



# Wheatley Hill History Club

October 2017

## LOCAL HISTORY DAY 2017

**Thomas Kenny Film—  
Beyond Praise**

**Shown at this event**

**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

Wheatley House

**10.00am—2.00pm**

**Wheatley Hill  
Heritage Centre**

**Open 10-4 Today**

## A MILITARY ROADSHOW

*A UNIQUE EVENT*

**Do you have items lying around your home  
relating to one of the World Wars?**

**A photograph**

**A badge**

**A medal**

**Piece of uniform**

**Cylinder Recording from WW1**

**Or anything else that you would like to identify?**

We have invited a team of military experts to our event who will help with identifying  
any wartime memorabilia you are unsure about

They each have a speciality and will be delighted to help

### **ALSO AT THE EVENT**

**DLI Museum**

**Durham at War**

(learn how you can add your  
ancestor's First World War  
experiences to the  
Durham at War website)

**North East War  
Memorials Project**

**Chris Lloyd  
The Northern Echo**

**Alfie Joey  
BBC Radio Newcastle**

**Recordings  
from our  
cylinder  
phonograph**



- **Local Publication Sales**
- **Beyond Praise DVD's**
- **2018 Calendars**
- **WW1 Dressing up Outfits for boys & girls (at the Heritage Centre)**
- **Refreshments**

## CONTACT DETAILS

**CHAIR:** 01429 820813  
**TREASURER:** 01429 823198

E: [history.club2@btinternet.com](mailto:history.club2@btinternet.com)  
W: [wheatley-hill.org.uk](http://wheatley-hill.org.uk)



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**NO MEETINGS UNTIL MARCH 2018**  
**WHEN THEY START AT 11.00AM**

## THE WHEATLEY HILL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 2018



- 10.15am Meet at Patton Walk & Parade to All Saints Church with brass band & lone piper
- 10.40am Arrive at All Saints Church
- 10.45am Service in All Saints Parish Church including sounding of The Last Post
- 10.30am Parade to Wheatley Hill Cemetery
- 11.40am Remembrance Day ceremony in Cemetery including:  
Laying of 22 poppy wreaths by local organisations
- The Last Post  
Reveille  
The National Anthem



**Heritage Centre open for refreshments**  
**11.00am—12.30pm**

## THE LAST SHIFT

At a fundraising event in the Community Centre on Saturday 23 September, over £1000 was raised for the statue fund. Together with the Co-operative Community Fund and a music event on 10 November in Wheatley Hill Workingmens Club, the committee feel that they have reached the target of £22,500.

This amount has been largely raised within this village through events or personal donations from people who still live here or who have left but keep up to date with local events. The County Durham Community Foundation, the Sir James Knott Trust, the Freemasons and Durham Mining Association all made contributions, but most of the money was raised locally—a tremendous achievement for a small village.

The unveiling date is still scheduled for

## BENNY GRAHAM One of the Pitmen Poets

**will provide**  
**music & coalfield humour**



**at our October Meeting**

**Wednesday 25 October 7pm**

**All Welcome**

## THE MEMOIRS OF WILLIAM HERBERT SHEPHERD

(1891-1972)

*This is the final part of Mr Shepherd's Memoirs*

I remember a village tradesman at the chapel who would read something to us, then ask questions on what he had read, but to make us take notice of what he read, eh would pay 1d for 1 correct answer, or 3d for 2 correct answers. We all got a chance for the penny ones, but the second was paid to the one who was quickest off the mark with the answer.

The chapel itself was made from two colliery houses (*in Ford Street ed*) but a building fund was in hand for a new one. The Primitive Methodists or Ranters already had their own. The Church people had a nice little church up the 'Hill'. The Salvation Army had their Citadel in the next village, Thornley, but on alternate Sundays toured around. They were always well received and listened to reverently.

After we had been going for some time, our dad was made Sunday School Superintendent and also became a trustee of the building fund. He didn't become a 'preacher' on the circuit. The preachers for morning and evening services came from the various villages that made up the circuit, and a member would take them to his home for dinner and tea. It was always a busy time for mam before the Sunday when it was our turn to entertain.

