

Records & Recollections

The Aln and Breamish
Local History Society

New Series Volume 1, No. 3

December 2004

Chairman's Report

The progress that has been made since the Society was re-established in 2003 is most encouraging. We now have 54 members and hold regular and well attended meetings. We are solvent and the sound and projector equipment we bought with the grant from Awards for All has made a great difference.

Mary Pinder's talk after the last AGM was entitled "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" and was a light-hearted but interesting account of changing fashions and customs through the last hundred years or so.

Our next speaker on 25 August was the Venerable W.R. Thomas whose talk was entitled "What Whittingham Church means to me". This was delivered in the church and churchyard and was reasonably well attended despite the inclement weather. In this talk Bill revealed his deep knowledge of many church matters—gravestones, architectural features, church furniture, how services had developed and changed over the ages and many other interesting facts. This talk was so well received that we will try to persuade Bill to give a follow up talk on the same subject in the summer.

For the meeting on 8 September, Linda Bankier, Berwick Archivist, stepped in at short

notice in place of a speaker who had to cancel her appointment. She was most informative about the various records in the Berwick Archives, many of which deal with happenings during the town's very turbulent history.

Richard Sharp presented the Society with an enthralling and lucid account of the *Jacobite Cause* at a special meeting held on 13 October. Twenty-three people attended – unfortunately this meeting clashed with the Glendale Society's meeting and a number of people gave their apologies as they were committed to this alternative meeting.

Richard Sharp's account of the Jacobite movement covered the events of 1688/9 which led to the deposition of James II, the seizure of the crown by William of Orange, and the subsequent attempts, notably in 1715 and 1745, to return the throne of Great Britain to the Stuart dynasty. His account of this narrative was deepened and broadened however, by his illustrations of the mindset of the time; and the influence of the momentous events of the seventeenth century on eighteenth century perceptions. His talk showed an extremely detailed knowledge of his subject and was illustrated by sumptuous slides of contemporary paintings and engravings, as well



Above: George Collingwood of Eslington who lost both his life and his lands after participating in the Jacobite rebellion of 1715.

as a display of his other artefacts and pictures of the period.

This talk was certainly a highlight of the programme we have presented so far.

Peter Clark whose subject was "Air Crashes in the Cheviots" gave a talk on 10 November. He has conducted detailed research and gave details of the methods he used to elicit the facts about the 16 air crashes in World War 2 in the Cheviots. Perhaps members would have liked more details about individual crashes, but copies of his books which were on sale contained these.

George Winstanley

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Society programme and subscription information, 2005 8

See the back page for details of the programme up to the next Annual General Meeting. Please be sure to check your notice board for venues, as we are trying to vary these to avoid holding every meeting in Whittingham. The December meeting is to take place in Glanton and the May meeting in Ingram.

Whittingham in the Nineteenth Century, by Ann Burgess

Soon after our Society was brought back to life in 2003, Mrs Barbara Robinson brought to a Committee meeting a fat, typescript manuscript which had been among the effects of the earlier Aln & Breamish Local History Society left in the URC hall in Glanton. This manuscript, dated 1971, is full of the most interesting histori-

cal information, not only about Whittingham and its environs in the 19th century, but about the area at the time that Ann Burgess was writing—1971—now of course a period which itself is slipping gently into history.

We have been quite unable to trace Ms Burgess, despite strenuous efforts. If any readers know how to contact her,

please let us know. In the meanwhile, Bridget Winstanley is typing the manuscript and we have taken the liberty of including excerpts in this newsletter. These cover transport, reflections on differences between Glanton and Whittingham, and a table of village trades in 1887 based upon her extracts from directories.

Transport in the Vale of Whittingham, by Ann Burgess, 1971

Below we show a picture of Whittingham station as it was in 1971 when Ann Burgess wrote this account and (presumably) took the picture. Opposite is a picture of Glanton station as it was in its working days, and opposite, below, an extract from a timetable of 1892.

