



- AUGUST**
- 1. Ladies' Circle Market Stall.
  - 4. Eggleston Agricultural Society Stewards' and Ladies' Committee Meetings.
  - 16. Dinner Dance, Bowes Moor Hotel.
  - 19. Buldron Village Hall Whist Drive.
  - 20. Barnard Castle Circuit Market Stall.
  - 21. Saindrop Folk Club Barn Dance, Butterknowle Village Hall.
  - 22. Boldron Sports and Pony Gymkhana.
  - 23. Dinner Dance, Bowes Moor Hotel.
- SEPTEMBER**
- 4. Coherstone Conservative Assoc. Coffee Evening, Balder Grange.
  - 6. Gainford Horticultural Society Annual Show.
  - 10. Abbeyfield House Coffee Morning.
  - 13. Conservative Association Fete, Whorlton Hall.
  - 17. Barnard Castle Arts Association presents The Teesdale Fiddlers at Teesdale School.
  - 19. Rugby Club Jubilee Sale, Parish Hall.
  - 20. Woodland Village Hall Supper Dance.

## ANCIENT REMAINS FOUND AT FORCE GARTH FARM

### Experts called in to sift evidence

Remains of a house that was lived in by one of Teesdale's early farming families about 1,900 years ago are being uncovered in a field at High Force.

Part of the sturdy outer wall and a tiled floor can be seen on the site (now part of Mr Roy Beadle's Force Garth Farm) some 200 yards from the waterfall.

From clues picked up on the site so far, experts can tell quite a lot about the farmers who occupied the house in the first century A.D. — and about the neighbours who lived nearby.

There were at least five other houses in the settlement, set into the side of a hill. A thick wall was built right round them, and topped by a timber stockade, to guard

against wild animals and possibly plundering raiders.

They had stones for grinding corn, which probably means they could grow the crop in small clearances, sheltered by heavy forests around, whereas no corn is grown in the upper dale today.

They also had looms and spindles which indicates that they kept sheep. No firm evidence has been found of cattle, but it is likely that they did have some.

#### Early Settlers

A Roman bead has been found, and fragments of Roman pottery. One theory is that the farmers got these by trading in some way with the Roman camp at Piercebridge, or by providing services for the soldiers.

A dig is being carried out on the

site by a team from Middleton St. George College of Education, of whom one is Mr Dennis Coggins of the High Force Hotel.

A history lecturer at the college, he has been joined in the venture by Mr Ken Fairless, senior lecturer in ancient history and archaeology, plus students and ex-students, and some pupils from Eston. At times there have been 30 diggers on the site in the last four weeks.

Charcoal traces taken from a hearth in the house have been sent to the nuclear research establishment at Harwell. It is hoped that a department there can put a date on the remains.

Other items are being sent to The Bowes Museum, who are co-operating fully. Help is also being given by Lord Barnard, the Nature Conservancy, the Department of the Environment and Roy Beadle, who is enthusiastic about learning more about his predecessors on the farm.

Another building was excavated in the area last year, and then filled in again, but apart from that very little had ever been done in this sort of work in Teesdale.

Mr Coggins, whose personal interest led to the project being started, said it will do a lot to explain the life of early settlers in Teesdale in particular, and Britain in general.

In the house now being inspected there was a floor cobbled and then paved, but under this there is evidence of the floor of a smaller house, possibly from the 1st century B.C.

#### Stone Foundations

The larger house has stone foundations, but there would be timber walls. In the floor there are holes in which poles would stand to support the roof. There is one small partition, probably a bedroom.

Mr Coggins and Mr Fairless believes that 10-15 people might have stayed in the house. The whole colony might have had 30 people, but the total could have been two or three times greater.

It was apparently not a military site, as it was not right at the top of a hill, but it was certainly defensive, as most settlements would have to be in those days.

There is no evidence yet about when or why the settlement closed. It might have been used for two or three centuries, but the diggers hope to turn up more clues which will tell them more.