The great day for the Wesleyans was when their new chapel was ready and opened. Instead of a harmonium as in the old one, it had a pipe organ, so now we were as good as the Ranters!

After Evening Service a lot of youths, both boys and girls went for walks. Others, including young people went to the 'Hall' to a Penny Reading (*this is likely to be the Miners Hall in Patton Street*). Someone would read from a book behind a screen to cover a candle or oil lamp, while someone else worked the lantern, putting in slides that illustrated the story being read, during which time the hall was in darkness. The hall was normally lit by electricity as were the chapels. The current was generated at the colliery which it served for lighting, also for street lamps, which were few and far between.

Soon after settling in at home, I went to see cousin George, where I was introduced to his wife and daughter. They had another daughter who was married and lived at the next village. Cousin George was sitting at a machine which he was working with his feet, doing something with a piece of wood. He stopped when I went in, then after a little talk with cousin Helen, I was shown what he was doing. "This is a fretwork machine" he said, He then pointed out to me how, by moving his feet he could make the saw go up and down while he fed the wood gently up into it. When he cut a piece out he slackened the blade, and put it through another hole, along with many others he had drilled previously. The wood had a paper pattern stuck onto it on which the white parts were cut out and the coloured left. I asked him what he was making and he told me it was a pipe rack. He showed me a picture of what the finished article would look like. When I looked around their room, I could see a lot of things he had made, the most noticeable of all being an over mantle frame. The mirror had been supplied along with the wood and pattern from 'Hobbies Ltd', so after all the cutting out had been done he had followed the instructions supplied and put it together and now it hung over his fireplace. I thought it was great work and said I would like to do some. Uncle George gave me a hand frame that I was to start off with and I had to get a cutting table, some blades and a drill myself. Uncle George promised to show me how to go on once I had these items. When I got home and told my mother she said she wasn't keen on having a lot of fretwork items around the house so I waited until I could get the tools of the trade.

When that summer was over and I went back to school, I was put into Standard III, having jumped Standard II. As the days shortened, it was almost dark by the time we left school in the afternoons and on coming home, we who lived in the lower part of the village, could just make out the pit head on our right, but could see the twinkling lights from their lamps as the boys and men made their way from the cages to the lamp cabin. When the snow was on the ground it was nice to watch the string of lights which seemed to move on their own over the white earth.



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**Margaret Hedley, MA, B.Ed(hons)**

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E: [margaret@pastuncovered.co.uk](mailto:margaret@pastuncovered.co.uk)

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**Tel: 0191 526 1932**

**SPECIAL MEALS**

- 1 THREE CHICKEN NUGGETS & CHIPS £2.70
- 2 SMALL BEEF BURGER & CHIPS
- 3 SMALL SAUSAGE & CHIPS
- 4 KEBAB & CHIPS (SMALL)

(SUPPLIED WITH A CHOICE OF PEAS, CURRY, GRAVY, BEANS OR GARLIC)

**THREE FISH FINGERS & CHIPS £3.20**

(SUPPLIED WITH A CHOICE OF PEAS, CURRY, GRAVY, BEANS OR GARLIC)



Hi my name is Ali and I run your local Slimming World Groups. I will always be a member first and foremost so I know how daunting joining a group can be and I'll be there with you 100% of the way! My life mission is simple: I want to help as many people as possible achieve their weight loss dreams, but it's not just about weight loss sometimes it can be life saving! Lots of our members are no longer on medication for type 2 diabetes and other medical conditions as a DIRECT result of their weight loss efforts.

I would love to welcome everyone new or returning members to one of my fabulous groups. I'm looking forward to welcoming you soon. X

**Mondays**

5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Wheatley House  
Wheatley Hill

**Wednesdays**

5.00pm & 7.00pm  
Wingate Com Centre

**Contact**

**07815 776106**  
For more details

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**E: [mail@pollys-wingate.co.uk](mailto:mail@pollys-wingate.co.uk)**

**T: 01429 383700**