

from the parish mag

100 YEARS AGO: The War still drags its slow length along, and our Prayers are with all who have someone at the Front 'doing their bit' for King and Country. With America now on our side it seems impossible for us to be starved into submission to the odious and vulgar tyranny of the Prussians, but we are admonished on all sides that one of our first duties is to practise economy in food, and, above all, in the use of bread. — June 1917

95 YEARS AGO: It was decided to hold a Garden Fete in the Park, kindly lent by Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank, the money thus raised to paint and colour and do needful work to the Church. — June 1922

90 YEARS AGO: The Church Choir and Choral Society competed at Richmond. We won the Hildyard Challenge Bowl for the best village choir and received high praise for the singing of the Psalm. — June 1927

80 YEARS AGO: The three Coronation Services were well attended. In spite of the cold weather everybody enjoyed the sports and the tea. Sir Frederick kindly gave Coronation mugs to all the children. The celebrations ended with a whist drive and dance. — June 1937

75 YEARS AGO: Salvage: Householders are asked to wash, dry and store all tins, to be called for on a day to be announced. — June 1942

70 YEARS AGO: Our new Bishop will be the preacher at our Harvest Festival. He has already visited Barningham on a short walking tour and was delighted with the vil-

lage and its beautiful scenery about. — June 1947

65 YEARS AGO: A refuse tip has been constructed on the west side of the graveyard and we shall be grateful if all withered flowers, grass clippings, broken jars, etc, from graves are taken to the tip. — June 1952

60 YEARS AGO: Our caretaker has again successfully completed the annual Grand Assault on the enemies of cleanliness who invade during the darker months of the year. It is however almost sad to see our dismayed and desolate church spiders, of which we confess to being rather fond, as they behold the ruthless immolation of their webs and means of livelihood. — June 1957

50 YEARS AGO: Mrs Bulmer was presented with £52-15s subscribed to by the Parishioners and friends on her retirement as Church Cleaner. — June 1967

20 YEARS AGO: The recent elections have presented us with a new government, with a sound backing from the electorate. There are many opportunities ahead, fuelled by a sense of newness, enthusiasm and determination. — June 1997

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Association for Local History,
County Durham History &
Heritage Forum, Yorkshire
Vernacular Buildings Study
Group



Archive 55

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

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



Two evocative photos from the past sent to us by Peter Lowes. The buses belonged to Jack Stapleton, whose Hutton Magna-based company ran from 1921 to the 1960s. That's Jack washing his 'Pride of Road' with a young helper; on the left, a Guy bus and 'clippie'. Can you name the boy or the lady? More pictures inside.

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The Archive

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR
LOCAL HISTORY
NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR
2012

YOU'RE quite right. It's taken far too long to bring you another *Archive*, and we apologise to those who have begun to wonder whether we've forgotten you.

As you know, I relinquished the editorship last year, and the plan was that someone else would take over. But we haven't found anyone, and eventually I've been hauled out of retirement to produce this issue.

A second reason for the paucity of newsletters is that there hasn't been a lot to report. Research into local history seems to have dried up this year and it may be that we've exhausted most potential areas of interest to fill these pages. I hope not. The *Archive* relies on contributions from group members, and if you've got anything you think other readers might like to share, please let us know.

What happens next is unclear, but we'll do our best to continue, and as the number of recent issues has been so thin I'm sure we'll extend your subscription for at least another year without charge.

Meanwhile, thank you all for your support.

JON SMITH, Editor

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New book, plans for visits, and some curious finds

Minutes of the history group meeting held in Barningham village hall on Tuesday March 21st 2017:

Present: Jon Smith, Margaret Stead, Andrew & Sue Watson, Phil Hunt, John Hay, Neil Turner, Mr & Mrs Taylor. **Apologies:** Anne Orton, Jane Hackworth-Young, Doug Anderson, June Graham, Linda Sherwood.

Correspondence: Jon Smith had received two calls from people who remembered the machinegun that disappeared from the Rectory at Hutton Magna (see *Archive 54*). One claim was that the vicar gave it to the Home Guard at the beginning of WW2 and the second was that the Headmaster of Barnard Castle School passed it to the Home Guard in Middleton.

Finances: Income from subscriptions had boosted the bank balance to £636. Almost all subscribers from outside the area had paid but we were missing at least 15 of our regular local contributors this year. Almost all the funds go to the production of the *Archive* and the meeting agreed it would be a pity to see this jeopardised.

Transcriptions: Linda Sherwood had finished the translation of the 1841 tithe map information relating to Newsham and Jon had produced *Short Butts and Sandy Bottom*, a sister publication to *Jam Letch and Jingle Potts*, the history of Barningham fields. Jon took us through the tithe map, which is now digitised and in the book. See page 5.

minutes

Visits: Phil Hunt discussed Auckland Castle and Binchester Roman Fort as potential visits. June and July were pencilled in. It was proposed to have an informal catch-up meeting at the Milbank Arms on May 2nd at 7 pm to see what was being finalised.

Next meeting: Tuesday June 20th at 6 pm.

