

1st Burnmoor Scouts: A History

Preface

This document is not intended to be a complete and final history of the 1st Burnmoor Scout Group. It is a work-in-progress and is a means of compiling, in one place, the known history of the Group. It is intended to be added to - as and when more information comes to light – in the form of contributions from the hundreds of people who have interacted with the Group in one way or another over the years since its foundation. By this method, the known history of the Group will be documented and available to all.

On 27th July 1912, a rally for all the Boy Scouts in County Durham took place on the old racecourse, in Lambton Park. The Lord Lieutenant of the county, the Earl of Durham, made an inspection of the parade during which the boys filed past. They were then addressed by his Lordship. This was followed by an exhibition of bridge building and other Scout work. The boys were afterwards entertained to tea by Lord Durham.

In September 1912, the death occurred of Mrs Corbett in Chilton Moor House. For the funeral, the cortege left Chilton Moor House for Fence Houses Station from where the deceased was conveyed by special train to Kirknewton, in the Cheviot Hills, where the Rev M. Piddocke, son-in-law of Mrs Corbett, was vicar and where she would be laid to rest. Prior to the departure, a service was held in St Andrew's Church, Chilton Moor. The Loyal Durhams Troop of Boy Scouts lined the route from Chilton Moor House to Fence Houses Station, with Scout-Captain Appleby in charge.

A year after the death of Mrs Corbett, during the October holiday week, twelve chosen members of the *Loyal Durhams Scouts*, accompanied by Mr Appleby, made the long pilgrimage by road to Kirknewton (approximately 65 miles) and the grave of Mrs Corbett. The interesting events of this journey are documented in a contemporary newspaper article.

In 1914, the Patrol System was established nationally in order to ensure the stability of Scouting through World War I, as Patrol Leaders volunteered in place of adult leaders.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 25 December 1914

Silksworth Scout Master at the Front

Mr R.W. Appleby, of New Silksworth, District Scout Master for the Loyal Durham Boy Scouts, has again left for the Front, where he is engaged in taking remounts from the base to the firing line. This is the third occasion on which he has been to France during the campaign and he has also served in the remount department at Southampton. Mr Appleby served in the Boer War and was severely wounded. The Loyal Durham Boy Scouts did good work at Tynemouth at the beginning of the War in assisting the military and coastguards and received great praise for their efficient service. Over 68 ex-members of the Loyal Durhams are serving in the new Army.

Mr Appleby had served in the Boer War from 1899 to 1902 as Trooper no. 26966 in the 42 (Hertfordshire) Company, 12 Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

In 1916, Cub Scouts, members then known as "Wolf Cubs," was started for boys under the age of 11, supported by the publication of the *Wolf Cub's Handbook* and using Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* as a framework.

The 1920s: The Founding Decade of Burnmoor Scout Group

23rd September, 1922: The new Fence Houses and District War Memorial was unveiled by Lord Joicey and dedicated by the Rector of Burnmoor, The Reverend A.J. Gadd.

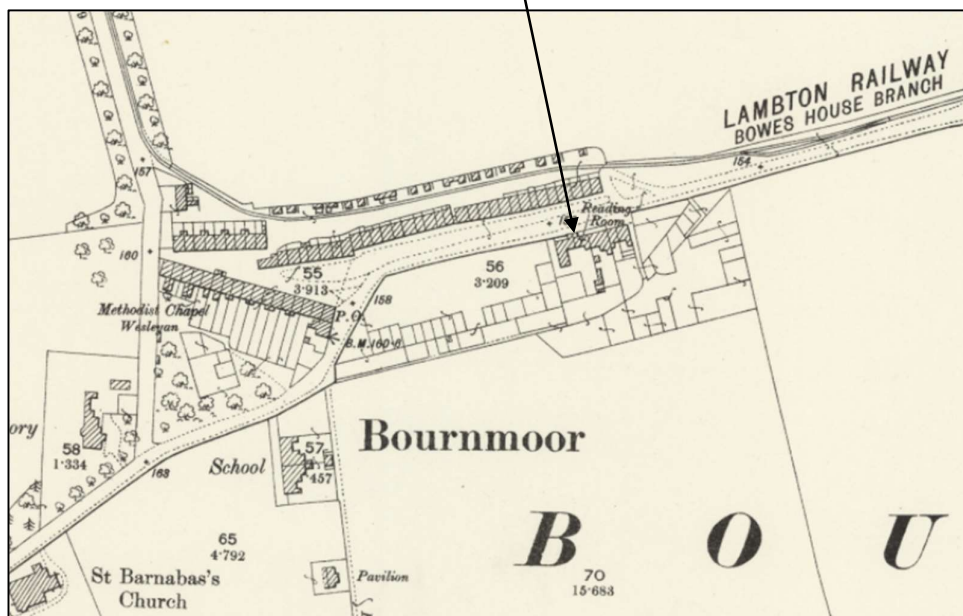
The Berwick Advertiser, 07 December 1923

Kirknewton

The funeral of the late Mr V.C.S.W. Corbett (son of Sir Stuart Corbett K.C.B.) the well-known mining engineer, who died at Chilton Moor last Wednesday, took place on Saturday and was largely attended. The first portion of the service was held in Chilton Moor Church after which the cortege proceeded to Fence Houses Station en route to Kirknewton, where the remains were laid to rest beside those of his wife, the committal service being conducted by the Rev Morris Pidcocke (Vicar of Kirknewton), son-in-law.

18th August 1924: A fatal accident occurred at the railway crossing which was once adjacent to where today's Scout Hall stands. The wreckage ended up in what are today's hall grounds. See appendix 11 for further information.

25th February 1929: what we now know as 1st Burnmoor Scout Group was originally formed as the *New Lambton Council School Scout Group*. The new group consisted of 18 Scouts and 12 Wolf Cubs who met in a building in Short Row, Burnmoor, which was the former reading room of the village, as marked on some of the earliest maps. The building still exists today as a house near the current Burnmoor service station.



Above: OS 25 inch map, 1892-1914

The building as it was then:



The Group's founding officers were:

- Charles Stuart Lambton
- Mark Pratt
- Wilfrid Galley

A few words about the founders:

- Charles Stuart Lambton (29th May 1889 – 3rd September 1941) was the group's first Scout Master. He was distantly related to Lord Lambton and this connection gave his Scouts access to the Lambton Estate. He worked at New Lambton Council School, having become headmaster there in 1917. He had previously attended Burnmoor School (the current home of Burnmoor Cricket Club) as a pupil then attended Bede School in Sunderland from 1908 to 1910. On 16th September, 1914 he enlisted in the 8th Battalion D.L.I. (Durham Light Infantry). In 1917 he married Mary Bellerby Elstob and the couple's first home was at 28 Station Avenue North, Fence Houses. He was demobilised on 28th January 1919. The couple remained at the Station Avenue address until 1929 when they left the district. Their new address was to be School House, Sunnyside, Near Tow Law. Note: During Mr Lambton's time in Fence Houses, in 1924 he filed patent no. GB223402A for "*Improvements in, and connected with, panels and units for electrical installations and particularly wireless installations*" (source: <https://patents.google.com/patent/US2588726>)
- Mark Pratt (1872 - 1940) was formerly school captain at New Lambton Council School. In 1897 he married Elizabeth Davison. Mark was a coal miner (hewer) by trade and lived at 17 Chapel Row, New Lambton.
- Wilfred Galley (1904 - 1969) was also a schoolmaster and he married Minnie Laverick in 1925. They lived at 107 Sea Road, Fulwell. Wilfred was known as being a motorcycle enthusiast, owning a motor cycle combination. He was also a member of the Church Temperance Movement. It is not known what his connection to the Burnmoor area was, though it is possible that Wilfred and Charles both attended Bede School.

The original group registration document:

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION. FORM C.
SCOUT GROUP REGISTRATION.

County DURHAM Commissioner's District Houghton-le-Spring No. 6300

Local Association Houghton-le-Spring

Instructions: Three copies of this form should be completed and sent to the Hon. Secretary of the Local Association who will forward them through the District Commissioner to Imperial Headquarters. The Group will then be registered at Imperial Headquarters with the following 25th September, and notification will be sent to the Officer concerned through the Secretary of the Local Association. One copy of the form will be retained by Imperial Headquarters, the second sent to the County Secretary and the third to the Hon. Secretary of the Local Association.

Name of Group in full NEW LAMBTON COUNCIL SCHOOL

Address of Group Headquarters FENCE HOUSES

(1) Is the Group "Open" or "Controlled" by some Church, School, or Organisation (see Rule 2)? CONTROLLED

(2) If "Controlled", by whom? HEADMASTER

Signature of Controlling authority (see * below) Stuart Lambton
Proposed Officers.

Rank	Name	Address
Group S. M. Scoutmaster	<u>Chas Stuart Lambton</u>	<u>New Lambton C. School</u>
Colleague	<u>Mark Pratt</u>	<u>Chapel Row New Lambton</u>
Rover Leader A. S. M.	<u>Wilfrid Galley</u>	<u>107 Sea Road Fulwell</u>
A. C. M.		
A. S. L.		

Enter in this space, which, if any of the following applies to the Group: SCHOOL
Wade Group, Day, Blind or otherwise disabled Scouts, School, Technical School, Home, Orphanage, etc.

Number of Officers in Group 3
Number of Wolf Cubs 12
Scouts 18
Sea Scouts _____
Rover Scouts _____
Rover Sea Scouts _____

Signature of Scoutmaster Stuart Lambton Group S.M. (or other in charge)
Recommended by Houghton-le-Spring Local Association
Charles Lockyer Hon. Secretary
Approved by Austin Kirkup District Commissioner
Houghton-le-Spring District

Date _____

* In case of the Church of England, the Controlling Authority must be the incumbent or some individual appointed by him.

Stamp: THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, 25 NEWINGTON GREEN, LONDON, S.W.16. 33

Date of Registration by I. H. Q. _____

Registered No. of Group 9502
Please quote this number in all correspondence.

