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Join us at our New Year social

OUR annual New Year get-together will be at Braeside on Monday January 2 from 12.30pm, hosted again by Kay and Eric Duggan, and on past experience it should be well worth turning out for.

The usual excellent food will be provided, though Kay would welcome any extra contributions of nibbles, but it's bring-your-own bottle if you want a drink. Tickets are just £5 a head, and if you want to go please let Kay know as soon as possible so she can get in enough supplies for everyone (give her a ring on 01833 621455 or email her at erickayd@gmail.com).

Good news: there'll be a raffle. Bad news: Eric will be going round pursuing anyone who hasn't yet paid their 2012 *Archive* subscription, so bring along your chequebook or some cash if that means you. See you there!

Newspapers go online

THE British Library has just put thousands of newspapers, some dating back two centuries, online for anyone to browse through free. Go to www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk to register and then see what you can find. Sources include the *Northern Echo* and the *York Herald*, both of which carry many references to places in our area.

George goes on record

THE history group has bought a digital speech recorder to help with oral recordings. Ann Hutchinson and Sheila Catton have already used it for a first recording session with George Alderson, covering his early memories of Barningham 80 years ago. Another session is planned. The recorder is available to any group member undertaking similar research.

old hints & recipes

From a cookery book dated 1791

Yorkshire Goose Pie

TAKE a large fat goofe, fplit it down the back and take all the bone out; bone a turkey and two duckf the fame way; feafon them with pepper and falt, with fix woodcockf. Lay the goofe down on a clean difh with the fkin fide down and lay the turkey into the goofe with the fkin down.

Have ready a large hare, cleaned well; cut in piecef and put in the oven with I lb of butter, oz mace, beat fine; the fame of white pepper, and falt to tafte, till the meat will leave the bonef, and fcum off the gravy; pick the meat clean off and beat it in a marble mortar very fine with the butter you took off, and lay it on the turkey.

Take 24 lbf of the finest flour, 6 lbf of butter, lb of fresh rendered suet, make the paste thick and raise the pie oval; roll out a lump of paste and cut it in vine leaves or what form you will; rub the pie with yolks of eggs and put your ornaments on the wall, then turn your hare, turkey and goose upside down and lay them on your pie with the ducks at each end and the woodcocks at the sides. Make your lid pretty thick and put it on.

You may make flowerf, or the shape of folds in the paste on the lid, and make a hole in the middle of the lid. The walls of the pie are to be 1 inf. Thicker than the lid. Rub it all over with the yolks of eggs and bind it round with three-fold paper and the same over the top. It will take 4 hourf baking in a brown bread oven. When it comes out, melt 2 lbf of butter in the gravy that came from the hare and pour it through the ton-dish (funnel). Close it well up and let it be 8 or 10 days before you cut into it. If you send it any distance, close up the hole in the middle with cold butter to prevent the air from getting in.

• If you have old hints or recipes to share, please contact Kay Duggan (01833 621455).



The Archive

Copies of *The Archive*, the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2012). 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



Archive 22



THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

INSIDE: BREWER'S FATAL MEETING WITH A GIRL IN WHITE

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Recognise this striking young lumber-jill at work in Barningham during the war? Answer on Page 22

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES. JANUARY 24th, 6pm

The Archive

OUR biggest Archive so far, 24 pages this time.

The increase in size is to make room for a complete index to every issue of the newsletter to date. It takes up the centre eight pages, and we've stapled it separately so you can take it out and refer to it when necessary without having to search through back issues.

The index has been requested by a number of history group members, and we hope you find it useful. You can also find it, of course, on our website, where it is updated each month.

Even with the extra space we've had to hold out one or two regular features, but they'll return in the next Archive, out towards the end of January after our next group meeting.

OUR trip to York seems to have been a big success and we'd like to run similar trips in the New Year. Let us have your suggestions about where we might visit.

IT's that time of year again: subscription time. There should be a renewal form tucked inside this Archive and we hope you want to renew for 2012. Send the form back or hand it in at the New Year's gathering. I hope to see vou there.

Meanwhile, a happy Christmas to you all.

THE EDITOR

minutes of the last meeting

History goes down well with mince pies and

MINUTES of the meeting held House histories: We looked at in the village hall, Barningham, on December 6 2011

Present: Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Neil Turner, Kay Duggan, Tony Orton, Mark Watson, now out. Neil told us that the June Graham, Cate and Harry Collinwood, Phil Hunt, Ann Hutchinson, Sheila Catton.