Any other business: Historic England had invited people who have researched their listed property or other historic places in their area to share what has been learned and 'Enrich the List' by adding comments, listing modifications, history, photographs etc.

John Hay presented the Barningham telephone box and the Milbank Arms and both were reviewed. It was agreed that additions of photographs of the phone box and modification of the listing and a range of photographs of the pub would enrich the entries. Online recommend sites to visit are HistoricEngland.org.uk/etl and to see the existing listings HistoricEngland.org.uk/list.

John said that with the wealth of data the group had accumulated over the past nine years, especially the house studies, the group should be able to enrich the listings and he suggested beginning with any grade 1 or grade 2 properties in our area. To make the modifications you have to register and

Continued on Page 16

brignall dig

neath the cobbled roadway, and a number of smaller features.

Artefacts recovered from the sealed boundary ditches suggest a phase of settlement rebuild and expansion in the late 12th to 13th century, corresponding with the granting of the village market charter in 1265 and the building of the church.

Little pottery was found in a secure context post-dating the 15th century and it is possible that the contraction of the village could date to this period. However, a much wider dating sample would be needed to confirm this hypothesis.

Although there remains a number of unanswered questions associated with Brignall, not least the date of its contraction, the information uncovered in just three weeks of excavation has considerably transformed our understanding of this small south Durham village; potentially pushing its foundation back nearly 1,000 years earlier than previously estimated.

The above summary report is only a part of the Brignall story. In the next *Archive* I will review the history of the village and who owned what.

● Our thanks to Penny Middleton of Northern Archaeological Associates Heritage, who gave us permission to review the report for the *Archive*. She has asked us to mention that the project was funded by the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland as part of the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership.

Were the 'cat jugs' really to blame for Esther's death?

cuttings

WE know them as rose hips or haws, and they're used to make various healthy drinks — *Archive 21* carried memories of local children gathering them during the war to make syrup.

But 130 years ago the red berries of the wild briar were blamed for the death of six-year-old Esther Carter of Newsham.

After a day out with playmates she fell ill at home, complaining of stomach pains and vomiting. During the night she was seized by convulsions, and by dawn she was dead.

Two of her friends suffered similar symptoms, but survived. According to the *Teesdale Mercury*, which reported her inquest on October 27th 1886, the children had found and eaten some of the wild briar berries — known locally as 'cat jugs' or 'dog jumps' — and it was these

that were blamed for Esther's death from what Dr Mitchell, who carried out a post mortem, described as choleraic diarrhoea.

Which is odd, as we can't find any medical text, website or other record that suggests rose hips can do you anything but good.

Perhaps the poor girl and her friends were really struck down by cholera, which has exactly the same symptoms that the children exhibited and was prevalent in Britain at the time, though nobody knew then that the disease was spread by contaminated water.

We suspect the 'cat jugs' were unfairly condemned, and Esther probably died after drinking from an infected local water source — playing in the mill beck, maybe? What do you think?

The day one-armed Mr Raine won on the ground that banned booze

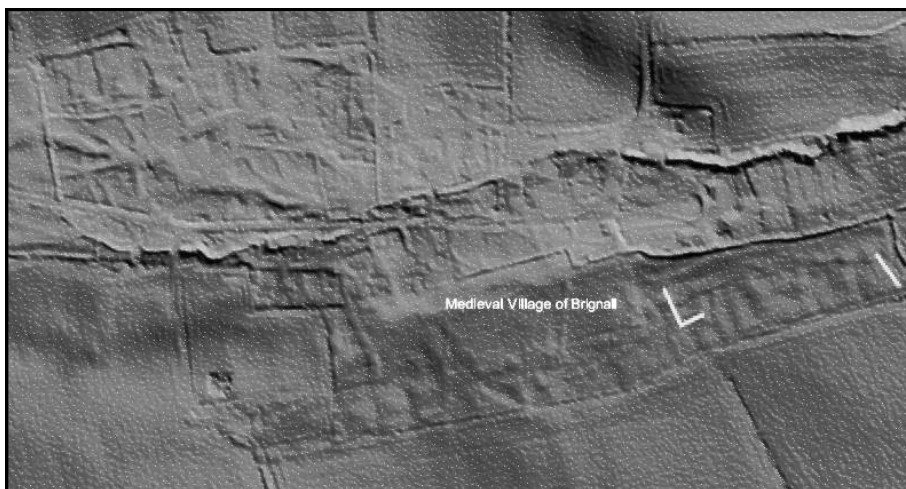
BARNINGHAM has been playing cricket for a long, long time, but rarely can it have been involved in a match quite like the one against Eggleston on August 23rd 1856.

Eggleston were at home, their pitch funded by a local lead-mining company who banned alcohol from the ground. "It is probably the exclusion of intoxicating liquors that makes the matches here so agreeable," said the *Teesdale Mercury's* report. Barningham man-

aged only 39 in their first innings, a mere 17 in their second, and Eggleston won by an innings and 16 runs.

John Bainbridge of Mickleton then challenged Jonathan Raine of Eggleston to a single-wicket contest. Mr Raine was minus his right arm (how he'd lost it isn't explained) and Mr Bainbridge, fully-armed, was mortified to lose by three runs.

