

Founded 40 years ago

*Barnsley
Family History
Society*

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



All Saints' Church, Silkstone: a still taken from a YouTube video filmed by 'Bumpkin's Drones'. The drone operator is between the church and the road, on the extreme left. 'Bumpkin' has made many aerial views of the South Yorkshire area and elsewhere.

This video is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6jbm4ikLcA>

July 2026

Volume 34 No. 3

ISSN 2754-9070 (print)

ISSN 2754-9089 (online)

Ruby Anniversary



1986-2026

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Front cover image: credit 'Bumpkins Drones'
Back cover image: via Elaine Jackson

CONTENTS

2 Editorial	Shirley Sura
3 From the Chairman	Philip Watson
3 General Secretary Wanted	
4 Doreen Piper - A Friend to All	Jeff Chambers
6 Secretary's Update	Margaret Williams
8 Barnsley Main Talk	Janet Town
11 Barnsley Main Deaths	Liz Whitehouse
14 Keeping You in the Loop - News Snippets	Margaret Williams
15 Summer Anagram Quiz	Margaret Williams
16 Barnsley Market	Margaret Williams
21 The British Newspaper Archive	Roger de Mercado
22 Results of the Membership Survey	Liz Whitehouse
24 William Town	Janet Town
30 The Stan and Grace Story - July 2026	Liz Whitehouse
33 Summer Cranberry Drink Recipe	Margaret Williams
33 Summer Anagram Quiz Answers	Margaret Williams
34 New Members	Elaine Jackson
35 Members' Interests	Jeff Chambers
36 Surname Search	Jeff Chambers
36 Search Services	Margaret Williams

Jane Ainsworth

Just as we were about to go to press, we heard from her husband Paul that Jane died on Friday 26th June. She was a very well known Barnsley historian and regularly contributed to our Journal. We offer Paul our heartfelt condolences.

Look out for the new Facebook Page

Following on from the members' survey (see page 22) Janet Haigh, Liz Whitehouse and Suzanne Court-Oak have created a BarnsleyFHS Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, why not join the group?

As I write, the page is only a few days old, so we are looking forward to lots of Barnsley FHS members joining and telling us about their research, asking questions and looking for connections. Just put "BarnsleyFHS" (no spaces) into the Facebook Search box and (hopefully) Facebook will take you to the page. **Liz Whitehouse**

EDITORIAL

Hello again and as always, a huge welcome to this summer edition of Barnsley Roots. I hope all our members are enjoying good weather and, most of all, good health, or at the very least are '*Fair t' middlin*'.

My own research has taken an interesting and wonderful turn for the better, having found relatives I have not had any contact with for many years and whose families are very close to my heart. This came about by accident and was through something that to me was an unexpected medium, Facebook. It has given me an opportunity to not only renew relationships but to find out about our family first hand. It also means that I must be even more careful when writing my history, because it is also theirs. I would not change it for the world though. It just shows that we can find things in unexpected places.

Enough about my research though. We often have information from you about your family history and research that can help each of us look at many ways of breaking down brick walls as well as being interesting so please keep them coming and thank you to all those members who have contributed so far.

It is difficult to know how to start the next piece of news, or, I should say pieces. Two of our most loved and respected Barnsley Family History Society committee members will no longer be in some or all of their current roles.

As many or perhaps all of you will know, Doreen Piper, who has been a member of Barnsley Family History Society for more than 30 years and took on several roles including Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Transcribing and Publishing and Programme Co-Ordinator, and is a mine of information, has retired due to ill health. This does not mean we will not hear from her again though... You can read more about Doreen on pages 4-5, written by Jeff Chambers.

From 1st September this year, Margaret Williams, our secretary of eleven plus years, will retire from this role. Margaret is also our Search Officer, author of 'Keeping you in the Loop' (again a mine of information), many interesting articles and is our 'Queen of Quizzes'.

I know that our Society has not been the only organisation to benefit from input from our Doreen and Margaret; there are many more. I would like to say a big thank you to both lovely, kind, and supportive ladies for all the help they have given me personally since I joined Barnsley Family History. **A Hard Act to Follow** in both cases.

In this issue we have: An Introduction from the Chairman; an article by Janet Town about 'Barnsley Main' followed by another article, 'Barnsley Main Deaths', by Liz Whitehouse; an interesting article about the life of William Town, one of Janet Town's great grandfathers; the history of Barnsley Market by Margaret Williams and an update on the Stan and Grace story by Liz Whitehouse, plus our usual items.

In forthcoming issues: All the usual information, fun and facts, an article about 21 Dodworth Gate (one of my 'Ancestral Homes') and, hopefully, articles about local churches.

Shirley Sura

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I was born in Barnsley, in Waltham Street, which is a street off Sheffield Road where the Rising Sun pub was at the top and goes down to Doncaster Road where the Dove Inn still is.

I am twin to my brother Paul, who was born 1.30 hrs before me.

When the Barnsley Council built Athersley South in 1953 we moved to Matlock Road and lived there till I was 18 and married my wife Lorraine. We have been married 59 years on 30th December and had two children (girls).

I started work aged 15 at Barnsley Box Co. on Harborough Hill Road, which was part of Redfearns Glass works, making pallets and pop bottle cases.

Leaving there I worked at Woods Glass Works in Pontefract Road for a couple of years, then at the age of 19 I started work at Yorkshire Traction Bus Co. as a bus conductor, and at 21 passed my driving test to drive all types of buses.

I stayed there for 24 years before taking my administration and computer studies at Barnsley college and then working for an Electronics Co. in Penistone Railway station as Office Manager for 10 years before I got itchy feet and moved to Globe Holidays as a tour driver doing tours all round the UK and Europe for another 25 years. I then worked for a Company that delivered new coaches and buses from the manufacturers until I retired fully at the age of 73.

Over the years I have organised Vintage vehicle rallies in Barnsley, been Vice-Chair of our local branch of Royal British Legion, and area group rep also for RBL. At present I am treasurer for Yorkshire Traction Retired Employees social club and Chair of BFHS.

Phillip Watson

GENERAL SECRETARY WANTED

Margaret Williams is standing down as General Secretary at the end of August. The General Secretary's duties include arranging committee meetings, currently six a year, creating the Agenda, attending the meeting and afterwards sending Minutes to Committee members. It is desirable that the General Secretary attends as many members' meetings as possible. The General Secretary is the primary point of contact in the Society and is expected to field queries from members and from external organisations. Use of a computer and email is essential. You would be co-opted on to the Committee and formally elected at the next AGM. If you are interested, please contact the Chairman, Phillip Watson, at **pwphillipwatson@gmail.com**.

DOREEN PIPER – A FRIEND TO ALL

I first met Doreen Piper on a cold and rainy evening in June 1993 at an open meeting of Barnsley Family History Society. At that time, the Society met in an upstairs room of Kingsleys Public House at 32 Peel Street, Barnsley, a building originally known as the King George Hotel. Over the years it went through several changes of name and use, and eventually reopened on 9th April 2026 as a Pepe's Piri Piri restaurant.

Doreen had recently lost her husband, Glynn, and was looking for an activity that would help her focus her time and energy. Her work colleague, Kath Wright, encouraged her to attend. Kath held two roles within Barnsley Family History Society at that time, serving as both secretary and membership secretary.

I also attended my first meeting that evening, having noticed a poster on the Barnsley Library notice board. Kath introduced us and encouraged us both to join. In an attempt to behave like a gentleman, I invited Doreen to join before me. To borrow and gently reinterpret Louis's closing words to Rick in *Casablanca*, that moment marked "the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

I was co-opted onto the committee soon afterwards and took on the roles of publications officer and vice chair, first to Barry Kelly and then, at the following Annual General Meeting, to Graham Swift. Doreen joined the committee the following April as an ordinary committee member, although she soon reshaped that modest beginning by taking over the role of librarian from Jean Whitehead, as well as the newly created post of project coordinator in January 1995.

Over the years we worked closely together. I transcribed most of the 1851 Census entries and other material for our booklets, and Doreen checked every line and every word with her characteristic care and accuracy. She later began transcribing as well adding yet another skill to her many contributions.

Doreen has always been an easy and supportive friend to work alongside, although she has never hesitated to take a firm stance when she believes that a committee decision requires careful thought. When John Westerman stepped down as chair and treasurer, we needed time to persuade Doreen to step into the role of vice chair, a post she has always regarded as largely nominal, and then, because no one else would, to take on the considerable responsibility of treasurer. She often telephoned me to use me as a sounding board before making decisions, and that mutual trust has defined our friendship throughout the years.

