

## Awards for your history projects



DEADLINE for the *Archive* awards for local history projects is August 28.

Projects can be written, visual, audio or any combination of the three, of any length, and don't have to be academic: they might be family histories, recordings of older residents, research into old documents or simply drawings of buildings – the choice is yours.

Entries, which should be delivered to Jon Smith at Heath House, can come from individuals, groups or families, and age will be taken into account. The award will be presented at the village show on September 4. There'll be something for runners-up as well.

The winning entry – and maybe others, too – will be featured in the *Archive* and on our website.

### footnote

A NEW website [www.londonlives.org](http://www.londonlives.org) contains 240,000 documents from London archives (including courts, inquests, work-house records) that you can search free. Let us know if you find anything local in it.



**The Archive is a regular record of the activities of Barningham Local History Group, including members' research and updates on information in its publications such as the guide to churchyard memorials.**

**Copies are available to group members and non-members for an annual subscription of £10. Back issues can be purchased for £2 each.**

**Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374, email [history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk)**

**See our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk) for more information**

### old hints & recipes

## Medieval Herb Tart

THIS is an update on a very old dish that can be traced as far back as the Middle Ages.

It was called Herb Luce and it was a favourite dish in the spring, using as it did the first edible young green stuff. After a long hard winter of eating preserved and salted food our ancestors longed for fresh-tasting delicacies such as this.

### Ingredients:

10 oz short crust pastry  
1lb mixture of spinach, young nettle tops, spring onions, lettuce leaves, and a few blackcurrant leaves  
¼lb curd cheese  
1 egg  
Milk

### Method:

Line a sandwich tin with two thirds of the pastry. Chop the green stuff coarsely. Mix in with the seasoning and cheese and press down into the tin. Roll out the remaining pastry and cover the tin with it. Bake at 220C for 15 minutes.

Beat the egg with a little milk. Lift the pastry cover and pour this into the tart. Replace lid and cook for a further 15 minutes. Serve hot or cold.

● If you have old recipes, please contact me (01833 621455) so that they can be included in the booklet I am compiling.

KAY DUGGAN



# Archive 9

ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



## INSIDE: THE DAY THE CURATE MET THE GHOST OF SPRENT BRIDGE



**TWO postcards of Barningham spotted on eBay by Louise Ferrari. The one above is dated around 1915: what was the wagon doing there? And what's that huge notice opposite the chapel – the old Black Horse Inn sign? The card below is from some 25 years later. You can just make out a sign outside the Milbank Arms – and notice the old ornate lamp-posts.**



### inside this issue

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**NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY AUGUST 3rd 6pm**

## Diary, DVD and a very young Neil

Minutes of the meeting held in Barningham Village Hall, Tuesday June 29th 2010.

**Present:** Eric Duggan, Tony Orton, Greta Carter, Neil Turner, Michael and June Graham (Newsham), Ted Andrews, Ann Orton, Sally Ridgeway, Ann Hutchinson, Sheila Catton, Ann Rowley, Jon Smith.

**Apologies:** Kay Duggan, Beverly Peach, Diane Metcalf.

**Minutes:** Read and approved. Matters arising were all on the agenda.

**Financial Report:** Income from publications and donations was £74; expenditure on printing, room rental and processing the DVD came to £191.75. This left a balance at the end of June of £512.76.

**House Histories:** East View, The Cottage and Rosebank Cottage were investigated: details later in this copy of the *Archive*.

**Publications:** *Archive 8* had been distributed. An article had appeared in the *Teesdale Mercury* about the documents and maps found at the rectory, and this had resulted in several contacts from readers who wanted to know more. The group's next booklet will be a summary of the census returns for Newsham for 1841–1911.

The Grahams showed the meeting an original diary written in 1785 by the schoolmaster from Newsham, James Coates. This was the last of a series of four (another one had been given to

### minutes of the last meeting

the Bowes Museum for safekeeping but, said Michael, they had lost it). He gave the group a copy of the diary which the *Teesdale Mercury* had reproduced in 1980, and Jon suggested he contact the *Mercury* to see if there would be any problem if we wanted to produce copies for members.

**Website:** Being regularly updated.

**Recipes:** Eric said Kay was battling on! June Graham said that she could help with some old measurements.

**Field names:** Robin was not present at the meeting but had the relevant maps to work with.

**Wartime:** Phil Hunt hoped to start research soon.

**Film projects:** Eric said Neil Turner's cine films had been transferred to DVD and they now needed editing, but the disc was available to be viewed at the end of the meeting.

**Any Other Business:** Ann reported that Lance Hodson, whose grandfather was butler for the Milbanks for 40 years, had agreed to talk to a meeting in the autumn.

Ann had also spoken to Naill Hammond about visiting Scargill Castle, and it was agreed that she would arrange an evening visit for some time in August, possibly a Friday. It was suggested that a small donation would be made from group funds towards restoration costs.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday August 3rd at 6pm in the village hall.

**DVD:** The meeting closed with a preview of the DVD. We saw some footage from a garden fete in Barningham Park, and Greta was able to put a lot of names to faces for us. There was a wonderful glimpse of a very young Neil in a later piece from a beer festival!!

