

Christmas Cake Recipe

I've had many requests for a traditional Christmas cake recipe, so here's one that I think you'll enjoy

INGREDIENTS

500g sugar
500g butter
1 tsp baking powder
100ml water
1 tsp salt
200g brown sugar



2 lemons (juiced)
4 large eggs
1 litre bottle Navy Rum
400g dried fruit
200g mixed nuts
350g self raising flour

METHOD

- Sample a cup of rum to check its quality
- Stroke the cat
- Take a large bowl, check the rum again to be sure its of the highest quality, then repeat to make certain
- Turn on an electric mixer and beat 400g of butter in a large fluffy bowl
- Add 1 teaspoon of sugar. Beat again.
- Check that the rum is still ok – have another cup
- Turn off the mixerer thingy
- Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the dried fruit
- Stroke the cat again
- Pick the fruit up off the floor, wash it and put it in the bowl a piece at a time, trying to count it
- Mix on the turner. If the fried druit get stuck in the beaters, just pry it loose with a drowscriver
- Sample the rum for consisticity
- Nexsht sift 200g of salt or something
- Check the rum – you can't be too careful
- Croke the stat
- Now shit the lemon juice and strain your nuts
- Add one table and a spoon of sugar or whatever you can find
- Greash the oven
- Turn the cake tin 180 degrees and try not to fall over
- As the oven comes round, hang on
- Don't forget to beat off the turner
- Finally throw the bowl through the fekin window
- Finish off the rum and wipe the torkwop with the cucking fat



110 Years Ago



Thomas Kenny VC

On 4 November 1915
Thomas Kenny won his
Victoria Cross for Bravery
during the First World War.

He was the first DLI soldier
to be awarded the VC in
the First World War.

To mark the occasion there
will be a service held at his
memorial in the cemetery on
Tuesday 4 November 2025
at 10:30am

Everyone Welcome.

Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

proudly present a Charity fund-raising,



Concert
of
Remembrance

Given by,

EDMG

Peterlee Band

Musical Director - Lewis Wilkinson

Tickets
£4.00
Includes
buffet

Wednesday 5 November 7.30pm

Wheatley Hill Working Mens Club

Local Pioneers of the Labour Party: Louis Martin (1883-1953)

The Man who Replaced Peter Lee, Part 1

by Tom Tunney

Louis Martin is a forgotten enigma. He was the man who replaced Peter Lee on the Thornley seat of Durham County Council in 1934. And yet his mark on history in the many years he subsequently served – he was still a DCC Alderman in the early 1950s – was minimal at best.

The trail he's left in the local press is a very thin seam indeed, but his political career is highly significant as an example of how the healthy working class teeth of East Durham socialism were blunted and extracted during the 1930s as disruptive middle class incomer E F Peart (1891-1952, the father of the future MP Fred) ruthlessly manipulated the movement to his own advantage.

Put simply, Martin was Peart's disciple and Peart's man on the DCC. And Peart and Martin were both part of a grim brand of socialism that prized dogmatic conformity over practical policies.

However, before we get down to the basics of Martin's career, it's important to understand that in 1934 his DCC seat covered Thornley, Wheatley Hill, Wingate and Deaf Hill. In 1937, the DCC boundaries were changed, Wingate was given its own division and Thornley and Wheatley Hill were hived off into a separate seat won by Frank Quin, who is also often cited as "the man who replaced Peter Lee". Pub quiz question compilers take note – and see my previous article on Quin.

Martin was born on 28/4/83 in Spennymoor, his birth registered as Louis Parnell Martin. He was the son of an Irish Catholic shoemaker who appears under a bewildering variety of surnames in the documents of the period. His father is recorded as James Martin on the 1881 census, but appears as James Martin Flowers on the 1891 census, while in other documents his surname is recorded variously as Flaven, Flavel and Morton. The variety of surnames is more likely due to illiteracy than any nefarious intent. One of at least eight children, Louis is recorded as Louis M Flowers on the 1891 census, but in the 1901 census he is named as Louis M Flaven and by 1911 he is Louis P Martin Flaven.

Louis began work as a miner at Pelton Fell, aged 13 and worked underground, eventually as a hewer, for over 30 years, with an interruption only for his service in the Great War.

He volunteered in September 1914 and served in the East Yorkshire Regiment (regimental number 16720), still under the name Flaven, until medically discharged, at the rank of Corporal, due to trench foot, in December 1916.

Louis married Catherine Cuthbert, not long after the 1911 census was taken, in which he is recorded as single and living with various nephews and nieces at 63 Grange Terrace, Pelton Fell. This became their marital home and they had one son.

He became active in both the Durham Miners Association and the Labour Party and rose to significant elected office in the aftermath of WW1. For some reason, around about this time he began using the surname Martin rather than Flaven.

He served for over seven years as a Councillor on Chester-le-Street Urban Council and for six years represented Chester-le-Street on the Durham County Council during the era of Peter Lee. He also served for seven years on the Executive Committee of Chester-le-Street Labour Party, three years on DMA Executive Committee and three years on the County Mining Federation Board.

A rare insight into his politics is provided by this item in the *Sunderland Echo* on the 30/4/26:

A holiday on the first Saturday in May of each year is to be given to employees of Chester-le-Street Urban District Council, according to a resolution passed by that authority last night...Mr Louis Martin said May Day was set aside by the working classes throughout the world to demonstrate their solidarity and to break down the tyrannical capitalist system.

