Plaque will go up on 135th anniversary

BARNINGHAM village hall opened as a school on December 7th 1875, marked by a stone inscription outside now too weatherworn to read.

At our history group meeting on the same day this year, a plaque recording the original dedication will be unveiled inside the hall. The school was built in memory of Lady Augusta Milbank, and one of her descendants will be present.

The Archive

Copies of The Archive, the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2011). Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website). Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES DECEMBER 7th 6pm

All dressed up for the wedding, 1930

It’s 80 years ago, and guests line up for the photographer outside Barningham church after the wedding of George and Betty Goodall.

George was a forester working for the hall estate, his bride a lass from Dalton way. They moved into the eastern half of Heath House – George’s uncle Charlie Brown lived in the other half – and stayed there until the 1960s, bringing up their only child Les there before moving down to Reading Room Cottages.

Neil Turner can identify eight of the guests in the photo. From left to right, they were George’s best man Billy Marwood, a gamekeeper at Scargill; unknown; Arthur Brass, of West End Cottage; George’s cousin Hannah Brown; two unknown; Mrs Marwood; Bert Hart, Gayles-based postman; unknown; Mrs Hart; Charlie Brown, estate joiner and Mrs Hart’s brother; and his wife Blanche.

“George was bald from the age of 21,” recalls Neil. “Betty’s father moved in with them after the wedding but she soon persuaded him to leave and he went to lodge with Mrs Ann Delaney, a widow living in Reading Room Cottage.

“He bought her the first television set in the village and she used to spend hours criticising the girls who appeared on it – ‘look at them brazen things showing their legs!’ she’d say to my mother when she called in.”

Neil remembers a television being set up in the village hall for the Coronation in 1953. “It was packed, standing room only, and I never got anywhere near it. I’ve never seen the coronation yet.

“It rained all day, it was a wicked, wicked day. There was a parade down the village and all the kids got soaked.”

Mincemeat Pie

This is an updated version of an Elizabethan recipe, serving 4-6 people.

You need: An eight-inch unbaked pie pastry shell; 12oz of ground veal; 4oz of beef suet, finely chopped; 2 cups of mince apples; three-quarters of a tsp salt; eighth tsp pepper, freshly ground; eighth tsp nutmeg also freshly ground; eighth tsp mace; quarter tsp cloves; quarter tsp cinnamon; 3 egg yolks, hard-boiled; 1 tsp rose water; 1 tsp sugar; 1 tsp finely-minced orange peel; 1 tsp finely-minced lemon peel; 2 tbsp of currants; 8 dates, pitted and minced; 8 prunes, pitted and minced.

Method:

1. Bake pie shell at 425 degrees for 10 minutes and allow to cool.
2. In a bowl combine the veal, suet, apple, salt and spices, mixing well.
3. Mash egg yolks with rose water and sugar.
4. Add yolks and remaining ingredients to meat mixture, mixing like a meat loaf.
5. Place mixture in pie shell, smoothing over the top. Cover with aluminium foil and bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.
6. Remove the foil and bake for an additional 10 minutes.
7. Serve immediately.

If you have old hints or recipes to share, please contact Kay Duggan (01833 621455)
**Maps, trips and some interview tips**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th October 2010:**

**Present:** Sheila Catton, Phil Hunt, Anne Hutchison, Elaine McDermott, Annie Metcalfe, Bev & Mike Peach, Sue Prytherick, Ann Rowley, Sally & Evie Ridgeway, Jon Smith, Neil Turner, Mark Watson, Lance Hodgson.

**Apologies:** Greta Carter, Robin Brooks, Kay & Eric Duggan, Louise Ferrari, Ann & Tony Orton, Janet Wrigley.

**Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.**

**Village hall:** A plaque had been ordered recording the inscription on the outside wall (see back page). The latest *Teesdale Mercury* carried a long story about the search for the missing clock and other group activities.

**Tithe Maps:** Durham County Record Office had repaired the maps rescued from a skip outside The Rectory and sent a disc containing digitised copies and pictures of the restoration work. Jon said fullsize (five foot by two) copies, printed on canvas, could be obtained at a reasonable price and it was agreed to consult with the village hall committee about where one or more might go. Copies of the disc contents were available to members on request.

**Visits:** Seventeen members attended the visit to Scarflill Castle on September 17 and thirteen toured Whiby’s museums on October 2. Both trips were very successful and enjoyed by all. Pictures of both were shown (see Page 3).

