

Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 20 Issue 3

July 2016

LOCAL HISTORY DAY WHEATLEY HILL REMEMBERED THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

We held our event this year early to coincide with the Battle of the Somme and felt an appropriate venue would be our Parish Church—All Saints in Wheatley Hill. We had exhibitions relating to local men who were at The Somme, many of whom didn't return but we also had an exhibition concentrating on the Home Front and in particular the opening of the Haswell and District Co-operative Store in the Front Street in 1916. We borrowed items from Beamish and our members, photographs from The Heritage Centre and created an interesting display. My grandfather's bowler hat that he bought to get married in in 1924 was a talking point. Still in its original CWS box, it had the price tag of 6/11 on the box!

With children in mind, we also displayed a replica of a suitcase that a First World War 1 soldier might have taken to the Front with him and we linked it to our Thomas Kenny story. The carbolic soap and shaving brush are always popular with children.

We concluded the weekend with an illustrated talk in the Church by Peter Welsh from Washington and the reading of war poetry by members of the congregation. It was a very fitting tribute to the Battle of the Somme and once again Wheatley Hill did its bit.



THE LAST SHIFT

The History Club took part on the fund-raising event on Saturday 11 June 2016 at the Community Centre to give the fund-raising a final boost. Overall the event raised £1682.39 and the History Club contribution was £78. As a special offer we sold our history books for £1 and donated the takings to the fund.

We met our June deadline for raising £10,000 but are continuing to fund-raise in order to pay planning fees and other incidental expenditure. Since the closing date we have received further donations totalling approximately £700 and of course the memory tokens project is also financing our fundraising and will continue.

The committee must now approach a funder for the remainder of the money needed to build our statue. If this is successful, we hope to be able to formally commission Ray Lonsdale early in 2017.

The chosen site for the statue is next to the pit wheel on the site of Shop Street. The committee are working closely with the Parish Council and Durham County Council to secure an agreement with regard to the land.



MEMORY TOKENS

An order form is DEFINITELY attached to this newsletter so that you can order your token in memory of someone you knew who worked at the pit.

This is the one I ordered for my dad, Gordon Carr. I ordered two—one to put on the memory board in the Community Centre and this one to display at home. I am delighted with it.



CONTACT DETAILS

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W: wheatley-hill.org.uk



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

27 July **Victorian Food**
Sharon Vincent

31 August **Poverty Through the Ages**
Alison Hodgson

28 Sept **Nostalgic Views of the North**
John Moreels

HOLIDAY DIARY

This is the diary of a caravan touring holiday taken in 1952 by Billy and Bella Carr of No 3 Office Street, Wheatley Hill. They had their son Gordon, and his girlfriend Elizabeth Unsworth with them on this trip. Billy has made a note each day of how much petrol they put in their car.

25 July (8 gallons)

We drove 181 miles and stopped at Busby just on the west side of Glasgow.

26 July (8 gallons)

On Sunday we left Busby and went via Paisley to Erskine Ferry and across the River Clyde to Old Kilpatrick onto Alexandria and Balloch then we travelled 30 miles up the shores of Loch Lomond to Tarbet then to Loch Fyne, Glen Coe then Inverary then through Glen Aray and Pass of Brander to Dalmally.

27 July (8 gallons)

Monday—went to Oban. Weather fine. Had a grand day.

28 July

Tuesday—took car and went to Trossachs via Tyndrum and Strathyre return to Tyndrum to stay for the night. Grand views around this countryside. Hotel bars close at 9.00pm.

29 July (8 gallons)

Wednesday—off to Fort William. We had to travel 9 miles each side of Loch Leven and it was worth every inch of the journey—lovely views. We got to Fort William at 4.00pm, just a small place. Stayed the night at Leanachan and it rained from 8.00pm. We visited Ben Nevis. Gordon and Betty tried to climb it but failed.

30 July

Thursday—we travelled to Inverness—a grand tour. It is a grand place. We stayed there the night but rain started at 9.30pm.

1 August

Saturday—Much better day spent it having a look round Inverness.

2 August (8 gallons)

Sunday—left Inverness at 10.30am, travelled through Nairn, Forres, Craigellachie onto Cambus O May. We went to Balmoral Castle and onto Braemar. Rain till 5.00pm.

3 August (8 gallons)

Monday—Left for Stonehaven. Arrived at 1.00pm and spent afternoon at Aberdeen, a little showery, stayed the night at Stonehaven.

4 August

Tuesday we travelled on to Edinburgh via Perth, Cowdenbeath across ferry near Forth Birdge. We had to come 17 miles south of the city to find a camping place between Haddington and Aberlady.

5 August (8 gallons)

Wednesday—spent all day in Edinburgh.

6 August

We left for Berwick-on-Tweed. Travelled on to Bamburgh. Visited the castle. Went on to Seahouses by car and had a look round. Rained heavy, made our way back to Bamburgh and camped for night.

7 August (8 gallons)

Friday—left Bambrough about 11.00am. Stopped at Morpeth for lunch. Had a good look round and left for home. Arrived home at about 4.30pm. Had a good trip from start to finish.



*Bella & Gordon Carr and Betty Unsworth
Caravan touring holiday of Scotland 1952*

A FAMILY AFFAIR

A few years ago, History Club member Arthur Dodds asked me to carry out some family history research for him. From his own research he understood that his 3 x great grandmother, Alice Dodds, born in 1789 in Caldwell, North Yorkshire had given birth to a son illegitimately in 1811 and named him Robert DODDS. Alice was 22 years old at the time of the birth and as this was before civil registration, the only way in which we could prove who his father was, was if his mother had given the father's name at the time of baptism.

