



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

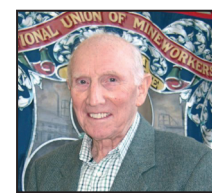
Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 11 Issue 4

October 2009



BOOK LAUNCH



The book was launched this year by Alfie Joey from BBC Radio Tyne (Newcastle) who is a local lad from Thornley.

Alfie gave an excellent speech about local history in general and his experiences with one of our books, through which, a previously unknown family story came to light.

SARAH BROWN

**(wife of Prime Minister)
Takes History Club's Lead and
PUBLISHES NEW
BOOK**

In our July newsletter, we asked our members to provide photographs and subsequently information about their grandmothers or great grandmothers, as these women often had a huge influence on grandchildren's lives, and we planned to present the information at our July meeting in 2010.

I am not sure how Sarah Brown got hold of a copy of our newsletter, but she obviously felt we had come up with a good idea, as she has just published a book (September) called *Grandparents*, highlighting exactly the same information that we intend to look at!

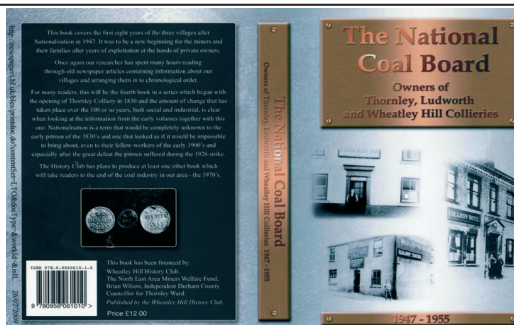
In her book, Mrs Brown has asked lots of celebrities how the presence of their grandmothers helped shape their lives, in their own unique way.

This should spur on our members and I am expecting the photos to start flooding in - perhaps we could publish our findings too??

26 September was a lovely sunny day and as usual we expected many visitors to our annual local history day and book launch held in the Workmen's Club.

There was a display of 7 colliery banners plus two production banners, the Easington Colliery Band gave two excellent 'sets' of brass band music and the Durham Constabulary male-voice choir supported with very nostalgic songs.

Of course, the new book was the main attraction and we sold almost 100 books on the first day - a tremendous achievement to all concerned.



This book is on sale for £10 at History Club meetings, The Heritage Centre or through our Web Site

*Dave Hopper from the NUM
Presenting history club with a picture*

Bill Oswald won a signed book via the exit survey

Of course, as with any event of this type, a lot of the work that goes into making it successful is often unseen and not publicly acknowledged.

The History Club realise that without the workers 'behind the scenes' that these events would be impossible to present and should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in any small way. Unfortunately, the production team are not getting any younger, and it is a concern as to how long we can continue to stage such ambitious events, as a result of the amount

WHEATLEY HILL BOYS SCHOOL CYCLING CLUB - TRIP TO EDMONDBYERS

On 27th December 1950, six of us went on the first school cycling tour. The names of the boys who went were John Purvis, Robert Dawson, Edward Fulcher, Leslie Alderton, Edward Lawson and the leader was Mr Brown. After meeting at Mr Brown's home at half past nine, we set out over snow covered roads which changed to rutted iced roads near Durham. When we got to Durham, the roads were better because there was a lot of traffic running over the snow and beating the snow down to make a smooth surface. We stopped at Witton Gilbert for a cup of tea and then pushed on to Lanchester where we got our dinner. From there, we went to Black Hill and at the top of Black Hill we had a spill which caused us to walk to the bottom. Ten more miles and we would be at Edmondbyers. That day we did about 35 miles. When we got to the hostel we had to wait of Mrs Sanderson to open it up and at five o'clock we went in.

On our second day the roads were ice bound and were impassable as far as Stanhope so we went on a 4.5 mile walk to Blanchland. On our way we saw a lame rabbit down a burrow.

On the 3rd day we got up and made our breakfast then got washed. Mrs Sanderson told us how to avoid half of Black Hill bank. When we got to the top of Black Hill bank we bought an ice cream. When we set off the roads were not so bad. When we got home we told our parents that we had a very nice time. (74 miles in total).

