

## that bike



## June IDs the Panther

THE last *Archive* asked if anyone could tell us more about this bike, parked outside Smallways Inn around 80 years ago.

June Graham was first with the answer: It's a Panther, manufactured by Phelon & Moore of Cleckheaton and first registered in Cumberland on December 3rd 1930 to Smallways landlady Sylvia Cole's eldest son Mark (1910-1963), then living at the Borrowdale Hotel in the Lake District.

## news

## Date set for local history day

THIS year's 'Yesterday Belongs To You' event, organised by the County Durham History and Heritage Forum, is at County Hall on May 18.

Local history groups are invited to run a table at the event, a major attraction for people interested in local history and heritage from all over the region. We're wondering whether to take part and share what we do with others: anyone interested, please contact Jon.

## Photos wanted

NEWSHAM village hall is looking for photographs of the hall in the days when it was just a Nissen hut, before the stone cladding went on.

If you can help, contact Rose Davies on 01833 621300. Photos will be returned after copying.

## Subs please!

IF you're among the handful of people yet to pay their 2013 history group subs, please get round to it soon.

We've sent you this *Archive* anyway, but we can't promise any more without payment.



Ed Milbank, right, with visitors beside the new-look kilns

## Restored lime kilns opened

BARNINGHAM's lime kilns have been officially re-opened after their restoration. Partnership and the local history group.

The kilns, halfway along Low Lane – known as 'round the world' to generations of villagers – have been cleared of vegetation and rebuilt by Ed Milbank with support from the Heart of Teesdale Landscape

A noticeboard inside one kiln explains how they supplied lime for local farmers and builders from about 1800 until the mid-20th century. "We hope this will have ensured the kilns' survival for another two centuries," said Ed.

## Sue Prytherick

IT is with much sorrow that we record the death of history group member Sue Prytherick on December 29th after a long illness borne with inspiring resilience. Her kindness, enthusiasm and cheerfulness will be greatly missed by all of us in Barningham.



## Archive 31

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

ii  
MMXIII

## INSIDE: MILBANK HEIR WHO TRIED TO SHOOT THE RECTOR



*Barningham Post Office, pictured sometime between 1910 (when the pathside kerbs were laid) and 1926 (when the phone box was installed) – notice the mounting steps on the left for horse-riders' use and, of course, the monkey puzzle tree in the garden of The Yews, which grew to be one of the tallest in the region before it was felled in the 1980s.*

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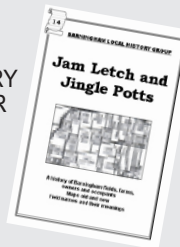
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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY FEB 19th 6pm

## Former pupils unveil the clock plaque



GRETA Carter and Neil Turner were invited to unveil the plaque commemorating the reinstatement of the village hall clock. Many of the donors' names are recorded on the plaque, some in remembrance of loved ones.

Neil said that it was an honour and a privilege to perform the unveiling. Little did Greta and he think when they were at school in the hall over 70 years ago that they would be there today to do such an important task. He thanked the group for all its hard work and exhorted us to "keep the b\*\*\*\*r clean!"

The history group would like to thank Chris Causer for kindly installing the plaque free of charge.

### The Archive

WELCOME to the first *Archive* of 2013.

We started the year wondering how we were going to fill this newsletter, and then suddenly material flooded in.

Out of the blue came a may-pole mystery and murderous assault on the rector in 1787, a tightrope walker who dazzled Barningham villagers in 1869, and a pile of letters full of memories about everything from childhood holidays to ice-cream sellers.

Add the clock plaque unveiling, lime kilns re-opening, pictures of our New Year social and all the usual features, and we had more than enough. Thanks for all the contributions – keep them coming.

JON SMITH, Editor

## An evening of Memories 2

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday December 18, 2012:

**Present:** Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Kay Duggan, Janet Wrigley, Neil Turner, Harry and Cate Collingwood, Ed Simpson, Ann Hutchinson, Phil Hunt, John Hay, Jane Hackworth-Young, Ann Rowley, June Graham, Tony Orton, Greta Carter, Margaret Stead, Mark Watson, Sheila Catton.

**Apologies:** Sue Prytherick, Beverley Peach, Diane Metcalf, Linda Robinson, Janet Pater-son.

**Matters arising:** On agenda.

**Correspondence:** Eastwood, Wappat.

**Finance:** Income Nov/Dec was £433, expenditure £408, giving a surplus of £25 and a

### minutes

balance of £826.

**Publications:** Archives 29 and 30 were now out.

**Buildings:** The lime kilns were nearly finished and there would be an opening ceremony on Monday January 14 at 2pm.

**Cine records:** The new DVD "Memories 2" was now available, £8 for members, £10 (plus postage) for others.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday February 19.

**Any other business:** A decision on the annual get-together would be made later. After the clock plaque unveiling (see Page 20) everyone then enjoyed a preview of the new DVD whilst enjoying refreshments provided by members of the group.

ANN ORTON, Secretary



### The Archive

Barningham Local History Group, Heath House, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU  
Tel: 01833 621374 email: [history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk) website: [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

Copies of The Archive, the BLHG newsletter, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2013).

Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website).

RETURN VISIT of the MODERN MARVEL Co. Ltd. with their Charming Entertainment. Everything Absolutely NEW! The 1899

### CINEMATOGRAPH WITH ALL THE LATEST PICTURES

Amongst which are 4 Identical Films as Exhibited at Balmoral, by Command of  
**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

pertaining to the BRITISH NAVY & ARMY!  
The Latest additions comprise West's Wonderful Cinematographic Sensation  
**THE DREYFUS TRIAL!**

And Pictures of Sir Thomas Lipton's Yacht,  
**THE SHAMROCK**

With a host of other Novelties,  
Also the Latest Developments of that Lovely Discovery,

### COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY,

As Exhibited before  
**H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES**  
at the Crystal Palace, London  
THE CYNICUS CREATIONS, London on a Wet Night, and a Most Exciting and Entertaining Programme.

**Wednesday October 25th  
Barningham School**

*From the Teesdale Mercury,  
October 25 1899*

### BARNINGHAM

A Musical and Dramatic

## ENTERTAINMENT

IN AID OF

The Choir & Sunday School Excursion Funds,  
Will be given in the

**SCHOOL-ROOM, BARNINGHAM**

ON

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22nd,  
1913**

To consist of Songs, Musical Tableaux, etc., an Amusing Dialogue, entitled "A Duet", and the Humorous Sketch, "Feed the Brute".