During her years as treasurer she repeatedly asked, at Annual General Meetings, for someone to take over the role. I supported her, as I had supported previous treasurers, to ensure that the accounts remained in good



*Image courtesy of
Barnsley Family History
Society Journal, Domus
Historiae, vol. 29, no. 4
(2021), p. 21.*

order. Elaine later agreed to serve as vice treasurer, easing Doreen's workload, and at the 2026 Annual General Meeting Elaine formally became treasurer.

Eventually, with all the pressure she carried, something had to give. The strain finally broke through, and in Doreen's case it took the form of an ischaemic stroke, which led to a short stay in hospital. Happily, she is now home and moving steadily along the road to recovery. After several conversations, she made the difficult but wise decision to resign from the Barnsley Family History Society committee. She did so with great reluctance, but with a clear understanding that her health must come first.

How can I summarise Doreen Piper in only a few words? Her dedication to Barnsley Family History Society spans more than three decades and has shaped the Society in ways that will endure long after any of us have stepped aside. She cares deeply for others and stands as the much-loved matriarch of her family. She helps anyone who needs support and becomes a friend to almost everyone she meets. At family history fairs she is affectionately known as "Mrs Barnsley," and she shares her knowledge freely and generously.

Beyond her work with Barnsley Family History Society, Doreen lives out her faith as a committed Christian. She attends her local church regularly and sings in the choir. She is also an expert seamstress, well known for making and adjusting pantomime costumes, and she has occasionally taken to the boards herself. These activities offer further examples of her creativity and her willingness to serve her community.

To celebrate and thank Doreen for her long and loyal commitment to Barnsley Family History Society, I shall propose at a future committee meeting that we follow the precedent set when Kath Wright retired in 2007 and present Doreen with an inscribed crystal vase to mark more than thirty years of devoted service to our Society.

Jeff Chambers



Former names: King George Hotel, **Kingsleys**, K.G.V, Stereo,
Truth 32, now Pepe's Piri Piri restaurant.
Image courtesy of Ian Guest via Pinterest.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE – JUNE 2026

Hello there to you all, it's always good to write this update, especially as it means that I can contact all those members who do not live locally in the Barnsley area with all the news from the BFHS.

As I write this, most of Europe and the UK is sweltering in unseasonably high temperatures, unrelenting sunshine and near 100% humidity. It is a long



way from the cooler temperatures in Scarborough a fortnight ago when my husband and I were watching Yorkshire's four day cricket match. Winter coats and bobble hats were in evidence!

There is plenty to update you on since the AGM in April 2026.

BFHS COMMITTEE: Phillip Watson is the new Chair of the Society; Phil was elected unopposed 16th April 2026 at the AGM and General Meeting. Elaine Jackson is now Treasurer, as well as Membership Secretary, while Janet Haigh is now Programme Co-ordinator. Doreen Piper had to resign from all the roles she held because of her health; she has also had to finish her involvement as Projects Co-ordinator, a role she had so enjoyed. The other Committee personnel remain as you will see from the inside front cover of this Journal.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: These have been held monthly at The Outpost pub on Sheffield Road. The next one before the Summer Break is Thursday 9th July at 10.30 am. If you have any items for discussion, please contact me so I can include them on the Agenda for future meetings.

QUESTIONNAIRE: Many, many thanks are due to Liz Whitehouse who designed the Questionnaire to gain members' opinions on the way forward for the Society. Liz collated all the answers and presented them to the Committee, a fantastic effort as she came back from holiday and thirty six hours later, we had the results! A higher response from members would have been appreciated although there were enough responses to provide valid results.

FACEBOOK PAGE: One consequence of the Questionnaire results was the hope that the BFHS would have a Facebook page in order to communicate with members. Thankfully, Liz Whitehouse, Suzanne Court-Oak and Janet Haigh offered to undertake this task - they have done a brilliant job! See page 1 for our Notice. All the details are now on the Society's website plus the new leaflets and flyers. Progress, indeed!

BFHS 40th ANNIVERSARY: It was decided to have a celebratory party to coincide with the first monthly meeting after the Summer Break, on Thursday 17th September. Details are rather unclear at the moment although a cake has been ordered! At the Committee meeting on 9th July all the plans will be decided upon, hopefully; you will be updated. It will be so good to see as many of you as possible. If you know any ex-members, please invite them, too.

The local press and radio have been informed as has the Family History Federation (FHF)

BFHS MEETING TIMES: If you live within a reasonable distance of Barnsley and do not attend meetings because of the evening timing, the suggestion has been made to change to some afternoon meetings, especially in the Winter months. It is no fun travelling in the cold and dark so this may encourage more of you attend? The Buckley Street venue has WiFi so we could transmit meetings digitally if you can use 'ZOOM' on a computer or smartphone. The Committee hopes to boost the number of people attending monthly meetings if possible. As always, your opinion is valued.

PUBLICITY: This is linked to the previous paragraph about the Facebook Page. I am a member of the Committees of at least three other societies in Barnsley. A very quick, verbal poll with their members made it clear that very few people attending them have ever heard of the BFHS, one of those was a Genealogy Group! To that end, the Chair has asked Jeff Chambers to print A5 size leaflets which are to be distributed throughout the locality. There was a tri-fold flyer, with detailed BFHS information when I joined the Society in 2015 but none of these have been available in the last ten years to my knowledge. This has been remedied so if any members are willing to distribute flyers of leaflets for the BFHS, please let anyone on the Committee know.

NEW SECRETARY REQUIRED: Yes, I am leaving the role of Secretary of the BFHS. I was 'suggested' for the role at the first meeting I attended in early 2015 by a friend who was a member (– and still a friend, too!) After being vetted and interviewed I was voted in at an AGM after doing the role for six months! After eleven and a half years, I decided it was time to pass the baton to someone else as I have other responsibilities to other societies and, more importantly, to my very supportive family.

I tendered my resignation as General Secretary on 29th December 2025, unaware of the enforced management changes that were caused by Doreen Piper's resignation.

To be fair to the new Chair, Committee and you, the membership, I agreed to delay my departure from the date of the 2026 AGM to 1st September 2026 to ensure an orderly transition. Phillip Watson, our new Chair, is to take on the role of interim Secretary. Our advertisement for a new General Secretary is on page 3.

I shall remain as a member of the BFHS; I hope to continue as Search Officer as I really enjoy the role. I shall still attend meetings and write my pieces for 'Barnsley Roots'.

The support of Jeff Chambers, Roger de Mercado and Shirley Sura (the latter two are the Journal Editors) and my friends on the Committee has been wonderful; it has been valued more than I can say.

Those people who know me, know I am never usually lost for words!

Family history is important, it is our heritage; our ancestors made us who we are. This is my belief and reason for being a member of the Barnsley Family History Society.

Thank you to you all.

Margaret E. Williams.

BARNSELY MAIN TALK

The BFHS welcomed members of the Barnsley Main Heritage Group for our monthly talk in April.



This local group was formed in 2016 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the catastrophic Oaks Colliery disaster in 1866, and to address the ongoing work in clearing, maintaining and preserving the last remaining complete colliery building in Barnsley. The exact location of the original Oaks Colliery is very close to the present site and underground workings extended for several miles around, making this site the obvious location at which to commemorate the worst disaster in English Coal mining history.



Helen was able to let us know that in 2016 the site of Barnsley Main Colliery on Oaks Lane at Hoyle Mill was a derelict and overgrown industrial site, with garbage, graffiti, drug use paraphernalia and a forest of weeds. The group therefore set about the massive job of clearing

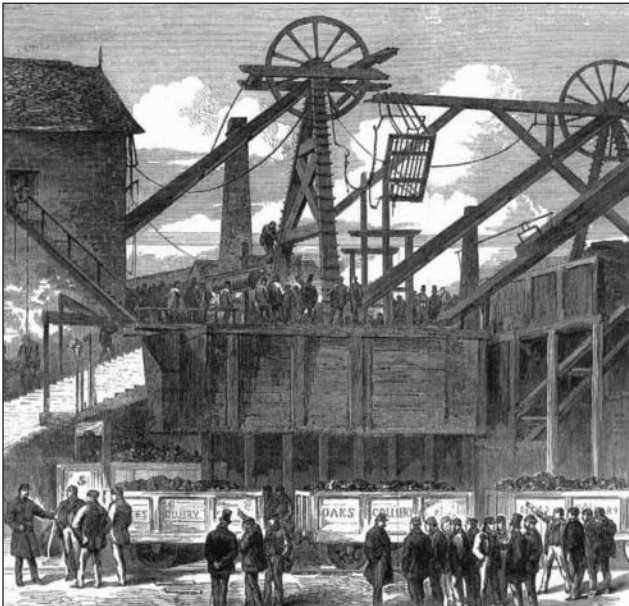


the site and restoring it so that it could be a place of remembrance and have a variety of uses for today's Barnsley residents. This includes education of the public about the history of the site up to the present day, the conservation and protection of the natural environment and retaining the massively important heritage of the area.