Arthur realised that as a result of Robert's mother being called Alice Dodds, that he (Arthur) probably wasn't Dodds at all!!

Alice lived in the Caldwell area of North Yorkshire and was baptised in Stanwick St John, also in North Yorkshire, so this is the area where my research began. I visited the North Yorkshire Records Office in Northallerton to look at the parish records around the Caldwell/Stamwick St John area and eventually I found Robert's baptism at Stanwick St John. This village is near West Gilling and Richmond and as you might expect, the church is St John.

Robert was baptised on 23 August 1811 at Stanwick St John – so far so good, however he was described in the baptismal register "bastard son of Alice Dodds". Quite conclusive then!! No father's name had been given to the vicar at the time of baptism and this was the manner in which such circumstances were recorded.

I checked other records in the Northallerton office for details of possible marriages for Alice that might have occurred shortly after Robert's birth, but there was nothing recorded until 1820 when she married John Bainbridge, an agricultural labourer of Staindrop on 10 June at Bolton-on-Swale and they went on to have a further four children. Bolton on Swale is also near Richmond and Northallerton.

I diligently charted all my findings for Arthur, listing the children—where and when they were born and baptised and then I followed the family through the census returns. Robert was in contact with his mother and his half siblings that she had with John Bainbridge, and when they moved into County Durham, both families were living in the same area and it is clear that relations were good.

This is when things took a surprising turn for me. As I was listing Alice's children I realised that something was familiar about the names etc and when I found out that her daughter, Alice Bainbridge had married Peter Flinn in 1858 it became clear! Arthur's 3 x great grandmother Alice Dodds, was also the 3 x great grandmother of my mother, Elizabeth Unsworth!

This was a complete surprise to me. I had recorded Alice's daughter, Alice Bainbridge on my tree but hadn't researched any further back. I knew that Alice is a name that has been carried on through my mother's family for 7 generations and thanks to Arthur's research, I now know that it came from Alice Dodds' mother from at least the mid -1750's.

Unfortunately I couldn't share this information with my mother or her siblings as they had all passed away but I was very excited by such an unexpected connection. Arthur became increasingly curious to know if John Bainbridge was the father of Robert Dodds and maybe Alice's, or perhaps John's parents would not agree to them marrying. Of course, there was no way of knowing this—until Arthur began his interest in DNA via family history website, Ancestry.

Earlier in 2016 Arthur asked if I would take a DNA test to see what sort of results it would provide for his investigations. My male cousin on my mother's side of the family also provided a test along with Arthur. A few years ago my paternal uncle took part in DNA testing as a result of which I was aware of my connections on that side of the family and when the opportunity arose to have my dna tested, I was interested as it would provide results from both maternal and paternal sides. I was very surprised at the results:

Ireland	31%	I was genuinely surprised at the high percentage of my ancestry coming from Ireland, as it hardly features in recent (from early 1600's) family history and as it didn't feature in my paternal dna, it must come mainly through my maternal side, not surprising given their long Roman Catholic links.
Europe (West)	27%	
Great Britain	19%	So what it did prove for Arthur? Well it proved that John Bainbridge was not his 3 x great grandfather. The results are kept on Ancestry.com and if anyone in the future matches up with Arthur's dna, then he may stand a chance of solving this family history puzzle and his true identity!!
Scandinavia	12%	
Europe (East)	6%	
Finland/NW Russia	2%	
Iberian Peninsula	2%	
Italy/Greece	1%	

Wheatley Hill Community Association

T: 01429820214



OPENING HOURS

Mon—Thurs

8.30am—8.45pm

Fri—8.30am-6.45pm

Available for functions outside of these hours—please ask for details

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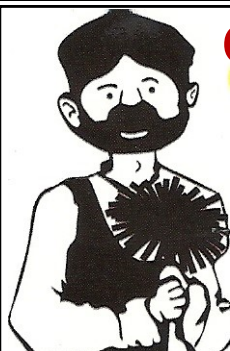
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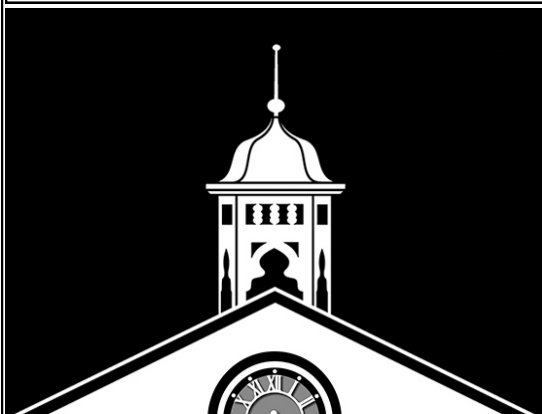
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MAY MEETING

In May, George Nairn was our speaker on Postcards of World War 1. George is a very good and long-standing friend to the History Club and, as usual, his talk was excellent—well researched and well presented.

He mentioned how important the written word was at the time of WW1 and seemed to have postcards for almost every occasion.

George also brought along some of the publications he has been involved in and seemed to sell

JUNE MEETING

Brenda Graham from Houghton local history group gave us a very interesting talk on Catherine Middleton's family tree. On her maternal side, Catherine is descended from the Harrison family of Hetton. They were a normal, coal mining family who would never have dreamed that one of their great great great grand-daughters would marry the future King of England and also be the mother of a future King.