ANN ORTON, Secretary

### from the parish minutes book

#### Fire brigade plea fails

From the minutes of Barningham Parish Meeting, September 29th 1913:

*A letter was read from Canon Gough which mentioned the seriousness of fire in the village and asked if nothing could be done in the way of forming a voluntary fire brigade, such as they have at Lartington.*

*No steps were taken in the matter. The opinion was expressed that every man in the village would do all he could to assist if a fire did unfortunately break out.*

H. Birtwhistle, Chairman

### guest speaker

*Samantha Belcher from the Bowes Museum will be at the next meeting with a selection of real and replica objects from the museum's archaeology collection for us to handle and discuss.*

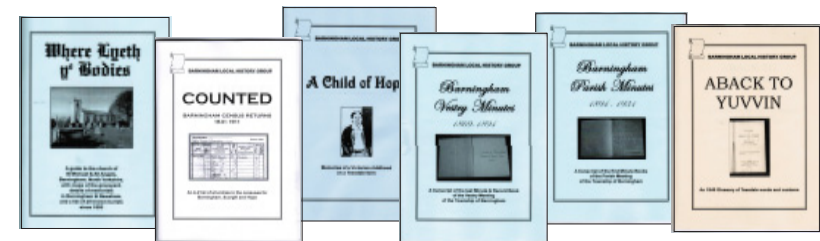
### photo album



It's summertime...

*Haytime picnic somewhere in the Barningham area, date uncertain – sometime in the 1950s? Any faces you can put a name to?*

### Barningham Local History Group Publications



#### Where Lyeth Ye Bodies

A guide to St Michael and All Angels in Barningham, with a history of the church, graveyard map, details of memorials, and list of every known burial. £8. Non-members: £10 + £1 p&p.

#### Counted: Barningham Census returns 1841-1911

An A-Z listing arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years. Covers Barningham, Scargill and Hope. £8. Non-members: £10 + £1 p&p

#### A Child of Hope

The childhood memories of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p

#### Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894, Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and list of named parishioners. £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p

#### Aback to Yuvvin: 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs

A reproduction of Frederick Tinsdale's *Glossary of Provincial Words*. £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p

**The Archive:** Back issues £1 each. £2 + £1 p&p to non-members

## The curate's ghostly encounter

*NOT long before his death in 1994, Merryne Watson – author of the definitive history of Barningham, *As Time Passed By* – submitted this story to the parish magazine. We thought it worth reproducing and wonder whether anyone knows more about the spectral Peggy?*

THE Reverend Arthur Close was acting as curate for his father, vicar of Kirby Ravensworth, when he encountered Peggy, the Woman in Black, in the late autumn of 1881.

He was returning on horseback from holding an afternoon service in the old school house at Helwith in the New Forest. The New Forest was then a much more populous township than it is today: for example, there were three houses in Holgate in 1851, with 24 inhabitants.

Arthur was due to take an evening service at the Dalton mission room – the church had not yet been built – so, riding down the Helwith lane, he decided to take a short cut following a track which joins the main Newsham-Dalton road at the east end of Dark Lane just before it crosses Sprent Beck.

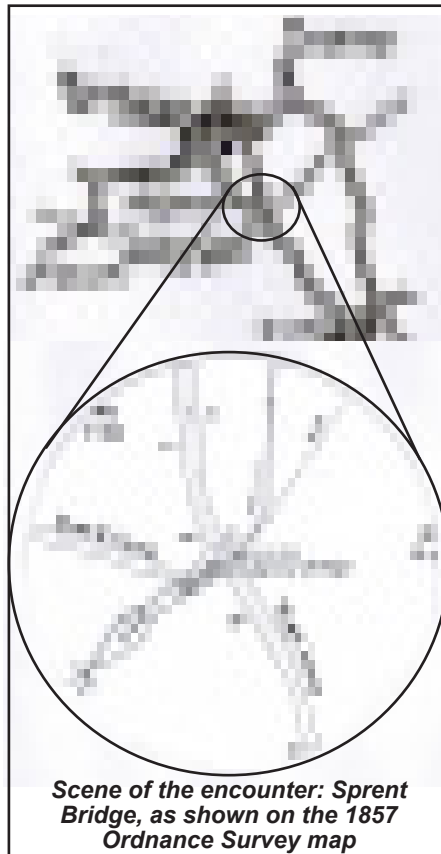
Nearing the bridge he distinctly noticed a woman in black walk over it and his horse was also aware of the figure, pricking up its ears. She then disappeared round the turn in the road to Dalton. In recent years the hedge on the inner side of the bend has been removed back to provide motorists with a better view of oncoming traffic, but there were no cars in those days!

It never entered Arthur's mind that there was anything mysterious about the figure. When he had crossed the bridge, rounded the corner and entered the straight he expected to see the woman some 20 yards ahead, but to his great surprise the road in front of him was empty.

In an attempt to solve the mystery he rode along the grass verge and cracked a long riding whip over the grass on the other side of the road to attract attention, while loudly calling "Is anyone there?" But there was no reply.

The figure had disappeared as mysteriously as it had first appeared, and he never saw it again. It was clearly quite impossible for anyone to avoid being seen as here High Lane was under observation for some distance ahead. The only

old haunts



**Scene of the encounter: Sprent Bridge, as shown on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map**

possible explanation, he believed, was that he had seen old Dame Peggy, the Woman in Black long reputed to haunt the area, on one of her nocturnal visitations to Sprent Bridge.