It is some of the best surviving architecture and evidence of the coal mining past of Barnsley.

A short film was shown by the Heritage Group, which gave information about the general history of mining in Barnsley and specifically about the Oaks site and disasters. Coal has been mined in Barnsley since the 14th century. It became a world-changing important and significant industry to the development of the whole of the UK during the Industrial Revolution. Without it, iron and steel industries and all the construction that resulted from those, could not have happened.

There have been two major disasters in this location, the first in 1847 when 73 people were killed. The victims of this disaster and their relatives



Engraving of the scene of the 1866 disaster, showing the cage thrown up into the head gear.

are the subject of a book by local Barnsley historian Jane Ainsworth. The story of the second disaster, in 1866, featured in the film shown – when at least 361 men and boys lost their lives, including members of the rescue

party who went into the mine after the first explosions. Recently, it has been suggested that there may have been up to 380 deaths. This uncertainty is partially as a result of collieries at that time not recording who was at work, just whose tubs of coal reached the surface and were to be paid for. A miner who was actually getting the coal (a hewer) would often have members of his family helping load his coal and get it to the surface. These helpers weren't paid by the colliery but rewarded by the hewer. Recent work by Dearne Valley Project has resulted in an online searchable index of victims – **www.discoverdearne.org.uk/oaks-disaster-victims**. Poignantly it indicates that 161 victims have no known graves – it is known that a large number of the bodies of men and boys remain underground here.

In 2016, in order to commemorate the huge disaster, the Heritage Group produced wooden crosses with the name of each victim written on a cross. These were placed on site at Barnsley Main, and a well-attended commemoration service held. The crosses were subsequently preserved as ashes and are retained by the Group.



The building itself is now Grade II Heritage Listed and is an important and an important architectural relic of our history. The steel headstock dates from the 1940s, the brickwork of the building is from various times, starting in the early 1900s. Rail tracks on site are the tracks for tubs that were used to transport materials around the site.

The adjacent muck stack was also mentioned by Helen. A very familiar site in recent history, a muck stack next to a mine was the vast heap of waste material necessarily extracted from the mine in order to get to the coal. These heaps were lowered and flattened in order to make them safer following the Aberfan disaster of 1966. The one at Barnsley Main is now covered in trees and grass and is an incredible look out point over the whole of Barnsley.



Also, a small pop-up museum has been created on site. It is housed in a container and is open during the warmer months when the volunteers are on site, Mondays and Thursdays, 10-12, excepting in awful weather. The museum contains donated artefacts, items found on site, pictures and stories, a reference library, details of the Heritage Group's progress and ongoing research into the lives and times of those who lost their lives on site during its almost 200-year history. This includes those killed in incidents other than major disasters – deaths in mining being so regular as to appear to have been an acceptable part of mining life.

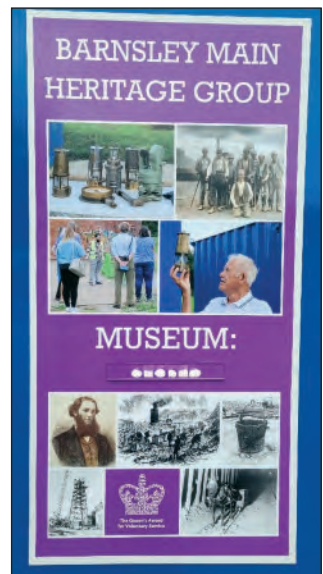




The Museum

Of course, over the years, mining like any other industry has had many ups and downs, and this colliery ultimately stopped production in 1991. There are many visitors on site today who previously were workers there, and many more who have had relatives working at the location. Some of those visitors come from all parts of the country to visit this spot that features as an important part of their family history.

Today, the site is frequented by school groups and scouts, walking parties, dog walkers, naturalists, drone flyers and historians. It is well worth a visit, there is pedestrian access at any time, although the carpark is only open when volunteers are present. Otherwise, the nearest car park is at Dearne Valley Park on Pontefract Road, and a short uphill walk will bring you to the former Colliery location. You can follow the Group on their Facebook site - Barnsley Main Heritage Group.



Janet Town

BARNSELY MAIN DEATHS

During the presentation by Barnsley Main Heritage Group at our meeting in April, Barnsley FHS member Janet Town explained that the Heritage Group were putting together a list of all those killed over the years at Barnsley Main and the Oaks collieries in order that all those that died be remembered, if only in name.

To help with the project, short biographies regarding any of those killed in the Oaks Colliery Explosion of 12th December 1866, plus those killed in other accidents at the pit would be very useful.

Barnsley Main was known by a number of names during its existence: Ardsley Main, Ardsley Oaks, Old Oaks, New Oaks, Rylands Main and Barnsley Main. If one of your ancestors was killed in an accident at these pits, Janet would be pleased to receive a short biography, such as the one below.

Janet says: "The total number of individuals identified as being killed at the above-named pits over the years from 1845 to 1985 currently stands at 623, which includes the horrific totals in the 1847 and 1866 disasters.

One point – ONLY those killed at the pits connected (literally) to Barnsley Main are being documented by this group – the task of documenting all those killed in mining in the Barnsley area would be Herculean!

And finally - your information might be used for an article the Group's Facebook site – Barnsley Main Heritage Group."

Please send your words to Janet at **barnsleymainheritage@gmail.com**

Joseph Walker (16) Cliffe Bridge – killed in the Oaks Colliery Explosion

Joseph was the oldest son of George Walker, a stone mason, and his wife Elizabeth, née Cooper. According to a little notebook kept by his father, he was born at "5 minits to 6 in the morning" on 13th March, 1850.

Joe was killed in the Oaks Colliery explosion on 12th December, 1866. A memorial in the Barnsley Chronicle registers him as "boy": Joseph was 16 years old at the time. The enquiry into the Oaks Colliery explosion records that many of the pony drivers were found with their arms around their ponies' necks, believing that the ponies would walk towards fresh air.

Joseph's death was registered by J. Carr, Clerk to the Oaks Colliery, on 9th March, 1867. However, a list of bodies recovered from the Oaks Colliery lists Joe's body as being recovered on 15th November, 1869 – almost three years after his death. Some bodies were recovered in groups of two or three, but Joe was on his own.

Joe was my Great-Grandfather John Walker's oldest brother. John was two years old at the time of Joe's death, so he never knew his big brother.

Liz Whitehouse

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP – NEWS SNIPPETS



Every month, the Family History Federation (FHF) produces their 'Really Useful' Bulletin of useful information and articles from associated societies around the UK. Imagine my surprise when the headline article this month was the one Liz Whitehouse wrote, in several episodes, about the wartime correspondence between Stan and Grace, her parents.

Working with Letters: a personal experience by Liz Whitehouse is the title of the headline story readers of 'Barnsley Roots' will be familiar with, that of her parents Stan and Grace's letters during the Second World War.

It begins "In January 2001, my sister, Susan, and I were working on the task of clearing our mother's house. Our father, Stan, had died in 1989, just a month short of his seventieth birthday. Our mother, Grace, had declined with dementia to the point where there was no alternative but for her to go into a care home. Susan and I needed to empty the house prior to it being sold. In the bottom of our mother's wardrobe, was a large old cardboard box. Inside we found hundreds of letters, in random piles, in our parents' handwriting or typed on an old manual typewriter. They were the letters our parents wrote to each other between February 1942, when they met, and April 1946, when our father was demobbed after the end of the Second World War. We had no idea that they existed". (I have Liz's permission to write this for the summer Journal.)

It is a real heart-warming read, even if you know that you have read it before. So good to read something from a BFHS member.

FHF Regional Live Events

Organised by Discover Your Ancestors magazine with headline sponsor The Genealogist.

London - Kempton Park - 3rd October 2026

Midlands - Malvern - 13th March 2027

Liverpool - Aintree - 8th May 2027

Details at <https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com>



Barnsley Family History Society is 40 years old this year so our celebration will be held on Thursday 17th September at Buckley Methodist Church Hall. Please come any time from 7pm if you can and bring anyone who may be interested in family history. There should be a paragraph in the above monthly Bulletin from the FHF; I've just got to write it yet!

