

from the parish mag

125 YEARS AGO: It is with great pleasure we have to tell our readers that one of the workmen, as he was knocking down part of the wall in the north side of the Church for one of the windows, discovered a most interesting relic of the past, within a couple of feet of the eaves, used as a stone for building up the wall. It was the piscine or stone basin belonging to the old church, and is really the only connecting link between the ancient church and the present. These stone basins were used to pour water down that had been used for cleansing the sacred vessels after Holy Communion, and were generally in the south wall of the chancel, and to this place we shall now restore it. It is in almost perfect condition; Norman piscinae are exceedingly rare; it is ornamented by a fluted pattern, and has evidently been supported by a shaft and base standing clear of the wall, the drain going out at the back. Its date is probably about 1100 or 1150. — *March 1891*

100 YEARS AGO: Notice having been given of the new Lighting Order, the Rector and the churchwardens met at once to take steps to darken the windows of the church. Services have been conducted with only three lights in the church, and the choir sat in the nave. Our organist, Mr Thomas, started the singing, as there was no light for the organ. — *March 1916*

90 YEARS AGO: The Whist Drive and Dance was a decided success. Over £45 was raised and divided between the Darlington Hospital and

R. B. MORTON

HIGH-CLASS

**Boot
Warehouse**
MARKET PLACE
BARNARD CASTLEAll the Leading Lines in
Ladies' and Gent.s'
Footwear
Always in stock*Ad from March 1926*

the Children's Home at Kirkby Moorside. We heartily congratulate all who contributed to such a magnificent result.

— *March 1926*

80 YEARS AGO: It was with deep concern that we all heard of the misfortune that befell Mr John Milbank through an accident in the hunting field. We deeply sympathise with Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank in the unexpected sadness of their home-coming.

— *March 1936*

75 YEARS AGO: We wish to make acknowledgement with many thanks gifts of beautiful altar flowers from time to time from Mr Joseph Leggett. — *March 1941*

60 YEARS AGO: Commander Bayley, of Scargill Lodge, was licensed as a Lay Reader by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese on March 10. — *March 1956*

50 YEARS AGO: This has been a long and tiresome winter for all of us and I hope by the time this reaches you the snow will have quite disappeared and that those who have been laid low with flu will have recovered. — *March 1966*

**Barningham
Local
History Group**

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Covering Barningham,
Newsham, Dalton, Gayles,
Kirby Hill, Whashton, Kirby
Ravensworth, Hutton Magna,
Greta Bridge, Rokeby, Brigg,
Scargill, Hope & beyond.

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Vernacular Buildings Study
Group



Archive 51

THE MAGAZINE OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk


INSIDE: THE POLICE INSPECTOR DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH


Five stalwarts of Dalton and Gayles Women's Institute taking a break during a group visit to Newby Hall some sixty years ago — can anyone provide a more precise date? See Page 17 for our history of the WI branch, Page 22 for the names of the five ladies.

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NEXT BLHG MEETING: TUESDAY APRIL 19th at 7pm

The Archive

IF you get the feeling that there's something ever-so-slightly different about this issue of the *Archive*, you're right.

We've changed the way it's produced, using a different desk-top publishing program — Microsoft Publisher instead of Adobe Pagemaker — and it's meant making one or two minor typographical adjustments.

The reason for the swap is that Publisher is much more widely available than Pagemaker (it comes free with Microsoft Office on many computers) and we hope it will make it easier for more people to get involved in the newsletter's production.

A couple of our members have already tried it out and we'll be only too pleased if more decide they'd like to give it a go.

Meanwhile, there hasn't exactly been a flood of volunteers to take over editorship of the *Archive*, so the person to blame for its imperfections is still

JON SMITH
Editor

Neil gets us off to a good start to the New Year

Minutes of the meeting held on February 9th 2016:

Present: Phil Hunt, Jon Smith, Margaret Stead, Cate Collingwood, June Graham, Doug Anderson, Greta Carter, Margaret Taylor, David Taylor, Jane Hackworth Young, John Hay.

Apologies: Linda Sherwood, Ann Orton, Dianne Metcalf, Sheila Wappat.

Minutes of the meeting on December 15th 2015 were approved.

Matters arising: Parish meeting notes to be sent to Jon Smith by Cate Collingwood. Discussions were ongoing with the Archivist at Northallerton re the conscientious objectors project.

Correspondence: Robin Turner regarding Sam Turner and his inclusion on the Barningham Roll of Honour; John Hay to talk to Neil about his father's return from the 1914-18 war.

A picture of Rose Cottage (now The Hollies) in 1904 had been received from Bridget Van de Pol.

Finance: Deficit for the pe-

minutes

riod October 2015—February 2016 of £104.67. A chase-up of subscriptions was underway.

Project reports: John Hay would discuss with Marion Lewis the Alderson content of the Roll of Honour to ensure we are not double counting.

Oral Histories: Still in progress.

New Year Party: Judging by the photographs it was a success. Thanks were given to Neil at the Milbank Arms for his generosity.

Next meeting: Tuesday April 19th 2016 at 7pm.

Future programme: Suggestions included a visit to Swaledale Museum in June. An invitation had been received from Rokeby to view the new exhibitions and visit the Meeting of the Waters.

Guest speaker: Doug Anderson stepped in to tell us about discoveries on his farm — see opposite.

JOHN HAY
Acting secretary

dalton & gayles wi

Thrift was the WI watchword in hard times

THE surviving minutes reveal a lot about female society at that time. By 1938 the number of WIs had risen nationally to 5,500 with a total membership of 350,000.

Throughout the period 1928 to 1938 a major theme of the institute's programmes was thrift which the minutes reflect.

Members adapted themselves to the National Depression and welcomed the opportunity, in the face of real hardship, to be taught how to make the most of what little there was.

As a predominantly farming area the locals bore witness to the farmers' slide into depression from its heyday of 1920 where every £1000 invested into farming was by 1932 worth only about £250. The result was the reduction in farming labour and the putting down to grass of 4 million acres nationally.

Between the wars the atmosphere in the farming community had returned to one of defeat and depression, with farmers impoverished and neglected cottages and buildings falling into disrepair.

With villages lacking many of the basic amenities, which the WI nationally had been fighting for, there are no mentions of any such matters in the Dalton WI minutes apart from one session where members were asked what they might like from a "modern home". Sadly, there's no record of their answers.

Dilapidation and desertion marked change in rural life

From the *Teesdale Mercury*, February 11th 1891:

THE changes which rural life has undergone since the introduction of the railways, and partial cessation in the cultivation of arable land, is most emphasised in many of the North Riding villages.

At this moment a good deal of the cottage property at Newsham is tenantless, the broken windows speaking of dilapidation and neglect, whilst the limited spaces of land formerly occupied by agricultural labourers have been added to the larger holdings.