The signatories at the lower-left of the above document make interesting reading:

- Charles Jones Lockyer (1878-1964) was the Honorary Secretary. He was also the Vicar of St Matthew's Church, Newbottle from 1925 to 1936. He left the district for a position in Aycliffe in 1936.
- Austin Kirkup (1873-1961) was the District Commissioner. Mr Kirkup lived in Morton House, Fence Houses and was Chief Agent of the Lambton Collieries. He was a leading senior figure in the mining-life of the area and he was involved in many local and charitable organisations. He was president of Fence Houses Y.M.C.A.; president (1928-1948) of Lumley, Burnmoor and Fence Houses District Nursing Association; president of New Lambton Swimming Club, etc.

In October 1929, the group's Scout Master, Charles Stuart Lambton, left the district to take up a new headship position in Tow Law and Mark Pratt took over as Scout Master. Mr Lambton's departure was reported in the local press and Mark Pratt is also mentioned:

Durham Chronicle, 04 October 1929

Presentation To Headmaster At New Lambton

After the school closed last Friday there was quite a happy gathering of past and present scholars and members of the staff of the New Lambton Council School, who assembled in the school hall, the occasion being a presentation to Mr C. Stuart Lambton, who is leaving to become headmaster at the Sunnyside Council School, at Tow Law. Mr Lambton has been headmaster at the New Lambton School for 12 years and has been very popular with the staff, scholars and their parents and it was felt they could not let him leave without some tangible token of the great esteem in which he had been held. An old scholar, in Mr Mark Pratt, presided over the proceedings and was supported by Miss Doris Liddle, on behalf of the old girls. Miss Whillis, the senior assistant mistress, in making the presentation, which consisted of an oak revolving study chair, suitably inscribed, spoke of Mr Lambton's devoted service to the school and pupils and wished him every success in his new school. Mr Lambton, in accepting the chair, said how much he appreciated that kindness. The New Lambton School is now to become a Junior School under the new scheme of the County Education Committee and Miss Potts, from Fence Houses School, is coming to New Lambton, to take charge. This is the reason of Mr Lambton's removing to Sunnyside, which is a larger school than the New Lambton one and the post of course carries with it a higher salary.

The 1930s

In 1930, one Scout in the group made sporting headlines:

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 07 March 1930

New Lambton Boy Boxer

At the annual boxing tournament for stable boys, held in the Stadium, London, Dan Mill, whose parents live at New Lambton, won the 4st 7lb competition. Mill, who is in R.W. Colling's stable, beat B. Chadwick from Mr A.H. Sadler's stable, in the final on points. Mill, who has just turned 14 years of age was described in the "Star" as a pocket edition of Joe Beckett. Whilst a member of the New Lambton Troup of Scouts, he was very fond of boxing and was never afraid to tackle the bigger boys of the Troup.

At some point between its formation in 1929 and the year 1933, the name of the group was changed to "1st New Lambton." It was then changed again to "1st Burnmoor" on 1st April 1933 as is evidenced from the following document entitled *Change in Group Registration*, which also contains the signatures of the same officials, namely Mr Lockyer and Mr Kirkup:

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
CHANGE IN GROUP REGISTRATION.

THE FORM C 2
8 APR 1933
25, BUCKINGHAM PALACE
LONDON, ENGL.

Present Name of Group 1st NEW LAMBTON I.H.Q. Registration No. 4502-001

Present Local Association Houghton-le-Spring

District Houghton-le-Spring County Durham

Instructions:— Three copies of this form when completed as necessary, should be sent to Imperial Headquarters by the Secretary of the Local Association (in the case of a transfer, the Local Association to which the Group is to be transferred) After the desired change has been made, I.H.Q. will return one copy to the Local Association Secretary and send one to the County Secretary for preservation amongst their records.

I. FOR CHANGE OF TITLE.

New Title by which the Group is to be known 1st BURNMOOR.

Date Apr 1st 1933 Signature of Group Scoutmaster Mark Pratt

Approved by Local Association and District Commissioner } Signature of Secretary C. G. Lockyer
Signature of Commissioner

II. FOR CHANGE OF NATURE OF REGISTRATION. (Open to Controlled or Controlled to Open.)

The Group has been Controlled Study by which the Group HAS new Lambton Council School
BEEN or WILL BE Controlled.

In future it will be Open

Date Apr 1st 1933 Signature of Group Scoutmaster Mark Pratt

Signature of Controlling Authority See note attached.

Approved by Local Association and District Commissioner } Signature of Secretary C. G. Lockyer
Signature of Commissioner Arthur Kirkup

III. FOR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

Local Association to which the Group is to be transferred.

Date _____ Signature of Group Scoutmaster _____

Approved by Local Association to which the Group is to be transferred and District Commissioner } Signature of Secretary _____
Signature of Commissioner _____

Approved by County Commissioner (in both Counties in case of transfer to another County.)

Signature of County Commissioner (or County Secretary on his behalf.) _____ County _____
County _____

After the above change(s) has/have been made by Imperial Headquarters, this copy should be attached to the copy of Form C in respect of this Group. In a case of Transfer (No III) the Secretary of the former Local Association should send his copy of Form C to the Secretary of the new Local Association.

FOR I. H. Q. USE ONLY. CHANGED EFFECTED 8 APR 1933 LONDON, S.W.

In November 1932, 1st Burnmoor took part in the Remembrance Day parade and service at Burnmoor Church for the first time:

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 14 November 1932

Burnmoor and Fence Houses district service was conducted by the Rev A.J. Gadd at Burnmoor church. The parade, organised by Messrs E. Phaup and M. Elliott on behalf of Fence Houses branch of the Legion, was headed by police, under Sergt. J. Walker and Lumley Collieries Band (Mr F. Howe) and included a detachment of Houghton Company of the 8th D.L.I. (Lieut W. Goodenough), Fence Houses and Houghton branches of the Legion and other ex-Servicemen, the women's section of the Legion, Houghton C.L.B. (Sergt. Major J. Gould), Houghton and Lumley Collieries St John Ambulance Brigades (Lieut G.R. Ayton and Sergt. F. Shepherd), 1st Burnmoor Scouts (Scout Master M. Pratt), 1st Burnmoor, Houghton and Lumley Girl Guides and Brownies (Miss P. Nairn and Miss E. Thompson), Oddfellows and Parish Councillors.



Above: 1st Burnmoor at Washington, 1930s



Above: Harold Hughes, Pat Henderson, Sunny Turner, Tom Bedlington



Above: 1936 Rations from camp kitchen, Eastgate



Burnmoor Scouts; date and location unknown

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 26 December 1930

Fence Houses Scout's Heroic Action

A miner's son, named James Tait, of Engine Row, New Lambton, who has just left school and is employed by Mr Berriman, builder, of Fence Houses, was going past the Lambton Colliery on Monday when he saw a dog rush at a miner who was just coming away from the pit. The dog seized the miner by the hand and held on. The boy Tait took his coat off and threw it over the dog's head, causing it to leave loose of the man's hand, which by this time was bleeding freely. Tait is a member of the Burnmoor {article ends here}

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 16 September 1935

Scouts' Rally

Newbottle Troop Win Shield

Houghton-le-Spring Division of Durham County Boy Scouts' Association held their fifth annual rally and sports in the grounds of Morton House, Fence Houses, on Saturday. After the march past, in which the salute was taken by Capt. W.J. Oliver, of Sunderland, Mr Austin Kirkup presented the shield to Newbottle troop, who had gained most points in the sports and competitions. Scoutmaster Corner received the shield on behalf of his troop. Results: Tent pitching: 1, Chilton Moor; Flat race: 1, Houghton III; 2, Newbottle; 3, Eppleton; Mixed pickles: 1, Newbottle; 2, Burnmoor; 3, Chilton Moor; Knotting race: 1, Newbottle; 2, Eppleton; 3, Chilton Moor; Slow cycle race: 1, Houghton; 2, Newbottle; Chariot race: 1, Newbottle. Cubs' flat race: 1, Houghton III; Cubs three-legged race: 1, Newbottle; 2, Herrington; 3, Houghton III.

The year 1935 saw 1st Burnmoor taking part in the first Scouts' annual swimming gala, held at New Lambton Baths (which had opened in 1924):

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 18 October 1935

Scouts' Swimming Gala

Newbottle Troop Gain Honours

Lord Barnard M.C., County Commissioner for the Durham County Scouts, presented the prizes and the first annual swimming gala of the Houghton-le-Spring Scouts' Association at the Welfare Baths, New Lambton, on Wednesday night of last week. He presented the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries Shield to the Newbottle Troop who had gained most points for efficiency and in sporting events at the recent outdoor display. For swimming events, the Burnmoor Troop gained most points and the Chilton Moor Troop were second. For Cub events, Chilton Moor were first and Herrington second. Mr Austin Kirkup jun., Assistant Commissioner for the Houghton-le-Spring Association, presided and introduced Lord Barnard who said it was the first time he had seen such a large gathering of Scouts at a swimming display. A Scout, he said, had to be an all-round fellow, not only to look after himself but to be able to help others. If a Scout was unable to swim he was at a great disadvantage when it came to life-saving. He thought they were very fortunate in having such facilities for swimming and expressed the hope that they would take full advantage of them. Whilst congratulating the winners, like true Scouts they must congratulate the losers, who had done their best, which is all a good Scout could do. He concluded by saying that if they were as enthusiastic in their other work as they had been in their swimming, they would be very successful Scouts. The Rev C.J. Lockyer, Vicar of Newbottle, proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Barnard, A display of life saving was given, ably assisted by J. Childs. Mr J. Waddell, the baths' superintendent. The following Troops took part: Burnmoor, Chilton Moor, Newbottle, Herrington, Washington, Shiney Row and Houghton.

The Awards

The prize-winners were:

Diving for objects: 1. J. Bassett, Herrington; 2. W. Horsman, Burnmoor; 3. J. McGann, Houghton R.C.

Cubs: J. Bilton, Burnmoor

Candle race: 1. F. Hughes, Burnmoor; F. Grimes, Houghton R.C.; 3. J. Glew, Washington

Plunge: 1. W. Tindale, Chilton Moor; 39ft; 2. J. Taylor, Burnmoor.

