

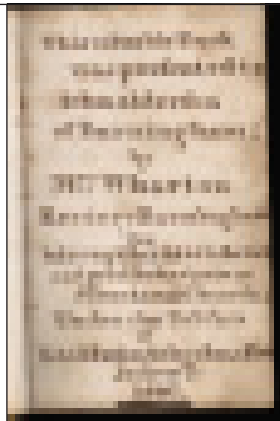
Good lad, Bert's grandad

THIS is the inscription inside a book donated to the history group by Bert Travis when he called at Barningham in response to our recent request in the Teesdale Mercury for village-related information.

It's a leatherbound book of church services, published in 1859, and was awarded the following year to John Alderson, then a lad of 15 living at Hill Top Farm, for 'regular attendance and good behaviour' at school and church.

John went from Barningham to farm at Garnthwaite until his death in 1907. His grave's in Barningham churchyard.

Bert, from Northallerton, is John's grandson – Alderson is his middle name – and has given us a copy of his family tree and a wealth of other historical material that we hope to include in the next issue of the *Archive*.



SNIPPETS

Odd bits of information it seems a pity not to record...

AMONG the odd things Tony and Jon found while clearing out the church safe were a special marriage licence for Frederick Souter to marry Evangeline Anderson in 1935, a notice giving Edward McCulloch of Heath House permission to bury his 21-year-old daughter Elizabeth in the churchyard without a Church of England funeral in 1889, a guide to the Burials Act of 1880, and a 1944 income tax demand addressed to the rector for £43/16/1d. We trust he paid it.

THE Hay Time Project is looking for volunteers to transcribe recordings of North Pennine farmers recalling hay meadow farming in the old days. Jon's offered to help: if anyone else is interested (you need to be able to handle a word processor and have plenty of patience, apparently – Jon's not sure he qualifies) he has contact details.

WE wondered in the last *Archive* who was

the Shirley in whose grave Margaret Young's ashes were buried in 2005. As we thought, it was her daughter Shirley Stuart (grave number 402), who had died the year before. Kay and Eric Duggan are still in contact with her brother John.

OUR Mary Martin book – see Page 6 – got a lengthy write-up by Jim McTaggart in the Northern Echo. Thanks, Jim!

CORRECTIONS

Nobody's perfect. This is where we prove it and try to put the record straight.

TURNERS: In *Archive 1* (page 6) we said Neil's father came home from the war to Barningham: in fact, the Turners were still in North Wales at the time, moving to Barningham shortly afterwards.

ALDERSONS: Our family tree listing in *Archive 1* (Page 4) said Hilda Brown Coules died in 1922: in fact that was the year of her marriage to Thomas Frederick Alderson, father of George, John and Ritson. Hilda lived on for many years.



The Archive is a regular record of the activities of Barningham Local History Group, including members' research and updates on information in its publications such as the guide to churchyard memorials.

Copies are free to members of the group and available to non-members for a modest subscription.

Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374, email history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk or visit our pages on the village website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



Archive 2

ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Dec
MMIX

When the mail got through – on a donkey

This is Richard Lee, postman for the Barningham area early in the last century. Known to his customers as Granda Lee, he was accompanied everywhere on his rounds by his faithful donkey Gwen. More inside on Page 3



Fields of interest

FIRST guest at a history group meeting will be Sir Anthony Milbank, who's offered to give a brief presentation on the enclosures of 1806 and the origin of local field names when we meet on December 1st.

Also on the agenda: research progress reports, our website development, and more travels down memory lane with Neil Turner.

**NEXT MEETING: VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1st, 6pm**

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Old deeds, new books and we've even got a website in sight

MINUTES of the local history group meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday October 22nd 2009:

Present: Jon Smith, Tony Orton, Ann Orton, Margaret Heslop, Louise Ferrari, Sheila Catton, Ed Simpson, Neil Turner, Beverley Peach, Mike Peach, Diane Metcalf and Phil Hunt.

Apologies: Andrea and Tony Lewis, Kay and Eric Duggan, Ann Hutchinson, Robin Brooks, Greta Carter.

1 Minutes of the September meeting were read and agreed.

2 Matters arising:

i Jon Smith had written a piece for *The Teesdale Mercury* asking for photos and information. The only response so far was from a Mr Travis who was coming to talk to Jon and Ann Orton soon.

ii Jon had produced the first *Archive*, a newsletter with photos and stories for all members. It would also be available to non-members for a small donation.