The National Archives in Kew. It is worth joining in the National Archives website as it has so many interesting articles and events. I know many events are London centric, but I make no apology for including some of them, especially for our members who may live near the London area or who fancy a trip down, anyway.

**REVOLUTION 250
INDEPENDENCE STORY
1763-1783**

The 250th Anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence

The emergence of the United States of America

There is a **FREE** Exhibition at Kew from 24th June to 29th November 2026. Curator tours to explain many of the highlights of the Exhibition details are being run by the people who actually curated the Exhibition. These are available from 17th July to 13th November 2026 with tickets priced at £15.00. There are also **FREE ONLINE EVENTS**:

17th July Early Modern Migration to North America.

24th July Tracing your North American Ancestors 1783-1860

I can vouch for the quality of these events; if you have never attended one, give it a go, you will not be disappointed! It is really worthwhile looking at the National Archives website not just for the events they offer but the variety of books, charts, maps that they sell also.

Margaret E. Williams (BFHS Search Officer)

BFHS SUMMER ANAGRAM QUIZ

There is nothing better in Summer than sitting in a pavement cafe with a coffee and pastry, watching the world go by. People watching is the best!

European cities and sweet treats to solve.



SWEET TREATS

1. A TINT TREAT
2. SEE ACE HECK
3. A MACK DEARIE
4. EIM LIE FLU LIE
5. OPEN AT TEN
6. HE TACKLE COCOA
7. PRESS OUTFIT
8. IS IT A RUM
9. DRAT RIVAL SATAN CULT
10. A FLUID STAR

EUROPEAN CITIES

11. MAT DREAMS
12. BAD SETUP
13. OPEN CHANGE
14. LOCK MOTHS
15. BASILAR VAT
16. JAVA ROSE
17. LIKE SHIN
18. LESS RUBS
19. BUN LID
20. HASTEN

Margaret E. Williams

BARNSELEY MARKET

THE HISTORY of BARNSELEY MARKET 1249 to the present day

What does Barnsley Market mean to you? What are your memories of going there?

I grew up in Halifax, often going to the Victorian Indoor Market and the outdoor fish market.

I only knew of Barnsley Market as there were regular Wednesday coach trips to Barnsley Market which were very popular locally and a great day out, apparently. My Mum and her friends had trips to Barnsley Market about four times a year in the 1950s and very early 1960s.

I must say I was puzzled by her descriptions of the market - until I came to live in Barnsley in the early 1970s, then I understood!

In the 13th Century, Barnsley was in the Parish of Silkstone, in the Wapentake of Staincross, honour of Pontefract in the West Riding in the County of York. The Monks at Monk Bretton Priory were an integral part of medieval trading in this area.

Trading, where people from the villages came to sell their wares, had begun before the Norman Conquest in 1066 with a central hub in most towns for people to gather, buy and sell. Prior to this, traders had gone from door to door or shouted out what goods they had to sell in their villages and hamlets.

In 1249, Barnsley Market was established with a Royal Charter from King Henry III. This was a rare Charter as it was not until the reign of Edward I that local market charters were granted for many more towns and cities. (Most market charters date from around 1260 until early 1300s.)



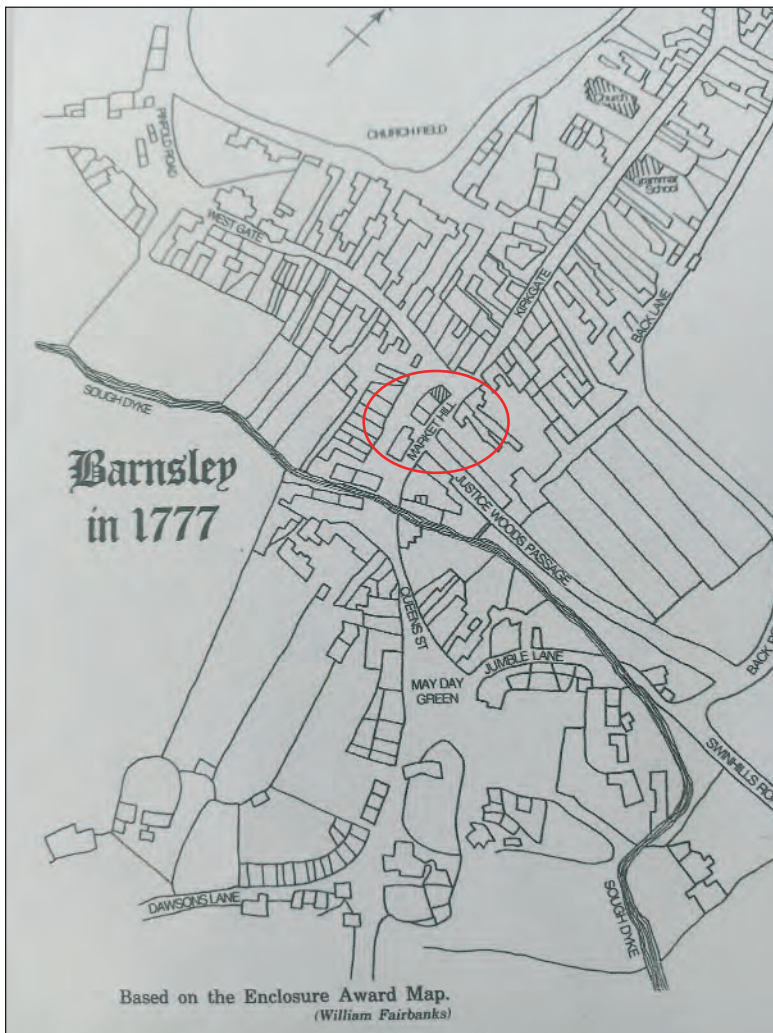
“Know that we have granted, and by our present charter have confirmed for us and our heirs, to our beloved in Christ, the prior and convent of Pontefract, that they, themselves and their successors, may have forever a market each week on Wednesday in their town of Barnsley.” Henry III

This charter also offered the possibility of four Fairs, each two or three days long. Barnsley held three in February, May, Michaelmas. A Pig Fair was always held before the Michaelmas Fair. (It was not until 1583, Queen Elizabeth I granted a Charter for a further fair on May Day Green in August, to be known as the Saint Helen's Fair known locally as "Barnsley Feast". Barnsley Feast week was a very popular holiday period for the town when I came to Barnsley. (My Halifax wedding was timed for Barnsley Feast week in the 1970s!)

So, where was Barnsley Market held in medieval times? According to the wonderful local historian, Brian Elliott, it was in a very small area on Market Hill with the Moot Hall at the top where Market Street meets Church Street and Shambles Street down to the bottom of the hill where there was

Sough Dike which was crossed by a small bridge. There was a variety of market stalls and the Corn Market with the Butchers' market being on Shambles Street. Poultry and eggs were sold in the colonnade of the Moot Hall while the butter market was held in George Yard. It was an offence to hold markets and fairs in churchyards, but Barnsley could still use Churchfields as it was not consecrated ground then. Trading was signalled by the ringing of the bell at the Moot Hall to open and close the market.

In the 14th century, many markets had a **Market Cross**, as it was believed by the early Traders that trading under the protection of Heaven had to be a plus point! Sadly, the Barnsley Market Cross was last seen in 1719. The only Market Cross in the borough now is the Monk Bretton Market Cross on its ancient plinth which also acts as a roundabout!



You will not be surprised to know that there were plenty of pubs, especially on Shambles Street for liquid refreshment, food and company!



This is the derelict Temple Yard off Shambles Street, drawn by Kenneth Leslie Graham in 1932. The Temple Inn had served many market traders and their customers. It had been in that state of decay for many, many years.

In 1405, Henry IV ordered that stocks and a pillory must be installed in every marketplace or the town would lose its right to hold a market. Certain towns did lose their right to a market until they were repaired or replaced. Barnsley stuck to the order of the law!

The Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 began a very important period for Barnsley as all the rights of the Manor of Barnsley

reverted to the Crown. Bizarrely, the Monks from Monk Bretton Priory prospered with their wool trade, brewery and two fulling mills. The Crown then sold the land twice at the end of the 17th century to two different businessmen while with the Enclosure Act of 1777, the Crown granted the land to the Duke of Leeds in lieu of tithes for Barnsley. The Duke saw a business opportunity as the land and the possible minerals underneath the ground were worth a lot more than the tithes!

Light began to dawn in 1821, when a huge gas-post was erected after an Act in 1822 for the Paving, Lighting, Cleansing of Barnsley. The Moot Hall and many very old, decrepit shops were demolished, greatly improving Market Hill. What a difference the light made!