**Correspondence:** Contact had been made by people related to Holmes, Sylvester and Wise. Correspondence: Pictures of both were shown (See Page 3).

**Field names:** Janet Wrigley was working on collating the tithe map names and present-day fields.

**Wartime:** Phil Hunt reported on progress.

**Film projects:** Evie Ridgeway’s video was available on the internet (see back page). Copies of Neil Turner’s *Barningham Memories* DVD would be available at the film showing on November 5.

**Oral history:** Phil Hunt reported on a workshop he had attended, which he said had provided very useful advice on interviewing, recording and transcribing techniques. It was agreed he should borrow equipment from the North Pennines AONB and arrange one or more trial interviews as soon as possible.

**Next meetings:** December 7th, when Eric Barnes would be the guest speaker, and January 11th.

SUE PRYTERICK, Acting Secretary

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**neil’s notes**

**Bits we couldn’t fit on the DVD sleeve...**

Some additional notes about people and places on the Barningham Memories DVD:

**SHARON COTTAGE:** Demolished and now the site of Curlew House. The stone from the old buildings was taken down to Nor Beck and used to shore up the banks near the bridge.

**THE HUNTERS:** ‘Tab’ (I don’t know his real name) Hunter was intensely jealous of his wife, who was always very well dressed. Look at her hat on the video – just like Norah Batty in Last Of The Summer Wine.

**RACING:** There’s a bit on the video showing Bill Blades and Bill Powell studying racing form in the paper. They used to send me down to the bookies with their bets.

**PUB SINGERS:** The song the five men are singing on the video is Old Macdonald had a Farm – but not the children’s version!

**DUKE JAMESON**’s name appears by mistake on the Newsham war memorial even though (obviously) he didn’t die in the first world war. How they made the error I don’t know.

**RACHEL AINSLEY,** the baby seen at the hall fete in the video, was killed after walking into the path of an ice cream van when she was four.

**MARY SAUNDERS** of the video was killed in a motorbike accident in 1949.

**MRS CHADWICK** was Lady Varina Milbank’s companion at the dower house for many years. I’ll always remember the day I filmed down the pub dartboard and often stayed there even when a darts match was going on. I don’t think anybody ever hit him.

**Ross,** who was a dog, won dozens of prizes and lived to be 21.

**TOMMY THE CAT** slept in the box below the pub dartboard and often stayed there even when a darts match was going on. I don’t think anybody ever hit him.

NEIL TURNER

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**Maps, trips and some interview tips**

**Minutes of the last meeting**

**Finance:** Income in September from publication sales and subscriptions was £129.00; expenditure including publication costs, DVD expenses, award prizes and donations totalled £289.08, leaving a balance of £309.93.

**House Histories:** Heatherlands and Gillbeck House (see Pages 14-15).

**Guest speaker:** Jon introduced Lance Hodgson, grandson of the butler at Barningham Park a century ago, and he gave a fascinating account of his grandfather’s life (see Pages 17-18).

**Publications:** *Archive 11* had been distributed and *Archive 12* would be out in November. Jon said he and Marion Moverley were making progress on a transcription of the diaries of James Coates, Newsham schoolmaster in the 1780s.

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Our butler: ‘A man of singular character’

SIR Mark Milbank, son of Sir Frederick and father of the present baronet Sir Anthony, remembered Joseph Leggett well.

He was, Sir Mark recalled in an interview in the 1960s, “a man of singular character and many subsidiary accomplishments, being a general handyman of no mean skill, a fount of knowledge gained from a mysterious little book which he always kept by him – and a hairdresser.

“He cut the hair of all the family, setting up his quarters as occasion required in the library, and as he worked he would entertain his hearers with reminiscences of the earlier generations he had known.”

Sir Mark said that on leaving for Eton after each school holiday he and his brothers would be given half-a-crown apiece by the butler “who would never accept a tip from any of their friends – provided they stayed at Barningham more than once they qualified for acceptance as ‘one of the family’.”

hospital as he should. She died two days later. My grandfather worked on for the Milbanks and completed 50 years’ service with the family before retiring just before the second world war. He died in 1954.

My mother, meanwhile, had been working at Barningham post office and shop until 1930 when she married my father, Michael Hodgson, from Cotherstone. They went to farm at Crumma, where I was born.