Whittingham owed its earlier importance not only to its central position in the Vale of Whittingham but also to its command of fords where important roads cross the Aln. In the coaching days the road entered Whittingham under Thrunton crags and passed through the villages of Whittingham and Glanton. At Whittingham the Aln was crossed by a ford until a stone bridge with four arches was built a little to the west of the ford. The old road was the main turnpike and coaching road between Newcastle and Edinburgh and came through Morpeth by Weldon Bridge, Framlington, Rimside Moor, Thrunton, Cragend, Whittingham, Glanton, Wooler, Milfield, Blue Bell and on to Cornhill. In the old coaching days when the Wellington passed and re-passed on its way to and from Edinburgh to Newcastle "there would always be a good deal of stir and bustle at the Castle Inn" (which is situated at the southerly end of the village). This was also the posting house which in 1821 was kept by Joseph Waterman and afterwards

by Daniel Ross and Adam Pile. The Castle Inn was a stopping place for the coaches where the horses were changed at 11 a.m. en route to Edinburgh and at 5 p.m. to Newcastle.

In 1840 a new main road was constructed which left the old coaching road half a mile to the south of Rimside Moor. The road crossed the Aln by a stone bridge where a neat posting house was built. To the south of the bridge a branch road went west to Whittingham where it turned north to Glanton and rejoined the main road at Powburn, as in fact it does today. It was because of the location of the highways that the people of Whittingham often referred to the south of the river as the real Whittingham and the other side as church town or over the water. It was the south side beside the Castle Inn that the Great Western road from Newcastle to Edinburgh split into two parts, one going forward to Scotland via Wooler, the other slanting westwards and going by Eslington and Yetlington to Calalaly and Lorbotle and thence over the hills to Thropton and Rothbury. On the north side a road from Wooler goes west to Great Ryle and Prendwick where it ends in the hills.

After the construction of the new road the coaches ceased running due to the opening in 1849 of the east coast line of railway from Berwick to York and for many years it might have been said of the

Bridge of Aln that its occupation was gone. Dippie Dixon writes:

"Nowadays it is a busier and more important place than it was in the old coaching days for on September 5th, 1887 a branch line of railway was formed from Alnwick to Cornhill, passing through the vale of Whittingham" which was a great step forward. Miss Brown, the person from whom I obtained this timetable (opposite), comments that the 7.09 p.m. train from Glanton would arrive at Whittingham five minutes later but only left at 7.24 p.m. It would have to wait at Whittingham for the arrival of the 6.55 p.m. from Alnwick as Whittingham was the only passing place on the line between Alnwick and Wooler. Whittingham had an island platform.

It appears from the press (1892) that the railway company ran four trains to Alnwick and three trains from Alnwick daily, except on a Sunday when there were none at all. The time-table shows that there was a 'special' running on a Saturday afternoon both from and to Alnwick. The purpose of this train was probably to enable the village folk to do their weekly shopping in Alnwick. An old inhabitant of Whittingham, Mrs Jane Brown, commented that she was a lowly paid farm worker who often saw the trains in the early days but who could not afford the fare.

However, after the turn of the century and the first



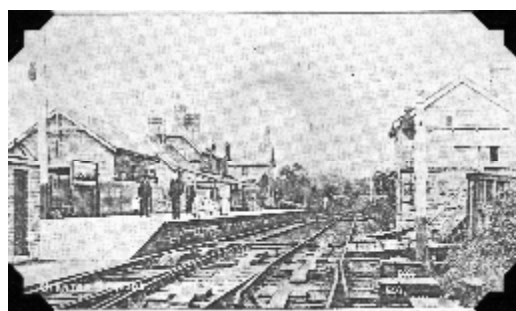
World War the local people began to think in terms of travelling to work in Alnwick or Wooler and returning the same day. Up until this time they had to live in lodgings at their place of work or find employment in the immediate vicinity, if this was at all possible. Children from this area were now able to travel to the grammar school in Alnwick.

The railway seemed to quickly lose its importance in this area. Miss Nancy Fenwick was in 1919 the only person travelling on the train to her employment in Alnwick. She walked to Whittingham Station to catch the 7.42 train and then walked home in the evening leaving the station at 7.24 p.m. She walked three miles each day in winter and summer for over ten years as she did not transfer to the bus service which arrived in the mid 1920s. Miss Fenwick recalls that she bought a quarterly season ticket which at

some time in those ten years cost her £1.13.6d – roughly 2s 7d a week.

