

RECORDS & RECOLLECTIONS

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Whittingham at about the turn of the 20th century. This group photograph taken in front of William Dixon's shop was kindly provided by Mr E Philipson.

SOCIETY NEWS

Members will know that Bridget Winstanley has retired. Bridget has, with her husband George, been the absolute stalwart of the A&BLHS Committee in the 'modern era' and she has been the compiler and editor of our high standard society journal *Records and Recollections*. We all owe her a great debt.

We are also delighted to say that she has agreed to become an Honorary Vice President of A&BLHS.

One consequence of her

retirement is that R&R has a new editor. Richard Poppleton, our Treasurer, has, with great trepidation, agreed to take over this task at least in the short term. He hopes that some aspects of the quality and rigour that Bridget brought to the job will have rubbed off and that members will feel they are still receiving a worthwhile publication.

If you have ideas or criticisms of R&R, do please contact Helen Dinsdale, our secretary, to let her know and we will

Try to take your suggestions on board for future issues. Even better would be for members to submit articles or short 'filler' pieces for inclusion.

Interesting photographs would also be welcomed if accompanied by a short explanatory note about them. Digital images would be easiest, but we could also scan actual photos and return the originals.

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IAN COLQUHOUN AND THE WHITTINGHAM HOARD

By WALTER CARRUTHERS

The original arrangement was that Ian would come to the Society's AGM in June 2012 to speak about the Whittingham Hoard. For some reason that fell through and he was booked to talk on the same subject at the AGM in June 2013.

Shortly before that meeting we learned that Ian had been taken very seriously ill. I contacted him by phone and went to see him with a view to perhaps borrowing his notes for the talk. That would enable me to give a brief talk since it was judged unlikely that we could get a substitute speaker and because the



talk had been widely publicized and was a topic keenly anticipated by Society members.

When I met Ian, who was obviously very ill, I was astonished by his generous offer of a memory stick with a set of documents on his research into Anglo-Saxon swords and several documents on his ideas about the particular finds of swords in North Northumberland.

I spent the next week immersed in the highly detailed research of Ian and his colleague Colin Burgess, eventually burrowing into the internet in German and other European papers on swords of the period all over Europe. Out of this work I developed a brief summary on the Anglo-Saxon swords of Northumberland which I gave to the Society after the AGM in June 2013.

Ian had begun his research on Anglo-Saxon era swords in Ireland and he and Colin Burgess had published a paper on the German website *Prahistorische Bronzefund* on the detailed categorisation of Bronze Age swords in Britain and the relationship between them and other European finds. This categorisation is based on the details of the hilts and blades and on the methods of fitting hilts to blades, plus details of the hand guards at the joints of the two.

My talk avoided these matters in favour of a description of Ian's ideas on the North Northumberland Anglo-Saxon finds and in particular the find near Whittingham, in a



Ian Colquhoun was a lecturer at Durham University and this is a brief description of the research project he was engaged on at the time of his death

The leaf shaped bronze sword is one of the most distinctive and evocative weapons of prehistory. The type appears throughout Western Europe in the final centuries of the second millennium BC only to disappear as an artefact type with the widespread introduction of iron weapons hundreds of years later. The widespread distribution of the bronze sword points to the increasingly martial nature of Late Bronze Age society, a feature echoed in Ireland over six hundred swords have been recovered from Ireland, most being nineteenth century finds, often with uncertain provenances. Most belong to the equivalent of the Ewart Park type in Britain, but there are significant numbers of early flange-hilted weapons and of the late Gundlingen type.

My research will take as its central theme the life cycle of a sword, from manufacture through to use and deposition. This involved many stages, as swords can be viewed as weapons, but also as prestige and votive objects. I have a special interest in the reasons why a particular place was chosen for deliberate deposition – the death and burial of the sword - and how this relates to the prehistoric landscape.

field near Thrunton Farm, known as the Whittingham Hoard

showed a marked preference for the spring waters close to the sites.

Ian was fascinated by the way in which the swords and spears at this site had clearly been laid down in a circle pointing downwards about a metre below the ground surface. His background studies of Bronze Age swords elsewhere, some of which were similarly deposited, led him to speculate on the possibility that there was some sort of ritual or religious significance in the arrangement of the weapons.

... this Bronze Age sword which had been deliberately hammered and folded into a shape known as “killed”.