It was very isolated, and too far for me to walk to school at first. Then the war loomed and completed 50 years’ service with the family before retiring just before the second world war. He died in 1954.

There were two teachers, one for the infants and one for all the rest in once they qualified for acceptance as ‘one of the family’.”

Our next guest speaker is Eric Barnes, talking (among other things) about what happened when Napoleon threatened Teesdale.

Joseph Leggett, pictured after his retirement

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What do we think we are? Flattered!

OPEN up the December issue of the BBC's Who Do You Think You Are? magazine and you’ll see a very flattering portrait of our group by Dr Alan Crosby, one of Britain’s leading local historians. Here’s an extract. We’ve a lot to live up to!

BARNINGHAM is a small village in a great location, halfway between Barnard Castle and Richmond and just inside the border of County Durham.

Despite having a population of just 240, the village has a remarkably active local history group that, although founded less than two years ago, has already produced a wide range of invaluable resources for family and local historians.

Membership of the Barningham Local History Group is free (you don’t often get that sort of value these days!) but members are encouraged to pay the modest sum of £10 a year, in return for which they receive a monthly newsletter.

Forty-nine of the 68 households in the village have signed up to this publication, which works out as 72 per cent of the community!

The newsletter is no simple folded sheet of A4 paper, but a substantial publication packed with short articles about aspects of the village and the surrounding area in the past.

A lively and informative newsletter is really important in any local or family history society – it not only helps to keep members informed, but also gives an opportunity to pass on findings, report new information, and submit research queries.

I’m also told that one member sometimes offers for publication “recollections of life in the 1930s and 1940s which have our meetings ago – they are frequently so scurrilous as to be unrepeatable in the newsletter”.

The group has hit the ground running when it comes to other resources, too. It has, for example, produced Where Lyeth Ye Bodies, a listing of every known burial at Barningham Church since 1503, with a history of the church and complete transcript of every monumental inscription in the churchyard.

This is just the sort of resource that’s helpful to any family historian, but can also be useful for local historians investigating the community’s past.

Following that, there’s a two-volume set entitled Counted Census Returns 1841-1911, which covers the village itself, the adjacent community of Newsham and the scattered hamlets that lie across the edge of the great moorlands southwards to Yorkshire.

And to ensure that local interest in the past is maintained, the group also offers its annual Archive Awards. It’s a great idea, and what particularly impressed me is the fact that this year’s two ‘highly commended’ entries were from 10-year-olds.

Evie Ridgway created a video of life in the village today, and James Turrell investigated the history of mole-catchers.

Wonderful! They are often told that family and local history don’t appeal to younger people. What more hopeful sign to the contrary could there be than the success of Evie and James?

You can see the full article on our website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Life below stairs up at the hall

OUR guest at the October meeting was Lance Hodgson of Dalton, who spent some of his childhood in Barningham and most of his adult life on a farm at Crummu, high above Dalton. His grandfather was Joseph Leggett, butler to the Milbank family at Barningham Park a century ago. This is Lance’s story.

MY grandfather was born in Beccles, near Ipswich, in 1870. When he grew up he moved about a bit in search of work and ended up working as a footman for the Milbank family at Thorpe Perrow, near Bedale, where he met and married my grandmother, Eleanor Boddy, a kitchenmaid at the hall.

The Milbanks lost Thorpe Perrow in a game of cards at Monte Carlo in about 1898 and the head of the family, the widowed dowager Lady Alexina, moved to Barningham, bringing a troupe of servants with her. Among them were my grandparents and their young children Gladys and Fred.

Joseph was installed as butler at the hall, and the Milbank family built a new house for him just across the green. It was named Gladysville (almost certainly after Joseph’s daughter: it was changed decades later to Granville – Ed). Two more children were born there soon after – my mother Aline and my uncle Alfred.

Lady Alexina was away much of the time, and Barningham was used just as a seasonal hunting lodge by her son Sir Powlett Milbanke, whose main residence was in Presteigne, North Wales. For many years the servants – a cook, two housemaids, laundymaid, two kitchenmaids and two footmen as well as Joseph – had a fairly easy time of it.

Then in 1918 Sir Powlett died, followed shortly afterwards by his 93-year-old mother. Death duties and other financial problems forced the new baronet, Sir Frederick, to move from Wales to Barningham, bringing with him his wife, three sons and at least 19 more servants (including the Powell and Turner families). Joseph Leggett suddenly became a very busy man.

