

from the parish mag

**90 YEARS AGO:** Lady Milbank found it very difficult to decide to whom she should give her presents for regular attendance at the choir practices during the past year, but having kept record, her ladyship was enabled to award the following: Mrs Holmes, Ena Hannay, Mr Ingram, Fred and Frank Ingram. – *September 1923*

**80 YEARS AGO:** From October 2nd to the 6th Miss Howard, a Missionary attached to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, will be staying at the Rectory. I hope to arrange for her to speak at Newsham and Scargill. She will give a Cinema Lecture in Barningham School and talk to the children in school at 9 o'clock each morning. – *September 1933*

**70 YEARS AGO:** The Harvest Festival Services are to be taken by our Bishop himself. Kindly note that the evening service will be at 6pm owing to the blackout. We look for amply supplies of fruit, vegetables, flowers and corn. – *September 1943*

**60 YEARS AGO:** The Parochial Church Council will soon be organising its autumn series of Whist Drives. Harvest Festivals are in the offing, and we shall have to reconcile ourselves to the fact that the summer weather has been what is called "a dead loss" and hope for a sunny autumn. – *September 1953*

**20 YEARS AGO:** Not long ago Green Mutant Turtles were all the rage, but now Dinosaur-mania is with us! Dinosaur models are turning up not only in Jurassic Park but in the oddest places, such as jewellers shops and even baby shops! – *September 1993*



Hexham gaol

## Hexham trip postponed

PLANS for a history group outing to Hexham and Hadrian's Wall on October 5th have been cancelled after many potential visitors discovered they were unable to make the date.

The group planned to run a free coach to visit Hexham old gaol and Chesters Roman Fort, but felt it couldn't justifiably subsidise the trip with so few people able to go. It's disappointing, but we may revive the outing next year.

## Linda explores Dalton's past

THE next local history talk at Dalton and Gayles village hall is on Friday October 18th, when Linda Turnbull, assistant archivist at North Yorkshire Record Office, will discuss the history of Dalton with reference to the record office documents.

Linda used to live in Dalton and researched its history as part of her degree thesis.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The talk starts at 7.30pm. Admission is £2.50 including tea and biscuits, and the bar will be open beforehand and afterwards.

## Barningham Local History Group Publications

Where Lyeth Ye Bodies\* Guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorial details and list of all known burials.

Barningham Baptisms\* Listed by date, name and parents.

Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950.

Barningham Brides\* All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride.

Counted\* 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. Vol 4: Dalton, Gayles & Kirby Hill.

Jam Letch & Jingle Potts\* History of Barningham farms, fields and fieldnames.

A Child of Hope\*\* The 1895 diary of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847.

A Fleeting Shadow\* The diaries of young Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85.

A Farmer's Boy\* Memoirs of life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days.

Aback to Yuvvin\*\* 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs.

Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894, Parish Minutes 1894-1931\* Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and lists of named parishioners.

The Archive\*\*\* Group newsletter. Back issues available.

Barningham Memories 1 & 2\* DVDs of cine film of Barningham in the 1960/70s.

\* £10 each + £1.50 p&p

\*\* £5 each + £1 p&p

\*\*\* £2 each + £1 p&p

20% discounts for history group members

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



# Archive 36

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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



INSIDE: THE VISITORS WHO WISHED THEY'D NEVER COME



**SKIPPING A CENTURY:** Celebratory games on the village green in Barningham, September 1913. What was going on? See Page 6.

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**NEXT BLHG MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 15th 6pm**



## The Archive

OUR history group is four years old this month, and it's perhaps time we took stock of where we are and where we go next.

We've achieved a lot since our inaugural meeting back in September 2009. The first *Archive* listed what we thought then was an ambitious set of projects to undertake. They included compiling lists of births and marriages; surveying all the local buildings; tracing family trees; creating photographic, video and oral archives; researching enclosures, railways and wartime experiences.

We've done them all, and much more. There is, of course, no limit to what we can research, but we've covered all the obvious subjects and it's becoming increasingly difficult to come up with new angles on Barningham's history. It is, after all, a tiny place! We've started looking more and more at the Newsham and Dalton areas, but these have limited interest to some of our members.

So where do we go from here? Do we meet as often as before? Should the *Archive* appear as frequently?

Questions for our next meeting. I hope you can be there to join in the discussion.

JON SMITH, Editor

## Plans for visits, and the life of Thomas de Rokeby

**Minutes of the meeting held on August 27th 2013:**

**Present:** Jon Smith (Chairman), Ann Orton (Secretary), Neil Turner, Greta Carter, Cate and Harry Collingwood, June Graham, Elizabeth Carrick, Phil Hunt, Janet Wrigley, Mark Watson, Tony Orton, Beverley Peach, Sheila Catton, Margaret Taylor, Jenny and Geoff Braddy.

**Apologies:** Kay and Eric Duggan, John Hay, Jane Hackworth-Young, Diane Metcalf.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on June 25th were approved.

**Matters arising:** Ann had been asked by John at Lartington Hall to give two dates for a possible visit. It was agreed that we would ask if September 17th or September 18th were convenient. Ann had also been looking at possible places to visit for our annual outing. After discussion it was decided to visit Hexham and Chesters Roman Fort and Museum on October 5th. Jon would circulate details to members to see who wishes to come on these visits.