Apologies: Jane Hackworth-Young, Sue Prytherick.

Minutes of the meeting held on October 25 were accepted. Matters arising: Everyone had enjoyed the trip to York, Jon and Kay were thanked for organising it (see report opposite). Kay and Eric had agreed to host the New Year get-together again at Braeside. on Monday January 2 at 12.30. Tickets will cost £5 each, food supplied (extra nibbles welcome!) but bring your own bottle.

Correspondence: Hunters shop, Westmarlands and a Victorian photographer – see page 6.

Financial report: Eric reported that income for November was £309, expenditure (including York trip subsidy and the purchase of a digital sound recorder) £668, a deficit of £359. The balance in the bak was £710.76.

corrections

In the last Archive we called Henry Nelson Henry Mason, and the Harrison brothers Harris. No excuses, just incompetence!

the history of The Gatehouse. and Neil had his usual collection of (mostly unpub-lishable) memories of people who used to live there.

Publications: Archive 21 was picture of Willy Todd on the front was taken on the village green at Kirby Hill.

Oral histories: Ann Hutchinson and Sheila Catton had visited George Alderson at Hill Top Farm and recorded about 45 minutes of his memories (using the group's new digital recorder). He really enjoyed it and would like them to return for another session!

Cine records: Mark had done an excellent job sorting out which bits of the DVD need keeping. Now a new DVD needs to be made but unfortunately it wouldn't be ready for Christmas. He thought it would be about the same length as the previous one.

Next meetings: January 24 2012, March 6, April 17.

Any other business: Jon had found information about the Nor Beck bridges, see page 4. **Quiz:** The meeting ended with a light-hearted quiz, with questions based on pictures that had appeared in *The Archive* over the past two years.

• During the meeting pork pies, mince pies and various wines were served to the enjoyment of all present. Many thanks to Kay and Eric for organising this.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Christmas at the hall 120 years ago

FROM the Northern Echo, Christmas 1891:

"On Friday night was given a Christmas tree by Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank to the children of Barningham. Newsham and Scargill.

"Beside the chldren, many of the principal inhabitants were invited. A grand substantial tea was given in the servants' hall. Eight-three sat down in two sittings, after which a grand procession was formed in the passage and the children Dry meeting were marched to the morningroom, where the tree was.

be a large number of brilliant wax lights, was truly dazzling. It was ornamented by many shining articles, which reflected the rays of the lights, and on beholding it everyone was astonished and exclaimed "Oh! How pretty!"

Thorpe, and a noble specimen Lesley gave a song, as did it was, reaching from the floor Mr T Sowerby, and both were to the ceiling. The children well received. There was an paraded around it once or encouraging attendance, and twice, and then began the presentation of presents. The older brought a pleasant and enthusipeople got something useful, astic meeting to a close."

leftovers

We've accumulated all sorts of snippets too short to merit a complete feature but worthy of mention somewhere. Here are a few of the latest...

viz pipes, hand-made bronze travs, terra cotta ornaments. etc. The young ones got all of those things that delight young minds, such as horses, whips, dolls, engines, and books.

"Just before the children departed they were presented with sweets and buns, and it must have been the wish of every child that it may be done again next year."

was a real treat

"The sight of the tree, lit up FROM the Teesdale Mercury, May 10 1893:

"The Barningham and District Total Abstinence Society held a meeting in the National School on the 1st inst. The president, Mr Morrell, occupied the chair. Mr Church gave an address, and absentees "The tree was brought from certainly missed a treat. Miss the singing of the doxology

Down to the last sixpence

FROM the Barningham Reading Room minutes, April 13 1892 (item sent in by Ann Orton, who's transcribing them):

"The Chairman, Mr Todd, read a letter from Sir Frederick Milbank, President, and felt that he was expressing the feeling of the Committee when he said that the loss of the residency of Mr Powlett Milbank in the neighbourhood would be great, as that gentleman was about to remove into Wales, having inherited lately the immense amount of £679.000/18/6d from the Estates of the late Duke of Cleveland. He (Mr Todd) hoped that Mr Powlett Milbank would live long to enjoy it."

£679.000 would be worth at least £50 million today.

Gamekeeper lied about dog's death

POSTMAN Richard Pearson was trudging up the road from Newsham to Barningham on October 7 1872 when a shot was fired beyond the hedge.

Pearson's dog immediately leapt over the hedge and disappeared from view. Seconds later there was another shot.

When his dog didn't come back, Pearson went to investigate and came face to face with William Coates, gamekeeper for Sussex Milbank of Hawsteads. Coates was carrying a shotgun, but denied ever seeing the dog and went on his way. Pearson, suspicious, kept on searching, and eventually found the dog buried under a pile of grass.

The story was told at Barnard Castle County Court a fortnight later, when Pearson sued Coates for the price of the dog which he valued at £10 perhaps £700 today – because it was the last of its breed.

Coates changed his story in court and admitted killing the dog, but claimed that "it was on the point of taking a hare" when he shot it. The jury wasn't impressed. It found in favour of the postman, and ordered Coates to pay him £5 damages.

old ads

WILL the Party who found the Umbrella -- with Ownerf Name and Addreff engraved on filver band -- Loft from a Trap between Barningham and Barnard Caftle, pleafe return the fame at once. Detention will incur profecution.

Teesdale Mercury, 1895

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Land-girls, lumber-jills and angels

Our autumn guest speaker was Jenny Frost, who talked about the changing role of women in World War II. ANN ORTON took notes...

CLOTHES rationing was introduced on Whit Sunday in 1941, and "Make do and Mend" tried to encourage women to make do or to turn garments into reconstructed items.

Women were also encouraged to "put your best face forward" to boost morale. Some women did take this advice and lightened grev hair, and used beetroot juice on their lips to imitate lipstick. One way to look good was to wear stockings but as these were in very short supply many innovative solutions were found. Coloured cream could be applied to the legs and a line drawn down to imitate the seam: some women would use gravy browning or even sand!

By 1943 there were 90,000 "land girls" lifting potatoes, handling the heavy horses and milking cattle. Alice Braithwaite, who was a land girl from 1943-1945, had a job poisoning rats and moles, particularly at harvest time.

"I would pick up three of the girls who I worked with and a tin of strychnine from the chemist in Leyburn," she told Jenny. "I really enjoyed the work. We had to lure the moles out of their holes by placing worms by the nest. We would place the poison down the hole on sticks."

However Alice, who had previously been a legal secretary, found it hard not having something to occupy her mind. She was very impressed by the quality of the uniform. The boots in particular were very tough and after the war she sold them for £1 to a shop owner in Aysgarth who sold them on to a famer's wife.

Brenda Turner, of the Milbank Arms in Barningham, started work as a "lumberjill" when she was only 16. "The boss asked me if I could drive a tractor and I said yes, when I never had, but I was determined."

The work was hard: she was responsible for putting chains round trees and pulling them out, very dangerous work. Although she enjoyed the work it was very hard and her hands and arms were ruined. She never wore gloves and wore dungarees and a turban.

She was the only girl. The men were paid more even though she says she worked harder



Brenda Turner working as a lumberjill during the war. She's the girl in the photo on the front cover, too

than some of them. "The men looked after me and admired what I did, I was the only female working in forestry."

Brenda would go dancing at weekends and liked to go to Darlington to buy dresses. She also knitted her own jumpers.

During the war 30,000 women, known as the "Aycliffe Angels", made munitions at the Royal Ordnance factory in Newton Ayciffe. They endured considerable dangers; the work was highly delicate and needed concentration. Eight were killed in accidents.

"The chemicals handled by the girls employed in bomb-making turned their skin yellow and I felt sorry for them," said Brenda.

Many women worked at the secret codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire, where the conditions were hot noisy and very bewildering. The women were not allowed to take off their uniforms and in the hot summers it was unbearable. Long hours were worked here and women would often not go to bed whilst trying to decipher a code to stop a U-boat attacking a Royal Navy ship.

Women had come a long way from the "stay at home" little housewife. They had proved they could rivet an aircraft, make bombs, and decipher codes at Bletchley Park, work 12 hours a day in freezing temperatures and "dig for vic-

Great day out for history (& shops!)

Sixteen history group members and 13 guests went by coach to York for the day on November 27. ANN ORTON reports...

DIDN'T we have a luvverly time the day we went to – York!

We arrived at the Railway Museum at 10.30 and it seemed logical to make that our first destination. Even a non-enthusiast like me had to be impressed by the engines. The one built for China seemed to stretch on forever.

We could have stayed all day but decided to of modern archaeology. From 1976 to 1981, move on to the Barley Hall, one of the sites on our £5 pass which Jon had provided (he also gave us a map of York and a comprehensive list of the city's best pubs!)

proved very controversial. Built in 1360 by hospice and town house for visitors to the city. was rented out to a prominent goldsmith. The sitting on his privy and making rude noises! 17th century and by the Victorian era it had been sub-divided vet further. In the 1970s it was used by a plumber as a storage unit and showroom, and by the 1980s was dangerously unsafe and scheduled for demolition.

bought the site in 1987 and decided to reconstruct the building as it might have appeared in 1483, forming a museum which they named the Barley Hall after the Trust's Chairman, Professor Maurice Barley. Critics condemned the work as a replica, calling it "another contribution to our Disneyland Heritage".

from various dramas, eg Downton Abbey, Pride period hats and all agreed that Tony would make • Many thanks to Jon Smith and Kay Duggan a great undertaker in the black top hat!

and enjoyed a pleasant, if rather crowded, hour • We're sorry to report that Nick and Mary looking at the stalls. There was everything you have been in heaven.

site on our pass. At the centre you are on the from whatever it was that struck him down. - Ed. site of one of the most astounding discoveries



The Barley Hall in York

houses, workshops and backyards of the Viking city were revealed. Just inside is a glass floor revealing the remains of these 1.000-year-old houses, fascinating if a little scary to walk on. The "restoration" of the Barley Hall has Capsules take you round the Viking city, where vou encounter Old Norse-speaking citizens, see Prior Thomas de Dereford, it was used as a inside their houses and backyards and enjoy the smells and sounds. The children among you will By the 1430s it had fallen on hard times and be pleased to know that the Viking is still there

Off next to the Kings Manor near the art gallery, a beautiful building originally built to house the abbots of St Mary's Abbey in York in the 11th century. When the Abbey was dissolved in 1539 Henry VIII made it the seat of However, the York Archaeological Trust the Council of the North, which it remained until the council was abolished in 1641. It is now part of the University of York. There was another Christmas Fair inside but we decided to go in anyway and admire the wonderful old building!

It was getting late and we had run out of energy and enthusiasm, so we hopped aboard the road train and returned to the railway museum We found it very interesting and enjoyed the for a last quick look round before returning Christmas market and exhibition of costumes home. We still have two sites to visit with our pass, the York Dig and Micklegate Bar Museum, and Prejudice. The Duchess etc. We tried on and hope to see them on our next trip to York.

- for organising the trip and to Kay and Gill for We made our way next to St Nicholas's Fayre serving the tea and coffee on the coach.
- Collard spent the afternoon in York's A&E could imagine and any fans of pie eating would department after Nick collapsed in York. He recovered in time to get the bus back, but is now Next was the Jorvik Viking Centre, another undergoing tests. We wish him a speedy recovery

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Why two bridges? Here's the answer

ROBIN Brooks wrote to Archive 15 wondering why there are two stone bridges next to each other over Nor Beck on the road from Barningham to Greta Bridge.

We suggested that the smaller one, on the eastern side, was probably there first and the second bridge was built later to cope with wider carts and wagons.

We were wrong. Trawling through old editions of the Teesdale Mercury last month, we found a report of a meeting of the Startforth Rural

District Council in March 1896, when the origins of the two bridges were discussed, and it appears we couldn't have been further from the truth.

The subject was raised after the Rector of Barningham, the Rev Edwin Spencer Gough, wrote to the council saving the road from the village to Greta Bridge was "in a disgraceful state" and attempts to patch it up were useless.

"It is past mending and wants making," he complained. "It is not a question of shovels-full of metal, but of trucks-full. I saw, only the other day, a huge stone measuring some 18 inches by about eight inches exposed in the road." The eastern bridge



The main road bridge over Nor Beck

nor beck bridges

at Nor Beck, he added, was in "a very bad state" and he wondered whether the western bridge was strong enough to cope with heavy vehicles "as a thrashing engine is continually passing over it and sometimes it is found out too late that such bridges are unable to bear an enormous weight not contemtheir construction."

The Rev Gough had already raised the state of the smaller bridge with the council's surveyor, who had told him there was nothing he could do about it because it was not a public highway. Was this so? asked the

bridge very much used." Everyone walking from Barning-ham to the A66 used it to cross the beck and follow the public footpath across the fields to the corner at the Saunder's House farm track entrance - much shorter than making their way up the road to Wilson House and then turning right. Among the council mem-

plated for them at the time of bers who heard the Rector's letter read out at their meeting was James Todd, of Fairview. who said there was no question about it. The bridge was privately owned, as the Rector should have known as it was built by one of his predecessors. the Rev William Wharton, to allow carts to bring produce from church-owned glebe fields across the beck.

Rector, clearly surprised. "It is a

"To do this he did away with the old wooden bridge," he told the council. There had long been a public right of way across the bridge, but only for pedestrians: "horses or carts would be trespassers."

The Rector wrote back to the council, saying if this were true it was very odd that while repairs were being carried out to the other bridge, the council surveyor himself and his workmen had not only driven vehicles over the 'private' bridge without asking anyone's permission, but damaged it while



The Rector's new bridge over the beck to his fields

Brewer's fatal meeting with the girl in white

ISAAC Coates, on whose mid-Victorian memoirs these features are based, recounts the story of brewer John Hind, who died in somewhat mysterious circumstances.

John was an unmarried man living in Gayles House with his

sister. One day in the 1860s he met Isaac and said that on the previous Monday, when he was walking up the village street, he had noticed a girl dressed in white entering the iron gates in front of his house.

He called out to her, but she for a verdict, one of the jury gave no sign of having heard through the front door.

He followed her a few seconds later and, meeting his sister in the entrance, enquired who the young lady visitor was. Miss Hind, who had been sitting in the front room and almost certain to have noticed anybody entering through the front gates, replied that nobody had entered the house, and the nobody had passed that way.

As John recounted his experiences to Isaac, it was very evident that he was deeply puzzled, and a note of apprehension had crept into his voice.

On the following Monday. at exactly the same hour when he had seen the strange girl in white, he was found dead in his bed. An inquest was held and young Isaac was called to do about it. sit on the jury.

he had been in reasonably good health before he died, and as there was no doctor present to provide evidence as to the cause of death, the John Hind's strange vision of a jury found itself somewhat in a predicament. When asked remain for ever a profound and

It wouldn't be Christmas without a ghost story. Here's one from Merryne Watson's book A Farmer's Boy, about life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days

proposed that death was due him, and entered his house to over-indulgence in liquor. Isaac immediately jumped to his feet and ridiculed the idea. saving that there was no evidence that John had taken any drink on the day of his death. It was, however, abundantly clear that the vision of the girl in white had profoundly disturbed him and filled him with apprehension.

Finally one of the older maid who was working in the jurymen rose to his feet, and back quarters confirmed that after remarking somewhat sharply that the youngest juryman seemed to know more about an inquest than "us old hands", proposed that they give the usual verdict "died by visitation of God" which was accepted by the coroner.

> Isaac was not fully satisfied, but unless a full post mortem had been ordered there was very little else that he could

The whole story leaves a John's sister testified that number of questions unanswered; for example, why was Dr Matthew Graham of Newsham not consulted?

> The association between girl in white and his death must

from the parish mag

115 YEARS AGO: A wellknown medical man says that women seem more subject to writer's cramp than men, and that they get it frequently when the work they are doing is surprisingly small to produce that result. He thinks the problem must be using slender pen-holders. Large cork pen-holders, nearly an inch in diameter and very light, have been found to be the best guard against the cramp, but they are worth much more as a preventive than a cure. - December 1896

95 YEARS AGO: Miss Gough and the Sunday School teachers are collecting money to enable the children to send a Christmas gift to each of "Our Boys" who will spend Christmas away from home with the regiments in France or elsewhere. – December 1916

75 YEARS AGO: Holy Baptism: David, son of Herbert James and Isabella Powell. In Memoriam: It is with the very deepest regret that we record the death of the Rev Arthur Close, for over 32 years Vicar of Hutton Magna. Sincere, kindly, unassuming, a man's man, he earned and won the affection and respect of his parishioners. Hutton will not forget him. - December 1936

45 YEARS AGO: The regular Monday whist drives held for various objects during the early part of the winter have been as enjoyable as ever and provide an evening out for a fair number of people. As money-making projects they have not always shown the healthy return for the work and expenses of those who have so kindly undertaken to try to raise money. It is a a sign of the times – December 1966

Westmarlands again, and Clarksons

THE last Archive featured the Westmarland family, and here they are again, the next name on the 1841 census trail.

Thomas Westmarland was 50, a farmer and butcher born in Middleton Tyas and living at Wilson House. He also had a house and butcher's shop where the Reading Room Cottages now stand

He and his wife Elizabeth (from Hartforth, nee **Jackson**) had seven children who ranged from George, a 22-year-old butcher, down to nine-year-old Mark.

All survived but Jane, who died in 1847 aged 19. George. who doesn't appear to have married, became a cattle dealer and lived in Hutton Magna and. later, at Newsham Grange. He lived to be 90 (his gravestone in Barningham churchyard carries the inscription "With Christ, which is much better").

His sister Christana, 21 in 1841. married a blacksmith from Chester-le-Street called Henderson Lax, moved to Stockton, and had a daughter called Catherine who died at Hutton Fields aged 22. Christiana lived on until 1904, surviving her husband by 24 years.

Next was Thomas junior, 18 in 1841. He moved from Barningham to Egglestone, married a Dalton girl called Elizabeth, had four children, became a miller in Newsham and died there in 1898.

His younger sister Eleanor married a Barningham mason called John Nelson (see Archive 21 for details of his family). They had four children before **Hodgson**. Eleanor died, we think, at the age of 40 in 1866.

The sixth of the Westmarland children was Richard, born Arms, in Lilac Cottage, now



1841 census trail

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

like his oldest brother and married a local girl called Annie, who bore him five children, all girls, before both parents died in the 1880s (see the Archive 21 article about what happened to them).

The last of Thomas Westmarland's children. Mark. became a clerk in Darlington but came home to marry Hannah Coulthard, daughter of the Smallways innkeeper. They appear to have had at least three daughters. The couple later joined Mark's brother George at Newsham Grange; Mark died in 1889. Hannah lived on until 1901.

Also living at Wilson House in 1841 was a 20-year-old farm worker called Bartholomew

come to a family living just to the west of the Milbank in 1830. He became a butcher demolished. They were farm

1964 aerial photo showing now-vanished Lilac Cottage, left of the pub

worker Thomas Clarkson, his wife Sarah (nee Gibson), both in their sixties, and their sons George, 16, and ten-year-old

Thomas and Sarah had at least six other older children. The oldest was Mary, born in 1804, who married Thomas Hodgson (related to Bartholomew?) and had four children baptised at Barningham. Her sister Ann, two years younger, married a Robert Thompson from Staindrop. Two other sisters, Elisabeth (born 1811) and Sarah (1815) we can't trace.

They had two more brothers, Edward (born 1813) who married a local dressmaker called Jane Harrison and had at least two children, and John. born 1817, of whom we know no more.

Their mother died in 1848. Thomas lived on, eking out After the Westmarlands we a living selling home-made brooms: he's recorded in 1861, the year before he died, as a 'besom-maker'.

nor beck bridges

doing so. "I think some explanation is due," he said crossly.

The embarrassed councillors agreed to offer ten shillings compensation for the damage.

The Rector accepted, but nothing could convince him that he alone was responsible for the upkeep of the bridge.



The 1855 OS map, showing both bridges and the right of wav

IT'S uncertain when the first bridge - the one we all use today to drive over Nor Beck - was built. For centuries there was probably nothing more than a ford across the stream.

The tithe maps drawn in 1838 seem to show this bridge, but there's no sign of a wooden one to the east of it, although according to Mr Todd one had been there for a long time.

The 1855 Ordnance Survey map, however, clearly shows both bridges as they are today - see above. The Rev Wharton came to Barningham in 1840, so we assume he built his bridge sometime during the following 15 years.

The glebe fields have since passed into the ownership of the Milbank family, and responsibility for the eastern bridge is in their hands.

Glebe lands in 1838 30 Sheep Close

27 Starkey

31 Pasture

32 Peatmire

33 Scott Close 34 John Howden's

Great Close

45 High Rampshaw

46 Binks Close

47 High Field*

48 Jingle Potts 49 Castle Garth

50 Roger Close

51 Middle Field*

52 Bull Acre

53 Paddock

55 Norbeck Hill*

56 Low Rampshaw

65 Long Close

66 Norbeck Hill'

67 Nook Field* 69 Church Field*

70 Long Close Top

166 Churchyard & Rectory* 169 School Field

Glebe land



Fields names and numbers as shown on the village tithe map, drawn in 1838

The Church also owned six fields totalling about 54 acres on the Cow Close Allotment

In 1838 all the glebe land shown above was tenanted by Thomas Westmorland of Wilson House Farm

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My first job - Hunter's errand boy

THANK you for Archive 21, in which Marian Lewis mentioned selling rosehips to John P Hunter's shop in Barnard Castle Market Place.

In 1942 when I was 14 years old I started work there fulltime. I hoped to work in the shop but Miss Doris Chatt and the other girls relegated me to errand boy and warehouse worker. Eventually I was promoted to van boy, joining the driver on country rounds, one of which was Barningham and another Hutton Magna.

Mr Percy Hunter was in charge when I started, he was one of the old school. When he retired Mr Guy Hunter took over. He expected staff to work until 7-8 or even later.

The photo on the right shows the Hunter's staff in 1941. I'm the boy on the right, beside Harry Bainbridge. The ladies were Margaret Jackson, Gladys Carter. Doris Chatt and Laura Bartlett.

In 1944 I left and got a better job at the Co-op, better hours and more money.

Re the letter about George Tweddle: He was the blacksmith at Cross Lanes, where I used to stay at the house on the cross roads with a family called Spence. I spent time in



Driver Jack Kavanagh with the Hunter's van. He later opened a pet shop in Barnard Castle. The pub on the left was the Red Lion, now replaced by shops. Can you make out the landlord's name over the door?

letters & emails

his workshop and pumped the bellows while he shoed horses or repaired harrows, etc.

I recall one winter's night when the back door opened and George was there, black and burnt. He had picked up the wrong can and put petrol on the fire instead of paraffin.

He converted an old car into a grass/hay mower and cut the hay for other smallholders, saving them time using horses. Happy Days!

> BERT TRAVIS Northallerton



Fifteen beneficiaries shared George's money

Westmarland, who you mentioned in Archive 21.

It was drawn up in 1951 following the death of his surviving life tenant Mrs Annie Cowell and shows 15 beneficiaries sharing the remaining money.

They were Alice Raine, Amy Ricketts (my aunt, nee Hind), Annie Hind (my aunt), Minnie Jackson (my aunt, nee Hind), Matthew Hind (my

I HAVE a solicitor's statement regarding George uncle), Septimus Hind (my dad), Elizabeth Savers (my aunt nee Hind), Thomas Blades, Edith Bell, Minnie Kitchen, Lena Jameson, William Blades, Joseph Cowell, Reginald Cowell and Jane Hewison.

How the others were related to George I don't know. Thought it might be of interest.

MARIAN LEWIS, Hutton Magna

Murder, revenge, and a mystery man

ON May 6 1883, Prime Minister William Gladstone's nephew Lord Frederick Cavendish, newly-appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland, decided to walk through Dublin's Phoenix Park with Thomas Burke, the top man in the Irish civil service.

It was a fatal decision. As the pair strolled along, deep in discussion of the latest demands for Home Rule, they were surrounded by a group of nationalists and stabbed to death.

The National Irish Invincibles, a splinter group from the had been arrested and charged to the nationalist cause. with the murders.

the assassination plot, a Dublin rested, bound in irons, and sent town councillor called James back to England. Carey, who decided to save spirators.

timony and went to the gallows. Carey to extract revenge. Carev was given a new identity and he and his wife and seven cember 1 1883 he was sentenced century, but no male is recorded children were given a safe pas- to death. The judge refused to who might have become our sage to South Africa where they let him speak after the verdict, warder-detective. hoped to start a new life far from but as he was led to the death the Irish troubles.

shattered. On board their ship with the British and the British have done well in South Africa to Cape Town was an Irish republican from the United States he really was).

O'Donnell confronted Carev.



'Traitor' and his killer: James Carev and Patrick O'Donnell

Irish Republican Brotherhood jubilation in Ireland at the news, who came from South Africa - better known as the Fenians with mass gatherings across the with O'Donnell, is a native of - claimed responsibility and country celebrating the death of the village of Barningham," it within days six of its members a man they regarded as a traitor says. "His real name is Stephen-

Among them was the leader of to escape, and was promptly ar-soldier some years ago."

his skin by turning Queen's ley, accused of wilful murder. freely available on Google – but evidence against his co-con- He denied the charge, claiming we can't find any other mention he had acted in self-defence af- of Cooke-who-used-to-be-All five – including a 19-year-ter Carey had produced a pistol, Stephenson. old - were convicted on his tes- and denied being sent to find

Their hopes were soon to be cheers for old Ireland! To hell ing from the village. He must Crown!"

called Patrick O'Donnell, who before Christmas, despite an in the police to be given the somehow discovered Carey's appeal for clemency from Ches- responsibility of making sure true identity (one story was that ter A Arthur, the United States O'Donnell got back to England Carey let his guard drop in the President, and other wellknown to face trial. ship's bar, and told a waiter who people including the novelist So our Christmas challenge Victor Hugo.

the pair argued, and shots were hero in Ireland, and his name there's no room for even one fired. Carey fell to the deck. lives on today. As recently as more mince pie is: who was he? dying from bullet wounds to 2004 a re-dedication ceremony his neck and back. There was was held at the monument to his

death erected by Fianna Fail in Gweedore, the County Donegal village where he was born.