Freight and livestock were carried on the train and it was not long after the war that the livestock Mart Company was opened near the Bridge of Aln. Hunters from Callaly Castle and race horses from Mr. Adam Scott's stable at Alnham were frequent users of the railway. Not everyone among the adults could walk the 1 1/2 miles to Whittingham Station. Mr Hudson, who had a small shop on the south side of the village hired out a pony and trap to take people to and from the station.

It was at Easter 1926 that the first public road transport began to operate through the villages of Whittingham and Glanton with a service from Wooler to Newcastle by Mr W. Pile. The following September Mr. Cairns of the Mansion House, Glanton (now the World Bird Research Station) started a



bus service from Wooler to Alnwick and Amble. With the popularity of the bus service (now people did not have to walk the 1 1/2 miles to the station) came the decline of the railway. It was in 1931 that the branch line to Alnwick closed to passengers. A goods train and a parcel train continued to operate until about 1953 when the railway for the area was finally closed down. At the present moment the people of Whittingham rely on the United bus service which is not exceptionally good – five buses to Whittingham from Alnwick per day. Many people have their own means of trans-

port because of the inadequacy of public transport. The future of the bus service seems to be very uncertain.

Not far from the Castle Inn on the south side of the village there is a bus shelter which was erected by public subscription and partly by a donation from the United Automobile Association after the second World War. This bus shelter acts as the terminus for the Alnwick bus. For passengers wishing to travel further than Whittingham they connect with the Newcastle to Edinburgh bus which goes via Morpeth.

		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Dept.	Glanton	7.37	11.34	4.14	7.09
	Whittingham	7.42	11.39	4.19	7.24
	Edlingham	7.52			7.34
Arrive	Alnwick	8.13	12.10	4.50	7.55
Dept.	Alnwick	8.25			
Arrive	Alnmouth	8.32			
Dept.	Alnmouth	8.34			
Arrive	Newcastle	9.45			
Dept.	Alnwick	8.35		1.50	6.55
	Edlingham	8.56		2.11	7.16
Arrive	Whittingham	9.04		2.19	7.24
	Glanton	9.09		2.24	7.29

Differences between Glanton and Whittingham, by Ann Burgess, 1971

Here is another extract from the manuscript described on page 1. Please note that views expressed in any articles reproduced here are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Editor or Society.

The illustrations of Glanton School (below) and Street (top left) were taken in about 1970.

Glanton, though only a mile and a half away from Whittingham, is totally different in character. It has a very long, wide main street consisting of five shops, three churches and petrol pumps, but at first it looks smaller than Whittingham. When we consider the past history of Glanton in comparison with Whittingham the difference in character of the two villages becomes clear.

Whittingham was, and to a certain extent today, is, influenced by the Eslington and Callaly estates. Glanton on the other hand has never been part of a single estate. It has been owned by a number of people and this has helped to determine Glanton's present character.

The directory of 1855 says that Glanton is a township and a village, the property of F.J.W. Collingwood, Esq., George Hughes, Esq., Rev. Gilbert Alder, W.J. Pawson, Esq., T.S. Storey, Esq., Ralph Carr, Esq., the heirs of the late W. Tewart, Esq., the Messrs. Allandale and some freeholds. Even to this day many of the inhabitants of Glanton have



smallholdings. Where this is the case the landlord has in years gone by sold part of his land, perhaps one or two fields, to his tenant who then becomes the owner of the land.

The difference in ownership of the two villages meant that Glanton was independent, both economically and in religious matters. Firstly, to deal with economic matters -- to the casual observer the most striking difference between Glanton and Whittingham is the number of shops in Glanton which at the present moment numbers five as opposed to one in Whittingham. In Glanton this has meant that those wishing to establish businesses (in more recent times) would have done so on a private basis. Whereas, I rather think, those who established trades in Whittingham probably paid a rent to Lord Ravensworth, thus leaving less opportunity for speculation and probably less profit. Mr Dodds whose family has owned the butcher's shop in Glanton since 1904 assured me that he still has a prosperous little business. Although the actual village trade has decreased his

trade in general has remained relatively stable because a much larger area is covered. Glanton is, and it appears always has been, a considerable shopping centre. People come from neighbouring farms to collect their weekly provisions. Many of the shops that were in existence in about 1861 are now private houses. Small panes of glass or in some cases, the skeleton of the old window, may give them away.

