



History Club goes to Beamish

On Saturday 15 July Wheatley Hill History & Heritage joined forces to take a display to Beamish Museum as part of the "Yesterday Belongs to You 2017" event hosted by the County Durham Forum for History & Heritage.

We knew that an exhibition at Beamish would challenge our exhibitions as the audience that the museum attracts has a much wider age-range than we do to our local events. In preparation therefore the History Club and Heritage Centre have purchased a range of dressing up outfits for children to try on, relevant to our work. We have World War 1 uniforms for boys, World War 1 nurses outfits for girls and a range of Edwardian clothing.

We provided items for handling and discussion from the Heritage Centre as well as samples of our award winning Trench Cake and our Thomas Kenny exhibition. The Heritage Centre provided a display of Then and Now photographs. There really was something for everyone.

Before we went however we were a bit disappointed that the three free Beamish entry tickets we had available for our members, went unclaimed—there was no-one available to visit the event and see our marvellous displays!!

Despite a very rainy day we had a good turnout. The measure of success for any display is that everyone who visits should go away with at least one piece of new information—and they certainly did! We gave out Trench Cake recipes and were happy to discuss the handling objects—the gramophone records were particularly popular and we learned a lot about them too! Children were very interested in the items in Thomas Kenny's suitcase and were happy to listen to our explanations.

It was a long and rainy day but a successful one nonetheless.



CONTACT DETAILS

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30 August **Chester Where Are You?**
Gillian Lord

7, 8, 9 Sept **Heritage Open Days**
Heritage Centre open 10-4 for 3 days

27 Sept **A Musical Evening with The Press Gang**

27 October **Binchester Part 2**

LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2017

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Wheatley House

10.00am—1.00pm

A MILITARY ROADSHOW

At this event we will be showing the
Thomas Kenny film—Beyond Praise for
the first time locally

We will also be inviting a team of military
experts who will help with identifying any
military photographs or medals you may have
lying around your home

Local Publication Sales

Beyond Praise dvd

2018 Calendars on Sale

Refreshments

Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre
will be open

10.00—4.00pm

27 SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Press Gang are a group who will tell
The story of press gangs through
songs and music played on guitar, flute &
Northumbrian Pipes

**Why not bring your friends along -
to this meeting with a difference**

All Welcome £2.00

Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS



The Centre will be open

Thursday 7 September

Friday 8 September

Saturday 9 September

10.00am—4.00pm

Charmaine Welch's Sporting Blazers on display
New Then and Now Photo Exhibition
Children's World War 1 & Edwardian Costumes

THOMAS KENNY VC - BEYOND PRAISE



**Will have its Premier at
THE GALA THEATRE, DURHAM**

on Wednesday 8 November 2017
at 2.30pm

Admission by ticket only

Councillor Morris Nicholls



The History Club were
saddened to hear of the death
of Councillor Nicholls. Through
his work with the Parish
Council, he always looked
favourably on any financial
assistance this organisation
needed.

We have sent a card to his
wife and family.

THE MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM HERBERT SHEPHERD

(1891-1972)

His next job was to see about getting us children off to school. We got fixed up and the three of us went off the following Monday to the Board School which was “up the Hill”. I was put in Standard 1 just to see how far I had got before the next moving up took place. It was too easy for me but I enjoyed it. Here the boys and girls were separate whereas where we had been was a mixed classes school. I soon got to know the boys of my class and found them friendly. I played the usual games at playtime with them, but at night an on Saturdays I played mainly with the boy who lived next door to us and was about my age.

My sisters too, soon palled up with other girls, so we got off to a good start. The boy next door was in Standard III but when he told me what lessons he was having I knew I could do them too, so I wasn't worried about what happened at the yearly exams.

Our new school was situated at the far end of the village away from the pit. To get to it we went over the line then through the higher half of the place, where we passed a few private houses then a farm which was set back from the road and the shops, the largest of which was the Co-op, one window was always full of miners gear which they bought themselves—pick blades, shafts, sockets, wedges, lamp nails, also pit shirts or blue or grey flannel, stockings, ‘hoggies’, leather caps and knee caps, belts—in fact anything that was needed for work in the pit. On the other side of the road was the village pond, then a public house, the Post Office, two or three more shops then the school.

The farmer went round the village every morning with his milk float and measured the pints and half pints into his customer's jugs or basins. If anyone needed more during the day they had to go to the farm themselves to get it, or as we often did, take an empty can with us after dinner break, leave it, and collect it after school. On Saturdays and Sundays we children took turns to go.

The boy's schoolmaster was a handsome man, a strict disciplinarian but always ready to listen to the boys or their parents either. I got on well there and liked it. Of course the three R's were the basic schooling, but we had many other interesting lessons. The day of the School Inspector's visit was not very welcome to us, as we thought he always asked such awkward questions. One day after we had had several lessons on rainfall, rivers, springs etc he arrived, and as was to be expected asked a boy who had just returned to school after an illness “What is a spring?” The boy stammered awhile then said, “The things they put in couches”. No doubt he had done a bit of bouncing on the couch at home.

Playtime was filled with the usual boys games. The younger ones with ‘tag’ or ‘tig’, kitty etc. On cold winter days we would, according to classes play ‘crush in the corner’, in the buttresses of the school. The movement of the close packed bodies made us warm.

During one of Bert's visits, he asked dad if he thought the trouble in South Africa would lead to a war with the Boers. Dad thought it very likely and wondered what effect it would have on the coal trade. As children, we were not allowed to enter any conversation, but I was all ears to hear what I could about the threatened war.

Well it did come, and I, though just turned eight, listened to what I could hear, and read what I could about it. When they mentioned names of places, I would look it up in a big atlas at school on the Monday. Then of course there were the names of the Generals, both British and Boer, and the brave doings of the various regiments to be talked and read about. One Newcastle firm made use of two of the enemy generals names in advertising, “Don't Botha about de Wet” they said, then referred the reader to their selection of rain wear!

By now dad, who was a chapel man, had got to know some of the Wesleyan chapelgoers and after going himself for a week or two, said we three had to go. Sunday morning service, Sunday School and evening service. It parents had only known the resentment against chapel they were building up in their children, they probably would have let them off with Sunday School and given them a choice of either morning or evening service. However, it was a case of best clothes on and away with our hymn books and bibles. After our Sunday dinner there wasn't much time until it was time for Sunday School. You would wonder what children could learn when the teachers were only older scholars or old men with no formal training for such work.



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JUNE MEETING

Sharon Vincent gave us an excellent talk on Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette who died after stepping out in front of King George V's Horse at the Epsom Derby in 1913. The after-talk discussion led, inevitably onto when the working classes got the vote, asking the question "Was it the First World War that prompted them being given Vote?"

MAY MEETING

We learned of young sailor, Stephen Ellison McCaw at this meeting. Stephen lost his mother at seven, was admitted to Houghton Workhouse at nine and by 10 was serving as a cadet at Wellesley Nautical School in North Shields. Despite his tough childhood, however, the Newbottle-born sailor was a talented musician - being accepted by the Royal Navy School of Music in 1912. Two years later he was dead, killed in the Battle of Coronel aboard HMS Monmouth.