**Correspondence:** WWI commemoration; Sanders House; bands: see pages 4 & 5.

**Financial report:** July/August income £90, expenditure £144.45, leaving a healthy balance of £1260.79 at August

minutes

27th.

**House histories:** Bragg House see page 13.

**Publications:** Archive 35 had been circulated and 36 was in production.

**Transcriptions:** Cate had nearly finished the Newsham minutes. June agreed to give a second opinion on illegible words before the project was finalised. Ann was still plodding on with the Reading Room minutes.

**Oral History:** Cate and Ann would try to talk to Nancy Gill in the near future.

**Next meetings:** Oct 15th, Nov 19th, Dec 17th.

**Any other business:** Jon said that he had had three entries for the Archive Award.

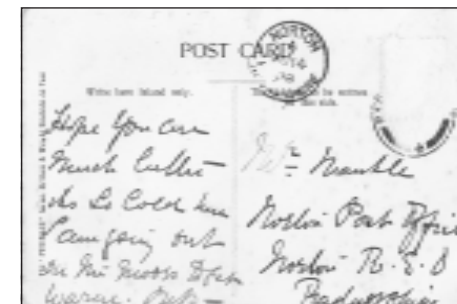
**Guest:** Jenny Braddy then gave members a fascinating talk on Thomas de Rokeby and his life in Teesdale in the 13th and 14th centuries.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

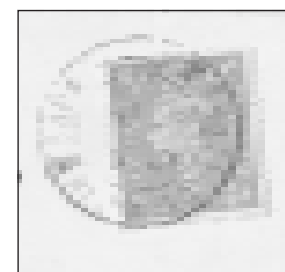
### Next meeting

GUEST next time will be Chris Lloyd of the *Northern Echo*, who gave us a very popular talk last year. Don't miss him!

The next meeting will also include the AGM, postponed so that all officials can attend.



past cards



have been the coming of the railways in 1856, with the link from Barnard Castle to Darlington connecting with the main London line and then with Kirby Stephen and Bishop Auckland –Sunderland in 1863, that allowed the holidaymaker ease of access to both the delights of Teesdale and then by horse, wagonette or charabanc up to the fresh air of the Barningham Moor.

In June 1891 the new express service had visitors from Kings Cross to Barnard Castle in just under six hours.

Awaiting the visitor were 90 apartments providing rooms and meals, 26 hotels or inns and three refreshment rooms. And whatever Barningham had to offer.

Not every visitor was impressed; the card on the left

above was sent from Park View Cottage, Barningham, by a Sunderland visitor in 1936 and I don't think it was a case of "wish you were here."

It reads:

*Dear Mum,*

*I am staying at Park View Cottage and I have never been to such a god forsaken hole. Water is from a communal pump, there is no electricity,we*

*have to use a brick built privy half a mile up the garden where there are two holes side by side and the landlady puts hot ashes down them every day and it sometimes sets the paper alight. A man comes and empties it every day. We go outside to get warm.*

It seems a pity to twist the knife, but a second card – above right – turned up with the same view of Park View Cottage.

The postmark appears to be August 14th 1908.

Addressed to W Nouble at the post office in Norton, Radnorshire, it reads:

*Hope you are much better - Its so cold here I am going out on the moors to get warm. N.B.*

As if to return the compliment the card on the left is a view of the Milbank Arms but written from Park View Cottage in December 1942, so Park View must have improved at least its toilet facilities.

Sent to Mrs & Miss Watson of Chester Road, Sunderland, it reads:

*Many thanks for kind remembrance & good wishes. I hope dears you have a happy and peaceful Xmas day & send you our best wishes for the new year. hoping you are well, with love From your affec. cousin Edith*



## The Archive

Barningham Local History Group, Heath House, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU  
Tel: 01833 621374 email: [history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smith90.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).

## Wish you were here? Not everybody did

An excerpt from JOHN HAY's highly-commended Archive Awards entry. There'll be more in future Archives

MILLIONS of postcards were sent prior to the 1900s, following the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840. This distinguished them from postal cards which were official pre-paid cards.

However by 1907, with the exception of a few small countries, divided back cards were used worldwide. Finally the back of cards were used for both the address and for any message, leaving the front of the cards showing only the artwork or photography.

Previously and during this period most of the postcards were still being printed in Europe, especially by the Germans, whose printed methods were the best in the world.

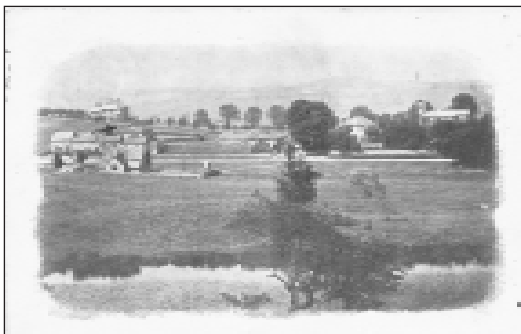
These cards exhibited the brightest colours and the finest artwork. Unfortunately some confusion arose over place names, with Barningham being replaced by Birmingham on one card from 1895 (see *Archive 5*).

The threat of war saw a quick decline of imported cards and WWI brought the supply of postcards from Germany to an end. A lower quality of cards were coming from England and from publishers in the United States.

Due to the war, influenza epidemics and the poor quality of cards, the telephone started to be a replacement for the postcard as a way to keep in touch.