He worked from six in the morning until 1pm, and then again from 6pm until the Milbanks’ bedtime – which could be well after midnight. His salary was £50 a year. He was a real stickler, everything had to be just right. He always wore uniform, black suit and a top hat. I used to go up to the hall to see him, always in the kitchen, of course, I wasn’t allowed into the main house. When the Milbanks held big parties the servants were allowed to peer through a window at the guests as they came downstairs in all their finery.

In 1931 my grandmother slipped on the kitchen floor and broke her hip. They called the local doctor, Dr Thompson, but he was too fond of the bottle and failed to send her to hospital in time. She never fully recovered.

Two housemaids, laundrymaid, two kitchenmaids and two footmen as well as Joseph – had a fairly easy time of it.

Joseph Leggett, his wife Eleanor and her mother, Jane Boddy, pictured in about 1920.
Joiner George and coat-maker Coates

WE’RE a third of the way through the census returns, and we’ve reached West End, home of the Nicholson family whose descendants remained there until only a decade ago.

The earliest Nicholson recorded in the Barningham burials register is the daughter of Timothy Nicholson, Mary, who died in October 1668. Next come two more youngsters, Elizabeth, who died in January 1711, and Martha, buried on Christmas Day the following year.

Both were listed as the daughters of Richard Nicholson, who clearly had a sizeable family as he’s recorded as paying for at least four pews in the church in 1700. However, he isn’t in the register, and it looks as if the family left the village not long afterwards as there are no more entries bearing their name for more than a century. There were, however, Nicholsons in Newsham during the 1700s, and maybe that’s where they went.

Then in about 1830 George Nicholson arrived from Aldbrough. He was a joiner in his early twenties, married to Elizabeth, a Scargill girl, and by 1841 they had four children: William 18, George, 6, Elizabeth, 4, and baby Alice who survived for only a few months. Three more children, Richard, John and Jane, were born over the next decade.

George had a flourishing business. In 1841 he was employing four young journeymen, two of them journeymen – John Spence and John Sowerby, both aged 20 – and two apprentices, 15-year-olds John Dowson and John Dixon (Barningham was fairly unimaginative when it came to choosing first names). All four lived with the Nicholson-sons at West End.

By 1851 George had no need to employ any one outside his family. He had trained his older sons as joiners, carpenters and wheelwrights, and they steadily took on more and more of his work. By the time he died in 1882 (after a long spell as village constable) John was working at West End and Richard was running his side of the business from Prospect House next door (see the West End house history feature in Archive 2 for more).

After the Nicholsons, our census collector came to the home of a 26-year-old tailor, the aptly-named John Coates. There had been

1841 census trail

Continuing our series tracing Barningham’s 1841 census form collector through the village

Coates in Barningham for a couple of hundred years, and he may have been related to others of the same name around at this time, but we’ve no evidence of this.

He was living with his wife Ann, four-year-old daughter Margaret, baby son George and a girl of 12 called Margaret Pratt who may have been a relative or a servant. All had left the village by the time the next census took place, and there’s no further record of any of them.

Next on the 1841 list were three people living alone. The first was an 18-year-old agricultural labourer, James Nelson about whom we know nothing except that he was born locally.

Then came Thomas Hardy, 75 and with five more years of life in him, and the only thing we know about him is that he was described as a pensioner, which suggests he may have once served in the army.

Third was Elizabeth Proctor, about whom we do know a bit more. Elizabeth was 40, born in Hawes, unmarried, and deaf and dumb from birth. She managed to make a living as a farm labourer, and carried on doing so until the 1870s, when she was recorded as a pauper. It’s possible she was related in some way (daughter?) to 80-year-old Richard Proctor, lodging at Bragg House in 1841. There’s no record of her death.

Last on our list of census homes this issue was a cottage inhabited by a couple of the oldest people alive in Barningham, 85-year-old Thomas Lee and his wife Margaret, 89, and their unmarried daughter Mary, 60.

There had been Lees in the village since at least the time of Charles II. Thomas is first recorded in 1817, when he was farming 42 acres rented from the Hanby family while his son, also called Thomas, farmed another 27 acres nearby.

Thomas senior died in 1844, his wife four years later at the grand old age of 97. Mary lived on, working as a farm labourer and then domestic servant into her eighties. Thomas junior took over Moorcock Lodge: more of him, and other Lees, in future Archives.