The other sites in North Northumberland are at Ewart Park (near Milfield), Tosson (near Rothbury), Brandon (near Ingram), Milfield, South Lyham and Amerside Law (both near Chatton) and Debden Burn (near Craggside). These sites make up a long curve running east of the Cheviot massif.

The other feature of the sites was that they were all close to fresh water springs. Local farmers had noticed that their cattle

As I gave the talk to the Society I was unaware of the fact that Ian had died just a day or so before the meeting. When I rang to tell him about the talk and to express the appreciation of the Society for his help I learned of his death. So when I went to return the memory stick to his wife I was able to express the sympathy of the members of the Society and we both wondered where his research would have taken him if he had been spared.

Recently a remarkable, possibly unique, find of a Bronze Age sword near Alnwick led to a considerable amount of interest nation-wide and to a television presentation on the programme *Britain's Secret Treasures*.

Ian would have been fascinated by the discovery of this Bronze Age sword which had been deliberately hammered and folded into a shape known as “killed”. It is suggested that it had belonged to a king of Northumbria and had been “killed” and deposited when he died.

VISIT TO NELLIE HERON'S STONE – 31ST OCTOBER 2012

By HELEN DINSDALE

In April 2012 I received an e-mail from Chris Hayward, a descendant of Nellie Heron, on his mother's side. Chris, from Derbyshire, planned to come North in the autumn and, at his mother's request, visit the spot where Nellie perished in the snow on December 3rd 1863 as she was making her way from Alnham to Hartside in a blizzard.

Against all advice, Nellie set out at 3pm to walk back to her home 5 miles away



across the open hill. She was found the following day by the shepherd from The Chesters, sitting with her stick across her knees and her basket on the ground. Her death was probably due to hypothermia.

Nellie was 50 when she died, and had 10 children. Whilst they didn't all survive to adulthood, there are a large number of descendants, and several of them have visited the site where she died. The memorial stone, at Shiel Bog, is not easy to find, and no-one seems to know how it got there. It is a small stone bearing a

simple inscription "Eleanor Heron, died December 3rd, 1863".

In the summer of 2010, Basil Oliver had taken a party from the A&BLHS to Nellie's stone. We walked across the hill from Alnhamoor on a beautiful summer's evening and stopped several times to admire the views towards Cheviot.

However, I was by no means confident of finding the stone again, and although Chris Hayward is a member of the Kinder

Scout Rescue Team, and used to navigating in remote places, I was delighted when Sarah Wilson of Ingram Farm offered to lead our expedition.

After a few more e-mails, we arranged to make the trip on 31st October 2012. Sarah and I met Chris and his wife Dawn at Hartside and we headed off up the hill with Sarah's two well-trained collies. We set out into a blustery wind, with frequent showers in our faces, and it was so cold! A far cry from my

previous trip! Past Alnhamoor, we started to climb up to Cobden and began to get warm again. At the sheep stell between Cobden and The Chesters we left the track as Sarah set off confidently across the rough, open hill. Soon the old fence line appeared, and with a bit of casting about we found the stone quite easily.

..... a sprig of rosemary, for remembrance, to place at the stone

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Chris's mother, who had come North with Chris and the rest of the family, had given Chris a sprig of rosemary, for remembrance, to place at the stone. Once this was done, and some photographs had been taken, we sat down in the heather with coffee and sandwiches, before setting off on our way back down. Fortunately, by now the weather had improved a little and there were some fine views of the upper Breamish Valley to be seen as we dropped back down to Alnhamoor.

Sarah kindly asked us all back to Ingram Farm, where she showed Chris and Dawn her research on Nellie and her family. The following day Chris's family were planning to visit Nellie's grave in Whittingham Churchyard. It was a pleasure to be able to assist this family during their visit and they were obviously impressed by North Northumberland.

Whenever I have walked or ridden the track from Alnham to Hartside, I remember Nellie and her last journey in the snow.

Even though it must have getting dark when she set out, walking 5 miles in all weathers was just a normal part of life in the hills at that time. We have waterproofs, windproofs and mobile phones. We probably wouldn't set out at dusk, or in bad weather, mainly because we don't have to. Nellie had her shawl, which is still in the family, her stick and her basket, and a determination to get back to the warmth of her own fireside. Sadly, that was not to be.