The following have kindly consented to take part:— The Misses Beal, Mrs Hawthorne, Miss C. Ballott, Mr Roy Helmer, and Mr A. J. S. Woolward.

Reserved Seats, 1/6; Admission 1/-, and 6d.  
Doors open at 7 p.m. — To commence at 7-30.

NOTE.— The Tickets for the Reserved Seats (which will be numbered) must be purchased from Mr Hutchinson, Post Office; or from Miss Gough, the Rectory, before the 22nd.

*From the Teesdale Mercury,  
January 22 1913*

## A 'remarkable' weight for cow

*From the Northampton Mercury of May 24th 1788:*

A remarkable fat Cow, fed by Miss Milbank, of Barningham, and killed by Mr John Lonsdale, Butcher in Barnard-Castle, was sold in that Market on Wednesday the 9th inst.

The two fore Quarters weighed 49st 5lb, the two hind Quarters 48st 8lb, Tallow 10st 5lb and the Hide 8st 4lb, in all 116st 8lb — 14lb to the Stone — What makes this the more remarkable, the Cow was 19 Years old, and had only been fed one Year.

● 116 stone (1,624lb) sounds a lot, but these it's not unusual. The world record for a bovine is 3,636lb. — Ed.

### cuttings

## Clothing Club for the poor

*From the Teesdale Mercury of December 30 1874:*

MRS Hales, of the Rectory, last July commenced a Clothing Club for the benefit of the poor in Barningham, News-ham, Scargill and Hope.

Twenty-one persons became members, and last week the subscribers laid out their savings in warm and useful clothing at the shop of Mr Morrell.

Mr Mark Milbank and Lady Talbot Constable added handsome sums.

**Stories found using the websites  
[www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk](http://www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk) and  
[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)**

## First brother of three to die

*From the York Herald of July 22nd 1899:*

Gibraltar: Gunner Birtwhistle accidentally fell through an embrasure at Europa Point, and fractured his skull, the injury proving fatal.

● This was Mark Birtwhistle, son of Barningham game-keeper Hezekiah Birtwhistle. Mark had two brothers, both of whom also died young far from home: Joseph, who died of fever in 1900 while serving with the Scots Guards in South Africa during the Boer War, and Paul, a sailor, who died in 1907. They had three sisters.



## gayles 1945

room is carried on voluntarily by its members.

You will look in vain for a shop. It has none: but villagers are well served from Dalton.

There is no telephone, and some agitation is afoot for this. There is no electric light, but villagers are confident that soon this also will be rectified.

There is no school, but children are quite happy at Dalton, and mid-day meals are now served there. The village has no church. The mother church is at Kirkby Hill, but there is a place at Dalton.

Houses are not built in large numbers (indeed, only one has been built in the last century), so there is no likelihood of the rapid growth of the place.

It has three streets, but the streets seem to lead nowhere. The village is not on the sunny side of the hill, but with all its drawbacks it is a place of rural beauty. Chrysanthemums and roses are still abloom there. The agricultural surroundings speak of peace and sweet content. A charming place – Gayles.

## LOCAL HISTORY TALK

Dalton & Gayles  
Village Hall

FRIDAY FEB 1st, 7.30pm

Members of Barningham Local History Group will talk about their work, including the story of the railway that was planned to run through the centre of Dalton

Tickets £2.50 include biscuits and tea/coffee from Linda 01833 621307 or Janet 01833 621306  
Licensed bar

## 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 + £1.50 p&p

**Barningham Baptisms**

All recorded baptisms, listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**Barningham Brides**

All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**Counted**

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

Vol 1: Barningham, Scargill, Hope; Vol 2: Newsham, New Forest. Vol 3: Brignall, Rokeby. £10 each + £1.50 p&p

**A Child of Hope**

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

**A Fleeting Shadow**

The Diaries of young Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**A Farmer's Boy**

Memoirs of life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days. £10 + £1.50 p&p

**Aback to Yuvvin**

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

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

**Barningham Memories 1 & 2:** DVDs of cine film of Barningham in the 1960/70s. £10 each + £1.50 p&p

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

More details: see our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

## What WAS going on here back in 1787?

MAYPOLE wrecking and murder attempts: something very odd was happening here in 1787.

We have to confess right from the start that we haven't the faintest idea what it was all about, but maybe one of our *Archive* readers can offer an explanation. Here, anyway, are the facts.

On July 28 that year, the *Newcastle Courant* reported that "Mrs Milbank, Lady of the Manor of Barningham, ordered the May-Pole in that village to be cut down, which had been erected upwards of two years upon the Green, where a May-Pole time immemorial had stood.

"The above-mentioned May-Pole, 23 yards long, was made a present to the Freeholders of Barningham, two years and a half ago, by John Sawrey Morritt Esq of Rookby Park."

The first problem is that there wasn't a Mrs Milbank at the time. The Lady of the Manor was



## maypole mystery

Miss Jane Milbank, unmarried eldest sister of Mark Milbank who had died 12 years earlier after falling off a haystack at the fairly early age of 42.

Mark had no known wife (there was a rumour that he'd once married a girl called Anne, daughter of a Charles Dodson, but no record of this has ever been found) and he certainly had no legitimate offspring who could claim to be his heir. So all his worldly goods passed to his sisters, which is how Jane got the ladyship of the manor.

But there was a young man, William Melville, who seems to have been widely acknowledged as Mark's 'natural son' after being born in 1768 to an unrecorded mother. Where he'd lived while Mark was alive we don't know, but after his father's death William was effectively adopted by the Milbank family.

He changed his name to Milbank, lived with Jane and the other spinster sisters at the hall, and eventually, when Jane died in 1792, inherited

the estate and the lordship of the manor. We'll come back to him in a bit.

Meanwhile, back to 1787 and the fall of the maypole. Why did her ladyship decide the pole had to come down? Was she, perhaps, a fanatical puritan, outraged by the public dancing around what was, after all, a symbol dating back to pagan days?

Was she angry with Mr Morritt, maybe feeling that he had encroached on her territory by erecting the pole on 'her' village green? If so, why had it taken her two years and more to get round to objecting to its presence?