In matters of religion Glanton was also independent while Whittingham tended to be dominated by the religious views of the Eslington Estate. Glanton, however, was able to choose its religion, which was for the most part Presbyterian. The Presbyterian manse was first built in 1795. The first school was established by this church at about the same time. The fact that Glanton tended to follow this type of religion and tended to support Roundheads while Whittingham supported Cavaliers led to some ill-feeling between Glanton and Whittingham. Whether such bitterness still exists today I do not know, but I have heard rumours of such things.





Occupations in Glanton, Powburn and Whittingham, 1887

	Glanton	Powburn	Whittingham
Baker	Mrs Sarah Howey		
Blacksmith	Robt. Miller	Robt Lillie	John Rogerson
Butcher	John Thos Whittle Daniel Weedy		Walter Scott
Carrier	Henry Taylor (to and from Alnwick on a Saturday)		Robt Ord post messenger to Alnham
Carting contractor	Robt Kirkup		
Draper	John Dryden James Robson (also post mas- ter)		
Dressmaker			Margaret Ord
Gamekeeper			Henry Layton
Gardener	Edmund Harris	James Bell	Joseph Oliver
Grocers	Mrs Maria Cowley Robt Foggon James Scott Mrs Isabella Smith		Wm Dixon (also draper) Chris Thompson Ellen Fordy Wilson
Horse and trap proprie- tor			Robt Dickinson
Inns and Taverns	Queen's Head Hotel: Thos. Hall Red Lion: Andrew Middlemis	Mrs Eliz. Robson (Plough Inn)	James Ridley
Ironmonger	Wilkin & Dickman, Wm Douglas manager		
Joiners		B. Dodds	Joseph Southern
Lodgings	Mrs Isabella Chisholm Mrs Eliz. Lamb Mrs Martha Tait		
Milliner	Miss McKie		
Millwright			Thom. Biggs John Snaith
Ministers of Religion	Rev. Hector Davidson (Presbyterian)		Rev. Wm Sheild (Anglican) Rev. Wm Taylor (Catholic)
Painter	Wm. Mackintosh		

Continued on next page.

Village Shops and Trades in Glanton, Powburn and Whittingham, 1887 (cont.)

	Glanton	Powburn	Whittingham
Police Officer			Archibald Hately, police sergeant
Postmaster	James Robson		Luke Henderson
Rabbit catcher		Wm Thompson	
Road surveyor	Wm Wade		
Saddler	Wm Kitchen		Gilbert Brown
Schoolteachers	James Ward Miss Fraser		Wm Ternent (also Reading Room and Library)
Shepherds			Andrew Young Joseph Scott
Shoemaker	James Reed		Bryan Tait Ross
Slater	James Lamb		
Station master	Wm Cornforth		Thom. Newton
Steward			Thom. Grazier
Stonemason	Thom. Kirkup	B. Jeffrey	Geo. English (Eslington Estate)
Surgeon	Wm Robertson		James Watson
Tailor			Luke Henderson
Vet. Surgeon	W. Marshall		
Woodman			Joseph Rochester

Whittingham Tower

There are pictures of the Tower on the back page of this publication.

On 8 November 2004 the work set in train by Alnwick District Council under an Urgent Works Notice began with scaffolding and was followed by the arrival of a large crane which was used to help dismantle part of the east side of the crenellation of the tower.

The Chairman, George Winstanley wrote the following letter to the Enforcement Officer, Alnwick District Council on 14 November 2004:

"I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Aln and Breamish Local History Society to convey to you views expressed by the committee of the society at its last meeting concerning the Whittingham Pele Tower and also to ask for information regarding plans for the future preservation of this building.