The farmers probably did some sort of ironwork, because fragments of iron slag have been picked up, along with little bits of metal such as iron studs.

The experts say that this is a difficult type of dig to do — compared with, say, a Roman site — because the building methods of the early Britons varied so much from place to place, and the shapes are not so predictable.

It is also one of the less spectacular and fashionable digs in archaeological terms — unless there is a really startling discovery, and there is only a remote chance of that.

But they say it is worthwhile as it will show the sort of lives led by Upper Teesdale farmers almost 2,000 years ago.

Every piece of stone is being charted, and the site photographed and surveyed at each stage. When the digging stops, and every piece of evidence sifted the site will be covered in again.



Mr Dennis Coggins (right) seen with his colleague, Mr Ken Fairless, lecturer in history at Middleton St. George, discussing plans for the dig. The bottom picture shows parts of the ancient settlement exposed by the operation.



## LOCAL POLICE CHIEF RETIRES



Chief Inspector Derek Harrison, on the left, has taken over command of the Teesdale division of Durham County Police. He has succeeded the man on the right of the picture, Chief Inspector Ronnie Simpson, who has just retired.

Between them is Chief Superintendent Jack Collinson, head of the Bishop Auckland division, which includes Teesdale. The photograph was taken when they were on duty together for the last time.

Mr Collinson knows Teesdale well, having been held at the C.I.D. at Barnard Castle during the early days of his service. "I certainly like this part of the world," he said.

Mr Simpson was given a farewell party at Whorlton by the policemen of the district. He has now settled in Barnard Castle.

## TEES CLAIMS YET ANOTHER VICTIM

### WHORLTON LIDO TRAGEDY

More notices warning the public of the danger of bathing in the river Tees at the Whorlton Lido were needed, said the Coroner, Mr Harold Hewitt, at the inquest at Bishop Auckland on Friday on a nine-year-old Witton-le-Wear boy who drowned there early last week.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death on Ian Saunders, of St. James Gardens, Witton-le-Wear, who met his death when he fell backwards into deep water while he and his friends were playing with a ball.

Vain efforts were made to save him by the part-time driver of the lido miniature train and a number of youths who dived repeatedly into the water. Police frogmen later recovered the body.

#### Supervision

Mr Hewitt said the real crux of the matter appeared to be one of supervision. Children had no sense of danger in water and without criticising Mr Saunders, father of the boy, he advised that when children were taken to a river they should be supervised all the time until they reached an age and competence when they could enjoy deep spots on their own.

"What I would like to see would be notices in the more dangerous spots to draw people's attention to where specifically it is dangerous," he said.

## Bid to revive ancient sport

In the mining villages of Durham County and in the villages throughout Teesdale, quoits has been a favourite pastime, but of late the game has decreased in popularity.

At local village shows an occasional quoits competition is organised and many of the older generation would surely wish to see a revival.

Efforts are now being made by Mr John Alderson, of 18 Vane Road, Barnard Castle, to revive interest and he is trying to form a club in the town.

Anyone interested should contact him at home or ring 3375.

## Party for diamond couple

A party was held at Dunelm Court, Barnard Castle, on Thursday in honour of Mr and Mrs J. W. Robinson, who celebrated their diamond wedding.

The party was being given by Miss G. Ridley, also a resident. In opening the proceedings Mrs S. Tudberry, the warden, congratulated Mr and Mrs Robinson on achieving sixty years of married life. She added that she was always pleased to be able to assist in social events such as these.

Sister Lewis read out a telegram from the Queen to Mr and Mrs Robinson congratulating them on their diamond wedding.

Entertainment was provided by Mrs Audas who sang well known songs, Mrs Robinson also sang and played her mouth organ, which she does very well indeed. Sister Lewis and Miss Ridley gave a humorous sketch, and Miss Ridley played the piano.