... and a memory from the second ever issue of Records and Recollections in the autumn of 1971.

(The author of this piece is not recorded)

On 9th June 1971, a pleasant summer's evening, the Society visited Prendwick with John Taylor as host and guide. On the road over to Prendwick Chesters we stopped to leave the road and walk about half a mile on the Shiel Bog to inspect Nellie Heron's stone.

It marks the spot where Nellie Heron perished in the storm of 1863 in her attempt to return home to Hartside from Alnham. The Newcastle Journal in the obituary of Mrs Davidson who died in the Pele Tower at Whittingham describes her as the "kind soul who, almost on her knees, besought Nellie Heron not to venture over the hills to Hartside, and who brought the kindly old vicar, Selby Thompson, to second her attempt to stay the wayfarer in the hospitable vicarage for the night."

The grief of the two was great when they saw her mount the hills in the blinding drift of snow, singing in her cheery and resounding voice the popular revival hymn of the time "A Day's March Nearer Home", never to be seen alive again but buried in the drift.

MATHEMATICS AT GLANTON SCHOOL - WHAT WOULD OFSTED HAVE MADE OF IT?

By RICHARD POPPLETON



A small collection of memorabilia has been donated to the Society by Mr E Philipson. Several items relate to the Chisholm family and it is clear from the school group photographs that at least two generations of Chisholms attended Glanton School.

In about 1878 the photograph above features Isa Chisholm (bottom left in the front row) who was born on 24th September 1870. Other photos, whose quality is quite poor, show E.A. Chisholm (d.o.b. 7th June 1896) and H.R.S. Chisholm (d.o.b. 30th January 1904).

More interesting is the mathematics exercise book from Glanton School which belonged to William Thomas Chisholm who was born on 11th March 1861. Perhaps he was the elder brother of Isa? The book is in excellent condition, although the ink is a little faded and the

rather cheap quality of the paper means that in some places the ink has bled through from one side to the other. But the amazing thing to our modern eyes is that everything is written in wonderful copperplate handwriting.

There is no indication of how old William was when he did all this meticulous work, but the complex arithmetic suggests that he must have been at least 12 or 13, if not

in his final school year at the age of 14. For example, could you work out the answer to the question "How many inches will reach round the moon of which the

circumference is 6817 miles 2 furlongs 7 poles?" One rather sad detail to a modern teacher's eyes is that throughout the whole book, which must have represented many months of work, there is no evidence that anyone ever looked at or marked the answers that William had so painstakingly calculated.

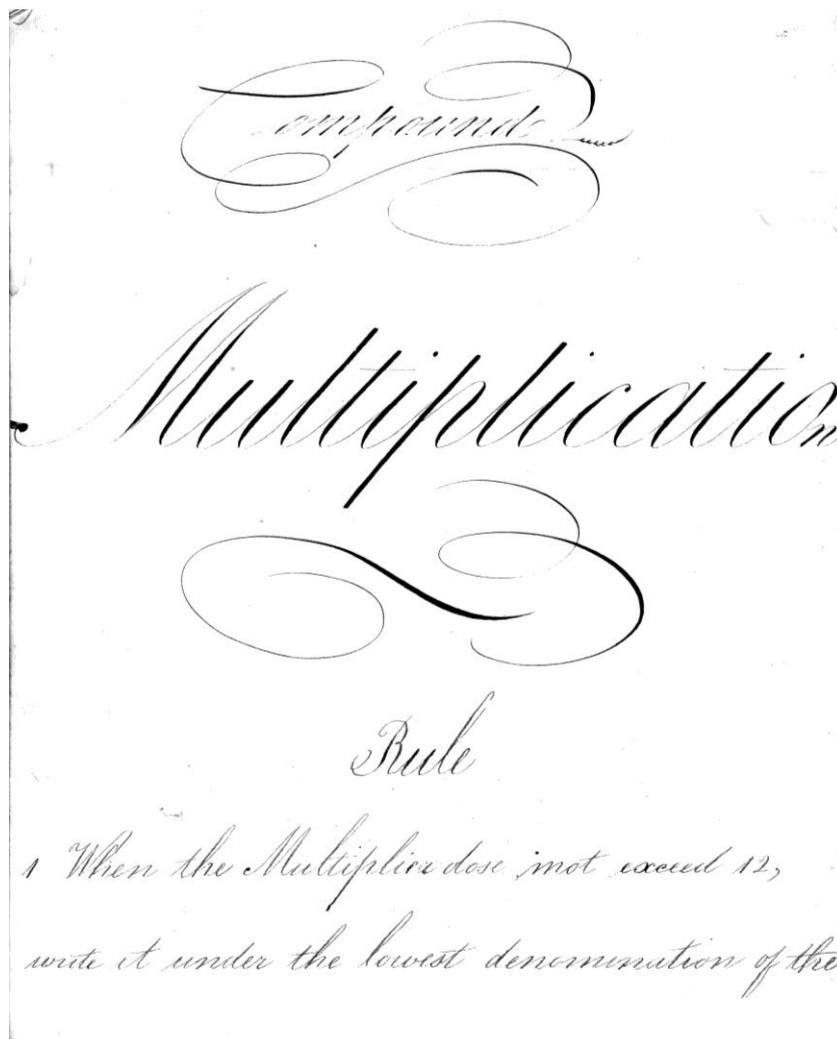
...there is no evidence that anyone ever looked at or marked the answers that William had so painstakingly calculated.