What Barningham was worth in 1817

YOUNG Mark Milbank inherited the Barningham Park estate on his 21st birthday in 1816, an occasion celebrated at Thorpe Perrow, the family home, with an enormous party (one estimate put the number of people attending at 12,000).

Once he’d recovered and sorted out a few other matters, including being appointed a deputy lieutenant for the North Riding, putting his name down for Parliament and marrying the youthful Lady Augusta Henrietta Vane, he decided it was time to sort out his affairs at Barningham.

He almost certainly consulted the latest survey of the village, carried out in 1817 by tithe commissioner Alexander Calvert (we don’t know who asked him to this: it might have been Mark himself).

This document, written on both sides of a piece of parchment and then neatly folded, listed everyone who owned land in the village and showed who actually occupied each piece, how big it was, whether it included any houses, and what its annual rent should be (a summary of its contents appears on Page 6).

The Milbanks were, of course, the biggest landowners: Mark took over 23 separate holdings covering 1,543 acres (more than three-quarters of village land) and bringing in total annual rents of £946 – about £40,000 in today’s money. The land was listed under the name of Mark’s father William, who had died in 1802.

The second biggest landowner was the church: there were 100 acres of glebe land with a rental value of £120. Then came the rest of the freeholders, led by Mrs Hanby (95 acres, £78), George Hartley (77 acres and house, £75), and Mrs Hawden (18 acres and house, £32). At the other end of the scale were a host of people owning an acre or less, some just the
### 1817: Who owned what, and what it was worth

Areas given to the nearest acre; if less than one acre, in roods and/or perches. Values are annual rental, given to the nearest pound. An asterisk (**) indicates that the value includes a house.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<td>&amp; Alice Donald</td>
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<td>Wm Milbank</td>
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<td>George Marley</td>
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<td>John Marley</td>
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<td>Matthew Sayer</td>
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<td>Henry Spenceley</td>
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<td>Do.</td>
<td>Wm Milbank</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Atkinson Thos</td>
<td>Self</td>
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<td>Dr. Thos Bowman</td>
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<td>Cath Atkinson</td>
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<td>Appleby Rich</td>
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<td>Barker John</td>
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<td>Banwick John</td>
<td>Jon. Monckhouse</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£1*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewbank Thos</td>
<td>Andr. Bowman</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fryer Jane &amp; Sisters Selves</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fryer Robert</td>
<td>Self etc</td>
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<td>Fryer Christn [Ex]</td>
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<td>Greenhow Jane</td>
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<td>Greenhow Thos</td>
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<td>Gill, Wm</td>
<td>Mrs Newby</td>
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<td>Geo Henderson</td>
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<td>Goundry John</td>
<td>Jno Waggott</td>
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<td>Margt Tinkler</td>
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<td>Harby Mrs</td>
<td>Henry Binks</td>
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**FREEHOLDERS:**

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<th>Value</th>
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<td>Marley George</td>
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<td>Tinkler Margt</td>
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<td>Do.</td>
<td>Wm Lee</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>John Roberts</td>
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<td>Wm Forster</td>
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<td>Wilkinson Tho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Jno Sayer</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do.</td>
<td>Margt Ewbank</td>
<td>-</td>
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Freeholders total: 379 £510

**Total for all Lands:** 2023 £1556

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**Gillbeck House**

Fairview was built. After that it was home to a succession of schoolmasters, including John Armstrong Shaw in the 1880s and William Thomas from the late 1890s. It could be that the house was divided for while: an unmarried woman of 37, Edith Elliott, is listed living there in 1911.

There’s a bit of a gap after that until Neil Turner’s memories kick in with Harry and Daisy Hooper, tenants in the 1930s, by which time the house was known as South View.

They were followed by a Mrs Appleton and her sons, and then by John Brown, who moved there during the war with his wife Sarah and family from Park House. They remained for the next 20 years.

In the 1950s the house was jointly owned by Lilian and Mary Jane Todd. After Lilian died in 1954, Mary Jane gave it, together with The Yews and Woodbine Cottage, to her nephew John Lauritz Johanson, a retired Indian Army lieutenant-colonel who had married Minnie, eldest daughter of James Todd who built Fairview.