(Written by E Lawson)



CONTACT DETAILS

Chair: 01429 820813
Treasurer: 01429 823198

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

WEB SITE:

wheatley-hill.org.uk

NEW LOOK WEBSITE

Our Webmaster has redesigned our web site and it looks **EVEN BETTER** than it did before (and it was very good before!!)

If it's been a while since you visited, then now is the time to do so - the address is at the top of this page.

WHEATLEY HOUSE

Our future remains uncertain with the threatened closure of Wheatley House. Even if Wheatley House remains open, it is unlikely that we will be able to use the facilities for free as we do at the moment. This of course will have an impact on membership and meeting fees. We are also considering enlarging our newsletter to include advertisements from local tradespeople at £25 per year.

If you know of anyone who you think might be interested in advertising, please contact the History Club.

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)

ST GODRIC'S

The History Club has been involved with representatives from Easington Council in introducing the children at this school to local history. The History Club Committee produced a local history quiz which was done by the children alongside members of the Mothers Club.

The group are now working with a poet to produce work on our heritage which will eventually be put onto a banner for display at Dalton Park.

ACQUISITIONS

Oral History CD -
 Enid Heron
 1970's Photos of Primary
 School - Joan Brown
 Group photo from Patton
 Street Church -
 Jimmy Bean

REMEMBRANCE

The Heritage Centre will be open for refreshments on Remembrance Day from 11.00 - 12.30pm.

Over the last few years when it has been really cold, OXO has been the drink of the day at the Remembrance service.

MEMBERSHIP

Due in January - £5.00 for all - no concessions.

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre Open Days in September were a huge success with a large number of visitors visiting the Heritage Centre over the four days.

The weather was perfect and no doubt encouraged people to be out and about.

LOCAL ARTIST AND PIT PONY

Local Artist, Bob Ord from Thornley, has produced a lovely image of the Pit Pony before it was vandalised, on the roundabout.

The Heritage Centre has bought the original painting and will have prints available for sale shortly.

As it is most unlikely that the pony and tub will be replaced, a print may be the only reminder we will have of this aspect of our industrial past.





TALKS OF INTEREST

The following talks are available throughout the area in October and November

BEAMISH MUSEUM

26 October -
1 November

Invitation to the Open Stores

0191 370 4000
For more details

BRANCEPETH CASTLE

14 November 2009

Talk & Exhibition on the Life of Alfred, Lord Tennyson

0191 378 0628
For Tickets (£5.00)

DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

24 November
2.30 - 4.00

Aerofilms Collection - early aerial photography

01793 414495
For Tickets

HISTORY CLUB IS 15 YEARS OLD

The History Club in Wheatley Hill has been running for 15 years at the end of January 2010. The first meeting took place in January 1995 and after a shaky start, I think you will agree, this particular organisation has gone from strength to strength.

Our successes over the years have been the publication of seven books on our own account and one which we did in conjunction with Durham County Council. This is a magnificent achievement and due in no small way to Owen Rowland, who has famously sat for hours on end in either Durham City Library or the Durham County Records Office, looking through newspaper articles. We cannot thank him enough for his dedication. Tom Tunney, Owen and Fred Bromilow were the main researchers for the war books.

Our team of word processor operators who transcribed the articles and made it possible to put them into book form played a crucial part also, in all books.

Our last book will be published next year, and it will contain a list of fatalities at the three collieries of Thornley, Ludworth and Wheatley Hill from 1830 - 1976. At the moment we have no plans for any other publications but you never know!

As well as the books, we have transcribed all census materials from 1841-1901 for Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Ludworth, we have published a calendar every year and put the village well and truly on the map with our annual Local History Days.

A big thank you to everyone who has made this a successful 15 years, and I hope we all have the strength to continue for another 15!!

In order to celebrate our 15th birthday, we are planning a pie and pea supper at our January Meeting - 27 January starting at 6.00pm. This will be a **free event** for our regulars in order to say thank you for your continued support. Our usual meeting will begin after the pies and peas at 7.30 and we have one or two surprises up our sleeves for the evening. Please try and join us.

Please let us know if you would like to be included in the pie and pea supper as these will have to be ordered. Give your name to Mary in either October or November.