● Late in life the Reverend Close told his story to the *Darlington & Stockton Times*, which printed it in February 1935.

● If you know more about this haunting – or any others in the area – do let us know. And keep your eyes peeled next time you cross the Sprent Bridge – Peggy may still be around.

## Who voted for their landlord in 1862? Almost everyone

IT took a brave tenant farmer to vote against his landlord back in the days when everyone knew where you'd put your cross on the ballot paper. And in 1862, it seems, there wasn't even one that brave to be found in Barningham.

Three years earlier Lord Palmerston had led the Liberals (known until that election as Whigs) to victory over Lord Derby's Conservatives, winning 356 of the 554 seats in Parliament.

The vast constituency of North Riding of Yorkshire was represented by just two MPs, and its voters chose one from each party: the Honourable William Duncombe, a Tory grandee who was later to become Viscount Helmsley and 1st Earl of Feversham, and the Liberal Edward Stillingfleet Cayley, a free trade enthusiast and political economist from Scarborough.

Cayley died in February 1862, prompting a by-election, and 39-year-old Frederick Acclom Milbank of Barningham Park and Thorp Perrow was chosen as the Liberal candidate. It was a very local contest: opposing him for the Conservatives was William John Sawrey Morrirt of Rokeby Park.

Voters went to the polls on March 20th, and the Tories won by 5,516 votes to 5,043.

Sir Frederick (as he would later become) would have won hands down if it just been up to the electors of Barningham. They were all male, of course, all over 21, and there were only 30 of them: the other 50 or so men in the village weren't eligible to vote because they didn't satisfy the property qualifications of the day by being landowners or tenants of land worth more than £50.

Twenty-one of the 30 who did have a vote put their mark against Milbank. Six didn't vote, and only three went for Morrirt and the Tories.

How do we know? Because somebody – very probably Sir Frederick-to-be, who intended to fight again at the next election – bought a copy of the entire voters' register for the county and paid somebody to go through every one of the 18,000 or so names in it, identifying who had voted for him and who for the opposition.

Listing electors' preferences was not difficult. Voting was in public and the names and

**Caricature of Sir Frederick in Vanity Fair, 1875.**



decisions of everyone who used the ballot box were openly recorded (it was 1872 before secret voting was introduced).

Once identified, many of those on the list were questioned about their future voting intentions, and the register is annotated with hand-written comments next to names, noting that they "would not vote for Morrirt" or had "promised to support Milbank". New voters on the list were targeted, interviewed, and identified as potential supporters or opponents.

It probably came as little surprise to the Milbank camp that almost everyone in Barningham voted for their candidate. He was, after all, their landlord – or if not, at least a very influential neighbour who it would be most unwise to cross. Having an MP on their doorstep might be very useful, and having a landlord proud to have made it into the Mother of Parliaments was surely better than one bitter about public rejection.



## Barningham's 1862 electors – and how they voted

Thomas Atkinson, East Wood, freehold house & land (tenanted by Robert Atkinson)	Liberal
Mark Atkinson, Barningham, freehold house & land (occupied by self & others)	Liberal
Thomas Atkinson, Barningham, freehold house (East Wood, occup'd by self & others)	Liberal
Alfred Atkinson, Barningham, freehold house (occupied by self & others)	Tory
Robert Atkinson, Barningham, occupier of East Wood farm	Liberal
George Brown, Barningham, occupier of farm	Liberal
George Clarkson, Barningham, occupier of farm	Liberal
John Coates, Barningham, occupier of Park House farm	Liberal
John Coates jnr, Barningham, occupier of farm (new voter)	--
John Gibson, Barnard Castle, freehold landowner (tenanted by John Wiseman) (voted elsewhere)	---
Thomas Greenhow, Barningham, freehold house owner	Tory
George Johnson, Barningham, occupier of Wilson House farm	Liberal
Thomas Lee, Barningham, occupier of Moor Cock Hall farm	Liberal
Thomas Lee jnr, Barningham, occupier of farm	Liberal
Mark Milbank Esq, Barningham, freehold house & land	Liberal
Mark William Vane Milbank, Barningham Park, freehold house & land	Liberal
Augustus Sussex Milbank, Thorp Perrow, occupier of land	Liberal
Francis McCulloch, Richmond, freehold house & land	Liberal
Crawford Newby, Stockton, freehold house owner (voted elsewhere)	--
John Pearson, Barningham, freehold land owner	Liberal
James Rosser, Barningham, freehold house owner (new voter)	--
Thomas Shepherd, Heighington, freehold house owner (no vote recorded)	--
Thomas Shepherd, Barningham, freehold house owner	Liberal
James Mariner Smithson, York, share in freehold house (voted elsewhere)	--
Thomas John Smithson, Ripon, share in freehold house (new voter)	--
John Coulson Sowerby, Barningham, freehold house owner (new voter)	--
George Sowerby, Barningham, occupier of farm	Liberal
Anthony Steele, Barnard Castle, freehold land owner (voted elsewhere)	--
William Todd, Esq, Barningham, freehold house & land owner	Liberal
Robert Todd, Barningham, occupier of Haythwaite Farm	Liberal
Joseph Todd, Barningham, freehold house & land owner	Tory
William Todd, Barningham, occupier of Bray [Bragg] House farm (did not vote)	--
William Fitzwilliam Wharton, (Rector) Barningham, freehold house & land owner	Liberal
George White, Barningham, occupier of Crooks House farm	Liberal