The average farm operative has betaken himself to pastures new, having found employment in the larger centres of population, because at Newsham his occupation has gone.

Since the repeal of the Corn Laws great territorial changes have taken place. Here the soil, though most fertile but partly on high moors, formerly grew immense quantities of wheat, and hard by is the disused grinding-mill.

The population at one time

cuttings

used to number 434; in the current census year it will certainly be discovered that the residents are far fewer.

● *It was down to 206. -Ed.*

Servant girl jailed for theft of purse

From the *York Herald of December 16th 1871:*

AT the Greta Bridge Police-court, Maria King, aged 15, was charged with stealing £2, the property of Mr John Atkinson of Newsham, with whose brother she was a servant.

Mr Atkinson placed his purse, containing £8, in a drawer in his bedroom and later found it gone.

The prisoner pleaded guilty and was committed for 14 days' imprisonment.

Meat for the poor

From the *Northern Echo of December 28th 1885:*

MR James Todd, of Fair View, Barningham, has distributed a quantity of beef and mutton amongst his tenants and the poor.

valete

Enid Alderson

BORN in Barningham in 1926, Enid was the daughter of Edward and Muriel Brown (see *Archives 42* and *29*), married farmer George Clarence Alderson and spent most of her life in Cotherstone. She died in Richmond on February 25th and was buried at Downholme.

Anne Bell

ANNE lived in Barningham for many years with her husband Bill and family, first at Bragg House and later at Heather Cottage, before retiring to Barnard Castle. She died there in her early eighties on March 4th and was buried in Barningham.

The Archive

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY
NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2012

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Back issues of *The Archive* are available at £2 each (£1 for members)

Full index of contents on our website



WI outing to Newby Hall in 19???: Miss H Powell, Mrs Davies, Mrs Herring, Miss N Powell, Miss Nolan, Mr Collinson, Miss N Marwood and an unknown gentleman.

And the front cover photo: Mrs Hart, Mrs Metcalfe, Mrs Davies, Mrs Bainbridge and Miss Nicholls.

committee members. Presidents seemed to continue until they wished to resign or sadly died.

Wartime

Meetings were moved from 7pm to the afternoon due to lighting restrictions and the summer outings were postponed in 1940 "indefinitely".

In March 1941 the Dalton WI became a Fruit Preservation Centre. In August 1941 the branch was urged to hold Red Cross classes in the village.

Seamen's Missions were supported by raffles. Some young members left to join the forces. Military Whist Drives were held for Warship Week in 1942.

Money was raised for the Green Howards Prisoners of

dalton & gayles wi

War Fund and Mrs Churchill's "Aid for Russia" campaign which was to provide fur garments for our own airmen and sailors as well as our allies.

The WI members were also urged to keep rabbits, eating the meat to supplement meagre rations and curing the skins which were then made into fur jackets, hats and gloves. Dalton WI members did indeed record a talk on glove making. Members also knitted for occupied countries.

Other than current recollections I have no knowledge as to how, for example, the Land Army girls who came to the area were re-

ceived by the local WI.

This would be an influx of girls with potentially different backgrounds. Many did marry locals and Mary Blackburn was one notable WI member who came from Queensbury as a Land Army girl and married a local lad.

The wartime enterprise for which the WI is known was making jam and what began as a WI Produce Guild project became a government sponsored, nationwide effort of women and Dalton WI was involved in that effort as the minutes record.

On 31 December 1940 there were 2,600 such fruit preservation centres managed by the WI, including, although there is no mention how much was produced there.

Display of farm finds fascinates group

AT the last history group meeting Doug Anderson of Moor House Farm, agreed at the last minute to step in and share with us the finds he has made over the years as he ploughs the 19 fields surrounding the farm.

Whilst discussing the finds, Doug referred to the pack horse way and Moor Lane as it tracks up to the Cross Lanes on the A66 and interspersed his finds with comments on old buildings and barns that have been pulled down, paved ways in the fields and the Pack Horse Chair up from the Greta.

Among the exhibits that he brought along for us to see were:

- A wide iron collar with brass fittings used to protect the neck of a dog during hunting.
- Clay pipe bowls from the 18 and 19th Centuries, one carrying an advertising crest and leaves.
- An 18th Century green/brown glass mallet-shaped wine bottle which, in its complete state, is a treasured item on the Antiques Road Show.

- Parts of a deer skeleton
- Two jet beads dated as pre-Christian.
- A musket ball
- A dressed flint shard which could either be a skin scraper or an awl for making holes in skins.

- Two stones; one a heavy but exceptionally smooth egg shape which may have been a dressing stone for skins, and the second, a round shape about three inches thick with a concave depression on each face, which could be a hand

Doug with some of his finds

Photo by Phil Hunt



hammer for flint work.

- An hand axe head of Neolithic style.

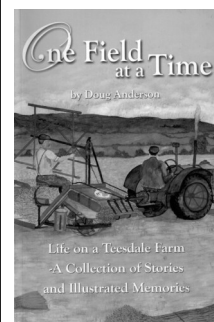
- Horseshoes, some of which have been found in the Greta on the Pack Horse crossing.

Each item provoked a degree of speculation on its

use. One of the joys of this type of presentation is being able to handle the items and to put forward our ideas of their vintage and history.

Many thanks to Doug for allowing us to share his finds.

JOHN HAY



How to get a copy of Doug's book

DOUG has recently featured in the press describing his farming life and discussing his book *One field at a time*.

Doug is not only a writer but a talented painter and he has populated the book with pictures reflecting his farming life. One reason he wrote it was to record the field names about the farm, what their names meant and something of their history.

He has generously donated a number of copies of his book to the history group and we are selling them for £5 each. If you'd like a copy, please get in touch with John Hay — contact details on the back page.

Mercury website adds 50 more years

THE *Teesdale Mercury* archive project has added another half-century of pages to its website.

It now contains every edition from its foundation in 1855 to the end of 2005 — a total of 66,000 pages which you can browse free of charge.

The website went online in 2012 with the first hundred years' pages, and last year it attracted more than a million hits and more than 18,000 unique visitors. Over the past three years a small group of volunteers have photographed and digitalised 22,234 pages covering the next 50 years and they were added to the site last month.

It's a wonderful source of information, and well worth exploring. Log in to www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org and see what you can find!

Learning to read old handwriting

DURHAM County Record Office is running a series of courses in the spring on palaeography — the art of reading and understanding old handwriting and documents.

There will be six sessions, covering handwriting from medieval times up to the 19th Century.

You can join as many or few of them as you wish: £10 each or £50 for all six. Courses will be held on Friday mornings from April 22 to May 27, repeated on Saturday mornings April 23-May 28.

For more details or to book, ring the CRO on 03000

news

267626. The *Archive* has already signed up!

If the subject interests you but you can't make the Durham courses, you can find a range of online tutorials on palaeontology on the National Archives website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/reading-old-documents.

