

BISHOP AUCKLAND HISTORY & HERITAGE FAIR

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026



The History Club was delighted to take part in this event and enjoyed a very successful day. We brought along our handling collection, which generated plenty of discussion among visitors. Many older attendees fondly remembered using the items on display, while younger visitors were fascinated by these examples of everyday life from the past. The children were particularly intrigued by our carbollic soap, which proved to be a real talking point.

We also displayed a set of jiggling dolls, kindly loaned by the Heritage Centre. They attracted considerable interest throughout the day. The dolls were made in the 1960s by Isaac Scarth of Wheatley Hill, using plans that had been passed down to him by his great-grandfather. Their craftsmanship and local connection made them a popular feature of our display.



Limited Edition Prints £10 each unframed



Help Requested from The History Club

Lisa Ward contacted us about her Chisholm and Stoker ancestors from Haswell, Ludworth and Wheatley Hill. Her great-great-grandparents, William Chisholm and Mary Jane Stoker, lived in Wheatley Hill in the early 1900s. Using Lisa's information and unidentified photographs, the History Club has pieced together this short family history

Both from Haswell, William and Mary Jane probably married there in 1892. After having two children in the Easington district, they moved to Gateshead around 1898, where William worked as a coal miner. Five more children were born there and sadly one died there, before the family returned to the Easington district in about 1912. William found work at Wheatley Hill pit, and they were allocated a house at 10 Gullock Street, where two further children were born.



*Believed to be
William Chisholm & Mary J Stoker
Marriage, 1892*



Their eldest son, Robert Stoker Chisholm was born in 1893 and joined the 4th

West Yorkshire Regiment. under soldier number 76177 at the time of the First World War from his home at No 5 Durham Street. Wheatley Hill. He was a single man at time of enlistment, so we can assume his parents had moved to this address. I believe he will be in this images.

William was killed at Wheatley Hill pit in 1916 when the family were living at 5 Weardale Street. He was buried in Wheatley Hill Cemetery on 23 September. Mary Jane was pregnant at the time of his death, giving birth to a son

shortly after, who she named Dixon Donkin Chisholm. The child died aged 3 weeks and was buried on 15 October in the same grave as his father.



WHEATLEY HILL.
A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned at an inquest held at Wheatley Hill yesterday, concerning the death of William Chisholm (46), shifter, who met his death in the Second North district of the Hutton Seam, Wheatley Hill Colliery, on Tuesday morning.—The evidence given by his mate, George Davison, showed that deceased was shovelling, when some stone came away from the side and struck him on the right shoulder and pinned him to the ground. When extricated he was dead.—Deceased, who resided at 5, Weardale-street, Wheatley Hill, leaves a widow and a family of ten.

Mary Jane continued to live at Weardale Street after the death of her husband probably as a result of two of her sons, William and Joseph, working at Wheatley Hill pit.

Son William died in 1933 and was buried in Wheatley Hill Cemetery in the same grave as his father and brother and is mentioned on the headstone (above).

To be continued

MEETINGS IN WHEATLEY HOUSE

Start at 11.00am

15 Nov A Walk Through Time M Hedley

No Meetings until March 2027

CONTACT DETAILS

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W: wheatley-hill.org.uk

facebook

Margaret: 07977546332

Durham Sheet 28.09

OLD ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

Wheatley Hill
& Thornley
1939



Just Released - £3.75 at History Club

THE GODFREY EDITION

Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

proudly present a Charity fund-raising,

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Wednesday 4th Nov.

7:30pm

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and the Club)
£4.00 includes
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Sincere thanks to
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
for their financial support.

WHEATLEY HILL

REMEMBRANCE DAY

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2026

Service of Remembrance
All Saints Church 10.45



Trimdon 2027 Commemorations – Local Heritage Festival 6th and 7th February

Locals in Trimdon are putting a year long programme of events together to bring the community together and celebrate local history to mark the 1,000th anniversary of King Canute's visit en route to the shrine of St Cuthbert at Durham.

As part of that a Local Heritage Festival of talks, displays and concerts is being arranged in venues across the Trimdons over the weekend of 6th and 7th February 2027.



Wheatley House Moving Forward



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Sunday

10am—4pm

Café last orders
3pm



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