Squadron race: 1. Burnmoor (G. Elliott, J. Turner, W. Taylor, F. Hughes); 2, Houghton R.C.

One Length Race (11 to 14 years): 1. H. Potter Burnmoor; 2. J. Gibson, Houghton R.C.; 3. J. Hill. Herrington

One Length Race (14 to 16): 1. F. Grimes, Houghton R.C.; 2. A. Boy, Chilton Moor; 3. G. Elliott, Burnmoor

One Length Race (16 to 18): 1. J. Brown. Chilton Moor; 2. J. Bassett, Herrington; 3. F. Hughes, Burnmoor

Back Swimming: 1. J. Brown, Chilton Moor; 2. J. Taylor, Burnmoor; 3. F. Grimes, Houghton R.C.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 14 October 1936

Satisfactory reports of progress were presented at the annual meeting of Houghton-le-Spring and District Boys' Scouts Association in Newbottle Church Hall last night. Mr Austin Kirkup sen., presided. It was reported that the 1st Houghton and Chilton Moor Troops were being reorganised. The treasurer (Mr Stanley Robinson) presented the financial statement which showed a balance in hand of £7 5s 6d. Arrangements were made for holding a swimming gala at Lambton Baths on October 21, when the prizes will be presented by Major Kayll, of Sunderland. Discussion took place on the World Jamboree and it was decided to make application for places on behalf of the Association. Mr Kirkup was re-elected president, Mr Stanley Robinson treasurer, and Mr Fred Applegarth secretary. Mr C.R. Corner, of Newbottle, was appointed as representative on the County Scout Council.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 22 October 1936

Boy Scouts' Gala

The second annual swimming gala of the Houghton-le-Spring Scouts' Association was held in the Lambton Welfare Swimming Baths last night. Major J. Kayll, the District Commissioner of Sunderland, presented the prizes and complimented the scouts on their fine display. Details:

Swimming (age 11-14): 1. F. Grimes (Houghton R.C.); 2. J. Melville (Burnmoor); 3. S. Bell (Chilton Moor). 14-16: 1. W. Childs (Burnmoor); 2. A. Swann (Chilton Moor); 3. J. Young (Houghton R.C.). 16-18: 1. W. Tindale (Chilton Moor); 2. J. Grimes (Houghton R.C.); 3. W. Horsman (Burnmoor).

Plunge dive: 1. W. Tindale (Chilton Moor), 39ft; 2. G. Elliott (Burnmoor); 3. W. Young (Houghton R.C.).

Diving for objects: 1. A. Swann (Chilton Moor); 2. W. Horsman (Burnmoor); 3. J. McGahan (Houghton R.C.)

Lighted candle race: 1. F. Grimes (Houghton R.C.); 2. M. Avery (Burnmoor); 3. F. Lodge (Chilton Moor).

Back swimming: 1. W. Tindale (Chilton Moor); 2. W. Childs (Burnmoor); 3. J. Grimes (Houghton R.C.)

Life saving: 1. W. Childs and G. Elliott (Burnmoor), 112 points; 2. W. Tindale and A. Swann (Chilton Moor), 93; 3. F. Grimes and J. McGahan (Houghton R.C.), 42.

Burnmoor and Chilton Moor troops tied for the championship with 20 points and, in a deciding relay race, the Burnmoor troop proved the winners. The Cub section was won by the Herrington troop.

By November 1936, Mark Pratt, now aged 64, had passed over the reins of Scout Master to Mr J. Henderson.

(Publication unknown), November 15, 1936

Burnmoor Armistice Service

Record Parade from Fence Houses

The annual Armistice Parade and service organized by the officials of the Fence Houses branch of the British Legion, including Mr E. Phaup, Mr G. Swan and Mr Hugh Thompson, was held at Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday morning and the attendance was the largest ever seen at this parade. The procession lined up at Fence Houses and was headed by the local police, under Sergeant Peacock.

Lieut. Goodenough was in charge of the parade and he was accompanied by several warrant officers and members of the 8th D.L.I. They were followed by the Lumley Colliery Prize Band (under bandmaster F. Wakerford), the bandsmen looking very smart in their new uniforms which they first wore at Crystal Palace. Next. . . .

..... the Burnmoor Boy Scouts, in charge of Scout Master J. Henderson; and the Girl Guides, in charge of Mrs Morton.....

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 10 December 1937

Burnmoor Parish Council

The following members attended a meeting of Burnmoor Parish Council held in New Lambton Council Schools on Wednesday night: Councillors A. Elliott (presiding), N. Pratt, J.T. Oliver, E. Hind, B. Stephenson, C. Rush, A. Goodrick and R. Weeks.....

..... Recreation Ground Applications

It was agreed to allow the Burnmoor Scouts the use of the recreation ground at New Lambton for football matches and Scout practice. The application of the New Lambton Bowling Club to erect a pavilion near the green on the recreation ground was considered and it was decided to ask the club to send representatives to meet the Council to further discuss the matter.....

On 30th March 1938, a new headquarters for the group was opened in New Lambton. It was also reported in the local press:

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 31 March 1938

For Scouts and Guides

New Headquarters at Burnmoor

Lord Barnard, County Commissioner for Scouts, opened the new headquarters of the 1st Burnmoor Boy Scouts and the 1st Burnmoor Girl Guides at New Lambton, Fence Houses, last night. The building, formerly used by the Free Church, has not been occupied since Methodist Union. It had, as the chairman (Mr A. Kirkup, sen.) said, been repaired and renovated by the joint efforts of Burnmoor Guides and Scouts with assistance from the colliery company. Mr Kirkup paid tribute to the work done in the County by Lord Barnard for the Scouts and Lady Raine for the Guides. Lord Barnard, in declaring the building open, said he thought the Scouts and Guides did not co-operate enough but he was glad to find they did so in Burnmoor and that they were to share this splendid building. The colliery company had been generous and they now wanted the interest of the outside public. Lady Raine, Assistant County Commissioner for Guides, said she felt proud to see the Burnmoor Company having such a fine building and she hoped they would have many happy evenings in it. She wanted the Guides to be an example to others by living the type of life which the movement taught. They needed balance and discipline. Religion and discipline were the main planks in the movement and they must realize what the uniform stood for. Mr Kirkup presented etchings, which had been done by Scout James Martin, to Lord Barnard and Lady Raine. Among those present were Mrs A. Kirkup jun. (District Commissioner for Guides), Mrs A. Leybourne (Divisional Commissioner for Guides), Mrs A. Morton (Captain, Burnmoor Guides), Mr A. Kirkup jun. (District Commissioner for Scouts), Mr R. McLaren (Assistant District Commissioner), Mr W.G. Henderson (Burnmoor Scoutmaster), Mrs A.J.

Gadd and the Rev L. Brown (Houghton-le-Spring). After the opening ceremony, Guides and Scouts gave displays and a miscellaneous entertainment.

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 15 April 1938

Burnmoor Scouts and Guides in "Local Gang Show."

The 1st Burnmoor Boy Scouts and Girl Guides appeared at the Crescent Palace Theatre, Fence Houses, last Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the "Local gang show." The film "The gang show," with Ralph Reader, was also shown. The Scouts and Guides gave songs by the camp fire, the Indian rope trick and many other amusing and interesting items. Mr Henderson, the Scoutmaster and Mrs Morton, the Guide Captain, were in charge.

The 1940s

With the outbreak of the Second World War on 1st September 1939, many former Burnmoor Scouts enlisted with the various Armed Forces but sadly did not return. Those former Burnmoor Scouts known to have made the ultimate sacrifice include: *

- Cuthbert John Turner. See appendix 1
- William Garbutt ("Pat") Henderson (Scout Master). See appendix 2
- Joseph Winship Taylor. See appendix 3
- Thomas Douglas Elliott. See appendix 4
- Jack Watson. See appendix 5
- John Charlton. See appendix 6
- Richard Edwin Hewison. See appendix 7

Durham Chronicle, 22 January, 1941

Memorial Service to B.P.

At Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday morning the Rector, the Rev A.J. Gadd, conducted a memorial service to the late Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell. Addressing himself to the Burnmoor Troop of Scouts, who were present in charge of the Acting-Scoutmaster R.J. Armstrong, Mr Gadd likened the life of a Scout to an arrow which must go straight and always play the game. He urged them to be polished in their manners; it was a true saying that "manners maketh the man." Mr Gadd mentioned that on Saturday he had buried an old soldier, Mr Adam Storar, who had been in three wars and served under Lord Baden-Powell in the South Africa campaign. He was then in the 11th Hussars and was with him at the Relief of Mafeking. During the service, the Scouts' hymn "Fight the Good Fight" was sung.

*** If anyone else should be included here, please contact the author using the email address at the foot of the page.**

Durham Chronicle, November 26, 1944

"Lest we Forget"

Memorial to Burnmoor's Brave Men

A memorial service was held at Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday to four men in the district who made the supreme sacrifice in the war this year: Sergt. Thomas Douglas Elliott (26) R.A.F., who lost his life off the West African coast on June 3rd, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Elliott, Panfield Terrace, New Lambton, who had only been married a few months; Pilot Officer Jack Watson (23) R.A.F., son of Mr and Mrs E. Watson, Wood Row, Lumley Sixth Pit, killed at St Martin de Salles, France, June 17th; Sergt. John Charlton (28) Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in Normandy, July 30th, son of Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, Sydney Street, Fence Houses; and Pte. Richard Edwin Hewison (38), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, killed in Italy on October 19th, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, Morton Crescent, Fence Houses (former residents of Handon Hold (Pelton)). The first three mentioned had been members of the Bible Class, all confirmed at the church. They were Scouts. The Rector (Rev A.J. Gadd) spoke in impressive terms from the text "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God." Burnmoor Scouts, in charge of their scoutmaster (Mr J. Forster), attended in force. Flowers for the altar and war memorial were sent by Mesdames Charlton, Taylor and Winship. Family mourners present at the service were: Mrs M. Elliott, widow; Mr and Mrs A. Elliott, father and mother; Mrs L. Wise, sister; Mr and Mrs Jos. Elliott, brother and sister-in-law; Miss J. Elliott, sister; Mr T. Richardson, brother-in-law and Mr and Mrs W. Baker, cousins. Mrs E. Watson, mother; Mr T. Clark, Mr and Mrs E. Clark, Mrs D. Williams, uncles and aunts, and Sergt. Iris Yates. Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, father and mother; Mrs R. Allinson, sister; Mr J. and Miss Charlton, cousins. Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, father and mother; Miss E.J. Hewison, sister and Mr and Mrs R. Horne, uncle and aunt.

