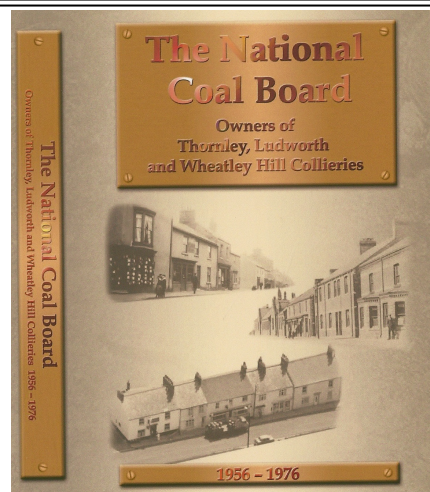


Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 12 Issue 4

October 2010

LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2010



The 5th and final book in the coal company series was launched at our local history day on 25 September 2010. It is on sale from the History Club or Heritage Centre for £12.50.

This bumper edition, completes the history of the three villages from 1830 when it all began, until 1976. The book contains a unique list of all reported fatalities at the collieries between those two dates and has been arranged in alphabetical order to make searching easy.

Our books are on sale this year at the Peterlee Information Centre and the Durham Tourist Information Centre, where a book launch was held on Saturday 16 October. Ludworth Post Office, the newsagents in Thornley and Stevens in the Front Street also have copies available.



Doon The Waggonway

OUR GRANDMOTHERS

In July History Club members provided their own meeting by presenting information about their grandparents. It was a hugely successful evening. So much so that it has been suggested that we ought to have the contributions published in order that they are kept for posterity, so rich were they in social and local history.

Even if you didn't take part in the evening but would like to contribute to a publication, please see Margaret at the History Club. It is suggested that all contributions are no more than one page of A4 and we will keep the same format that we had on our electronic presentation ie photograph and brief antecedent details such as date of birth, date of marriage and number of children.

We will have a small number of these publications on sale but the main aim is to keep the memories alive for future generations.

Articles from Wheatley Hill Secondary Modern School Magazine, 1968

PIGEONS

By: Brent Tinkler

To begin with we talk about the appearance between a cock bird and a hen bird. The hen bird is very small in relation to the cock bird. The cock bird has a round head and the hen bird has a flat head, that's how many people can tell the difference. Some tell by the way the cock bird cutters (loudly), the hen bird cutters (quietly).

To keep pigeons you must have a clean loft or the pigeons will collect lice under its wings and the lice will eat the pigeon away. To stop lice you can buy lice powder from the chemists for about 2/- to about 3/- a tub. In the winter to keep a pigeon strong or healthy you can buy tablets or a liquid to put in their water.

Most people who have pigeons separate the cocks from the hens to stop them from breeding any more young ones. Then summer comes and you put them together to start breeding for the races.

To start racing, you must have patience and the ability to look after the pigeons. When they go off on the race you must feed them till they have a full crop. When they come back from a race you must feed them with a small amount of food.

FOOTBALL TEAMS

BOTH AT SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL

By: Unknown

Wheatley Hill has three teams, Under 13's, Under 14's and Under 15's. I like the under 15's because they are my year and I know who plays on it. Jim Fishwick plays captain for the under 15's. Football is one of the most dangerous of all games except for rugby. Football is a great game if it were not for supporters that go to fight and not to support. They smuggle banners in when they are not supposed to.

Wheatley Hill Under 15's have led a very good season so far under the guidance of Mr Gargett. The performance of the under 15's was good because of the extra practice on Tuesday mornings at Peterlee Sports Centre. When the team leave school they usually join the youth club and are sometimes spotted by a Sunderland or Newcastle scout and are asked to go for a trial at Roker Park or any other place.

LEAGUE TABLE 1968 SEASON

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2	2	0	0	8	4	4

CONTACT DETAILS

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OPENING OF BRANCH STORE OF HASWELL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY AT WHEATLEY HILL

To sing you a song, it is not my intention;
To make the day pleasant, the names I'll not mention;
You seem all so jolly, and happy, and gay,
It's good for to spend our leisure this way.

The week is now over, with toil, and with care,
To have it reviewed, our pleasure might mar,
We've laid all aside, as wanted no more,
And come in a rush to open our store.

Great things are accomplished there is not a doubt
By men of great courage with big hearts, and stout,
Like all that's succeeded it's always been so,
Up hill work to manage to open a store.