There's also a useful guide there on how to look for records of houses.

Buildings group spring events

THE Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group, to which our history group belongs, is organising a number of events this spring.

They include a training session on recording urban buildings, to be held in York on Saturday April 16th (bookings: 07810 668975), and two events taking place as part of the Swaledale Festival: a walk around Reeth looking at architecture and occupational history on Tuesday May 31st, 1.15-3.15pm, and a six-mile walk looking at traditional hay meadows and barns in upper Swaledale on Wednesday June 1st, 10.30am-3pm (for details of both these, ring 01748 880018).

1939 'census' is now available

CENSUS returns are locked up for 100 years, so we can't yet access any of them after 1911. However, the 'snapshot' census taken after the outbreak of war in 1939

to help the government organise rationing and conscription doesn't count, and it's now available online on the findmypast.co.uk website.

Basic searches are free, but there's a fee if you want to see or download a full transcription.

We'd like to hear from you if you use this website: let us know what you discover.

Virtual museum

VOLUNTEERS with the Altogether Archaeology project have set up an online North Pennines Virtual Museum to showcase objects relating to the area's history.

It's worth having a look at, and welcomes suggestions for additional items.

Log in to the museum at www.npvm.org.uk.

Membership

IT'S taken a few reminders, but almost every history group member has now renewed their membership for 2016 — thank you all for your support.

Members include around 33 households in Barningham and surrounding villages and another 35 people dotted around the world in places including the Netherlands and Australia.

Online access

HISTORY group members are reminded that we're signed up to several useful websites, including Ancestry, Genes Reunited and the British Newspaper Archives.

If you want to use any of these, get in touch with Jon Smith (contact details on Page 2).

Philanthropic acts

Roughly on an annual basis eggs were sent to Darlington Memorial Hospital: in March 1936 37 dozen fresh eggs and 2 dozen dyed eggs were sent, in April 1937 38 and a half dozen eggs, in April 1938 40 dozen fresh eggs and 6 dyed ones, in April 1939 20 dozen fresh eggs, in April 1940 330 fresh eggs, April 1943 150 fresh eggs and in April 1945 210 fresh eggs.

People regularly gave things to be raffled in aid of WI funds — a feather pillow, a plum cake, homemade rhubarb wine and a cheese. The raffling of a "handmade button hole" I cannot understand.

A National Savings Scheme was started by the group which had £30 in it in August 1940 but had grown to £180 in December 1940. By August 1943 the savings had reached £10,429.

A Whist Drive in December 1940 raised money to buy wool to knit "home comforts" for the troupes. In August 1943 a dance raised £8 11s 6d for the NSPCC.

Hostesses

It is not clear who provided "the supper" or of what it consisted but at least two ladies were charged with serving it at each meeting. There was probably a rota and it presumably helped to refine domestic skills.

Competitions

These were encouraged and were mainly to find the "best" item such as the best one-shilling parcel of groceries, a dressed doll, mince-pies, marmalade, jam, crab apple jelly, the outcome from one egg or 6oz of flour or 2oz of wool. Sometimes it was the prettiest item such as a decorated coat-hanger or Italian

dalton & gayles wi

quilted nightdress case, flowers or the neatest dust cap.

Winners were often the same people, who had clearly honed their skills or maybe just taken the time to enter as it is not clear how many ladies did take part in the competitions.

On one occasion it is noted there was only one entry, and two entries for the "child's lunch". However in the April 1937 competition for 6 brown or white eggs there were 17 entries, so clearly many ladies kept hens. In July 1937 the rice cake competition was said to be "popular".

Sometimes the competition was more light-hearted — eg, best knitting with matchsticks or the most useful things in a matchbox.

There was always a prize donated (again this seems to be on a rota) for the winning entry and in January 1936 the two people with the most points in competitions were given a handbag or a cake stand. Quite a prize.

Mystery parcels were regularly named as being won but not the contents nor who donated them.

Teams were often set on marital status — Married Ladies are recorded as winners in a "spelling competition" in December 1938 which might lead us to conclude single and married ladies were members in fairly equal numbers.

Group meetings

Delegates were dispatched regularly to listen and report back on regional and national WI group meetings.

Mrs Hart regularly was voted to attend NFWI meetings in London and Miss Metcalfe to York to the Spring Council Meeting. These would be big days out for the ladies and their reports were well received on their return.

Outings and trips

These were often with Barningham WI to such areas as the Lakes in July 1936 "leaving at 8am with Percival's Luxury Coach via Appleby, Penrith, Keswick, Derwentwater, Thirlmere, Grasmere, Ambleside to arrive at Windermere by 12.30pm for free time until 6pm arriving home at 10pm tired but happy."

In June 1937 the venue was Bridlington but there were "one or two little hitches en route" for the 29 members and friends who went to the seaside. In 1938 the trip was to Carlisle for 26 people who visited Carr's biscuits works and some managed to get to Gretna Green by local bus and still be ready to return home by 8pm. In 1939 the trip was to Newcastle and Whitley Bay.

During the war picnics were held at Brignall and Easby Abbey as an alternative to a full blown coach outing.

Improvement courses

Dressmaking courses were available through the county council. Ministry of Information films were recorded as being watched in Richmond during the WW2.

The Committee

This was chosen annually with invited male tellers to count the votes for a president, two vice-presidents, treasurer and secretary, press secretary and about 7-10

Committee gave a sketch called *The Lovers Limp*, in November 1936 another sketch entitled *The Ideal Companion* and in January 1937 *Madam Blanslands Waxworks*.

Someone always thanked the speaker which again would develop confidence and public speaking skills.

Speakers

People came in the main from the wider locality such as Darlington, Gainford, Northallerton, Hunton, and Barnard Castle, along with more local people who were acknowledged experts in their fields — embroidery, parchment lampshades, cooking and cake icing, for example — giving talks and showing their skills. In the war years Ministry employees also came to demonstrate cooking skills, chutney and pickle making, eiderdown making and thrift.

Companies such as Cadburys sent representatives

dalton & gayles wi

who gave each attendee a tin of Bournvita and free cups of cocoa (attendance numbers were high that day, with 48 members.) In February 1938 Brooke Bond Tea representatives visited and provided tea and biscuits to members. In May 1938 Paton & Baldwins spoke on knitting, rug making and crochet work (but no free samples!) In May 1939 Heinz provided “delicious sandwiches and soup” as well as an interesting talk on their products.

Some speakers took on very serious subjects — in July 1936, the “Problems of Women Today”, in November 1936 “the Value of Milk as a Food”, and in June 1938 the Milk Publicity Council instructed on “Health and the best foods to promote health”.

Others spoke about holidays on the continent and in

July 1939 a speaker told of her travels to Greece, even showing paintings she had done whilst there. In February 1939 Nurse Ellenor of Epleby spoke on “Infant Welfare” and in October 1939 Nurse Henderson talked on “Invalid Drink Recipes”.