Why did Mr Morritt give the pole to the village in the first place? And what did all the deprived freeholders of Barningham feel about their present being sawn down? They had certainly welcomed its arrival in 1785 – James Coates, the Newsham schoolmaster whose diaries the history group have

published, went to have a look on the day it went up, and recorded that "there was to be much drinking and mirth around it in the evening". Maybe there was so much drinking and mirth over the next couple of years that the lady of the manor eventually decided it had to go?

We've no answer to any of these questions, and there's more to add to the puzzle.

The following October came another story in the *Courant*. Bills of Indictment, it reported, had been found by a Grand Jury at Northallerton Sessions against Thomas Mason, "gamekeeper to Mrs Milbank of Barningham" and others, for "cutting down the May-Pole on the Town Green of Barningham on the 23rd of July, where it had been erected time immemorial."

And that's it. There's no report of any follow-up trial, nothing we can trace about what happened to Mr Mason and the others who were part of 'Mrs' Milbank's assault on her

## maypole mystery

villagers' maypole. But there was another assault of a different and much more serious kind, one which raises even more questions about what on earth was going on here 225 years ago.

On November 3, the *Courant* announced that the Milbanks' adoptee William Melville (that's how they spelt it) of Barningham "had been apprehended by a warrant from the Rev Thomas Zouch, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire, for assaulting and threatening to shoot the Rev Matthew Moore, Rector of Barningham."

Melville was freed after being ordered to find sureties who would enter into recognizances (guarantees) totalling £300 – an enormous amount at the time, reflecting the accused youngster's wealth – that he would keep the peace in future.

Now what was *that* all about? Why would young William Melville, aged only 19 in 1787, threaten the life of the Rev Moore, who was at least 80? Was it anything to do with the earlier dispute (the Rev Moore was rector of Rokeby as well – had he unwisely stepped

into the maypole controversy on Mr Morrill's behalf?) Was Melville incensed over some theological difference with the aged rector? Or had the young man simply lost his senses after a wild night's drunken capering round the maypole?

About the only thing we seem to be able to deduce from any of this is that Mark Milbank's bastard son was a bit of a tearaway, to say the least.

We presume he settled down a bit as he reached adulthood. He married Dorothy Wise in 1792, had two sons (the second of which died in infancy, shortly after his mother), and lived on only until 1802. On Valentine's Day that year he collapsed and died after taking his morning ride in Northallerton, aged just 34.

His surviving son Mark, aged seven, eventually inherited the estates and the lordship of the manor.

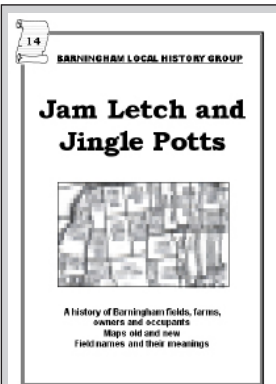
● *Thanks to Marion Moverley, who sent us details of the maypole destruction and prompted the rest of this investigation. She says: "Here's another ancient custom for the good people of Barningham to resurrect – a maypole would look nice with the stone circle in the background!"*

## Meanwhile, at the Binkses...

IT wasn't just maypoles and attempted murder that excited the *Newcastle Courant* news-desk in 1787. While browsing through its columns in search of Barningham references, we came across this from its edition dated May 19:

A few dayf ago the wife of Mr T. Binkf, Clock maker at Barningham, waf fafely delivered of two daughterf; and, what if ftill more extraordinary, the fame perfon had two cowlf that each calved two calvef, all within the fpace of one hour.

The happy parents of the twins (not the cows, despite the way it's worded above) were Thomas (featured in *Archives 1, 2 and 5*) and Sarah. The *Courant* got the babies' sex wrong: the new arrivals were boys, to be christened George and Henry.



## Out now: the Barningham fields book

THE latest history group publication – our fourteenth – is *Jam Letch and Jingle Potts*, a survey of farms, fields and field names in Barningham.

It is based on the 1838 tithe apportionment map and index, which listed every field in the parish with details of owners, occupiers, area, usage and name.

It also includes details about the fields from earlier records going back to the 1600s, an introduction tracing the development of agriculture in the village, and information about field name derivation.

Explanations are offered for most names, but the origins of some are still uncertain – including the two in the book's title.

Copies of the 96-page publication, which includes maps and indexes, are available from the history group, price £10 (£8 to group members) plus £1.50 p&p.

## A winter ramble round Gayles in 1945

*The third of our excerpts from the Teesdale Mercury, reporting the travels of a local Rambler round the villages of North Yorkshire in December 1945.*

TIS said that when the first English road was made, the first English inn was born. The birth of the English village could quite easily be so dated, and Teesdale and Richmondshire possess a wealth of these.

Hidden away in the folds of the hills, many of these little community centres are little known to the outside world, and when discovered come as a pleasant surprise to the discoverer.

One such little village is Gayles. Never heard of it, you say! Then let me tell you it lies between Barnard Castle and Richmond, about six miles from the latter place. To reach it you will traverse the winding road through Dalton that is not meant for more than single traffic.

One mile beyond Dalton (and villagers say it is a short mile) and you come upon Gayles, or rather the Bay Horse Inn, which lies at the foot of West Street. An interesting old hostelry this, and a kindly welcome to the traveller. It is said that it has the finest keeping cellar in the district, which fact alone is sufficient attraction.

The landlord, Mr G Scott, has only been there a few weeks, yet he has found the place full of interest. Together we had a look down the cellar, and very noticeable was the worn steps. So worn indeed had they become at an earlier date that they had been turned over. Soon the tramping of feet and the lowering of barrels will make renewal a necessity.

In the cellar itself stone ganneries had been built with draining facilities. Dungeon-thick walls were carried on up into the house itself, and even the inner walls were 2ft 4ins thick.

The public rooms were a happy admixture of ancient and modern. Outside the back are remnants of the horse-mounting steps, and decorated are the walls with irons for the tying of travellers' horses.



*Gayles pub c1920 and, below, shortly before closure*



## gayles 1945

On the opposite side of West Street is the village smithy. Now it is closed, but for many years Charlie Elstrop, 63-years-old Gayles craftsman, toiled there. The same man worked the Hutton Magna shop for over 30 years.

A life-long smith, Elstrop was apprenticed with Teasdale Bros of Darlington. He is today working upon his trade three days a week at Reeth and two days a week at Forcett.