Durham Chronicle, March 2, 1945

Mr and Mrs E. Watson, 19 Wood Row, Woodstone Village, Fence Houses, have been notified by the Air Ministry, that their son, Flying Officer Jack Watson (23), R.A.F. Fighter Command, who was posted as missing in June 1944 in France, is now presumed killed. Flying Officer Watson, who was employed as a clerk in the Health Department at Shire Hall, Durham, before joining up, was trained in America. He was commissioned in 1943. He was educated at Fence Houses Intermediate and Chester-le-Street Secondary Schools and was a keen member of the Burnmoor Scouts.

After the war Mr Robert Forster, a 1st Herrington assistant Scout Master, became 1st Burnmoor's Scout Master. He was born in March 1902 and from 1939 lived at 4 High Row, Sixth Pit. He was a coal mine fitter by trade, employed at Sixth Pit. During the war he had been a member of the A.R.P. He became known as 'Skip.'

1st Burnmoor now met at an old concert hall near the stream in the valley down from the current Scout Hall. Skip took the Scouts to camps with a trek-cart to places like the Old Mill at Lumley and they also camped further afield at Crutherston, Eastgate, Blanchland, Raby Castle and Carlisle. The group used bell tents and cooked on open fires. Kit inspections were carried out at camp as they still are today. Skip, who acquired his trade from 1st Herrington's strict taskmasters Dickinson and McLaren, was himself very strict but was also greatly respected by the Scouts. The group held campfires, with Skip's favourite song being "My bonny lies over the ocean," complete with actions, of

course! Group activities included gymnastics and table tennis, knotting and estimating, as well as signalling and tracking.

In 1966 they camped at Cargo, in Cumbria, just north of Carlisle, when the World Cup was on. The locals invited the Scouts into their homes to watch the match. On Sunday the group went to the village church and the locals were so pleased that the church was so full they bought ice creams for all the boys.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 21 June 1948



Robert Hiley and Allan Wood (on the left), 1st Burnmoor Troop and Eric Dodds, 30th Sunderland Troop (on the right) who received the King's Certificate, admire the Silver Cross which was presented by the Chief Scout to Ian Gitsham, of South Shields, at Brancepeth, during the Durham County Scouts' Jamboree.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle, 31 December 1945

New Lambton Party

The children of Old and New Engine Rows, New Lambton, were entertained to tea in the Scouts' Hall. Mrs W. Coulson, who opened the event, gave each child a present and a new Shilling. Fathers and mothers also received gifts. Harmony was provided by Mrs A. Maddison, Mr G. Osman and Mr N. Bolton.

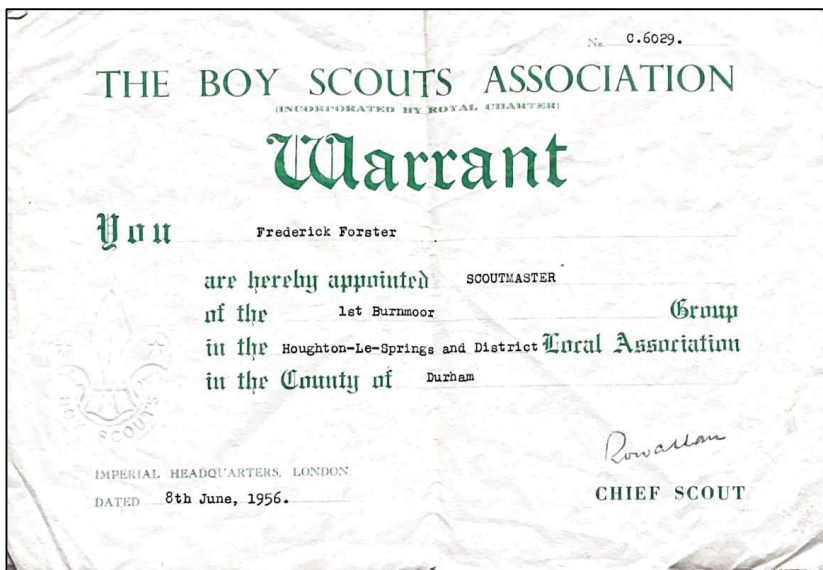
The 1950s

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 29 May 1950

"Bob Jobs" Get Record £80

Major R.S. McLaren, of Cleadon Hall, presided at the annual meeting of Houghton-le-Spring District Boys Scouts' Association at Bunker Hill, Philadelphia, when troops represented were the First and Second Herrington, Penshaw, Burnmoor, Chilton Moor, Houghton St Michael's and Eppleton. It was reported that £80, a record sum, had been raised by the Association during "Bob-a-job" week.

On 8th of June 1956 Frederick (Fred) Forster, the son of Robert Forster and a bricklayer and council area foreman, became Scout Master.



Fred was to become a major influence on the Group's leaders and members and was a respected community member. Warranted service began in January 1953 as an Assistant Scout Leader. Fred's commitment has been recognised by the award of the Long Service Decoration in 1976, the Medal of Merit in 1990, the Bar to the Long Service Decoration in 1992, the Bar to the Medal of Merit in 1997, the Chief Scout's Long Service award in 1999, Honorary Scouter in 2003 and the Silver Acorn Award in 2004. Using the patrol system Fred created generation after generation of self-confident Scouts.



Above: Fred Forster

Durham Chronicle, November 24, 1950

Remembrance

Standards of the British Legion, Boy Scout and Girl Guides lent a nice touch of colour to the annual Remembrance Parade of Fence Houses British Legion. On parade were: Fence Houses Legion (standard bearers Mr Jim Hall and Mrs E. Moore); Dubmire (Mr W. Norman and Mrs N. Bell); Lumley (Mr W. Ferguson); Police (under Sergt. Peacock); S.J.A.B. (under Ambulance Officer T. Harland); Lumley and Burnmoor Nursing cadets (Miss Reed); Lumley and Burnmoor Nursing Sisters (Mrs Gleadhill); Burnmoor Boy Scouts (S.M.W. Forster); Chilton Moor Boy Scouts (G.S.M. Carr); Chilton Moor Girl Guides and Brownies (Miss Johnson and Mrs Cook); Vane Tempest R.A.O.B. (Mr G. Powney); Bernard Gilpin (Mr T. Alderson); Houghton U.D.C. (Mrs Wardhaugh); D. Cockburn acted as parade marshal. Parade, headed by Lumley Band (Mr Jack Wilson), marched from Fence Houses to Burnmoor Parish Church for the service. A halt was made at the memorial, where wreaths were deposited and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" sounded by Bandsman E. Ford. The Rector (Rev A.J. Gadd) conducted the service and read out the names of the fallen. Sermon was preached by the Rector (Canon C.R. Appleton). Mr E. Phaup and M. Elliott were joint organisers of the parade. Collection was in aid of the Earl Haig Poppy Day Fund and amounted to £7 9s 6d.

Teesdale Mercury, 28 May 1952

Youth Must Face Up To Life

Lord Rowallan at Raby Castle. Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, told more than 80 Queen's Scouts, to whom he presented Royal Certificates at Raby Castle, Staindrop, on Saturday, not to take "the easy path" through life..... Lord Rowallan read the message from the

King which was written on each certificate, bidding them live a life of "joyous adventure."..... North-East Scouts receiving certificates were..... G. Knighton (1st Burnmoor).....

The 1960s

In the late 1960s, the group moved to an NCB-owned building next to the current Lambton Nursing Home and Fred Forster became Group Scout Leader (GSL), a role previously called the Scout Master. He was to become a major influence on the Group's leaders and members and was a respected member of the community. Using the patrol system, he created generation after generation of self-confident Scouts. Fred was supported by the group's first committee, with people like Alan Nicholson, Hugh Ridley, Sid Mathews, Wilf Keating and Jim Jordan helping the group to fundraise through dances and beetle drives. Leaders blossomed like Neil Smith, Carol Forster, Kevin Brown, Michael Bass, and Martin Ridley. Camping flourished, with camps at Wark, Brothers Water, Finsthwaite, Loughrigg Tarn, Abbotsford, Derbyshire, Selkirk and Jersey as well as other destinations. A popular treat for Scouts became to travel to and from camp in the back of George Vardy's wagon.



Above: Fred (4th left, top) with 1st Burnmoor's first marquee. Robert Forster is just below.

The 1970s

24th July, 1973: 1st Burnmoor is registered as charity number 525189.

In 1974, the Venture Scout section, for 16–20-year-olds, was first registered at 1st Burnmoor. In 1976 it was the first section of The Scout Association to open up to female participants. Over the years the Ventures created the group magazine, VOMIT (Ventures' Official Magazine In Type). Some of the original copies remain with the group:



When the NCB-hired hall at Lambton had its roofing lead stolen, the group decided they would try to build their own H.Q. Local people and businesses raised money and the group purchased some land for £400 from Lord Lambton. George Vardy, who had transported the group's equipment to camp for many years for free, gave the group JCBs and other equipment and local tradesmen and labourers, Scouts, committee, Harry Harvey and Don Laverick all gave their time for free to build the hall which is still in use today.

A newspaper article reported that the hall was ready to open in 1975. In the accompanying picture, leaders shown are Fred Forster, Neil Smith, John Bedlington, Cub Scouts, Ian Smith (J&B Coachworks), and Mark Blunt. Work went on long and hard but disaster struck while waiting for the roofers. Gales blew the gables and roof trusses over. Men cried. How could everyone continue? But they found money and strength and finished what they had started. In fact, the sight of the devastation meant local people were more willing to help and fundraise.