Thrift was encouraged — for example, Mrs Richinson of Gainford gave “a most useful and entertaining demonstration on the possibilities from a yard of material which were surprising and numerous” and clearly advice that was well received.

Mrs Milligan of Eston spoke about making “binder twine mats” and again about the making of “Loose Covers”. In March 1941 a talk was on the subject of “Pinafores for all Occasions” which sounds contrary to thrift to me!

Male speakers were rare other than local vicars who often spoke. There was the Rev Kennedy on behalf of the Rev Close on “Local history”. A Mr Camkin spoke on sea grass seating, again demonstrating the skill. In March 1939 Mr Hyde of Pickering spoke on “Yorkshire Wit and Humour”.

Lantern Slide presentations are mentioned from October 1938 and clearly a Mr Kennedy was the owner of the “lantern”, though slides were often loaned from companies such as the LNER.

Wine Making was a talk often repeated. During the war years talks on bottled fruit and vegetables featured as did the “National Loaf of Bread”. “Bits and Wits” were regularly featured, which was basically making something from nothing.



Coach trips were a regular event — but they didn't always turn out quite as expected.



Westmarlands at Rose Cottage 112 years ago

BRIDGET Van De Pol sent us this photo of The Hollies in Barnham, taken in 1904 when the house was known as Rose Cottage.

She got it from Norma Swiers of Great Ouseburn, grand-daughter of Mary Elizabeth (known as Polly) Westmarland.

The photo, Norma thinks, shows Polly, three of her four sisters and a young boy.

The five girls had lost both parents by 1888 and were cared for by their uncle George Westmarland. Edith was married to John Bainbridge in 1896, Mary to John Coates in 1901; the others (Jane, Hannah and Alice) were living at Rose Cottage

letters & emails

at the time of the 1901 census and were still there, in their early twenties, when the photo was taken.

Hannah died, unmarried, in 1906 in Barnard Castle, where she was working as a dressmaker; her sisters remained in the cottage for some years.

Alice married Robert Graham in 1912 and Jane went to the altar with John Alcock two years later.

The boy in the picture is probably Percy, eldest child of Edith and John. He died in 1910 at the age of 12.

● See Archive 29 for the Hollies house history.

County buys Academy documents

I HAPPENED to be in Leyburn after Christmas and popped into Tennants for lunch.

There was a viewing for an upcoming country house sale and a sale of ephemera, maps etc ongoing, and after lunch I had a nose at both. I noted a large quantity of correspondence relating to Mark Newby and Barnham Academy was for sale, so I sat in on the sale after inspecting that particular lot, which finally went after bids on the telephone, internet and from the floor for £1700 plus auction fees.

Thankfully I found out later that the successful bidder was Durham County Council Ar-

letters & emails

chives. Once catalogued it will no doubt be of interest regarding the Academy as well as giving an insight into Mark Newby.

The two boxes included a register of scholars from early 1800s, listing them by name, height and age, many letters between Mark and his parents, some whilst at Barn-ingham. The letters were dry and legible and not in too bad a state but all jumbled up.

The sale catalogue described the lot as:

'Large quantity of miscellaneous letters and correspondence mostly mid 18th - mid 19th C, centring around the Rev George Newby at Witton le Wear (where he ran a school ca.1810-1840s), from his father, Mark, his wife, his sons Mark and William Crawford Newby, et alia.

'The archive includes material relating to the large scale rent arrears and evictions in Northern England in the post-Napoleonic period, including two good letters from James Watson, 1819 and a folder of part printed arrears and debtor notices, 1815.

'Among the many items of interest (including postal) are an 18th C drawing of a man with Derbyshire neck; part-printed awards of trusteeship to George Brown viz road repairs near Catterick Bridge (1771), Stockton (1777), a bridge across the 'Teese' at Stockton (1771); an early 18th C copy (written out by Ra. Thackwray) of the Stockton (Enclosures etc) Award of 1662.

LINDA SHERWOOD
Dalton



That's me dressed as a fairy

THANK YOU for sending me copies of the *Archive* as requested. I appear in the *Archive* 23 photo of the 1942 Wings for fancy dress event, dressed as a fairy.

HEATHER WEST, Darlington



Who was who among the WI faces

LAST *Archive* we asked if anyone could put names to these faces at a 1956 WI fete. Neil Turner knew them all:

Back row: Edith Wright, Hannah Layfield, Betty Blades, Polly Atkinson, Mrs Bulmer, Mrs Cowell, Mrs

Ainsley, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Hutchinson. Second row: Mrs Bayley, Mrs Etherington, Mrs Atherton, Mrs Lawson, Mrs Amy Etherington, May Lee, Mary Robinson. Front: Shirley Walton (now Madrell) and Miss P Cox.

dalton & gayles wi

invited to cut the cake before raising a toast to the WI and welcoming the idea of closer links in the Lower Teasdale Group.

Unfortunately the earlier minutes of the Dalton WI have been lost and in 1983 the WI ceased to exist after members took exception to the plans the WI had to reorganise the county boundaries and take Dalton and Gayles out of its Yorkshire County.

Members instead became part of the Dalton and Gayles branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association which continues to exist today.

Thankfully the minutes for the monthly meetings from December 1935 to December 1945 do exist and these have been transcribed. A supper (undefined) was always served and whilst it is not recorded it is assumed that the meetings were held in Dalton School as the Village Hall was not opened until 1953.

Based on the information provided in the minutes I have sought to highlight some of the impact these monthly meetings made on the local and wider populations during these years. To assist with defining these I have listed them under headings which help to define the then Dalton WI of this period.

Membership Profile

All ages of women in the area joined the Dalton WI – reference is made in 1945 that the youngest member Alice Bulmer, who was then aged 17, had died after a short illness. Members are

recorded as celebrating 90th birthdays. How likely it would be today for a 17-year-old to share the interests and companionship with a 90-year-old?

Membership Numbers

At the 50th anniversary reference is made to the decline in numbers over the years and that by the first birthday there were 70 members.

In the earlier minutes of 1936 there are numbers of members present at each meeting, but that trait of recording attendance soon ceases. However, attendances between 28 and 49 are recorded over a four-month period in 1936. These are likely to be indicative of attendance patterns.

For a fairly small geographical area with a population in 1931 for Dalton and Gayles of 271 those are good levels of attendance and given the time period would fill a real need and outlet for the female population.

Activities

There was always an annual party and trip with a local coach company.

The singing of *Jerusalem* is not always noted in the minutes but presumably was "taken as read".