My mind for a moment, it seems to go back,
For thirty odd years, you can do in a crack,
The heads they were aching, the hearts were made sore
To lay a good basis for the Haswell Store.

Just for a few minutes, I don't mean a long time,
As I don't wish to trouble you with a long rhyme,
I know you're uneasy, and often been so,
And wondered whenever you would get the new store.

New brooms says the adage, are sure to sweep clean,
And so will the store that's placed on the scene,
How some of the members will grumble and say,
We wish for another a bit further this way.

I know you'll remember what the old book says:
For workmen to band together this way?
The object is simple, 'tis pure, 'tis good,
To place on our tables the very best food.

But that is not all we have to provide,
The profits it makes we always divide,
And this is so welcome, you all will say so:
I'll be like others and enter the store.

But how can I manage, I may be in debt?
If not a large sum, I would say do not fret,
But many a heart that has been made very sore,
Has wiped it all off with the 'div' from the store.

If nothing you venture, then nothing you'll get,
Why live all your days burdened with debt,
As all that are honest like high to soar
Are kept out of debt if they trade at the store.

And now I think I here must end,
And no more of your precious time spend,
Since now the branch is opened out,
We'll give three cheers with a hearty a shout -
HURRAH! HURRAH! HURRAH!

By

Joseph Young of Haswell

The above was obviously written in order to encourage co-operation at the time of the opening of the first 'store' in Wheatley Hill.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS - 20th CENTURY

Arthur James Balfour	1902-1905
Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman	1905-1908
Herbert Henry Asquith	1908-1916
David Lloyd George	1916-1922
Andrew Bonar Law	1922-1923
Stanley Baldwin	1923-1924
James Ramsay MacDonald	1924
Stanley Baldwin	1924-1929
James Ramsey MacDonald	1929-1935
Stanley Baldwin	1935-1937
Neville Chamberlain	1937-1940
Sir Winston Churchill	1940-1945
Clement Attlee	1945-1951
Sir Winston Churchill	1951-1955
Anthony Eden	1955-1957
Harold MacMillan	1957-1963
Alexander Douglas-Home	1963-1964
Harold Wilson	1964-1970
Edward Heath	1970-1974
Harold Wilson	1974-1976
James Callaghan	1976-1979
Margaret Thatcher	1979-1990
John Major	1990-1997
Tony Blair	1997-2007

DR PATEL

Dr Patel, as senior partner in the local medical practice, retired in September and a leaving event was organised by Morris Nicholls Voluntary organisations in Wheatley Hill and Thornley, including the History Club, made donations to the fund and were able to present the him with a gold watch at a social gathering held in the Community Centre held on 16 September. The History Club was represented by Joan and Margaret.

ACQUISITIONS

Several Photographs of pubs in Thornley, Ludworth and Wheatley Hill

Selection of scripts and programmes from the Drama Club

The Heritage Centre have acquired an incendiary bomb which was dropped on Wheatley Hill during the Second World War and landed in a rain butt in the back yard of Robsons Cobblers Shop

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27 October **History Club Meeting**
Gibside

24 November **History Club Meeting**
My Journey To School

**We will have a
stand at the Cassop
Christmas Fayre
4 December**

Our Christmas Raffle Will be held at this meeting
2011

26 January **History Club Meeting**
The History of Espionage

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 - THE LAKE DISTRICT 1951

On Monday 6 August 1951, we set off from the Halfway House, Thornley for the Lake District. Mr Brown again led the party and the lads who went were Alan Muir, Edward Fulcher, John Purvis, Les Alderton and Tony Carr. It was an awful day; raining most of the time and very dull and cloudy. We went via Coxhoe, Spennymoor and St Helens to West Auckland where we halted for coffee and a warm-up. Over the familiar road through Staindrop to Barnard Castle where we had lunch, we really set a cracking pace and kept ourselves warm in spite of the steady rain. After lunch we climbed out of Barnard Castle and passed over the fells to drop past Dotheboys Hall into Bowes. It was here that we found time to admire the track models of two keen racing cyclists on their way to some meeting. The long slog over the Pennines was amply compensated for by the hurtling descents that brought us into Brough. Here again we halted for refreshments and having lots of time in hand, set off to explore the town. Two of the lads soon found a pony gymkhana and we all enjoyed a fine view of the sport (from over the fence) for half an hour before an officer of the law moved us on for 'obstruction'. We toured the well-kept ruins of Brough Castle before setting out on the last lap of the journey to Kirkby Stephen. Reaching Kirkby in dry if not fine weather, we quickly got in supplies for the night and entered the hostel for a good meal and a quiet night indoors.