In Barningham, only the Hall boasted a telephone – the public box was installed many years later – so the letter or postcard filled the gap as a fast method, judging from the collections and deliveries listed in *Bulmer's Guide* to the area, of letting those at home know you had arrived and that it was raining.

The production in 1930 of 'saucy' postcards saw a resur-



THIS is a card postmarked August 7th 1904, and I think it is obviously to a sister. There is very little in-fill development in the village. The school is prominent, with the famous, or infamous, boys' toilet on the right of the playground. It was sent to a Miss S Wilson in Sunderland, and reads:

*Please thank mother for her letter & hope you are alright. lovely time I have made a x where our house is Love from Gre (Greta?)*



### past cards

gence of postcard sending but none of those were deemed suitable to show the beauties of the Teesdale countryside and we were to be content with pictures of the village marked with a cross to identify where we were staying.

Richard Garland, in his 1804 *Tour of Teesdale*, extolled the virtues of the area of the Tees Valley and Turner and Cotmann produced some of their most beautiful work, although

missing out Barningham entirely.

No one seems to have got further south than Greta Bridge; Richard Garland suggests the old Morrill Arms Hotel and not to miss Rokeby or the rock-walk under a precipice by the brawling Greta, a brief mention of Scargill, and a note that if you turned your back whilst on the Barningham Norbeck road you got a good view of both Rokeby and Raby Castle. It must therefore

## Counting the bag

It's the end of a good day's shooting on Barningham Moor in the 1920s, and one small boy – a young Milbank? – makes a tour of inspection of the day's bag as his elders, garbed much as they might be today, look on. Photo found in the Parkin Raine collection held at the Fitzhugh Museum in Barnard Castle.



## Ann wins our award for the second time

WINNER of the 2013 Archive Award was Ann Orton, who picked up the trophy for the second time.

The judges were most impressed by her detailed and well-illustrated history of Dalton Mill, excerpts from which you can read later in this issue.

She became intrigued by the history of the mill after becoming friends with owner Tini Cox, a fellow history group member.

Ann was the first trophy winner back in 2009 with her history of methodism and the Methodist chapel in Barningham.

Two other history group members were highly commended for their entries in the awards this year.

Phil Hunt was praised for his extensive and excellently-presented research into the history of Barningham's early schools and associated charities, some of which has appeared in earlier *Archives*.

John Hay's collection of



Ann with her award after its presentation by Lady Belinda

postcards sent from Barningham and elsewhere in Teesdale early in the last century was much admired by both the judges and visitors who saw it on display with the other entries at Barningham Show

on September 1st, when the awards were presented by Lady Belinda Milbank.

You'll find excerpts from John's entry and some postcards on pages 14 -15, and we'll print more in future *Archives*.

## On the track of a Rudyard Kipling link

APOLOGIES for not having written for a while on my Kipling research, but as you may recall (see *Archives 10* and *13*) I have been completing an MSc in genealogy (now awaiting result!)

I have turned my attention again to the Kiplings of Dalton and Gayles, as I am increasing of the belief that those living there in the 18th century came from Barningham and that in turn Rudyard Kipling's line came from there.

One piece of circumstantial evidence I found recently in the National Archives was a statement taken on the arrest of William Kipling of Dalton for horse stealing in 1772.

He was discovered with the horse in Loftus, where a sister of his lived (he was later acquitted). Rudyard's Kiplings can be traced back to Loftus around this time.

This is the same William who was tried for house breaking, sentenced to death and escaped from Durham gaol in 1775 (see the story in *Archive 25*).

One problem with confirming this is the hole in the Kirkby Ravensworth parish

### letters & emails

records from 1715 to 1740. Apparently some Bishop's Transcripts exist for this period and I wondered if anyone in the history group had made copies or transcriptions of them? If not, I will have to seek them out.

Another oddity is that in the records I have inherited from a previous Kipling researcher, he confidently records the baptism of Francis Kipling on 22 February 1652, son of Francis Kipling, apparently as if it had been at Barningham.

However, the baptism is not recorded in "Barningham Baptisms" nor can I find it in any other parish. Does the Society have copies of the original registers or of any Bishop's Transcripts for this period?

A third oddity is that although there are a succession of Ralph and Robert Kiplings, and doubtless others too, of Gayles throughout the 17th century, of yeoman status, none appears to have been born or married at Kirkby church.

I wonder if any member might have any clues as to

why this might be, or had any death records to see if they were buried there?

MIKE KIPLING  
Horsham, Sussex  
mike@kipling.me.uk

● *Mike's made a lot of progress since his last contact, when he was very doubtful about a Rudyard Kipling link. We've asked him to tell us more. On his point about the missing baptism from 1652, we have tracked down a Kipling born about then who might be what he's looking for. – Ed.*

## Was there a brass band?

DID Barningham or any of the other villages in your area once have its own brass or silver band?

I am carrying out research in the history of brass bands in local communities, and would like to ask if you know of any information about any such extinct bands in your area.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries were the "golden age" for these bands numbering, it is said, up to 40,000 distinct bands at their peak. ⇨

MARK WATSON  
Sussex House, Barningham

the acreage was not large enough so he moved to a farm in Wiltshire (I think). Then came the Archers etc.

I was talking recently to Keith Bellwood and reminiscing about life in Barningham. He remembers — (*name withheld for obvious legal reasons – Ed*) having two Jaguar cars but only one was licensed so if that wasn't working he would take off the numberplate and transfer it to the other car along with the tax disc! Brilliant... it wouldn't work today.