2 Treasurer's report

Nothing to report as Eric was away. It was agreed that each member would pay £1 per meeting towards the hire of the hall. Jon said he would like to buy the Teesdale Record Society's historical resources directory which costs £20.

It was suggested that we could produce a book of old local recipes to raise funds.

4 Progress reports

i Church records: Tony and Jon had looked at these (and disposed of lots of rubbish!) but also found some interesting information in the Barningham charity records, the Application to Bury book, and the Burial Register. There were also several Special Licences for Weddings. Their next project is to examine the Remembrance Book.

ii Barningham houses and families: Margaret Heslop had received a letter from someone who has records regarding the sale of

THE MINUTES

Newby House in 1975 which she will pursue. Beverley Peach had details of all transactions at The Hollies since 1901. Louise Ferrari had discovered that in 1875 Heatherlands was owned by three people: one had five-ninths, one one three-ninths and the other one-ninth.

It was decided to start collecting information about all the houses in Barningham, starting at the top of the village and working our way down, with Neil's help, to try to record all that is known about each house and its occupants.

We began with West End and Prospect House (details later in this *Archive*).

iii Photo library: Jon was sorting through Neil's photos, and Kay would scan the most interesting ones.

iv Aural records: There were several volunteers to approach people willing to give aural histories. Ann Orton would ask Sue Prytherick about a tape recorder.

v Website: Jon had paid £50 for a domain for our website for a term of two years. The address is www.barninghamvillage.co.uk. Empty at the moment, but not for long.

Other projects were left until the next meeting as the people involved were not present.

5. Any other business

i Jon had transcribed *A Child of Hope*, the book by Mary Martin of West Hope which was now available to anyone who would like one. A donation of £2 was suggested to help with funds.

ii Ann O had spoken to the village hall committee and secured the use of a storage cupboard for any donated items.

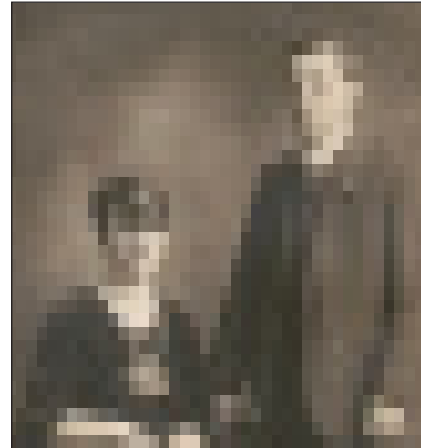
iii Margaret H and Sheila C were going to research Land Girls in Barningham.

6. Next meeting: Tuesday December 1st at 6 pm., in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

HOUSE HISTORIES



George Herbert Brass and Hilda Brown on their wedding day in 1930

2. Arthur Brass (1903-1983 – see Page 5), who lived alone at West End Cottage for years.

3. A daughter, now Mrs Beckwith and living in Gilling.

Since the Johnsons the cottage has been the home of Trevor Turner and his wife Jennifer (Greta's sister) who moved there with their young family from 4 Reading Room Cottages in the 1970s.



The Old Barn

THE OLD BARN

THIS was originally the Nicholsons' joinery shop, where the coffins were made.

It was converted to a house in 2000 by the Milbanks and since then has been home to Norma and Arthur Earnshaw, who had previously lived at Hawsteads.

RESOURCES

We have access to the following sources of information. Contact us if you want to borrow any of them and do let us know of anything you'd like to add to this list.

NEW THIS MONTH:

DISCOVERING YOUR OLD HOUSE by David Iredale & James Barrett: A guide to tracing the history of your home.

HOMESTEADS OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES by James Walton: A survey of farm and cottage architecture.

ALSO:

AS TIME PASSED BY: Merryne Watson's history of Barningham.

DIRECTORIES OF PROFESSIONS AND TRADES: Transcripts for Barningham for 1823 and 1890.

CENSUS RECORDS for Barningham covering 1841, 1851, 1881 (a complete searchable list on CDs with guidebook), 1891 and 1901; for Hope and Scargill for 1841 and 1901.

MAPS: Ordnance Survey maps of Barningham and area from 1856-1957.

NO TIME TO STAND AND STARE: Richard Gill's memories of farming at Crooks House, 1942-45.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE: Illustrated handbook by R W Brunskill.