We have a record of a letter written in 1869 by Lord Ravensworth that refers to the "Publick Inspection of Whittingham School by the Inspector of Schools of the Northern District". So clearly school inspections were the norm and you might expect that the teacher at Glanton would have been rapped over the knuckles (perhaps quite literally!) for failing to inspect William's work.

Certainly our Ofsted Inspector teams would have come down heavily on such dereliction of duty. The school might even have been put in what are currently euphemistically called Special Measures. With the photographs and papers donated by Mr Philipson was another lovely little item. This was William Chisholm's papier-mâché pencil case. The pencils in it are modern, but the case is 140 years old.



The following scanned pages show the quality of presentation of William's maths.



Troy Weight

lb	Or	Dwt	Gr	lb	Or	Dwt	Gr
20	10	14	16	7684	9	16	22
14	11	19	18	1234	11	5	19
50	8	16	21	9876	8	11	22
34	6	18	22	1493	9	19	12
68	4	16	20	3587	10	10	3
46	1	10	11	2345	7	6	15
14	10	16	12	6789	9	14	21
50	8	14	6	3257	11	15	8
<u>301</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>36271</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

21. What is the sum of 50 lb. 11 Or 14 Dwt 20 Gr.; 40 lb. 10 Or 15 Dwt.; 62 lb 8 Or 20 Gr.; 34 lb 8 Or 14 Dwt.; 36 lb 4 Or 10 Dwt 19 Gr.; 54 lb 15 Gr

lb	Or	Dwt	Gr
50	11	14	20
40	10	15	0
62	8	0	20
34	8	14	0
36	4	10	19
54	0	0	15
<u>279</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>

Answer

53 How many inches will reach round the moon of which the circumference is 817 miles 2 furlongs 7 poles

miles per po
 817 2 7

 8
 54538 40

 2181527 Poles

 5 1/2
 10907635 1/2 Yds = 1 1/2 In

 1090763 1/2

 11998398 1/2 Yds = 1 1/2 In 6 Inches

 3
 3599519 5/12 Feet

43194234 6 Inches

English Land or Square Measure

144 Square inches	= 1 Square foot
9 Square feet	= 1 Square yard
30 1/4 Square yards	= 1 Square pole
40 Square poles	= 1 Rood
4 Roods	= 1 Acre
640 Acres	= 1 Square mile

WEDDING CARDS & WHITTINGHAM CONNECTIONS

By HELEN DINSDALE

Last winter I started to look at the contents of several boxes of archive material belonging to the A&BLHS that had somehow made their way into our home.

One of the more evocative finds was a collection of tiny, exquisitely designed wedding cards. Originally intended to announce the couple's wedding to friends and relatives who had not attended the ceremony, and often accompanied by a small piece of wedding cake, these cards dated from 1914 to 1944.

They were nearly consigned to the tip, but an eagle-eyed passer-by spied them

in the skip as the late Miss Bevan's house was being cleared a few years ago, and "collected" them on behalf of the A&BLHS.

Many of the couples' names, Rogerson, Ewart, Slassor, Dodd, Suthren, Brown and Dixon, are local to the area. Some of the cards had little envelopes; one had its original satin ribbon. All were produced in beautiful silver script, with the brides' maiden name in the top left corner with an arrow through it, signifying the end of her spinsterhood.