Finally in 1975, the hall was completed and the County Secretary, Mary Vasey, opened the hall. The 1st Burnmoor headquarters was named after its old group Scout master: Robert Forster house.



BURNMOOR SCOUTS' HQ TO OPEN

Hard at work at their new scout HQ in Fence Houses are Mr Fred Forster, secretary of the 1st Burnmoor Scouts, Cub Leader Mr Neil Smith, Venture Leader Mr John Sedlington, and two helpers, Mark Sluett and Ian Smith. — (DA).

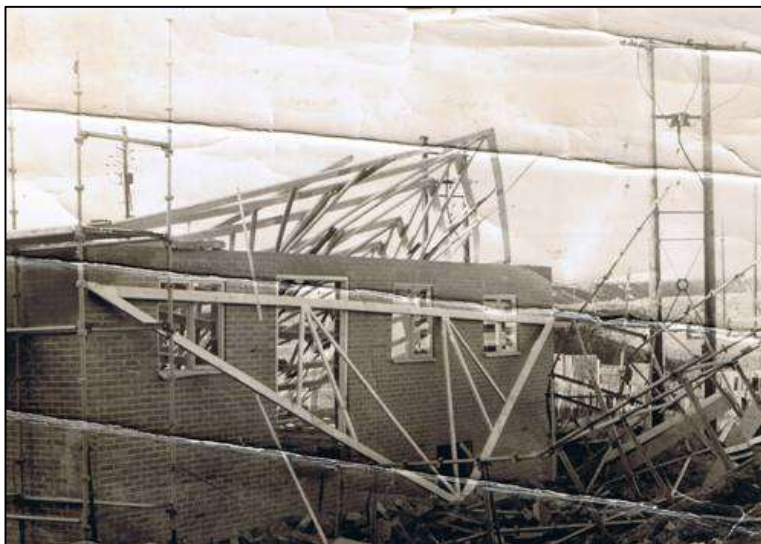
After nearly three years in construction, Burnmoor Scouts will be moving into their new HQ on October 23.

Not all of the three years was taken up with building the HQ. For 15 months, no work could be done because the roof blew off in a gale. Funds had to be raised to help restore the roof, and to help in the construction work proper, so the Scouts' parents and other volunteers, joined in with donations, and helped to run dances and other fund-raising activities.

Apart from a grant of £250 from Durham County Education Committee, the Scout troop raised all of the money needed, about £8,000 in all. If they had not done the building themselves — with the help of a few volunteers — with knowledge of electronics and interior decorating — the building would have cost them around £23,000.

The opening ceremony will take place at 2.30 p.m. at the HQ in Hill Street North, Fence Houses and will be conducted by Mrs M. Kay, Durham County Secretary of the Scout movement.

The new HQ will be open to the public from 8.30 p.m. throughout the following week, and anyone want to drop in have a look around.



Sunderland Echo, 10 July 1975

Burnmoor Scout Group H.Q.

Nearly Ready

The new scout headquarters at Gill Crescent North, Fence Houses, which Burnmoor Scout Group members have built themselves, saving thousands of pounds, is nearly finished. "It has been a wonderful team effort," said Group Scoutmaster Mr Fred Forster, of Gill Crescent South, Fence Houses.....

..... He said that arrangements for an official opening date will be announced later. "A lot of hard graft has been done by a willing band of volunteers who have given up their weekends to work on the construction." Mr Forster also paid tribute to the support given by the parents' supporters organisation.....

..... occupied by the old Welfare Institute, New Lambton, which has been demolished. They found it necessary to find new headquarters when the Lambton building fell into decay.

The 1980s

On the 27th of November 1988, Allan Forster followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps and became the Group Scout Leader (GSL). Allan's commitment has since been recognised by the Award of Merit in 2013 and the Chief Scout's 30 years' service award in 2015.



Burnmoor Scouts fundraising

The 1990s

Newcastle Evening Chronicle, 23 January 1991

Merit Medals for Top Scouts

Two North-East Scouts have been awarded for their services to the movement. Fred Forster, Group Scout Leader of the 1st Burnmoor Scout Group and Alf McNally, District Commissioner for Chester-le-Street, received the Medal of Merit for outstanding work for the movement. Fred has been in Scouting for most life, starting as a Cub Scout and continuing through the sections until he took his first warrant as Assistant Scout Master in 1953. He moved to Scout Leader in 1956, then took over as Group Scout Leader in 1979, a position he still holds. Fred comes from a Scouting background as he followed in his father's footsteps. He now has a son following in his. The 1st Burnmoor Scout Headquarters is aptly named Forster House. Fred is a quiet-spoken and well-respected man who runs the group efficiently with kindness, tolerance and sense of humour.

Involved

Alf has been District Commissioner for Chester-le-Street for the past two years. He has been involved with Scouting for a good number of years, beginning in 1969.



County Commissioner Roy Stewart (centre) congratulates Fred Forster (left) and Alf McNally after they received their medals.



Burnmoor Scouts, 1997. New marquee celebrations



Burnmoor and Lumley Scouts at Kandersteg International Scout Centre , Switzerland.

Note: It was Robert Baden-Powell's dream to have a permanent mini-jamboree site so he opened KISC (Kandersteg International Scout Centre) in 1923.

The 2000s

Group membership numbers from the annual census:

Section	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Beavers	13	11	11	14	20	15	15	14	18
Cubs	16	21	12	15	18	25	20	18	19
Scouts	15	16	15	20	19	13	16	17	16
Total	44	48	38	49	57	53	51	49	53

November 2002: a new perimeter fence is installed around the grounds of the hall.

19th August, 2007: Celebration of the centenary of Scouting is held at Summer Camp at Bassenthwaite. Centenary neckers were also given out to the group.



Sunderland Echo, 3rd July, 2009

Team to Scouts' rescue

Four firms promised to do their best after agreeing to revamp a crumbling Scout hall. The team went to the rescue of Burnmoor Scout Group whose building showed signs of collapse. The state of the building meant the 95-strong group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts had to be locked out for their safety. Led by Seaham-based St Astier, the team is putting right structural problems with the roof trusses and supporting brickwork walls. Allan Forster, leader of Burnmoor Scout Group, who followed his father and grandfather into the movement, said: "We started to get worried about the condition of the roof and walls of our headquarters building earlier this year. "We thought it was just a loose slate or two, but things have got so bad that we have had to close it on safety grounds. "We've been holding our meetings outside for the last four weeks and it's been a bit of a challenge keeping the children occupied. "We were really struggling, then a call came from the team at St Astier and they rallied round and have helped us out good and proper." He added the improvements have come at a time of celebration for the group, as it is marking its 80th anniversary this year. The single-storey building has

been used for more than 40 years. The rescue party is led by Ranson Og, of St Astier, whose firm is demolishing and rebuilding the walls. John Sayers, of Hodgson and Allon Roofing, will take care of the roof, Eddie Anderson, of KML Scaffolding, will provide equipment and Dean Thomas, of First Waste Management is to take away debris. The Scouts were unable to claim against their insurance policies, but their insurer has agreed to contribute towards the work – estimated at nearly £15,000. Mr Og said the success of the project has been thanks to the partnership between the companies. He said: "All the firms involved wanted to support the Scouts. The Scout Group offers great opportunities to the local kids. If we can do something positive for the Scouts, then it's right by me."

29th August, 2009: the Group's 80th anniversary was celebrated at Summer Camp at Bassenthwaite. A cake, specially made for the occasion, was cut by Fred Forster and commemorative badges were issued.



Fred also addressed the Group and led the group celebrations and singing on the lakeside.



The 2010s

Group membership numbers from the annual census:

Section	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Beavers	17	21	20	27	21	13	13	19	23	16
Cubs	16	19	26	20	13	13	23	22	21	21
Scouts	8	10	14	18	22	24	14	14	16	15
Total	41	50	60	65	56	50	50	55	60	52

2013: Land adjoining the Scout Hall's grounds is purchased for the group and clearance begins.

Sunderland Echo, 23rd July, 2013



Under canvas: Hope Rafferty, Ben Hesler, Connor Anderson and Luke Smith prepare for their trip.

£800 grant helps Scouts have fun in the Lakes

Youngsters are packing up their troubles for a summer camp in the Lake District thanks to a cash grant from Cestria Community Housing. Members of 1st Burnmoor Scout Group are planning to a visit to Cumbria in August to enjoy walking, canoeing, a zip wire, cycling and sailing. Cestria has awarded the group an £800 grant from its Community Benefit Fund towards the cost of the trip. Group Scout Leader Allan Forster said: "our annual week long adventure camp is always one of the highlights of the year. We take a group of youngsters aged 10-18 who are joined by 10 adults for the week by Lake Bassenthwaite in the western Lakes. It is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and the range of activities we are able to offer means the scouts go home with experiences they will remember forever. Being able to provide such a packed itinerary doesn't come cheap however and while parents do make a significant contribution to the trip, we need to secure outside help to make sure it can go ahead. That's why this grant from Cestria is so important – it's fantastic news that we have been awarded this money. It means we can start planning the trip in earnest now. The grant will help towards costs including campsite fees and transport as well as activities including gorge walking, ghyll scrambling, cycling, swimming and canoeing." Cestria's head of corporate services Christine Scott said "Going away for a week long camp like this is a big adventure for all the scouts involved and will provide them with memories which will last a lifetime. It plays an important part in the group's work to help the scouts reach their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential. We're thrilled we've been able to help the group which relies on the hard work of volunteers, to meet the costs of the trip and hope everyone has a great time."

30th November 2013: James Robson and Ruaridh Cudlipp are presented with Chief Scout Gold Awards at the Scouts' AGM in Durham Town Hall.



9th March 2014: Ben Hesler is presented with Chief Scout Gold Award. Ben is pictured with Adam Wilson, below.



