

WE ALL SERVED

In order to mark the end of the four years commemoration period of the First World War, the History Club applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funds to set up a project which would ultimately form part of our archive of oral history and provide a fitting end to a period which we have marked in a way which has honoured the sacrifices made by the men and women of Wheatley Hill during 1914-1918.

and we were successfully awarded £10,000

The 'We All Served' project, will run between now and the 100th anniversary of the official end of the 'war to end all wars' in July 2019 and will involve a series of workshops, reaching out to a diverse range of participants. The workshops will involve recording local family stories and the thoughts and feelings of today's community about the conflict, asking important and sometimes pointed questions.

This recorded oral history will form part of the History Club's archive and feature in a series of specially commissioned multimedia projection events (both indoor and outdoor) that will use film and image projections, music and the oral history recordings.

It is intended, that the first 'performance' of the multimedia projections take place on the afternoon of **Sunday the 11 November at 4.30pm** in Wheatley Hill cemetery. This would accompany, and form part of, the commemoration planned by the Wheatley Hill History Club & Heritage Society around the war memorial.

REMEMBRANCE 2018

The Remembrance Event to mark the end of the four-year commemoration period of the First World War, will begin in the cemetery at 4.30pm.

It will be very similar to the event that started our commemoration in 1914. A piper will announce the event which will be held in candlelight, and then war poetry will be read by a number of volunteers from around the village.

All this will take place around the back-drop of our war memorial and the Thomas Kenny VC memorial.

The CREE have manufactured 189 crosses engraved with the name of each Wheatley Hill man who lost his life in the War and each of the crosses will be adorned with a hand-knitted poppy by a group of volunteers from Thornley. This display in itself will be moving, however the presence of ten there-but-not-there Perspex silhouettes placed amongst them will provide poignancy to the whole event.

This event will be followed by the "We All Served" presentation which will contain contributions from people from the village who have taken part in discussions about the First World War.

Weather permitting, the crosses and silhouettes will remain in the cemetery for a few days after the event so that visitors may see the impact in terms of loss of life the War had on our village.

Wheatley Hill at the cutting edge of Remembering!

REMEMBRANCE ARRANGEMENTS at WHEATLEY HILL 2018

10.15am	Parade meets at Patton Walk
10.40am	Parade arrives at All Saints Church
10.45am	Service in All Saints Parish Church including sounding of The Last Post
11.20am	Parade leaves for Cemetery
11.40am	Remembrance Day ceremony in Cemetery including: Laying of 22 poppy wreaths The Last Post Reveille The National Anthem

Trimdon Brass Band
will be in attendance
throughout the Remembrance Service



The Heritage Centre
will be open for refreshments
11.00am—12.30pm

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813
TREASURER: 01429 823198

E: history.club2@btinternet.com
W: wheatley-hill.org.uk



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ALL MEETINGS START AT 11.00AM

31 November Binchester G Henderson

This will be our last meeting of 2018
Meetings in 2019 will start in March

£2.00 per meeting
Includes tea/coffee/biscuits/raffle

CHANGING TIMES

This time last year, we were advertising the fact that History Club meeting times were changing. Since we set up in 1995, our meetings were always held on an evening but over the years we have seen a drop in the number of people who were attending the evening meetings and the knock-on financial effect this had on our funds was concerning to the committee.

We changed the time of the meetings from 7.30pm to 7.00pm with little or no change to attendance numbers. We then cut down on the number of times we met during the year—from ten to eight, avoiding the worst weather-months. Again, with little difference to our attendance.

With speakers charging around £40 for a one-hour talk which is the going-rate in the North East, we depended on the door takings to meet most of the cost of the monthly meetings but gradually we found that History Club funds were subsidising speaker costs more and more and it became apparent that a more radical approach was needed to increase our door takings.

The decision to change the timings of our meetings wasn't popular with everyone, but on the whole it has been a huge success. The advertisements we place in The Northern Echo and East Durham Times each month have more effect as we see people prepared to travel to a meeting at 11.00am who would not do so at 7.00pm, and given the age of local history followers, it is not difficult to see why.

We are now attracting more and different people to our meetings each month with the result that speakers are mostly paid out of money taken on the door and not money set aside for local history research etc.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us by attending meetings or by paying a membership fee, or by attending meetings AND paying a membership fee, I think it is obvious that our money is spent wisely, as we continue to be a leading local history group within County Durham.

THE LANGWORTHY MYSTERY

For those of you who didn't make it to the August meeting, you missed a treat. We welcomed Tony Nicholson as our speaker. Tony has been to the History Club several times before and he never fail to impress us with his talks which are well researched and presented, and this time was no exception!

The talk he gave came from his research into the life of former Northern Echo editor, W T Stead who became involved in helping a Victorian lady in distress.

History Club members were riveted by Tony's account of the events he had uncovered and at 12 noon, our normal finishing time, no one moved a muscle as he continued, finally finishing at 12.15pm.