Whist drives were very popular and prizes were won. This was also a standby activity if a speaker was unavailable due to inclement weather, for example. Dramatic talents were encouraged to develop with "the young ladies of the Entertainment Committee" regularly giving plays and arranging games and dancing. The singing of duets and solos, as well as community singing, was encouraged. In July 1936 the Entertainment

Who's who on Page 18: Front row: 1 Mrs Oversby (Coalsgarth); 2 ?; 3 ?; 4 Mrs Topsy Powell (High Kindred, Gayles); 5 Mrs Platts (East Dalton Fields) President; 6 Guest; 7 ?; 8. Mrs Gailee (Moonraker, Kirby Hill); 9 Mrs Pews; 10 Mrs Wilkinson (The Poplars, Dalton); 11 Mrs Braithwaite. Second Row: 1 Miss Nicholls (Green Cottage, Gayles); 2 Mrs Davies (Bungallow, near Dunsia Manor) Flower Club President; 3 Mrs Corrie Seymour (Green House, Gayles); 4 ?; 5 Miss Mary Donald (Rose Cottage, Gayles); 6 ?; 7 ?; 8 ?; 9 Jean Teasdale; 10 Mrs Ann Lowes 11 Mrs Connie Atherton (3 West St, Gayles); 12 Mrs Broad; 13 Mrs Heather Wakefield Parkin. Third Row: 1. Mrs Muriel Smith (Heather Cottage, Watling Close, Gayles); 2 Miss Elizabeth Powell (High Kindred, Gayles); 3 Mrs Fisher (Dalton House, Dalton); 4 Mrs Mary Blackburn (Garden Cottage, Dalton); 5 Mrs Janet Paterson; 6 Mrs Thorpe (The Lodge); 7 Miss Sheila Wappat; 8 Mrs Millie Wappat (Low Fields, Gayles); 9 Mrs Greta Hodgson; 10 Mrs Maud Stanwix; 11 Mrs Nan Herring; 12 Mrs Linda Richmond. Fourth Row: 1 Mrs Lilian Brooks; 2 Mrs Mary Ellis (Crumma); 3 Miss Janet Plews

If you can add any of the missing names, please let us know.

Members of Dalton & Gayles WI at the 1978 Golden Anniversary. Names on the opposite page.



letters & emails

The 1929 cricket team: Vera Bainbridge is circled

Vera named as one of these lady cricketers

Archive 3 carried a picture of the Barningham Ladies Cricket Team in 1929.

The caption identified Annie Bainbridge (second on the left in the centre row) and we've had a rather belated email from someone (who wants to remain anonymous) saying the woman next to her (her face appearing between two women in front) is Annie's sister, Vera Bainbridge Lord.

Our correspondent adds that Johnny ('Jack') Bainbridge, whose photo appeared on the opposite page, was the husband of Edith Westmarland and father of Annie and Vera, and two other children, Myra and John Frederick.

Edith's sister Alice married Robert Graham, a ship's engineer from Hartlepool. After he retired, they ran the post office and shop in Barningham during the 1930s before moving to Darlington. His damaged thumbnail, which Neil Turner recalled in Archive 2, was believed to be the result of an accident at sea.

Jack and Edith lived at The Terrace (now Newby House) and later at Park View. Myra and her husband Hughie Watson moved to The Terrace. Annie and her husband Tom Lawson lived at the Manor House.

Our informant offers a correction to a letter in Archive 17 from Ann Hagen, which referred to the marriage in 1888 of an Emma Symser in America. It should, she says, be spelled Smyser.

Searching for the Thompsons and others back in the 1700s

MY interest is in the Thompson family. I know Henry was baptised May 1699 in Barningham and I have visited his grave at St Giles Church, Bowes, where he died 1776.

He had 18 children by two wives, Hannah Laidman and Mary Kipling, including my x5 great-grandfather George.

I know they were monied and had interests in London. I was wondering what records you had of that age for the village?

PAUL RAFFERTY
Durham

● We had a look through our records and found Henry's christening on 25/05/1699, son of John Thompson of Scargill and his wife Ann.

There is a marriage between a John Thompson and

Ann Wilson of Brignall dated 14/05/1699. There are other children with parents called John and Ann: Francis 1703, Ann 1705: there may be more (there's a John in 1695, for example).

Henry's father John could be the one listed as christened 02/07/1660, son of yet another John and Ann (nee Freer?), but there at least two other John Thompsons christened at about the same time. We can't find any John Thompson burials that might fit Henry's father; there was an Ann Thompson buried in 1715.

Both Laidmans and Kiplings feature in the records, but not the ones Paul mentions.

There are scores of Thompsons and Thomsons listed, and we don't envy Paul having to sort them all out! — Ed.

Fifty up — but please keep going!

I WAS amazed that the last Archive was your 50th. It has been a huge effort — thank you very much and may you continue your writing and reporting skills for many years to come!

ANTHONY MILBANK, Barningham

My grandfather was a pastor in the village

DOUG Watts emailed us from Sheffield to ask if we could help him with his research into the Pennock family.

"I have discovered that my maternal grandfather Frederick Pennock and his wife Florence (nee Eales) resided in Barningham," wrote Doug. "He was a retired Primitive Methodist pastor and lived at Wesley Cottage.

"He was born in York and spent his early years as pastor/evangelist in Leadgate, near Consett. He must have been only a short term resident in Barningham as our records show that after retiring from Diss in Norfolk in 1932 he was a supernumerary minister in the Darlington Circuit.

"He died in 1941 (shortly before I was born) following what the family said was 'a chill caught walking on the North Yorkshire Moors', though his death certificate gives the cause of death as a stroke.

"Can your group identify the location of Wesley Cot-



Florence and Frederick Pennock in the late 1930s

letters & emails

tage (if it still exists) and, more importantly, is an image available?"

We emailed back, telling Doug that Wesley Cottage is now known as The Nook, built in about 1840 to house Methodist ministers at the chapel just down the road (see the house history in *Archive 3*).

We sent him a photo of it as well, confirmed that our electoral rolls showed the Pennocks living there in



1939, and suggested he had a browse through the *Teesdale Mercury* online archive.

Doug replied, thanking us, praising our website ("excellent") and the *Mercury* archive ("most valuable"), and attaching photos of Frederick and his wife.

"Note he wears a dog collar although not ordained. I am told some Primitive Methodist lay workers tended to do this. I suspect he may have had special dispensation to take communion, especially as his last post before Barningham was a superintendent of a circuit."

My great-grandparents seem to have had two weddings

ANOTHER recent emailer was Francis Little in the Netherlands, puzzled about the marriage of his great-grandfather Francis Little to Ruth Millen Dent in May 1870.

"I have two different records of the marriage, one showing it as St Cuthbert's, Durham, the other at Barningham," he said.

We delved into our parish register records and assured him that it was in Barning-

ham. Perhaps, as the groom came from Barnard Castle, marriage details were sent to Durham and got mixed up?

Our reply caused another problem. The bride was recorded as living at Park House, but there's no sign in the census records of her or any other Dents there at the time, and Francis thought she came from Lunedale.

We'll let you know if we sort it out.

