

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



Read our review of this valuable new publication on page 20.

January 2026

Volume 34 No. 1

ISSN 2754-9070 (print)

ISSN 2754-9089 (online)

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Chatsworth House decorated for Christmas 2025
Read about Chatsworth in 'The Tale of Two Houses'

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to Barnsley Roots 2026, a year on from our very first 'inside' colour edition. I really hope you enjoyed the articles enhanced by the colourful images. It's Advent, it's cold and wet with no indication of a white Christmas but hopefully you will all have your journals by then, whether you live in Barnsley or just have your roots there, as I do. I haven't been to Barnsley as much as I would like to have but intend remedying that in 2026 and hope to see some of you there.

In this issue...

As well as all our usual items we have a fascinating article about Stan and Grace (mostly Stan's experiences and a very good read), an article about Thomas Hunt from Janet Town and one from Hilary Rooke about her Oxspring Mill family. We have two articles from our Secretary and wearer of many hats, Margaret Williams, about the talks, including Shakespeare's family and a new book review. I have done – very little other than mess about trying to right the wrongs I caused with my laptop and mobile phone after attempting to euthanise AI, which kept interfering with my typing. No more to be said on the subject except to once more thank Roger, who has done ALL of the hard work in this edition.

In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus an item about the 1926 Irish Free State Census, an update on Ancestral Homes and Birthplaces, and Barnsley Churches linked to our ancestors, from other members as well as mine if anyone feels the urge, any other contributions our members would like to make, a bit of fun and any of your articles you would like to see in the journal. Let us know even if you don't feel confident to do it yourself.

All of us at the Barnsley Roots Team wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all.

Shirley Sura



SECRETARY'S UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2025

Hello there to you all; I cannot believe we have got to November already. Ten days ago, here in the UK, many of us, particularly in Scotland and the North of England, experienced, unusually, Arctic blasts, very low temperatures and, in some cases, snow, causing drifts and major disruption. Here, in the South Yorkshire area, we did not have the worst of it, thank goodness!



The BFHS was getting into full swing when I last contacted you in September. Since then, we have had two more meetings, each one with a speaker. Lizzie Jones came on October 16th (always good to see her) with her subject entitled **Left Behind in Stratford**. The content was exactly what 'it

said on the tin', to quote a phrase, relating the experiences of the family William Shakespeare left behind when he went to London. In my review in this issue of the Journal, I've tried to give you some idea of the information Lizzie gave us as I feel it is important that all of you, our members, who cannot get to meetings, feel part of the BFHS activities.

On Thursday November 20th, we welcomed Eric Jackson with his talk entitled **The Tale of Two Houses and Bess of Hardwick**. This was also our Christmas Buffet and the meeting was reasonably well attended. The talk was just over 35 minutes long and full of fascinating detail. What a person Bess of Hardwick was! Again, I've written a review for you although I reckon this lady would merit a talk just about her life and activities – four marriages, a mother (although not very hands on, inevitably), links to two of the grandest stately homes in England, very astute businesswoman, extremely wealthy, second only to Queen Elizabeth 1st.

The BFHS now has a Christmas and New Year Break until our next meeting at Buckley Street on Thursday March 19th when it is also the AGM.

This brings me to a rather urgent problem for the BFHS. In company with other local societies, the Wombwell Cricket Lovers' Society for one, we are struggling to recruit Committee Members. (Yes, I'm a passionate cricket lover and member of WCLS for over 40 years. Just don't mention the first Ashes Test!) The Committee of the BFHS is desperate for some members to offer to take some of the workload. As you will see from the front inside cover, most of the Committee members have more than one role to fulfil; Doreen Piper has five! It's great that Janet Haigh has come back to join our little band, but could **you** help out? Many roles can be done remotely, even living in Australia and New Zealand qualifies you!

Each individual role is not onerous or time-consuming. If we cannot recruit more Committee members, then serious decisions will have to be made at the AGM in March.

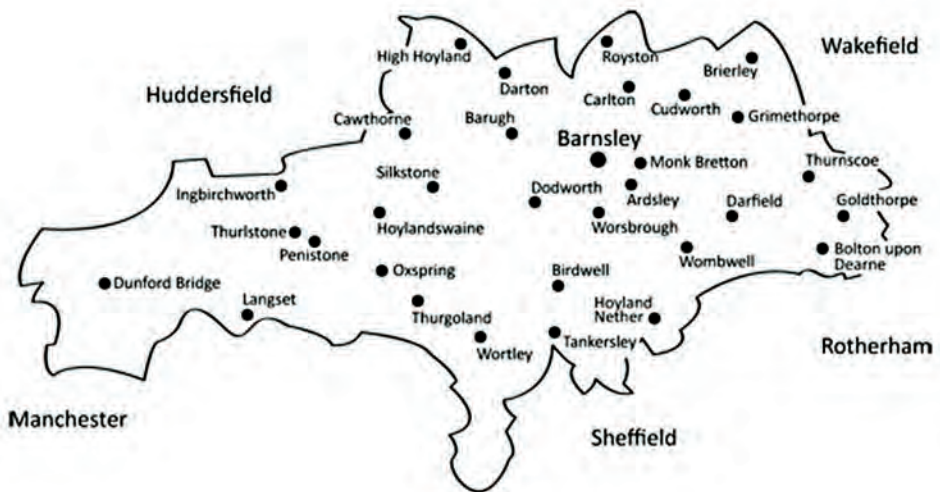
The BFHS may cease to exist in 2026.

Rotherham FHS ceased to exist last year with its extensive records and Archive mainly going to Doncaster FHS. It would be awful if this happened to the BFHS as we are in a good financial position and operate efficiently. Do please contact me if you could help.

Here I am at the end of November, as usual trying to hide my head in the sand, as I haven't a clue what to buy anyone as a gift for Christmas. Although, reading my four grandchildren's Christmas wish lists, it's just designer clothes by designers I've never heard of plus money. Many of you will probably be the same.

I really send you all the very best wishes from the BFHS for a lovely Festive Season, however you celebrate it with all our good wishes for 2026.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer



Above is a reminder of the area we consider as 'home territory', although of course it isn't hard and fast. This area includes the ancient parishes of Cawthorne, Darfield, Darton, Felkirk, High Hoyland, Hoyland Nether, Monk Bretton, Penistone, Royston, Silkstone (which formerly included Barnsley), Tankersley, Worsbrough, and Wortley, these forming a part of the Archdeaconry of Doncaster.