### the 1862 by-election

It could be, of course, that the farmers and tenants of Barningham voted only according to their conscience. The Liberals were still generally popular and down the road in Newsham, rather less under the Milbank influence, 19 of the 22 voters backed them as well. However, those who believe that landlords still exercised undue influence on the votes of those who farmed their land can point to Scargill, firmly under Morritt control, where all eight electors cast their votes for the Tories, and New Forest, where six out of seven did the same.

After his defeat in the by-election of 1862, Frederick Acclom Milbank didn't give up. Armed with his list of supporters, he worked

hard to maintain their backing, and at the next general election, in 1865, he defeated Morritt, took over the North Riding seat and held it until it was abolished and replaced by a Richmond constituency 20 years later.

He won the first election for that, too.

- The 1875 *Vanity Fair* caricature, one of a series portraying notable statesmen of the day, carried a caption describing Sir Frederick as “a man whose main interests are riding, racing, shooting and fishing – a very rich man and a reckless bidder at Christies”. Can this be true?

- Thanks to Michael Graham, who lent us the marked electoral register for 1863.

## Church all set for a new era

**120 YEARS AGO** this summer Barningham was agog with the news that plans for a complete transformation of the village church had finally been approved.

Darlington architect James Pritchett proposed to dismantle the old gallery, remove the ceiling, narrow the chancel to form vestries and an organ chamber, raise the floor at the eastern end, replace the box pews and install stained glass windows.

The cost would be £1,708, and a mammoth two-day bazaar and sale of work was to be held in Barnard Castle Music Hall on August 19th and 20th 1890 to raise funds. The Rector, Canon Edwin Spencer Gough, who had found the church “in a very dilapidated and dirty condition” when he arrived in Barningham the year before, was bubbling with excitement in his parish magazine that month.

“Work so cheerfully undertaken and so perseveringly pursued will soon end in an assemblage of beautiful articles of ornamental and useful character,” he enthused. “It will be the endeavour of all concerned to encourage kind and friendly feeling towards the effort the people of Barningham and friends are making to restore their Church.”

The event made a profit of £295 and work began the following November. It took almost a year. On Sunday September 26th 1891 the Bishop of Ripon presided as the new church, the one we know today, was re-opened.

### New home for mags

DURHAM County Record Office has asked if it can have all the surplus parish magazines found in the Rectory skip, and we plan to deliver them shortly (which will free up some much-needed space in the *Archive* editorial office!).

They're also anxious to take the 1838 tithe maps we found into safe custody as soon as possible, offering to photograph them and give us copies in digital form which we could use to create full-size replicas. Anyone know of a friendly printer who might do it?

from the parish mag

**75 YEARS AGO:** The Scargill schoolchildren, under the care of Miss Huck, had a very enjoyable day in Barnard Castle, beginning with prayers in the Church, conducted by the Rev F V Robinson, who also showed the children all the objects of interest, including the Bells. The children were then taken to Blagroves, the Castle, and the Museum. The day ended with tea and ices. Some of the children were absent through illness. For these Miss Huck thoughtfully had boxes of food and fruit packed and sent to their homes. – *July 1935*

**50 YEARS AGO:** Burial of James Peacock, aged 85 years. Although he died at Crakehall, we always associate his name with Spanham, Scargill, where he resided for many years, and led a most active life as a sheep farmer, and in public life as a District Councillor and County Councillor. He was a staunch churchman, a regular worshipper in Barningham in former years, and a generous benefactor always – “one of the old standards”. We shall miss him. A large congregation attended to show their respect. – *July 1950*

**40 YEARS AGO:** You will all know by now the result of the Garden Fete – a clear £215. This is a tremendous effort. It was unfortunate that the weather was so tricky as to make it advisable to hold the affair in the Village Hall. An innovation which gave a handsome start to the funds was the clay pigeon shoot. It was great fun, bringing together many from the countryside who enjoy this sport. I am glad to express my thanks to Mr and Mrs Coutts and family for the way they organised the shoot.

– *August 1960*



### footnote

*REMEMBER our story in Archive 7 about Stanley Gjertsen, the Danish Hussar who turned up in Barningham after the First World War? Well, we've discovered that he was actually a Norwegian who had come to England some years before war broke out, became a naturalised British citizen, worked as a 'pupil' on John Coates' farm at Long Green on the road to Helwith in 1911, and then joined the army at the outbreak of war.*

house histories



The Cottage

Head. The parish magazine at the time paid tribute to him as a “quiet, sure and unobtrusive man, whether he was driving his bus or mixing with his fellows, who inspired confidence and liking.” His wife died a few years later, by which time Tony (“a frail lad with only one lung”, according to Neil Turner) had married and moved away.

Neil’s uncle and aunt Bobby and Amy Etherington were next in The Cottage, living there in the 1950s before moving next-door to North View.