The day ended, said the *Mercury*, with everyone sitting down to an excellent dinner at the local inn.



Fields and boundaries at Brignall revealed by the LIDAR analysis

physical survey was conducted over the whole four-hectare project area.

It identified a trackway running north-west through the site, leading up from the 13th century church of St Mary's on the banks of the river. To the south of the track a number of tofts and croft enclosures were visible, matching those observed on the LIDAR coverage.

Of particular interest was a circular feature identified at the eastern end of the site. This was at some distance from the main settlement and, based on examples elsewhere, was initially thought to be of prehistoric origin.

Two trenches were opened. Trench 1 was located across the possible prehistoric feature, and Trench 2 across one of the medieval tofts and a section of trackway. The curvi-linear feature identified in Trench 1 was found to measure approximately 15 metres in diameter and comprised a deep, relatively steep sided ditch. At the centre was

brignall dig

a series of postholes, believed to be associated with an L-shaped structure, and a possible metallised surface.

Pottery and radiocarbon dating established the feature to be Iron Age/Romano-British in date, ranging from around 700BC to 410AD.

A further curvi-linear ditch was also identified partially underlying the first ditch. This continued to the south of the trench and was only partially exposed. It corresponded with a faint response visible on the geophysical survey and appears to indicate that the early settlement may extend south along a slight ridge.

The date of the enclosures, and fragments of re-deposited Roman ceramics found in Trench 2, suggest the existence of a possible Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Brignall, pre-dating the later medieval village. If this proves to be the case then it is of consid-

erable local and regional significance, particularly given the site's proximity to Greta Bridge, and could contribute to a greater understanding of settlement in the hinterland surrounding the Roman fort.

Excavations in Trench 2 provided a better understanding of the form, extent, development and preservation of remains associated with the shrunken medieval village of Brignall.

The trackway identified on the geophysical survey was potentially identified at the northern end of the trench but the area was badly waterlogged, making excavation problematic. However, a second cobbled trackway was uncovered at the southern end of the trench, possibly part of the village back lane leading out to the ploughlands.

Associated with this were the relatively well-preserved remains of building footings and a stone flagged floor. Other features included a large midden, two earlier boundary ditches, sealed be-

The tale of Holgate, a long-lost hamlet

Historian Jen Deadman came to Barningham to tell us about the deserted remains of a once-thriving community.

TREVOR BROOKS reports

THE last inhabitants of Holgate reluctantly left their home in the 1990s and closed the door on centuries of history.

Now the isolated hamlet, south-east of Barningham, lies abandoned. Age and the weather are slowly calling time on the farm buildings and houses that were once buzzing with life and people.

Retired farmer Colin Longstaff was born at Lummas House nearby.

He says: "It was a working farm with sheep and cattle and I remember it well when we were kids. It belonged to the Milbank Estate which sold it off. The owner hasn't been able to do it up. I find it sad that it's been left like that. It will soon be lost."

The story of Holgate has been researched by historic building surveyor Jen Deadman and a team of volunteers as part of the Heart of Teesdale project. What they discovered was the subject of the last in the series of Winter's Tales talks at Barningham Village Hall. A packed audience heard it.

Depending on which century you were from, the settlement would have been spelled Haulgate, Hallgate or Holgate.

Like many marginal places in the north of England, Holgate was intake land, or farmland claimed from the moors. Those who lived there faced a never-ending battle to stop



Holgate House: Once grand, now decrepit

holgate's story

nature taking it back again.

"People scraped a living and pulled back that land to create these fields which needed constant work to keep them," says Jen. Nearby are Helwith and Kersey Green. Together with Holgate, those three places made up the New Forest township in 1822 in the parish of Kirkby Ravensworth.

That year, 67 inhabitants and 2,000 acres of common land and moorland were recorded in the township. Today, there are just ten people living in that area and none in Holgate itself.

In 1848, there was a drover's inn at Holgate. Only piles of stones remain but it was once an important stopping post for those who brought goods across the wild moors. In Holgate hamlet itself, there were three main buildings, along with the inn.

Little is known of Well House nearby but much

more is known about Holgate House, which was the residence of wealthy yeoman Leonard Spenceley. It was the last house to be inhabited and Jen's photos clearly show it to be a handsome place to live even after three decades of neglect. The elegant stairs and fireplace survive, although the staircase is now too dangerous to climb and stone slates tumble from the roof. "It's sad to see and it's probably even in a worse state since I last went," says Jen.

A collection of people including a leadminer, farmer, children, schoolmaster, shoemaker, mason, labourers and dressmaker called Holgate their home in 1841.

"There was quite a lot going on in that community of three houses. In that small community, 26 people were living and thriving. They would have been working hard but supporting each other. But from there, it went downhill," explains Jen.

The Spenceley family disappeared from census records in 1861. Just a few years before, he was married with

two children and two servants and was master of 1,000 acres. A decade later, there were just eight people living in the group of houses, hidden in a remote valley on the back road across the moors between Newsham and Marske.

Just before the outbreak of the Great War, two families comprising seven souls remained – the farmer, miner, shepherd, lodger, servant and gamekeeper had gone.

Electricity arrived in the 1960s and Holgate House provided hearth and home until it too was abandoned and left to slowly fall apart. Jen says: “If we’re not careful, like the drover’s inn, Holgate House will disappear from the landscape. Should we be preserving this building or not? I’m playing devil’s advocate but can we go down the line of preserving all these types of buildings?”

Jen, who has been studying old and disused buildings for 25 years, is keen to celebrate the “histories of these lost communities”. She says she



Sunset over the ruins of Holgate buildings

holgate's story

is passionate about these places but raises an important point.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has faced criticism in the past for its vision for the countryside.

One hill farmer once told me that they were lucky because they lived a few hundred yards outside the boundary of the national park in Swaledale. He explained how his neighbour wanted to extend a listed farmhouse to

accommodate a farm labourer but was refused permission. Instead, an unsightly old caravan was pitched up opposite the grand old building.

“In Swaledale, they are keen to preserve all the buildings and field barns but there aren’t the uses for these barns any more as they stand,” Jen says.

She asks whether it is right for taxpayers, through grants and schemes, to foot the bill to restore these relics of a bygone agricultural age.

“These buildings are protected for the future but we ask ourselves why. We can’t turn them all into self-catering cottages. Some of them will have to go. This is part of the evolution of the countryside, for better or for worse.”

So where does that leave Holgate? Twenty-or-so years ago a woman offered to buy Holgate House but the deal was never agreed. She says: “It was lovely inside – it’s a beautiful situation because the wind whistles over the top of it. It’s in a bad state now.”

Locals say they aren’t exactly sure who now owns the hamlet. Colin Longstaff’s



A marker paying tribute to the Longstaffs who farmed at Holgate

Uncovering the lost village at Brignall

Archaeologists who excavated the site of Brignall’s ‘lost’ village have published their findings.

JOHN HAY reports

HISTORY group members will recall that Andrew Watson, who farms in Brignall, and his neighbour Doug Anderson have tabled plough finds at meetings of our history group – coins, Roman pottery (Samian ware), fossils, tokens, musket balls and glass among the items found.

One would expect that an organised dig might uncover evidence of the people who lived and farmed in an area bounded by the Roman road in the north heading towards Bowes, a Roman fort in its north-east corner and Greta Bridge, the river Greta on its southern boundary and the Brignall Banks on the northern edge of the river leading to the ruin of the 13th century St Mary’s Church.

The history group has already traced the pack horse route (Badger Way) that crossed the Greta just above Scargill Farm and identified the chair path that the horses took, so it’s interesting to see where the dig took place.

Brignall is described as a medieval shrunken village with evidence of crofts and tofts indicating a much larger settlement than today, when it comprises only a few houses dotted along the modern road to the west of the church of St Mary.

As part of the Brignall Dig (more properly titled the Brignall Community Excavation) which took place in



Volunteers working in the trenches at Brignall



brignall dig

October 2015, the Environment Agency used Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.

Analysis of the data has for the first time provided some insight into the size of the original medieval settlement at Brignall.

It demonstrated that the village comprised a series of

crofts and tofts spread out over an approximate 14 hectares (about 35 acres) on either side of the current road that runs through the modern village.

One aim of the project was to provide local people with the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of excavation and training in a range of field skills and techniques.

It comprised an initial phase of geophysical and desk-based survey followed by the excavation of two targeted evaluation trenches. A geo-

letters & emails

Anybody help with Hanby?

COULD you please put out a query to the group to see if anyone has any details on John Hanby born 1693?

All the records revolve around his burial in the tomb in Barningham recorded in your book *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies*, memorial 155.

It gives his wife Christian who died 13/1775 at 75. John died 10/11/1770 at 77. His children are also recorded.

Christian was Christian Alderson and they were married at Bowes 14/5/1724.

KEN LONGSTAFF
Alcester, Worcs

Or know where Edith is buried?

I AM trying to find out where my family are buried.

Would anyone know where Edith Bainbridge (nee Westmarland) is buried? She died at The Terrace (Newby House) on January 2nd 1953. Also her husband, John Thomas Bainbridge.

BRIDGET VAN DER POL
Netherlands

Town walkabout

THE Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group (they visited Barningham last year) plans a walkabout in Northallerton on September 10th: details at www.yvbsg.org.uk if you'd like to join them.

Next meeting

THE date of the next BLHG meeting has yet to be decided— we'll be in touch when we know.

History Group Publications

Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* Guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorials and burials.

Barningham Baptisms* Listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1500-1800; 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* Barningham farms, fields, owners & occupiers in 1838.

Short Butts & Sandy Bottom* Newsham farms fields, owners & occupiers in 1841.

A Child of Hope** Journal of Mary Martin, born 1847 on a local farm.

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, history, index and names.

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 on our website:
www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

minutes

Continued from Page 2

this can be done online. This initiative started in 2016 and is relevant to all of the UK.

