

# Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 12 Issue 3

July 2010

## Wheatley Hill Footballer - Lewis Stoker (1910-1979)

### CATHERINE COOKSON

We will be having a Catherine Cookson table at our Local History Day on 25 September. If you have any books/videos by Catherine Cookson that you would like to donate, please let us have them before the event. The money raised will go into history club funds and used for further research.

### UPDATE ON THE OPERATIONAL BUNKER

On Saturday 5 June, the History Club had a stand at the Sunderland History Fair in Seaburn.

One of the visitors to our stand, David Price, told us, out of the blue that he had been friendly with a family who lived in the woodcutters cottage on the outskirts of Wheatley Hill when he was a boy.

He remembered that the family were called Parker, the father was Bill Parker and he worked in the wood. David remembers being shown the bunker which was quite near to the cottage. He says it was underground and done out like an air-raid shelter with beds and storage for ammunition.

David is trying to get us contact details for one of Bill Parker's daughters who he believes lives locally.

### TOMBOLA

Once again we are appealing for your help with our tombola stall for the Local History Day.

Our tombola stall is usually very successful and major part of the annual fund-raising of the History Club.

If you are able to help, please give your donations to Joan Scott before 25 September.

### HERITAGE CENTRE

After a thorough clean and re-decoration the Heritage Centre is once again open to visitors.

### ACQUISITIONS

A 1937 Coronation Souvenir Book

Collection of Mining Books originally belonging to Teddy Cain

Lewis Stoker was an English professional footballer who played as an attacking right half. Born in Wheatley Hill, County Durham, he spent most of his professional career at Birmingham, for whom he played 246 games in all competitions, including 230 in the First Division. In 1938 he moved onto Nottingham Forest, and retired during the Second World War. He won three full caps for England between 1932 and 1934. After football he worked for Wimbush's bakery in Birmingham and died in the city at the age of 69.

**Playing Position:** Right Half

**Youth Career** Esh Winning Juniors  
Bearpark  
West Stanley

**Senior Career** Birmingham  
1930-1938 Nottingham Forest  
1938-1939

**National Team** England  
1932-1934

Brian Maddison brought this information to the attention of the history club, and after a bit of research, we found Lewis and his family on the 1911 census living at No 2 Office Street. His father, John was an Overman at the pit. He had been born at Haswell and Lewis' mother Jennie (nee Stogdale) was born at Castle Eden.

John Stoker had lived in Wheatley Hill since at least 1901 when the census informs us he was living at no 6 Ford street with his parents.

### Articles from Wheatley Hill Secondary Modern School Magazine, 1968

#### HOBBIES

By Jim Fishwick

Lots of people have hobbies but mine are sport and pigeon racing. My friend and I who is J Tempest keep and race pigeons. We have about twenty pairs. We have got a first, a second and two fourths last racing season. Watching pigeons in from a race can be exciting. You stand outside the pigeon loft and whistle

If you are lucky and the first one is your pigeon you chase it into the loft then catch it and take off the rubber ring on its leg. Then put the rubber ring in a thimble, after you have it off its leg you put the thimble in a hole at the clock then you turn the handle at the side, this will print a time on the paper inside of the clock then later when it gets read off you see who has won.

The four race points from where we have scored is Grantham, Ashford twice and Selby. The pigeons come over the roof tops in great stocks and if you are lucky a pigeon that is yours, might drop out of a stock and into the loft. Pigeon racing is an expensive hobby but I think it is a good one.

### WHEATLEY HILL UNDER 15'S FOOTBALL TEAM 1968

#### S Race

S Tilley	B Ayre	B Bell	B Marshall
J Routledge		J Fishwick (capt)	
K Burnside	B Foster	E Starkie	K Youll

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Chair: 01429 821820**

**Treasurer: 01429 823198**

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

### WEB SITE:

wheatley-hill.org.uk

#### Letter to the Parish Magazine, November 1901:

We desire to thank all who have been kind and helpful to us during our stay at Wheatley Hill. We have received many acts of kindness from our Thornley and Wheatley Hill friends. The members of the different denominations, including the Good Templars, as well as the members of our own Church, have treated us with great kindness. Our new address will be *Carlton House, Westleigh, Lancashire*, and we shall be very glad to hear from any of our Wheatley Hill and Thornley friends.