A mystery on the village green

WE recently spent a week in Newsham and had some enjoyable walks around Barningham.

Our eyes were caught by the strange objects on the green. They looked like wooden doors, with rope handles, lying flat on the ground. What on earth are they? It's been puzzling my husband and I for some time now.

GABRIELLE McALISTER

● *We've replied, explaining about quoits. — Ed.*

An important role in the community

Archive 50 told the story of Barningham WI. In this issue LINDA SHERWOOD recalls the Dalton and Gayles branch

FORMED in July 1928, the Institute was originally called Dalton Women's Institute.

However in 1974 the National & County Federation gave permission to change the name to Dalton & Gayles WI.

To celebrate the name change in January 1974 a copper beech tree was planted in the Quarry Hill Common Area of Gayles by the WI which was marked with a plaque. This tree is still growing today.

In 1978, four years later, at the 50th anniversary of formation of the Dalton & Gayles WI there were 13 of the 47 founder members present. Three of the older members, Miss Donald, Mrs Plews and Mrs Wilkinson, each received sprays of golden roses from Mrs Helen Swales, Chairman of the Yorkshire County Fed-



Mrs Swales (back) presents golden roses to Miss Donald, Mrs Plews and Mrs Wilkinson in 1978

dalton & gayles wi

eration of WIs. Supper and entertainment were provided for the 70 members and guests from the other seven WIs of the Teesdale Group attending the golden anniversary celebration at the Dalton and Gayles Memorial Hall which was "bedecked with summer flowers for the occa-

sion", the press reported.

Mrs Platts in her President's welcome speech recalled that by the end of the first year the Dalton WI had 70 members which was double that of the 1978 membership numbers.

However she put this reduction in numbers down to the growth of other WI groups in the surrounding villages of Barningham, Newsham and Ravensworth who had followed Dalton's lead and set up branches. She also referred to the incorporation of Gayles into the WI's branch name four years prior.

Her vision for the future included the possibility of expanding group activities with the aim of forming classes for members with special interests such as country crafts, drama, singing and sketching.

A 50th birthday cake had been made by Mrs Greta Hodgson and iced by Mrs Maud Stanwix to celebrate the occasion and Mrs Swales was



Planting the tree: Miss Donald, Mrs M Smith, Mrs V Atherton, Mr Seymour, Mr Smith and Mrs F Herring



Thorp Perrow, painted by Alfred George Cuitt in 1815

At the hall: 'A fat butler and a barrel of oysters'

ANN ORTON found a diary from 1825...

WHILE researching Mark Milbank's political career, I came across a diary entry describing a visit to the Milbanks' family home at Thorp Perrow on November 8th 1825.

"Well — now for Milbank and Lady Augusta — or Gusty, as he calls her," wrote the diarist.

"Their house is in every way worthy of them — a great big fat house three stories high.

"All the living rooms are on the ground floor, one of them a very handsome one about 50 feet long, with a great bow furnished with rose coloured satin, and the whole furniture of which cost £4,000.

"Everything is of a piece — excellent and plentiful dinners, a fat service of plate, a fat butler, a table with a barrel of oysters and a hot pheasant, etc, wheeled into the drawing room every

night at half past ten."

The writer was Thomas Creevey, a politician from a poor background who became very friendly with lots of influential people.

He was a copious diarist, and, incidentally, the first civilian to interview Wellington after Waterloo (it was him who recorded the duke's famous words about it being a "near-run thing").

Mark Milbank was MP for Camelford from 1819 to 1820 and then from 1820 to 1832. Camelford was a rotten borough in the gift of his father-in-law, the first Duke of Cleveland. It was abolished in 1832.

Mark became master of the Bedale hunt in 1832 and decided that he didn't have time for both politics and hunting, so he gave up his political career.

Creevey (1768-1838) seems a bit obsessed with his friend's possessions. How did he know what the furniture at Thorp Perrow cost? Did he ask??

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** Journal of Mary Martin, born on a local 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 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 + £1.50 p&p

*** £2 each + £1 p&p

Discounts for group members.

We can also supply copies of **As Time Passed By**, a history of Barningham by Merryne Watson.

More information can be found on our website:

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Newsham — how long ago?

THIS postcard of Newsham turned up on the Archive desk.

It was taken, we think, in the 1940s. What looks like the phone-box (installed in 1938) is under the tree on the right, and there's a car of 1930s vintage outside what was the village shop. Anybody want to be more precise?



How Sam came back from the dead

Sam Turner survived WW1 — but only just. JOHN HAY tells his story

WE got a letter recently from Robin Turner in Harrogate, grandson of Sam Turner who ran the Milbank Arms for many years and nephew of Neil who's landlord there today.

"I was wondering if you could add my granddad's name to the Barningham Roll of Honour?" he asked.

Sam, born in Presteigne in Radnorshire in 1896, lost a leg on the Somme while serving in the army during WW1. He was shipped home in 1916 and stretchered onto the dockside at Southampton, classed as among the dead until a sharp-eyed Nurse Knighton noticed his eyelids moving. He recovered, was discharged from the Army and returned to Presteigne, moving to Barningham three years later. He kept a life-long contact with Nurse Knighton.

Neil Turner recalls the shock of looking through an illustrated book of WW1 poetry at W H Smith's in Richmond and seeing, under Eva Dobell's poem *In a Soldiers Hospital*, a



The poetry book picture: Sam in a field hospital in 1916

sam turner's war

photograph of a hospital patient who can only be Sam Turner.

Talking with Neil gives a fascinating background to Sam's wartime experience and his subsequent service in WW2 and then in 'Cold War' Britain.

Archive 1 featured Sam joining the Royal Artillery as a gunner in 1914, despite the

fact he was under age. His division — the 38th Welsh, was a New Army of volunteer units which became known as Lloyd Georges 'Welsh Army'.

The division arrived in France in late 1915 and were intermediately deployed forward to the line, eventually moving nearer to the Somme.

The action in the summer of 1916 to capture Mametz Wood, the largest wood on



Sam Turner — front left in the deckchair — with nurses and other patients recovering in hospital from injuries sustained in the war. Picture from Neil Turner.

the Somme battlefield, was meant to take five hours, but it was defended by the Lehr Regiment of Prussian Guards who were well dug in and finally took five days.

Robert Graves, who was a captain in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, wrote that the wood was full of the dead; big Prussian Guards and smaller Fusiliers and South Wales Bor-

sam turner's war

derers. The Welsh division suffered 4,000 casualties, among them Sam who lost his leg when his artillery position was blown up. Neil has visited the battlefield and found a plaque which recorded this event.

By 1919 Sam was chauffeur to Lady Milbank, wife

of Sir Frederick, who eventually moved his whole establishment from Radnorshire to Barningham.

In WW2, Sam became the senior observer in the observer post just north of the village and then served again in the 1960s in the new observer post when it was built on Eggmartin Hill — see *Archives 49 and 50*.