CHRISTMAS LUCKY DIP QUIZ



1. What is the title of the biggest selling Christmas single, globally?
2. What is the total number of gifts given in the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'?
3. Which traditional Christmas plant was so revered by early Britons that it had to be cut with a golden sickle?
4. What drink invented by Francis Showering has a fawn mascot?
5. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten at Christmas in Italy?
6. Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first 'what' to Britain from North America in 1526?
7. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?
8. Marzipan is mainly made from sugar and the flour and meal of which nut?
9. Which famous double-act comedy partner made the first ever UK mobile phone call on New Year's Day 1985?
10. Which Christmas condiment is made from fruit sometimes called marshworts?
11. Which US President banned Christmas trees from the White House?
12. The North Pole, said to be Santa's home, is located in which ocean?
13. Who composed the music for the ballet 'The Nutcracker Suite'?
14. Which Christmas slogan was introduced by Clarissa Baldwin of The Dogs' Trust in 1987?
15. In the UK, it is traditionally believed that eating a what for each of the twelve days of Christmas brings happiness the following year?
16. In Mexico, it is said that wearing what colour underwear on New Year's Eve will ensure finding love the following year?
17. Charles Dickens is said to have considered the names of Little Larry and Puny Pete for which of his characters?
18. In which country does Santa have his own personal postcode HOH OHO?
19. What Christmas item was created by London baker Tom Smith in 1847?
20. In which country is it said that finding a spider's web on Christmas morning brings good luck? (They decorate all their Christmas trees with artificial spiders' webs.)

Margaret E Williams

Answers on page 15

STAN'S JOURNEY INTO ITALY

Those of you who are following the Stan and Grace story at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com> will know that Stan has been based in Sicily since the middle of July, 1943. The British and Allied forces began landings from Sicily into Italy at the beginning of September and on 10 November it was time for Stan and the Royal Signals HQ to move operations on to the Italian mainland. This meant that there were no letters from Stan for two weeks, until he was able to write a massive, 3,800 word letter to Grace on 25 November describing his journey and his experiences along the way. That letter is, of course, too long to print in its entirety here, but here are some excerpts from it to tempt you to log on to read the whole thing.

Thursday, 25 Nov 43

My Very Own Darling,

As I promised you in the air letter which I wrote last night & which you will no doubt have received some time ago, I have put together (*this*) letter to describe to you my journey last week.

Even the pages which follow do not describe to the full my experiences, but they will give you a vague idea of things as they occurred to me.

Of one thing I am sure & that is that I should have enjoyed the journey more had it been completed in a civilian car instead of a 3 ton lorry & with you by my side to share the thrilling scenery

The snowy peak of Etna, already half shrouded in low clouds, gradually disappeared into the November haze as our party rattled northwards.... We travelled on, sometimes running along roads lapped almost by the sea & on other occasions perched high up on some cliff-top road, & it was almost twilight as we drew into the town of ----- where we were to stay the night preparatory to making an early start across the straights next day & the Italian mainland.



Catania - Panorama con Etna

Our lorries pulled into a compound surrounded by barbed wire, which had in the earlier days of the campaign served as a prisoner of war cage, & those unsung heroes, the cooks, were soon busy preparing supper.

We required no second bidding to the feast, for the keen edge of the November air had sharpened up our appetites. The steaming stew & mug of tea had never tasted nicer.

The production of the cooking pot has, wherever I have been since I left England, been the signal for an interested crowd to gather, & they stood around watching us eat, an occasional cry for “mangere” emanating from some ill clad child or aged bystander.

I took stock of the crowd as I sipped my tea & was attracted by a female in whose eyes glimmered the light of despair. There was something about her which aroused my sympathies & I took the remains of my supper over & shared it with her. She ate hungrily from an old bully beef tin into which she had motioned me to tip some stew.

As she ate she told me her story. It may perhaps have been an attempt to gain my sympathies, but from her expression & the way she unfolded the facts, I felt she was telling the truth.

Her husband, she said, was with the Italian Army away in territory occupied by the Boche. It was many weeks since she had heard from him. She had given birth to a still-born child the previous day, & now too weak to work, was relying on the kindness of the British soldiers to give her good to eke out her ration of bread.

It was a pitiful story. For her the world held so little now. Once it had held so much. How different her life was now to the happy world she had lived in with her newly-found husband but a few years before.

One could not help but feel sorry for her, more especially when one realized that she was but one of thousands to whom the creed of Fascism has spelt but one thing – ruin. How she must have hated Mussolini: and the war into which he had plunged her & her kind.

By now the supper was over and the crowd resumed what had been their original job in life – bartering. The road outside the barbed wire compound soon became a miniature Petticoat Lane. Eggs, wine, musical instruments, birds in cages, & hosts of other varied items were produced as from nowhere & business commenced!

Energetic salesmen, women & children endeavoured to persuade me to take all manner of things, but not once was money suggested. Here this once all-important commodity appeared to have lost its value, & all dealing was done in either cigarettes or chocolate.

The production of a packet of cigarettes assured you of almost anything, in fact later when the crowd had somewhat diminished, I was approached by a woman who offered to sell herself to me. The price? ONE cigarette!

The first streaks of light were just showing as we set off for the ferry next morning. There was a hint of rain in the air as our landing craft churned its way towards the Italian mainland, but as our lorries drove up the shingly beach, the sun broke through as if in welcome....

Most noticeable was the change in the mode of dress of these hard working folk of the Southern Italian coast. After the nondescript garb on the

average Sicilian the traditional dress of these fisherfolk, not unlike that of our own Northern seafaring folk, was most refreshing.

The men all wear black felt hats & wear capes instead of coats. The women are more colourful, wearing a vivid scarlet skirt & coloured blouse. Over their shoulders they have a shawl, whilst a black over-skirt which they gather up at the back to form a bustle.

An amusing incident occurred as soon as we had settle down & got our fire going preparatory to having a "brew-up".

Along came a hairdresser, complete with a chair under his arm – no mean feat considering the nearest village was some five miles away & proceeded to set up shop. Soon he was doing brisk business, for none of us had shaved that morning. A thing that will long stick in my mind is the enormous number of barbers shops one finds in this part of the world. The British are known as a "nation of shopkeepers". I think there is little doubt that the Sicilians are a nation of hairdressers.

It was in this camp just after we had finished our supper that I had one of the most nauseating experiences I have had since leaving England.

Along came a disreputable looking specimen dragging a small child of no more than 15 years behind him, who he explained we could use for the price of 2s. each. The girl was apparently his own daughter!! I have a few "rough diamonds" in my crowd & believe me, they sent the horrid man on his way in no uncertain fashion.

(The group continued its journey the following day) Towards teatime we had a surprise when we pulled up at a building, which had apparently been an hotel in the more happier days. From the 1,000 feet hill which towered behind it gushed a lively mountain stream, which splashed its way merrily down towards the sea which lay in front of us, some 20 miles away. A most pleasant scene – to the eyes, but not to the nasal organ, for the stream turned out to be a naturally heated sulphur stream & a strong smell of rotten eggs lay heavily on the air.

The hotel had apparently been a spa too & it was there we were to spend the third night of our journey After tea we were told that we could avail ourselves of the sulphur baths of the hotel if we wished & soon I was wallowing in gallons of naturally heated sulphur water. It was grand to have a never failing supply of water at 11 degrees. This was my third hot bath since the end of February & so as you can guess I made the most of it!

After supper the interpreter asked me if I should like to go along to the "local" in the hamlet near the hotel. I jumped at this chance of getting some local "colour" & toddled along with him to have a most enjoyable evening.