Johanson had spent some time at The Yews during the war, returning to Barningham to convalesce after being wounded and captured at Arnhem, escaping from a German hospital prison camp, and being repatriated with the help of the Dutch underground. After his death in 1965 his son Alan Johanson, his wife Barbara and young sons Niall and Duncan came to live in the house, re-naming it Britannia Cottage.

In 1969 it was sold to Richard and Margaret Wright, who changed its name again, this time to Gill Beck. Richard died in 1990; Margaret remained until 2009, when she sold the house.
All the ninths and lots of names

Continuing our survey of all the houses in Barnburgh, with details of their history and who has lived in them over the years. If you have more information about featured houses, please let us know.

HEATHERLANDS

Dating back at least 250 years and probably longer, Heatherlands looks as if it might well once have been a couple of cottages, perhaps converted into a single dwelling sometime in the 1800s.

In the 1870s, three-ninths of the property was owned by a William Newby of Darlington, brother of Betsy Ann Newby who was living in Heatherlands (and remained in the village, unmarried, until her death in 1906). In 1878 the owner of another five-ninths, widow Mary Smithson, died and left her share to William.

Who held the final ninth at that time is unknown, but by 1904 it was in the hands of a Mary Muir who lived in Canada. She was clearly in touch with William, because the pair of them agreed to sell the house to Louise Dye.

We think the Todds acquired Gillbeck in the mid-1800s as their family home before collecting £1,233 in rent, 30 percent more. Not bad at the time. In 1817 the annual rental value of Mark’s land was estimated as £946; two years later he was taking in £1,105. Even John Spenceley’s modest 12s rent for his cottage more than doubled to £1.10s.

Some of these rises may reflect tenants taking on additional land, but the overall impression is that many people had to pay more than before. In 1817 the annual rental value of Mark’s land was estimated as £946; two years later he was collecting £1,233 in rent, 30 percent more. Not all his tenants might have been celebrating by the time his 23rd birthday came round.

Another way to look at this is that it might be a waste of his time looking for more work from the Milbanks in future. Or it may be that the tenants were paying rents much as Mr Calvert suspected they should, but Mark decided it was time they forked out a bit more, arguing that they’d had an easy ride all those years while he was awaiting his inheritance, and it was time for a reality check (not that he had to argue much, of course: if they didn’t like it their only alternative was finding somewhere else to live and farm).

Whatever the reason, rents went up, including farmer David Alderson’s from £7 to £8; Andrew Bowman’s from £6.10s to £9.9s; and William Etherington’s from £5.10s to £7.10s. Even John Spenceley’s modest 12s rent for his cottage more than doubled to £1.10s.

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Do these pictures ring any Bells?

EARLIER this year you published a letter from me asking if anyone could help my search into my family history. I’ve now got some old photographs which I hope may stir people’s memories.

The information I was looking for was about Mr and Mrs Pearson who lived in Newsham House in the 1920s, when they adopted my mum, who was born to their servant Hannah Bell in 1921. Among the questions I’d like to have answered are, did the Pearsons have any children? when did they move from the house? and where did they move to?

I was told that Newsham House was taken over by the armed forces in the war but I have not been able to confirm this. I also want to find out when my grandmother was employed at Newsham House and when did she leave.

I know that Mary Bell, my mum, who passed away in 1994, lived at The Nook (now Rosemary Cottage) between 1943 and 1952: the dates are on her old driving licences.

I also know she had at least four children at this address: Dorothy born 1943, Christine 1945, David 1947, and Royston 1951. I was brought up with David after she moved to South Wales and got married. David and I live close by each other. We were not aware of the other children until I came to Newsham just over ten years ago when I started to do my family history,

Yes, it was a shock to find out we had more siblings, but we have now come to terms with it. All the children had been adopted apart from David. In 2009 Royston managed to trace David and I, and we are in contact with each other. So any information, regardless how small, may help in filling the gaps in my family history.

JACKIE GOODE, South Wales
jgoode26@gmail.com

- We’ve got several leads about people who may be able to help. Jackie’s letter has already prompted research into who was living at Newsham House in the early 1900s: see the story on Page 13. More next issue. –Ed

Lest you forget... one soldier’s story

I WAS born in 1900, just before the old queen died. My dad Nathan was a labourer for a railway wagon builder in Shildon, and that’s where we lived. My mother Caroline came from Crook and they’d been married eight years by the time I came along.