Finds: Andrew and Sue Watson tabled a large mug of plough finds for members to examine. They included a range of clay pipe bowls, Tudor through Georgian, musket balls, an engraved spinning weight, shells, ammonites and coins.

A flat heavy disc about the size of an old halfpenny was discussed. John Hay believed it to be a medieval token given to farm labourers instead of coins. His daughter Abigail had found a similar item with a picture of a broken anchor at her last dig.

John Hay, Acting Secretary

Minutes of meeting held on June 20th 2017:

Present: Phil Hunt, June Graham, David & Margaret Taylor, Sue & Andrew Watson, Margaret Stead. **Apologies:** Jon Smith, Sheila Wappat, Jane Hackworth-Young, Linda Sherwood. Ann Orton.

Finance: Income £96.50, expenditure £49.50. Bank deposit c. £670.

Brignall Dig: Looking at John Hay's report, we speculated why the recent excavation trenches were at the west end of the site; also, why the historic population of the village was so much larger than now, and what had sustained it at that size. Sue Watson offered a site visit to Brignall, (possibly with a farmhouse tea). It was agreed to look at having an October weekend date.

Binchester Visit: July 10th was agreed as a date.

Phil Hunt, Chair

holgate's story

ancestors worked four farms in the former township of New Forest and proudly erected a marker to say so.

Asked whether it was feasible to save Holgate, he replied: "It would cost a fortune."

● *This article first appeared in the Teesdale Mercury, to whom we're grateful for permission to reproduce it. Shortly after its original publication, the Mercury received this letter from Charles Lilley of Middlesbrough:*

MY great-great-great-grandfather was the lead-miner listed in the 1841 census.

He was Thomas Hodgson living in a cottage (plot 47 on the 1846 tithe map) sited in field 45 named Home Close, now rubble.

He was married to Mary I Pounder. By 1851 he had moved to Lummas House qj is tenant farmer of 12 acres, succeeding Henry Shaw who moved to either West House or Kexwith.

Thomas and Mary had 11 children. One daughter, Ruth, was house servant to Leonard

Spenceley at Holgate House. Their second daughter, Isabella, my great-great-grandmother, married John Longstaff at Forcett, and lived at Thornton Watless, and was visiting Lummas for the birth of my great-grandfather, George Longstaff, in 1851.

Thomas was apparently unwell by 1891, as one of his sons, William, was listed as head of the household and farmer. of 29 acres. William moved before the 1901 census to Shildon as a milkman.

A Mr John R Hunt then became tenant.

Two of the premises mentioned in the Mercury article were surveyed by the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group on June 22, 1979. Both are sited within plot 64, Holgate Close.

Well House, to the south of Holgate, now a total ruin, was within plot 57, Cow Pasture.

There was also a sixth dwelling, Pry House, sited to the east, in plot 80, High Pry, not noted in the census returns and probably then derelict.

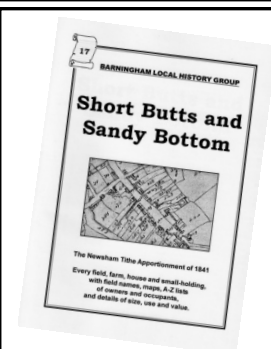
History forum date at Beamish

THE 2017 *Yesterday Belongs To You* event, run by County Durham Forum for History and Heritage, takes place at Beamish Museum on Saturday July 15th.

Marquees in the museum grounds will host displays by a wide variety of history-related organisations. Entry is free for museum visitors. Details can be found at www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum.

Change of address for website access

HISTORY group members accessing the British Newspaper Archive website are advised that the username email address has changed to jonxxsmith@gmail.com. The password remains the same as before.



Who owned what in Newsham

THE latest history group publication – our 17th – is *Short Butts and Sandy Bottom*, a detailed analysis of the 1841 Newsham Tithe Apportionment.

Produced by Jon Smith and based on Linda Sherwood's transcription of the apportionment and the accompanying map, it lists every property in Newsham at the time, identifying owners, occupiers, size, name and usage.

There are also maps showing field boundaries, and a glossary of field names.

The booklet, a companion volume to our *Jam Letch and Jingle Potts*, which details the Barningham tithe map, reveals that much has changed over the past 180 years, with many properties changing and some buildings vanishing over the years.

Copies are available from Jon, price £10 (£8 to group members).

Did Samuel lose three sons in the war?

DENNY Gibson of Snape Local History Group emailed us asking for information about the Milbank family's links to Laithkirk, near Middleton-in-Teesdale.

He explained that one of Snape's members, John Knopp, was interested in a family called Hawkridge, a name which appears three times on the WW1 war memorial in the chapel at Snape Castle.

John thinks all three men named on the memorial were the sons of Samuel Hawkridge, who worked for the Milbanks in the late 19th Century when they owned nearby Thorp Perrow.

"We think Samuel was a coachman at Barningham at the time of his marriage at Laithkirk to Barbara McLeod, a native of Stornaway, Scotland, who was probably 'in service' in, or near, Laithkirk when they got married," says John.