As there was to be an exhibition of wedding dresses and baptismal gowns at St Bartholomew's, Whittingham in June this year, I offered to display the cards. It was whilst photographing them for an article for the Northumberland Gazette that I realised the date on the earliest card was April 1914, when Walter and Annie Slassor were married, just before the outbreak of war. I recalled seeing the name Slassor on the war memorial and

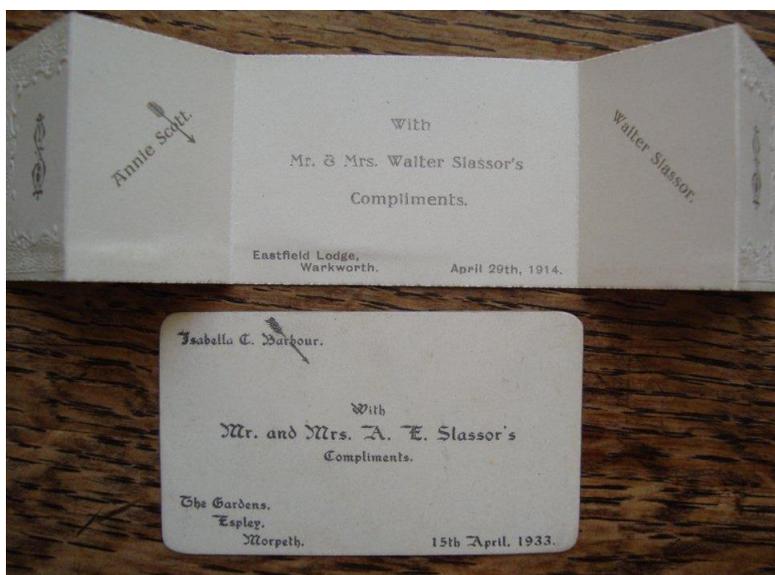
when I checked, there was Walter, killed in 1917.

I turned to Andy Walker, who did a lot of research of the fallen from both wars a few years ago, and who delivered an excellent presentation,

with Geoff Hoskin, to the ABLHS to coincide with the re-opening of the Whittingham Memorial Institute. Andy was able to provide me with Walter's photograph, service record, census returns, and his service record.

Walter Slassor was born at Eslington in 1886, where his father was a shepherd.

At the age of 15, Walter was a Mason's labourer. He married Annie Scott at Tynemouth on April 29th 1914, and the address of the wedding card is Eastfield Lodge, Warkworth. At some



...with the bride's maiden name in the top left corner with an arrow through it, signifying the end of her spinsterhood.



point they moved to North Lodge Cottage, on the Blagdon Estate, Seaton Burn, home of Lord Ridley.

As Private Walter Slassor [202129] 4th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers, he fought in the Somme offensive of 1916 and Arras in 1917. He was killed in action on the first day of the battle for Passchendaele on 26th October, aged 31. Walter is commemorated at the

Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium, with a further 35,000 officers and men who have no known grave. He is also commemorated on the brass plaque in St Bartholomew's Church, Whittingham, and on the war memorial in Whittingham Memorial Institute.

The Northumberland Gazette published our article about the wedding cards. As a result two families got in touch, and we were able to return the cards to them. Mr & Mrs Slassor of Longframlington [Walter was Mr Slassor's uncle] and Mr Ewart of Alnwick [the card was from his parents' wedding] were delighted to have these unique pieces of family history.

As it turned out, Mr Slassor & Mr Ewart had worked together on the Eslington Estate for many years, and Mr Ewart had been a long standing member of the Whittingham Show committee. The rest of the cards are still in our archive, and if anyone has any information about any of the couples whose names have been mentioned here, I would be pleased to hear from you.

DAVID TAYLOR – A BREAMISH VALLEY LIFE

By RICHARD POPPLETON (in conversation with David Taylor)

David Taylor lives at Percy's Cross by the A697 north of Powburn and in the early 1930s his grandparents lived in what is now the ruined farm at Lantern Buildings (near the Titlington Lane / Bolton Mill crossroads). His



grandfather was a shepherd working for the Swordy family and was also a well-known local fiddle player and Northumbrian piper. His father's cousin was Willie Taylor who was locally famous as one of the 'Three Shepherds' who

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brought Northumbrian music to many gatherings right up until the late 1990s.