## Hillside farm on the edge of the waste

*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.*

### BRAGG HOUSE

NOBODY seems to have any idea why it's called Bragg House.

There's no record of anyone called Bragg, and the best suggestions we've got are that it might derive from either the Old Norse word *brae* meaning a slope or hillside, or Old English *brack*, meaning wasteland.

Both might well apply. Bragg House sits on the edge of the village, on a north-facing slope on moorside that would certainly once have been regarded as waste.

Like most if not all the other outlying farmhouses, it was built sometime after the enclosures of the early eighteenth century: a typical Yorkshire longhouse, dwelling on one side, protective barn to the west where most of the rain swept in from.

It's probably always belonged to the Milbanks, and certainly was at the time of our first recorded occupier, a farmer called John Shaw who in 1819 was paying a hefty £40 a year rent to the Milbanks in return for the house, adjoining land, and a dozen other fields scattered around the village.

There had been Shaws living in Barningham for at least 200 years before that – a John Shaw was baptised in the village church in 1588, and two Shaws were listed as owners of pews there in 1655 – but they petered out in the early 1700s and we've no evidence that they were related to the man in Bragg House a century later.

We don't know, either, whether they had anything to do with Shaw Lane, the track



### house histories



Bragg House

leading down to Banks House and beyond, or Shaw House at its entrance, but suspect this has more to do with the Old English *scaga*, meaning woodland.

Our 1819 John Shaw may well have had a son, also called John, who was farming here at the time of the 1841 census, but he wasn't at Bragg House. The occupiers then were William and Mary Todd, uncle and aunt of Mary Todd whose memories of life growing up at Hope we've featured in our publication *A Child of Hope*: she recalls staying with them at Bragg House in the early 1860s.

By 1871 the house was the home of gamekeeper William Bainbridge, his wife Hannah and five children.

Two decades later it was occupied by John Ellwood, a molecatcher who might well

have been related to the Ellwoods featured in *Archive 7*, and his wife Mary.

Sometime around the turn of the century it changed hands again, and for about 40 years it housed the Chilton family. First there was Thomas, a shepherd, and his wife Elizabeth; after their deaths it was taken over by their son Ralph and niece Beatrice who remained until the second world war.

They then moved to Banks House, and from about 1950 until 1962 the occupant of Bragg House was Walter Lee, who later moved to Chapel Cottage where he died in 1964. Walter was the uncle of Dennis Lee, who lived at Church View until his death in 2003.

Bill and Ann Bell moved into Bragg House, hosting a memorable New Year's gathering in the early hours of January 1st 1979 despite eight feet of snow all around. They moved down to Heather Cottage in 1995 and are now in Barnard Castle.

Subsequent occupants include John Pearson and family, Steven and Jane Morrill, and, currently, Aron Leighton.

## Pros and cons of being the pinder

AMONG the Milbank archive in the Record Office in Northallerton there is a Newsham Manor Court Book which runs from 1830 to 1835.

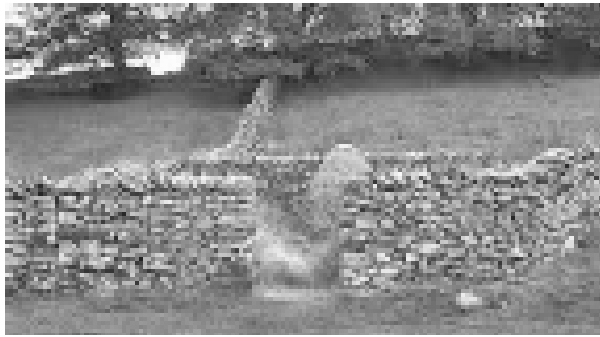
The Lord of the Manor at the time was Mark Milbank of Barningham Park, who had bought Newsham Manor in 1830 from William Johnson Hutchinson and Thomas Hutchinson, both described as “gentlemen”.

The records of the first court leet – the court that dealt with minor offences and jurisdiction, in contrast to the court baron which handled manorial property matters – listed the jurors, all freeman. The steward was John Coates, the bailiff Thomas Ewbank.

John Burdy of Newsham was elected constable for a year. He took the oath of office and paid the requisite fees – ten shillings to the steward and four pence to the bailiff. Burdy was later asked “if there be a proper constable’s staff and a pair of hand cuffs as accompaniments to his office?” He said there were.

The jurors also elected William Robinson as the pinder, the person who looked after the pound or pinfold where stray animals were held until their owners came to claim them – usually paying a fee to get them back.

The job of the pinder, a position that dated back to medieval days, wasn’t much sought after. “It was a necessary but unpopular one,” says the *Local History Companion*, “as it was a post often subject to abuse and occasionally to assault.” Not only that, but, like the constable, Robinson had to dig into his pocket to get the job. A shilling was due to the steward, four pence to the bail-



Pinfold at Crosby Ravensworth in Cumbria

iff, but the court recorded that these were respited (meaning he was allowed to delay payment) “he being a poor man”.

The post did have some compensations: the pinder kept any fines he managed to impose.

These were laid down by the court. Reclaiming a stray goose would cost its owner two pence; a flock of geese four pence; a sheep four pence; a flock of sheep a shilling; a heifer or cow six pence; a greater number of such beasts a shilling.