There followed a series of brief tenancies before the cottage was bought in 1969 by Tom and Annie Lawson who were retiring from Manor House farm. Annie, born in 1902, was the daughter of John and Edith Bainbridge, who had taken the farm over from John’s father Thomas, formerly a shepherd at Haythwaite.

Tom died not long after, aged 79; Annie lived on in the village until her death at the age of 94 in 1995.

The Cottage then passed to their granddaughter Ruth Couchman, who moved in before marrying Steve Lewis. They stayed there until a few years ago, when they sold it to David and June Johnson of North View before moving to Scotland. It’s now let out to Richard Laver.

**ROSEBANK COTTAGE**

KNOWN until recently as Chapel Cottage, a name which it acquired some time after the barn beside it was converted into a chapel in the 1830s.

Owned by the Todds until the 1960s, the arrangement of the internal walls and the chimneys

at each end suggest that it might well once have been two tiny cottages, a theory backed up by a reference in deeds relating to the Todds’ properties in 1912 to five separate families living in ‘North View’, a term used for the whole North View – East View – Cottage – Rosebank terrace.

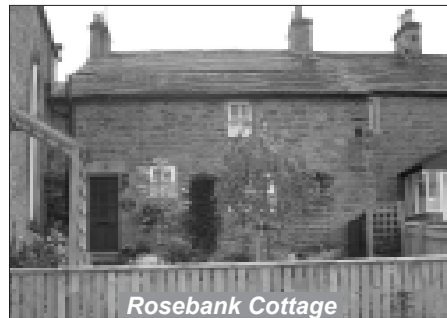
The earliest occupants we can be sure of were Greta Carter’s grandparents, Tommy and Barbara Walker, who lived there in the early 1930s.

They were followed by Samuel Stringer Guest, his wife Ethel and their daughter, possibly called Kathleen. Sam died in 1937, aged 56, and his wife left the village not long after. She died in Reading in 1964, but her ashes were brought back to Barningham.

After her came the Crowthers (see *Neil’s Notes* on Page 8), and after the war a couple called Young. Neil recalls that shortly after giving birth to her first child Mrs Young walked to Greta Bridge and jumped from the parapet into the river. Astonishingly she broke only an ankle.

We’re not sure who among the subsequent occupiers bought the cottage from the Todds, but it may have been Eddie Stokes, who worked on the construction of Cow Green reservoir between 1967 and 1971, and his wife Ina.

After that it had a long series of short-stay occupants. The current owners are Neil and Ruth Thompson, who arrived in 2008.



Rosebank Cottage



footnote

*LAST issue we said that the 1836 map of Barningham didn’t show Park House because it had yet to be built. Not so: it wasn’t on the map because it fell just outside the parish boundary.*

How all the votes were cast in Newsham...

John Allen, Newsham, farm occupier (no vote recorded)	--
John Atkinson, Newsham, house & landowner (tenanted by T Lightfoot) (vote unknown)	--
John Atkinson, Newsham House, house & landowner	Liberal
William Bland, Newsham, farm occupier	Liberal
Robert Batty, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
Edward Brown, Newsham, farm occupier (no vote recorded)	--
Isaac Coates, Long Green, farm occupier	Liberal
Isaac Coates jnr, Park House, farm occupier (no vote recorded)	--
Frank Dunn, Newsham, landowner	Liberal
Frederick William Dunn, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
James Thomas Dunn, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
John Dunn, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
Ralph March Glover, Dyson House, farm occupier	Liberal
Thomas Glover, Dyson House, farm occupier	Liberal
Matthew Graham, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
Michael Graham, South Shields, house & landowner	Liberal
Robert Graham, London, house & landowner	Tory
John Heslop, Rokeby, house & landowner	Tory
Ralph Hind, Longthwaite, house & landowner	Tory
William Hind, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
William Johnson Hutchinson, London, house & landowner (vote unknown)	--
John Edward Johnson, London, house & landowner (vote unknown)	--
William Johnson, Greenbrough, house & landowner	Liberal
Augustus Sussex Milbank Esq, Thorp Perrow, occupier of Hawstead House (voted in Barningham)	--
Frederick A Milbank Esq, London, house & landowner	Liberal
Henry John Milbank, Thorp Perrow & Newsham, house & landowner (no vote recorded)	--
William Myers, Darlington, house & landowner	Tory
George Nicholson, Newsham, house & landowner	Liberal
Samuel Powell, Newsham Hall, farm occupier	Liberal
Anthony Robinson, Newsham, farm occupier	Liberal
Thomas Robinson, Newsham Grange, house & landowner (vote unknown)	--
Robert Robinson, Ovington, landowner (no vote recorded)	--
George Westmorland, Barningham, farm occupier (no vote recorded)	--
William Wilkinson, Newsham, farm occupier	Liberal

...in Scargill...