WHERE LYETH YE BODIES: Guide to Barningham church, graveyard and burials.

YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP: Newsletters 1975-1992.

● It would be useful to build up a list of websites which might help with research. Let us have your recommendations – and if anyone has membership of family history research websites that they're willing to let other members access, let us know.

Recipes wanted

WE'RE hoping to build up a collection of these – local recipes from the past for dishes that may otherwise be forgotten for ever. If you've got your grandmother's recipe book or other record, please get in touch.

HOUSE HISTORIES

into West End with his widowed mother. He married (we don't know who) and had three sons: Roland (1912-1938: he suffered from fits, and was found drowned in the beck at the Low Lane ford), John (1913-1966: he was killed when a trench collapsed as he worked in Melsonby for Dodds Engineering) and Hilton (1915-c1998).

John George lived on at West End after his mother died in 1939, and it is said he was later robbed by a family of tinkers called O'Neils, one of whom he'd employed as a housekeeper.

Hilton eventually took over, continuing the family joinery and undertaking business, farming nearby fields, and building up a large collection of scrap vehicles which filled the field opposite West End and were a regular source of complaint from villagers whom Hilton cheerfully ignored.

He married Nancy Milner from Barnard Castle and had three daughters, Wendy, Christine and Sarah. In 1979 Nancy shot and killed 16-year-old Sarah in her West End bedroom and then turned the gun on herself. She survived and spent a year in a psychiatric unit, but eventually came back to Barningham.

Hilton died in the late 1990s, Nancy moved out, and West End was left empty and in considerable disrepair for some time.

In 2003 it was bought by Dick Lowes and his wife Shelley who carried out major res-

PROSPECT HOUSE

THE first person we know lived here was John Nicholson (1846-1903 – see West End). he married Hannah (1852-1939, also recorded as Anna) and had at least two children: John George (1877-sometime after 1939) and William (1882-1951).

William stayed at Prospect House after his father's death, married Edith Margaret (1878-1952) and brought up three children (we don't know their names). By the late 1950s the house had passed to a couple of teachers called Brown.

From around 1977 it was occupied by Mike and Gill McGiffen. They were there for about three years, followed by Alan and Judith Hutchinson (now at Broaches House, on the Newsham -Dalton back road) and then the Wilkinson family from Smallways Inn.

Archive 2

**Prospect House**

Andrea and Tony Lewis moved in in October 1989.

● Prospect House is (as far as we know) the only house in Barningham with a stream running underneath it. Neil Turner recalls Arthur Brass watching the Browns tarmac the ground floors during a dry spell and look aghast when a storm came, the water rose up all the pipes and the electrics, and they had to replace all the floors again.

**West End Cottage****WEST END COTTAGE**

THIS was lived in by the Brass family for many years.

George Brass (1870-1939) and his wife Elizabeth (1873-1957) had at least three children:

1. George Herbert Brass (1899-1973) who married Nancy Best ('Nana Brass', 1907-1997). She was his second wife: his first was Hilda Brown from Park House who died after their only child Ivy (now Mrs Wilson, of Gill-ling) was born. George and Nancy had children including George (died young), Robert (who married Greta Morris and lived at Heath House East) and Irene, who married Ken Johnson and lived at West End Cottage after Arthur (below) before moving to 4 Park View.

Archive 2



Arthur Brass delivering mail to Bragg House and, right, making his way through snowdrifts on Barningham Moor. Dates unknown, the first picture probably around 1950, the second 1960s.

Our first class deliverers

DARLINGTON has had a post office since at least 1672, Barnard Castle since 1721. Nobody knows quite when one was first established in Barningham, but there has certainly been a postal service in the village since the first half of the 19th Century.

The 1841 census records a Barningham postman, 69-year-old Alexander Anderson, but there is no mention of a post office. He died three years later and is buried in the churchyard. By 1851 there were two postal workers in the village: Elizabeth Holmes¹, a 42-year-old spinster living alone, who was described as a 'letter receiver', and 38-year-old Richard Peacock Newby, father of five, who was listed as a 'post office messenger'.

Miss Holmes' job was to receive the mail, delivered by horse-post from Darlington late in the morning, and sort it out into piles for people in the village and those living further

afield. Villagers were probably expected to collect their own letters, the rest were carried by Mr Newby on foot or by horseback. He had a wide area to cover. Merryne Watson² says his delivery round probably extended as far as Spanham and Rutherford, a round trip of about 13 miles. It may be that he collected letters for posting from people along the way, but there were no postboxes to empty (they came into use in the 1860s).