I wasn’t their first child, but I was the first to survive. Mam had already lost two babies and another one died when I was very small. Then came my brothers Nathan and William. They were the lucky ones, too young to go to war – Nathan was only ten when it ended, and William just nine.

Things were difficult at home, what with the baby dying and everything, and I spent a lot of time staying with my dad’s sister Mary Ann. She’d married a farmer called David Pearson and lived in a village called Newsham across the Tees in Yorkshire.

Their home was Newsham House, a grand house to look at with a fancy front door and columns outside, but at the back it was just an old farmhouse and that’s where they lived, renting it from the local big-wigs. Mary Ann and David were married since about 1903 but didn’t have any kids and I suppose I was a sort of substitute son.

After leaving school I got a job with a butcher in Shildon, and not long after that the war broke out. I couldn’t wait to join up, and soon as I dared I went along to the recruiting office in Bishop Auckland and signed on. That was in 1916, February 17th. I told them I was eighteen and they believed me – or at least they said they did.

Private Peacock J, No 204000, 19th Battalion the Durham Light Infantry, that was me, and they sent me off to France to machine-gun the Germans. You don’t want to know what it was like. I spent two years and more at the front before they started talking about an armistice, peace, the end of the war, going home. A few last skirmishes, and it would all be over.

On the last day of October 1918 – Halloween Night, funny that – I went out on patrol in Flanders as usual and a bullet went right through me. Eleven days later, the war ended. Bad luck or what?

My name’s on Newsham war memorial: Peacock J. You might have seen it and wondered who I was. Now you know.

JOHN PEACOCK 1901-1918

Search goes on for James’ original diaries

WE’RE producing a copy of the diaries of 18th century Newsham schoolmaster James Coates. There were four diaries, the first two long vanished, the third lost in the Bowes Museum. BLHG member Michael Graham bought Volume 4 to our July meeting before donating it to the North Riding County Records Office.

Merryn Watson’s history of Barningham includes quotes from the diaries suggesting he might have seen other volumes, and we’ve been trying to track them down. Our search led us to Startforth Hall, home of Merryn’s nephew Jonny Cooke-Hurle, where we found a huge chest full of Merryn’s notebooks and the Arts and No Coates diaries, but plenty of other documents to feature in future Archives.

The hunt goes on. If you’ve any information, please get in touch.
TITHES 1609-1870 7.5
TODD Family tree 1:9; gift to methodists 1838 4:15; Heath Cottages 1850; John Todd & vestry scanner 1882 4:3; John Todd & The Nook 3:15; Mary Jane Todd wedding 1913 1:11; William Todd 1821; 1850s 5:10, 10:10; Hillside 5:15; Laurels builder? 10:11; William & Elizabeth Todd 1850s 8:10; Australian links, letter 10:6; Fairview 1941 11:12; William v. Milbanks 1890 11:15; Ownership of houses 12:14-15
TOMLINSON Margaret 1821-91 6:10
TUNSTALL Francis of Scargill, sale of Barningham Park 1890, 7.5; Marmalade 1593 7:1
TUNDEL Sam Turner 1821 1:6; Sam & Hannah wedding 1922 1:6; Sam and bus 1922 1:7; Correction 2:16; Milbank link 2:12; family at The Nook 3:15; Trevor & Jennifer Turner 2:14; Neil Turner snow 3:8; children 1936 6:13
USHAR Bob & Mattie 6:15; Bob and dog 7:15
VESTMENTS Meetings 4:6; clerk scandal 1832 4:3
VILLAGE GREEN Scenes 1900 2:7; from Hillside 1890 5:8
VILLAGE HALL Opening 1875 11:18
VILLAGE GREEN House history & photo 2:13
VOTERS

A Child of Hope

Forest. £8 each / £10 each + £1 p&p

Counted: An A-Z of Census returns 1841-1911

So arranged that families can be tracked through 70 years.

Volume 1: Barningham, Scargill and Hope;
Volume 2: Newsham and New Forest. £8 each / £10 each + £1 p&p

A Child of Hope

The 1895 diary of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847.

£4 / £5

Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894, Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and list of named parishioners.

£4 each / £5 each + £1 p&p

Back to Yuvin: 1849 Glossary of Toesdale words & customs

A reproduction of Frederick Tindal’s Glossary of Provincial Words. £4 / £5 +£1 p&p

The Archive: Group newsletter.

Back issues £1 / £2 + £1 p&p

Prices: members/nonmembers

More details: see our website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk