



Praise for group after award announcement

OUR award for the best local history newsletter in Britain won us plenty of publicity in the local press and brought congratulations from various sources.

The award was featured in the *Northern Echo* ("The Archive is packed with local fascination"), the *Darlington & Stockton Times* ("an outstanding achievement for Barningham") and the *Teesdale Mercury*.

Among those who sent emails were David Blair of the County Durham History and Heritage Forum ("Congratulations on your award, richly deserved – it is really good to see local history groups getting recognition for all the hard work that takes place"), Win Stokes, also of the Forum ("Well done – you certainly create a high standard for other groups to aim for"), and Belinda Goyder of Gainford Local History Group ("Well-deserved – I am full of admiration for your group.")

We collect the award in June – report in the next *Archive*.

Fund to replace our historic clock gets off to a good start

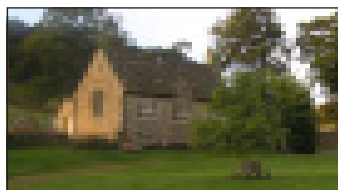
AN appeal for funds for a new Barningham village hall clock has already raised half the amount needed.

The clock will replace the one installed when the hall was built (as the village school) in 1875, which vanished sometime around 1916 and we've been searching for ever since (see *Archives 13 & 19*).

Villagers decided it would be a suitable project in the year of the royal jubilee, and invited donations towards the £960 needed to buy the clock.

The history group has agreed to give up to £250, other groups have made donations, and several individuals have also pledged money – including one donor from elsewhere in Teesdale who was reading about the appeal in the local paper when his post arrived with a Premium Bonds cheque, and promptly decided to give us £100.

At the time we went to press the



The village hall and, right, the site of the lost clock

fund stood at more than £600, the clock has been ordered, and it's hoped to unveil it during the June jubilee celebrations.

The names of all donors and the names of people in whose memory donations have been made will appear on a scroll inside the hall.

● If you would like to make a donation, however small, it will be gratefully received. Contact BLHG treasurer Eric Duggan at Braeside, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL11 7DW, tel 01833 621455, email erickayd@



What the new clock will look like



Archive 25

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: WHY INN-KEEPER JAMES LOST HIS LICENCE



Robert Leonard and family, pictured around 1870. See Page 2.

contents

THE SISTER I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED: Page 3

ESCAPE FROM THE GALLOWS: Page 4

THE RAILWAY THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: Pages 5-6

LETTERS/EMAILS: Pages 7-10

IN G-G-G-G-GRANDMA'S FOOTSTEPS: Page 7

SIR PIERS AND THE VYNCENTS: Page 8

WAS THE 'BUTLER' TELLING LIES?: Page 9

COLE FAMILY PLANS A REUNION: Page 9

FROM THE PARISH MAG: Page 10

CELEBRATING THE 1897 JUBILEE: Pages 11-13

HOUSE HISTORIES: CHURCH VIEW: Page 14

NEIL'S NOTES: Page 14

HERO WHO SAVED SIR FREDERICK: Page 15

RISE AND FALL OF THE COW CLUBS: Page 17

OLD RECIPES: Page 18

END OF THE 1841 CENSUS TRAIL: Page 19

WHO PAID THE 1673 HEARTH TAX: Pages 20-21

BEST OF BARNINGHAM'S BARNs: Page 22

THE GRAVE ON THE MOOR: Page 23

LANDLORD LOCKED OUT OF HIS PUB: Page 23

FUND-RAISING FOR A NEW CLOCK: Page 24

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES. JUNE 19th, 6pm



The Archive

TWENTY-FOUR pages this issue, our biggest so far, partly to make space for stories about how we marked the last royal diamond jubilee back in 1897.

We planned at least a couple of pages devoted to how Barningham celebrated the event, but as you'll see it didn't quite work out that way.

However, you've got plenty of other items of interest: an heroic life-saver, an escaped convict, a life-changing encounter, the railway that never was, bodies on the moor, and masses of correspondence ranging from surprised brides to mystery butlers – plus all the usual features.

WE'RE backing the clock appeal (see back page). All contributions, however small, are very welcome and we hope many members will respond.

cover story



THE 1841 census trail feature in *Archive 24* spotlighted John Lennard and his family, who lived in Barningham 170 years ago. Dorothea ('Doth') Riddell of Staindrop, a regular visitor to the Milbank Arms, read about them when she dropped by the pub a few weeks ago, and realised she was related to them.

She sent us this photo of John's brother Robert (front left) and his family, pictured around 1870. Robert's wife Matilda is sitting beside him. The rest, left to right, are Sarah, Robert jnr, Anne, Thomas (Doth's grandfather), Albert and Anne Brown.



The Archive

Barningham Local History Group, Heath House, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU
Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Copies of The Archive, the BLHG newsletter, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2012).
Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website).

minutes of the last meeting

A railway we never had, a clock we hope to replace

Minutes of the meeting held in Barningham Village Hall on Tuesday April 17 2012:

Present: Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Linda Sherwood, Margaret Taylor, Janet Wrigley, Elizabeth Carrick, Neil Turner, June Graham, Cate and Harry Collingwood, Jane Hackworth-Young, Phil Hunt, Ann Rowley, Liz Ramshaw, Tony Orton, Margaret Stead, Sheila Catton.

Apologies: Mark Watson, Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Sue Prytherick, Ann Hutchinson.

Minutes of the meeting held on March 6 were approved.

Matters arising: Phil Hunt gave us a very interesting talk on his research into the proposed railway line through Barningham. See page 5.

Correspondence: Ann Hagen, Cockfields, DLI Heritage Partnership, CD

History & Heritage Forum, Vynccents, Coates butler. See letters pages.

Financial report: The accounts were looking very healthy with a current balance of £1428.36.

Jon said he had been approached by the Diamond Jubilee group who are hoping to replace the missing Village Hall clock at a cost of approximately £960. Jane Hackworth-Young proposed that the group donate up to £250. This was seconded by Sheila Catton and carried unanimously.

House Histories: Reading Room Cottages. Neil was able to give us details of former residents, including the infamous bogus doctor!

Publications: Archive 24 had been circulated and 25 would be out soon. The presentation of the award for the Archive will take place in Manchester on June 16. Group funds are

Ancient grave found high on the moor

From The Teesdale Mercury, October 6 1897:

AN interesting discovery has been made on Barningham Moor, the property of Sir F. A. Milbank, Bart.

One of the highest points of the moor is called How Tallon and on the Ordnance Survey map is marked as 1,485 feet above sea level. Quite on the summit of the hill is a mound, about 60 yards in circumference, and six or seven feet high.

It was decided to open this mound, and accordingly a trench was made on the south-east side, and before a yard of earth had been removed, human bones and fragments of a skull came to light.

Proceeding gradually towards the centre, the character of the soil gave indications that a further find was in store, and at about three yards from the first body, and near the top of the mound, a stone cist was discovered.

This had contained a human body, but owing to pressure from above, from a wall which was built over the mound, the remains were lying outside the cist.

It was impossible to be

Diamond year for the Lees, too

BARNINGHAM: In this little village we have come across a somewhat unusual instance of longevity. William Lee and his wife Anne on May 15th celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their union.

Through the kindness of Lady Milbank the aged couple were enabled to entertain their relatives and friends at tea in honour of their diamond wedding.

Both husband and wife are in their eighty-third year, and last week the former attended a cricket match.

Teesdale Mercury, May 19 1897

1897 leftovers

We came across all sort of stories from 1897 while researching the Jubilee celebrations. Here are some of them...

certain whether the body was in sitting or lying posture, but most probably the former. The skull was much broken, but the jaw and teeth gave evidence of an old man.

Among the stones were four flint arrow heads, and a flint scraper. Two of the arrow heads are very remarkable specimens, one of the barbed variety and the other leaf-shaped.

The edges were exquisitely serrated and most delicately made. A small pottery urn, much broken, was also found with the body, and this had a finely-worked pattern on it of small triangular form.

Considering the enormous age of the burial the bones

old ads

LOST, between Barnard Castle and Barningham, a GENTS LIGHT OVERCOAT. Any person having found the same and will return to the Barningham Post Office will be rewarded.

Mercury, May 19 1897

Drunken wife locked out the landlord

JUBILEE Day was the last straw for Acting Sergeant Slack of the North Yorkshire Constabulary.

Time and again he'd had complaints about James Metcalfe King, licensee of the Oak Tree Inn at Hutton Magna.

He told Greta Bridge Brewster Sessions on September 15 1897 that King was intemperate, there were "repeated connubial quarrels" between him and his wife, and the inn was generally badly managed.

On Jubilee Day the place had been "like a pigsty", and King was found in Newsham, where he was singing in a pub. It was then that Sgt Slack decided to oppose the renewal of King's licence when it came up for renewal in September.

His decision was reinforced when Mrs King was fined £1 by Greta Bridge magistrates on August 26 for drunkenly breaking 18 windows in Hutton Magna and smashing up furniture after "painful scenes" with her husband ("he's fitter for an asylum than a public house," she told police when she was arrested).

Then, four days before the brewster sessions, Sgt Slack was summoned to the inn and discovered that Mrs King had locked her husband out of the premises and was now lying drunk inside.

The magistrates were appalled. They refused to renew King's licence and gave it instead to a Mr Snailham.

Based on reports in The Northern Echo, 1897

best of the barns

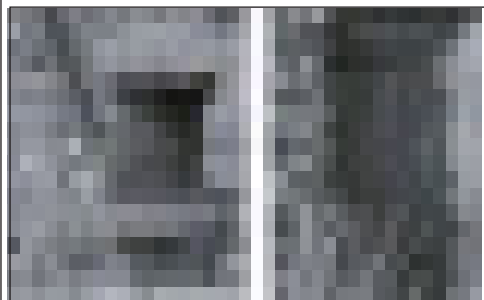
Two more of the Barningham field barns investigated by Ed Simpson as part of his Archive Award project.



On north side of Low Lane

Position: 54°29.499N, 1°52.872W. Aligned N/S.
Altitude: 201m

Dimensions: Length 5.3m Width 4.5m Height 3.6m
Construction: Quoins and lintel not dressed. Roof gabled
Date: On 1860-1866 map



NE of Barningham House

Position: 54°29.403N, 1°51.850W.
Altitude: 192m

Dimensions: Length 8m Width 4.5m
Date: On 1860-1866 OS map
Construction: Three stone walls remain. Walls adjacent to barn appear to be later addition as they abut the barn and not joined or integrated.



minutes

available to help anyone interested to attend – contact Jon.

Buildings/ Lime Kilns: The vegetation has been removed from the lime kilns and Eddie Milbank was hoping to carry out more work in the summer. George Alderson could remember when they were still in use but poor quality lime was produced only fit to be used on the land.

Transcriptions: Still battling on, Cate only had about 20 years to go! See Page 11.

Oral Histories: Jon and Ann H had spent another hour with George Alderson and heard some very interesting memories of his early days. When they have been transcribed excerpts may go in the *Archive*.

There was a general discussion about other people who could be recorded and it was agreed that Elizabeth Carrick would see if Jack Blackburn was willing to participate.

Linda and Margaret said that they had asked in the *Flyer* newsletter for any old documents or photos etc and had received quite a lot which Margaret had scanned. Among these were the parish meeting minutes for Gayles which they were planning to transcribe.

Cine records/DVD: Jon had spoken to his college friend who is willing to help us. He was passing on contact details to Eric.

Newspaper research: Progressing slowly. Ann agreed to take on more periods of the *York Herald* up to 1899 and Janet agreed to research the *Yorkshire Gazette*.

Ann finds a sister she didn't know existed

HISTORY group members will remember the visit last summer of Ann Hagen from Connecticut, whose great-grandfather was born in Barningham. A return visit has been postponed after what she describes as "the most extraordinary turn of events." Here she explains what has changed her life:

IT'S been right out of a novel or maybe a soap opera!! I am still reeling.

All the family research I had been doing led me to put our family tree on ancestry.com, where a genealogist searching for family of her adopted friend's birth parents found me.

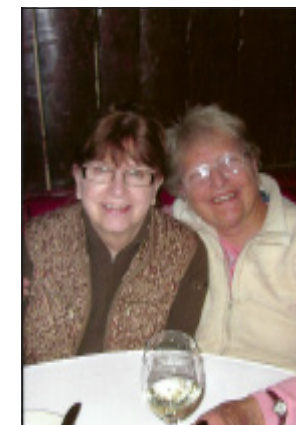
Long story short: I have a sister who was fathered by my dad before he married my mother. When the genealogist spelled out the details I was unable to breathe. All I could think was that this sort of thing happens to other people, not to me.

It turns out that my new-found half-sister was adopted as an infant from a private home for unwed mothers, The Cradle in Chicago, where our father lived at the time and was already married to another woman.

Because of divorce laws he was not able to divorce and marry my half-sister's mother.

He subsequently moved to Pennsylvania, the result of a job transfer, and three years later married my mother, Katherine Marie Rosser, granddaughter of Arthur Pownall Rosser, born in Barningham.

My sister, Laurie Lamont King, is three years older than



Ann, left, and her new-found sister

I and lives in southern California. I have just returned from a two-week visit with her and her family. It turns out I have two nieces as well.

We got along fabulously; strange, we're very much alike and she looks more like our father than I do.

The result of all this is that I have decided to postpone my trip to England and our Rosser reunion this coming June. I am so sorry, but I will spend more time with Laurie, who is coming to New England for a "heritage tour" of Boston and Connecticut.

Maybe next spring would be a good time to visit you.

Please stay in touch and let me know what is happening in your corner of the world.

ANN HAGEN

How William escaped from the hangman

History group member MIKE KIPLING, of Horsham, Sussex, came across this story while researching his family history. He recently completed a thesis on Barningham as part of his genealogy degree – see Archive 23.

WILLIAM Kipling, born in Dalton in 1750, was not a good man.

Not content with earning an honest living as a blacksmith, he turned to crime and in August 1774 found himself facing the judge at Durham Assizes, accused with Charles Hunter of house-breaking.

This was a capital offence, and as soon as a guilty verdict was announced the judge wasted no time putting on his black cap and sentencing the pair to death.

For some reason the sentence wasn't carried out immediately, and on Friday October 28 William was still incarcerated in Durham Gaol awaiting his fate. Somehow that night he managed to break out of his cell, scale the prison walls and jump to freedom.

He was still at loose on November 12, when the *Newcastle Courant* newspaper carried a Wanted notice offering a reward of two guineas (£2.10p in today's money, the equivalent of at least £50 back then) to anyone who caught him.

William was described as “five feet eight inches high, thin visaged, marked with the smallpox, very pale complexion, a red or sandy coloured

Durham Gaol in the 18th century

among my ancestors

beard much grown, flaxen coloured hair cut short round his neck”.

When he fled he was wearing “an old brown Jersey coat cut out at the elbows, and mended with different colours and much burnt in the back with lime, an old black cloth waistcoat, a pair of ragged leather breeches, a pair of ribbed black and white worsted stockings, a pair of large round plated buckles”. The notice, issued by the keeper of the jail, added that William left his hat behind as

he escaped, and there's a hint that he'd leapt from a considerable height to gain his freedom: “It is supposed,” said the jail keeper, obviously hoping William was lying somewhere badly injured, “that he is much bruised or hurt in his fall.”

Whether this was the case we're unlikely ever to know.

Although the Wanted notice was republished several times over the next few months, William vanished, and there's no record of him being captured and brought back to face the gallows.

A pound of bread a day, and you paid for water

DURHAM'S old County Gaol in Saddler Street, built in the early 15th century, had just been enlarged in 1774 but was still very cramped.

The warder had to pay for the right to run the jail and made his money back by charging prisoners for food, drink and ‘other services’ which included providing straw for bedding and even water to drink. The jail had a licence that allowed one warder to sell alcohol and part of the jail was used like a pub.

Male and female prisoners were separated but conditions were no better for either sex. At night they were put into cells deep in underground

dungeons that were badly lit and ventilated by the few holes in the ceiling. The food ration was one pound of bread a day.

The foul conditions meant that there were frequent attempts to escape but, if caught, prisoners faced being clamped in irons. When the prison reformer John Howard visited the jail he found men who had been chained to the floor for many weeks. In 1818 every prisoner was in irons because of an escape attempt the previous day. Jailers were penalised if anyone escaped, and were able to extort more money from felons for removing the irons.

● Background information from the Durham University heritage collection website.



KIRBY HILL

Mrs Robinson	10	Leo Windall	1	Jo Wad	1	Math Applegarth	1
Mrs Alice Collings	4	Rt Cowling	2	Wm Simpson	1	Wd Firbanke	1
Martin Heslop	2	Sim Cowling	1	Wm Firby	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>3</u>
Anth Fawcett	5	Chr Heslop	2	<u>Total</u>	<u>38</u>		
Nich Outhwaite	1	Jo Applegarth	1				
Geo Pinkney	2	Math Atkinson	1	<u>Discharged:</u>		Tho Roper sub coll	
Anth Deighton	2	Jo Shawe	1	Mary Lakeland	1	Jo Lodge const	

SCARGILL

Barth Freer	2	Hen Collin	1	Jo Heslop	2	Chr Thompson	1
Fra Jolly	1	Fra Collin	1	Jo Thompson	1	Anne Thompson	1
Reyn Thompson	1	Guy Walton	1	Hen Thompson	1	Cha Barnes	1
Fra Thompson	1	Ellin Walron	1	Chr Winington	1	Wd Kipling	1
Anth Moore	1	Margt Weatherill	1	Margt Railton	1	Wd Hutchinson	1
Jo Rud	1	Jo Whitell	1	Tho Otway	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>6</u>
Jo Atkinson	1	Row Atkinson	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>30</u>		
Fra Kipling	1	Jo Hutchison	1				
Nich Hall	1	Geo Hutchison	1	<u>Discharged:</u>		Tho Roper sub coll	
Wm Collin	2	Jo Kipling	2	Wd Pinkney	1	Nich Hall const	

BRIGNALL

Mr Ra Johnson	5	Wm Bussey	2	Wid Taylor	1	Alice Coates	1
Capt Tho Sutton	5	Hen Bragnall	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>44</u>	Barb Polson	1
Hen Pinkney	4	Tho Wilde	1			Tho Egdale	1
Anth Pinkney	4	Jo Hanby	2	<u>Discharged:</u>		Mary Cooper	1
Wm Phillips	2	Jane Johnson	1	Wm Taylor	1	Jo Griswold	1
Wm Coates	1	Wm Lorkland	1	Mary Parkin	1	Hen Bussey	1
Hen Powlson	1	Chr Thwaites	6	Anne Polson	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>12</u>
Rt Simpson	2	Geo Harrison	1	Grace Bailes	1		
Wm Goffe	1	Rt Denniston	1	Chr Parkin	1	Tho Roper sub coll	
Wm Thompson	1	Lance Pool	1	Mary Dent	1	Rt Simpson const	

ROKEBY & EGGLESTON ABBEY

Tho Rookby Esq	9	Roger Rooksby	1	Lew Addison	1	Wd Langstaffe	1
Mr Harrison	5	Jo Boldron per milne	2	Bryan Birkbecke	1	Rt Langstaffe	1
Wm Robinson Esq & his mother	9	Wm Newsom	4	Rd Kelley	1	Tho Hinde	1
Wm Parish curate	1	Jo Rutter	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>58</u>	Margt Dixon	1
Hen Ovington	1	Tho Branch	1			Tho Alderson	1
Jane Dawson	1	Rt Simpson	3	<u>Discharged:</u>		Jo Holmes	1
Leo Wilkinson	5	Abbey milne	1	Eliz Browne	1	Eliz Wood	1
Chr Dixon	1	Barb Simpson	1	Wm Maund	1	Fran Bussey	1
Jo Atkinson	1	Wm Simpson	1	Wm Dawson	1	<u>Total</u>	<u>15</u>
Wm Cooper	2	Chr Simpson	1	Wm Coates	1		
Edw Dixon	1	Barb Simpson	1	Jo Dixon	1		
Jo Dixon	1	Wd Loadman	1	Mary Pinkery	1	Tho Roper sub coll	
				Mary Cape	1	Jo Atkinson const	

Notes: Ano and Anth are both used for Anthony; Fra and Fran may represent Frances or Francis, making the sex of the person uncertain; Jo is probably John but may be Joseph, Joshua or Josiah; Jos is probably Joseph, but could be Joshua or Josiah. Mar is probably but not certainly short

for Marmaduke; Richard was often abbreviated as Rt as well as Rd; Wd meant Widow. There are a couple of references to a ‘milne’, which was a mill. The lists were signed off by the area's sub-collector, Thomas Roper, and the parish constables.

Who paid for fireplaces – and who didn't

THE last *Archive* listed all the names on the Barningham Hearth Tax roll of 1673.

Here, as promised, are the lists for other local parishes: Newsham, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Brignall and Rokeby.

The lists show householders' names and the number of hearths in each dwelling. Some occupiers were granted exemption from the tax – those on poor relief, those whose homes were worth less than £1 a year and those who paid neither church nor poor rates. Lists of those discharged in this way are also shown below.

Newsham had 47 households, and two owners – John Tod and Francis Garth – were

hearth tax

sufficiently well off to have homes with five hearths.

Three other villagers – Shawes and Smithsons – had four; two dwellings had three, ten had two and the rest just one.

Dalton and Gayles had the largest households in the area. Roger Meynill's home had 12 hearths, John Wycliffe's 11 (the Tunstalls of Barningham Park could only boast ten).

Mrs Robinson in Kirby Hill also made double figures, and Rokeby had two households with nine hearths.

Brignall had two with five and another couple with four. Poor Scargill, on the other

hand, had none with more than two. There are some intriguing differences in the number of householders who successfully pleaded to be excused payment of the hearth tax.

Only three Newsham occupants – 6% – were excused, compared with 10% in Dalton and Gayles, 21% in Brignall and Rokeby, and a whopping 25% in Barningham.

Why was this? Was Newsham more affluent, with more employment and fewer paupers? Did it have a younger population? Or were those who decided who should pay and who shouldn't simply in a less generous mood when they dealt with the Newsham applications? Suggestions welcome!

NEWSHAM

Jo Shawe jnr	4	Jo Heslop	2	Ellin Warde	1	Tho Shawe	1
Jefer Waistell	1	Jo Shaw snr	3	Jo Johnson snr	1	Jo Leeke	1
Nich Thompson	2	Layton Burgh	1	Jo Johnson jnr	2	Total	72
Geo Harrison	1	Jo Potter	1	Tho Brignall	3	Discharged:	
Nich Johnson	1	Jo Theakston	1	Hen Lowndale	1	Jo Dent	1
Ja Prest	1	Hen Rud	1	Eliz Brignell	1	Chr Potter	2
Tho Dudgeon	1	Jo Tod	5	Fra Garth	5	Edw Prest	1
Chr Shawe	1	Tho Shawe	1	Ra Pinkney	1	Total	4
Ja Lowdsdale	2	Anth Shut	1	Anne Shawe	2		
Jo Harrison	2	Rt Shawe	2	Wm Appleton	2		
Jeo Smith	1	Fra Johnson	1	Rt Smithson	1		
Jo Smithson	4	Tho Johnson	1	Chr Pinkney	1	Tho Roper sub coll	
Rd Applegarth	1	Tho & Rt Shawe	4	Jo Johnson taylor	2	Jo Shawe const	

DALTON & GAYLES

Mr Jo Wycliffe	11	Wm Carter	1	Wm Heslop	2	Discharged:	
Mr Luke Coates	4	Jo Wilson	1	Tho Craghill	1	Anne Worthy	1
Trin Anderson	4	Margt Wilson	1	Rt Heslop	1	Bridget Harrison	1
Jo Anderson	2	Trin Hutchinson	2	Chr Waide	2	Wm Hutchinson	1
Wm Cowling	3	Chr Wild	1	Geo Watson	1	Edw Heslop	1
Ra Neasome	1	Tho Buckton	3	Wm Watson	1	Isab Williamson	1
Rt Kipling	2	Jo Scrafton	4	Rt Shawe	3	Wm Heslop	1
Rd Blackburne	2	Bar Coverdale	2	Kath Appleby	1	Jo Simpson	1
Rd Blacket	1	Mr Roger Meynill	12	Wm Applegarth	2	Edw Faucet	1
Ja Kilburne	1	Wm Heslop	3	Margt Appleby	1	Hen Blackburne	1
Low Alderson	2	Jo Coates	1	Fra Scaife	1	Mary Trotter	1
Anth Fawcett	1	Jo Threlwood	1	Rt Garnis	1	Total	10
Ra Kipling	2	Chr Shawe	1	Ja Hutchinson	2		
Jo Wade	1	Wm Waid	2	Anne Applegarth	1	Tho Roper sub coll	
Tho Hudson	1	Rd Heslop	2	Total	95	Jo Anderson const	



Railway that would have changed our villages forever

At the last group meeting PHIL HUNT spoke about his research into plans in 1849 to build a railway that would have cut through Dalton, Newsham, Barningham and Scargill. Here's a summary of his talk, and some speculation about what might have been...

IN 1849 the London to Newcastle rail link was finally completed with the opening of the High Level Bridge.

North of the Tees the Stockton & Darlington and Clarence Railways, mostly used for transporting coal, were well established.

South of the river there were no branches this side of York except the Richmond branch, opened in 1846.

During the 1840s railway projectors realised that there were profits to be made from linking up new areas. The idea of uniting the north-west and north-east was very appealing, with coal plentiful in the north-east yet no discovery of iron ore at that time.

High quality haemetite ore supplies were available from the Ulverston area of north

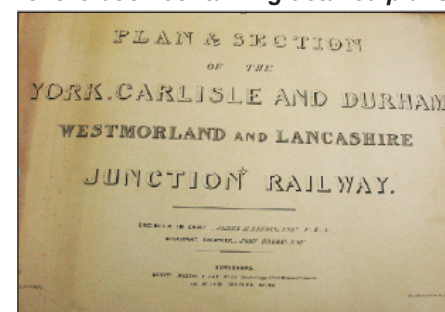
railway plans

Lancashire, and a line between that area and the new Middlesbrough ironworks would allow iron ore to come east and coal to go west.

The Stainmore pass was attractive territory as it gave a relatively easy route across the Pennines without extensive tunnelling.

Plans for a new line were lodged in November 1845 after extensive surveys: the plans can be seen at Durham County Record Office. The proposed line left the York-Darlington route near Danby Wiske and crossed the flat lands past Streatlam, Ellerton and Bramp-ton. It then crossed the

The route of the proposed railway through Barningham. Below, the cover of the book containing detailed plans.



Richmond branch line before skirting Skeeby and passing just to the south of Gilling, following the beck past Hartforth and Ravensworth.

The line was to run 10 chains north of Gayles, go through Dalton, skirt Newsham on its southern edge, and then cross the Barningham road to the east of Hawsteads. From there it stayed on the north side of Nor Beck, passing just north of Barningham House, crossing the Greta Bridge road and then Low Lane. All of these road crossings were by level crossings.

The line would have followed the line of Low Lane west before heading off north through what is now the Coro-

railway plans

nation plantation, crossing a viaduct over Gill Beck, and travelling on to Scargill, where it passed just in front of the castle.

From there it went on to Thwaite, Bowes and Stainmore summit. The average incline for this section was 1 in 150, quite gentle for a trans-Pennine route (the 1861 line climbing Stainmore from the west had sections at 1 in 60, requiring trains to be double headed).

The whole planned line from Northallerton to the Stainmore summit was about 50km long with a rise of 380m and a gradient of 1 in 130, which would have been achieved with remarkably few significant engineering works, the largest being the Gill Beck viaduct.

There would have been embankments and cuttings, but because the route followed a series of valleys from the plain of York, the gradient was easy. Dalton Beck, Norbeck and then the Greta gave access to the summit itself. Beyond the summit was a different matter, with much harsher gradients and a lot of tunnelling and engineering, both for the route planned in 1845 but not built, and for that which opened in 1861.

The opportunity to get to



Stainmore by an easier and cheaper route than was finally built in 1861 was lost when the bubble of the "Railway Mania" burst in the late 1840s.

Would Barningham have had a station if the 1845 line had been built? Looking at other Teesdale lines suggests that there would have been at least a halt between here and Dalton, perhaps a proper station by Low Lane.

Access to the trains would have stimulated house-building, so it seems very likely that the village would have changed a good deal.

For better, or worse? It's fascinating to imagine what might have happened: rows of railway workers' cottages, small industries served by the railway, traffic (goods and

passenger) from the Milbanks' estate, commuters, an influx of tourists, more industry, more houses and later much more road traffic.

The line might well have become the area's main east-west route to Tebay instead of the one later built through Barnard Castle. That would have meant frequent trains, a double track line, sidings and junctions, more development, a village perhaps the size of Staindrop, or bigger.

And then the Beeching axe would have fallen in the 1960s, leaving us with a disused railway, lost jobs, unwanted homes, and a village that would never be the peaceful out-of-the-way place we know today. Be grateful the railway bubble burst just in time.

begun the boring operations, which will be carried out by Mr Thos. Million of Low Lands, Butterknowle, a practical man.

"If these borings are successful, and coal be worked, the inhabitants will have a great boon conferred upon them, and for their material gain will put up with the unsightly pit heap in their beautiful landscape. Railway facilities will not be wanting, as the Forcett Railway runs to within a comparatively short distance of the place."

Pit heaps in Barningham? The mind boggles.

And what if they'd found coal beneath us?

IT could have happened. In 1897 the *Teesdale Mercury* reported that coal had been found below Newsham, though not of high quality, but there were high hopes of a mine at Barningham.

"Large beds of coal and other minerals are believed to lie under the Barningham estate of Mr Godolphin Milbank, extending some three or four miles from Smallways moorwards," it said. "This land adjoins Sir Frederick Milbank's Barningham Park estate. Messrs Bancross and Kendrick, civil engineers of Manchester, have

End of the trail: Lees, Walkers & Heslops

1841 census trail

The last in our series tracing the 1841 census collector through Barningham

ALMOST at the end of the list of families listed by the 1841 census returns officer were the **Lees**.

The Lees were a long-established Barningham family, with people of that name featuring in parish burials from the early 1700s.

Head of the family in 1841 was Thomas Lee, a farmer in his fifties. He had been renting land in the village since at least 1817, when he was recorded as the tenant of 27 acres belonging to Matthew Hardy.

He's referred to in this list as Thomas Lee junior; his father, also called Thomas, was still alive and farming in the village (Baines' *Directory* of 1823 lists a Thomas Lee – presumably the father – as a leading local farmer: he died in 1836).

In 1828 Thomas junior was renting the now-vanished 20-acre Cow Close farm from the Milbanks. He also shared the tenancy of a house, also long gone, which stood just to the east of the entrance to Hill Top in the village. His co-tenant was Cornelius **Scrafton**. Whether both lived there with their families is unknown, but it would have been a tight fit and it seems more likely that the Lees occupied the Cow Close farmhouse; perhaps the village house was home to his ageing parents?

Thomas had married a Kirby Hill girl, Ann Macdonald, in 1814 and by 1841 she had borne him at least eleven children (there were three more born to an Ann Lee during this period but the father is unidentified so they may have not have been Thomas's).

Of the eleven we're certain about, all but one appear to have survived, and in 1841 four were still living at home:

Jane, 13, Richard, 11, Hannah, 8, and five-year-old Emma. By 1851 Thomas and Ann had moved into Moorcock Lodge further along the track to Hope. Emma was still at home, and her brother Thomas, 31 and unmarried, had returned to help with the farming. There was also a grandson of Thomas and Ann, an 11-year-old boy called Thomas Hodson Lee (the plethora of Thomases in the family makes unravelling their relationships very difficult) whose parentage is uncertain.

Twenty years later Thomas and Ann were still in the area, living with an unmarried daughter called Mary. She died in 1874; Ann followed her to the grave in 1878; Thomas moved in with a grandson, William **Britton**, and lived on until 1884, when he died at the ripe old age of 96.

By that time he had plenty of descendants scattered around the area, including sons Thomas (who emigrated to Nebraska: see *Archive 16*) and William (who ran the Black Horse pub: see *Archive 11*), and a grandson Richard who became the village postman (see *Archives 2, 3 & 8*) and raised a family at North View. Among his children was Denis, Barn-ingham church warden, who lived at Church View until his death a few years ago.

Back to 1841: next on the census list was farmer George **Walker** and his wife Mary, both in their sixties. They rented Manor House Farm from Mrs Jane Gibson and 30 acres of land north and south of Low Lane from a variety of owners.

Two farm servants lived with them, 36-year-old Richard **Chapman** and 15-year-old Andrew **Bowman**.

We know little about the Walkers, and by 1851 they had gone.

Last but one on the 1841 list was Elizabeth **Stephenson** (sometimes spelt Stevenson), a 30-year-old widow trying to bring up three young daughters on what she could earn as a farm labourer.

Elizabeth had been born in Barningham, daughter of Thomas and Sarah **Clarkson**, and moved to Staindrop after her marriage. She had three children in five years, the last born after her recent return to the village following the death of her husband (we haven't been able to identify him, or discover how he died).

The youngest girl died in 1846 at the age of seven; the other two survived and in 1851 were living with their mother, then recorded as a pauper. But there were better times ahead: the year after she married farm labourer Anthony **Webster** and in 1854 they had a son, John. All left within a few years.

Last on the 1841 list is 60-year-old Mary **Heslop**, presumably a widow, farming Sanders House. With her is her 11-year-old son William and farm servants Richard **Hast-well**, Ann **Lee** and William **Hooker**. The Heslops and Hastwells (or Haswells) were related, and Richard appears to have taken over Sanders House not long after.

● *That brings us to the end of the 1841 census list. We've researched all 323 inhabitants since the series started in Archive 3 and hope you've found it interesting. We may gather them all together in booklet form later this year.*

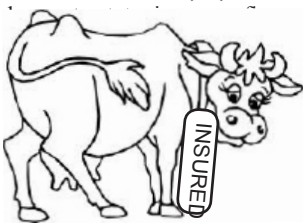
cow clubs

(S), W. Wilkinson (H) and Martin Wilson (N). Of these members, six were unable to sign their names.

Mr Thomas Temple of Newsham, grandson of William Temple, retired recently (*this was written in the 1970s – Ed.*) after 29 years with the Milk Marketing Board; an interest in cows and milk seems to run in the family!

During the nineteenth century the rectors of Barningham played an essential part as secretary/treasurers in running the club.

In 1885 the Rev. George Hales, the then Rector of Barningham, contributed a short article on the Barningham Cow Club to the *Teesdale Mercury* and the following is an extract from it: "The Barningham Cow Club, which was established by the late Rector of Barningham, the Rev William F. Wharton, and others in 1850, is, we are



Update on our postmen list

ARCHIVE 2 featured Barningham's postmen down the years, but had some gaps in the early 1900s.

We can now fill in more names of people who delivered our post: **Christopher Carter**, postman in late Victorian days; his successor, **Francis William Little** from Abbey Bridge, postman "for many years" before retiring around 1912, according to his 1917 funeral report in the *Teesdale Mercury*; and his successor, **William Blenkinsopp**, who lived in Barnard Castle and died in December 1918, aged 47, a month after his soldier son William was reported wounded in France: the father was, said the *Mercury*, "sorely grieved" by lack of further news. The boy had in fact died, but the family wasn't told till long after his father's death.

ishing condition, having a large balance in the bank, a goodly number of insured members, three honorary members in Barningham and Rokeby, who subscribe annually two pounds apiece to the society.

"In the last seven years, ending May 1884, honorary subscribers paid £46/11s; members £61/1s; while the society paid £67/6s/8d upon losses. These figures show how beneficial the club is and how wise it is to act upon the world's experience and provide against possible losses, by membership with such societies as this.

"Many of us can remember when briefs, so called, were the means employed to help those in trouble, and while often they were great helps to many deserving people, yet they were frequently most grossly abused, and simply encouraged fraud, idleness and immorality.

"Independence and self reliance should be every man's aim, and no man should trust to another for what he can do himself."

● A 'brief' was a Royal Warrant authorising a collection in places of worship, and sometimes from house to house, for a specified charitable object such as the relief of the poor.

old hints & recipes

An Elizabethan recipe (translation below)

Yrchouns

TAKE Piggis mawys, & skalde hem wel: take groundyn Porke, & knede it with Spicerye, with powder Gyngere, & Salt & Sugre; do it on the mawe, but fille it nowte to fulle. Then sewe hem with a fayre threde, & putte hem in a Spete as men don piggys.

Take blaunchid Almaundys, & kerf hem long, smal, & scharpe, & frye hem in grece & sugre; Take a litel prycke, & prycke the yrchouns, An putte in the holes the Almaundy, every hole half, & eche fro other.

Ley hem then to the fyre; when they ben rostid, dore hem sum whyth Whete Flowre, & mylke of Almaundys, sum grene, sum blake with Blode, & lat hem nowt brone to moche, & set forth. Serves 6-8.

Hedgehogs

Ingredients: 2 lb (4 cups) minced (ground) pork; 2 tbs breadcrumbs; 1/2 tsp ginger; 1/2 tsp mace; 2 tsp salt; 1/4 tsp pepper; 2 tbs sugar; 1/2 oz (1 tbs) softened butter; 2 egg yolks; 2 oz (4 tbs) butter; 4 tbs vegetable stock or water; 2 oz slivered almonds; vegetable colouring.

Method: Mix pork, breadcrumbs, spices, seasonings and softened butter. Bind with the beaten egg yolks and form a ball. Place in a buttered pan. Cook, covered, for 1 hour, basting at intervals with the rest of the butter melted in the vegetable stock or water.

Stick the slivered almonds, dyed with the vegetable colouring, all over the pudding, so that they look like the quills of a hedgehog or a sea urchin.

Bride's surprise link to g-g-g-g-grandma

WHAT a brilliant local history website you have!

Margaret Cockfield, one of my great-great-great-grandmothers, was baptised at St Michael's, Barningham, in April 1821. I think her parents were Philip Cockfield (1778-1839) and Dorothy Storrale, who were married at St Edmunds, Marske, in 1804 and came to Barningham around 1812.

Margaret married Henry Wardle, whose son John was born in Redworth in 1846. John married Sarah Chamberlain, whose son Robert Henry Wardle was born in Bishop Auckland in 1876 and married Betsy Cubitt in Middlesbrough in 1897.

One of their daughters, Alice, was my paternal grandmother: she married my paternal grandfather Samuel Thompson in 1921.

By coincidence one of my daughters, Veronica Thompson, was married to Robin Warilow in Barningham in 2007 by the Rev Christopher Cowper. So, unknowingly, I walked her to her wedding past the font

letters & emails

where one of her great-great-great-great-grandmothers had been baptised in 1821!

It is thrilling to know that, then unawares, I posed for photos with my daughter not far from where Dorothy was buried in 1852.

JOHN THOMPSON
Norfolk

jsthompson2001@hotmail.com

● We emailed John back, saying our records showed Margaret as one of four children born here to Phillip and Dorothy Cockfield between 1813 and 1824. We have Margaret's sister Alice's marriage to George Walker in 1840 recorded too, plus three Cockfield burials including Dorothy's in 1852.

The only Cockfield to appear in our 1841 census records is Elizabeth Cockfield who had an eight-year-old boy called Theophilus with her: he was the illegitimate son of her sister Jane. She had another sister Anne who had married

a Coates. Whether they were related to John's Cockfields we're not sure. The Storror/Storrah/Storrale surname has changed a fair bit over the years, but there are still Storrows living in Newsham today.

John responded:

THE Coates-Cockfield correspondence in your *Archives* does suggest the probability of family ties.

The name Theophilus that you mention recalls the fact that Margaret's younger grandson (born Bishop Auckland c1879) was also a Theophilus, my great-grandfather Robert Henry Wardle's younger brother, in fact. Robert Henry was, of course, the elder grandson of Margaret Cockfield.

Though County Durham born, I have lived in Norfolk since 1992. Great-grandfather Robert Henry Wardle married Betsy Cubitt (1873-1951) in Middlesbrough in 1897. She used to take my dad to Boro football matches.

I discovered my Norfolk roots only two years back: Betsy Cubitt, though born in Robin Hood's Bay, was really a "good old Norfolk gal" as both her parents lived almost within walking distance from where I now live – but I made this surprising discovery just three years ago! They were farming and fisher folk, probably not unlike Phillip and Dorothy Cockfield.

What a dynamic treasure you have developed in Barningham. Little wonder that your exemplary efforts will soon be so justly recognised at national level as the most outstanding LHS in the country.

JOHN THOMPSON

History of DLI 2nd Battalion

WE have recently published *The History of the 2nd Battalion DLI Infantry 1919-1955* by Harry Moses. It includes 50 photos, several maps and a foreword by General Sir Peter de la Billiere.

The book has been well received and we would be grateful if you could draw the book to the attention of your members.

We have several military and history titles and I attach a list for your interest.

LYNN DAVIDSON

Managing Director, The Memoir Club, Langley Park

● The book costs £14.95 plus £3 p&p and is available from *The Memoir Club, The Courtyard, Arya House, Langley Park, Durham DH7 9XE* (telephone 0191 373 5660, email *memoirclub@email.msn.com*). Visit *www.memoirclub.co.uk* to see the list of their many other titles.

New partnership offers history training

THE North-East Heritage Partnership is a new scheme based in Durham University to help provide training to local groups and individuals interested in finding out more about the history and archaeology of their local area.

Over the summer and autumn we will run a series of workshops and master classes on basic research skills including recording historic buildings, archaeological techniques and the use of archives. We will also help local groups make further bids for funding to support their work. To launch this exciting new project we would like to invite your group to come to our first meeting on Saturday April 28th, 9.30-1pm at the Joachim Room, College of St Hild and

St Bede, Durham University. This will give us a chance to explain the aims of the project, give you a chance to let us know what help you would like, see what resources are available at Durham, and to hear about a new funding scheme from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

There is no charge, but numbers are limited so please let us know if you plan to come. For further details or to book a place, please contact me.

Dr DAVID PETTS
d.a.petts@durham.ac.uk

● *It's short notice, but if enough history group members are interested in going to this we may organise transport. -Ed.*

Is there a local link to Sir Piers de Bermingham?

I AM working on the history of Sir Vincent de Barningham and the Waterhouse family and wondered, can you clarify how the village got its name?

Was it purely a 'berne' [barn/granary] in the the 'ham' [village]? Or did the place derive from the Bermingham family? or some other source?

FIONA MITFORD
Northumberland
mitford@btinternet.com

● *We emailed Fiona, who specialises in family history research, referring her to Merryne Watson's history of Barningham, which suggests the name means 'the place of the people of the bear'. The book also mentions the Vincent family living in the village from the 12th to the 16th centuries. Fiona replied: ALLEGEDLY a Sir Vincent de Barningham, son of Sir Piers de Bermingham (c1080-c1140) settled in Barningham about 1160.*

The name devolved, as oft the case, into Sir William Fitz

letters & emails

Vyncent (the Barningham being dropped) from which surname the line continued, (and actually leads to a TV celebrity, for whom I am currently working).

What I have managed to piece together from various sources (I'm not convinced, but it's all out there! - hence my original question) follows:

1 William de Bermingham (c1060-), of Birmingham, Warwickshire.

1.1 Sir Piers de Bermingham (c1090-c1140), born Wales; Lord of Birmingham.

1.1.1 Robert Bermingham (c1124->1218), Knight of Birmingham; 1st Lord of Offley; married c1155, Katherine de Valoines (20 Nov 1126-1175), born Windsor Castle, daughter of Hamo de Valognes from whom the Lords of Athenry and Thetmoy, Ireland, descend.

1.1.2 Sir Vyncent de Bermingham (1125-) allegedly died Bermingham, Yorks, Knight,

married c1165, and had:

1.1.2.1 Sir Vyncent de Bermingham (1167-), born Yorkshire; Knight; Lord of Bermingham, Richmondshire, married c1188, and had:

1.1.2.1.1 Stephen de Bermingham (1190-), gave the advowson of Bermingham Church to Guisbrough.

1.1.2.1.2 Sir William fitz Vyncent (1194-1270), born Bermingham, Yorkshire; Knight; married c1219 and had:

1.1.2.1.2.1 William Vyncent (1221-), died Bermingham, Yorkshire; married c1245 and had:

1.1.2.1.2.1.1 Peter Vyncent (1248-), born and died Barningham, Yorkshire, married c1273 at Barningham.

1.1.2.1.2.1.2 John Vyncent (1250-) born and died Barningham, 2nd son.

1.1.2.1.2.1.1.1 William Vyncent (c1275-), born and died Barningham; married c1310, and had:

1.1.2.1.2.1.1.1.1 William Vyncent (c1320-) born and died Barningham; married c1343, and had:

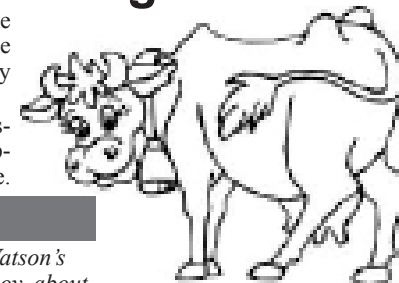
The rise and fall of the village cow club

I HAVE been able to examine documents relating to the Barningham Cow Club, which included in its orbit the townships of Dalton, Hope, Scargill, Brignall, Rokeby and Newsham.

Mr Jack Milbank of Gayles was its secretary/treasurer from 1935 until it closed in 1956, with the exception of the war years when he was on active service. I understand that there was a similar type of Club embracing Ravensworth, Gayles and Whashton and also a Pig Club for the same area, but I have not as yet been able to trace any documents concerning them.

cow clubs

From Merryne Watson's book A Farmer's Boy, about farmer Isaac Coates' life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days



The Barningham Cow Club was established in 1850, largely by the endeavours of the Rector of Barningham, the Rev William F. Wharton.

Its purpose was simply to insure the cows - not more than two, though towards the closing years three were permitted - of the smallholder members against sickness and death.

Every cow offered for insurance was examined as to her worth at calving time, the insurer paying a fixed rate in the pound on two-thirds of her value, which in the case of death he received within twelve days.

The payment of veterinary bills was liberally assisted when due care of the cow had been taken. The rate per pound varied; in 1851 it was fixed at 9d (about 3 1/2p) in the pound, while in the final years of the club it had fallen to 4d (1 1/2p) in the pound. The committee of the club originally consisted of a president, a secretary/treasurer and ten members who were elected in the following manner: two by the insured members in each of the several townships of Barn-

ingham, Newsham and Dalton; two by the insured members of Scargill and Hope conjointly. Of each pair of members so elected, one was an honorary member or a farmer holding not less than 100 acres (40 1/2 hectares).

As the membership declined, it became impossible to adhere to this form of distribution which ensured a balance between the various townships. The honorary members, for the most part local landlords, paid an annual subscription up to £2.

The value of each cow offered for insurance was assessed by the club committee or competent judges appointed by it. For example, in 1885 Isaac Coates, then living in Barningham having retired from Long Green, acted as valuer for Barningham.

There was a provision in the rules for a contingency in which the club possessed insufficient funds to meet its commitments. In such a case the treasurer was empowered to call a meeting for the purpose of receiving from each member his or her proportion towards making up the deficiencies.

Fortunately this situation seldom if ever arose. Indeed there were occasions when the membership was high and it was pos-

sible to declare a small bonus for each member and announce a moratorium for a year on the payment of subscriptions by honorary members. The success of the club depended on a large number of insured members and relatively low valuation of their cows.

After the second world war the number of smallholders with one or two cows fell markedly, while the value of cows tended to increase. In such circumstances it became financially impossible to cover the necessary insurance premiums.

The club held its closure meeting on May 12 1956, and divided the small balance among the five remaining insured members.

The names of the foundation insured members may be of interest, although there were none from Dalton until 1852 when seven members joined: Messrs M. Bainbridge (Barn-ingham), William Brown (Newsham), John Clarkson (B), Adam Fawcett (Scargill), Ralph Groundrey (B), Ralph and William Hind (N), Mrs Jane Miller (S), George Nicholson (B), John Robinson (B), Thomas Sayer (N), George Scrafton (B), George Spencely (S), John Summerbell (N), William Temple (N), John Weatherell

tom taylor, hero

They are eager to trace personal details and documents, and would welcome any help.

It is also now known that the sergeant displayed heroics when fire broke out in thatched cottages in Bridgegate, Barnard Castle. He climbed onto a roof and pulled up buckets of water to throw on the flames.

The other side of his nature was shown when he was chosen as a loader for a visit by the Prince of Wales and various lords to High Force moors.

He was described as being too free and easy, omitting all titles when speaking to the distinguished visitors, and was discharged on the first day.

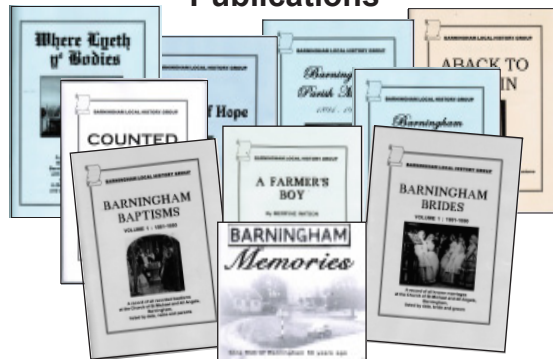
During an angling match he fell out with a much bigger man who caused trouble, a bullying prize pugilist known as Fighting Billy, and gave him a thrashing, much to the delight of spectators.

Sir Frederick died in 1898, aged 78, and Tom died a few weeks later, aged 85. Floral tributes at the old soldier's funeral included one from Sir Fred-erick's widow to "her faithful old friend".

Others from the Milbank family also called him a dear friend. A tombstone erected by his former comrades and townsfolk "in recognition of his many good qualities" is in Barnard Castle cemetery. It states: "He was of a generous disposition and at the risk of his own saved many lives, and was presented with the medal of the Royal Humane Society."

● *This story first appeared in The Northern Echo. We are grateful to the paper for permission to reprint it and use the photographs.*

Barningham Local History Group Publications



Where Lyeth Ye Bodies

A guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorial details and list of every known burial. £10 + £1 p&p

Barningham Baptisms

All recorded baptisms, listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950. £10 + £1 p&p.

Barningham Brides

All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride. £10 + £1 p&p.

Counted

An A-Z of census returns 1841-1911, arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years.

Volume 1: Barningham, Scargill and Hope; Volume 2: Newsham and New Forest. Volume 3: Brignall & Rokeby. £10 each + £1 p&p

A Child of Hope

The 1895 diary of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. £5 + £1 p&p

Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894

Barningham Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and lists of named parishioners. £5 each + £1p&p

Aback to Yuvvin

1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs. £5 + £1 p&p

A Farmer's Boy

Life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days. £10 + £1 p&p

The Archive: Group newsletter. Back issues £2 + £1p&p

Barningham Memories: DVD of cine film of Barningham in the 1960/70s. £8 + £1 p&p

In preparation: The Diary of Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85.

>>> 20-25% discounts for history group members <<<

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

letters & emails

1.1.2.1.2.1.1.1.1.1 William Vyncent (1346-) born and died Barningham; married [2] c1371 in Norton, Derbyshire, Isabella Percival (c1349-), daughter of Robert Perceval; she was the widow of Christopher Mallory of Norton.

1.1.2.1.2.1.1.1.1.1 Sir William Vyncent (c1373-1444), born and died Barningham; Gent; married [1] c.1398 Alicia (c1375-), born Barningham; he married [2] c1407 Margaret Clervaux (c1385-) of Croft.

With Alicia he had several issue, including the John Vyncent (1405-1461) who was receiver/ land agent to Richard, Duke of York (father of Edward IV) for his Yorkshire

property and was killed, along with the duke, at the Battle of Wakefield.

● *Fiona also gave lengthy details of later Vyncents living elsewhere in the UK and their connection with the Waterhouse family from 1573.*

We replied saying we thought the Birmingham link to Barningham was very dubious, not least because the village was called Barningham in the Domesday Book of 1088 – long before Sir Vyncent de Bermingham came on the scene.

Fiona replied:

MUCH as I thought, that some

clever *** had made some tenuous connection with the Berm-inghams.

I will let you know if I find anything solid, but I'm sure you are aware, unless some decent source comes to hand, anything pre-1250-ish is always very suspect!

I have traced back the Vyncents from current times (I can't give away too much at the moment, sorry), but have clear and accurate descent back to, certainly, William Vyncent (c1373-1444), John's father.

● *Are we going to see some of this on TV in a future 'Who Do You Think You Are?' programme? Fiona isn't telling,*

Herbert said he was a butler, but was it true?

I AM doing some research into my wife's family tree and was wondering if your society can help.

My wife's grandfather was called Herbert Eustace Coates and he is a bit of an enigma. On his marriage certificate to his wife Eva Hemsworth at Barwick-in-Elmet, near Leeds, on April 17 1922 it states he was a butler living in Barningham; his father was James Hughes, a farmer.

We know he was an illegitimate child and because it was a big scandal in those days it

was kept quiet. He may have lived under the surname of his mother Grace Coates. He was born in Swinton, near Malton.

He was a bit of a character, was old Herbert Eustace. We have now seen his military record when he was enlisted into the army (Yorkshire Regiment) aged 17 in 1917, where it states he was a pageboy; perhaps he embellished his occupation and promoted himself to butler on his wedding certificate in 1922.

We wondered if he meant the Barningham in Suffolk but he always told my wife when she

was a little girl that he was a butler in North Yorkshire; once he told her he worked in Stone, Staffordshire. I suppose if he could not get his story right to my wife he may have worked in Suffolk! My feeling is that he may have been ashamed of his illegitimacy and told stories to defend himself.

Where could he have been a butler in Barningham? Are there any records? Could Eva Hemsworth have been a house servant at the same place as Herbert? Was James Hughes a farmer in the area? In 1922 both Herbert and Eva were 22: is it unusual for a person to be a butler at the age of 22?

Any help would be very much appreciated.

TONY CLOUGH
antony.clough@btinternet.com

● *We can't find any mention of Herbert, Eva or Grace in our records, and he certainly wasn't butler at Barningham Park (see Archive 12). Can anybody throw any light on this? – Ed.*

Cole family plans a reunion

WE plan a Cole family reunion on Saturday June 30th from 10.30 am at Smallways Inn, Newsham. It's a get-together for people related to the Coles who lived in the Newsham area from the late 1880s. There are links to Watson, Dent, Elgey, Butler, Peacock, Beadle, Carter and many more.

There will be computers and printers available to download and scan information and photographs from those who have already begun their family trees plus the opportunity for everyone to share their memories and artefacts with everyone. Anyone interested in coming along to the reunion please contact me.

BARBARA MATLEY (nee Cole) Tel 01244 531394,
07595 900155 or email barbm11@btinternet.com

Can you help us to sort out the Bowes papers?

AS part of the Bowes Museum National Archive Cataloguing Scheme award, I would like to recruit volunteers to help with transcribing the letters and bills written in English that form part of the John and Joséphine Bowes papers.

I will use the transcripts to create entries for the archive catalogue (due to go online this year) and the transcripts will then be kept as an additional finding aid to the documents.

I am running introductory sessions on transcribing (in the Reading Room) on Monday 30 April 2-3pm, Friday 4 May 10.30-11.30am and Wednesday 16 May 2-3pm.

The sessions are repeats, so you only need to come to one. If you are interested please let me know which session you would like to come to; if you can't come on any of these dates, please get in touch and I'll arrange another session (or more if necessary).

The sessions will give you tips on how to approach reading old handwriting, with plenty of examples, and guidance on transcribing. There will also be a chance to try

● *Judith can be contacted by telephone on 01833 690606 ext 208, or by email at judith.phillips@thebowesmuseum.org.uk. The museum website is www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk.*

We want transcribers, too

HISTORY group member June Graham of Newsham has been sorting out historical documents collected by her late husband Michael.

Among them are the Newsham Valuation Lists for 1893 and 1910, and a copy of the deed of 1837 in which John Todd set up a fund to educate eight poor girls in Barningham. We hope to transcribe these and publish details in the *Archive*. Any volunteers to go through them? Contact Jon.

letters & emails

reading some of John Bowes' letters (with help from me).

Reading 19th century handwriting can be a challenge, but you'll be surprised what you can do with some training and practice.

There are thousands of documents to get through, but they give us a fantastic range of information on all aspects of John and Joséphine's lives, and this work will hugely increase the potential for future use of the archives.

It's very satisfying when you've finally made sense of what can initially look like an inky scrawl. And it can be great fun, too – honestly!

You can do transcribing in the museum Reading Room at any time when it is open to the public or you can arrange to come in at other times when I can be available.

If you know someone who is interested, just ask them to get in touch with me.

Thanks.

JUDITH PHILLIPS
Cataloguing Archivist
Bowes Museum

from the parish mag

105 YEARS AGO: On raising the Verger's wages from £10 to £13, the Rector spoke of the admirable manner in which James Alderson, assisted by Mrs and Miss Alderson, performed their duties. He did not think it could be possible to find a better kept Church in the Kingdom; dust and dirt of any description were utterly unknown, the fires were attended to, the lamps always trimmed and in order, and work connected with funerals was always well and sympathetically done. – *May 1907*

80 YEARS AGO: Susan Louise Brown has been called to her rest at the age of 78. Though in failing health, she worked incessantly for the happiness of the household that she so deeply loved. We all loved Granny Brown. May God grant her soul refreshment and light. – *May 1932*

50 YEARS AGO: It must be a very, very long time ago that we have had an Ordination candidate from this parish, so I know that you will send your prayers and good wishes for Michael Bayley, who hopes to be ordained by the Bishop of Ripon on Trinity Sunday. His enthusiasm for strange causes which we might otherwise have overlooked has been good for us. – *May 1962*

15 YEARS AGO: Once again may I make a plea that our churchyards are given the respect and care which befits them. It is very sad and extremely distressing to those who tend the graves to find the churchyard is used as a children's playground, a 'convenience' for smelly dog excrement, and as a dumping ground for ugly litter. – *May 1997*

Sergeant who saved Sir Frederick's life

BACK in 1873, Tom Taylor was given a £30 gold watch and £20 cash by the people of Barnard Castle for pulling a succession of drowning swimmers from deep water when he was a sergeant in the Durham Fusilier Militia.

And another remarkable fact about Tom has now come to light. He once saved the life of Sir Frederick Milbank of Barningham, for whom he acted as a loader on grouse moors.

Tom's great-great-grandson, Michael Taylor, who still lives in the town, has been trying to find out as much as possible about the brave man and says a tale handed down in the family was that he averted the death of Sir Frederick, a wealthy baronet and Liberal MP, but nobody knew if this was true.

The present holder of the title, Sir Anthony Milbank, told me he had heard of the incident but knew no details. However, his son Eddie kindly searched through old papers at the family home, Barningham Park, and found a first-hand account of the life-saving, which happened on the Isle of Arran.

Sir Frederick included it in a speech he made at his golden wedding in 1894, which Tom attended. The aristocrat told the



Hardy's painting of Sir Frederick and Tom Taylor

By JIM McTAGGART

gathering: "There is a man now present who positively saved my life.

"I was at the point of death at the time in a lonely place in the Highlands of Scotland with 'inflammation' of the lungs.

"Nothing could be done, but I submitted to be bled by a gentleman who had never bled a man in his life, and that is Mr Taylor."

Tom, who had received medical training in the Army, was

later to have done the surgical procedure perfectly. The hero sometimes got into bother for drinking or poaching, and it is said that when he landed in court once the baronet spoke up for him and got him off. The pair were depicted together on a grouse moor in an oil painting by Heywood Hardy, a noted artist of sporting scenes.

It is still on show among other fine paintings at Barningham Park. Tom's descendants had no knowledge of this work of art until now. It means that for the first time they know what he looked like.

"It is fascinating to see his face at last," said Michael Taylor. "We feel we can relate to real person now." He has a brother Cyril, and a sister, Rhona Thompson, who live in Barnard Castle, and another brother, Keith, whose home is in Staindrop.

They are keen to learn more about their great-great granddad, and would love to hear from anyone who knows where his inscribed gold watch is."



Michael and Cyril Taylor beside Tom's gravestone

Round the back and back-to-backed

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

1 & 2 CHURCH VIEW

UNLIKE most adjoining cottages, 1 and 2 Church View stand back-to-back, divided along their length rather than width.

It looks as if the building, tucked behind the Milbank Arms, was originally smaller, perhaps four dwellings, that were later heightened, enlarged and re-divided into the present-day arrangement – see the old roof lines in the picture below.

Despite their name, neither cottage has much of a view of the church, though it can be seen through the graveyard trees from the northern side of each house.

1 Church View faces west, tucked in behind the Milbank Arms with vehicle access



Old roof levels clearly visible on the southern wall of the cottages

neil's notes

I got tanned for smoking them out

YOU could climb up to the roof of Church View and as kids we used to get up there and put slates on top of the chimney. The smoke piled up and filled the house. I had my bum tanned many times for doing that.

I remember Tommy Welsh from around that time, a well-educated Irish officer who'd taken to drink and used to sleep rough in the lime kilns round the world. He was nicknamed 'Dyker', and taught us deaf and dumb language.



house histories



1 Church View

from the track at the back, and among its architectural curiosities are rungs running up inside the very wide main chimney. The original roof slates were held on by pegs made of bone.

The 1838 tithe map records show that the cottages were owned by the Milbanks and occupied by blacksmith Ralph Goundry and Mrs Betsy Swire, widow of a Barningham rector.

After that the occupants of No 1 are unknown until the late 1930s, when Neil recalls Edgar and May Lee living there. Later came the Forrest family, the Teesdales, and in

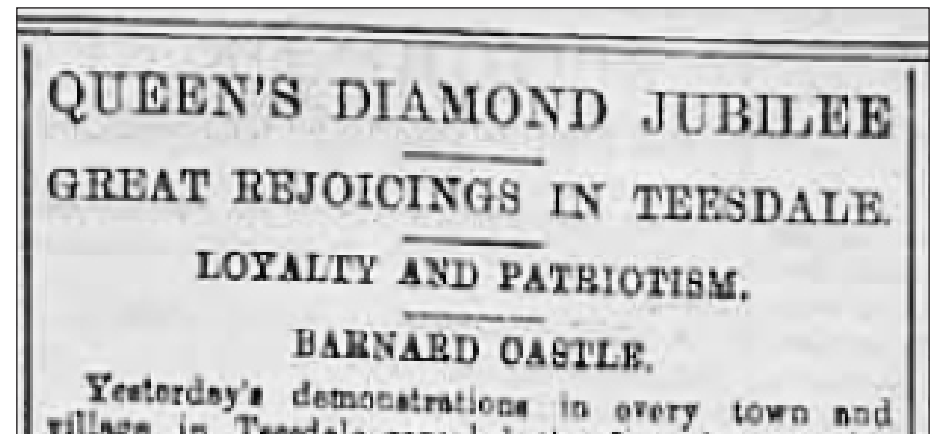
the 1960s Les and Janet Ridley who later moved to The Laurels. It's now home to Bill and Roma Dinsdale.

2 Church View faces east. Neil says that when his father Sam moved to Barningham from Wales at the end of the first world war he lodged there. The tenant was a Miss Leonard, "owner of 100 cats".

From the 1930s it was home to the Bulmer family, Barningham Park under-gardener Tot and his wife Ethel, who also worked at the hall. They later moved to Elim Cottage, and Ethel remained in the village after her husband's death until she died in 1989, aged 96. She's buried in the village churchyard beside their daughter Vera (married name Bagley), who had died 13 years earlier. In the 1950s the Lee family from No 1 moved into No 2 with their son Denis, who remained there, unmarried, until his death in 2003. The current occupiers are under-keeper Matt Pollard and Vicki Barrett.



2 Church View



Celebrating the Jubilee, 115 years ago

NEWSHAM planted a tree, Scargill held a picnic, Rokeby marked the occasion with sports and a dance. All over Teesdale people celebrated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in June 1897, and the *Teesdale Mercury* was packed with reports of everything that went on.

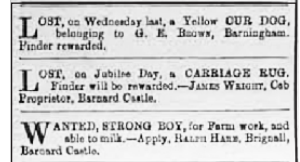
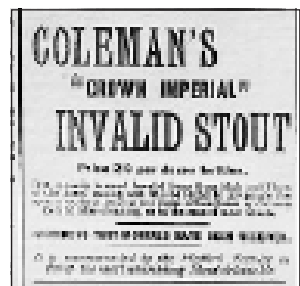
Well, almost everything. For no reason we can discern, there wasn't a word about any celebrations in Barningham in the *Mercury* or, for that matter, the *Northern Echo* or the *Darl-ington & Stockton Times* – we've scoured every page in all three papers for the whole of the Jubilee period in vain.

Barningham certainly knew there was something to celebrate. On May 26 the *Mercury* referred to an earlier report (which we can't find either) about plans to mark the Jubilee "by which water will be brought by a succession of tanks down the village", plans which later came before Startforth Rural District Council but as far as we can see were not implemented that year.

The *Mercury* also talked about a Church Jubilee Fund to provide a new organ for the church. This fund was still go-



Ads from The Teesdale Mercury, June 1897



jubilee 1897

ing in May 1899, when £215 had been raised and the organ ordered: it was installed the following summer.

The D&ST also mentioned the water supply plan and added that “preparations are in progress for holding a field day” to celebrate the Jubilee.

In mid-June 1897, just before the Jubilee, Greta Bridge Police Court held a special meeting to grant applications for pubs in Ovington, Greta Bridge, Hutton, Startforth, Romaldkirk and Barningham to stay open until midnight on the big day for celebratory sports and dances.

But that’s it: no report of any Barningham festivities on June 21 – the official Jubilee Day – or at any time later.

Was the Barningham correspondent an over-enthusiastic imbibor at a Milbank Arms late-night session and failed to send in his report? Was it lost in transit? Did the *Mercury* simply forget to put it in? Or were the events just too dull to mention?

This seems the most likely answer. Eddie Milbank has looked through his ancestors’ 1897 scrapbooks, held at the hall, and says there’s no reference to anything in Barningham – but there’s plenty about the Milbanks celebrating at what was then their main home at Thorpe Perrow near Bedale.

No Milbanks in Barningham on the big day, and perhaps the rector was away on holiday (he often was). Maybe there just wasn’t anybody around to organise anything worth reporting.

● *The Milbanks (and the Rector) were around in time for Newsham’s celebrations in August – see next column.*

A big day for the Queen – and for old Granny Turner

CATE COLLINGWOOD is transcribing Newsham’s early parish minutes. Here are a couple of entries from 1897.

Parish Meeting

At a meeting of the Electors held in the Mission Room on the 25th of March 1897 Thomas Blenkinsopp was elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Robert Hind Jnr, seconded by William Pattison, that permission be granted to plant a tree on the Village Green to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen. Carried.

Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

Held on Thursday the 26th of August 1897.

Miss M. Milbank planted a tree on the Village Green, a free tea was provided for the deserving poor and the children of the Village.

There was present Prince and Princess Radziwill and Princess Margueretta, Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank, Lady Dale, General and Mrs Herbert, Rev. P. Hales, Rev. E.S. Gough, etc., the committee consisted of the following:- Thomas Blenkinsopp, John Allen, Robert Hind, Robert Hind, Jnr., William Pattison, George Lee, Anthony Coats.

This report was written by Thomas Blenkinsopp, Chairman of the Electors of the Parish of Newsham.

● *The Radziwills were mem-*

bers of the Polish royal family, presumably staying as guests of the Milbanks. – Ed.

THE *Teesdale Mercury* reported on the Newsham event at length, adding more detail: after the free tea the Milbanks distributed sweets and gifts to all the children, Cockfield Brass Band played on the green, and villagers danced the night away in a tent.

“All passed off pleasantly and quietly,” said the paper, “and the presence of shooting galleries and itinerant vendors of nuts and fruit imparted a fair-like atmosphere to the surroundings.”

There were sports, too: “The mirth-provoking incident of the day was an old women’s race, in which a packet of tea was competed for. Granny Turner won in a canter.”

A picnic on Thwaite green

SCARGILL celebrated “right royally” according to the *Mercury*, with a picnic on Thwaite green, where “a tent and several gay flags with portraits of the royal family helped to make a very pretty scene.”

After the tea there were sports and games for the youngsters, all of whom were given a Jubilee mug, and then competitions for adults, with prizes of tobacco for the men and a pound of tea for the

women. The village boys were given a cricket set, Barningham Rector the Rev Spencer Gough turned up and made a speech, everyone gave three hearty cheers for Her Majesty, and the children sang God Save The Queen.

The day ended with a fireworks display before more than 160 people sat down to

Dancing till 1 at Rokeby

ROKEBY decided to hold their annual sports on Jubilee Day.

“The proceedings commenced by a cricket match in Rokeby Park between married and single,” said the *Mercury* rather ungrammatically, “and resulted in victory for the single.”

Everyone then adjourned to a field behind the Morritt Arms, where a large marquee had been erected.

After the sports (“well contested”) came a knife and fork tea, “to which ample justice was done.”

There were nuts, sweets and gifts for the children, “all of whom seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves.”

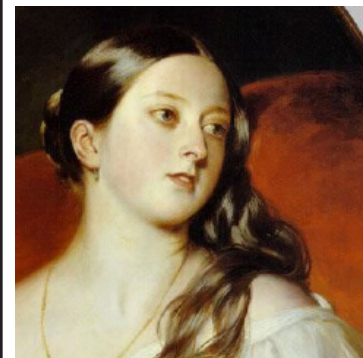
Prizes were handed out by Miss Lamplugh, daughter of the Rokeby vicar, who was rewarded with three cheers from the crowd.

The evening was given over to a dance in the marquee, with music provided by Mr Charles Raine of Barnard Castle: he kept on playing until one in the morning.

Dalton and Gayles?

THE *Mercury* didn’t mention these, but they probably fell outside its circulation area. Let us know if you’ve details of what went on there.

Head to head



Princess Alexandrina
Victoria of Hanover

Born in London on May 24th 1819, daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld

Succeeded her uncle William IV on June 20th 1837

Married her cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha on February 10th 1840

Children: Nine – Victoria, Edward, Alice, Alfred, Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold and Beatrice

Died January 22nd 1901 aged 81

Reign: 63 years 7 months, longest of any British monarch

Heir: Edward VII

Catchphrase: ‘We are not amused’

Survived: Three assassination attempts

Remembered for: 40 years mourning Al-



Princess Elizabeth Alexandra
Mary of Windsor

Born in London on April 21st 1926, daughter of George VI (Prince Albert, Duke of York, second son of George V), and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon

Succeeded her father George VI on February 6th 1952

Married her second cousin once removed Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark on November 20th 1947

Children: Four – Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward

Reign: 60 years 3 months to June 2012, second longest of any British monarch (will beat Victoria’s record in 2016)

Heir: Charles

Catchphrase: ‘My husband and I’

Survived: Children’s marital chaos

Remembered for: Televised coronation, preserving monarchy, end of Empire



SEE HOWSON & REAY'S
GRAND SHOW OF
NEW GOODS FOR THE JUBILEE
TRADEMADE CLOTHING, DRESSER, MICHIEVE, ETC.
AT TEESDALE HOUSE, BARNARD CASTLE.