D and A Allott  
(Curate of Thornley & his wife)

#### Article from Thornley Parish Magazine 1907

##### LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "MEMORIAL TABLET"

Mrs Hagon	Mrs Bradley
Mrs Binks	Mrs Liddell
Mrs Prior	Mrs Whysall
Mrs Caine	Miss Waller
Mrs W Swinburne	Miss Nicholl
Mrs R Youll (Wheatley Hill)	Miss Robinson
Mrs Daley (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Thornton
Mrs Pattison (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Stokoe
Mrs Ashford	Mrs Maudison
Mrs Oswald	Mrs Blench
Mr M T Swinburne	Mrs Rawlings
Mrs Long	Mrs Wilson
Mrs F Cook	Mrs Hunter
Mrs Rose	Mrs Veitch
Mrs Ramshaw	Mrs Hill
Mrs McDonald	Mrs Hartley
Miss Hill	Miss Oswald
Misses Smith	Mrs Barker
Mrs T Swinburne	Mrs Whittaker
Mrs Smith	Mrs W Youll
Mrs J T Scott	Miss Jameson
Mrs Cox	Mrs Robinson
Miss L Swinburne	Mrs Anderson
Miss S Swinburne	Mrs J G Cook
Mrs J Scott (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Longstaff
Miss J Scott (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Ryan
Mrs Bowhill (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Wright
Mrs Henderson (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Brandling
Miss Robson (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Sampson
Mrs Vooght (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Pinkney
Miss Cockburn (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Askew
Mrs Gray (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Hetherington
Mrs McBriar (Wheatley Hill)	Miss Dewhurst
Miss Golightly (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Warburton
Mrs Perkins (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Ashton
Mrs Atchison (Wheatley Hill)	Mrs Walker
Mrs Dobson	Mrs Martin

## RESULTS OF OUR SURVEY

At our May meeting, we asked those present to fill out a survey form asking for their opinion on alternative venues and times should Wheatley House close.

Most voted for the meeting to remain on a Wednesday evening and the preferred venue was the Workingmen's Club.

Unfortunately, this preference would be impossible to implement as the Club is booked every Wednesday evening by the Mothers Club.

The other two venues mentioned, the Scout Hut and the Church are also booked on a Wednesday evening - the Scout Hut until 7.00pm and the Church between 7.00pm and 9.00pm so it seems inevitable that our meeting night at least will have to change in order to secure one of the above as a meeting place.

A further suggestion made was to approach the school re the possibility of using their facilities on a Wednesday evening. We will need to consult with our members about how they feel about this potential venue.

Interestingly, changing our meeting time to afternoons was not a popular option with members present at the May meeting.

## WHEATLEY HOUSE

On 22 June, a series of meetings began to try and save Wheatley House by making it locally managed. This means setting up a management committee who would be responsible for the financial upkeep of the facility. The meetings were well attended and as this is the only way in which Wheatley House will stay open, the History Club hopes that an agreement can be reached. Groups using the centre will be required to pay a hire charge but this would be expected whatever venue is used. The history club hopes that the money received from advertisements in this newsletter, will be enough to pay our monthly rental charge.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28 July	<b>History Club Meeting</b> Our Grandmothers - a presentation by history club members
11 September	<b>Newcastle Family History Fair</b> (formerly the Gateshead FH Fair) Premier Inn, Newcastle
25 September	<b>Local History Day and Book Launch</b> Wheatley Hill Workingmen's Club
29 September	<b>History Club Meeting</b> The Victorian Chimney Sweep
27 October	<b>History Club Meeting</b> Gibside

## REDUCING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

**If anyone would like an electronic copy of the newsletter, please let Margaret have your email address.**

## WHEATLEY HILL BOYS SCHOOL CYCLING CLUB - TRIP TO BARNARD CASTLE 1951

On Friday 18 May, 9 boys set out on a cycling tour to Barnard Castle. We had to go up to our leaders house at 8.30 so that we could get an early start. The boys who went were Alan Muir, Edward Lawson, John Purvis, William Lincoln, John Carr, Edward Fulcher, Leslie Alderton and Alex Forbes. When we were going through Metal Bridge, (sic) Alderton's chain snapped and it took a few minutes before we found the missing piece. Then we had to stop at Kelloe because the two back forks on Purvis' cycle bent. When we got to West Auckland, we saw the clothing factory there.

Just before we got to Barnard Castle we saw a big army department there. We also had another stop before we reached Barnard Castle to have our photos taken beside Raby Castle. When we got to Barnard Castle we visited Bowes Museum in which were many beautiful things.