The "local" turned out to be a whitewashed barn of a place, fitted with rough wooden benches. One corner of the room was occupied by two large barrels of wine on trestles..... As one sometimes finds in England, the appearance of two strangers in the room caused a hush, as several pairs of eyes looked at us speculatively.

Over our first glass of wine we had an opportunity of studying the people in the room & found that the company was composed mainly of soldiers..... Later when a round of drinks with a party of five Italian soldiers had broken

down the feeling of strangeness, I mentioned that they appeared to be absorbed in the war news.

One of the soldiers replied to the effect that it wasn't so much the fact that they were any more interested in the war than the average person. Speaking to me through the interpreter he explained:

"When a child gets a new toy he plays with it more than any of his old ones. With us Italians it is the same. Never before have we been able to speak of the war and of politics as we do now. No longer need one be afraid of his neighbour."

The expression in his voice conveyed to me far more than his words. It was quite evident that these men were absolutely intoxicated with the opportunity of this freedom of thought and speech. I suppose their feeling can only be realised to the full by people who have experienced the Fascist and Nazi rule.

I asked if their lives were as ordered as we English had been led to believe & in reply was given this example, by one of the soldiers. It was his personal experience & was told quite simply & without any trimmings.

He was a machinist in the North of Italy before the war. The Duce was to visit his factory to address the workers. All must attend. Just through lack of interest & not through any malintent he failed to put in an appearance.

But he had committed a grave offence & next day he found himself turned out of the Fascist Party & a few hours later he had lost his job. Only good members of the fascisti were allowed to work in the factory. Non-attendance at the meeting cost him much for it was six months before he found work again.

"Is it to be wondered at that I was happy at the downfall of Mussolini and his gang." he asked.....

Our journey came to an end later in the following day as we pulled into our new "home" – a small school building in a little fishing town. After the bright lights of Sicily's second city, the outlook looks very dull. There is a cinema here, but (and this is quite truthful & not an exaggeration) during the last two nights they have shown a Charlie Chaplin silent film "The White Hope!"

....That's about all for now, Darling. I'll write an air letter to-morrow night, so that you don't have to wait to long for news.

Until then, keep my love, Darling. I know that I have yours. Always yours, Stan xxx

*You can read the full text of this letter at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com>. Scroll back to the post headed **Thursday, 25 November, 1943 - A Journey into Italy**.*

See back cover for Grace's Christmas Greetings Airgraph to Stan dated 28th November 1943.

This photograph of Stan on an Army motorcycle dates from around November 1943.



THOMAS HUNT – DEDICATED COMMUNITY MAN

Thomas was born in Higham, 1878, the son of Emley woman Mary Ann Hunt/Mountain/née Dawson and her second husband, William Hunt. William was a Lancashire man (we'll forgive him that) but at the time of Thomas' birth was a coal miner in Barnsley. Nothing is yet known of Thomas' school years, but by the age of 12 he is a 'Colliery Labourer'. Whether that is underground or on the surface is not recorded, but being a labourer at the age of 12 probably is indicative of the family's circumstances. They're living at Hud Royd Worsbrough by 1891, and father William is a miner – you'd think they might be at the same mine.

Having worked for eight years, Thomas decides to marry in 1899, and chooses a local lass – Emma Banks. Emma herself has a story – her Dad was killed at the disaster of Swaithe Main Colliery in 1875, when she and twin Eliza were 6 months old. What a start for Emma and her 7 siblings! (Eliza was a witness at the wedding).

Thomas and Emma set up home in Agnes Road, and Thomas by this time has progressed to being a coal hewer. A defining moment in 1908 confirms his workplace as Rob Royd Colliery, which was located close to where the kennels bearing that name are sited today. On March 31st 1908, Thomas saved the life of a fellow miner who was bleeding to death having been accidentally struck with a pick. The incident itself appears to be unreported, but Thomas' fellow workmen appreciate his actions – he is presented with a



gold medal purchased by them, shown above. The presentation of the medal took place at the Thornely Arms in Dodworth, and a comment in the newspaper of the time reads – 'the incident went far to show how essential it was that all should be in a position to render help in time of need. It was very

deplorable that out of the thousands of men and boys employed at our collieries, so few know how to render even first aid. Mr. Hunt had by his education in ambulance work been able to save one life which would more than compensate him for his time and trouble in securing that education.'

(We can't find any mention anywhere of the name of the saved miner in this incident– if anyone has any information, it would be wonderful to complete the story.)

Thomas is obviously very dedicated to the concept of mine first aid and rescue as a means to make mining safer. He is mentioned numerous times over the years in newspaper articles concerning competitions and education in First Aid. He becomes a Colliery Deputy at Pindar Oaks; his silver hall-marked enamel lapel badge of a Yorkshire Mining Deputy illustrates the significance of the role.

He is extremely active in the community and becomes involved in local politics too, and is a Council candidate in 1937. His campaign leaflet, reproduced below right, shows just how involved – a very busy man, doing his best for the Barnsley public:

'I am a life-long trade unionist; I was chairman of the following committees for nearly eight years: - Strafford Rob Royd Miners' Branch; Permanent Relief Society; Checkweigh Fund; and Benevolent Fund. A Founder and Trustee of the Ambulance Class, I was awarded a Gold Medal for Life Saving by the miners. I have since served for fourteen years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Yorkshire Deputies' Association, I am still Chairman of the Barnsley Branch of Deputies, a position I have held for eighteen years. I am a member of the Mining Advisory Committee at the Barnsley Technical College, and a member of the Parks and Allotments Committee.'

You could say he was living a full life.

Thomas was not elected to Council though, and there appears to be a division in the Labour Party at that time.



COUNTY BOROUGH
OF
BARNSELY
—
MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS
—
MONDAY
NOVEMBER 1st, 1937

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

At a Meeting of the **South-East Ward Labour Party's Working Committee**, held on Monday, July 26th, 1937, I was **unanimously adopted as Labour Candidate** for the Municipal Elections.

My nomination and adoption was confirmed at a General Meeting, held in the St. Luke's School Rooms, on Tuesday, August 3rd, 1937. I have, therefore, pleasure in presenting myself as the **Official Labour Candidate of the South-East Ward Labour Committee**. My fitness for the position of Councillor, I leave you to judge for yourselves, when you have read my record.

I am a life-long Trade Unionist; I was Chairman of the following Committees for nearly eight years: - Strafford Rob Royd Miners' Branch; Permanent Relief Society; Checkweigh Fund; and Benevolent Fund. A Founder and Trustee of the Ambulance Class, I was awarded a Gold Medal for Life Saving, by the Miners. I have since served for fourteen years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Yorkshire Deputies' Association, I am still Chairman of the Barnsley Branch of Deputies, a position I have held for eighteen years. I am a member of the Mining Advisory Committee at the Barnsley Technical College, and a member of the Parks and Allotments Committee.