A horse, mare or mule was six pence; a bull a shilling (you wonder how much fun it was trying to round up a stray bull: the pinder probably earned his money on that one); hogs and sows were two pence apiece and a sow with a litter four pence.

How much William Robinson made out of this we don’t know, but you can’t imagine that there were all that many animals wandering around free for him to benefit from.

Once he’d caught them they needed to be kept securely locked in the pinfold, which was usually an enclosed corner of a field on the edge of common grazing land, and the 1830 court ordered the constable to buy “a good lock and key”

for the pinfold gate. It wasn’t enough. A year later one of the court jurors, William Dunn, reported that the pinfold was in a bad state and unfit for use unless a considerable amount was spent on repairs.

It was a problem that seems already to have come to the attention of Mark Milbank, who had started building a new pinfold on a new site and planned to hand it over to the township.

The grateful court agreed that “as soon as the same new pinfold shall be completed, the site of the old pinfold with the materials shall be given up to the use of the said Mark Milbank.”

Where were the old and new pinfolds sited? We’ve no firm evidence about either of them – there’s nothing marked on the early Ordnance Survey maps, which is odd because Barningham’s pinfold on the edge of the moor was clearly recorded – but there are verbal records suggesting that the new pinfold was at or near the site of the first house on the left as you enter Newsham from the A66.

Has anybody any further information?

JUNE GRAHAM

### letters & emails

↔ Many of these bands were associated with local industries, often being a “works” band. Others provided a musical focus for many small towns and villages in the days before the gramophone and the wireless. Today, in contrast, only some 1,500 or so are left active in the UK.

Sadly many of the bands left little in the way of information about their existence, and what does exist is widely scattered with individuals, local archives and national collections.

Part of my research is to identify these lost bands, to collect together material to provide a central database of information containing a mixture of primary information as well as references to material held elsewhere (eg in local archives).

Any information you can provide would be gratefully received, whether actual information or pictures of any bands, or pointers to resources, or sources for further investigation. Even knowing that a particular band existed is significant.

Currently much of the information I have collected is available online as a freely available resource at [www.ibew.co.uk](http://www.ibew.co.uk) in various locations, for example, in the reference section under “Extinct Bands” or “Vintage Pictures”.

With best wishes for your research in local history.

GAVIN HOLMAN  
[gavin@ibew.co.uk](mailto:gavin@ibew.co.uk)

● *Some members at the last history group thought they’d seen references to a Barningham brass band a century or so ago – can anyone come up with firm evidence? – Ed.*



Waiting in the trenches to go over the top: few of these returned

## Grants for projects to mark first world war

THE Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched ‘First World War: then and now’, a new grants programme to help communities mark the centenary of the first world war.

The programme offers grants of £3,000 – £10,000 for community heritage projects. We hope these will help people across the North-East to deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict, for example by:

- researching, identifying and recording local heritage
- creating a community archive or collection
- developing new interpretation of heritage through exhibitions, trails, smartphone apps etc
- researching, writing and performing creative material based on heritage sources

Projects can focus on any heritage related to the First

World War, and we are encouraging new perspectives and stories not previously told.

In the North-East we really like to help groups before they fill out an application form, so if anyone is thinking of applying under this programme, we strongly recommend that they express their interest online at [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk).

We will then let them know if their application is suitable for this programme and they can then decide whether to go ahead.

CHRISTOPHER HARLAND  
[christopher@hlf.org.uk](mailto:christopher@hlf.org.uk)

● *The history group has been wondering how to mark the anniversary next year, but felt at its last meeting that we were unlikely to embark on anything ambitious enough to justify a £3,000 grant application. Anybody got ideas for a smaller project?*

## Games on a wedding day 100 years ago

SEPTEMBER 13th, 1913. The war clouds were gathering, Ireland was in tumult, railwaymen all over England were on strike.

But Barningham had more important matters to think about. Mary Jane, 32-year-old youngest daughter of the Fairview Todd family, was getting married.

Her choice of husband was William Hutchinson Todd, an engineer from Meopham in Kent who, as far as we know, was no relation.

“The picturesque village of Barningham was *en fete* for the wedding,” reported the *Teesdale Mercury* the following week, “and many of the old Yorkshire rural customs were revived on the occasion.

“Screamers and bunting adorned the old-time hamlet, which presented quite a gay appearance, and the village Hampdens\* entered with zest into the interesting event.”

They certainly enjoyed the games held on the village green as part of the wedding celebrations. They included races (see the photo above; we carried another one, of the ladies’ race, in *Archive 1*) and skipping (as you can see on the front cover of this issue). The bride donated the prizes.

The wedding itself was con-

\* Village Hampden: A reference to John Hampden, 17th-century English politician; the phrase, meaning a village stalwart, comes from Grays *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* which refers to the heroism of “some village-Hampden, that with dauntless breast, The little tyrant of his fields withstood”.



And the winner of the men’s race is... unknown – but he sported a splendid moustache.

### cover story

#### The Wedding at Barningham.

DECORATED VILLAGE AND CHURCH.

OLD-TIME YOUNG AND OLD-TIME.

The picturesque village of Barningham was *en fete* for the wedding, and many of the old Yorkshire rural customs were revived on the occasion. Screamers and bunting adorned the old-time hamlet, which presented quite a gay appearance, and the village Hampdens entered with zest into the interesting event.