Martin was a regular delegate at the annual Labour Party Conference and at the DMA Annual Conferences of 1925, 1928 and 1929. He was also selected to be a DMA Delegate at the International Miners' Federation Conference at Crackow, Poland, in 1930. (HM 2/10/31)

And with that event his career as a miner ended. Because now he was suddenly the new landlord of the Railway Tavern public house in Wingate! His time underground was over – but his career in politics was suddenly to reach some surprising new heights.

When Peter Lee made his surprise announcement that he would not be standing again for the DCC Thornley seat at the 1934 local elections, it seemed to be very much a two horse race to replace him, with Louis Martin a very weak third in the betting to Hubert Tunney and Will Lawther...

This article will be continued in our next newsletter

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813

facebook

www.facebook.com/wheatley.hillhistory

E: history.club2@btinternet.com

MEETINGS IN WHEATLEY HOUSE

Start at 11.00am

26 Nov	A Tour Around the Lonsdales	J Heckels
25 Feb	John S Youll Thornley VC Winnerr	P Chalk
25 Mar	George Stephenson Trials, Tribulations & Triumphs	D Williams

The Way We Were A Story of Growing up in Wheatley Hill, County Durham

By Edith Foster (née Poulson) written when she was 92. Part 2.

We were all well dressed but my father was very particular, he never smoked or drank. His clothes had to be perfect and his shoes were polished before and after every time he wore them. His hard hat from the pit and his pit boots were polished



Pithead Baths, Wheatley Hill, 1939

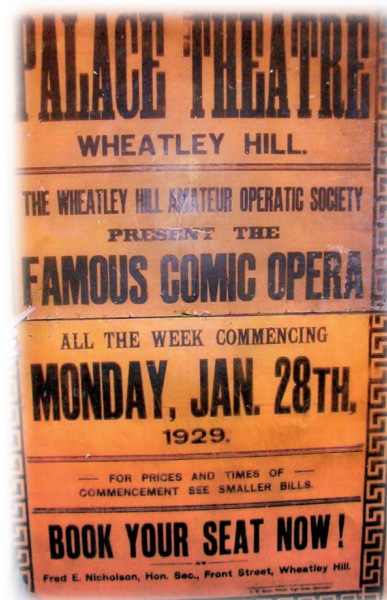
after every shift. His trousers and jacket were bashed against the wall to get the coal dust out. I was to find out later that he was a batman to some officers in the army during the First World War and I think some of his teaching rubbed off on us.

We also took the tin bath which hung outside on the wall and filled it with warm water that had to be heated in pans on the kitchen fire, for when he came in from the pit. He sat in the bath in the kitchen and had a bath. Later, pit baths were introduced which was a blessing.

My father also had a spare-time job. He used to be someone who did odd jobs at the local picture house – The Palace Theatre in the village. We used to have variety shows which we considered were very good then, but now they would not be considered as entertainment. The fun would start when dad brought the artist appearing at The Palace home to stay with us for a week (more in the coffers for us). Considering we only had two bedrooms and no facilities, and had to heat the water for washing ourselves in the boiler, we sometimes had seven chorus girls for bed and breakfast and they had to get washed in the pantry. The boiler was the same one that we used for boiling the peas! Can you imagine what it was like? The word Bedlam springs to mind.



Palace Theatre, Wheatley Hill



I recall one occasion when husband, wife, and son were appearing at The Palace in Cinderella which was not a success and they didn't get paid. My parents loaned them the money to get the train home. Needless to say they tried to board the train without paying and were caught and given a fine. My parents never got their money back though.



Wheatley House Moving Forward

Wheatley House was formerly the men's hostel within the aged miners homes complex, opened in 1924. It is now a community hall managed by a committee to provide a gathering place for the people of Wheatley Hill and surrounding area to hold a range of functions

All types of functions

for up to 70 people

Parties

Christenings

Funeral Gatherings

Training/Meetings

Overhead projector/black out blinds

Tea/coffee making facilities

Reasonable Rates
Well equipped kitchen
For use by outside caterers

including supply of
crockery & cutlery

For more details:
Eileen: 07450 344 806
Elbriddeileen@aol.co.uk

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



Bar & Restaurant
17 Church Street, Coxhoe
DH6 4DD

0191 447 3021
thegingerdogcoxhoe@gmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

AFTERNOON TEAS

*Our take-out afternoon teas are now available
to purchase online for collection in store*

PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

CATERING

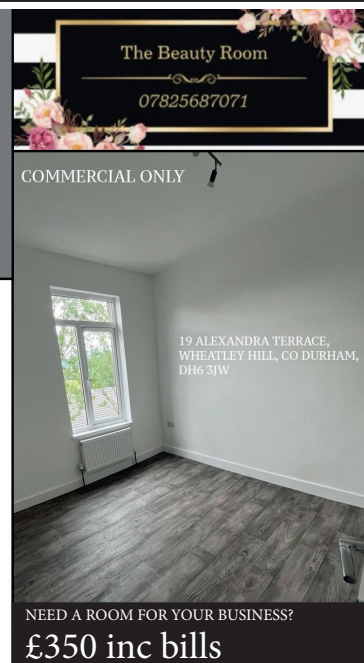
GIFT VOUCHERS

We use locally sourced ingredients for our dishes



M&J's Hair Salon has
teamed up with The
Beauty Room by Claire
and would like to
welcome another
small business to the
property to
complement their
current services.

Contact Maxine, Co-Owner
of M&J's, for more details:
07530934647 OR
maxandian@live.co.uk



SAHOTA'S THE NEST FISHERIES

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
Trimdon Grange
TAXIS
TS29 6LE
01429 821999