David's grandfather's schedule on some Saturdays in the 1930s was to do his shepherding work from first light until lunchtime when he would get on his bike to cycle to Seahouses to play football for North Sunderland. He would then cycle home for a quick tea and once more get on his bike to play his fiddle at a local dance. I wonder how many of us would have that degree of ambition and stamina these days? Incidentally he also taught the Fraters of Moorlaws how to shear sheep.

David's father was born at Lantern Buildings and went to school in Bolton – the schoolhouse is next door to the Village Hall and is now a private house where Lawrence Goodfellow and his mother, Sheila, live. The size of the school can be seen from that fact that it was able to field a full football team in 1932.

George Dagg is the goalkeeper and captain and the other names are:
Back Row, L to R: N Turnbull, R Henderson, R Breeze, S Shell, G Gallon;
Front Row L to R: G Taylor, J Brown, G Dagg, J Taylor, E Brown, ? Brown.

When he reached working age, David's father did a stint as a trainee gamekeeper at Broome Park, but then worked as a rabbit catcher. In those days rabbit catchers would pay rent to local farmers for the rights to take rabbits on their land and then make their living by selling the animals they caught. Eventually, when myxomatosis finished the rabbit trade, he built up a fencing business.

David's mother worked for Major Bryant at Crawley Tower and by this stage the

family lived at Crawley in one of the cottages. There are now just two cottages, but in those days there were three. When Mrs Taylor was pregnant with David and close to her time in 1952 they were able to make use of the one phone, in the Tower, to call for the midwife. David remembers that Crawley Tower was, to a child, rather creepy.

From Crawley the family moved to Brandon White House, where people would come from the valley to play football in the field behind the house, and David's mother worked in the farmhouse for Mrs Chisholm. Later they had a spell living in the house at Lilburn Glebe by the A697



where for many years Gerry and Monica Parkin have lived, and where you can buy Gerry's hive honey. David first went to school in Wooler rather than at Roddam or Lilburn. Seemingly there was an arrangement that involved the local Freemasons, one of whom was the Headmaster, which enabled some strings to be pulled to get him a place there. He travelled on the bus to the school and for their lunches the pupils were marched daily to a sort of café on the High Street at Padegpool opposite where Glendale Paints is now. Later there was a new school, where the current First School is, at the top of the High Street which had an

onsite canteen, so lunch was eaten at the school from then on.

In 1958, when he was six, David moved with his family to Percy's Cross where he has lived ever since. By now his father had a well-established fencing business. When David reached the age of eleven he had the choice of taking the 11+ exam to go to the High School in Alnwick. But Alnwick played rugby and Wooler played football, so for David the choice was clear – he elected to stay in Wooler. He played football for school and then for Glanton and Hedgeley. He has sharp memories of playing on the bog of a pitch at Alnmouth where the opposition winger, Johnny Lamb, had clearly had a good liquid lunch and hadn't exactly got his mind on the game. At Wark-on-Tweed the pitch was between the road and the river and it wasn't unusual for the ball to have to be retrieved from the river, which can't have been easy when it was in spate.

When he left school he was offered a job as a trainee shepherd at Wooperton for £8 a week. But his dad wanted help with the fencing, so he offered David the same wage to work for him. It didn't take too long to work out that £8 for seven days a week shepherding was rather less attractive than £8 for five days fencing. His dad was willing to let him go shoot beating in the winter months, for which he could get £3 a day, and without his main wage being docked. He has fond memories of the shooting days. At that time Major Cowen would come up for the big shoots, having bought Shawdon Hall and farm and later came to live in the Hall. David's contact with many farms while he was beating meant he was aware of a small group of what he calls 'social farmers' who had a pattern of activity that

David remembers that Crawley Tower was, to a child, rather creepy.

involved rather a lot of time in the Bridge of Aln.

In 1978, when David was 26, his father died, but the Hedgeley Estate allowed him to take over the tenancy at Percy's Cross (no certainty with rural tenancies) so he could carry on the fencing business.