April 2014: 1st Burnmoor Community Project plans are officially unveiled

1st Burnmoor Community Project

Groundwork NE & Cumbria

1 Pond with bog planting and dipping platform
2 Bee hives and bug house

3 Flat meadow area for camping and other group events
4 Mounding to incorporate waste materials on site and provide more playful space. Seeded with wildflower to attract butterflies
5 Climbing area with bouldering wall and climbing wall
6 Compost area
7 Poly tunnels with horticulture education and gardening area with water butts and storage

8 Gazebo
9 Boundary treatments could invoke community art projects
10 Raised beds, crafted trees, Orchard
11 Raised bed growing area (see separate sheet)
12 Outdoor seating area

13 Forest school area with fire pit; seating circle and willow den
14 Archery area enclosed with planting and willow entrance way
15 Raised den area
16 Planted ditches linking car park to pond piped

17 Woodland walk with native shrubs planting wild flowers and bulbs provides lots of undisturbed habitats
18 Car parking for 8 includes 2 disabled bays reinforced grass
19 Vehicle enhance area
20 Storage

21 Marquee area
22 Hall
23 Extension uses the hall's amenities whilst providing separate community facilities
24 Main community access way

Concept **April 2014**

March 2015: Work starts on laying down a new car parking area in the grounds of the hall.

Sunderland Echo, 09 June, 2015

Three Years of Hard Work Has Been Ruined Just Three Weeks In.



1st Burnmoor Group Scout Leader Allan Forster and the damaged polytunnel

Scout leaders have hit out after part of a group's £10,000 community project was targeted by vandals - just weeks after it was put in place. 1st Burnmoor Scout Group, in Fence Houses, recently installed a polytunnel at their headquarters to help youngsters and schoolchildren in the area learn more about nature and growing plants. Cash for the addition was handed over thanks to a grant from the National Lottery as they look to create an outdoor activity centre, complete with an archery range, climbing wall and garden. But over the weekend, yobs broke into the garden and slashed parts of the tunnel, meaning it won't last for anywhere near as long as hoped. Scout group leader Allan Forster told the Echo: "I felt sick in the gut when I first came down and saw this. "It's quite a big tunnel, 18 metres by eight metres, and although they haven't destroyed it, the life expectancy would've been about 20 years, and now it's only going to last for about three or four - at a push, seven. We've had to tape it up in the meantime. Three years' work has gone into this and it's so disappointing." Children from nearby Woodlea Primary, many of who are scouts at 1st Burnmoor themselves, have been at the site since the vandalism was carried out, to plant seeds, with youngsters from Burnmoor School set to visit later this week. 1st Burnmoor Scouts was formed in 1929 and had several homes before its headquarters, Robert Forster House, named after Allan Forster's grandfather, was opened in 1975. More than 90 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are affiliated to the organisation. Mr Forster also called on the community to help catch those responsible and bring them to justice, but added that should the site be targeted again, it could put the whole community project at risk. Police have confirmed that they are aware of the mindless act and are investigating. "I put something on Facebook after this happened and it's had 20,000 views," said Mr Forster. "People are really irate about it. The police have been down and taken evidence from the scene so hopefully that will help. We really need to catch people who have done this and stop them coming back to cause more damage. It's very worrying for us and all of the volunteers are devastated." The group are now appealing for donations towards repairs, which members of the public can do by searching for 1st Burnmoor Scout Group at scouts@localgiving.com. Mr Forster said: "We are asking for donations towards the repairs to the tunnel and for CCTV to be installed. "We also ask for old garden furniture, pots, gravel, and compost

if people can give.” The vandalism is thought to have taken place between 5pm on Saturday and 10am on Sunday.



1st Burnmoor Scout Group members Abbie Gibson and Phillip Holman

Sunderland Echo, 08 July, 2015

Scouts step up security after vandal attack on polytunnel project.

(Picture)

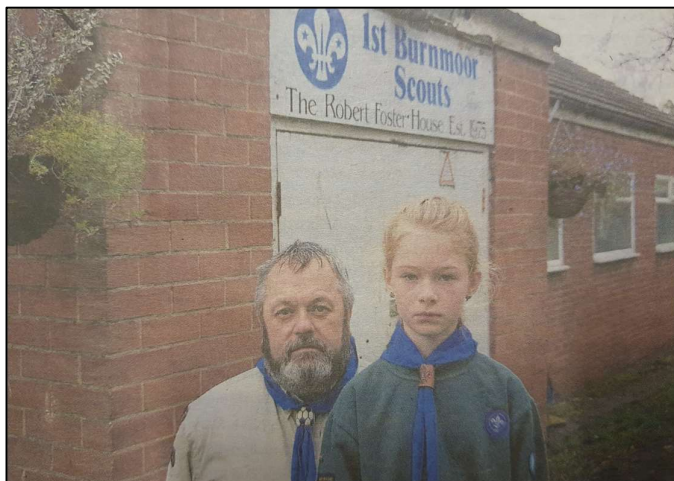
Gary Trotter from Hadrian Technology, Nathan Anderson, Abigail Bell, Layla Tobin, Scout Leader Allan Forster, Alex Bell, Patrick Anderson, Vicky Bell.

A security firm has come to the aid of a Wearside scout group who were left devastated when vandals damaged their outdoor project. The Echo reported last month how 1st Burnmoor Scout Group, in Fence Houses, was targeted by jobs after they recently installed a polytunnel to help youngsters and schoolchildren learn more about growing plants.

(Picture)

The scouts were looking to create an outdoor activity centre, complete with an archery range, climbing wall and garden. However, vandals broke into the garden and slashed parts of the tunnel. When Hadrian Technology heard about the vandalism, they stepped forward to donate and install infrared cameras to deter vandals and enable the garden to flourish for years to come. Hadrian Technology’s Gary Trotter, said: “We are a Sunderland company, but five members of staff, including myself, live in Houghton, and it is great to be able to give something back to our local community. The garden will now be secure and will give the volunteers and children peace of mind, deter the vandals, have a positive effect on their insurance premiums – and maybe even catch the perpetrators if they return.” 1st Burnmoor Scouts leader, Allan Forster, said: “The polytunnel was new and for someone to come and attempt to destroy it was very upsetting for everyone. We’re growing plants to take into the local community to improve the environment for everyone and, thanks to Hadrian Technology, the project can still go ahead.” To donate to the scouts ongoing fundraising, go to 1stburnmoorscouts@localgiving.com.

Help find jobs targeting Scout hut garden scheme.



Group Scout Leader Allan Forster with nine-year-old Alix Bell

A community project led by a village scout group has been blighted by thieves and vandals. The 1st Burnmoor Scout Group, in Fence Houses, near Chester-le-Street is transforming the land around its hut into a garden and woodland for people in the area. Young people and families are working on the scheme, which will benefit pupils at nearby Woodlea Primary School and elderly care home residents. But the project suffered a major setback on Sunday when electric cabling was stolen from the site, hours after it was laid. Only last week, the scout hut was damaged when yobs hurled a half brick and smashed a window. Group scout leader Allan Forster said: "Trying to keep people motivated and give up hours and hours, and days and days, when things like this happen is very hard. It really knocks them back." In June, vandals slashed a new polytunnel installed to help youngsters and schoolchildren in the area learn more about nature and growing plants. Compost has been also stolen and damage has also been caused to a trailer stored on the site. There currently more than 90 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Nine-year-old Alix Bell, of Maplewood Street, in Fences Houses, who attends Woodlea Junior School, has been a member for three years. She said: "It is fun coming to scouts and everyone who comes is happy that we have it in the village. When things like this happen, it makes us sad." Alix's mother, Vicky Bell, is Beaver leader with the group. She said: "It is very disheartening. We take time out of family life to come and work down here and there are people who come down to ruin because they have got nothing better to do. I don't think they realise that we are doing this for future generations and one day their children might want to come down to use it." Mr Forster called on the community to help catch those behind the theft and damage caused. He said: "It is imperative that these people are found and people tells us who is doing this because they are damaging a great community project." Police are investigating and anyone with information is asked to call 101. The group are now appealing for donations towards repairs, which people can do by logging on to: localgiving.com/charity/1stburnmoorscouts

9th December 2015: Luke Smith is presented with the Chief Scout Gold Award



Sunderland Echo, 14 June 2016

Deaths. Forster (Fence Houses) Peacefully at home on June 6th, aged 83 years, Fred (former Scout Leader). Would friends kindly meet on Friday June 17th for service in St. Barnabus Church, Burnmoor at 12.45pm, cremation to follow in Sunderland. Family flowers only please, a donation box at the church in lieu of flowers. Any enquiries to Ashbrooke Funeral Directors, Tel: 0191 5100777.

17th June, 2016: Fred Forster's funeral takes place. Mr Adamson, headmaster at Woodlea School, gave permission for pupils to wear their Beaver and Cub uniforms to school as a mark of respect on the day of Fred's funeral. This was the idea of Luke Steven and Lesley Foster.

Chester-le-Street Advertiser, 03 August, 2016

Teenagers praised for exceptional efforts in sprucing up Bournmoor scout hut.

(Picture)

Project: Dawn Gilderoy of the University of the First Age (I) and volunteer Chris Hodgson (front left) with teenagers involved in project in Bournmoor Picture: Gavin Engelbrecht.

Hundreds of people in a north Durham community will benefit from the exceptional efforts of a group of teenagers who spruced up a scout group's headquarters and surroundings gardens. Fifteen young people from the Chester-le-Street area, participating in a National Citizenship Service scheme, redecorating 1st Bournmoor Scout Group's home at Robert Forster House in Bournmoor. The group was set the task of developing a project to benefit a community organisation in a two-week period. They first contacted groups in local groups offering their help. It was taken up by the scout group who

asked for their hut to be painted and for the surrounding garden area be tidied. Once the task was the set, the youths set about raising the money to buy the raw materials and equipment they would need, in order to complete the work. They did this by washing cars followed by a cake sale at St Nicholas' Church in Durham. NCS volunteer Chris Hodgson said: "During the cake sale many elderly people expressed an interest in the reasons for raising the money and were so impressed by the youngsters' commitment and values, some made a donation of £5 after buying a few fairy cakes. In total the group managed to raise £426.20 in two days. This money was then spent on paint, brushes and other equipment to carry out the work. Assistant group scout leader Angie Forster said: "They have been fantastic and have done an excellent job. "They are a lovely set of kids. Young people get a bad name sometimes and they shouldn't do." She added the facilities were used by the wider community, as well. Mrs Forster said: "What we are hoping to do is create a community garden outside, where young people can mix with the older generation. Dawn Gilderoy, a national manager for the University of the First Age which delivers the NCS scheme, said: "The young people have been fantastic. "They have been very motivated. They made the call to scout leaders to make arrangements and did their own budgeting." The four-week project included an outward bound trip to the Lake District and a week at Sunderland University, where they worked on their plans.