#### Wedding report in the Teesdale Mercury

ducted by the Rector, the Rev E Spencer Gough.

Mrs Coates played the Wedding March on the new organ as Miss Todd, carrying a bouquet of lilies and “attired in a lovely dress of white satin and wearing her mother’s wedding veil and orange blossom” walked down the aisle on the arm of her brother William, who lived at The Yews (her father

James had died a couple of years earlier). Her attendants included her sister Lillian and a newly-acquired sister-in-law, the bridegroom’s sister Elsie.

“On the happy couple emerging from the church they were photographed, and the bell was rung merrily, and shots were fired,” said the *Mercury*.

The reception was held at Fairview; there was a dance in the evening before the couple set off in the bridegroom’s car for their honeymoon in Scarborough.

They went to live in Meopham, but sadly it wasn’t a case of happily ever after. The bridegroom enlisted when war broke out less than a year later, and died in action in France in 1917.

They don’t appear to have had any children. What happened to Mary Jane we don’t know, but she doesn’t seem to have returned to Barningham and certainly isn’t buried with all the other Todds in the village churchyard.

● *Photos from Neil Turner’s collection.*



### dalton mill

in West Ham, London. The last few millers are still remembered by their descendants and so we have a much better idea of what life must have been like for them.

According to *Bulmer’s Directory* William Darwin was the miller in 1890. Apparently before his marriage he would walk from Skeeby to the mill each day.

It is rumoured that his father left after a very brief visit when he saw an avalanche of rats descending the stairs! Whilst Darwin was there milling stopped as the house and mill flooded.

William Milburn, who is listed as living at the mill with his wife Elizabeth in the 1910 land tax duty return, lived there for about seven years but didn’t mill. There is no mention of him in the 1911 census for Dalton.

The last miller was Isaac Rutter. He took over the mill in 1914 and with the help of John Fenwick, of Dalton House, renovated the machinery and started milling again.

He moved into the mill on his marriage in 1916 to Mary and they had five children, three girls and two boys. The

**John Cox takes his Austin 7 down the track to Dalton Mill. Below, Mattie Coates as a young girl with her mother and father and nephew Geoffrey**



youngest daughter Mattie, who was born in 1928, recently spoke to members of the Barningham Local History Group about her life at the mill – see *Archives 32 and 33*.

Eventually oil and cake mills started selling ready mixed livestock food and small watermills became redundant. Dalton mill was dismantled in about 1936. It is thought that the wheel went to Consett.

Some of the stones went to Newsham mill. Mattie’s father, Isaac, found an old oak millstone axle in the tail race dated 1679.

After the closure of the mill Isaac continued to live there with his daughter Mattie and her husband Harold Coates until his death in 1983 aged 97.

Harold and Mattie bought the mill and land in 1955 from Mrs Wardle of Darlington. Her husband had bought it some years before with the intention of renovating it but had died soon after its purchase.

The mill was sold to Tini and John Cox and their daughter and son-in-law, Becky and David, in 1994.

Tini and John now live in “Goose Eye” the charmingly converted outbuildings. Becky and David have been very careful to retain as many of the original features of the mill as possible and, apart from the absence of the milling machinery, it is still very much as it has been for centuries.

It is wonderful to know that this vital part of our history remains to remind us of the lives of the men and women who worked so hard to earn a living in this beautiful place.

## dalton mill

means), Matthew Clarkston 20 (miller).

1851 census: James Smith 27, miller and farmer of 30 acres (born at Hurworth), Mary 24, wife (born at Hawnby), Elizabeth 25, his sister visiting from Hurworth, Ann Nay (Anne Kay) 16, servant (born at Barnard Castle)

The 1861 and 1871 censuses have no record of a miller or anyone else living at the mill.

1881 census: Thomas Fenwick 47, miller and farmer (born at Kilvington), Margaret 54, wife (born at Prudhoe), John T Kearton 20, miller (born at Richmond), George P (B) arker 20, farm servant (born at Ravensworth), Jane 19, unmarried (domestic servant Woodland), Eleanor 12, (visitor Woodland).

John Kearton indulged in a bit of early graffiti, inscribing his name on one of the cornerstones of the mill. There are other names carved into the stone but only these and the initials I R (Isaac Rutter) are still legible.

Also shown as living at Dalton Mill in the 1881 census but as a separate household are John Pounder 36, (farm labourer Ravensworth), Elizabeth E. 27, wife (Carkin Grange), Henry 8, son (Ravensworth), George 7, son (Cliff Bank), Frederick 4, son (Forcett), Jane Ann 1, daughter.

The Fenwick family are listed as having three rooms and the Pounders only one.

1891 census: Thomas Fenwick is still listed but only as "farmer" and with no details of where he is living. There is no trace of anyone else living at the mill although it is thought



**This is thought to be a photograph of Elizabeth Henderson who severely damaged her hand in the mill machinery. Can you see the dog on her right? The small pan-tiled building behind her is the mill house.**

that Ralph Chilton was there for about a year circa 1890. He is listed in the census as a meal and flour dealer.

1901 census: George Henderson 59, (miller and farmer) Elizabeth 54, wife (again with only 1 room).

The 1910 Land Tax Duty returns show W and F (H or N) Milburn were occupying Dalton Mill which was owned by William Hutchinson Esq. of Galgate, Barnard Castle. It had an estimated extent of 14 acres and one rod, a gross annual value of £32 10s and a rateable value of £29 10s.