William Hutchinson, Scargill, farm occupier	Tory
James Legget, Penrith, farm occupier	Tory
Anthony Metcalf, Scargill, farmer	Tory
Miles Metcalf, Garmawhate, farmer	Tory
Reuben Metcalf, Thwaite Green, farmer	Tory
James Siddle, Thwaite, farmer	Tory
John Siddle, Thwaite, farmer (no vote recorded)	--
George Siddle, Thwaite, farmer (no vote recorded)	--
John Wilson, Rutherford, farmer	Tory
John Wilson, Spanham, farmer	Tory
William Wilson, Spanham, farmer (no vote recorded)	--
William Wilson jnr, Spanham, farmer (no vote rec.)	--

...and New Forest

John Alderson, Kexwith, farm occupier	Tory
James Hodgson, Helwith, farm occupier	Tory
James Hutchinson, Kersey Green, farm occupier	Tory
John Hutchinson, Helwith, farm occupier	Tory
John Hutchinson, Grantham, house & landowner	Tory
Leonard Hutchinson, Grantham, house & landowner*	--
Simon Hutchinson, Grantham, landowner**	--
William Hutchinson jnr, Scargill, farm occupier*	--
Leonard S Mason, Hallgate, house & landowner	Liberal

\* No vote recorded

\*\* Voted elsewhere

## letters &amp; emails

## Another searcher for the Binks links

I'M interested in the families of Mary Binks and William Porter, who married in Barningham 1755.

The Porters seem to be from Ravensworth but Mary was baptised in Barningham in 1736, her father named as Christopher Binks, and she had a brother Thomas.

I wondered if it is possible to establish who her mother (Christopher's wife) was, or if there is any reference in burial or other records to the family and how – if at all – they link to the clockmaker, Thomas Binks?

PHIL WILD, Manchester  
okl18@yahoo.co.uk

● We've trawled through the BLHG records and found:

1. William Porter christened Kirby Ravensworth. 4/5/1722 (and a Dorothy Porter christened there in January 1718 who might be a sister). No record of any Porter marriage in KR round that time.

2. Mary Binks christened Barningham 13/6/1736. No record of parents' names.

3. Mary Binks marriage to Henry (not William) Porter at Barningham 10/7/1755 – maybe it was his second name?

4. A Christopher Binkes christened at Kirby Ravensworth 17/3/1694

5. A Christopher Binks who married a Rachael Peacock at Barningham in August 1721 – this may well be who Phil is looking for. A Rachel Peacock was christened at Barningham on 22/5/1699, five months after the marriage at Barningham of a Christopher Peacock to Mary Sympson on 11/12/1689 – her parents? There's



### footnote

**DIARY DATE:** We've provisionally arranged a guided tour of Scargill Castle for the early evening of Friday September 17th – please let Ann Orton (621024) know as soon as possible if you want to come.

also a record of a Christopher Peacock marrying a Mary Binks on 27/11/1708 – a different Christopher? Or the same one re-marrying? There are several Christopher and Mary Peacocks in the burials lists between 1730-1760.

6. A Christopher Binks was buried Barningham 31/8/1739 and a Christopher Bynks was buried Barningham 17/1/1742.

7. A Rachael Bynks was buried at Barningham 21/4/1754, recorded as 'daughter of Rachael' which suggests she was a child, not the wife (and that Christopher was still alive at that time?)

8. Two Thomas Bynks were christened in Barningham, one 22/3/1737, the other 19/5/1739. The 1737 Thomas was the Barningham clock-maker; son of Isabel and Thomas Binks, so if Mary had a brother called Thomas it looks like he was the 1739 one.

9. The family tree for the clockmaker Binks from the mid-1600s to today shows no sign of a link to Christopher. There were several Binks families around in the area at the time, probably all going back to a common ancestor but we don't know how. – Ed.

## Missing maps

I'VE just been reading the latest *Archive* and noticed with interest your item regarding the 'find' of copies of Barningham Maps recorded at the time of the Tithe Apportionment.

I don't know if it helps, but I went to the Durham Records Office a couple of weeks ago, amongst other things to look through the Tithe records, only to discover that whilst the Apportionment (Index) part of the records are held in Durham, the actual Map section is held in Leeds, so I did not complete my research.

With your copies of the Map section you should be able to save a trip to Leeds. The Index records cover Barningham as well as Scargill and Hope.

JOHN MARRINER, Middlesbrough

## Teesdale glossary

THANKS for the copy of the latest *Archive*, received today. Interesting piece on Dinsdale's book (*A Glossary of Provincial Words in Teesdale* – see *Archive* 8).

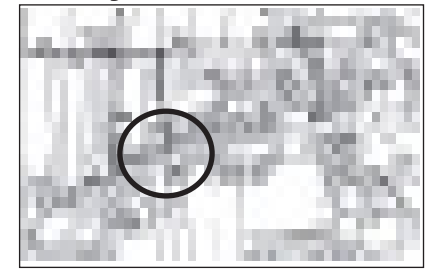
It may interest you to know that I have Dinsdale's personal copy of the Glossary in my

## house histories

## More cottages once owned by the Todds

ONE of the group projects is to create a data base of all the houses in Barningham, with details of their history and who has lived in them over the years.

Buildings we've discussed in recent meetings include East View, The Cottage and Rosebank Cottage, all of which we look at in more detail below. If you have more information or amendments, please let us know.



East View

### EAST VIEW

ORIGINALLY two cottages, dating back at least to the early 1800s and probably much older.

Tucked in behind North View, it was one of the many buildings unidentified by name in the censuses, so we don't know much about it before the 1930s except that it had been owned by the Todds for many years before that, certainly from the middle of the 19th century.