Gradually, from about 1884, changes happened regularly, mostly to the benefit of the growing market. A new Corn Exchange built by public subscription where farmers sold butter, cheese and eggs until 1927, (when it burned down!)

An overflow site in Peel Square for casual traders operated from 1870 to 1890.

It became obvious the market needed to expand so Kendray Street was bought and from 1884 a weekly cattle market was run. This meant that the market was split into two with the east side of Kendray street becoming the Queen's Market for cattle and their pens and the west side became New Market. The New Market is close to where Barnsley Market is now.

Changes are always happening, not always for the best, they definitely bring differing opinions. The loss of many of the outdoor stalls on Market Hill

was roundly criticised in 1972 when a new indoor market was proposed. If you were a stallholder, though, not having to stand in freezing temperatures or driving rain must have been a blessed relief!

It was in January 1973 that Barnsley market moved from May Day Green to Court House Station as a new market hall was built on Cheapside. This is where I came in and first became aware of the importance of the Market to the town.

In 1974, the new Charter Market Hall was opened with 50 stalls on the ground floor and twenty-seven plus four cafes on the first floor. Next to the Hall was the fish market with twenty fish and butchers' stalls. (Why would they be put together?) I loved to get my weekly fish from Coe's, I still miss it now.

The regular Second Hand Market, held every Tuesday since it was first chronicled in the 17th century, still used the outdoor stalls, it does to this day. It's amazing how popular it is, you can find all sorts of objects that you had forgotten had even existed.

In 1999, Barnsley Market was 750 years old. There were celebrations and special events to celebrate.



Stalls on Market Hill 1980

I must bring to your attention a booklet written to commemorate the 750th anniversary. **'The Markets and Fairs of Barnsley'** by **Gerald J. Alliot** is a very detailed history of the journey market trading in Barnsley has been on. The booklet contains so much information that, if you are interested, it is worth reading. I have found Gerald's work invaluable in gathering information for this article. Copies can still be obtained from Barnsley Archives, Lynn Smith at the BFHS Book Sales, or just contact me, I have quite a few!

I want to quote the second to last paragraph of this booklet which hints at the future:

'During the past few years many millions of pounds have been spent on improvements to the markets and, during the not-too-distant future, it is expected that there will be a refurbishing of the interior of the market halls to take them into the new millennium

Never was a truer word spoken!

Even AI has got involved...

'In the 21st century, Barnsley Market transformed from a traditional, very dated retail hub into a vibrant, modern leisure and shopping destination. The heart of the town's sweeping £210 million regeneration, known as The Glass Works, this transformation updated the market's layout while retaining its historic core and heritage dating back to 1249.'

The opinions, arguments, Letters to the Editor at the Barnsley Chronicle were very vocal in their opposition and objections to the new project. You cannot stop change and progress, and this project that included revamping the market layout has been a resounding success.

I often visit Mike's Book Stall on the First Floor. Mike's stalls are well known among readers and authors locally and nationally. Local author Milly Johnson is a great supporter. Mike told me that he moved to his stall at the top of the escalator on 8th July 2005 and that business has thrived since then.



The cafe offering has also expanded hugely with a large section of international cuisine added to the more traditional menu of sites like Hilton's. Even when the main market is closed, several restaurants on the first floor remain open for customers.

The food site of Barnsley Market has won awards for the variety and quality of its offering.

Talking of awards...

On 6th February 2026 Barnsley Indoor Market was named Best Large Indoor Market at the NABMA Great British Market Awards 2026, cementing its position as one of the leading market destinations in the UK.



Courtesy of M Williams

The accolade recognises Barnsley Market's outstanding achievements in supporting traders, fostering new business, and enriching the local community.

The NABMA (National Association of British Market Authorities) awards are the benchmark for excellence in the UK markets sector. Barnsley Market was recognized for its deep community roots, high trader occupancy, and strong support for new and existing vendors.

I have nothing left to add!

Margaret E. Williams (Secretary / Search Officer)

June 2026

My gratitude and heartfelt thanks must go to Barnsley Archives for their continued encouragement and support including the Experience Barnsley Photo Archive.

Also:

The 'History of Barnsley and Surrounding Districts from Early Years to 1850' by Eli Hoyle, stored in Barnsley Archives;

'The Making of Barnsley' by Brian Elliott, published 1992, pages 348 – 392;

'Markets and Fairs of Barnsley' by Gerald J. Alliot, 1999.

All photographs courtesy of Experience Barnsley Photo Archive

THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

The British Newspaper Archive is going to be moved from its **.co.uk** web address to **.com** sometime in July 2026. This is because a **.com** domain is easier to recognise, easier to find internationally and helps search engines show content to a wider global audience.



To quote from their Blog: *"Rebuilding the platform unlocks the next generation of BNA capabilities, including new technology enabled features and transformative approaches to newspaper searching. These improvements will open entirely new ways to explore, interact with, and discover historical newspaper content."*

Also: *"You don't need to create a new account, back up your data, or re-save anything. Everything associated with your account your bookmarks, your saved searches, your research will move across automatically. Your subscription will continue as usual with no changes to when renewals or payments are due"*

And: *"On the new site, your saved content will live within a new feature called Workspaces, which give you more flexible, powerful ways to organise and build on your research. We'll share guidance on how to get the most from this new feature soon."*

I shall continue as before, using the BNA for free searches and then Findmypast to look at any images of interest.

Roger de Mercado

RESULTS OF THE MEMBER SURVEY, APRIL / MAY 2026

Members will remember that the last issue of 'Barnsley Roots' carried a membership questionnaire, which could be removed from the magazine and sent by post or an on-line version could be completed. This is a very short summary of some of the findings from the questionnaire.

Firstly, a big thank you to the 36 members who filled in the questionnaire (15 in writing, 21 on-line). Our apologies to those people who had difficulty reaching the survey online. It seems that some members could reach the survey easily and others could not.

36 people represents about 25% of the membership at the time the survey was launched. Although it would have been great to have had more feedback, these 36 responses are enough for a statistically significant sample.

We were not surprised to find that 22% of respondents were aged between 36 and 66 and the remaining 78% were over 66 years. We are primarily a society of older people. Most of the respondents lived outside the South Yorkshire area, but none lived outside the UK. 28% lived in Barnsley and South Yorkshire.

Unsurprisingly, the majority never attended meetings, reflecting the nearly 80% of respondents who lived outside the South Yorkshire area.

Our questions about digital services provided useful answers. We asked members whether they would watch Society meetings if they were streamed on Zoom. Thirty respondents said that they would like access to Zoom meetings (83%) and six said 'No' (17%).

The majority of respondents did not want to receive the Journal digitally (23% 'Yes' and 77% 'No'). The question of a Barnsley FHS Facebook page was more evenly split. Eighteen respondents said 'Yes' (55%) and 15 said 'No' (45%).

The open question about how members used the Barnsley FHS web site brought some interesting responses and suggestions. The most common reason to use the web site seemed to be to search for ancestors in common with other members in the 'Members' Interests' section.

A number of respondents commented along the same lines as this member: *"I find the web site very dated in appearance and not easy to navigate."* and others made suggestions regarding things that they would like to see on the web site.

The final page was left open for any other comments that members wanted to make. Some people took the opportunity to thank members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication:

"The Officers do very well, and their efforts are much appreciated."

"I am very happy with everything the way it is and have always found the Society Committee members I have spoken to by phone, so very nice and helpful in every way. I did write a piece that you published and am working on another."

Others took the opportunity to make further suggestions and to ask questions. As the survey was anonymous, it is not possible to answer these questions directly.

A couple of respondents mentioned that the Journal did not feature much (or anything) about the villages and areas where their ancestors lived. The Journal is written entirely by our members and therefore features the areas of interest of those who write. There is little that the Editor can do to influence this, apart from encouraging members to write and submit articles of interest to the wider membership to the Journal.

Several people asked for a map to show the villages in the Barnsley MBC area. The front page of the web site does have a small map (*reproduced below - Ed.*) showing the area with the main towns and villages. Barnsley Council also has a more detailed map showing the Council boundaries. You can find this at www.barnsley.gov.uk/barnsley-maps/barnsley-interactive-map/

Thank you, once again, to all those who responded. The Committee will now look in detail at the responses. You may find some changes being made as a result of the survey but, as always in a small voluntary organisation, ideas will take time to discuss, decide and find volunteers to implement.