However the 1911 census shows no record of a Milburn at the mill or anyone else.

Although these records give an insight into the occupants of the mill we are still left with questions. It is likely that the miller would need other forms of income than just the mill. They obviously farmed too but

did they take in lodgers? Who are John and Jane Thomas from the 1841 census, both aged 25 and of independent means? Were they brother and sister (perhaps twins) or husband and wife? The census doesn't tell us but they were living at the mill, perhaps as lodgers?

In 1881 there are two families living there, the Fenwicks and the Pounders. Had Thomas Fenwick sublet a room?

There were also periods of ten years between the census returns when we don't know who was resident. There were two advertisements in the *Teesdale Mercury* offering the mill to rent, the first on 10th April 1865, the other on 31st May 1882 when applicants were invited to contact Mr John Porter of Gill Farm, adjoining the property.

The rent was £8 a year. Further details could be had from Thomas Royle, of The Cedars,

## Home to the millers for over 700 years

*Excerpts from ANN ORTON's winning entry in the 2013 Archive Awards*

THE use of water mills was first recorded in the first century BC. They were later used by the Romans and the Domesday Book shows that there were more than 6,000 in England by the late 11th century.

Although Dalton Mill was not one of them we do know that there was a mill there in 1251. Court records show details of legal action between Henry Fitzhugh, the miller at Dalton (son of Ranulf Fitzhugh, Lord of Ravensworth) and Robert Travers, miller at Gayles.

Both mills were powered by Dalton Beck. Henry was disturbed by Robert's competition so he endeavoured to divert the waters of the beck and deprive Robert of his water supply.

Robert retaliated by "making a ditch", presumably from Henry's head race, and for some time this closed Dalton Mill, "much to the injury of the whole neighbourhood". This original mill stood on, or very near, the site of the present mill at the southern end of Dalton village by the side of Dalton Beck.

By the 16th century water power was the most important means of power in Europe with the number of water mills rising to more than 20,000 by the 19th century. Mills generally had to be rebuilt every 200 years or so due to the heavy wear and tear on the machinery and the risk of fire from sparks to the dusty atmosphere. The present corn mill was built in the late 17th century and was thatched but later replaced with slates (possibly when a third storey was added in the mid 1800s).

The mill originally had two large rooms on two floors. However, because of the way



## dalton mill

## Dalton Mill today

it was built into the bank the first floor room had a door that opened at ground level. This must have been very handy when taking corn into the mill and, of course, the flour could also be brought out at ground level on the lower floor.

The attached house was much smaller, originally consisting of one small room downstairs with a steep wooden ladder stair leading to the first floor bedroom. (Older people living in the village have said that they can remember Mrs Rutter, wife of the last miller, climbing the steep wooden stair quickly and nimbly to fetch her purse when needed!) A dairy was built under a rear outshot and then an east wing in the late 18th century with an external chimney for a parlour fireplace.

Inside, the house still retains an early 18th century six-fielded door. On each floor the windows were originally flat mullions with small panes of glass. The ground floor room still has its curved chamfered

cross beam and an inglenook fireplace with a small fire window in the back wall. In this inglenook was a late 19th century cast iron grate and the ashlar surround (masonry made of large square-cut stones, used as a facing on walls of brick or stone rubble) of its early 19th century predecessor.

Nearby a single storey range of buildings with raised verges was used for the miller's horse and cart and partly for animals which he could feed economically with sweepings from the mill. Part of this was converted in 1994 to a separate dwelling.

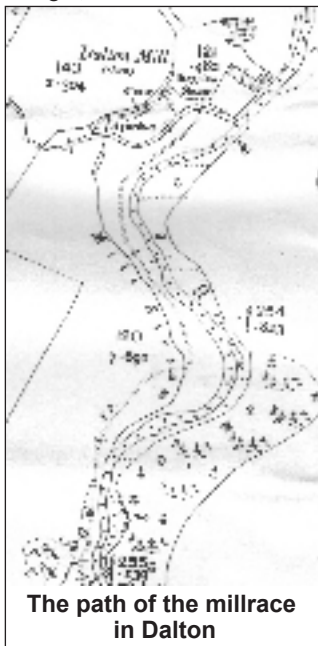
Water-mills were dependent on a flow of water which turned a large wheel. The power from the water was then driven through a shaft connected to a system of gears and cogs. This in turn provided power to turn the millstones and other machinery in the mill such as the sack hoists.

There were various types of waterwheel, depending on the water supply available. Dalton Mill had a large overshot

## dalton mill

wheel on the north side which was replaced in the mid 1800s by a larger wheel, reputed to be 32 feet in diameter. (This was possibly why a third storey was built onto the mill to enable it to accommodate the new wheel). Overshot wheels were 68% more efficient than other types. Wheels and shafts were made of oak but elm, which is more resistant to rot, was used for the paddles. Closely fitting ashlar stone work kept the inside of the mill dry.

The mill pond was situated close to Throstle Gill about a quarter of a mile from the mill. Water collected there from a small beck whose flow was stopped by a sluice. When the sluice was opened the water ran into Dalton beck and was then directed through a stone channel across a wooden aquaduct into another stone channel and went, it is thought, under the track where



The path of the millrace in Dalton

the garage stands today and then down onto the wheel.

