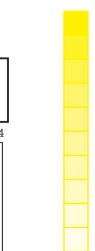
may you have many words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night and the road be downhill all the way to your door



Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 17 Issue 1

January 2014

HISTORY CLUB AWARDED FUNDS TO UPDATE WEBSITE

The following article appeared in the Northern Echo with regard to our successful funding application from the Durham County Foundation:

Local history group wins funding to keep history alive

High Haswell Wind Farm Community Fund

Residents of Wheatley Hill can now step back in time and see how their village has developed over the past century thanks to the hard work of local enthusiasts and support from their local wind farm.

Wheatley Hill History Club successfully applied for funding from the High Haswell Wind Farm Community Fund to update their website with history of the local area during World War I. This is a part of a larger project to mark the start of the war, to be launched next year. Wheatley Hill History Club is the first group to benefit from High Haswell Community Fund,

established with the development of the High Haswell Wind Farm.

The donation will support the development of an interactive map of the village, allowing website visitors to click on different areas of the map to see the streets, the houses, and the people during war time. The club, running since 1995, and has published seven local history books but hopes that the updated and interactive website will help them reach a younger audience.

Club Chair Margaret Hedley said: "We are thrilled to receive this funding from the High Haswell Community Fund to commemorate the beginning of the First World War and the impact it had on Wheatley Hill. We hope to engage more local people to learn more about the rich history of the village."

Operator REG Windpower donates £16,000 per year to support good causes in the local

community. County Durham Community Foundation administers the fund, and a panel of local

people decide which applications are most deserving of support.

Claudia Richard, REG Windpower's Community Relations Manager, said: "The Wheatley Hill History Club is a wonderful organisation and we are delighted that the wind farm could support their efforts to preserve local history. "We hope residents of Wheatley Hill and beyond make use of the website".

CATHERINE GOODRUM

It is with sadness that we announce the death of History Club member Catherine.

Catherine has been a member for several years and attended many of our events Unfortunately she passed away on 2 January and we pass on our condolences to her family.

CALENDARS ON SALE £1.00 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2013

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket or donated a prize for the Christmas Raffle - your contributions, as always, are greatly appreciated.

WINNERS 1st Billy Middleton

2nd Vera Dunn 3rd Billy Middleton 4th Arthur Dodds 5th Marion Wigham 6th Joan Gowland 7th Joan Gowland 8th Marion Wigham 9th Jean Dobson



Like us on **Facebook**

Let someone from the committee know and we'll announce the location in the next newsletter



	CT DETAILS	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Chair: Treasurer:	01429 820813 01429 823198	26 Feb A Stroll Through France & Spain	Neil Straughan
E: history.club2@btinternet.com		26 Mar Advanced Driving	Jim Muter
Web Site: wi	heatley-hill.org.uk	30 Apr The Work of a Magistrate	Chris Bell JP
	GRAM		
ne of the work we did	l a few years ago, rememb	l. It's her memories of her grandmot pering our granny's. Whilst Gatesh ublication in our newsletter:	
		ened Elizabeth Jane Woof. Her father's ad four brothers and two sisters.	name was John Woof
William, Joseph, Hannah killed in action in 1916 -	n and Peter. Both Thomas and	I June 1895. They had six children - Alice (d William were involved in the First Wor ly after from a disease which he had contr mother and Peter.	ld War - Thomas was
wall was adjacent to a proundabouts, swings and	piece of land called the quarry d sideshows accompanied by l	tairs flat leading from Gateshead High Sti y. Showmen used to use the quarry at v loud music. They lived in their caravans o howmen's caravans, dresses for their sma	arious times for their on the site. Grandma,
the older girls and their	mothers.		
Sunday dress for her dau	ughter and grandma would obl	Saturday before Easter Sunday if she w lige, even if it meant she sat sewing all nig eliver babies and to help with laying out, a	ht. The people in the
turn would come out int		d ask a neighbour, "do you know where m ody know where Lizzie Jane is?" Then my nelping hand.	
from somebody's house			
		nly remember having heard only two reco	rds, namely Miss Otis
For entertainment granr Regrets and When Fathe	er Papered the Parlour. ny Toffee (I used to think it was	nly remember having heard only two reco s called after her). She would put some pi	
For entertainment grann Regrets and When Fathe Granny also made Grann bag for me to take home She very rarely went far	er Papered the Parlour. ny Toffee (I used to think it was e.	s called after her). She would put some pi eet to do her shopping, though saying tha	eces into a blue sugar
For entertainment grann Regrets and When Fathe Granny also made Grann bag for me to take home She very rarely went far	er Papered the Parlour. ny Toffee (I used to think it was e. rther than Gateshead High Stre ish for. Grandma died on 18 Fe	s called after her). She would put some pi eet to do her shopping, though saying tha	eces into a blue sugar
For entertainment grann Regrets and When Fathe Granny also made Grann bag for me to take home She very rarely went far every shop you could wi	er Papered the Parlour. ny Toffee (I used to think it was e. Ther than Gateshead High Stre ish for. Grandma died on 18 Fe INFORMATION ABOUT C to a cottage industry. Up an	s called after her). She would put some pi eet to do her shopping, though saying tha ebruary 1954 aged 86.	eces into a blue sugar It the High Street had