The second half of the 1990s were momentous years. David and Anne had been together for about nine years, with Anne living at Beanley working for John Carr-Ellison as farm secretary. In 1995 they decided to get married. Then, four months later, his mother, who was living next door to Bobby Blain in West Hedgeley Cottages, died at the age of only 69. In 1997 David and Anne's son Peter was born but in 1998 David suffered a stroke. He was unable to work for two years, but then John Carr-Ellison at Hedgeley Estates offered him the opportunity to work part-time which meant he could earn as much as his incapacity benefit had been providing and gave him added chances of additional hours when the Estate needed extra jobs done.

And that's the situation that exists to this day. If you drive along the Powburn to Beanley road or walk along the river at Low Hedgeley you are likely to come across David on his own or perhaps with Vince Birnie dealing with stock or tackling other tasks around the Estate land.



HOLYSTONE – THE EARLY YEARS

Adapted from Edward Miller's article in Records and Recollections in 1976
With inserts adapted from the coquetdaleanglican.org website

Strictly speaking Holystone does not form part of A&BLHS "home territory", but situated at the eastern end of Upper Coquetdale it is geographically quite close to the upper reaches of the River Aln. In the autumn of 1976, Edward Miller, who lived in Bolton village, wrote the first of three articles in successive issues of Records and Recollections covering many aspects of the history of Holystone. The coquetdaleanglican.org website also has extensive information about the village, but written some 35 years later than Edward Miller's account. This article attempts to adapt parts of Edward Miller's text and to add, in text boxes, relevant information gleaned from the church website.

The village of Holystone stands in the angle where the Holystone Burn, coming down from Yardhope, joins the River Coquet, standing on the first high ground away from the flat

If we go back in time to the nineteenth century, life here was somewhat busier. The population varied between 120 and 200 people. The community supported a tailor, butcher and cobbler. There was a doctor and a school with a resident headmistress until the school was closed 40 years ago.

haughs. Before the coming of motor transport it was off the beaten track, but it is now more accessible and a bus runs by it.

At the present time it consists of a church and churchyard, a school and school house, the Priory farmstead, the Salmon Inn, what was once a mill and is now a greyhound kennels, and five houses. At no time has it been much bigger but it has gone on its way fitting into its environment and carrying on its history probably from the earliest times when man first roamed its glades.

Its site is determined by the Lady's Well, a bountiful spring of pure water rising to the north of the village, the overflow from which was at some time diverted through the village to drive the mill.

The parish of Holystone is bounded by the Coquet from Harehaugh up to Dere Street near Coquet Head and it takes in all the land draining into the Coquet from the west and south. It thus includes a narrow strip of fields by the river as far as Harbottle and beyond this a stretch of moorland divided into large hill farms and little altered through the ages.

Before the days of written history a spring so plentiful as the Lady's Well would always be a known spot and early man would ascribe its presence to a spirit which dwelt there. So we can safely say that this would become a sacred spot at an early date and a settlement

There is no doubt that the original settlement here was due to the abundant supply of water from the two wells. St. Mungo's Well to the southwest of the village, and northwest, the Lady's or St. Ninian's Well which is close to the Roman road from Redesdale to the Devil's Causeway at Thrunton..

would be made nearby.

In the surrounding area are many evidences of past human occupation. There are old well-used sunken trackways. At Campville nearby is an entrenched camp of three ramparts in a half-moon shape against the cleugh of the Dove Burn. Two other camps are on a hill top at Harehaugh and by the river at Wreighill. On the common to the south of the village are five large barrows and many



small ones. Stone tools have been found in various places.

The Romans under Agricola constructed roads. Dere Street from Corbridge to Rochester and into Scotland is eight miles to the west. A branch went by Hartburn and Brinkburn to Berwick, while another went from Rochester eastwards to the Bridge of Aln. Where this road crossed the Dove Burn a water course branches off and has been widened and squared out and this was most likely done by the Romans to ease the

pressure of water during floods and to protect the bridge.

It is safe to surmise that a settlement existed at Holystone through the Saxon period, with fields nearby and unlimited grazing. Its oak and birch woods would provide timber and fuel and sometimes feed for pigs. In time a Saxon lord must have got control of Redesdale and ruled it from Elsdon or Harbottle. The Norman de Umfraville family later claimed it "to protect it from thieves".

CHRISTIANITY COMES TO HOLYSTONE

Before the Romans left Britain, Christianity was gaining ground and the earliest missionaries were able to travel around on the Roman roads. We can at least be sure that, in early Saxon times, Holystone was a sacred spot where preachings were held and baptisms of converts took place.

be affected by the Danish raids on the fatter lands nearer the sea.