The Langworthy story will be his second novel, based on a true story which he hopes to have in the shops by Christmas and members clamoured to buy his first novel "The Love of Dangerous Men" which tells the story of Gus and Annie and letters Tony found in his attic, which he has already shared with us at a previous meeting.

LONDONDERRY & BUDDLE

In September, Alan Heesom told us about the relationship between Charles Stewart, 3rd Marquis and John Buddle, his agent.

The talk included details about Londonderry's wife, Frances Ann Vane, a coal heiress who was purported to be the most wealthy woman in Europe at the time of her inheritance in the early 1800's. She married Londonderry, not as a marriage of convenience, but because they were in love, and he became the owner of the coalmines, and for many years he and Lord Lambton owned much of the coal districts in County Durham.

Alan portrayed Londerry in a much better light than most of us recognised. We tend to see him as an ogre who treat the miners very badly but of course there were two further Lord Londonderry's after the death of the 3rd Earl in 1854, who would both be involved in coal mining before Nationalisation.

Love them or hate them, the Londonderry's were/are a very interesting family—miles removed from the workers they employed of course!!

THE MEMOIRS OF
Thomas Russell 1847-1928
(during the short time he lived in Wheatley Hill)

3 August 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Was the day that they intended holding their annual demonstrations meeting in a field kindly lent of the occasion by Mister Cooper Esq but I think it will be a failure. It has been raining very much this day and it fell rather hard and it would hinder people of going to it. But they would have it in the Chapel and they were going to have Dr E A Rodway of Southside in the County of Durham England.

11 August 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

On this day it been pay Friday it came on raining and I got rather wet with it. I was thinking of going to see Ellion's father mowing (*mowing*) a little field but I think I will not go on the count of the rain coming on.

25 August 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

On this day we had our camp meeting and John Richards from Castle Eden Colliery, Mr Garnet from Coxey and Winter from Castle Eden Colliery and the day was very hot.

26 August 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Well now I am sitting at the table and it is about 3 o'clock in the morning and if I must speak the truth I must say my mind is disturbed. Ellion is likely for taking to her bed so we have got his mother and my mother hear but through persuading them we got them to go and have a hours rest, so they went. So Ellion lay down and she fell asleep and all. So hear I am sitting watching my darling son Nickleson and the bawley is calling just now in the foreshift men. So I think I'll have me pipe.

(it appears from this entry that Ellen Russell may be pregnant and the birth imminent)

31 August 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Was the day that John Wilson made an application for more money and we have gave him one pound a week and think it is plenty for his work.

(John Wilson went on to become an MP)

5 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

On this day me and my wife were sitting in the fore-house and we were talking about our own affairs and she is not fair well in health just now but I hope she will get better just now.

9 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

This being Sunday I have not been out of the house all day. I was tired with running about and getting no sleep so went to my bed. I have to go to my work at twelve o'clock tonight.

17 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Was the day that George Featenby got killed in Haswell pit by a fall of stone and he was buried on 21st and we will have to mourn for him and that is all

we can do now he is gone the way of all flesh but we hope he is better done for.

21 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

I am thinking about the changes that takes place in such a short time. We are here today and we are gone tomorrow and it is just like a tale that is told. The face that we have and voice that is heard is lost in time. It is gone and time will take us away to our long home.

21 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

This being the day that my cousin Mary Jane came from Trimdon Grange Colliery to stay a week with us and she will be staying to sow a little.

26 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Me and Thomas Farrow had a fine walk to Castle Eden Village and the day was fine and we got a ride from Wingate Colliery.

30 September 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

I am idle today and the reason that I am idle is that we slept the caller but I do not care much for it is the Sunday night shift so I do not fret.

October 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

Well dear uncle I must inform you that I have been married 10 years on December last and I can look back and say that I never spent my time in a wrong way. We have had 3 children but we lost two of them. We buried one child eleven months old and she died in December 1873 and we called his after my aunt Mary Richardsons daughter and that was Alma Emma. My last daughter that we lost died 27th May 1877. She was aged 8 years.

9 October 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

On this date Ellion went to Station Town. The child is about five weeks old and on this date having nothing to do I thought I would write a little.

12 November 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

It is very rough weather the wind blue very wild and its very cold and about twelve o'clock it came on a snow and it snowed for six hours very hard and I was in the night shift.

6 December 1878 Wheatley Hill Colliery

We bought the pig at Thornley from a man with a cart and I gave him £1.4s.0d for it.

1 January 1879 Wheatley Hill Colliery

This day being nine years day and a fine day. It was rather frosty and we had our Ellions mother and sister from Station Town and Mary Ann had his three boys with his and they gave Nickleson a present of a book.

Wheatley Hill Community Association T: 01429820214



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ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

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advertise in this space
please ask them to contact us at:

history.club2@btinternet.com

The advert will appear
in four newsletters
which are uploaded to our website

£25.00

Wheatley Hill History & Heritage



2019 Calendar
Includes Images of Thornley



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