We don't know exactly where either Miss Holmes or the Newbys lived – the census records just say Barningham – but presumably Miss Holmes' house was the post office.

She died in 1853 and by the late 1850s she had been replaced as postmistress by Mrs Jane Bainbridge, a mole-catcher's widow in her fifties. Mary Martin, in her memories of a Victorian childhood³, mentions calling at the Barningham office to collect letters from

¹ Daughter of Smithson Holmes (1774-1850), recorded as a schoolmaster in 1841 (presumably widowed) and living with Elizabeth.

² As Time Passed By: A History of Barningham, 1997.

³ A Child of Hope, 2009, available from the Local History Group.

her. Mrs Bainbridge died in 1877, aged 81, a year after Mr Newby¹ was buried.

Sometime before that both had retired from postal work, and the job of running the postal service passed to Hezekiah and Ann² Birt-wistle, a young couple with four small children at the time of the 1881 census.

Ann probably did most of the day-to-day work in the post office, as her husband was also a gamekeeper for Barningham Estate. Whether he delivered the letters is unknown. There's no mention of a postman as such in the census returns, but there may have been one living outside the village. By this time letters were being sent from Darlington by train to Barnard Castle and then forwarded by mailcart to Barningham, arriving here at 9.15 in the morning (noon on Sundays). There

Archive 2

was a daily collection at 3.15pm (1pm on the Sabbath). The nearest telegraph office was at Barnard Castle: several decades were to pass before Barningham had telegram facilities or even a telephone.

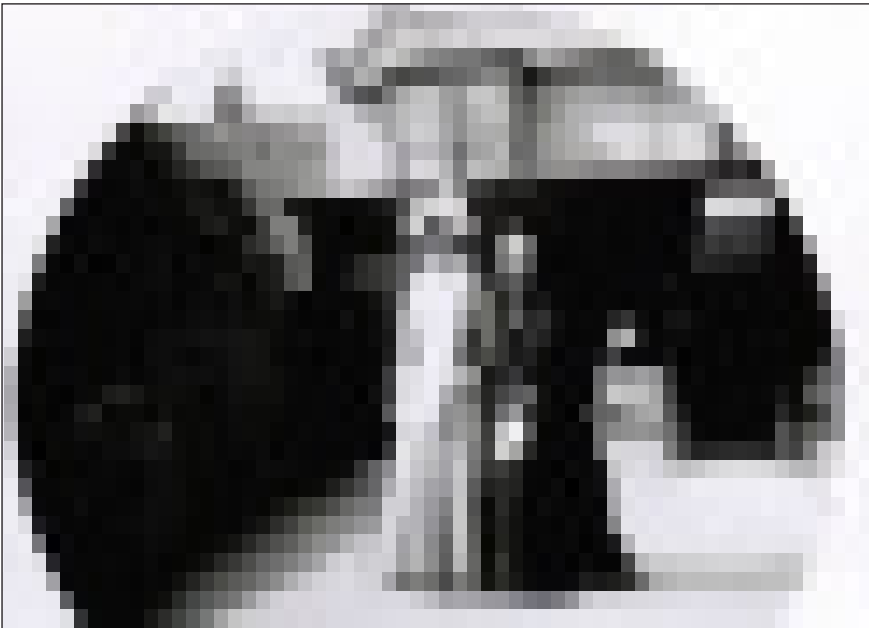
Bulmer's Directory of 1890 records Hezekiah as Barningham's postmaster. We still don't know if he delivered the mail, but more distant settlements such as Scargill and Hope were getting theirs via a 'foot messenger' from Greta Bridge.

We're not even certain where the post office was until the turn of the century, but we do know that by 1903 it was being run by Benjamin and Maria Morrell³ as part of their shop, the building now called Post Cottage – see the picture below, taken in 1903. Benjamin died that year, and sometime within the next

¹ His widow Mary Ann remained in Barningham until her death in 1888. Two of their children were buried here: Thomas, who died aged 13 in 1854, and Betsy, who died aged 69 in 1906.

² She was recorded as Elizabeth in the 1881 census and her name doesn't appear in the 1891 list. She was still alive, though, and was eventually buried in Barningham in 1923, five months after Hezekiah: both were 74.