Liz Whitehouse



**WILLIAM TOWN - Factory Worker, Wheelwright, Waterworks
Keeper and Manager, Farmer**

One of my Great Grandfathers, William Town, appears to have lived a varied, interesting and eventful life with diverse jobs, several homes and thirteen children!

He is the sixth child of a Halifax wheelwright, appearing on his first census in 1851, all of ten years old and with occupation listed as 'Worker at Factory'. What this might have been is not specified, but the phrase 'dark, satanic mills' comes immediately to mind, given the location and the fact that three of his older sisters are also described as Factory Workers. A sign of the times that education could not be first and foremost for the family of this generation.

However, by the age of twenty, William has obviously been learning at his father's knee and is a journeyman wheelwright. The description 'journeyman' usually means that a tradesman has advanced from being an apprentice in their chosen field but is still learning - not yet a master of the craft.

But a different opportunity then arose because William moves to Ingbirchworth, working at the new reservoir there, possibly using his skills to be involved in the construction of this important Barnsley area water supply, which was completed in 1868. Horses would have been a vital part of the work, and William seems to have had a lifelong love and interest in the working heavy horses. William marries Anne and is a resident at the Fountain Inn, Ingbirchworth in 1871. Children are added regularly to the household, including a set of twins. Anne must have been worn out - 13 surviving offspring, although five of them were to die in diverse circumstances before their parents. A gravestone at Upper Denby churchyard remember their lives, reading:

**In affectionate Remembrance of
Emilie Frances
the beloved daughter of
William and Anne Town
who died April 3rd 1891
aged 12 years**

**Also of Eveline their daughter
born January 14th 1873
Died February 25th 1894**

**Also of Lilian their daughter
born September 17th 1869
Died January 1st 1899**

**Also of Frank their son
who died Nov 29th 1915
aged 25 years**

**Also Maria Louisa their daughter
who died at Hawkesbury, Ontario
May 26th 1918
Aged 42 years**



Gravestone at Upper Denby Churchyard

Throughout these years marked by the loss of children, William works at the Ingbirchworth reservoir, eventually occupying 'Reservoir House' there.

How vital the reservoirs around Barnsley are to the population is apparent from the monthly reports submitted to Council about the levels of storage and rainfall, reports which are often detailed in the local newspapers. For instance, in August 1904 a very typical entry in the Barnsley Chronicle states that it was reported that the reservoir at Ingbirchworth was thirteen feet below the overflow sill and at a year previous was eleven feet below the sill. From the First January the rainfall at Ingbirchworth had been 22.18 ins compared with 22.89 ins of the previous year.

Back to William though – not just a measurer of water, his job involved keeping the reservoir secure and clean, as shown by a newspaper court case report of 1871:

As the bench was aware, the Corporation had been at very considerable expense in constructing new waterworks at Ingbirchworth, and during the past two or three years, notwithstanding the vigilance of their manager there, they had sustained considerable damage through trespassers fishing, gathering water cresses, and trampling down the trees. Now the Corporation

must ask the bench to inflict severe penalties. The facts of the case were these: On Sunday, the defendant and seven others were within the walls for the purpose of gathering water-cresses.—William Town, the watcher and manager at Ingbirchworth, proved the charge. He said for several years the works had been subject to trespass: such had been very common. They had come fishing, shooting ducks, gathering water cresses, and on. Parties had got within the walls, and had used guns, and he had had very great difficulty in catching them. On the 16th April he saw defendant and ten or a dozen others within the walls of the reservoir. He knew defendant quite well: was gathering water-cresses.—The magistrates said the practice of trespassing here was one which must put stop to. They imposed a penalty of 20s. and costs.

Unfortunately the job also meant occasionally being involved with suicide victims – the location being the site of several body recoveries over the years. In June 1904 it was reported that Albert Town (William's son who became my grandfather, then aged 17) found the body of a drowned woman and subsequently appeared at the inquest. But arguably the most tragic incident there was the suicide of two fifteen-year-old girls in 1911, found with their wrists linked by string with heather. How distressing for all involved.

Another aspect of reservoir life was similar to what still happens today – the watching of wildlife, observed and recorded. A newspaper article from January 1872 relates that on 'December 10th and subsequent days a large flock of the whistling swan or hooper, so-called from its frequent cry of "hoop", settled on the Ingbirchworth reservoir belonging to the Barnsley Corporation. On one occasion 28 were counted. The manager of the waterworks informs me that they fly at a great height from which they perceive any suitable sheet of water on which to settle.'

In addition to his work at the reservoir, William also farmed at Ingbirchworth until 1917, when an auction poster advertises the sale of some assets as he retires from that aspect of his career.

Auction at Millhouse Farm, Ingbirchworth, April 19, 1917.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1917.

MILLHOUSE FARM
INGBIRCHWORTH, PENISTONE.

A.E. WILBY & SON
(Approved with instructions from MR. WILLIAM TOWN, who is retiring from Farming, will sell by Auction, the whole of the Live and Dead Farming Stock, comprising

TWO HORSES.
Chestnut Hackney Colt, 2 years old, Brown Darting Colt, 2 years old, sire Locking Hazel dam 7/380 Daisy 11

EIGHT BEASTS.

1 Red Heifer in milk, fat	5 Roan Heifer served February
2 Red Heifer served January	6 Red Heifer served February
3 Roan Heifer served January	7 Roan Heifer 16 months old
4 Roan Heifer served January	8 Red and White Bullock 16 months old

26 HEAD OF POULTRY.

IMPLEMENTS
Dog Cart painted black with red wheels and shafts, rubber tyres, lamps and cushions, complete. 40 Cart painted white, big wheels, sideboards and 4 pulleys. 1 Standby, Hay Swing, Chaff Cutter, Chain Drains, Round Baler, 2 Road Cows, new, Hay Knife and Spade, 4 Sheep Trugs, 20 Sacks, Hides, Fences and Boundary Small Implements.

HARNESS - Set of Cart Gear, Set of Ring Gears, pair of Fouch Pads, 2 Sets of Running Harness, and Sundry Part Sets of Harness.

SALE AT 1 P.M.
Auctioneers: A. Wilby & Son, 14, Cross Street, and 15, Market Street, Barnsley. (Telephone No. 1274)

J. H. Wood, The Millhouse Farm, Penistone.

That one of his horses was sired by 'Lockinge Hazel' was obviously significant, because a card regarding that horse's services was retained. Another little gem of history, the card was printed by 'Wood. Stud card printer. Penistone Yorks.'



LOCKINGE HAZEL.

Hazlehead Stud Farm.

The Shire Stallion

Lockinge Hazel

26391 S.H.S.B.

Bred by LADY WANTAGE, Lockinge Stud,
Wantage, Berks.

THE PROPERTY OF

Joseph G. Turner,

Ranah Stones Farm,
HAZLEHEAD, NEAR SHEFFIELD.

SEASON 1916.

Breed the Best if you Breed at all!

Size, Substance, Quality & Soundness!

LOCKINGE HAZEL

26391 S.H.S.B. Brown. Foaled 1907.
Stand 17-1 hh.

Sire—Lockinge Forester 19777

g sire Lockinge Manners 16780
g g sire Prince Harold 14228
g g g sire Harold 3759

Dam—29957 Saxon Lively

by Rebel Chief of Trishfield 14288 by Insurgent 11668
g dam 18625 Croft Golden Queen by Golden King 13114
g g dam 18022 Croft Diamond by Sir Garnet 4937

LOCKINGE HAZEL has been shown at London Shire Horse Show three times, getting in the money each time, and in 1914 he stood higher than ever, which proves he is capable of winning in good company, and holds a certificate of soundness from the Veterinary Inspectors, London S.H.S., 1914.

LOCKINGE HAZEL won prizes:—1909 2nd Cheshire County; 1910 Highly Commended London S.H.S. (61 entries), 1st Cheshire County, 1st Adlington and East Cheshire (open class); 1912 Commended London S.H.S. (43 entries); 1914 Highly Commended London S.H.S. (50 entries)—only times shown.

LOCKINGE HAZEL stood won prizes:—1913 2nd Crewe Fox Show and Sale; and was sold for a very high price, 1st County Class, 2nd Open Class, Biddulph, 2nd Leek Fox Show and Sale, and made highest price for foals in the Sale, 51 guineas and 299 guineas. The highest-priced foal was sold by Mr. G. Mallin, North Road, Congleton, and was only 44 months old. 1914, a two-year-old filly, Nutwood Hazel Bloom, sold at Peterboro' for 64 guineas; a yearling filly sold at Preston for 35 guineas; and a two-year-old gelding won 1st prize at Leek Show and Sale, and made the

highest price, 52 guineas. 1915, a two-year-old filly sold at Preston Shire Horse Sale for 100 guineas, making the highest price; 1st and 2nd Penistone.