Poet inspired by her nursing

Eva Dobell, born in 1876, was a British poet, nurse and editor, best known for her poems on the effects of World War I. She volunteered as a nurse in France, where her experiences prompted her to write poetry about wounded and maimed soldiers. She died in 1963 aged 87 at Cheltenham. She never married.

Below is her poem which accompanied the picture of Samuel Turner in hospital.



*Crippled for life at seventeen,
His great eyes seems to question why:
With both legs smashed it might have been
Better in that grim trench to die
Than drag maimed years out helplessly.*

*A child - so wasted and so white,
He told a lie to get his way,
To march, a man with men, and fight
While other boys are still at play.
A gallant lie your heart will say.*

*So broke with pain, he shrinks in dread
To see the 'dresser' drawing near;
And winds the clothes about his head
That none may see his heart-sick fear.
His shaking, strangled sobs you hear.*

*But when the dreaded moment's there
He'll face us all, a soldier yet,
Watch his bared wounds with unmoved air,
(Though tell-tale lashes still are wet),
And smoke his Woodbine cigarette.*

Inspector dragged to death by horse

THE last issue of the *Archive* told the story of Greta Bridge police superintendent Ralph Snowden, who died at an early age in 1847.

He wasn't the only policeman from Greta Bridge to meet an untimely end.

On Wednesday October 27th 1880, the lifeless body of Inspector John Robson, of the North Riding Constabulary stationed at Greta Bridge, was found lying in the road not far from his house.

Robson had been returning from Barnard Castle, reported the following week's *Yorkshire Gazette*, "and it is conjectured that his horse took fright at the broken branch of a tree, and started at full speed.

"Mr Robson was unseated, and, his foot being entangled in the stirrup, he was dragged for a distance of about a quarter of a mile."

At an inquest two days later in the Morritt Arms before Mr J. T. Walton, the Northallerton coroner, 14-year-old William Railton of Greta Bridge said he was going "up the bank not far from Rokeby Grange" at about 6.30 on the fateful night when he met the policeman riding down on horseback. It was a very dark, stormy night, and almost immediately after Robson passed him a large branch of a tree was blown down on to the road.

"The horse started off at full gallop in the direction of Greta Bridge, but it was too dark for the boy to discern anything, although he could hear the clatter of the horse's hoofs going at a great pace as long as they were within

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A POLICE INSPECTOR.

The lifeless body of Inspector Robson, of the North Riding Constabulary, stationed at Greta Bridge, was found on Wednesday night, on the highway, not far from his house. Deceased was returning from Barnard Castle, and it is conjectured that his horse took fright at the broken branch of a tree, and started at full speed. Mr Robson was unseated, and his foot being entangled in the stirrup, he was dragged for a distance of about a quarter of a mile. An inquiry into the cause of deceased's death was held at the Morritt Arms Inn, on Friday, before Mr J. T. Walton coroner Northallerton. According to the

The Teesdale Mercury report of the tragedy

police tragedy

hearing."

John Guy, a farm labourer, said he was standing at the foot of Greta Bridge when a horse came galloping across with something dangling from it. "The animal galloped round into the square and round the pavement near Mr York's residence. As it passed a window he saw a human being hanging by the leg. He tried to catch the horse, but missed it, and it galloped up the road."

He followed and about fifteen yards beyond the police station gate he found the lifeless body of the inspector lying on the road. He was, reported the *Northern Echo*, "quite dead, and so bruised and battered as to be scarcely recognisable."

The horse galloped on, and was subsequently found in a ploughed field.

The inquest was told that an inspection of the spot where the tree branch had fallen found marks on the

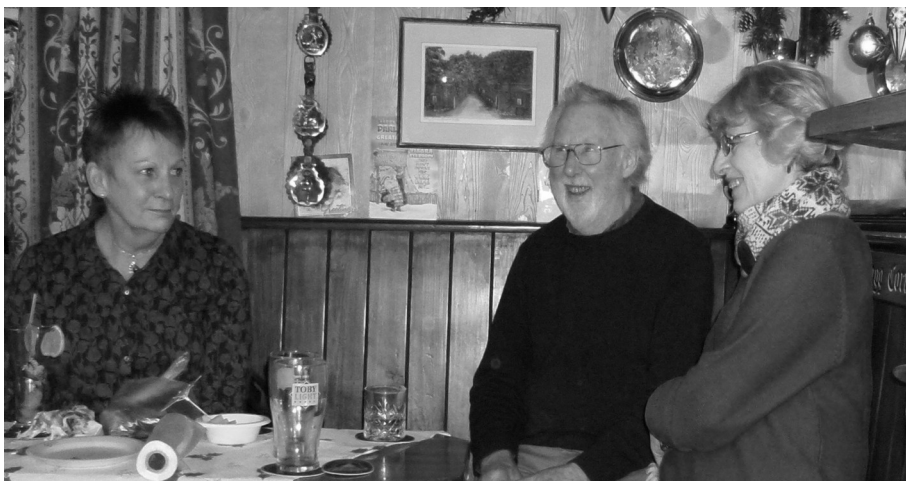
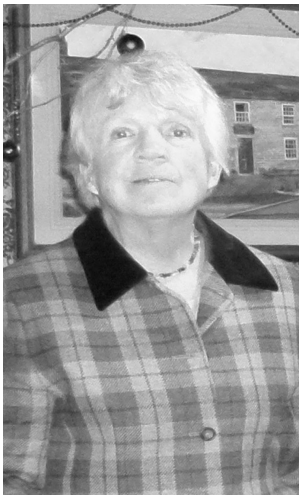
ground as though the animal had plunged to one side. "It is supposed," said the *Gazette*, "that the deceased was thrown partly off by the sudden jerk, but was held in the stirrup, in which position he was dragged for a distance of 720 yards.

"In fact there were traces in the snow to show that the poor fellow had been dragged this distance."

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Robson, the son of Agar Robson, a Richmond tradesman, was a 51-year-old widower with two daughters. "He was much respected," the *Gazette* added, and had only been at Greta Bridge for a couple of months after being promoted from his previous job as a policeman at Scorton.

He was buried at Richmond, his funeral attended by members of the North Riding constabulary from all over the county including Supt Gregory of Richmond and Supt Graham, head constable for the borough.



Group members make a convivial start to the year

THE history group marked the start of 2016 with its customary New Year social, this time hosted by Neil Turner at the Milbank Arms.

Attendance could have been better, but those who turned up enjoyed an agreeable lunchtime get-together.

Among those who took part and caught photographer Phil

Hunt's eye were (clockwise from top left) Jane Hackworth-Young, a somewhat pensive Margaret Stead and John Prytherick, Sheila Hay with Dave and June Johnson, and *Archive* editor Jon Smith.

Many thanks to Neil for his hospitality and very generous contribution to the refreshments.