A little higher up is Herrings Farm, and it is said that it once had its own brewery. On again, and you come to the home of Mr Thomas W Donald, farmer all his life, now retired. Mr Donald reads the Mercury,

perhaps because he has links with Cotherstone. He was once a witness in a rights of way dispute in the Upper Dale, chosen with others for his life-long knowledge of the district.

In Middle Street lives the village's oldest inhabitant, 92 in May. Mr Robert Ianson, a tall, greying veteran who has lived in Gayles all his life. Mr Ianson is under the weather at present, but possesses keen hearing, and when our correspondent called he chatted quite cheerfully.

Across the street again and you come upon the village reading room. A returned soldier was the sole occupant. Over the fireplace hung a portrait of one of the founders, Mr R Powell. The reading



## Frances' companion inherited the money

THE last *Archive* told the story of Miss Frances McCulloch, the last member of a family who lived at Heath House in Barningham from mid-Victorian days until her death in 1935.

She was memorable not least because she'd inherited a fortune from her father and managed to spend quite a lot of it.

Ian Beckwith of Church Stretton in Shropshire, whose inquiry prompted our initial interest in Miss McCulloch, has now obtained a copy of her will and sent us details.

She left an estate of just under £2,000 – worth a good six figures in today's money – and she bequeathed almost all of it to Mary Dales, her paid companion. Where she came from and how long she'd been working for Miss McCulloch we don't know, but the will was made three years before the death so they must have been together for some time.

The only other legacy was a bequest of £80 to provide a new lectern in Barningham church (see *Archive 14*: the

rector at the time said he didn't need one, and the money never got here).

The will was drawn up in 1932 by Barnard Castle solicitor Harry Crawford Watson, named as the sole executor, and witnessed by Mrs Mary Ann Dobson, widowed landlady of the Milbank Arms, and a Miss E. Hannay of Barningham we can't trace.

A codicil to the will was added in 1934, replacing Mr Watson, who had died, with William Innes Watson (his son?). This codicil was witnessed by the owner and manageress of a private hotel in Bournemouth, where Miss McCulloch was apparently staying at the time.

One thing all this tells us is that Miss McCulloch had either lost contact with all her relatives (there were cousins on Teesside, for example) or didn't want to leave them anything.

There must have been a few McCullochs around in 1935 wishing too late that they'd kept in touch with her.

## The postman who kept a dancing doll downstairs

AS many history group members will know (certainly those who came to the New Year get-together), the basement floor of Heath House was used as a separate dwelling for many years up to the 1960s.

Current owner Jon Smith had assumed that this division came about after Frances McCulloch's death in 1935, but among many bits of trivia that surfaced while researching her life was a census record showing that the house was divided before 1911.

The basement occupier that year was the local postman, Adolphus John Gregory. He was 33, single, and we know that he'd been there for at least a couple of years because in February 1909 the *Teesdale Mercury* reported that he was the star of a concert evening in Dalton.

Mr Gregory, it said, "fairly brought down the house with his popular comic song *An Acre of Land* and "in response to a most vociferous encore he gave an exhibition of his dancing doll, which created roars of well-deserved applause".

Adolphus, who married a Mary Denham in 1918 and died in the Richmond area in 1955, had a distant cousin called Adolphus James Gregory living in Lynesack, which causes all sorts of confusion when trying to track either of them through the censuses.

We'd love to know more about the dancing doll.

## Memories of ice-cream man long ago

WHAT's in a name? as someone said. I can add nothing to the Marriner investigation (*Archive 30*) but the name of the letter writer, Elaine Questa of York, conjures up happy memories of my childhood there in the 1920s.

I remember those days with great affection, cosseted and indulged in every way as I was by doting grandparents who had an off-licence/grocery store in Lowther Street, York – a busy bustling thoroughfare connecting Clarence Street at one end with Monkgate at the other.

Nearby was Coates' sweet shop, Stephensons' general stores, two fish and chip shops, Sads' fruiterers and greengrocers, 'Bensons for Bikes' shop which claimed to provide most of York with bicycles, Haws garage and finally Barber Nicholson who cut men's and boys' hair with the bluntest of instruments so that every visit was akin to a major operation without anaesthetics.

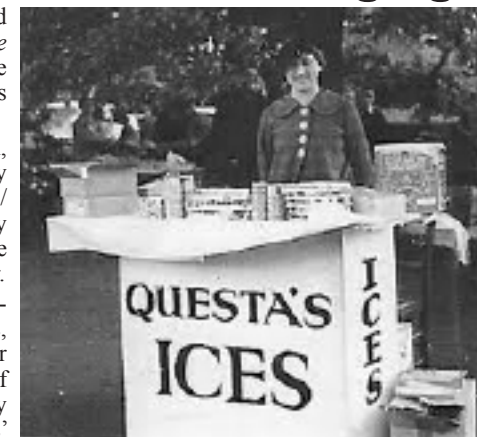
And amongst all this was a daily visit from Mr Questa pushing his ice-cream cart, with his heralding call "Ice Keem!" He always stopped outside the off-licence knowing that my grandmother would provide one penny (old money) for an ice-cream cornet.

Over time we became good friends. It was said he was Italian. From memory, he was small in stature with a ready friendly smile, sparse command of the English language but complete understanding of our monetary system.

Now, alas, all has been swept away and redevelopment has transformed the scene I loved so well. Maybe all is not lost – on one of my now rare visits to York I thought I saw in the vicinity of St Sampson's Square a Questa's ice-cream parlour.

Was this so? I would like to think that my one-penny purchases helped to provide something so grand.

RON CATTON (89)  
Startforth



Lena Giannoni with her ice-cream stall in the 1940s

### letters & emails

## Delighted that he's still remembered

*WE sent Elaine Questa a copy of Ron's letter. Here's part of her reply:*

MY husband Tony and I were so delighted to read your fond memories associated with York's old shops and Mr Questa and his ice-cream cart.

He may have been my husband's great uncle Luigi Questa who lived in the Groves area of York and had a shop selling ice-cream and sweets.

However, more probably he was Luigi's brother Giovanni Questa, my husband's grandfather, known locally as "Ice-cream Joe". He had come over from Italy towards the end of the 1800's and set up an ice-cream factory in Spen Lane. In the early 1920's he bought a shop in Colliergate and sold ice cream and sweets.

Giovanni died in 1933 and the business was taken over by

Tony's father. It was eventually sold in 1974 when Tony's father retired.