The committee was dismayed at the deplorable condition of this historic landmark of the village and its surrounds and considered that steps should be taken not only to protect the public from debris falling from it but that work should be set in train to prevent the building from deteriorating further – as has been done at Edlingham Castle, for instance.

In order that I may keep the Committee informed as to the future of this tower, I would be grateful if you would outline to me what plans, if any, your Council has to prevent it from becoming a tumbledown ruin after the works at present being done under your Urgent Works Notice are finished."

No reply had been received at the time of going to press with this publication.

Village Shops and Trades Survey

As many of you already know, the Society participated in a survey of village water supplies organised by the Northumberland Association of Local History Societies this year. Our work was displayed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society held in the Stannington Village Hall in November and we held our own display of photographs and some texts at the last meeting of our Society in the Memorial Hall, Whittingham.

Your committee has agreed that if there is enough interest from the membership of the society, we will participate in the next survey organised by the Northumberland Association of Local History Societies. This survey is on **Village Shops and Trades**.

Bessie Clark mentions 14 or 15 businesses in Glanton in the period 1918 to 1937 in the article published in *Records and Recollections* (Volume 1, No. 1

December 2003). By 1970, according to Ann Burgess (this publication, page 4) these had been reduced to five, while Whittingham had, in addition to the Castle Inn, only one.

NB – this survey (which is organised by the Northumberland Association of Local History Societies) does not have to be completed until August next year. You have time to get involved!

Perhaps you remember where the shops and trades were and who the shopkeepers and tradesmen were. Please contact the Secretary if you do!

Do you live in a house that was formerly a shop or a tradesman's premises? Would you like to find out more about who lived there before you? Pages 5 and 6 of this issue of our newsletter list people in trades and other occupations in Glanton, Powburn and Whittingham in 1886. We can also provide you with similar lists for the



Former butcher's shop & house, Whittingham, in about 1970

years 1828, 1847 and 1855, not only for the three villages listed, but also for Thrunton, Great Ryle, Little Ryle, Callaly and Yetlington. We also have some street plans showing former business premises. Perhaps you know where the people shown on these lists lived? If so, please participate!

How?

- By sharing your memories of former shops and trades in Bolton, Brandon, Branton, Edlingham, Glanton, Powburn or Whittingham with a member of the

Committee who will write them down

- By taking one of the survey forms available and doing some simple research into one of the many properties known to have been a shop, inn, or tradesman's premises in any of the above villages.

In either case, please contact the Secretary (Bridget, telephone 574353) who will give you more details and give you a copy of the form and hints on doing your research.



Do you know these little girls, pictured left at Whittingham School in 1954? They are shown with their headteacher, Mr J.E. Robson. Please tell us if you know who they are.

Preliminary Programme 2005



Above: Whittingham Tower on 10 November 2004 and below, on 6 December 2003. See page 6 for more details.

9 March 2005 Thomas Tokely on "Lives of the Kirk Yetholm Gypsies" (with slides).

13 April 2005 D.J. Skinner on "The Devil's Causeway" an illustrated talk on a walk along the old Roman road from Corbridge to Berwick on Tweed.

11 May 2005 Paul Frodsham will give a final report on a decade of digging in the Breamish Valley. This will take place in the Ingram Village Hall and the Visitor Centre, Ingram.

8 June 2005 Annual General Meeting—speaker to be announced.

Please watch your local notice boards for additions and changes to this programme. If you would like to be alerted to such changes or additions by e-mail, please contact the Secretary.

Office Holders and Committee Members 2004/5

President: Tony Henfrey

Vice-President: John Rutherford

Committee:

George Winstanley (Chairman)

John Burn

Doreen Carruthers

Norman Dunn

Anne Hunter

Neil MacKichan

Michelle Macaulay (Hon. Treasurer)

Bridget Winstanley (Hon. Secretary)



Subscriptions

Subscriptions have been set at £8 per individual member and £12 for joint members living in the same household. Visitors may attend meetings on payment of £2 per meeting. Subscriptions include two copies per year (December and June) of *Records and Recollections* as well as the tea and coffee with biscuits provided at each meeting. *Records and Recollections* may be purchased by non-members for £2.50 per copy.

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