30th June, 2018: A fellowship reunion is held at the hall and grounds in memory of Fred Forster

30th December, 2018: A new Scouting sign is erected on the side of the hall facing the road.



24th July, 2019: Bethany Forster meets Chief Scout, Bear Grylls at 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia



August 2019: The store room in the hall is given a makeover with a new floor, ceiling and racking after being condemned due to a hole in the floor caused by rot.

August 2019: The Group is linked with a Mexican Scout Group by Luke Smith

18th September 2019: A mural celebrating 90 years of the group is unveiled in the hall and the group celebrates with a gathering. Commemorative badges were also issued at this year's summer camp.





27th September 2019: Bus NK54 NVM is delivered by Alpha Towing and manoevered into the hall grounds in heavy rain. The bus was donated to the Group by Go North East.



The 2020s

Group membership numbers from the annual census:

Section	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Beavers	24	26	24	23						
Cubs	21	25	30	30						
Scouts	17	17	16	19						
Total	62	68	70	72						

24th March, 2020: The group is awarded £1,500 at the High Sheriff Awards

August 2020: A new alarm system is installed at the hall by Consett-based company JCS Ltd.

June 2021: Beaver Leader Angela Wilson receives her 5-years service award



June 2021: Assistant Group Scout Leader Stephen Bailey receives his second Commissioner's Commendation award



August 2022: Work starts on an extension to the hall. This adds a disabled access, a large lobby/ reception area, new toilets, a store room and also allows redevelopment of the existing space within the building.



September 2022: The Group receives a donation of £100 from the Co-op's Community Donation Fund



4th February, 2023: Adam Wilson receives his Long Service Award from G.S.L. Allan Forster



February 2023: Emily is presented with her Chief Scout Gold Award by Adam Wilson



9th June, 2023: Start of Coast-to-Coast Cycle Ride fundraiser



July 2023: Group volunteer Eric Walker is presented with a Silver Helper's Badge in recognition for his many years' assistance to the group.



August 2023: Group volunteer Graham Barclay is presented at summer camp with a Silver Helper's Badge in recognition for his many years' assistance to the group.



September 2023: The Group are presented with a cheque for the sum of £1,503 by Asda Foundation





Above and below: "Fred's Stone," Bassenthwaite.

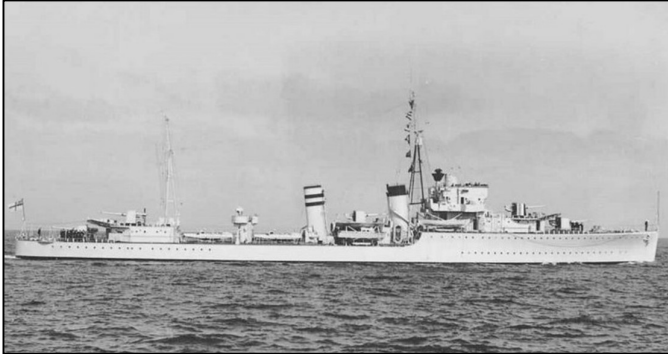


Photograph courtesy of Oliver Dunn, 2021

Appendix 1

Cuthbert John Turner. There is some confusion regarding this gentleman's name. Civil and census records record it as *Cuthbert John Turner*, but contemporary newspaper reports name him as *John Cuthbert Turner* – see further below. On the 1921 census, he is aged two, born in “Little Lumley” to parents Cuthbert Pattison Turner, a railway guard and Edith Mary, nee Garnsworthy. In 1921 the family were living in 28 Gill Crescent South, Fence Houses.

Military records show that Cuthbert joined the Royal Navy as Signalman, service number D/JX 147393. He was deployed to serve on HMS Hardy.



HMS Hardy had been launched on 7th April 1936 by Cammell Laird and Company at Birkenhead and commissioned on 11th December 1936. She became the flagship of the 2nd Destroyer Flotilla assigned to the Home Fleet. During the Norwegian campaign of 1940, Hardy participated in the First Battle of Narvik where she sank one German destroyer. As the British ships were withdrawing, they were discovered by two other German destroyers that so badly damaged Hardy that she had to be run aground on 10th April 1940 to prevent her sinking. The ship was lifted by a rising tide and eventually capsized. It was during these events that Cuthbert was wounded. He died of his wounds on 21st June, 1940, aged just 21. The events surrounding his death are vague and are stated in the newspaper article below. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 39, Column 3.



Note: The information that Cuthbert is commemorated on Panel 39, Column 3 is given on the official Commonwealth War Graves website: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2489228/cuthbert-john-turner/>

However, I am unable to locate his name on this panel, so more research is needed:
<http://www.memorialsinportsmouth.co.uk/pnm-panels/panel39.jpg>

Chester-le-Street Chronicle and District Advertiser, 12 July 1940

Burnmoor Memorial Service

To Late Signaller John Cuthbert Turner.

The Rector of Burnmoor, the Rev Arthur J. Gadd, conducted a memorial service on Sunday morning at Burnmoor church to the late Signaller, John Cuthbert Turner, aged 21, who was wounded on H.M.S. Hardy at Narvik and was later taken to the Shandon at Dumbartonshire. Whilst a patient there, he went out in a boat and was drowned. His body has not yet been recovered. As a boy, he was a member of the Burnmoor church for five years and was also a member of the Boy Scouts. Many of its members, in charge of the acting Scoutmaster, R.J. Armstrong, were present at the service. Before the sermon, Mr Gadd presented to Turner's mother an aluminium wristlet watch which the church members and Boy Scouts had subscribed towards its purchase for presentation to Turner who was expected home on leave this week after he was unfortunately drowned. It bore the inscription "To Leading Signaller, J.C. Turner, of H.M.S. Hardy in appreciation of the heroic action at Narvik, Norway, April 1940. From Burnmoor Church members, A.J. Gadd, Rector." The Rector preached from the text in Psalm 107, verse 30, "He bringeth them into the haven where they would be." He said he called this Psalm a seamen's Psalm and there was no more fitting text, as God had called the boy Turner to that desired haven. The rector referred to the men of the Royal Navy and the Merchantmen service where the spirit of the nation lives and by their courage and bravery, England would ever be free. Mr Gadd read out the prayer of Nelson before the battle of Trafalgar and also that of Queen Elizabeth before the Armada and said we must get back to the glorious faith of our forefathers. Referring to Turner, he said he was loved by all who knew him. He loved his church where he had been confirmed and was a most likeable companion, he had made many friends when in the Shandon Hospital and a memorial service was also held at the Hospital on Sunday morning and also at the Presbyterian Church there. The hymns sung were:- "Jesus lives, no longer now", "Eternal Father strong to save" and "The voice of the beloved."

Appendix 2

William Garbutt Henderson, known as *Pat* to all who knew him, was born in New Herrington on 7th April, 1914, the son of Thomas and Isabell Henderson. The 1921 census shows the family living at 20 Railway Terrace, New Herrington. Before enlisting, Pat was Scout Master at 1st Burnmoor and worked as an Insurance Agent. Since 1938 he had lodged at 56 Station Avenue North, Fence Houses. He was unmarried.

Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette, 30 August 1941



Flight Officer William Garbutt Henderson (27), son of Mr and Mrs T. Henderson, 15 Railway Terrace, New Herrington has, according to the Red Cross Society, been killed in action. He was an insurance agent at Fence Houses for five years, and 10 days prior to his death while home on leave, became engaged to Miss Greta Moore, of 56 Station Avenue, Fence Houses. Mr Henderson re-formed the Burnmoor Troop of Boy Scouts and was devoted to this sphere of work among boys.

Mr Henderson was Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 74 Squadron, service number 61240. His final resting place is Plot 9, Row B, Grave 14, Longuenesse St. Omer Souvenir Cemetery, Longuenesse, Département du Pas-de-Calais, France.



The inscription reads:

*Resting
Where no shadows fall
In perfect peace
He awaits us all*

Probate Record:

HENDERSON William Garbutt of 56 Station-avenue-north Fence Houses county **Durham** died on or since 4 July 1941 on war service Probate **Durham** 13 July to Thomas Henderson colliery wasteman. Effects £712 4s. 7d.

Durham Chronicle, January 30, 1942

Memorial to Pilot Officer

There was a large attendance of Scouts, relatives and friends at the memorial service in Burnmoor Church on Sunday morning, when the Rector of Burnmoor (the Rev A.J. Gadd) conducted a service in memory of Pilot Officer William Garbett (Pat) Henderson (27), son of Mr and Mrs T. Henderson, New Herrington. He was killed when on a flight and was buried at St Omer. The altar was decorated with flowers sent by old boys of the Burnmoor troop of Scouts, of which the deceased officer was scoutmaster. The Rev A.J. Gadd spoke from the text "I have fought a good fight" and said deceased had done his duty splendidly. A great trait in his character was his straightness. He was loved by all and he had a beautiful Christian personality. He was ever ready to help others. The hymns sung were "Fight the good fight" and "The Saints of God their conflict past" Mr J.M. Jones, headmaster of the Houghton-le-Spring Secondary School, which Pilot Officer Henderson had attended as a pupil, was present and sang "O rest in the Lord." Among those present were: Mr and Mrs T. Henderson (father and mother), Mr Kenneth Henderson (brother), Miss E. Henderson, Miss B. Lynn, Mrs Cant and Mrs Thirtle (sisters), Miss G. Moore (the deceased's fiancée) and her mother, Mrs E. Moore, Mrs Austin Kirkup, District Commissioner for Girl Guides, represented her husband, Mr Kirkup jun., District Commissioner for the Scouts. Scouts from the following troops: Chilton Moor, under Assistant S.M., G. Bell; Old Penshaw, under S.M. Fred Hind; Eppleton, in charge of Assistant S.M. Williams and the Burnmoor troop in charge of the new Scoutmaster, R.J. Armstrong.

