

A quilt made by the women of the Primitive Methodist Church in the 1940's has been donated to the Heritage Centre.





It only costs £25.00 per year to advertise on this page

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WHEATLEY HILL BOYS SCHOOL

CYCLING CLUB - TRIP TO THE ROMAN WALL

On 19 March 1951 we started our ride from the leaders house in bitterly cold, stormy weather. There were nine of us on the ride and the names were: Edward Lawson, Edward Fulcher, Alan Muir, Robert Dawson, John Purvis, Leslie Alderton, Kenneth Barker, Billy Lincoln and the leader was Mr Brown. The weather did not improve until we got to Easington Lane and then the grey sky began to break.

However, when we got out of Easington Lane it stopped snowing so the leader told us to stop and take our capes off. When we had done that we started off again towards Chester-le-Street and passed through a little village within about ten miles of Penshaw Monument. Now we were travelling along the great North Road. There we passed several great factories, one of which was the Henley Cable factory at Birtley. At Birtley we stopped and found a cafe and bought coffee and cakes while two boys stayed outside with the cycles. When the first two boys had finished they went and relieved the other two. After this we started off again for Ravensworth. The weather still fine although we had a snow shower in Birtley but it wasn't much. There were some big farms on the road to Birtley and a lot of sheep and cows were grazing in the fields. The riding so far was easy although one of the new lads was having pains in the side. Then we went into the Team Valley. At Team Valley were are big annual cycling races. We took a short cut to Blaydon. It was a rough way but we cut about a mile off and had to climb up the Ravensworth Park bank. We saw another big factory. When we reached Blaydon it started to snow again but it soon stopped. Then the leader pulled over into the side and we had a little talk. After we had crossed the Tyne at Newburn, we went into the next village and got a snack. From now on our journey ran along the Roman Wall. Some of the Roman Wall is under the road and some is at the side. The next things we saw were the 9 big reservoirs at Whittledean. There were two on one side and seven on the other. They covered about 46 acres of ground. On we went anxious to reach the hostel, which the leader said was only about 3 miles away. We came to a junction and the leader got out his map and told us to turn to the right which we did and dropped swiftly down to the Tyne Valley and at the bottom of which was Acomb hostel. It was half past four when we reached it and the hostel wasn't open so we set off to find food for the evening meal in the village. When we came back it was open so we all put our cycles in the shed. We took our bags off our cycles and took them into the Dormitory. There we got some of our foodstuff out and made our meal. When the dinner was ready we set the table and gave out the foot and had a good meal. After this we all slept well and forgot our long ride of 50 miles.

Next morning had a good breakfast of porridge, eggs, bacon, beans and biscuits then we put our bags back on our cycles. We took our cycles out and had our photos taken and way we went. We walked through the village and when we reached the bottom, we got on our cycles and off we went. We climbed up out of the valley then along a level street into Wall village where we got off and went into the Post Office. There the leader bought some stamps for our postcards. When we had done that we were off again. We got a little way out of Wall when some of us saw a small ruined part of the Roman Wall. Further on we climbed a bank. At the top we all got off for a rest. While we were resting, two of us changed into our shorts. Soon we came to a little village but we went straight through it. About a mile out of the village some other lads stopped and put their shorts on.

(to be continued next month)