³ They'd been there since at least 1890. He died, aged 67, in 1903; his wife aged 86 in 1919.



Two ladies outside the Morrells' shop in 1903: the sign over the door says 'Barningham Post Office'

HOUSE HISTORIES

Archive 2

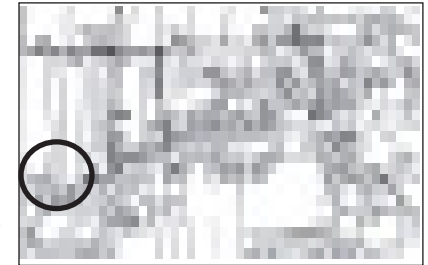
West End – where the coffins came from

ONE of the group projects is to create a data base of all the houses in Barningham, with details of who has lived in them over the years.

We made a start at the last meeting, beginning at the top of the village and gathering what we could about Moor End, West End, Prospect House, West End Cottage and The Old Barn.

All five of these were once part of West End Farm, occupied since at least the mid-1850s by members of the Nicholson family who also ran a joinery and undertaking business there until a decade ago.

Below is a summary of what we've learned



so far : if you can add further information please let us know and we'll update our files. When we've covered the whole village we hope to put all we've gathered into one



MOOR END

BUILT by Dick Lowes in 2003 as a holiday home on the site of a derelict barn and other former farm buildings. Rented in 2009 by Graham and Helen Anderson, sister of Shelley Lowes (see below).

WEST END

THERE have been Nicholsons living (and dying) in Barningham for well over 300 years. The earliest recorded in the burials registers is Mary Nicholson, who died in 1668, daughter of a Timothy Nicholson who must have been born during or before the Civil War.

Others were around throughout the 18th century and the 1841 census records a George Nicholson (1807-1882), living in the village although born in Aldbrough St John. It doesn't identify which house he occupied but we can work out that it was West End, where he was running a joinery business and doing undertaking on the side. We don't know when he arrived in Barningham or who had West End

before him, but half a century earlier the field behind the house was recorded as being in the ownership of a Mr Hardy.

George's wife was Elizabeth (1808-1884) and they had five children – William (1833-1887), George (1835-1854), Elizabeth (1837-?), Richard (1844-1901) and John (1846-1903). A sixth, Alice, died in infancy in 1841. Both the youngest became joiners, working for their father at the time of the 1881 census though the only people listed as living at West End then are their parents and a nine-year-old granddaughter called Mary.

By 1891 the old couple had died and Richard had taken over West End, married Isabella (1852-1901, maiden name unknown) and had at least one child, Richard (1882-?). John, meanwhile, had moved into Prospect House.

Richard snr died in June 1901 and his wife died just two days later. We don't know what happened to Richard jnr after that, but one of John's sons, John George (1877-?), moved



West End

NEIL'S NOTES

Random recollections by Neil Turner, recorded at our last meeting

Schooldays in wartime

I WAS at Barningham school in the years before it closed in 1943, one of 65 pupils from as far away as Newsham and Scargill.

The Headmistress sat in front of the south wall of the main room, below where the clock now is. She had a cane with a large brass knob on the end and wore a blue blouse with spots, a brooch like teeth, a hairnet, whiskers, lisle stockings and lace-up shoes.

She would sit near a potbellied stove, under the fish in the glass case, drinking her malted drink. She would slosh it around her mouth six times before swallowing it!

Miss Addison was in the small room. If a teacher was ill Miss Hook would walk from Scargill bringing the children from there with her.

There was no bus to Barningham, it stopped

Well, well, well

BARNINGHAM used to have at least seven running wells:

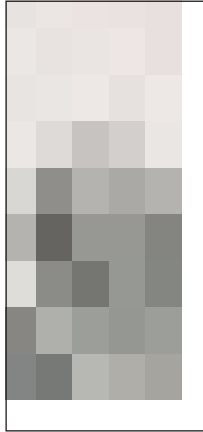
1. At the top of the village at Heath House (a large pump)
2. At North View under the stone on the driveway
3. At Elim Cottage, a tap in the wall (now bricked up)
4. Near the present noticeboard
5. At the Milbank Arms
6. On the corner near the Boot and Shoe
7. At 1 Reading Room Cottages. Mrs Usher, who used to live there, often wondered what she could hear as she stood at her sink: she later discovered she was standing on top of a 33ft deep well.