From the early 1900's the Questa family also had an ice-cream trailer in St. Sampson's Square which was also sold in 1974 and remained in St. Sampson's Square for several more years.

Thank you so much for sharing your memories with us, which we found most touching as Tony's grandfather died before he was born and it's nice to hear that you regarded him so well.

ELAINE QUESTA, York  
● In September 2010 the York Press reported the death of Tony's aunt Lena Giannoni at the age of 93, saying she was the last surviving member of the Questa family to help run the ice-cream business.

Lena worked for her father Giovanni Questa until 1947, when she married an American she had met while on holiday in Massachusetts. She stayed there the rest of her life.

● Have you got memories of ice-cream men in our area?

## SAVING A CENTURY

A photographic exhibition celebrating the work of the Victorian Society

**Sunderland City Library**

Fawcett Street, Sunderland SR1 1RE

Monday–Saturday until February 11

Free admission

This exhibition from around the country shows examples of the best Victorian and Edwardian buildings the Society has campaigned to save

## Anybody help with my hunt for Horsemans?

I HAVE just discovered the Barningham Local History Group, and wondered if someone could help.

I have a query about Thomas Horseman, who married Ann Wind at Barningham on May 24 1803. Ann was listed as "of this parish" but Thomas was of the "parish of St Johns".

From just the names and date I had wondered if this Thomas Horseman may have been from Kirkby Ravensworth, where a Thomas Horseman was baptised in 1776 and started producing children there (with a wife Ann) in May 1804.

Now I have a copy of the marriage entry, I am rather thrown by the parish of "St Johns". The only one I can think of is St Johns Chapel, but I don't believe that the Horseman family extended that far.

Could any of your group suggest an alternative location for St Johns? I wonder if it was just a dedication rather than a parish name.

My ancestor John Horseman married Hannah Tiffany at Pateley Bridge in 1808, sired four kids then vanished.

I've been through most of the local parish registers and built up a very comprehensive set of Hors(e)man family trees. If I could 'kill off' John I would have an age, which could pos-

### letters & emails

sibly identify his parents (I have my suspects – another Thomas.... there was a very dodgy vicar at Pateley at the time).

The Thomas (who married Ann) was the son of Francis Horsman, born c1745, and his wife Dorothy, who lived at Ravensworth.

I'm still struggling to find their marriage, which could be in either Yorkshire or Durham. Thomas appears to have been their first child.

So – if you are ever contacted by anyone looking for Horseman/Horsman – do feel free to put them in touch with me. I can be found via the Guild of One Name Studies website.

Hoping someone may be able to help.

SUE HORSMAN  
Castle Donington, Leics  
[sue.horsman@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.horsman@btinternet.com)

● *We've suggested to Sue that 'St Johns' may well mean Aldbrough St John, and she agrees this fits in well with the rest of the information she's found. The Guild of One Name Studies, which specialises in tracing ancestors of people with the same surname, can be found at [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org).*

## Another satisfied customer!

CONGRATULATIONS on another year of really entertaining Archives.

With such a relatively small source-base I don't know how you do it, but you do! All the best for 2013.

ANTHONY ARMSTRONG,  
Beamminster, Dorset



## Solving the Mouseman's inscription

I AM in charge of archives at Robert Thompsons Craftsmen Ltd in Kilburn (*the Mouseman furniture people – Ed*) and trying to follow up a fireside seat made for Morgan of Eastwood Hall, Barningham, which has the inscription 'BCT 1901-1951 ACT'.

This is obviously a golden wedding gift. The current owner bought it 2007 when I gather the hall was sold. Can you help with the identification of BCT and ACT?

CHRIS SCAIFE, Kilburn  
● *The initials are those of Alan Crewe Thompson (1873-1959) and Bertha Crewe(?) Thompson (1879-1955), who lived at Eastwood Hall from c1915 until their deaths. Both are buried in Barningham.*

*We have no record of their births or marriage locally or birth of their children, though they clearly had some as their daughter Cecily Crewe Thompson (married surname Morgan) continued to live at Eastwood until her death in 1965 aged 59.*

*A Kenneth C Thompson (her brother?) was there in 1979 but by 1986, the next year for which we've got records, it was in the ownership or tenancy of a family called Baxter. –Ed.*

### pre-war memories

The person who owned the house after us had a door put in, left of the fireplace, to link this room to the kitchen, and used the front room as a dining room. She ran Moor Lea as a guest house after her husband died the night after he retired.

The kitchen was the hub of the house. There was a big range with back boiler and fire oven. All the cooking was done there. There was a small pantry leading off the kitchen, which had a sink. We were one of only a few houses that had water laid on.

There were steps leading down to the cellars. It was very dark down there. At the front there was a room with a marble slab where we kept the milk and butter to keep cool. There was also a place to store coal.

Going towards the back door, on the left was the laundry, complete with sink in front of the window and a copper for boiling the clothes, heated by a fire underneath. On the right of the back door was another door leading to the garage – this was situated below the kitchen.

Upstairs, the large bedroom at the back was my bedroom, with a wardrobe in the alcove. The small room also facing the garden was very rarely used, I believe there was a bed settee in there.

My brothers shared the front bedroom and the other was occupied by my parents. The large room now used as a bathroom was known as the dressing room, and had a wash-basin where the shower is now. A door separated it from the bathroom and loo.

Now for the gardens, etc. The shrubbery at the front was a wild uncultivated area with

trees we used to climb. At the side of the house the big gate was painted white, with a stile at the side, and a path leading to a right-of-way down the field. The coach house was near where the garage now stands.

The back garden, I remember, seemed quite small with a privy at the far end on the left. Fortunately it was never used by us! There was a wall with steps leading down to the field, which was part of the property. The top part was overgrown with nettles etc, and on the far left there was a stable block with a hay loft over it.

The field extended to a lane with a farm at the bottom. The farmer cut the hay with a scythe.

Next door to Moor Lea, going down the village, there was Todd's yard, where he kept his horses. The next house (Hillside) was also used as a holiday home by a family from Durham.

On the other side of Moor Lea lived the Turner family with a lot of children. Brenda was the eldest, then Sylvia (who I played with), then Neil and some others. There were several Turners in Barningham, including one who owned the petrol station.

The largish house by the church (The Gatehouse) was owned by the village doctor who had two children we used to play with. While we were there, one year (maybe 1937 or 1938) their dog had puppies (father unknown).