Why are you reading about this in the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group? Because among the many column inches the Teesdale Mercurv at the time devoted to the Phoenix Park assassinations. the murder of James Carev and the trial and execution of Patrick O'Donnell, there appears a mysterious paragraph in the edition of September 26 1883.

"Cooke, the detective officer son, but he assumed the name O'Donnell made no attempt of Cooke when he enlisted as a

That's all. We've scoured the Mercury and read the transcript He was tried at the Old Bai- of the O'Donnell trial – it's

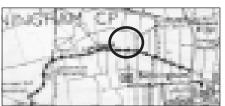
There were Stephensons (and Stevensons) around in Barning-His pleas failed and on De- ham in the first half the the 19th

There's no trace, either, of a cell O'Donnell shouted "Three Stephenson (or Cooke) enlistto rise from humble squad-He was hanged eight days die to a position high enough

to all you internet-surfers with O'Donnell became a folk nothing better to do when 18 Archive 22 Archive 22

best of the barns

Two more of the Barningham field barns investigated by Ed Simpson as part of his Archive Award project.







Barn on north side of Low Lane

Position: 54°29.502N, 1°51.725W. Aligned north/south

Altitude: 206m

Dimensions: Length 5.6m Width 4.6m Height 4m

Date: Appears on 1860-1866 OS map

Construction: Dressed stone archway (2m span) and lintel. Quoins not dressed. Lintels and voussairs dressed. Rafters pegged. Window to north and recess to south. Booise visible.

Roof: Gabled, pantile with tie beam interior.

Note: Faded plague above voussairs on outside "17 SR 10"



Two-storey barn north of Fairview

Position: 54°29.360N. 1°52.392W. Faces north.

Altitude: 223m

Dimensions: (1) Length 5.2m Width 4.6m Height 8m (est) (2) Length 5.4m Width 5m Height 5m (est)



Date: u/k Construction: Two-storev barn with later addition. Original barn has dressed stone quoins with very dressed window/door surrounds. Door facing east very crude, no dressed stone. Voussoirs similar to quoins. West-facing wall of original barn has three windows.

Roofs: Gabled.







Rooftop names: Burdett's is above, in the centre



Lead story: the builders who left their mark on top

JOHN Hay sent us these photos, taken on the roof of Fairview while repairs were being carried out recently.

He discovered that successive generations of builders had taken to recording their names in the soft lead flashing on the roof.

The oldest date was 1880. when a builder called James Burdett signed his name in elaborate lettering.

Later ones included some from 1896, when a painter called James Hird left his name beside a beautifully-executed drawing of a stag's head.

A second painter, W Barras, also left his mark. He was a better painter than speller: he recorded his trade as that of a "paintir"

Fairview was built by James Todd in 1879 (see Archive 21 House Histories), and John underneath the date the house Hay has just uncovered a stone was built.



The rediscovered plaque from 1879

plaque recording its completion on the south wall of the house, long hidden by ivy.

It carries Todd's initials and

Where Willy Todd was pictured

OUR front-page photo in Archive 21 showed Willy Todd and friends on bicycles in around 1900, and we asked if anyone could identify where it was taken. Neil Turner came up with the answer at the last history group meeting: on the green at Kirby Hill. Obvious... once you know. Thanks, Neil.

Who was our lady with the camera?

BILL Heyes, of Teesdale Record Society, has asked for our help in identifying a photographer who lived in Barningham in mid-Victorian days.

No ordinary photographer, though: this one was a woman.

Bill has been doing some research on Teesdale photographers of the time and in the memoirs of a Barnard Castle cameraman called Allan Rams-den he found a reference to him being trained by a lady photographer from our village.

"The lady had a caravan converted for use as a studio in Barningham," says Bill, "She left the village for Stockton soon after she had trained Mr Ramsden, and sold the caravan to him as a travelling studio." His memoirs, published in 1888, were called Life in a Caravan.

Bill thinks the Barningham training probably took place between January and April in either 1870 or 1871, though he hasn't got exact dates and has had to deduce them from birth registers based on comments Mr Ramsden made about his children at the time

We can't trace anyone fitting the lady's description. Anybody got any ideas?

old ads

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Teesdale Mercury, 1877

Teesdale



Mercury, Topa

Sec. 1888.)

BARNARD-CASTLE, TURSDAY, SECURISHED DAYS, 1840.

- MARKET AND ASSESSMENT

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lace, Barnard Castle.

The Christmas edition of The Teesdale Mercury 150 years ago, and, on the right, the one a century ago. Festive cheer all round – except for the pub advertising "a very superior hearse" in 1861!

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