I am a staunch supporter of the Labour Policy, but I disagree with the attitude adopted by certain members of the Labour Party who refuse to recognise the right of a Ward Committee to be consulted in the selection of its candidate (Application of Constitutional Rules).

If you want real live representation, if you believe in Justice, I am at your service, and, if elected, I will endeavour to serve you and yours with the same keenness and courage which I have formally displayed

Yours sincerely,

TOM HUNT.

FOR HONESTY OF PURPOSE - FOR STRAIGHT-FORWARD DEALING - FOR STRICT ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES
VOTE FOR TOM HUNT AND VOTE EARLY

Printed and Published by BEAVER & SONS, Regent Street South, Barnsley.

TO THE
ELECTORS
OF THE
SOUTH-
EAST
WARD



His First Aid training proved to be incalculably valuable to his own family too. About 1941 he probably saved my mother's life (his granddaughter). Her father George Banks Hunt was away fighting in WW2. When toddler Barbara became lethargic, a doctor said she was just sleepy, but Thomas believed that her lack of response was something serious and carried her from his home to Barnsley Hospital. It was meningitis – Thomas almost certainly had saved her life too.

One of that generation that lived through two world wars and the Great Depression, Thomas passed away at the age of 71, suffering from pneumonia, and is buried with wife Emma in Barnsley cemetery.

Thomas Hunt, born 10 Oct 1878, Higham, Barnsley, the son of William Hunt and Mary Ann Dawson/Mountain.

1881 Address – 9 Higham Rd Terrace, Barugh

1891 Address – Hud Royd, Worsborough

1895 Address – 95 Cope Street, Barnsley

1901 Address – 30 Agnes Road, working as a coal miner – hewer

1908 Medallion given by Rob Royd fellow workers

1911 Address – 13 Highstone Lane, Worsborough

1921 Address – 69 Highstone Rd, Worsborough, which Thomas had built for his family. Employed at Pindar Oaks Colliery as a Colliery Deputy.

Died 27 Mar 1950 at 69 Highstone Road.

This photograph was taken in 1915, possibly with 69 Highstone Road in the background. It shows Thomas Hunt, his eldest son William (also known as Leo), his wife Emma (née Banks), baby George Banks Hunt, and adopted daughter, Sis (Sarah) Harrison.

Sis was the daughter of George Harrison, a coal miner who died in 1908, her mother having already died in 1903. The adoption wasn't official; maybe George had been a work colleague of Thomas, and when he died eight children were left without parents.

Emma Banks was the daughter of George Banks who died at Swaithe Main in 1875. She never knew her father as she and her twin Eliza were only 6 months old when he was killed. She named her second son, the baby in the picture and my grandfather, after him.



Janet Town

LEFT BEHIND IN STRATFORD

BFHS Talk By Lizzie Jones, Thursday 16th October

Doreen Piper, Vice Chair of the BFHS, was pleased to welcome Lizzie to the meeting; it is always enjoyable whenever she joins us. (As a subscriber to the Royal Shakespeare Company, I had a very personal interest in what Lizzie had to say.)

Lizzie made a very definite statement from the outset: she dislikes the title of 'The Bard' when applied to William Shakespeare as it suggests a person who is academic or druid-like, which is quite incorrect. In a nutshell, William was an actor, part of a company; playwriting was secondary to this. He had a share in Theatre Management. The title 'Upstart Crow' summed up Will and his family. The mother, Mary Arden, was snooty; she came from a wealthy farming family yet her daughters could not read or write, not unusual for the time.

Lizzie's talk mainly concentrated on the family left behind in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Will's parents were John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. John was a glove maker, as well as making belts and purses (there were nine of that profession in Stratford). Although he was illiterate, from farming stock in Snetterfield, he was ambitious.

Mary Arden was of a higher class; she lived in Wilmcote, the 8th and youngest daughter. The marriage was a prestigious one for John, who brought £6-16-4 and a mark to the union, while Mary brought land and houses including the one in Henley Street where many of their children were born.



Henley Street family home.

The Shakespeare family consisted of seven children of which William was the eldest: two girls who died, two brothers, Gilbert and Richard, a daughter, Joan and Edmund, very much younger.

As the family grew, John became very involved in civic duties, rising from Constable to Chamberlain, Coroner, Alderman, Bailiff then Mayor of Stratford. The family were very important and influential people in Stratford; although the boys were educated at the Grammar School, the girls were illiterate.

Will was 14 or 15 when John, no business man, ran into financial difficulties, having to give up his civic duties. It seems he over-reached himself buying properties. Most of his debts were settled at the church door so the family stopped going to church!

Ann Hathaway now comes on the scene as 16-year-old Will was often sent on errands to Wilmcote. His journey took him past Ann's family home in



Shottery. (There is general uncertainty as to the spelling of her name as 'Ann' or 'Anne'.) When Will was 18 and Ann 26, the couple were desperate to marry as Ann was with child. Mary Shakespeare was also expecting Edmund at the same time. The marriage took place in Lent by special licence. No-one usually married during Lent, but needs must. The couple had a daughter, Susannah, followed later by twins Hamnet and Judith. In 1588, the Queen's Troupe came to Stratford. They were an actor short so Will volunteered. Susannah was four years old and the twins were two years old when their father went to London.

Will lived in lodgings in London. He did not really get on with the London crowd. His closest friends were actors; he was totally absorbed in acting and the theatre. He was "not a company keeper" according to a contemporary, John Aubrey.

Will went back to Stratford at least once a year, leaving the astute Ann to do most business deals on his behalf. Did Ann ever go to London? A letter scrap in a 16th century book may suggest so.

After being in London for ten years, Will bought shares in the theatre group. He became a wealthy man, buying property in Stratford including New Place, the largest five-gable house in the town. The property was bought cheaply for £60. Will left Ann to supervise all the renovations as well as for arranging for left-over stone being sold back to the council!

One seismic event caused Will's world to collapse. On August 11th 1596, at the age of 11, Hamnet Shakespeare died, possibly of Bubonic plague which was rife in Warwickshire at the time although no cause of death was registered. Will came home distraught, although his London commitments meant that he had to return to London leaving the grieving family behind.

In 1607 Will gave up acting and theatre management, and came home to New Place to live permanently.

What happened to those who had been left behind?



William Shakespeare's Will.
(It's unreadable even with the strongest magnifier! I've tried.)

Susannah married Doctor John Hall; they had no children. Judith married at 30 to a Thomas Quincey who was of dubious reputation although allegedly a wine importer and owner of taverns. Will disliked him intensely.

On April 23rd 1616, William Shakespeare died, leaving behind his famous Will and Last Testament which he had only written a month earlier on March 25th 1616.

Ann received the second best bed, which Lizzie told us was more important as it was the marriage bed. Susannah received the rest of Will's estate, moving to live in New Place.

Judith was given a silver gilt bowl and a few minor fripperies; arrangements were made so her husband could not benefit!

Mary and John Shakespeare died in their 70s.

Image of Will courtesy The National Archives

Ann Hathaway died on August 6th 1623, at the age of 67. She was buried in the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon, next to her husband.