LOCKINGE FORESTER 19777 is full brother to LOCKINGE FOREST KING 18867, who was without doubt the greatest sire of Shire Horses, and sire of more winners than any other horse at London S.H.S. six years in succession.

29957 Saxon Lively won prizes:—1898 two 1sts and Champion Walmsley, 1st Bridge, two 1sts and Champion Alford, 1st and Champion Burch, 1st and Champion Spicely, 1st and Champion Horncastle—only times shown.

Insurgent 11668 won 1st London S.H.S. and other prizes.

LOCKINGE HAZEL 26391 travelled one district four seasons and left 90% in foal.

Fee - 3 Guineas. Groom's Fee 5/-

Groom's Fee to be paid at time of serving, the remainder on or before June 24th, or 10/- extra will be charged for collecting without further notice.

All Mares tried by this horse and not brought forward to be served will be charged the season's charges.

No Mare to be served unless by the Groom's consent.

Should the horse be incapable of fulfilling his engagements the Owner reserves to himself the right to substitute another.

All Accounts to be paid to Owner or Groom on or before 21st June, 1916.

T. G. Turner does not hold himself responsible for any Mare during trying or serving or at grass.

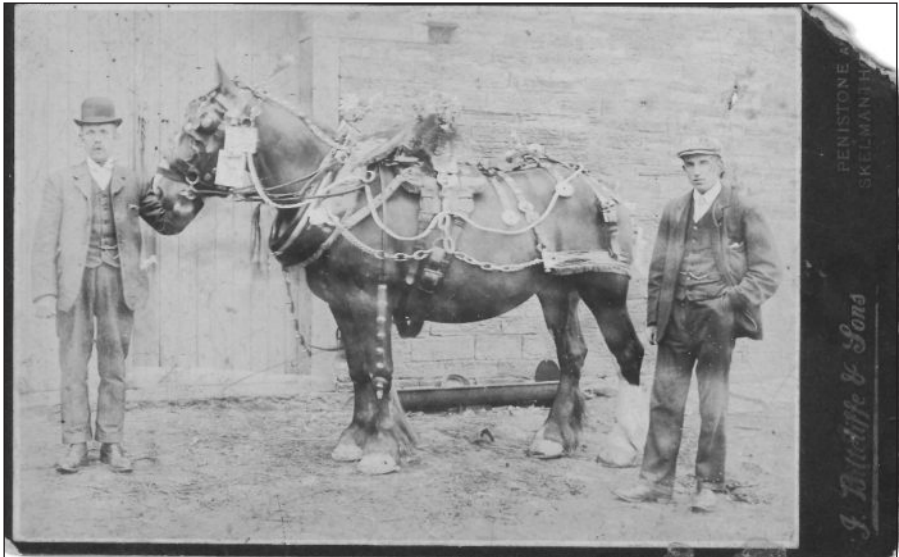
Mares and Foals taken at Grass.

For further particulars apply—

JOSEPH G. TURNER,
RANAH STONES FARM,
HAZLEHEAD, nr. SHEFFIELD.

WOOD, STUD CARD PRINTER, PENISTONE, YORKS.

Possibly this is William holding one of his horses, but as so often with family photos, there is no information on the reverse. A bit of detective work regarding the photographers though – J Biltcliffe and Sons of Penistone and Skelmanthorpe – reveals that this photo must have been after about 1904, when the Biltcliffes opened their Skelmanthorpe branch. William would have been about 64 years old then.



And another family photo, usefully dated this time 'Coronation 1911', shows William and Anne seated in the carriage at the right, this time with their son Albert holding the horse.



William and Anne, together with their unmarried daughter Mary lie in the graveyard of St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Denby. 1841 – 1924 was William's life span – and it is always thought-provoking to consider world events that coincided with that lifetime. Occurrences the family lived through, endured, and talked about – Disraeli, Gladstone, the disaster at Oaks Colliery, Queen Victoria, the Empire, Boer war, the Titanic, the Great War, and innumerable other events.

Janet Town



THE STAN AND GRACE STORY – July 2026

Stan and Grace Letters – End of March to End of May, 1944

In the last installment of the letters we left Stan settling into life at the Royal Signals base in Bari on the west coast of the 'leg' of Italy. Grace, still in Nottingham, had just passed her exams to become a State Registered Nurse. During war time, the Government took wide-ranging powers over how people lived and worked, directing people into places that needed staff. On 13th March, Grace tells Stan in her letter that it is possible that she may be facing a huge change:

"On April the 1st there is to be a new "call-up" of Nurses. The Matron of each hospital is allowed to keep one S.R.N. for each ward and dept: and the other nurses are going to be put wherever there is a shortage in fever or T.B. hospitals. The only alternatives will be taking midwifery, being a Queens nurse (district) or joining one of the nursing services attached to the forces.

I am lucky as I am staffing on a ward so it is most unlikely that I shall be moved. If I had to be moved I would not do fever or T.B. nursing (not after 5 years hard work for my S.R.N.) I would not be a Queens nurse as it is a six months training, poor off duty and includes a lot of chronic nursing on a district. If one decides to take midwifery it is another year's training which includes lectures and more exams and then one has to practice it for another year whether one likes it or not so I am not entertaining that idea.

The only thing left would be the Forces. Several of my friends here are joining and will go at the end of the year. I cannot make up my mind what to do. What do you think, Darling? Though I have an idea what your answer will be."

One fairly momentous event occurred in Italy towards the end of March, 1944 – about 100 miles to the east of Bari, on the opposite coast of Italy, on 18 March, Mount Vesuvius erupted. This was the volcano which, back in AD 79, erupted and covered the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum in a deep, smothering coat of ash. The eruption was featured in the national press in the UK, so Stan was able to mention it in his letters. On 24th March he writes:

"As you know Vesuvius is erupting at the moment & an amazing thing happened yesterday. When I awoke the sky was absolutely black – blacker than I have ever seen it, and about 9 a.m. it started raining mud!! It was an amazing thing. It kept on all morning & by lunchtime everything had a coating of reddish-black mud.

It was funny to see blokes coming into the office with their faces looking as though they had done a shift down the pit.....

I should very much like to get to Naples to see this eruption, but I can't seem to manage it. I was speaking to an officer yesterday who was saying what a wonderful yet frightening sight it was."

On 20th March, Stan replies to Grace's letter, but needs much more space than is allowed in an airmail form. He decides to take a chance, break the rules and put in an extra page. He goes through the pros and cons of the different options and then says:

"The thing I dread most of all about you joining the Forces my dear (and again it is a purely selfish one) is that you might get posted to some corner of the Empire and have to stay there for a long time and in the meantime I get pushed back to England again. It would be most annoying (to say the least) if I got back to England and found you were in, say India. But that's crossing bridges before one gets to them, isn't it?"

Anyway, I should stop at Nottingham until the end of the year if that is possible and then, perhaps (says he hopefully) the war will have got to such a stage that your services will not be required."

The censor spotted the extra page and opened the letter. On reading the content, he simply signs it "OK, Censor" and seals it back up again. He can see how difficult it is for a young couple to make serious decisions simply by airmail letter.

Now Stan is based in Italy, he is finding the opportunity not only to attend concerts by ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association, formed in 1939 to take entertainment to the troops in the UK and abroad) but also opera. In March he saw 'Madam Butterfly' performed by an Italian company and in April, 'The Merry Widow' performed by an ENSA company.

April was quite an uneventful month. Grace went home to Grimethorpe for a long weekend and paid a visit to see her new cousin. Grace's aunt Hilda Cuthbert (née Walker) has had a baby girl, Elizabeth Ann, at the 'old' age of 43. Elizabeth's oldest sister is nearly 20!