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MEMORIES OF MR T W THOMPSON Mr Thompson was a resident of Wheatley Hill who passionately believed in progress and science. He started to jot things down that were of interest to himself, in 1900. Reproduced here are his Wheatley Hill jottings:

April 1944 17 Sept 1944 1944	The Ritz picture house at Thornley burned down The 'black out' restriction was cut and the streets lights were put on The worse Autumn for 36 years for rain and bad weather. Rain falling for three months, harvest late and a large quantity spoiled with rain etc. Potatoes could not be got out of the fields and large quantities spoiled and farm work a lot behind time	
14 Nov 1944	Thornley Welfare Hall, the largest and best public building in the district burned down - estimated Damage £20,000	
Jan 1945	One of the worst winter months for many years with storms of snow, wind, thunder and lightning. The snow caused the pits to be idle two days. Bad weather all the month	
15 Oct 1945	Horden Colliery, the largest in the County of Durham exceeded the coal drawing - 22,885 tons of coal drawn in one week	
10 Apr 1946 20 July 1946	Blackhall Colliery exceeded the coal target drawing 12,000 tons Revival of the Durham Miners Gala. The Gala had not been held for six years owing to the war. The Prime Minister, Mr H Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other speakers attended	
1946 1 Jan 1947	A late and cold spring and a very wet summer causing a lot of damage to corn and the harvest Nationalisation of coal mines in England, Scotland and Wales. The State now owned all working coal mines	
15 Apr 1947	Owing to the stormy winter with plenty of snow and rain, no farm work or gardening done until now	
June 1947 5 July 1948	Mr J A Simpson, manager at Wheatley Hill Colliery removed to Crook The National Insurance for free medical, unemployment, sickness, old age pensions etc	
5 Oct 1948	commenced Mr Culine, Show & Amusements visited Wheatley Hill show ground adjoining the recreation ground and stayed for four weeks	
30 Nov 1948	Mr T Kenny, aged 66 of Wheatley Hill. The first person to win a VC for the DLI during the 1914-1918 War. Mr Kenny won the award on 4 November 1915 when he made a vain attempt to save his commanding officer's life while under rifle fire from the enemy	
28 Nov 1948 Jan 1949	Mr T Waters, steeplejack, killed at Shotton Colliery whilst repairing the colliery chimney, the second steeplejack to be killed at Shotton since the pit commenced in the year 1900 Haswell Colliery is being demolished and the winding engine houses, beam pump engine house pulled down. Records for the colliery show that it was sunk in 1838 just before the big strike of 1844. There was also a big explosion at Haswell in 1844 with a loss of 95 lives. Haswell was the first colliery to use pit cages in the shaft for lowering men and coal drawing	
27 Apr 1949	Timber fire caused £1,000,000 damage to 30 acres of pit timber at Seaton Carew, Hartlepool. The fire lasted two days. 45 fire engines, 200 firemen, 400 soldiers, 200 policemen involved in trying to contain the blaze. 20 miles of hose piping was used before the fire was under control. No lives lost.	
18 Aug 1949 18 Aug 1949 Xmas 1949 4 May 2950	The new coal motor, Rolly End Tipping, carrying 4 loads of wokmen's coal commenced Death of Rev P T Casey, Vicar of Wheatley Hill for 40 years Rev A Preston, new Vicar of Wheatley Hill commenced his duties Death of Lord Bradbury, the man whose signature gave the name of 'Bradbury' to the	
19 July 1950	Treasury Notes issued in 1914 when gold coins were withdrawn. Lord Bradbury was 77 An electric clock in Front Street, Wheatley Hill and two small brass tablets containing the names of the men who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war, was erected. A service conducted by Rev A Preston, Vicar of Wheatley Hill and Mr Thursley, resident Methodist Minister. The clock was unveiled by Miss A Hutchinson	
29 May 1951	One of the worst accidents of modern times occurred at Easington Colliery when 81 miners lives were lost and two rescue workers. This was followed a few days later by another explosion at	
1952	Appleton Colliery with a further 10 lives lost Trams which commenced in the large towns such as Newcastle, London etc in 1900 have been discontinued and replaced by buses for the service of the public. All tramlines have been pulled up and scrapped. With motor buses being used in most public places, all passenger trains ceased to run and most passenger stations closed - only main lines remained open.	
This is the	end of Mr Thompson's memories - they have given excellent historic information	

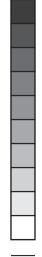




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You may have noticed that we've attracted another advertisement to this page. It costs £25 per year (4 newsletters) to advertise on here, and that income is crucial to the history club. If you know of anyone else who would like to place an advertisement please pass on our contact details.



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