Gilbert died at 36, Richard at 39.

Edmund went to London as a player; his father did not help him and he died aged only 27.

Lizzie concluded by saying that there were no descendants of William Shakespeare so the family line was carried through by his sister, Joan.

The family of Shakespeare tells us much about him.

Doreen gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the group.

If any of this has intrigued you, I can recommend 'HAMNET', a book by MAGGIE O'FARRELL. It tells the story of the family left behind in Stratford.

'Hamnet' is a fictionalised account of the life and death of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, and the grief that followed. The book blends historical facts about the Shakespeare family with imaginative story telling, focusing on Hamnet's death from the plague and the impact it had on his family, especially his parents, Agnes and William Shakespeare. It won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020.

N.B. Ann Hathaway is referred to as AGNES in this book.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

CHRISTMAS LUCKY DIP QUIZ ANSWERS

1. White Christmas, by Bing Crosby
2. 364 gifts
3. Mistletoe
4. Babycham
5. Panettone
6. Turkey
7. Oliver Cromwell
8. Almond
9. Ernie Wise
10. Cranberry Sauce
11. Theodore Roosevelt
12. Arctic Ocean
13. Tchaikovsky
14. "A Dog is for Life Not Just for Christmas"
15. Mince Pie
16. Red
17. Tiny Tim (A Christmas Carol)
18. Canada
19. Christmas Cracker
20. Ukraine

What does Santa do when his elves misbehave?

He gives them the sack

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elfabet

Well, the editor had to fill this little space somehow!

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP - NEWS SNIPPETS

I t's back: after a few issues where this section has gone missing, it has returned! I try to collate some small items of news which you may be interested in.

BARNSELY ARCHIVES After eighteen years service, Paul Stebbing, the Head Archivist, is leaving in mid January. I represent the BFHS on the Friends of Barnsley Archives Committee. Paul attended the meeting on November 26th and gave us the reasons for his decision. I, with others, had no idea that Paul lives the far side of Doncaster so he has nearly a two-hour commute arriving and the same driving home, and that is if the weather is favourable. Paul heads a small proactive team and he is responsible for making the Archives a nationally accredited association as well as one of the most respected Archives in the country. Doncaster Archives gain is definitely Barnsley's loss. This is the second time Doncaster have wished to recruit Paul; he turned them down once, but this offer both professionally and for a work/life balance is now too good to resist. Paul, you go with our blessing and grateful thanks. Recruitment for a successor will begin in the New Year; the existing team of three will continue as normal.

PURCHASING COPIES OF A WILL The fee for purchasing wills in England and Wales rose on Monday November 17th 2025.

"The fee for a copy of a Will or Grant of Representation governed by the Statutory Instrument SI 2025 will increase from £1.50 to £16.00." (No, this is not a printing error! MW.) The Family History Federation (FHS) states that you can search and purchase online using the Find A Will Service. <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk>

ROOTSTECH The RootsTech annual conference run by FamilySearch will take place on March 3rd -5th 2026. You can go to Utah or you can participate in the variety of courses they offer for FREE if you register online. Registration is now open.

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY I know from my experiences as Search Officer for the BFHS how difficult it can be to source information about Irish ancestors. The Society costs £25 per annum to join. There are free monthly Zoom talks and also the facility to get 33% off the cost of access to the Irish Newspaper Archive.

WW2 SERVICE RECORD ACCESS COSTS TO INCREASE Announced on December 2nd, just in time for this issue. See next page.

VILLAGE HEROES 67 men from Darton, Mapplewell, Woolley and the surrounding area died for their country during WW2. The team who compiled The Holgate Hundred have just published this new book priced at £8.99. It has been immaculately researched and is so interesting, even to folk like me who did not have ancestors involved. (Many of you know that I am a Calderdale lass!) I have written a short review for 'Barnsley Roots' to give you some idea of the content - see page 20.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

WW2 SERVICE RECORD ACCESS

As reported on the BBC Who Do You Think You Are website, The National Archives (TNA) has announced a new delivery service for Ministry of Defence (MoD) records, including Second World War service records, with fees starting at £42.25.

The records were previously held by the MoD but began being transferred to TNA in 2021. Some records have now been published online by Ancestry, subject to privacy restrictions.

TNA announced that, from 2nd February 2026, fees will be introduced for access to open and closed records.

The fees will be £42.25 for digital copies and £47.16 for print copies under the Standard Service, described as “a streamlined service providing the key documents within an individual's military service at a fixed cost”.

The other option, Full Record Check, will be charged on a per-page basis with an upfront cost of £48.87 for a search and page check.

TNA said it had been “a significant challenge” to meet the demand for the records since they were transferred from the MoD.

TNA initially allowed researchers to request the records via Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, with the only cost being a charge for copying pages.

However, TNA's January 2025 report on its FOI Action Plan says that demand for FOI requests “dramatically outstripped the pace of investment in extra resource”, adding “In 2022 our annual Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for access to the MOD service personnel records were just shy of 8,000. In 2023 the annual figure was over 17,000, and at the mid-point of 2024 the volume had already exceeded 16,500 requests.” TNA says it has now recruited extra staff to work on MoD records access.

TNA said the fees were not for profit and would allow it to cover costs and offer “a more timely and better-quality service”, with users requesting the Standard Service after 2nd February receiving their records within 30 days.

Researchers seeking to order records must therefore choose whether to order them now for a lower cost, or order them after 2nd February and pay the fee in the hope of receiving them in a shorter timeframe.

Records access will remain free for those requesting their own service record or requesting on behalf of a living person born before 1940.

TNA also announced a broader increase in service fees, the first since 2019.

The increase in charges will also be introduced on 2nd February.

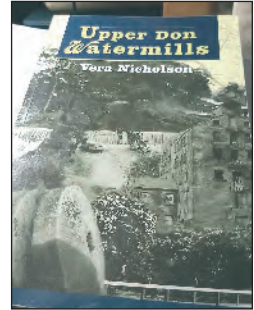
The cost of a 15 minute search will increase from £24.35 to £38.95, the cost of a naturalisation certificate will increase from £27.15 to £68.84, and the cost of a page check will increase from £8.40 to £9.92

Credit Rosemary Collins, Features Editor WDYTIA

NOTE The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is currently in the process of transferring around 10 million service records to The National Archives for permanent preservation. This is the largest and most complex transfer in the 200-year history of TNA. - Ed.

OXSPRING CORN MILL

In the October journal there was an article of special interest to me. The article by Liz Whitehouse and her sister Susan, about the donation of Box cloth by Vera Nicholson, reminded me that I had a book, *Upper Don Watermills*, published by Vera Nicholson in association with The Hallamshire Press in 2001. The introduction to the book tells how she started researching the mill where her father worked, but then became interested in all the water mills and the families who owned them, in the Penistone Parish; there were 14 in all.



I came across the book in the Tea Rooms in Wortley after a visit to St Leonard's Church; it must have been shortly after the book was published as my husband and I moved to Scotland in 2005. Several of the 14 mills were of interest to me, mentioning names that appear in my family tree.