We were allowed to choose one, and had Scamp for many years – a lovable mongrel.

● *Marion Bunting (nee Robinson) lives in Worcester: Doreen Railton at Moor Lea has contact details if anyone would like to get in touch. –Ed.*

### from the parish mag

**100 YEARS AGO:** The Lecture "A Visit to Scotland" which so many were looking forward to by the Rev G T Shettle has unfortunately had to be postponed on account of the heavy snow and storms. – *February 1913*

**90 YEARS AGO:** Two beautiful brass candle brackets have been presented for the Lectern by Mrs Thompson in memory of her father who died at Barningham. We have for many years been wishful to have this addition, as the light from the Chancel is quite insufficient. – *February 1923*

**80 YEARS AGO:** We very much regret to announce that Mrs England, Headmistress for the past three years, has resigned on account of continued bad health. Mrs England has struggled on, often when she could hardly walk across to the School. The Managers hope that a well-earned rest will restore her health. – *February 1933*

**75 YEARS AGO:** Rokeby School must be closed unless there is a rise in attendance. Thirty is the minimum to have a teacher and we have at present only 16 children on the books. There are sufficient children in the parish to make up the number if they all attended Rokeby. The parents must decide, no one else can. If once the school is closed we shall never get it back. – *February 1938*

**65 YEARS AGO:** Burial: Ralph Chilton, aged 69 years. He spent a lifetime battling with the hard demands of his farm at Bragg House, on the edge of windswept moors. It is to be regretted that he has not longer enjoyed his retirement. – *February 1948*



## house histories

side the Reading Room and remained there, we think, until her death in 1932.

Meanwhile, the Metcalfs took over from John George Brown in 1912. The current occupier, Bill Metcalf, has a fascinating sheaf of correspondence time between Sir Powlett Milbank and Bill's grandfather William, in which they negotiate over rent (they agreed on £220 a year, less £20 for the first five years on condition William provided enough artificial manure to improve the fields), the bond (£110), the number of stints on the moor that went with the farm (20) and even who was responsible for providing the paper and paint to redecorate the farmhouse (Powlett).

William moved here from Dent Close Farm at Barnard Castle and with his wife Ethel (nee Stubbs, from Kinnivie) raised a family – William, Florence, Percy and John.

William died in 1943, aged 70, and the farm passed to his eldest son William. He married Connie Foster, and they had too had four children, Julia, Pat, Bill and Jonathan.

Bill took over the farm in 1993 and remains in the house today. He and his wife Dianne have three children, Helen, Joanne and, of course, another William.

● *Other documents in Bill's possession include land cultivation orders issued during the war, laying down what should be grown and where on the farm, and a copy of the rules governing stints on the moor in the 1950s.*

● *For more on the various Brown families, see Archive 3.*



Moor Lea, pictured on a postcard from the 1920s

## Moor Lea – my holiday home in the 'Thirties

*MARION BUNTING spent many happy childhood days at Moor Lea, Barningham, in the 1930s. Her niece Anne recently visited the house and sent photographs to her aunt, who was prompted to send us memories from 80 years ago*

MOOR LEA was used as a holiday home in pre-war years, around 1933-38.

We would spend about a month there in the summer holidays, and a few other times. We lived in Darlington, and when staying at Barningham my father would commute daily to work.

My elder brother Ken was a teenager during this time and didn't really like staying there, but my other brother Don (who was closer to me in age) and I really enjoyed it.

The entrance is exactly as I remember it, only beside the front on the left was a fuchsia bush and I loved popping the flowers. There were storm doors on the outside which were only closed when we were not there. The tiled floor in the porch seems familiar. Could it be the same one?

The hall and staircase bring back memories. On the half

### pre-war memories

way landing stood a figure of a man in armour. This was okay during the day, but at night, going upstairs with a candle or torch, I was very frightened of him. Electricity had not reached the village then, and we had to rely on oil lamps and torches, which we thought was fun.

On the left of the hall were two doors, one at each end. There was one large room then, with a fireplace at the garden side. I can't remember what it looked like. We had a large table with extending leaves in the centre of the room and a large standard lamp for illumination.

On the right of the hall at the front, the room was known as the playroom, with very little furniture in it. My elder brother used to make his model aircraft in there before we all went onto the moor to fly them.



Bridget's great-grandfather John Thomas Bainbridge, c1900

## I sold the flowers that I'd picked 'Round the World'

I AM the eldest grand-daughter of Annie and Tom Lawson, who lived at Manor House in Barningham from the 1930s. I have only just found your website, what a lot of information!

I see my great-grandfather John Thomas Bainbridge with his horse and cart, and gran in the cricket team (as Annie Bainbridge). We are descended from the Westmorelands/Westmarlands and go back at least five generations. I have photos but need to sort them. So many familiar names, Gerbert Brass! I was scared of his ferrets! Powells, Brass, Lee, Metcalfe, Bulmer, Cuthbertson... as a child I think I could name every-one in the village! (sold them flowers picked from around the world).

Lewis Watson was my uncle and Mark is my 'cousin', in fact our grandmothers were sisters. He has been in touch and informed me that we are in the 'Giant Turnip' part of one of the DVDs – I have vague memories of this!

My gran and grandad lived at Manor House until the summer of 1969 at least. Grandad had a heart attack and we came up from Anglesey to help get the

### letters & emails

hay in. We had many happy holidays and most weekends at Manor House.

My gran was born in 1901 and as far as I know they lived at the Terrace (Newby House) when they were girls. There are photos of the three Bainbridge girls on a horse in the front garden there.

I am busy having a good sort out and have contacted the daughter of my gran's sister for information and any extra photos. A great way to spend winter nights, the problem is getting off the websites once I am on the trail of a family member!

Anyway, enough of my fond memories. Could you arrange to post me copies of all your publications? I can hardly wait to get started on sifting through the information and add some more detail to the family tree.

BRIDGIT VAN DE POL  
Nieuwkoop, Netherlands  
bidvandepol@gmail.com

● *We've sent Bridget copies of every book and Archive, which should keep her busy for a bit . -Ed.*

## A good read – and a very strange coincidence!

RESEARCHING my father's career in RAF Bomber Command, I came across a fascinating little book that members of the group might also enjoy.