Living in one half of it in 1937 were Duke (full name Marmaduke) Jameson and his wife Agnes, sister of Sam Turner who kept the Milbank Arms. Duke moved over to Swaledale to become head gardener at Marske Hall and a family called Kitchen moved in for a while.

When they left the Brasses moved in – George Herbert (universally known as Jerbert) and his wife Nancy, a former Morrith Arms housemaid who became a formidable village presence known to all as Nana Brass in later years. A door was knocked through to turn the two cottages into one house, and they needed it: in time there were eight children at East View.

The Brasses moved out in 1947 to one of the newly-built Park View council houses, and after a spell standing empty Ben Cole and his family (another eight children or so) moved in.

In 1957 William Todd gave North View, East View and the field behind to Gladys Henderson, who a decade later sold North View and the field to George and Ivy Bellwood, who Neil Turner recalls paying £4,000 for them at an auction held in the Milbank Arms. In 1970 Gladys sold him East View, described in the conveyance as "derelict", for a mere £27/10s (£27.50) and George used it as a stable for goats and horses. Neil remembers the upper floor being used as a hayloft, and a horse climbing the stairs one day to get at it – "it took them ages to get it down!"

The Bellwoods sold both properties in the mid-1970s to Gordon and Caroline Senior, who used East View as a studio after carrying out some novel structural work on the inside, including removing most of the load-bearing walls. In 1981 they sold it all to the current owners, David and June Johnson, who turned East View into a holiday cottage.

### THE COTTAGE

ANOTHER dwelling, owned by the Todds from pre-Victorian days until the 1960s, whose earlier occupiers are unknown.

During the war it was occupied by Bill and Mary Saunders (nee Hutchinson, whose family had had the pub at Stang Foot) and their son Tony. Bill, a driver for Stapleton's bus company in Newsham, died in his mid-thirties in February 1949 when a car ran into his motorbike at Lane



## Clarksons, another cordwainer, and a cottage in mourning for the butcher

THE nineteenth house on our 1841 census enumerator's list was a cottage occupied by 50-year-old agricultural labourer Anne Clarkson and her 15-year-old son John, who was working as a servant.

Anne, who never married, was recorded in the census of 1861, still working at the age of 72. There's no record of her death, and nothing more is known of her son.

There were at least four Clarkson families in Barningham at the time, and there had been Clarksons in the area since at least Elizabethan days: a Gyles Clarkson of Barningham was buried here in 1589, a Richard Clarkson of Newsham in 1604, and an Isabell Clarkson of Scargill the year after. Another 54 followed over the next 200 years, making it the seventh most common name in the burial registers.

The surname, dating back to Norman days, may simply mean, as you'd guess, 'descendent of a clerk' (not necessarily a priest, but any minor cleric or secretary) but could also come from *clachair*, the Norse word for a stone mason.

Next door lived George Pearson, a 52-year-old cordwainer and grocer, married to Ruth, ten years his junior, the sister of David Alderson of Hill Top Farm. With them was 15-year-old Esther Frost, who may have been a relative or a servant.

George (probably the brother of John Pearson, also a cordwainer – see *Archive 4*) later went into farming, taking on 13 acres by the time of the 1851 census. Living with the couple then was Margaret Alderson, David's 11-year-old daughter, and by 1861 she was recorded as their fulltime domestic servant.

George died that year, and Ruth eked out a living as a staymaker until she died in 1878. By then Margaret had moved on, though we don't know where.

Next along were the Monkhouses, an elderly couple, both farm workers: Jonathan, 71, and 70-year-old Margaret. With them on census night was their grandson Jonathan, six, possibly the son of their daughter Francis who had

### 1841 census trail, part 7

*Continuing our journey up the village in the footsteps of the census form collector*

married George Sowerby and lived ten doors away (see *Archive 7*). Jonathan senior died in 1851, Margaret lived on to 1862. Her grandson stayed with her, and was recorded just before she died as an unmarried farmer; after that he disappears from view.

The Monkhouses' neighbours in 1842 were William Law, at 88 the oldest person in the village, and Mary Law, a 50-year-old unmarried dressmaker who was probably his daughter. William, still listed as an agricultural labourer in the census despite his age, died in 1844; Mary lived on alone for another 24 years.

The next cottage was in mourning. The head of the household, butcher Thomas Bowman, had died only a few months earlier, aged 50, leaving a widow and at least two children. Mrs Bowman – born Margaret Grigg but known all her life as Peggy – was 52 and worked as a farm labourer until her youngest child Elizabeth, 13 when her father died, left home.

Her son Richard, an unmarried sawyer, returned later, and was living with her in 1851. With them was a four-year-old granddaughter, Mary Elizabeth, and her mother Elizabeth, who had married a Staindrop coach-maker called Atkinson.

Peggy spent her final days living alone: she died in 1861.

● *Next issue: Robinsons and Nicholsons.*



#### footnote

WE'VE had a number of visitors to the church recently asking for copies of *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies*, the churchyard burials book, so rather than give them the church copy Neil Turner has a supply available in the Milbank Arms: please point would-be buyers in his direction.

### letters & emails

collection. It includes many annotations but, from the handwriting, I don't think these are all by Dinsdale.