The mill of most interest though was Oxspring Corn Mill. This mill was leased by my great grandfather Charles Hector Webb from 1903, then bought by him in 1915. The family lived at Oxspring House. Charles Hector Webb



Oxspring Corn Mill



Oxspring House

married Mary Harriet Goldthorpe in 1900. The 1901 census sees them in Crane Moor. My grandfather James Hector Webb was born at Oxspring House in 1905 and his sister Ella born there in 1908.

Unfortunately, after a fire at the mill on 12th July 1923 the mill needed to be rebuilt. Then on Sunday 14th December 1924 my grandfather was repairing the machinery at the mill when his right arm was crushed. His arm had to be amputated at the shoulder and he spent the next six months in Sheffield Royal Infirmary.

PENISTONE ACCIDENT.

Youth Caught in the Machinery and Badly Injured.

A distressing accident happened on Sunday evening to James Hector Webb, aged eighteen years, son of Mr. Charles Hector Webb, of Oxspring House, Oxspring, near Penistone, and owner of the Oxspring Corn Mill.

The youth left home about two o'clock to go to the mill, which is near by. At five o'clock he failed to return for tea, and his father, going to the mill in search of him, found him lying on the floor in a terrible condition, with his right arm badly crushed, and his face and head injured.

The surmise is that he had by some means been caught in the machinery belting and whirled round the shafting. He was removed to the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, where it was found necessary to amputate the right arm at the shoulder.



Mary H Webb, James H Webb, Charles H Webb and Ella Webb, around 1918/1919.

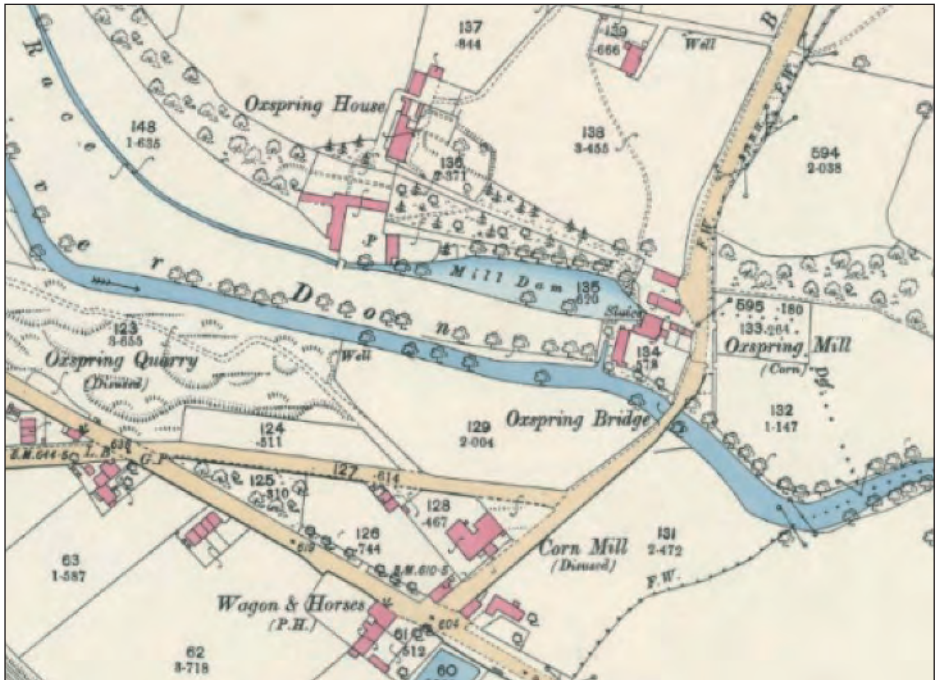
Due to these accidents my great grandfather was made bankrupt in 1927.

Charles Hector had cancer and died in Hull in 1938. In 1939 Mary Harriet was living with her daughter Ella and her husband, Charles Gledhill, in Pogmoor. They had a shop on West Road; she died in 1947. My grandfather married my grandmother Frances May Patterson in 1932; they had three children: Eric in 1932, Marjorie (my mum) in 1934 and Basil in 1941.

The site of Oxspring Corn Mill is now Millstones housing estate.

Hilary Rooke

The map below shows Oxspring Mill and Oxspring House in 1891, courtesy of the ever-useful National Library of Scotland - Ed.



VILLAGE HEROES

Compiled by Ian Harley, Melvyn Lunn and Don Rhodes

This A5, 185 page, paperback publication honours, as well as paying tribute to, the 67 men from the Darton, Mapplewell, Woolley and surrounding areas who died for their country in World War Two. The writers have also included the fallen from communities in Barugh and Barugh Green, Higham, Kexborough, Staincross and Woolley Colliery. I was so surprised to read that the Darton War Memorial does not contain any names, making any research much harder I would have thought. (I know that Melvyn Lunn is on the case to rectify this!)

Ian Harley (retired Chief Reporter, Barnsley Chronicle) and Melvyn Lunn (retired Accountant) who co-wrote 'The Holgate Hundred' are now joined by Don Rhodes (retired Head of Adult Care Services) All three have interests in history and World Wars 1 and 2 researching the ultimate price local men paid for keeping our country safe and honouring their memory.



The research is so detailed; it builds on the similar work done for 'The Holgate 100' in 2023, as well as the Barnsley War Memorial Project. The Barnsley Chronicle (where Ian Harley worked for 42 years) is a fantastic resource as it reported regularly throughout the war, offering obituary notices as well as personal and family background data which enhance so many of the individual tributes.

There are 67 dedications listed in alphabetical order, some much more detailed than others. Each one is headed with the Name, Service, Service Number, Rank, Date and Place of Death and Age at time of Death. Army Personnel have a light brown background to the dedication, RAF personnel have a light blue background whilst Naval personnel have a dark blue background.

I spent one evening reading the whole book in a single sitting; one cannot fail to be moved by the stories and the reports listed for each person. There are copies of obituaries, published in the local Barnsley Chronicle, paragraphs about the deceased and family thoughts as well as details of the person's life in this area prior to enlisting. Some of the individual sections are much more detailed than others according to the amount of data available. I will just select records for each of the three services to give you some idea of the detail and reports that are listed for each person:

RICHARD HENRY WILBY was a Royal Navy Telegraphist who died on 07/06/1944 just days short of his 21st birthday taking part in 'Operation Overlord', the Normandy Invasion. This report really resonated with me for some reason; it is full of fascinating details and a remarkable coincidental meeting with another Darton serviceman.

GEORGE ALLOTT, Marine, died, age 34, on 24/05/1941. George was serving on HMS 'Hood' when it was sunk by the German battleship 'Bismarck', in the Denmark Strait. George, along with 1,414 of his shipmates, was drowned.

CHARLIE BOOTH, Aircraftman with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, died age 31 years, on 09/09/1943 at Ambon, Dutch East Indies. Charlie was captured by the Japanese, being held at the notoriously cruel Liang Camp. It is thought internment conditions were so bad that his health deteriorated; he died of bacillary dysentery. It is so poignant that Birthday Greetings from his family arrived but Charlie passed away three days later; he never knew of the greetings, his family in Darton unaware of his fate.