Refreshments were provided by Miss Ridley and Mrs Winlow. Guests included Mrs I. Stoddart (treasurer), and Mr L. Shaw (secretary), both from the Over Sixty Club, Mrs Audas, Sister Lewis, also from the Over Sixty Club.

Everybody present appeared to enjoy the party and at the close the toast to the happy couple was proposed by Mr L. Shaw, who said that sixty years of life was an achievement but sixty years of married life was outstanding, and the couple looked fit for many more years.

Many presents from relatives, friends and well wishers were on view during the party, together with flowers and cards. Mr and Mrs Robinson thanked everyone, especially Miss Ridley and Mrs Tudberry who had made it such an enjoyable time.

## CAT CASTLE QUARRY PLAN

The executors of the Lartington Estates are applying to the Teesdale District Council for planning permission to reclaim the disused Castle and railway lines on the estate between Barnard Castle and Tebay and Barnard Castle and Middleton by removing stone and breeze from the tracks.

The executors are making further application to re-open the old Cat Castle quarry.

## Stoneleigh Friends raise £306

The garden fete held at Stoneleigh on 2nd August raised the magnificent sum of £306-22. The matron and the committee of the League of Friends wish to thank all who contributed in any way towards making this first effort such a wonderful success.

## Farming family bereaved

By the recent death of Mrs Jane Hutchinson at her home at 26 Hude, Middleton-in-Teesdale, a well known upper dale family has lost one of its remaining members. Mrs Hutchinson, who was 85, had spent the greater part of her life in the Forest and Etersgill areas before she and her brother retired to Middleton-in-Teesdale a few years ago.

She was the widow of Mr Ralph Hutchinson, who lost his life in the 1914-18 war. Subsequently Mrs Hutchinson and her brother, Mr J. J. Beadle, farmed for a lengthy period at Egg Pot, a lonely and out-of-the-way holding between Forest and Etersgill.

Throughout her life Mrs Hutchinson maintained the family connection with Methodism in the upper dale.

She gave regular support to the Ebenezer Chapel at Forest and was one of its oldest members.

Mrs Hutchinson was looked upon as a reliable and helpful neighbour whose interest in affairs connected with her native dale never diminished.

Prior to cremation last Friday at Darlington a service was held at the Methodist Church, Middleton-in-Teesdale.

Mrs Hutchinson is survived by two married daughters.

## Mr H. D. Badger dies after long illness

Mr Henry Dixon Badger, former master at Barnard Castle School, died in the Richardson Hospital on Sunday aged 75.

He had been ill for several years and is survived by his widow and his daughter, Mrs Judith Coates, of Melsomby, Yorks.



Born in York, Mr Badger was educated at Shrewsbury and took a law degree at Oxford. He began teaching at a preparatory school at Windermere and later taught at Sedburgh. Before serving in the Northumberland Fusiliers during the second world war, he had a year's teaching in Devon.

He and his family came to Barnard Castle in 1946 when he took up the post as teacher of history and the Classics at Barnard Castle School. He retired in 1963.

## FOREST FARM OPEN DAY

An open day at Bail Hill Farm, Forest, will be held on Sunday, 24th August, when Friesians and simmental suckler calves, and Swaledales will be an attraction.

A demonstration on stone walling—a rare craft these days—and sheeping runs will also be featured.

The open day begins at 1-30 p.m. and will close at 5 p.m.

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# TEESDALE SUPPLIES

## Chemist wins a colour TV

Mr Colin Clarke, the Barnard Castle chemist, has won a colour television set, thanks to a window display in his shop in Galgate, and a slogan made up by his wife Celia.

She coined the phrase: "Keep the feeling of sea spray—use Old Spice every day."

That and the good show in the window earned the couple the TV, which was second prize in a competition entered by 2,200 retailers throughout the country.

The prize will not bring colour into the lives of the Clarks, for they already have a colour set at their home in Startforth.

But it is a rented one, which will now go back to the firm that they hired it from — and so they will save quite a bit of money.