

CELEBRATING THE PLATINUM JUBILEE



The jubilee cupcakes at our May meeting went down very well with our members. Star Bakes by Sarah from Wingate, made the cakes which were both decorative and tasty.

The following week on 1 June we held our display in a joint event with The Mothers' Club at the Working Mens' Club. It was a great evening and we displayed our new Jubilee pull-up banner and our new plan of the Front Street in 1953 which caused much discussion and I am sure will continue to do so!



PLAN OF WHEATLEY HILL FRONT STREET, 1953

As part of our tribute to the Jubilee, the History Club committee investigated the Front Street in 1953. This was made possible in a small way by a 1953 church magazine that had many advertisements from local shops which gave us a great start.

We drew a rough plan and started to plot the shops on that we knew about through the advertisements and memory.

George Cook, from our committee then went to the Front Street and measured both sides and was able to provide a scale drawing which we transferred our information onto. There were many arguments and disagreements but eventually we came up with a very impressive banner which is 9 feet wide x 3ft feet deep.

We decorated the banner with relevant images of shops etc. in the Front Street and, whilst it will not be perfect, it is bound to provide a talking point for many years to come.

Our History Club member, Denise Waite made these Platinum Jubilee badges and offered them for sale at our April meeting. They were beautifully made, and Denise has donated all proceeds to the Ukraine Crisis Fund. Together with badges she sold elsewhere, she was able to make a donation of £300 and would like to thank History Club members for their support.



Thank you Denise for your
£300.00 donation

Thank you for your donation to our
Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Your donation comes at a critical time in
this crisis.

We can't thank you enough.

Your donation reference no is:
ICCB01415767

CONTACT DETAILS

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MEETINGS IN WHEATLEY HOUSE

All Meetings Start at 11.00am

31 August	The Hetton Railway	J Banham
28 Sept	The Horsekeeper's Daughter	J G-Lowes
29 Oct	Water, Wind & Wheat: Looking at some North East mills	R Annis

UPDATING OUR MEDIA

As you know from our January newsletter we announced that we intended to use the funds awarded by the Co-op Community Fund to upgrade our videos etc to the most modern format with the help of our friends at Lonely Tower Film & Media.

This task has now been completed and we have 16 films in MP4 format and they can all be seen on a new YouTube channel linked to our website. This is a fantastic achievement for a local history group and a very useful point of interest for future generations looking back at the history of Wheatley Hill.

Some of the films started out as home videos, but are no less important than the professional films we commissioned with Heritage Lottery Fund Awards. However they started their lives, these films are an important part of our past.

This is the list of films available on the YouTube link from our website **wheatley-hill.org.uk**:

- 1 Wheatley Hill in the 1950's
- 2 Wheatley Hill British Legion (Womens' Section) Medal Presentations, 1995
- 3 Celebration of Colliery Village Weddings, 2000
- 4 An Interview with Aris Baldasera, 1995
- 5 Memories of Wheatley Hill (1) recorded November 2021
- 6 Memories of Wheatley Hill (2) recorded November 2021
- 7 Miss Crimdon event, 1960 – winner Miss Wheatley Hill
- 8 VE Day around the village 1995
- 9 Images of Wheatley Hill, 1995
- 10 Wheatley Hill Pit – Surface description, Gordon Tempest, 2022
- 11 Wheatley Hill Pit – Workings description, Gordon Tempest, 2022
- 12 Wheatley Hill Pit – Including commentary of the winding engine safety checks – Gordon Carr, 1968
- 13 Wheatley Hill Pit – Colliery Winding Engine, 1968
- 14 Beyond Praise – Thomas Kenny VC
- 15 We All Served – Commemorating WW1 in 2018
- 16 Peace, Perfect Peace – Commemorating WW1 in 2018

Apart from the films that are available on the website, we also have a number of oral histories from people from both Wheatley Hill and Thornley talking about their memories over the years. To access them:

Visit the website – wheatley-hill.org.uk

Click the Our Village tab

Scroll down to Oral Histories

Click the one you want to hear



Crowds at the Miss Crimdon Contest, 1960

THORNLEY, LUDWORTH & WHEATLEY HILL PITS UP FOR SALE

These collieries were in poor economic condition by 1877. The owners had failed to meet their creditors, the men's wages were only partly met as a deficiency of £600 was never made up. In 1865 the company only had Thornley as a going concern with a capital investment of £105,000. Development of the additional collieries of Ludworth and Wheatley Hill cost another £250,000 in the next decade, mainly at Wheatley Hill which cost £170,000 to sink in 1869. A fire which spread over the surface workings at Thornley in 1875 cost the company a new winding engine, railway sidings and tubbing for the main shaft.

The owners felt they had no further option but to sell the three collieries.

Included in the sale of 1877 were the Wheatley Hill brickyards with a capacity of 8000 bricks a day, and a lime quarry in the same village as well as the gas works and coke ovens at Thornley. The output at Thornley colliery was then described as being between 600 and 700 tons a day; that of Wheatley Hill was 1000 tons a day.

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEES.

Particulars, Plan, and Conditions of Sale of these
IMPORTANT AND WELL KNOWN CURRENT GOING

SEA SALE COLLIERIES.

CALLED

THE WHEATLEY HILL, THORNLEY,

AND.

LUDWORTH COLLIERIES,

In the County of Durham,

(The Property of "The Original Hartlepool Collieries Company
Limited")

Containing with their associated Coal Fields

3,370 ACRES,

OR THEREABOUTS, TOGETHER WITH

THE COLLIERY PLANT

OF

Pits, Engine Houses, Engines, Machinery,
Railways, Gas Works, Coke Ovens, Agent's
and Workmen's Houses, Workshops,
Stables, and all other Erections and
Buildings whatsoever,

To the same several Collieries respectively belonging and
held therewith,

All of which will be offered for Sale by Auction
In 2 Lots, by

MR. CHAS. BROUGH,

AT THE

"TURK'S HEAD" HOTEL,

GREY STREET,

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

On Thursday, the 9th day of August, 1877,

At One o'clock in the Afternoon precisely.

Bennett & Howe, 18, Little Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Wheatley Hill Community Association T: 01429 820214



OPENING HOURS

Mon - Thurs: 8.30am - 8.45pm
Fri: 8.30am - 7.45pm

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

OUR FACILITIES INCLUDE:

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2-120 people

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Football Pitch (for hire)

CAFÉ OPEN DAILY



01429 820214

Past Uncovered

All types of family history research

Are you curious about your family tree?
Pre-1837 records difficult to find?
Have you come to a dead-end?
Do you have missing ancestors?
Would you like your research organising?

Margaret Hedley, MA, B.Ed(hons)

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