ALBERT JONES, driver, had only been in the Army eight weeks when he lost his life age 33, on 13/12/1940 during the Sheffield Blitz. This record demonstrates the length the editorial team had to go to in order to find the truth behind Albert's death as there were conflicting reports and dates.

The information regarding the Sheffield Blitz is detailed and thought provoking.



STANLEY MILNER, Fusilier with the Royal Scots Fusiliers, was only 17 years old when he died on 10/05/1941 in Belgium. There is very little detail except that his memorial stone is in Ypres with a reference C36, sadly, no inscription. Stanley was the first Darton area man to die during land action in the Second World War.

I have only been able to give a reader a sense of the contents of 'Village Heroes'. This is a fascinating account of men who paid the ultimate price for keeping their country free. I am in awe of the amount of research and the dedication of Ian, Melvyn and Don to chronicle it for us. It should be essential reading for any History student, no matter where in the UK they live.

I cannot recommend this publication highly enough, the team of three should be rightly proud of the result of their efforts.

Margaret E. Williams, BFHS Secretary and Search Officer

VILLAGE HEROES
available now price £8.99
via
Margaret Williams
Contact details inside front cover

THE TALE OF TWO HOUSES HARDWICK HALL AND CHATSWORTH

BFHS talk By Eric Jackson, Thursday 20th November

The BFHS was pleased to welcome Eric Jackson again to our last Meeting, with Christmas Buffet, before the Winter Recess. The BFHS meets again on the third Thursday in March with the AGM.

The two great houses of Chatsworth and Hardwick Hall are a mere nineteen miles apart, the invisible thread that links them is Bess of Hardwick.



Bess of Hardwick

Eric began by telling us that little is known of Elizabeth – Bess - early life. Bess was born on the Hardwick estate in about 1527 to the Hardwick family who were gentleman farmers. They lived in a small manor house, on the site where the Old Hall is now situated. As a child, Bess went in service as an upper servant in the London household of Sir John Zouche, a local Derbyshire family. Here she would have learnt how to dance, sew and play music. She appears to have been espoused to her first husband during the 1530s, and, probably, married for the first time in 1543. Marriages were all about wealth, dowries and dynasties.

Bess had four marriages to her name during her life. The first marriage was to Robert Barley(or Barlow), her cousin, in 1543; there was no evidence that they lived together. Robert died in 1544. There were no children from the union.

In 1547, Bess was married to the very wealthy William Cavendish, who was a widower, having been married twice before, and was a father to two daughters. William was twice Bess' age; together, the pair had eight children. (There were no children from the subsequent two marriages that Bess entered into.)

William Cavendish sold his estates in the south of England, buying the Chatsworth estate in Derbyshire. William and Bess began to build a large mansion in 1552 but William died on October 25th 1557, leaving a large amount of debt owing to the Crown.

It was in 1559 that Bess married Sir William St. Loe. Sir William St Loe's death in 1564/5 left Bess one of the wealthiest women in England. Her annual income was calculated to amount to £60,000, equivalent to £24,000,000 in 2025. Further, she was a Lady of the Bedchamber with daily access to the Queen, whose favour she enjoyed. Still in her late 30s, Bess retained her looks and good health, and a number of important men began courting her.



Unfortunately, Bess fell from favour at court so returned to the Derbyshire estate, where she spent much of her time, sewing, creating tapestries and hangings for her household. These 400-year-old tapestries are still on view today.

Nothing much is documented until Bess married George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury in 1568; this was her most lucrative marriage, financially and socially.

With the wealth she had accrued, around 1587, Bess began to organise the building of New Hall on her birth family estate. This work was to become the basis for the plans for Hardwick Hall.

Bess was an astute businesswoman, the second most wealthy woman in the kingdom behind Elizabeth 1st. As Duchess of Shrewsbury, when her fourth husband died in 1590, Bess continued to grow in influence and wealth.

No expense was spared in the construction of this Elizabethan mansion. **“More glass than wall”**, was one of the comments at the time. The house had turrets and, as Duchess of Shrewsbury, the family coat of arms.

HARDWICK HALL



Frontage



Rear



Part of the Coat of Arms

You can see what her contemporaries meant by a wall of glass. Glass was also a very expensive commodity in Elizabethan times.

Hardwick Hall has one of the largest galleries of any stately home in Elizabethan England; it is awe inspiring to a modern visitor.

In 1597, Bess moved into Hardwick Hall, also completing the rebuilding of New Hall on the estate.

Bess of Hardwick died at 5pm on Saturday 13 February 1608, aged c.87. At the time of her death, she remained “one of the richest and most powerful women in the kingdom”. It was on 16 February her body was placed in a vault in All Saints Church, Derby, then the parish church of that city. The body lies in Derby Cathedral today.

Bess' son sold the whole estate for £10,000 which is £2,000,000 in today's money.

By the late 1760s, Hardwick Hall had been abandoned and fell into ruin.

The building and estate was rescued by the National Trust in 1959. They embarked on a major restoration project which transformed the house and gardens into the magnificent place it is today. It is now said to be the best example of an Elizabethan stately home.

Chatsworth House remained as a Tudor House from the time William Cavendish died in 1557. It was left to his heirs to maintain, although it took until 1687 for work to begin to replace this building with a grander mansion more suited to the rising wealth of the Cavendish family.

(The connection with Bess of Hardwick ended with the death of her husband.)

Chatsworth was, and remained, the main home of the Cavendish family until the 21st century.

William, Duke of Devonshire made additions and improvements to Chatsworth which were continued by his heirs.

POSTSCRIPT Eric ended his talk with some extra information about the developments of the Chatsworth Estate

- By the late 1760s, Hardwick Hall had been abandoned and it fell into disrepair.
- Life at Chatsworth after its restoration continued with many servants, over 80 gardeners and many local people and businesses dependent upon it.
- In 1908 the estate had to sell many artefacts to pay Death Duties.
- May 1944 celebrated the marriage of the Marquis of Devonshire to Kathleen Kennedy, of the noted American Kennedy family.
- Chatsworth was used by the forces during the war so, in 1948 it was completely cleared and made ready for the family to live in again.
- Death Duties are the bane of the very wealthy landowners. After the death of the 10th Duke, the sum was £20,000,000 in today's money making it untenable for the Devonshire family to live there.
- The estate was purchased by the National Trust and the 12th Duke paid to rent to live there!



Chatsworth House famous fountain today

The houses are truly well worth a visit, I recommend them both; you will not be disappointed. My preference? Hardwick Hall although Chatsworth House at Christmas is a real joy!

Margaret E Williams

MEMBERS' SECTION

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined the Society. I hope that you will find your membership useful, enjoyable, rewarding and above all productive.