*All The Brothers Were Valiant* by D.B.Jenkinson and R.T. Williams is the story of some Bishop Auckland families, their lives through war and peace. It is beautifully crafted, rigorously researched and put together from a family archive.

The book was published by Arbutin Books in 2011 to time with the unveiling of the Bomber Command Memorial, for which the book raised a very substantial sum. When I ordered it I joked with Mrs Jenkinson, the co-author, that we probably shared some genes.

Immediately afterwards, I turned to the Teesdale Mercury Archive and typed in the name Cameron.

The first item listed was on May 6 1896, a report of the proceedings against a pair of drunks who had stolen a pony and trap and driven it recklessly. Prosecuting was my great-grandfather, Supt. John Cameron (his daughter, my great-aunt Ada, lived at Park View, Barningham, from 1922-1938), and the pony and trap belonged to Reuben-James Snowden of Greenfield Farm, Etherley. Who was he? Mrs Jenkinson's grandfather.

Small world!

DANI CAMERON-MILES  
Havant, Hampshire  
wrynose47@gmail.com

## Blondin who came to Barningham

*Villagers flocked to Barningham Gala in the summer of 1869 to see a blindfold tightrope walker. ANN ORTON found out more...*

FOR a long time I have been intrigued by an account in Merryne Watson's book *As Time Passed By* of a gala in Barningham in the 1860s when Blondin, blindfolded and wheeling a man in a barrow, apparently walked on a rope stretched between two tall wooden towers.

Could this really have happened? Had Blondin really come to Barningham? Merryne certainly thought so. However, all was explained when I found an article in the *York Herald* dated Saturday, September 4 1869 giving a report of a gala at Barningham "the beautiful and romantic seat of Mark Milbank, Esq".

Amongst all the other attractions was the following: "The 'African Blondin' performed his most daring gymnastic feats in the centre of the deer park at a convenient interval during the afternoon." So, not the real Blondin after all!

The African Blondin's real name was Carlos Lamartine Trower and he was born, probably in New York, between 1845 and 1850. He seems to have no birth record but this was not unusual for a black man at the time. In June 1861, aged between 11 and 16, Carlos was in England and was skilled enough to walk on a tightrope across Rudyard Lake, now a reservoir, in Leek, Derbyshire.

He later performed in New York at the Union Celebration of Emancipation for the Coloured Peoples of New York, where his "walking, dancing, turning, twisting, hanging, swinging and cooking his dinner on the rope, *a la* the hero of Niagara Falls, was much admired and everybody felt greatly relieved when it was a settled fact that he wasn't going to break his neck."

Back in Britain in 1864 he married Myra Clay in Stoke-on-Trent and their son Collis was born in December of the next year in Ripley, Yorkshire.

After falling more than fifty feet while performing in Bev-

### barningham blondin

erley the local paper excitedly said "that he was to all appearances lifeless and he lay in a precarious state". However, he had only broken his arm and wrist and was recovered enough to perform at Hartlepool in April 1869.

He continued to appear all over the North with occasional forays south to Portsmouth or Ipswich.

In 1875 he married Annie Emmett in Barnstaple, Devon and their daughter Celia was born five months later. (There is no trace of a death record for Myra so perhaps this marriage was bigamous). Celia, known as the Black Star, was to perform with him in later



Carlos at Rosherville Gardens, Gravesend, Kent, in 1881. Described as 'The Prince of the Air' he wheeled a barrow stretched between two cliffs and cooked an omelette while on the rope.

years. In July 1878 he sailed to America on the steamship *Agera*, making this a working trip by walking from mast to mast on a rope.

Back in England he had another fall in 1880 whilst walking backwards, heavily chained and enveloped in a sack. Luckily he fell onto a "soft" gentleman and was not himself hurt, although he broke the nose of a spectator with his balancing pole!

His daughter Jynetta Cal-edonia Trower was born in 1881 followed by another son, Harry Carlos in 1883.

After being much in demand, by 1886 the fickle public had moved on to new novelties.

## The Marleys, Muncasters and Metcalfs

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

### BARNINGHAM HOUSE

A TRADITIONAL Yorkshire farmhouse dating back about 300 years, incorporating what was once a barn on the western side, the whole extended and renovated at some stage, probably in Victorian times.

It's been owned by the Milbank family for as far back as we can trace, and it was probably for very many years the 'home farm' for the hall: it is sometimes recorded as 'Barningham House Farm'.

A survey of the manor in 1726 lists most of the fields nearby as being part of a farm tenanted by John Fryer, and it seems reasonable to suppose he lived in the house.

By 1800 the lands had been divided. A map drawn up then shows the house linked to two narrow fields behind it and several others to the north beyond, including the Mill Hill farmhouse, the whole tenanted by John Marley; while the fields to the east were in the

### house histories



hands of several other farmers. Marley died in 1823. His farm was taken over by Richard Muncaster and, when he died less than two years later, by his widow Eleanor. She was in her early thirties, with six young children, but somehow managed to keep the farm going. She was still there when the tithe apportionment map was drawn up in 1838, by which time she had added the eastern fields to create a farm covering much the same area as it does today.

The 1841 census recorded her and the six children, all now old enough to be working on the farm and employing a 36-year-old labourer called Christopher Wycliffe.

Ten years later the tenant was 51-year-old George Brown, born in Billingham, who had arrived with his much younger wife Ann and three small children called John Reynolds, Jane Ann and Thomas Reynolds. Two more, George and Dorothy, followed. As well as these seven, living

at the farm were also three young male agricultural labourers and two girls working as domestic servants. It must have been a tight fit, even if the lads slept in the barn.

George remained there until his death in 1872, by which time his son John had moved out to farm elsewhere – we think Saunders House. His brother Thomas took over the tenancy until his death in 1882, when it passed to the next brother, George Edward. He and Dorothy, both single, farmed Barningham House until some time after their mother's death in 1893. George married a Susannah Louise around that time and they had at least one child, Edward John, born in 1895. George died in 1899, and it seems that the farm was then run briefly by a John G Brown, recorded as a grandson of one of the older George and Ann's children, though we don't know whether it was Thomas, Dorothy or even the younger George.

By 1901, aged 28, John George was farm manager at Saunders House, which had been vacated by John Reynolds who moved into Mill Hill. It looks as if between them they ran Barningham House, with John George holding the tenancy. His mother had moved out into a cottage be-



*Evidence on the western wall of a former steeply-pitched roof*



## barningham blondin

## How female Blondin fell to her death

NOT all the Blondins died a natural death. They were very skilled and did some breathtaking stunts but there are many accounts of accidents. However, they all seem to have been caused by failure of the rope due to poor quality, condition or being insecurely fastened.