There is now no trace of a Saxon church at Holystone, but soon after 1100 a Norman

A plaque at the Lady's Well asserts that on Easter Day 627, Paulinus baptised 3,000 people there, including King Edwin. But Paulinus was apparently at York at the time and the confusion lies in the translation of St. Bede's writing which states that Paulinus baptised at St. Peter's (St. Petri) church, York, as opposed to St. Petra – Holystone. The relevance of this and the connection with St. Ninian underlines the religious importance of the Lady's Well.



church was erected and the lower part of the south wall of the nave still includes parts of this structure. Between 1120 and 1140 an Augustinian nunnery was founded by the de Umfravilles and its buildings were on the south side of the church where extensive foundations still await excavation.

On the other bank of the Coquet the place names ending in '-ton' point to a strong Anglian settlement, but on the west side the names all derive from natural features (burn, cleugh, haugh and hope). The river must have acted as a barrier to the Angles and the Celtic peoples must have been driven back to this area and never completely subdued.

However, once the Angles had settled there is likely to have been a more peaceful time until the start of the Scottish wars at the end of the 13th Century. The area was part of the kingdom, and later the earldom of Northumbria, but the Scottish border did not then exist. The area was also too far inland to

... we do know that the Priory was an Augustinian house. There exists a badly damaged petition, made by the nuns of Holystone to an unnamed English king in which they refer to "seven marks a year granted to them by Alexander formerly king." If this was Alexander 1st of Scotland then the priory must have been founded between 1107-1124, making it one of the earliest in the country.

Programme of talks for the first half of 2014

19 th March 2014	Geoff Hughes on "Strange Tales and Ghostly Happenings"
16 th April 2014	Alistair Sinton on "The Alnwick to Cornhill Railway"
21 st May 2014	Dr Ian Roberts on "Drove Roads"
18 th June 2014	AGM plus a speaker to be announced

Office Holders and Committee Members 2013/14

Tony Henfry	(President)
Bridget Winstanley	(Vice President)
Jim Dinsdale	(Chairman and Membership Secretary)
John Burn	(Vice Chairman)
Helen Dinsdale	(Hon. Secretary)
Richard Poppleton	(Hon. Treasurer)
Walter Carruthers	
Doreen Carruthers	

Contact details:

*The Secretary, A&BLHS, Sunnyside Cottage,
The Lane, Whittingham, Alnwick NE66 4RJ*
Tel: 01665 574319

jim.dinsdale@btinternet.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Local Societies such as ours can only exist with the active support of their members. So how can you help to ensure that A&BLHS remains a vibrant and interesting organisation that people enjoy being involved with?

- Renew your membership each year
- Encourage friends and neighbours to join
- **Come to meetings whenever you can!**
- Let our Secretary know about potential speakers
- Think about writing short (or long!) items for Records and Recollections
- Look out old documents or records or photographs and be willing to lend them to be scanned and saved for use in Records and Recollections

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Aln and Breamish Local History Society provides members with a programme of historical lectures and publications. A minimum of six lectures a year are arranged, three in the spring and three in the autumn. In addition there is a speaker or an exhibition at the Annual General Meeting in June.

All talks take place in the Whittingham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm (unless otherwise indicated in our programme details) and are followed by coffee, tea and biscuits. If there is sufficient demand it would be possible to hold meetings in other locations in the Aln and Breamish valleys.

Occasionally walks may be arranged in the spring and summer months to look at local places of historical interest.

RECORDS & RECOLLECTIONS

Records & Recollections is published in Autumn and Spring and is free to A&BLHS members.

We need your memoirs of life in your village and in earlier times, old photographs (to be copied and returned) and anything else which recalls life in past times.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the A&BLHS are £10 for a single member and £15 for two people at the same address.

Subs are due on 1st September each year.

You can pay at meetings of the Society by cash or cheque or by sending your cheque, made to Aln & Breamish Local History Society to:

*The Treasurer, A&BLHS, Greystone
Cottage, Titlington Mount, Alnwick NE66
2EA*

The option is available to pay by Standing Order with your bank and if you would like to pay by this method, please contact the Treasurer at the address above or by phone 01665 578346 or email

rich.titlington@btinternet.com