"We can't be sure but suspect Barbara may already have been the mother of a Thomas F. McLeod, who was born in Glasgow, the illegitimate son of a Barbara McLeod, and brought up by grandparents in Stornaway.

"He joined the navy at a very young age and subse-

the hawkridges

quently went with Shackleton to Antarctica, survived and eventually died in Canada.

"There were an awful lot of McLeods around Stornaway — including Donald Trump's mother, but we're not looking at that! Therefore we can't be certain Mrs Hawkridge was Thomas's mother but two Hawkridge sons joined the navy before the first world war, which may be of some significance.

"The question is: did the Milbanks have land/property around Laithkirk in about 1880? I have a feeling the Milbanks bought or leased a sporting estate somewhere around the west coast of Scotland, which could be how Barbara McLeod came to be working, possibly for them, in Teesdale?"

Our research confirmed that Samuel was indeed employed by the Milbank family, and probably spent some of his life in Barningham.

The Milbanks certainly had links with Laithkirk. In the late 1860s Sir Frederick Milbank leased the nearby Wemmergill grouse shooting estate from John Bowes, and for many years the Milbank family lived at Wemmergill

Hall during the shooting season.

It was there that an obelisk was erected in 1872 to mark the shooting of a record 2,070 grouse in one day by the baronet and his party (the monument is now re-sited at Barningham Park).

The Milbanks relinquished their lease of Wemmergill in 1888.

The *Teesdale Mercury* recorded the birth at York of a son to the wife of Samuel Hawkridge "of Wemmergill Lodge" on 23 August 1882, and it looks as if he split his time, as did the Milbanks, between Wemmergill in the summer and Barningham the rest of the year.

Census records show the Hawkridges living in Kensington in 1881 — there were Milbanks living in the capital — but back in Well, near Snape, in 1891. The *Mercury* records a Mr Hawkridge being present when Lady Milbank planted a tree on Barningham green to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee on October 20 1887.

Samuel appears to have died at Bedale in spring 1895, aged 44. He left at least eight children, three of whom, it seems, were destined to die even younger.

News of the vicar's missing machinegun

WE'VE had a couple of calls about the mystery of the vicar's missing machinegun, which we featured in *Archive 54*.

The gun, a German weapon captured during WW1, vanished after being presented by Startforth Council in 1919 to the Rev Arthur Close, vicar of Hutton Magna, as a memento of the village's sacrifices during the war.

First Jonny Bradbrook of Ravensworth rang to say he thought the vicar sold it and it ended up in the hands of a local Home Guard unit in

WW2. And then 94-year-old retired farmer Thomas Elder of Sacriston phoned up to say he remembered seeing the gun in the early 1940s in the headmaster's study at Newbiggin school.

"It looked like a rocket and stood on three legs," he recalled. "I was in the Middleton Home Guard and three of us were called to the school to collect it."

What happened to the gun after the end of WW2 remains unknown.

Potteries link to the Alsops and Sowerbys

I AM related to the Alsop and Sowerby families in your area and would like to purchase a copy of *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* and some back issues of the *Archive*.

I am descended from Thomas Alsop, born 1848 and killed in a mining accident in Broomhill colliery, Northumberland, in 1915. He was the eldest son of Francis Alsop (sometimes written Allsop) from Hurst, near Marrick, and Jane Sowerby, the daughter of William Sowerby and Alice Dixon.

As I understand it, Alice was the daughter of Patrick Dixon and Sarah Alderson.

Later Thomas Alsop married Mary Ann Hawks and raised a large family, of

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which my great-grandfather Ernest Albert Alsop (born Ovington in 1884) is one. His third youngest child was my grandmother. She was born in East Chevington, Northumberland, marrying my grandfather, an RAF sergeant stationed at RAF Acklington at the start of the Second World War. He was a native of Stoke-on-Trent and in 1949, struggling for work, the family moved to the Potteries where it remains today.

Any further information you can advise I would of course be grateful to hear.

NEIL SMITH

Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent

● *The Sowerbys and Alsops abound in our records. We sent Neil details of various references that have appeared in past issues of the Archive. —Ed.*

Is this why Eleanor's ashes ended up in Ernest's grave?

I MAY be able to explain a footnote in your book *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* where, on page 112, there is a reference to the ashes of Eleanor Cooper being buried, aged 88, in 1993 in the grave of Ernest Longstaff.

Ernest was the son of John Longstaff and Christiana Hetherington of Banks Farm, Barningham, and Holgate. He was born in Barningham 4/8/1905 and died 26/2/1922 aged 16. I think he was lifting a heavy weight onto a cart and had a heart attack.

He was the brother of John Robert Longstaff, born 21/1/1891 at Eldon. In 1920

he married Minnie Eden Walker, born 1900 in Shildon, and was buried at Hurst, having died at Downholme 17/1/1942 after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes in a lime kiln.

His children were Ernest born 1920 and Gwen born 1923. She married Edwin Joseph Cooper in 1948 at Grinton. They lived at Wham and High Greenas. I think this is where the reference to Cooper came from.

