

The Death of our Queen

The death of our Queen on 8 September was a shock to us all, and whilst she was 96 years old, a surprise too as we had all seen images of her in the press and on TV of her meeting with new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, just two days before. As usual she was smiling and few would have considered that her death was so imminent.

Queen Elizabeth II was a much loved Monarch and for many of us the only Monarch we had ever known. She was part of our history for just over 70 years and was a constant in our lives on Christmas Day, Remembrance, Trooping the Colour etc and whilst many of us never met her, we knew she was there. Her passing has, as might be expected, created national grieving with flowers and other tributes being left outside the Royal residences in order to mark respect.

On Monday 12 September a Service of Prayer and Reflection remembering Her Majesty was held at All Saints Church, Wheatley Hill at 6.00pm. There were about 30 people present who listened to the words of reflection by our vicar, Rev Jane and County Councillors Lucy Hovells and Ivan Cochrane. We sang three hymns, and generally remembered. There was a condolence book in the church which members of the congregation were invited to sign.

After the service, and in the car park of the church, County and Parish Councillor Jake Miller read out the Accession Proclamation which was followed by the National Anthem in which we replaced the word "Queen" with "King". This is something that many of us will never experience again in our lifetime which made it unique, historical and moving.



NATIONAL MOMENT OF REFLECTION



NOTICE

Sunday 18 September at 8pm

National Moment of Reflection

Wheatley Hill Cemetery

The public have been invited to take part in a National Moment of Reflection to mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and reflect on her life and legacy. The National Moment of Reflection will take place at 8pm on Sunday 18 September, the night before the State Funeral, and be marked by a one-minute silence.

Margaret was very proud to be asked by the Parish Council to present the opening address for the above event held on 18 September which was supported by the Wheatley Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion

Wheatley Hill History & Heritage Calendar

2023



Includes Images of Thornley

The 2023 calendar came - and went - in about four days! Despite a rise in price to £4.00 this year, our calendar remained popular with our supporters. Thank you for your support.



HERITAGE EVENT BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN HALL

The History Club, as members of the County Durham Forum for History & Heritage, took part in the above event on Saturday 24 September, along with another 16 Forum Group members.

There was so much going on in the town. Romans in full regalia walking around the streets, Stan Laurel giving walking tours of his birth place, a vintage bus was taking tours around the town and everything was absolutely FREE.

As you can see, our display focused on our Platinum Jubilee exhibition which took on a new significance and it received a lot of comment from visitors.

Thank you to our History Club followers who took the time to come along to Bishop Auckland to support the event and the History Club.

WHEATLEY HILL MOTHERS' CLUB

Brass Band Night
To mark Remembrance 2022
with the
GT Brass Band

Held in
Wheatley Hill Working Mens' Club
on Wednesday 9 November
7.00pm

Tickets £4.00 (includes buffet)

available from Dorothy at the October History Club



Remembrance Sunday
at Wheatley Hill

13 November 2022

Church Service
followed by Parade &
Wreath Laying at
the War Memorial

Trimdon Brass Band
In attendance

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813
TREASURER: 01429 823198



<https://www.facebook.com/wheatley.hillhistory/>

E: history.club2@btinternet.com
W: wheatley-hill.org.uk

MEETINGS IN WHEATLEY HOUSE

All Meetings Start at 11.00am

29 Oct Water, Wind & Wheat: R Annis
Looking at some
North East mills

NO MEETINGS UNTIL MARCH 2023

THE HETTON COAL COMPANY BICENTENARY

You may be wondering why the Hetton Coal Company bicentenary is important enough to be included in our newsletter. The answer is that without the Hetton experiment that took place early in the 1820's, none of the South East Durham pits would have been opened, including Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Ludworth.

The South East of County Durham stands on a magnesian limestone plateau and whilst coal was mined in the Houghton-le-Spring, Gateshead, Washington areas of the County long before 1820, the limestone made it impossible to gain access to the coal below it.

The land owners in the areas mentioned, Lord Londonderry, Lord Lambton and other Lords and Squirearchy, always claimed, ***"There's no coal under the limestone"***. What they meant was, "if there is coal under there its going to take a lot of money to get it out and we aren't prepared to invest in such a venture".

Test borings carried out in 1796 by professional borers, Messrs Rawlings of Ferryhill, found that the coal was 500 feet underground but the need to remove excess water and sand during drilling would be prohibitive to a successful sinking without the correct equipment.