Next morning, we were not surprised to find a steady drizzling rain awaiting us. Because of this we delayed the start until 11.15am but without seeing any brightening up of conditions. Leaving Kirkby we had a steady climb for about four miles. The few houses passed were mostly farm houses. Soon we dropped into Tebay where we saw the magic sign 'Teas' and of course, stopped. We then set off for the mountains, and had to dismount to climb a roundabout road for some three miles. The view of the fells from the high mountain road were lovely, especially as the weather had now turned fine. The next eight miles to Kendal were quite easy and we stopped at this picturesque old town for lunch. The chiming clock in the centre amused some of the lads with its rendering of "The British Grenadiers".

Leaving Kendal we climbed over the mountains on our way to Windermere town. The mountains with their peaks in the clouds gave us the thrill of really getting into the heart of the rugged countryside. At last we caught sight of Lake Windermere stretching in and out at the base of the mountains, and after pausing awhile to admire the view, set off over the last four miles that brought us to the magnificent, spotless hostel at Troutbeck. Inside the hotel, we sampled the first of our week of provided meals and found it tasty but insufficient.



Troutbeck Youth Hostel

Afterwards we explored the hostel grounds and then wearied by the days excursions, drifted off to bed for a good night's rest.

Next morning was fine when we left the hostel and we pottered our way along to the lakes edge. The road ran for four miles by the shores of Windermere, and every turn brought us beautiful views of the lake and its setting. Reaching Ambleside, a general dash was made for the boat-house and ten minutes after our arrival in the town, we were a quarter of a mile out on the lake. The antics on the lake were nobody's business and Fulcher at the tiller could have taught the Navy a thing or two about zig-zagging tactics. After a while Mr Brown dived over the side of the boat and swam for a while then stood by while Tony Carr enjoyed a dip. Eventually we returned to the 'steeds' and trundled along to explore Ambleside. Leaving Ambleside, we had a picnic lunch by the side of Rydal Water then pushed on to Grasmere. The lake, in its lovely setting, took us by surprise with its beauty appearing as it did round a sudden bend in the road. Running along the lakes' edge, we reached



Eskdale Youth Hostel

Grasmere town and sought out Wordsworth's Cottage, only to find it closed for two hours. We therefore contented ourselves with an external examination of the building and went into town to find fishing in the clear River Rothay. Now we had to leave the 'beaten track' and journey through Little Langdale, past its tarn and Elterwater, and westwards from magnificent views of the Langdale Pikes to the lovely Wrynose Pass. Wrynose now boasts a hard road surface, but the gradient is unchanged and we temporarily dubbed ourselves "Quetlaw Hiking Club". Past the Three Shire Stone, we reached Wrynose summit and swooped to Wrynose Bottom to begin the ascent of Hard Knott Pass. This ascent, though shorter than that of Wrynose, was steeper, being 1 in 4, but we were rewarded at the top by a fine view of the west coast and the sea. The ultra steep torturous descent of the pass caused three of the lads to think twice and walk down, but ultimately we regrouped and sped into lovely, lovely Eskdale and its magnificent hostel.

To be continued in January

Messages from the Web Site

My Grandfather was Alexander Mason (the son of James Mason) he had 4 brothers, Richard (had a son called Alec) a Jim or Jack, ? Bill ? Ted and a sister called Sarah Ann. He married Mary Isabella Raffle (spelling is correct) in 1917 they had 4 children Elvie, Jessie, Mary and George and moved to Yorkshire in the late 1930's. Are there any relatives still in the area if so please let me know. I live in Australia.

I am the son of Audrey Edgar who lived at 30 Burns Street, along with her family, Jackson Sinclair Edgar (her father), Lilian Edgar (mother) and her siblings Elizabeth (died 2005), Raymond (died 1990), Freda (now living in Worthing, aged 91), Alan (now living in Lincoln aged 86) and mum now lives in Evesham (aged 83). I know she'd like to communicate with anyone who remembers them, and she has a few tales to tell, too! □

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AYCLIFFE VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

are organising a trip to the

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES

APRIL 2011

If you think you
might be interested
or would like more details -
please give your name to
Margaret