KEN LONGSTAFF

Alcester, Warwickshire

● *Was Eleanor Edwin's sister, making her Ernest's niece? Anyone know? —Ed.*

I'm related to Scraftons of Barningham

PLEASE supply me with a copy of a copy of *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies*. I've recently discovered a family link to Barningham through the Scrafton family.

My maternal great-great-grandmother was a lady called Hannah Scrafton who was born in 1856 in Forcett to Christopher Scrafton and Ann Hird.

Hannah's father, Christopher Scrafton, was born in 1833 in Barningham to Cornelius Scrafton and Isabella Peacock. Both of Christopher's parents were born in 1794 and also in Barningham.

Cornelius Scrafton's parents were George Scrafton and Isabella. Isabella Peacock's parents were Robert Peacock and another Isabella.

This is currently all I have! My brother lives not too far away at Carlton and has visited the graveyard at Barningham but didn't find any further information about the above individuals so a copy of your book seems to be a good next step in our journey.

MALCOLM YOUNG

Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs

● *There were 12 Scraftons buried in Barningham between 1737 and 1872, and families of that name were listed in censuses from 1841 to 1871. There were also a couple living in Newsham and one at Greta Bridge. —Ed.*

MY husband loves the arrival of the *Archive* — he brings me the post with pleasure, knowing that I am going to be a very happy person for a few hours.

We have recently made a visit to Teesdale, too short but at last the geography is making sense — and people I met were very helpful.

The *Archive* regularly features vicars associated with our area of interest and if you were a bit short of material I thought you might like to use this obituary of the Rev David Lamplugh I found published in the *Teesdale Mercury* of May 18th, 1915.

The deceased's widow's family came from the Rokeby area, though she was not mentioned.

"The interment of the mortal remains of the Rev David Lamplugh, vicar of Marham, Norfolk, and formerly rector of Rokeby, took place on Saturday afternoon at Marham. The late Mr Lamplugh, whose son was one time curate at Laithkirk Church, was a gentleman of high literary attainments, and a memorable address which he delivered at St Mary's church, Rokeby, on 1st October 1901 on the occasion of a memorial service for the late Lt Robert Alexander Morritt of the 17th Lancers, who was killed in action at Modderfontein in South Africa, on 17th September 1901, is now recalled in this neighbourhood.

"It will be remembered that a brass memorial tablet, erected by the tenantry of the Rokeby Estate in memory of the deceased officer, was unveiled on 17th September, 1902 by the Lord Bishop of Ripon. In the course of his address the late Mr Lam-

Rector 'could have been a shining light in legal world'

letters & emails

plugh said: 'The changes and choices of this mortal life are such, that even while we praise and seemingly at times because we praise, the perfect bloom begins to fade before our very eyes. But for him whom we mourn today there can be no such fear. The sweet and noble record is now irrevocably sealed. It is just and right. It will do our heart good to speak good things of him this day and in the congregation to tell forth his praise.'

The Rev Lamplugh, Foundation Scholar and Wright's and Herschell Prizeman of St. John's College, Cambridge, graduated from St John's College, Cambridge, with high mathematical honours in 1865, and was ordained deacon and priest in the same year, by Lord Arthur Harvey, Bishop of Bath and Wells. He was rector of Rokeby for ten years.

The obituary continues: "Last Sunday night a memorial service was held in Rokeby church when the rector, The Rev F.R.M. Gatham, made allusion to the death of the Rev Lamplugh, whom he characterized as learned in ecclesiastical law. Had he not entered holy orders, the late rector of that parish would have been a shining light in the legal world; his labours in correcting anomalies in tithe rent-charge were herculean, and the time he spent in the House of Commons in this connection was very considerable." The Rev Lamplugh

was a widower when he came to Rokeby, his first wife having died in 1897, after a long illness. There were four sons from that marriage. He then married Ann Watson (1881-1962), born in Winston but who often lived with her uncle and aunt at Greta Bridge Farm. David Lamplugh when he was vicar at Rokeby presided over the funeral of her uncle and some cousins.

Sometime between 1901, when she was "domestic servant/niece" at Greta Bridge Farm, and 1911, she had been invited to go and live in Norfolk as the companion of Rev Lamplugh's daughter, who was the same age. On August 23rd 1914 the reverend gentleman married her.

She was the eldest daughter of Henry Watson and Hannah Watson, nee Barker. They married in the Cambridge area on August 23rd 1914. He died a few months later, at the age of 64 in April 1915. He bequeathed to Ann £964 11s 7d.

Her father, Henry Watson (who farmed at Walker Hall, Winston, for many years and then moved to Boldron), was the brother of Richard Watson, (father of R.P. Watson of Greta Bridge and Brignall, whose funeral the Rev Lamplugh conducted in 1902.) Hannah Barker, her mother was the sister of Richard's wife Emily Clara Barker.

Margaret Lamplugh, the reverend's daughter, appears to have died, unmarried, aged 69, in West Yorks in 1949.

DANI MILES
Havant, Hampshire



What it looked like 1,700 years ago: an artist's impression of Binchester Fort in its hey-day

THE history group has lined up two tours of major historical sites this summer.