At the beginning of May Stan is given six days' leave. As he says, he is ready for it as he has had no leave for 18 months. He and a friend are going to visit Naples, taking in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Also at the beginning of May, Stan and Grace are beginning to anticipate the opening of the 'Second Front' (the Allied invasion of the European mainland). They do not know how or when it will happen but they seem to be conscious that something "is in the offing". Stan says:

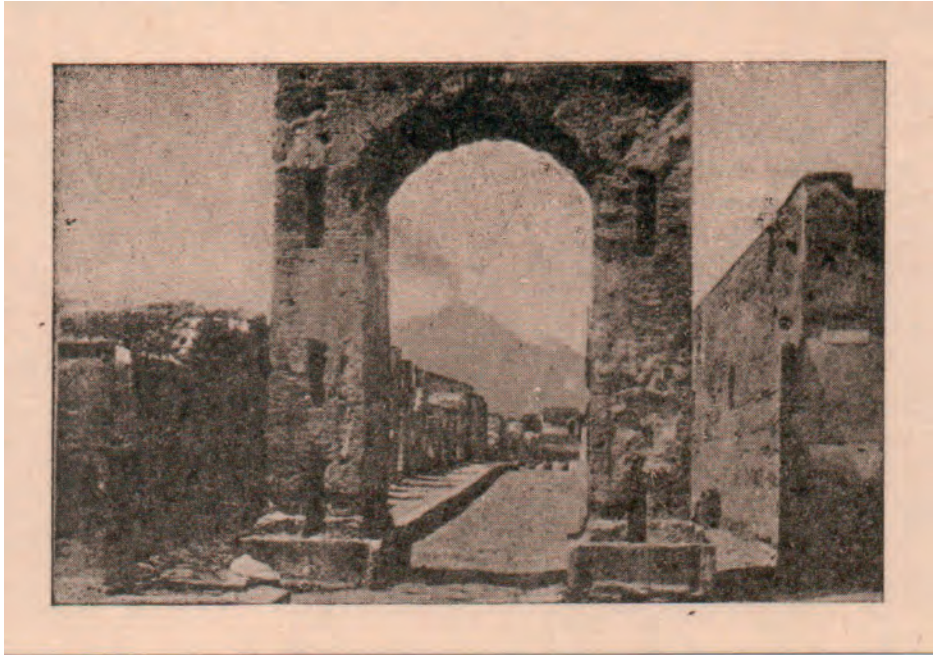
"Had a letter from Mother, too, yesterday in which she mentioned the use your hospital will probably be put too (some women simply don't know anything about censorship!!). I don't suppose you will be very pleased, but it will perhaps keep you out of the QAIMNS."

Stan took his holiday to Naples and went out to see the ruins of Pompeii. That evening he wrote:

"I've just had a very tiring day walking through the streets of ancient Pompeii and am at present sitting in the Sergeants' Mess garden which overlooks the bay. It is rapidly getting dusk & on the cool evening breeze, so refreshing

after the heat of the day, is wafting the mixed perfumes of roses, lilies, orange blossom & carnations. It is a romantic setting, Darling. Oh! If only you were here to enjoy it with me."

He says that he will write a long 'sea' letter to Grace describing his holiday in Naples. Sadly, if that letter did arrive, it has been lost. However, Stan did bring home with him packs of what he calls 'views' of both Pompeii and Naples. To us these look very fuzzy and dull, printed in 1930s sepia, but I am sure they brought back many vivid memories when Stan eventually arrived home.



Finally, on a topical point, on 29th May, Grace wrote to Stan and began by saying:

"It is perfect "Whit Monday" weather. It has been really hot all day. I have felt very glad that we are not busy as it has been too hot to do much work."

Readers will remember that recently the UK had its hottest May day since 1944. The temperature on 29th May, 1944 reached 32.8 degrees C and this stood as the highest temperature reached in the UK in May until 26th May, 2026, when the temperature reached 35.1 degrees C in Kew Gardens, London.

Liz Whitehouse

SUMMER CRANBERRY DRINK

This recipe is written just as my Auntie Florence Ferry gave it to me on a very crumpled and well-read piece of paper given to her by my Great Grandma. It is a lovely Summer Drink, best chilled before drinking. I wasn't allowed a drink of this until I was 18 years old, allegedly, but Auntie Florence used to give me a drink disguised in an old mug! It is delicious. (I had no idea cranberries were available in London in the 1890s!)



Instructions

- Put a tea-cupful of cranberries into a cupful of water, and mash them.
- In the meantime, boil two quarts of water with one large tablespoonful of oatmeal and a bit of lemon-peel; add the cranberries, and sugar (but not too much, otherwise the fine sharpness of the fruit will be destroyed), a quarter of a pint of white wine, or less, according to taste; simmer for half an hour and strain. Leave to cool in a jug.

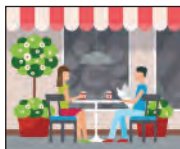
Measurement Conversions

- One teacupful = **Metric Cup:** 250 ml (used in the UK, Australia and Canada)
- Fresh cranberries 1 cup = 3.53 oz of fresh cranberries
- One quart = in the UK, 1 imperial quart is equal to **1.136 litres** (or 40 UK fluid ounces).
- Quarter of a pint = **In the UK/Ireland (Imperial):** 1/4 of a pint is approximately **142 ml** (1 Imperial pint = 568mls).

Margaret E. Williams

SUMMER QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. TARTE TATIN | 11. AMSTERDAM |
| 2. CHEESECAKE | 12. BUDAPEST |
| 3. MADEIRA CAKE | 13. COPENHAGEN |
| 4. MILLE-FEUILLE | 14. STOCKHOLM |
| 5. PANETTONE | 15. BRATISLAVA |
| 6. CHOCOLATE CAKE | 16. SARAJEVO |
| 7. PETITS FOURS | 17. HELSINKI |
| 8. TIRAMISU | 18. BRUSSELS |
| 9. VANILLA CUSTARD TART | 19. DUBLIN |
| 10. FRUIT SALAD | 20. ATHENS |



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.

2018 Mr Paul Brackenbury

2020 Ms Jenny Gill

2019 Ms Jan Fleming

2021 Mr Clive Evans

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS' INTERESTS JULY 2026

Mem. No.	2018	Paul Brackenbury		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Brackenbury	All	WRY	ENG	1890 to 2026
Brackenbury	Bolton-upon-Dearne	WRY	ENG	1890 to 2026

Mem. No.	2019	Jan Fleming		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Atkinson	Barnsley	WRY	ENG	Any

Mem. No.	2020	Jenny Gill		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Eastwood	Hoylandswaine	WRY	ENG	1700 to 1840
Gill	Cawthorne	WRY	ENG	1700 to 1840
Gill	Hoylandswaine	WRY	ENG	1700 to 1840
Powell	Hoylandswaine	WRY	ENG	1700 to 1840

Mem. No.	2021	Clive Evans			
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period	
Evans	Carlton	WRY	ENG	1770 to 1920	
Evans	Dudley	WOR	ENG	1840 to 1850	
Evans	Kingswinford	STS	ENG	1840 to 1850	
Evans	Gawber	WRY	ENG	1870 to 1920	
Evans	Low Valley	WRY	ENG	1870 to 1920	
Evans	Monk Bretton	WRY	ENG	1870 to 1920	
Evans	Wath-upon-Dearne	WRY	ENG	1870 to 1920	
Moore	Dudley	WOR	ENG	1840 to 1850	
Moore	Kingswinford	WRY	ENG	1840 to 1850	

Notes:

My Grandfather **John William Evans** was born in Carlton on 5 Jan 1897. His parents were **John** and **Rose Ann Evans**. Unfortunately his father John died of cancer when he was only 3 years old. Rose Ann then married **Titus Lumb** (born 1877).

John's parents were **Thomas** and **Sarah Evans** who also had a son named **Thomas Henry Evans** who was killed in a coal mine accident at the Carton Main Colliery aged 21 in 1897.

I am trying to find more info on Thomas and Sarah (née Moore) Evans and anything beyond that if possible. I think they both came from Kingswinford/Dudley area but not 100% sure.

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between April and June 2026:

Atkinson, Brackenbury, Eastwood, Evans, Gill, Moore, Powell.

Jeff Chambers

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

Please check our website for updates.

July & August	Summer Recess.
17 th September	Rodney Dimbleby , 'Yorkshire Dialect'
15 th October	To be announced

Rod Dimbleby tells traditional stories from around the world, but tends to specialise in Yorkshire dialect stories when with local groups. He is Chairman of the Council of the Yorkshire Dialect Society and editor of 'Summer Bulletin', one of the Society's annual publications.

He has written a number of books, including 'Discovering John Hartley's Clock Almanacs 1867 – 1916' - a treasure trove of Yorkshire dialect, 'Let's Talk Tyke' and a translation of Antoine de Sainte-Exupéry's book 'The Little Prince' into Yorkshire dialect as 'T' Little Prince'.

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 October 2026 edition by 31st August 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 each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August and December. 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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Phillip Watson and Elaine Jackson at the Liverpool Family History Show, Aintree Racecourse, 9th May 2026.

Barnsley
Family History
Society

Ruby Anniversary



1986-2026