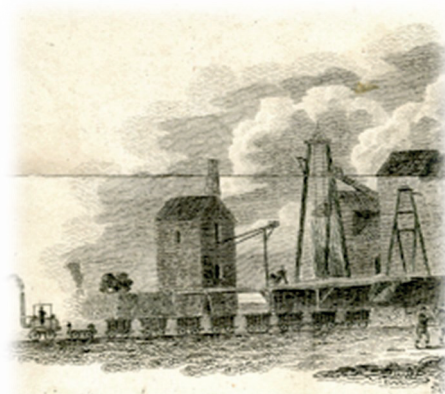
In 1820, sacked from his job as manager at the Vane Tempest pit by Lord Londonderry, failed banker, Arthur Mowbray saw an opportunity to open a pit at Hetton, probably to annoy Lord Londonderry, and he obtained the rights to mine coal at there.

Without finance, but with a banking background, Mowbray was able to gain the interest of those who could afford it, to make an investment and start the coal company. Not content with upsetting the local landowners by opening a pit on their doorstep that they had no control over, Mowbray also went on to poach skilled workers from them.

The problem of transporting the coal from Hetton to the Sunderland Staithes was another obstacle that Mowbray had to overcome and he turned to George Stephenson to plan a railway from the pit, over Warden Law and down to Sunderland using a combination of hauled engines and gradients on the land.

The opening of the Hetton Colliery was significant in that it represented a number of firsts;

- **The first deep coal mine in the world**
- **The first deep coal mine to drill through the magnesian limestone plateau**
- **The first coal venture to be funded by private money and not landowners**
- **The first time a railway was used to transport coal**



Hetton Pit

Mowbray continued to be awkward with the rest of the coal owners who were governed by the Vend - a system that set production limits in order to maintain prices. The Vend committee told members how much they could produce and sell. Mowbray ignored the limits put on production at Hetton and therefore sales, and sold as much as he could produce which infuriated the Vend committee made up of Lord Ravensworth, Lord Lambton, the Marquis of Londonderry and other significant land owners.

When the Hetton pit was found to be successful, the company then sunk other pits within the previously land-locked South East Durham area and Thornley was one of them. The plans for the building of pit cottages at Hetton for the new miners in the 1820's were used to build the houses at Thornley, Ludworth and Wheatley Hill and probably all other pits opened by the Hetton Company. One of the first streets of houses built at Hetton was Francis Street, which was transported brick by brick to Beamish Museum when the pit closed and now represents the colliery cottages in the pit village.

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:

Café/Training/IT Suite/
Meeting/Training/Function
rooms to accommodate
2-120 people

Free Wi-Fi
Office Space for Hire
Office & Admin Services

**IDEAL LOCATION FOR
Parties & Events**

Gym & wide range of
Fitness sessions for the

WHOLE FAMILY

Activity & Social sessions for
All ages from 0-99+
Pre-school soft play &
Community Playroom

OUTDOOR

Toddler Play park
MUGA
Community Garden
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)

Experienced and reliable researcher
Talks and Workshops on Local and Family History

E: margaret@pastuncovered.co.uk

W: pastuncovered.co.uk

M: 07977 546332

Like us on
Facebook



Steve Coxon CHIMNEY SWEEP *a professional, clean and reliable service*

Traditional Sweep
Stove Maintenance
Professional Advice
Full Vacuum & Power Sweep
Cows & Bird Guards Fitted
CCTV Chimney Surveys
Smoke Tests
Fully Insured
All Work Guaranteed
Domestic and Commercial
Competitive Rates
All Areas Covered

**Call Steve
The Sweep
07963 749 732
24-Hour
Answer Service**

**Safety Comes First:
Remember to book your Sweep**



Here and Now
Hypnosis & Performance Coaching

Stop Smoking
Fears & Phobias
Dealing with Stress/Anxiety
Self Esteem & Confidence
Weight Loss
Exam Performance
Habits & Addictions

Professional Hypnosis & Coaching FREE 30 min online consultation

Are you struggling with giving up a bad habit?
Is life just not how you want it to be?
Frequently feeling down?

Call Mark Ryder for a confidential chat today

T: 07342932660

E: mark@hnow.co.uk

W: www.hnow.co.uk

TRADITIONAL FISH & CHIPS **SAHOTA'S THE NEST FISHERIES** DELIVERY SERVICE AM / PM TEL: 0191 5261932

OPEN
Lunch Times
& Evenings
Every Day
Except Sundays



Fish & Chips Delivered to your Door



Lunchtime & Evening Delivery Service

Tel: 0191 526 1932

Our new address
4 Redesdale Court

VIP
Trimdon Grange

TAXIS
TS29 6LE

01429 821999