2009 Mrs Paula Jackson

2011 Mrs Patricia Clews

2010 Mr James Wharam

Rejoining Member

1505 Ms Dawn Hodgson

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS JANUARY 2026

Mem. No.	2010	James Wharam		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Wharam	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1900 to 2026

Mem. No.	2011	Patricia Clews		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Pease	Gawber	WRY	ENG	1812 to 2026
Swift	Any	WRY	ENG	All
Ward	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	1832 to 2026
Ward	Darton	WRY	ENG	1832 to 2026
Ward	Gawber	WRY	ENG	1832 to 2026

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between September and October 2025:

Charlesworth, Pease, Swift, Ward, and Wharam.

Jeff Chambers

Privacy Notice - Barnsley Family History Society

1. Who We Are

Barnsley Family History Society is a community-based organisation run entirely by volunteers, dedicated to the research, preservation, and sharing of family history. We are committed to protecting your personal data and respecting your privacy.

2. What Data We Collect

We may collect and process the following types of personal data:

- Names, contact details, and membership information
- Historical records (e.g. birth, marriage, death, census, parish entries)
- Photographs and biographical notes
- Contributions to newsletters, talks, or publications

We only collect data that is relevant to our activities and necessary for our legitimate interests in historical research and community engagement.

3. How We Use Your Data

We use your data to:

- Maintain membership records and communicate with you
- Organise events, talks, and research projects
- Transcribe, archive, and publish historical records
- Share findings with members and the wider public (with appropriate safeguards)

We do not sell or share your personal or contact details with third parties for marketing purposes.

4. Lawful Basis for Processing

We process personal data under the following lawful bases:

- **Consent:** where you have given clear permission
- **Legitimate Interests:** for historical research and group administration
- **Legal Obligation:** where required by law (e.g. safeguarding)

5. Data Sharing and Publication

We may publish historical records, including transcriptions and images, in booklets, newsletters, online databases, or exhibitions. We take care to avoid publishing personal data of living individuals without consent or lawful justification.

6. Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Access your personal data
- Request correction or deletion
- Object to processing
- Withdraw consent at any time

To exercise your rights, please contact the:

Data controller at **membership@barnsleyfhs.co.uk**

7. Data Retention

We retain personal data only as long as necessary for our activities or legal obligations. Historical records may be preserved indefinitely for archival purposes.

8. Security

We take appropriate measures to protect your data from loss, misuse, or unauthorised access.

9. Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns about this notice or your data, please contact:

Barnsley FHS E-mail: **membership@barnsleyfhs.co.uk**

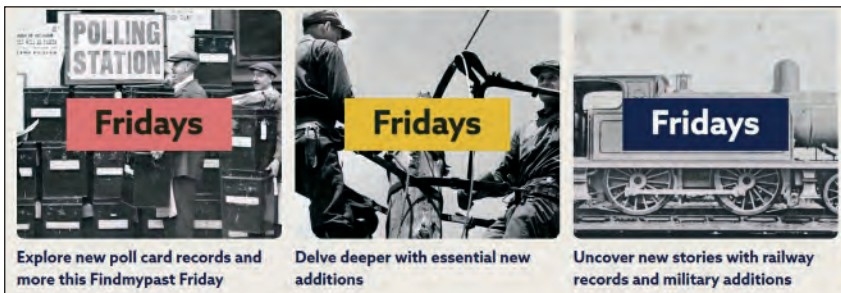
10. Dated this 15th October 2025.

This version supersedes the Barnsley FHS privacy statement issued in February 2021, which in turn replaced the statement dated May 2018.

Reflects current UK data protection laws, including **the Data Protection Act 2018**, **UK GDPR 2021**, and the **Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA)**.

WHAT'S NEW ON FINDMYPAST?

What's new indeed. It's difficult to keep up with additions, but it's a good idea just to have a look now and then. Findmypast publish updates every Friday at www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/new. The left-hand one below was for 5th December. Why not have a look? You don't have to be a subscriber.



SEARCH SERVICES

The Society offers its members free searches – there is now no limit (within reason, of course!). Our fees for search services for non-members are at www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2

Margaret E Williams

Baptisms

Barnsley Ebenezer	
Methodist New Connexion	1862-1973
Barnsley St. George	1832-1844
Barnsley St. Mary	1813-1837
Barnsley Wesleyan	1839-1910
Bretton Chapelry	1813-1841
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1844
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Royston St. John	1813-1831
Silkstone All Saints	1813-1840
Wentworth Wesleyan	1849-1980
Wortley St. Leonard	1813-1856

National Probate Calendars / Wills Index 1858 to 1943

Please give full name and year of death. Because wills were not always proved immediately, we will search up to three years after the death.

National Burial Index; Third Edition

England & Wales. Please give full name, year-range and county if known.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Please give full name and age if known.

1851 Census, Barnsley Area

Please give surname and forename(s) if known and age. Or request all occurrences of a given surname.

1891 Census, Barnsley

Please give surname and approximate age. 1891 Search results supplied as copy of enumeration page.

Marriages

Barnsley St. George	1832-1837
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1837
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1837
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Penistone St. John	1800-1837
Royston St. John	1799-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1837

Burials

Barnsley St. George	1832-1850
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1840
Bretton Chapelry	1800-1840
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1845
Darton All Saints	1800-1845
Denby Chapelry	1800-1856
Dodworth St. John	1848-1934
Hoyland Nether St. Peter	1813-1861
Penistone St. John	1800-1856
Royston St. John	1800-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1840
Tankersley St. Peter	1813-1858
Worsbrough St. Thomas	1859-1903
Wortley St. Leonard	1800-1854

For searches or enquiries please contact:

Margaret E Williams

5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,
S71 4HY

Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

If applying by post please
enclose a large SAE

**If applicable, please include your
membership number.**

DIARY DATES 2026

Please check our website for updates.

January	New Year Break
February	No meeting
19 th March	AGM
16 th April	To be announced
21 st May	To be announced
18 th June	To be announced

Barnsley Roots is the official journal of the Barnsley Family History Society, published in January, April, July and October of each year. Please send material for the April 2026 edition by 1st March 2026 to:

Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk, or

Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD

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Meetings of the Society are held at the Buckley Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN on the 3rd **Thursday** of a month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August, December, January or February. Free parking is available and there is full wheelchair access. The venue is within easy reach of Barnsley town centre.

For more information visit the website at: **www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk**

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SGT: BRISTOW, S. 2364226.
HEADQUARTERS,
15 L of C. SIGNALS,
CENTRAL MED: FORCES.



Christmas Greetings 1943

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Miss G. Scuse. GENERAL HOSP: NOTTINGHAM.
28-11-43.

My Own Darling,

I have tried 3 times to get hold of one of these Christmas air-graphs but each time they have been sold out. Kit managed to get this yesterday.

I hope that you have a very happy Christmas Darling and for the New Year I wish you everything that you are hoping and wishing for yourself. In case this reaches you before my air-letter I will just mention that I have got my "S.R.N." We got the results yesterday.

Love
Grace
xxx.



Grace Scuse's Airgraph to Stan Bristow, November 1943.