First is an evening guided tour of Binchester Fort, one of the best-preserved Roman sites in the country and the subject of a fascinating talk in Barningham village hall last winter.

The date is Monday July 10th, starting at 6.30pm (allow about 40 minutes to get there by car). The cost is

Join our tours of Binchester Fort and Auckland Castle

£5 a head and numbers are limited, so if you want to go you need to contact organiser Phil Hunt (01833 621253) as soon as possible.

Coming up later is a guided 'Behind the Scenes' tour of Auckland Castle, which is currently undergoing a multi-million pound restoration

scheme due for completion in spring next year.

This tour takes place on Sunday September 10th, from 1pm. Again, numbers are limited: contact Phil for details and to book. Non-members of the history group are welcome if we have space places.



Home of the Prince Bishops: Auckland Castle



Cole families meet to mark anniversary of WW1 death

RELATIVES of Thomas Cole held a reunion at Newsham on June 24th to mark the 100th anniversary of his death in the first world war.

They laid a wreath carrying the badge of the Yorkshire Regiment on the village war memorial that bears his name.

Thomas was picked up from Smallways with others from the local area sometime in 1916 and taken for army training before being sent to France. His wife and six children saw him off and never saw him again.

He was in the 9th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, and records show that he would have been on the Somme in October 1916. He was killed by shellfire along with others not far from Ypres in Belgium and is buried in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery in a small village near Ypres.

Pictured above, from left to right, are Brenda Beadle (father Bill Cole), Madge Embleton (father Ben Cole), Eric Embleton (Madge's husband), Daphne Ellams, Barbara Matley (father John Cole), and John Sherlock



(mother Mary Cole). No descendants were available to represent two of Thomas's children, Walter Cole (his daughter is no longer alive) and Jane Ellen Smith (known as Jenny Cole).

Sorry — but we seem to have got this wrong

LYNN Thompson has taken us to task for an article in *Archive 7* in which we suggested that her ancestor Margaret Sowerby gave birth to an illegitimate daughter back in the 1860s.

That's what it looked like in the census lists we reported, but Lynn's records show that the child, christened Francis, was in fact the daughter of Margaret's brother William.

We're happy to put the record straight.

Lynn had visited us in spring while on a visit to Barningham from her home in Guisborough to research ancestors from this area which included the Sowerby and Monkhouse families.

She was particularly interested in the Rev Edward Monkhouse, who became a curate in Barningham in 1806 and two years later married Ann Newby, daughter of the founder and principal of Barningham Academy.

We could tell her that he was born in about 1780, became curate at Brignall in 1834 and appears to have died a few years later, but not much more. Ann died in 1817, and there's no record of them having any children. Has anyone any more information?

While we're in penitence mode, our thanks to Dani Miles who spotted an error in our *Barningham Brides* book: the girl who married James Alderson in June 1841 was called Jane Wilson, not Nelson.



Pictures from the past

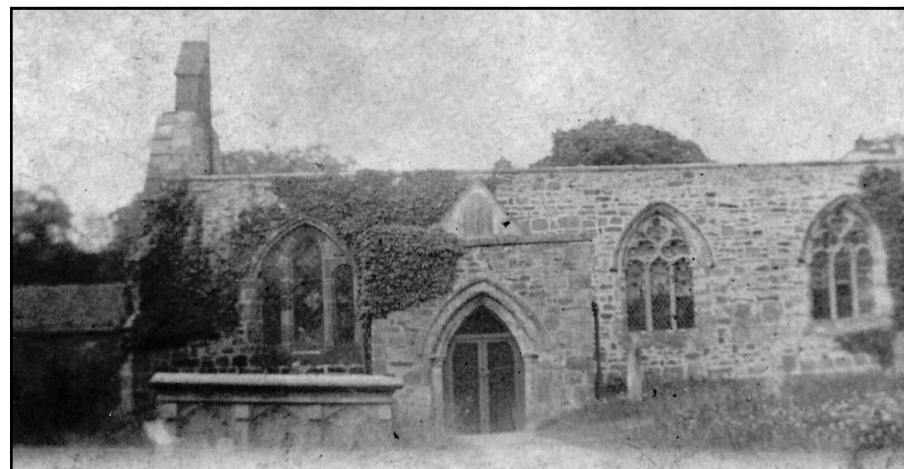
More of the old photos kindly sent to us by Peter Lowes:

Above, Hutton Magna postcard from the Thirties (?) with garage on left.

Right, 1946 Victory Queen Dorothy Lowes and attendants.

Below, the derelict medieval church at Hutton Magna before its replacement in 1878.

More pictures overleaf.





A day out at the seaside

Families from Hutton Magna and surrounding villages pose for a group photo on a day trip to Redcar in 1913 or thereabouts. Is the clerical gentleman on the left the then Hutton vicar, the Rev Arthur Close?

On the left, pupils at Wycliffe line up with their teacher for a school photo, date unknown (1930s?). The photographer seems to have forgotten to tell them to smile, please. And what was the dog doing there?

Right, Photo from Jack Stapleton's wedding to Teresa Hoggett in 1930. Great hats!