47	Duncan Leggett 1899 Hartlepool	Hogence Lavinia	George Daniel Leggett	Jane Leggett formerly Adamson	Dore Laura	Jane Leggett Mother 19 High St Hartlepool	Richard Barrett 1899 Hartlepool	Arthur Barrett Hartlepool
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Florence Leggett's birth certificate from 1899

Great-grandfather ran the Black Horse

letters & emails

DUNCAN Leggett and his mother Brenda Leggett emailed us from across the world (Duncan from Brisbane, Australia; Brenda from Christchurch, New Zealand) asking if we could help them.

Brenda said she'd been investigating their family history when in 2011 "Mother Nature threw an earthquake at us, which wrecked our house." She managed to salvage some of her research and now, with Duncan's help, she was back on the trail.

They knew they had Barningham connections, and Duncan came across mention of Leggetts on our history group website. Could he have copies of various *Archive* articles about them? he asked.

We sent them off, together with an explanation that the Leggetts were a complicated lot. There were two families of that name living in Barningham at the end of the nineteenth century, and as far as we know they weren't related (see *Archives* 37 and 38, among others).

One was headed by Joseph

Leggett, who became butler at the hall. The other, George Daniel Leggett, was an innkeeper running the Black Horse halfway up the street, and he was Duncan's great-grandfather.

He arrived in Barningham on 1895 from Richmond, where he'd been a fishmonger. About four years earlier he was in South Shields, where he married (we think, though we haven't found a marriage certificate) a widow called Jane Thompson, nee Adamson.

She had a young son called Harry and was soon busy producing more children: girls Lavinia (1892) and Violet (1894), born on Tyneside, and boys George Daniel (1895) and Ernest Victor (1897) in Barningham. They are both listed in the Methodist baptism records held at the county record office in Durham.

By 1899 the family had left Barningham for Hartlepool, where another daughter Florence (1899) and son Thomas (1900) were born.

Anyone here called Paschendaele?

NEW data analysis released by the National Archives reveals that over 1600 babies were born with war-related names during WW1, with monikers including Verdun, Vimy Ridge and Heligoland. Peace resulted in the likes of Poppy, Victory and Armistice. I just can't imagine being called Vimy Ridge Hay!

JOHN HAY, Barningham

For reasons we don't understand, Thomas (Duncan's grandfather) was recorded with his mother's former surname Thompson on his birth certificate. This was later changed to Leggett.

What happened to George Daniel senior is uncertain, but he seems to have had a variety of occupations including dock labourer, shipyard plater and steam trawler owner before dying, we think, in 1921.

His wife Jane was listed as a shopkeeper in Hartlepool in the 1911 census and died in the town in 1931.

Duncan and Brenda have tried to discover more about George Daniel senior, but so far have failed to find any record of his birth or early life.

That could be about to change. We've put them in touch with Jean Ashley, of Ledbury in Herefordshire, who is the daughter of George Daniel junior and has written a couple of letters to us about him (see *Archives* 37 and 42). We'll let you know what transpires.

Last word for the moment from Duncan: "The images of Barningham I have viewed in my research are impressive and something that has an essence that is lacking with life in the colonies," he wrote.

"I would like to take my family and visit the region in the future if conditions allow."



It's the MacMilbanks, monarchs of Glen Tees



THESE photos of a grouse shooting party at Barningham appeared in the *Tatler* in August 1912, and someone on eBay recently was trying to sell a copy of the page showing them for £15 + £4.40 postage. We resisted the temptation.

Those pictured are Capt de Winton, the Dowager Lady Guilford, Sir John Cottrell, Sir Powlett Milbank, Lady Milbank, Frederick Milbank and his wife, Lord Galway and Mr G Lane Fox.

"Sport was good and birds plentiful," said the *Tatler*. A pity it thought Barningham was in Scotland: the headline read "The crack of the rifle disturbing the feathered denizens of the Glens".



Cow Close in exhibition of farm buildings

JEN DEADMAN, the historic buildings expert who talked to the history group in October about her work, has completed a survey of Teesdale farms.

An exhibition of her findings went on display at the Witham Hall in Barnard Castle earlier this month, and Jen gave a presentation there on



March 11. Much of it was taken up with the story of Cow Close (pictured above about 20 years ago) just out-

side Barningham. We hope she'll return later this year to tell the history group more about it.

Scotch Corner dig could re-write the history books

EXCAVATIONS along the A1(M) could revolutionise historians' views about what happened when the Romans arrived in the North almost 2,000 years ago.

"What we've found at Scotch Corner was completely unknown," said Dave Fell of Northern Archaeological Associates when he came to Barningham village hall on March 11th to talk about the excavations being carried out during roadworks to upgrade the A1(M).

"Our discoveries will be of national, even international importance."

Historians already knew there were many Roman remains in the Catterick area, but the discovery of a settlement at Scotch Corner came as a complete surprise, suggesting that the Romans were that far north much earlier than had been thought and co-existed with Iron Age peoples here between about 50 and 90 AD.

The two-year dig along the 12-mile stretch of road between Leeming Bar and Barton has been funded by High-

**Dr Hannah
Ross of NAA
with the
miniature
Roman sword**



roman remains

ways England. It has occupied 100 archaeologists who investigated 55 fields, discovered 200 burials and uncovered more than 200,000 Iron Age and Roman artefacts — including two tons of pottery, 100 pieces of jewellery and 400 coins.

Sixty tons of soil samples are stored in a Barnard Castle warehouse awaiting analysis.

"It's phenomenal, the biggest project of its kind ever undertaken outside London," said Dave, who brought

along a selection of the finds for the audience to examine.

Among them was an altar-shaped incense burner, a child's necklace and a miniature sword.

The best of the finds will eventually go on display in York. Meanwhile, an exhibition about the excavations is planned at the Richmondshire Museum later this spring.

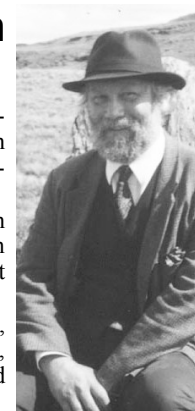
Dave's appearance was the latest in a series of Winter's Tales talks organised by Barningham Village Hall to raise funds for urgent roof repairs.

Percival casts a fresh eye on the Iron Age

THE February Winter's Tale was delivered by Percival Turnbull (right) from the Barnard Castle-based Brigantia Archaeological Practice.

His theme was 'The End of the Iron Age in the North', and he gave us an entertaining and enlightening insight into life before the Romans arrived.

Late Iron Age man was, we learned, socially and technologically advanced, and far from the primitive woad-daubed wildman of popular imagination.



Group members do their bit

HISTORY group members have been among recent speakers at local history talks run by Dalton & Gayles village hall.

Ann Orton presented stories from the Milbank diaries in January, and John Hay followed up with a talk about Barningham mills last month.

Both were well received and we plan to offer more in the future.