When we went into Bowes Museum we had a look into the art gallery in which were many beautiful paintings. We then went into a compartment where there were many weapons. The ones which attracted our attention were the long bows hanging on the walls and the two shark teeth like swords which were in a glass case. In the corner of the same room were two skulls which were also interesting to see. When we came out of the museum we went down to the river where our leader and two other boys did some sketching in water colour. At 5 o'clock we then went up to the youth hostel and gave the lady our membership cards and signed our names in the book. At 7.30 we got our supper then we had a wash and tidied the place up. After the cleaning was done some of the boys went to the pictures; some had a look round the town and some stayed in the hostel.

About 9 o'clock a Scotsman came into the hostel; he had hiked from Newcastle (36 miles away). Then at 9.15 the boys came from the pictures and told us about the show. After a while the warden told us it was time to go to bed so we went upstairs, got undressed and got into bed because the next morning we had to be up early.

Next morning on our way home ran over the same route by which we had come. Apart from several minor breakdowns such as a puncture and a slack wheel our journey was without incident and we arrived home quite fresh after a most enjoyable tour.

by Alex Forbes



*Cycling Club at Barnard Castle Youth Hostel*



*Outside of Bowes Museum*



*Members of the Cycling Tour 1951*

### Messages from the Web Site

My great grandmother is Sally Smiles who appears in your archive photographs on the steps of her 'caravan shop' which, I have been told was located near the entrance to the pit. Her son, Peter Smiles (my grandad) married Barbara Hall and together they had five daughters - Betty, Gladys, Sally (my mum), Isobel & Florence. The Smiles family lived on Wheatley Terrace (31 or 35?). It is comforting looking at the old photos which remind me of my childhood. I will sift through my phot album and let you have copies of family photos including my parents wedding. The site is fascinating & I must say a visit to the Heritage Centre five years ago brought my mum much happiness and she often talked of it before she died in 2007.

**Susan Ward**

At 71yrs old I can still get a lump in the throat as I found out on reading your wonderful site. I left Wheatley Hill in 1955 and joined 'The Guards' as a percussionist, my stepfather was Tommy Holmes the 'Tankey' driver along with Len???. My mam was Ella Holmes and ran the sweet shop next to the Royalty cinema. Nice to see Frankie Horner in photo's, when I was on leave one Xmas my mam set fire to the oven and Frankie and 'the lads' were called out at 2.00pm on Xmas Day to put the fire out.

**Harry Copnall**

A George Danforth (probably my grandfather) is shown living at the above address when the 1912 electoral register list was published and probably lived at Chapel Street, Thornley before that. We would be much obliged if you could name any other members of this household and when George Danforth left the area. We realise 1912 is a long time ago but this is a nagging mystery for the family,

**Ron & Dorothy Danforth**

Hello, I am so amazed by your wonderful site on Wheatley Hill...I really have enjoyed looking so much. I am really into my family History, and often try and find the places that my family have lived. Many congratulations on all your work.... it really is fantastic.

**Christine Briggs (nee Lowther)**

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

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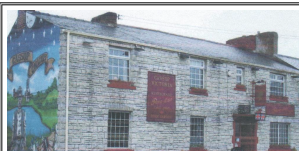


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### NOTABLE PEOPLE IN WHEATLEY HILL IN 1902

Bowhill, Charles Lamb  
Cooke, William  
Cox, Matthew  
Dickinson, Peter  
Doxford, William  
Dunn, Ralph  
Gibson, Mrs Elizabeth  
Goynes, Stephen  
Graham, George  
Hassen, John T  
Kell, Jacob  
Laverick, John Wales  
Lawson, George  
Lindsay, James  
Lynn, Mrs Elizabeth  
Smith, Robert  
Terry, Ralph  
Vallance, John McDonald  
Wilson, R

Schoolmaster  
Grocer  
Police Sergeant  
Leather Seller  
Farmer, High Crows House  
Farmer, Rock Farm  
Butcher  
Greengrocer  
The Nimmo Hotel  
Master at RC School  
Hairdresser  
Viewer at the Pit  
Sub Post Master  
Farmer, Low Crows House  
The Moons Hotel (Colliery Hotel)  
Farm Bailiff to R Thorman Esq  
Draper  
Physician and Surgeon  
Attendance Officer at Board School