I don't have any more information about Dinsdale. There is a notebook of his in which he recorded his notes when compiling his text about Edwin and Emma (*the Bowes 'tragic sweethearts'*): it is held in the Bowes Museum library. It may have an address in it.

I seem to remember there was a letter from either a solicitor or auction house with the notebook, offering it to the Bowes Museum: this may provide further information on Mr Dinsdale.

BILL HEYES, Teesdale Record Society

● *We'll see if we can track it down. – Ed.*

## Upper Dales link

FIRST of all, congratulations on a very interesting website, lots of really good information and I will come back and have another look. One thing lacking, please proclaim Loud and Clear that Barningham is in Yorkshire, no one has diverted the River Tees yet.

I see that you have some family history queries and questions. I recognised a lot of the names, and you may find that many of these families had links in neighbouring parishes, especially Arkengarthdale and Kirkby Hill areas.

It may be helpful to your family history researchers to link in with the Upper Dales Family History Group. This covers the northern Pennine Yorkshire Dales, Wensleydale, Swaledale, Arkengarthdale, and parts of Teesdale (on the Yorkshire side of course). Have a look at [www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk](http://www.upperdalesfhg.org.uk).

We have a worldwide membership of people who are researching families from the dales, and I recognise some of the names on your Family History queries page as being researched by our members.

We have an email discussion where people can ask and answer questions on families. I recognise about five of the queries which are families come over from Arkengarthdale, in fact the Moses Binks at Feldom is linked to a side-shoot in my family, and some are buried at Marske. I

noticed in your minutes a mention of evacuees. Don't forget the Land Girls as well. Great excitement went through the village when a truck load of Land Girls arrived in Barningham. My mother was one of them, which was how she met my father Richard Gill in Barningham. He wrote his memoir *No Time to Stand and Stare* which includes chapters about Crooks House. So when you have interviewed the evacuees who came to the village, don't forget the Land Girls, there won't be many of them left now.

Well done on a most interesting village website.

MARION MOVERLEY, Richmond  
[moverley.lyons@virgin.net](mailto:moverley.lyons@virgin.net)

● *Richard Gill's book was mentioned in Archive 1: the history group has a copy if anyone wants to borrow it, or it's available from the Teesdale Mercury bookshop in Barnard Castle. We hope Marion will join us as a guest at a history group meeting soon. Meanwhile, we've taken her advice and signed up to the Upper Dales website. They look like a very active group, celebrating their tenth anniversary this year. – Ed.*

## Cine from the Sixties

ENJOYED reading the *Archive*. Seeing Mr (Teddy) and Mrs Cuthbertson in the 1970 wedding photo reminded me of the cine film she made of the children in the village growing a giant turnip in the 1960s.

Their only son is Malcolm, who when I last saw him was working at B&Q in Darlington. I wonder if he has kept it?

MARK WATSON, Barningham

● *Anyone else recall the turnip? And why were they growing it?? – Ed.*



#### footnote

THE launch of *Altogether Archaeology*, the North Pennines AONB project offering volunteers the chance to join in excavations, research and other aspects of their work, is being held in the town hall at St John's Chapel on Tuesday July 27th, 7.30pm. It's a long trip from Barningham but Jon Smith hopes to attend. Anyone fancy joining him?

## neil's notes

**Barningham's Cresta Run**

WHEN I was a boy during the war I remember Mr Crowther, who lived in what is now called Rosebank Cottage, next to the chapel (*see House Histories, Page 12*).

He was the roadman, and in winter he used to put grit on Slacks Bank – the road outside the entrance to Hill Top farm. He always finished by 8pm, and us kids would be there as soon as he'd gone, sweeping away the gravel he'd laid and then throwing buckets of water from the pump at the top of the hill over the road.

It soon froze, and then it was out with the sledges. We'd set off from the top of the village (the road was gated at the moor end then, with a wishing-gate as well) and hurtle down, round the Milbank Arms corner and past Metcalfes' until we stopped at the umbrella tree. We didn't go any further because we had to pull the sledges all the way back up.

Some of them held six people, and they went very fast. There were no cars about then, of course, it being wartime.

**Baby in the basket**

WHEN I was a baby, on Mondays when my mum and day went out, Mrs Alderson from Hill Top used to carry me in a washing basket to her farm to look after.

She was a skilled icer of wedding cakes, etc, and always baking. When everyone was threshing at Park House she would provide cakes and scones twice a day.

In 1953 I walked with her to Kirby Hill for John and Betty Metcalf's wedding. It was a red-hot day.

 footnote

*"THIS year has been noted for the phenomenally large growth of fungi, and many exceptionally big mushrooms have been gathered in the neighbourhood. The other day Mr James Todd JP of Fairview had in his possession a fungus weighing 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> pounds, which was found in a field near his home."* –from the *Teesdale Mercury*, 1899

## page from the past

**Just another routine week in Teesdale, 1854...**

**Runaway apprentices, killer trees, highway robbery and manslaughter: all part of everyday life in 1854, when this page from the first edition of the *Teesdale Advertiser*, later to become the *Teesdale Mercury*, was published. The first hundred years of *Mercury* pages are going online later this year: more details should be available soon.**