There was a Female Blondin, known as Madame Genevieve (real name Mrs Potter!) who survived numerous falls but finally died at a fete at Aston Park Birmingham in 1863.

The details of her death appeared in the *Teesdale Mercury* dated July 29 1863.

After performing several daring feats, it reported, she was then blindfolded and a bag put over her head.

"She had walked just three short steps when the rope collapsed, the platform with the man upon it fell back into the trees, women screamed and fainted, strong men turned ashy pale, the poor woman who moments previous had been bowing gracefully to the crowd, was seen whirling through the air and Madame Genevieve, the graceful smiling woman, lay prone upon the green sward, a corpse, her soul accompanied in its eternal flight in the golden summer evening by the strains of lively music, her winding sheet the tawdry finery of a travelling acrobat, a victim, and another victim to the morbid and not too much to be reprehended taste for strong sensations which disgrace English people



DEATH ON THE ROPE.  
A Victorian artist's portrayal of Madame Genevieve, the 'Female Blondin' who fell to her death in 1863.

in this nineteenth century." (*That has to be one of the longest sentences ever in the Mercury – the reporter must have been paid by the word! – Ed*)

The body was carried into the committee room where two medical men, who happened to be present examined her, "only to pronounce that the unfortunate woman was beyond all human power, and that, indeed she must have died almost instantaneously.

"No bones, as far as a cursory examination could show, were broken; but what adds to the melancholy of this sad accident is the fact that Madame Genevieve was six months advanced in pregnancy. The expression of her face as she lay upon the table was that of a woman in a calm and placid

slumber, and by no means that of one who had been hurried violently and suddenly out of the world. No distortion. No hideousness was there, but only peaceful calm."

The revellers, however, didn't let this tragedy interfere with their enjoyment.

"Notwithstanding the terrible occurrence which had so recently taken place – a fellow creature standing before thousands of her fellow mortals in rigorous health, and wreathed with smiles, and the next moment in eternity – the assemblage seemed bent upon continuing their enjoyment, and in a short while lads and lasses were engaged with great glee in playing 'kiss in the ring' within a few yards of the place where death had so recently been."

## barningham blondin

Carlos put a wanted advertisement in *The Era*, the trade newspaper of the circus and performing acts generally.

He said he was "at liberty for Halls, Theatres etc." It worked. He was back before the public in 1888 and was loudly cheered at a performance at Bristol.

In February 1889 the following letter appeared in *The Era*:

"Mr. Editor: Sir, my husband Carlos Trower, The African Blondin, has been very ill for some time, and three weeks ago went quite out of his mind. There are no hopes of his recovery, and he has been removed to Grove Hall Lunatic Asylum, Bow.

"I am left with three children unprovided for. If you will kindly mention this in *The Era* I shall feel more than grateful as I am sure there will be a few friends that will help me. Yours respectfully, A Trower."

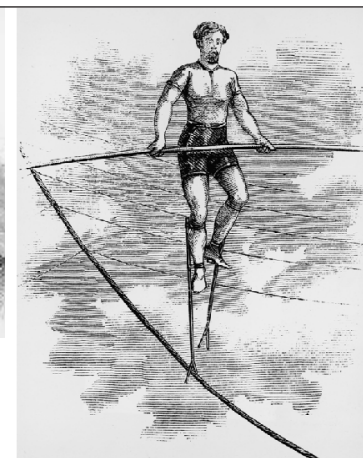
Carlos Trower died a few months later, aged about 40, of "General Paralysis of the Insane", a tactful way of describing untreated syphilis. In the same month a benefit was held at the Peckham Theatre to help his widow and children. Carlos died penniless, leaving his family destitute. Grove Hall was a private asylum so it may have been the cost of keeping him there that impoverished his family.

The real Blondin inspired many others to emulate him and although he didn't come to Barningham he certainly came to England and performed several times at The Crystal Palace.

Born in 1824 in France, his real name was Jean-Francois Gravelet. He walked a tight-



The real Blondin and, right, a contemporary sketch of him in action – on stilts



rope across Niagara Falls on many occasions, one time stopping to cook an omelette which he lowered down to a boat beneath him. The *Teesdale Mercury* dated June 26 1861 gives an account of one of his performances at The Crystal Palace:

"Having reached the opposite side of the transept, the barrow was emptied of its contents, and an interesting little girl, in her seventh year, a daughter of Blondin, took her seat in the vehicle.

"After some preliminary arrangements, such as fastening a belt from the child to the father, and placing a number of small bouquets, termed souvenirs – with the name of Adele Blondin inscribed on a ribbon attached – in the barrow, M. Blondin, amidst breathless anxiety, commenced his progress towards the south side.

"As he proceeded the little lady distributed the souvenirs from both sides, as fast as she emptied her hands stooping down to obtain more.

"Having arrived at the centre of the rope, a momentary stoppage took place, and the heroine stood up and bowed

very gracefully to the audience, apparently much at home and appearing as delighted as another child on an ordinary lawn. She then resumed her seat, and the floral distribution continued until the stage was reached, at the south side of the transept."

In the same edition of the paper is an account of a discussion in the House of Commons about M. Blondin and "the illegal exposure to imminent danger of his infant child," and a letter of warning was sent to the directors of the Crystal Palace to prevent any repetition of the incident.

Blondin apparently charged £100 for each performance and at one stage in his career was embezzled out of more than £60,000 by his agent in France. He died in Ealing in 1897, from diabetes, at the age of 72.

● *The Teesdale Mercury* uncharacteristically gave only the briefest mention of the 1869 gala at Barningham, with nothing at all about the African Blondin. It explained that its gala report arrived too late for publication, and apparently forgot about it the week after.

● *Female Blondin* – Page 12



## Scenes from our New Year Social

HISTORY group members gathered at Heath House for our annual New Year social and fund-raiser. Kay, Greta and Ann provided the usual excellent buffet lunch, the corkscrews were kept busy, Jon showed off his bar, Eric acted the benevolent extortioner to raise a bob or two for group funds, and everyone looks as if they had a good time.

Pictures by BLHG  
chief photographer Phil Hunt.