The Whit weekend before the Coronation, the trough near the Chapel and the Fountain troughs were filled with flowers. A thunderstorm came and washed them all away. Barnard Castle was badly flooded.

at Newsham and pupils from there had to walk the rest of the way.

Ernie Clarke, who drove the bus for Percivals, lived in Barningham and persuaded residents to gather a petition and eventually the route was diverted through the village.

● *The fish in the glass case was a prodigious salmon caught in Scotland in late Victorian days by a Barn-ingham resident, and was a feature of the village hall for more than a century. It gradually deteriorated and became so mouldy that it was eventually thrown away a few years ago. It's a pity no one noted the details of who caught it and why it was thought worth preserving for so long. Can anyone recall? –*



Infants teacher Miss Addison, who later married and became Mrs Foster

Bat(tered)man

MY father Sam Turner and Ernie Holmes, Sir Frederick Milbank's batman, lived next door to each other in Wales before coming to Barningham with the Milbanks in 1917. They couldn't stand each other.

One day when Sam had cleaned the Milbanks' cars, Ernie wet them and Sam knocked him down. Sir Frederick sent Sam to Battersea Polytechnic to study engineering. He started the garage in 1919.

● At the start of the last century there were no walls between Shaw House and the Post Office, just cobbles. There were cobbles in front of The Boot and Shoe as well.

● The hill up the village by Hill Top Farm used to be known as Slacks Bank, after George Alderson's grandfather.

● The first tarmac road in Barningham was laid in 1919.

● Cow Close has been a ruin since the late 1930s. I used to go nutting there as a child.

few years the shop was taken over by Thomas Shepherd and his wife Florence. Hezekiah gave up the job of delivering the mail, which was taken over by Thomas.

At the outbreak of the First World War Thomas enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps, later transferring to the 10th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). On October 27th 1918 – less than a month before the war ended – he was killed in action, aged 34. He is buried in the Tezze British cemetery in Italy.

Florence continued running the post office for some time, according to her granddaughter Rosie Yates (see letter on Page 11), but the job of postman passed to Richard Lee who went on his rounds riding a small donkey called Gwen (see photos on the front page).

Neil Turner says he was a tall man, often riding astride the animal with his feet touching the ground each side and walking it along. He died, aged 76, in 1931. His son Richard lived at Church View until his death in 1966, and his grandson Dennis, Barningham's churchwarden, died in 2003.

His successor was Jack Storey, of whom we know little except that he lived at Britannia Cottage (then called Woodbine Cottage) and did his rounds on foot.

Then came Arthur Brass¹, who travelled on horseback (see photos on Page 3). Born in 1903, he was the son of George and Elizabeth Brass² and brother of George Herbert Brass³, whose second wife Nancy⁴ will be well remembered as Nana Brass by older residents of the village.

Arthur was conscripted into the RAF after World War Two started, much to his surprise and resentment, says Neil, though he spent the whole of his time in the air force in Ireland. He returned to Barningham after the war and took on the job of postman, delivering the mail as far as Stang Foot until retiring around 1968. He relied upon his horse for transport to the end, although he could have swapped it for a motor vehicle if he had learned to drive. He



Roll of honour: Thomas Shepherd was one of five Teesdale postman (the names framed in black) who died in the First World War. This plaque was displayed in Barnard Castle Post Office until 1998; it's now at the Harmire Road office.

was known to hitch a lift off the local milk delivery wagon in bad weather. He died, unmarried, in 1983, aged 80.

He was the last postman to live in the village. Since then the mail has been delivered by motor vehicles from Richmond.

Florence Shepherd gave up the job of postmistress and in the 1920s and 1930s it was being run by Robert and Alice Graham. Robert was nicknamed 'Grundy Graham' by his younger customers, who included Neil Turner. "He had something wrong with his thumb," Neil recalls. "It ended in a sort of claw, and when he was weighing out our sweets he'd hook it on the scales to give short measure. But it was a good store – buckets, brushes, wellies,

¹ More information about the Brass family on Page 12.

² George died in 1939, Elizabeth in 1957.

³ Known as Georbert, rhyming with 'sherbet'; he died in 1973.

⁴ Born Nancy Best, died 1997, aged 90.

you name it, he sold it, and if he hadn't got it he'd get it for you. You could put in an order in the morning and he'd deliver it at mid-day. We did 90 percent of our shopping there."

The first telephone arrived in the village in the 1920s, located inside the post office¹ where Alice would connect callers to the Barnard Castle exchange and the world beyond. She allegedly developed a habit of listening in to villagers' calls, prompting requests for a public phone box.

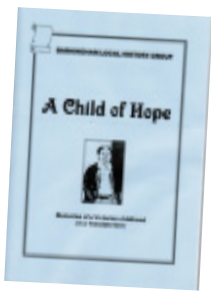
One was eventually placed outside the shop, permission being granted for its installation by Sir Frederick Milbank on condition that it be painted green for eternity.

The Grahams seem to have been prone to upsetting their fellow villagers. Neil recalls a bitter row in 1939 between them and Mrs Jane Armstrong, former landlady of the Black Horse pub, which led to Mrs Armstrong setting up a rival shop next-door to the post office, in Britannia Cottage (then called Woodbine Cottage). Its pie-and-peas dinners on a Saturday were renowned.

The Grahams² gave up the shop and post office not long afterwards and it was taken over for a short while by a couple called Chadwick.

Growing up in Victorian Teesdale

The childhood memories of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. It includes much detail about families living in Barningham, Scargill and Hope in mid-Victorian days. 32 pages, photographs and family tree. £2 (or more if you're feeling generous) towards group funds: contact Jon Smith.



Archive 2



Sylvia Atherton with Amy Etherington, who between them ran the village post office and shop for many years

Then came Stanley and Sylvia Atherton³, who ran it for many years up to the 1960s, followed by Jack and Mary Richmond and then, in the early 1980s, by Graham and Judith Galilee.

By now the shop, like so many of its kind, was struggling to compete with competition from shops in Barnard Castle and further afield, now easily accessible by car-owning villagers. The demand for post office services declined and within a few years of the Galilees' arrival it was reduced to sub-post office status and then closed down altogether. The parish meeting made a formal protest and investigated alternative arrangements, but it was hard to convince many people of the need to keep it.

The shop shut as well, and by the turn of the new century the building had become a private house.

WEBLINK

THERE'S an excellent website devoted to the history of Teesdale's postmen and women, which gave us permission to copy some of the pictures we've used here. Find it at www.royalmailteesdale.piczo.com

¹ Its number was Barningham 1, later becoming 201 and eventually 621201. The second phone (now 621202) was at the Hall. Other early numbers may indicate who was at the forefront of communication technology in the 1920s (and well-off enough to afford a telephone), but many numbers have been swapped around over the years.

² Alice died aged 73 in 1958, Robert aged 78 two years later. They were childless.

³ Sylvia was a stalwart of many village activities, including the WI. The couple lived at Westoe after retiring from the shop. Stanley died aged 81 in 1977, Sylvia aged 77 in 1988.

LETTERS & EMAILS

Searching for another Binks

A FRIEND of mine is trying to locate where his great-great-great-grandfather Thomas Binks was born and I am helping.

There are four strong contenders in the old North Riding and one of them is Barningham's Thomas Binks, mentioned in the last *Archive*. We've seen his clocks in magazines and did wonder. He may well be a relative.

However, the Thomas we are after was born on February 6th 1780, married Jane Hicks in Wharram Percy in 1799, settled in Rillington and died in Malton workhouse in 1845. He was an agricultural labourer and the mystery is how he "emigrated" to the Wharram Percy/Rillington/Malton area. There are no eligible Thomas Binks born in this area, not even in Hull where there appears to be another enclave. No doubt there were hiring fairs in the Richmond area. It's frustrating because when the link is made then the Binks families seem to be established for a few hundred years.

The other contenders are in Finghall, Ravensworth, Bowes, Marrick and Kirkby Ravensworth. It seems to be a part of the world where there was a Binks stronghold! Any advice you can offer or point us in the right direction would be much appreciated.

I've posted you a cheque for two copies of your graveyard book – one will be a useful resource for my students – and hope this will help towards your monumental inscriptions. It's great that communities pull together to record our heritage.

PAM SMITH, Harrogate
pam@pamsmithfamilyhistorian.co.uk

Binks and Atkinsons

I'M searching for information on Thomas Atkinson, born in Barningham on February 17th 1761.

He had son called Richard, born in the village in July 1790, who married someone called Hannah Binks. Thomas' father was called George, but I'm not sure where he was

Archive 2

born. His mother was Elizabeth Westmarland. Any info would be great.

adbuckle@ancestry.com

This came via the net and I'm awaiting details of his/her email address. – Editor

The Shepherds

IF anyone has any information about my grandparents, Thomas and Florence Shepherd, who ran Barningham post office between about 1910 and 1920, I would be very pleased to have it.

I know my grandmother was a Foster, whose family had a butcher's in Barnard Castle called Thompson and Foster's.

I would also be grateful for any details of their son Leslie Shepherd, who attended Barnard Castle Boys School (he held a swimming record there at some time and also played cricket), or of their daughter, my mum Gladys Shepherd.

I remember her telling me about the parties held at Lartington Hall for all the children at Christmas and how they all used to walk into Barnard Castle.

I did visit Barningham not so long ago, it's a lovely village and I'm sure my mum went to the little school there for a time. I went to see the old post office shop where they lived, funnily enough it was up for sale at the time. How odd But my husband didn't want to move!

ROSIE YATES, Escomb
rosyat@aol.com

Watson info wanted

THANKS for the graveyard book, safely received.

I've been researching my mother's side of our family – her great-grandparents Jonathan and Mary Watson, buried in Barningham churchyard (1913 and 1918). I've managed to find them on the 1881 and 1901 census returns for Newsham and whilst in Barningham the other week I took a photograph of their headstone. I'd value anything that anyone can tell me about them.

SUSAN GRAVES, Carlisle
sg229@hotmail.com

PICTURE GALLERY



With heaps of love from The Hollies

Dear Elsie,
How would you like to be here? It's very cold indeed. How are you all getting on? We expect the Bride and Groom home tomorrow or Wed. Heaps of love to all.

Yours, Penny



This was posted in 1921 – we can't make out the exact date on the postmark, but the writer says it was very cold as she was writing, so it was probably winter (though knowing Barningham weather, it could be any time of year).

It was sent from The Hollies. Who was Penny? Who was the Miss E Kight in London she sent it to? And who were the couple due back from their honeymoon after, presumably, being married at Barningham?

The photographs on the postcard include the hall, the church (covered in ivy which was to be removed within a decade), Moor Lea (then one of the newest and most imposing houses in the village), the pub (with, on its left, the now-demolished Lilac Cottage), and the waterfall on the moor end, which we didn't know had the delightful name of Fern Fall.

The card was produced by A Ramsden & Son of West Auckland.

PICTURE GALLERY

Barningham Village Green, 1900



Neighbours chat while children from the school spend playtime on the green. The lad in the foreground looks as if he'd rather be with his mates than helping dad. Is that a gun the man on the left is carrying? In the background is Newby House, then known as The Terrace.



Geese foraging near the fountain. Note the tall hat and apron worn by the old gentleman in the centre and the young tree behind him, now fully mature. You can just make out the school clock, reputedly sent to Ripon in 1916 for repair and never returned.

PICTURE GALLERY



Crowning glory

It's Coronation Day, June 1953, and Barningham celebrated the crowning of young Queen Elizabeth with a parade and a party.

Above, Greta Carter and fancy dress fan; below, youngsters lining up at the top of the village to march down to the green for tea. Anyone remember who led the way as Boadicea?



Nice new titter, your lady ship

You can date this photo the moment you see the hat worn by the woman in the centre. Yes, it's the 1920s – 1926 to be precise – and the proud owner of the latest in fashionable millinery is Lady Dorothy Milbank, Sir Anthony's grandmother ("a lovely lady," he says).

She's surrounded by other members of the Barningham Church Choir. Back row: Amy Brown, Blanche Brown, Charlie Brown, Gertrude Holmes, Hannah Brown, the Rev Percy Dodd (who'd taken over as rector less than a year before), Ethel Bulmer, Ernest Holmes, Nellie Watson and Vera Bulmer. Centre row: Miss (Margaret?) Alderson, Sally Armstrong, Lady Milbank, Miss ? Goodall and Annie Bainbridge. Front row: Unknown, Bill Anderson and Doug Lowes.

And there's a nurse with a baby watching from the window on the right.

- *If you can add information about any of the pictures in the Archive, please let us know. And if you have old photographs of Barningham and its people in the past, we'll be happy to feature them here: contact Jon Smith.*