After leaving the wheel the water went down the tail race through another underground channel of bricks and back into Dalton Beck.

The most vital part of the mill, the millstones, needed to be made from special hard rock. The Romans imported blue lava stones from the Rhine Valley which was good for milling oats, barley and rye, and in the Middle Ages the best stone, French Burr (from Paris) was sourced. However, the cost of imported stone for a small mill might cost more than a year's wages.

Fortunately, millstone grit became available from within England with Carr Craggs near High Force supplying stone for local mills.

Fitted in pairs and about four feet in diameter, the millstones weighed more than a ton and were geared to run at about 125 rpm. The upper "runner" moved against a lower fixed millstone called the "bedstone". Special patterns were cut into the stones by highly skilled craftsman.

It was important to get this completely right since wrongly cut stones would result in uneven milling. The two stones had to be kept apart by keeping them full of corn as they would wear very quickly if the two surfaces touched.

The wheel at Dalton could develop 13 horse power and drove two (possibly three) sets of stones. One of the French Burr bedstones can still be seen in the floor of what is now a sitting room.

### The Owners

THE Normans were responsible for introducing the feudal system to England by which the Manorial Lord was given "Right of Soke".



Early 18th century door inside the house

This was never written in law and its meaning was fairly vague. However it did give the Lord the right to hold a court and all corn had to be milled in his mill.

The present village of Dalton is probably the Dalton Michael of 1286-7. It was known by various different names over the centuries, Dalton Michael-in-Brogtonlith, Dalton Ryal, West Dalton and finally just Dalton. The mill, therefore, would be in the possession of its many Manorial Lords.

In 1251 it as held by the Lords of Ryal in Northumberland. In around 1267 Thomas, son of Michael, Lord of Ryal, died and his son, Michael, took possession. In 1308-9 on the marriage of his daughter Isabel to John Fitzhugh, he settled it on them and their heirs. Shortly afterwards Isabel sold the manor to John de Stapleton and it remained in the hands of his family until the late 16th century.

The manor then passed through many hands until it was split up and sold in 1969, but the manorial rights, such as they are, are now vested in the Metcalfe family of Dalton Fields.

The 1842 Tithe map shows the

mill in the ownership of Thomas Hutchinson. According to the census records in 1851 he was unmarried, aged 68 and living at Brawston (Browston) Bank. He must have been quite affluent as his household consisted of Isabel Wilkinson, 68, John Moore, 50 and Mary Kirkly, 27, all listed as servants.

By the 1861 census, still unmarried, he had moved to 1 Middle Street, Gayles and had "landed property". Living with him then were Elizabeth, 42, (no surname but apparently his daughter, a widow born at Newsham) and Isabella Craggs, 14, house servant. In 1871 he is aged 88 with no address listed but is still in Dalton and has his daughter living with him and a servant named Annis Robinson, 18.

By February 1906 the mill was advertised for sale:

"Dalton Mill, Dwelling-house, Farm Buildings, and 15 Acres of good Meadow and Pasture Land, situated at Dalton, near Newsham, in the North Riding. The Mill is in good working order, easily managed, and has an unfailing supply of water power. A good grinding and milling business has and can be done at this mill."

It presumably wasn't sold as by June 1907 it was sold by auction (see the *Teesdale Mercury* in *Archive 32*) to Mr W Hutchinson of Galgate, Barnard Castle.

On March 29th 1933 the following advertisement appeared in the *Mercury*:

"To Close A Trust. For Sale by Private Treaty. Smallholding of about 16 acres, Dalton, known as Dalton Mill. Also two closes of land, approximately 4 acres, at Mickleton, in the occupation of Mr. E. Walker. Also two closes of land at Bowes, about 4 acres, rented by Mr. Newbold. And one house, Main Street, Bowes. Ten-



Part of the 1842 tithe map for Dalton, showing the mill beside the beck

ant, Mr. Alderson. For particulars apply Wm. Hutchinson, Skeeby, Richmond."

To date there is no information to explain this trust. The only connection is William Hutchinson. Was he the son of the William Hutchinson who bought the mill in 1907? We do know, however, that the mill was sold in 1955 by a Mrs Wardle whose husband possibly bought it in 1936.

### The millers

THE first millers would have been either related to or appointed by the manorial lord. The only records of this found to date are the details of the court case in 1251 when the miller was Henry Fitzhugh, son of Ranulf Fitzhugh, Lord of Ravensworth.

With the advent of newspapers and better record keeping, however, it is possible to learn more about the millers from the mid 1840s. An entry in *White's East*

and *North Riding Directory* reads:

"1840: Dalton. 308 souls & 2,450 acres of land, partly fertile & well wooded, partly moorland. Wm. Hutchinson, Esq is lord of the manor but most of the soil belongs to J Glover & U Lister, Esqrs... Matthew & Wm Musgrave, millers."

The 1842 Dalton tithe map shows Thomas Hutchinson as owning the mill and most of the land, the exception being Mill Garth which is owned by the trustees of Usher College. Jane Musgrave is shown as occupier of the mill field, mill house, mill pasture and meadow with various others occupying the remaining pasture and meadow. (Previous generations of the Musgrave family were millers at Hackforth and Crakehall).

The 1841 census: Jane Musgrave 65 (miller), William 40, Mary 10, John Thomas 25, Jane Thomas 25 (both of independent