Appendix 3



Despite the name *John* appearing in later newspaper reports (see further below), *Joseph* Winship Taylor was the son of Frank Taylor, a master shifter at the colliery and his wife Mary. Prior to enlisting in May 1940, Joseph had been employed at Fence Houses Post Office since 1936. His name appears here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/allthingsbournmoor/fencehouses-post-office>

In 1939, the family were living at 1 Woodstone Terrace, Sixth Pit, Fence Houses. Joseph enlisted in May 1940 and was first posted to the Border Regiment where he rose to the rank of Sergeant. He was then posted to an O.C.T.U. (Officer Cadet Training Unit) and was commissioned on October 17th 1942. Also in 1942, Joseph married Ellen Smith, which was reported as follows:

Durham Chronicle, October 23, 1942

Lieut Taylor – Miss Smith

The Rev A.J. Gadd officiated at the wedding at Burnmoor Church on Saturday of Lieut. J.W. Taylor, twin son of Mr and Mrs F. Taylor, Woodstone Village, Fence Houses and Miss Ellen Smith, only daughter of Mr and Mrs T.W. Smith, William Henry Terrace, Fence Houses. The bride, given away by her father, wore a white satin dress with a veil and orange blossom. Miss E. Carr was bridesmaid and she wore a floral crepe dress. Best man was Mr J. Taylor (brother of bridegroom). After the reception at the home of the bride's parents, the newly married couple left for their honeymoon at Workington.

In February 1943, Joseph was sent to North Africa and later to Italy with the 1st Battalion, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), attached to the Duke of Wellington Regiment, as Lieutenant 249247. Joseph died from wounds, age just 23, on 10th February 1944. His last resting place is grave number IV, O, 6 in Anzio War Cemetery, Città Metropolitana di Roma Capitale, Lazio, Italy.



Above: Grave of Joseph Winship Taylor (*Copyright: The War Graves Photographic Project*)

He is also remembered in the churchyard at Great Lumley on a family headstone:



The inscription reads:

*In loving memory of
William Valentine
Dearly beloved husband of
Ivy Taylor
Died Jan. 22nd 1957, aged 36 years
John Taylor, aged 52 years
Also Lieut. Joseph Winship Taylor
Twin brother of the above
Died of wounds, Feb. 10th, 1944
Aged 24 years, buried at Anzio*

Joseph is also remembered:

- On the Lychgate Memorial Plaque at Great Lumley Church, although he is recorded here as “J.V. Taylor.” See appendix 8
- On the Lumley 6th Pit Institute War Memorial. See appendix 9

***Newcastle Journal* 06 April 1944**

Roll of Honour

Taylor, Fence Houses

Lieut. J.W. Taylor, aged 24, died of wounds in Italy, February 1944, dearly loved husband of Ellen Taylor, Henry Terrace, Fence Houses and son of Mr and Mrs F. Taylor, Woodstone Terrace, Fence Houses. Deeply mourned by his wife, father, mother, brothers, sister-in-law, sister, brother-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and all relatives. To us he was all the world.

***Durham Chronicle*, April 7, 1944**

Mrs J.W. Taylor, 6 Henry Terrace, Fence Houses, who received a letter from the War Office, stating that her husband, Lieut. J.W. Taylor, 24, of the Loyal Regiment attached to the Duke of Wellington Regiment, had been wounded, has now received a further letter stating that he had died in an American Hospital in Anzio. He joined the army in May 1940 and was posted to the Borger Regiment where he rose to the rank of sergeant. He was then posted to an O.C.T.U. and was commissioned on October 17th 1942. In February 1943, he was sent to North Africa and later to Italy where he received wounds which caused his death. A twin son of Mr and Mrs F. Taylor, of 1 Woodstone Terrace, Fence Houses, he was educated at Fence Houses Intermediate School and later was employed at the Fence Houses Post Office. After passing examinations, he was transferred to Middlesbrough Post Office where he was a telegraphist and letter sorter. He was confirmed at Burnmoor Church and regularly attended the young men’s Bible Class there. He was very popular with all whom he came in contact with and much sympathy is felt in the district for his wife and parents.

Durham Chronicle, May 5, 1944

A memorial service for Lieut. John Winship Taylor (23), 6 Henry Terrace, Fence Houses, was held in Burnmoor Church on Sunday night. Lieut. Taylor was a keen scout in his younger days and before going to Middlesbrough Post Office, where he was a letter sorter and telegraphist, he was at Fence Houses office. He died of wounds in Italy in February. The service was conducted by the Rev A.J. Gadd, who preached from the text "Jesus beholding him, loved him." Mr F.G. Fennell was organist. There was a large attendance, including: Mrs Taylor (widow); Mr and Mrs F. Taylor (father and mother); Mr and Mrs E. Avery (sister and brother-in-law); Mr and Mrs W. Taylor (brother and sister-in-law); Mr J. Taylor (brother); Miss M. Taylor (sister); Mrs J. Sanderson and Mrs Liddle (cousins); Mr and Mrs F.W. Smith (father-in-law and mother-in-law); Mr and Mrs J. Smith, Mr and Mrs Arthur Smith, Mrs T. Smith, Mr Albert Smith (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law); Mrs E. Carr and Mrs H. Buckland. Mrs Taylor provided flowers for the altar.

Durham Chronicle, June 16, 1944

The 76th anniversary of Burnmoor Parish Church was celebrated on Sunday. The church was built by the Second Earl of Durham and dedicated to S. Barnabas. The Rev A.J. Gadd preached on "St Barnabas the generous" at mattins. In the afternoon, the 22nd annual sportsmen's service was held, when the attendance was a record and the collection was £7 17s 6d. for the blinded sportsmen's section of St Dunstan's. Mr H.C. Ferens, captain of the Durham City Cricket Club, who has read the lesson at all the 22 services, was again present. Mr James W. Armstrong, of Spennymoor, and a former choirboy at the church, sang "Bless This House" and "The Blind Ploughman." Mr F.G. Fennell was organist. Mr J. M. Willis, chairman of Burnmoor Cricket Club, was accompanied by many local players as well as some from Philadelphia and Chester-le-Street Clubs. Other organisations represented were Lumley 6th Pit Ambulance Brigade and Cadets, Woodstone Home Guards, the Fence Houses and Dubmire branches of the British legion, Fence Houses and Burnmoor Special Constables, New Lambton Bowling Club, Woodstone Football Club, Fence Houses and District Old-Age Pensioners Association, the Lambton Miners' Lodge, the Fence Houses Salvation Army and Burnmoor Scouts, etc. Flowers for the altar were sent by Mr and Mrs F. Taylor, of Woodstone Terrace, in memory of their son, Lieut. J.W. Taylor, who died of wounds in Italy. The preacher was the Rev Gordon R. Berriman, Gateshead.

Appendix 4

Thomas Douglas Elliott was born on 15th December, 1917 at 33 Chapel Row, New Lambton, to parents Anthony Elliott, a coal miner hewer at Lambton D Pit and his wife Margaret Jane. In 1923, the family moved to the newly built houses at Panfield Terrace and made their home in number 7.

Thomas joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve 302 Ferry Training Unit as Flight Engineer, service number 938481. He, along with the rest of the crew, died aged 25 on 3rd June, 1944, when his plane (a type Sunderland III, serial no. ML811) crashed at Lakka in the Belgian Congo after encountering a tornado during a transit flight from Apapa, Nigeria to Libreville in the Belgian Congo.



Above: A Sunderland Mk3 British bomber and flying boat made by Short Brothers

According to the Commonwealth War Graves website, all ten men on the flight lost their lives and are buried alongside each other in the same cemetery.

Sergeant Thomas Douglas Elliott, 938481, Flight Engineer

Flight Sergeant George Ernest Chaplin, 1319843, pilot

Flying Officer Robert Hartley Graham, 160673, pilot

Flight Lieutenant John Peter Gondola, 120345, navigator

Flight Sergeant John Joseph Duffy, 1312519, wireless operator

Flight Sergeant Stanley William Rolph, 1336696, wireless operator

Sergeant Roland George Lindsay, 531950, wireless operator

Sergeant Harold Henry Thomas James, 1897063, air gunner

Sergeant William Best, 1594574, air gunner

Sergeant Maurice Munns, 1383075, air gunner

They were all laid to rest in Malabo Cemetery, Bioko, Equatorial Guinea. Thomas' grave reference is Prot. Sec., Grave 7.



Durham Chronicle, November 24, 1944

A memorial service for four Fence Houses men who have lost their lives in the war will be conducted by the Rev A.J. Gadd in Burnmoor Parish Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The names of the four men are: Pilot Officer J. Watson (23), Sergt. J. Charlton (28), Private R.E. Hewison (38), Sergt. T.D. Elliott (26).

Durham Chronicle, November 26, 1944

“Lest we Forget”

Memorial to Burnmoor’s Brave Men

A memorial service was held at Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday to four men in the district who made the supreme sacrifice in the war this year: Sergt. Thomas Douglas Elliott (26) R.A.F., who lost his life off the West African coast on June 3rd, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Elliott, Panfield Terrace, New Lambton, who had only been married a few months; Pilot Officer Jack Watson (23) R.A.F., son of Mr and Mrs E. Watson, Wood Row, Lumley Sixth Pit, killed at St Martin de Salles, France, June 17th; Sergt. John Charlton (28) Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in Normandy, July 30th, son of Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, Sydney Street, Fence Houses; and Pte. Richard Edwin Hewison (38), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, killed in Italy on October 19th, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, Morton Crescent, Fence Houses (former residents of Handon Hold (Pelton)). The first three mentioned had been members of the Bible Class, all confirmed at the church. They were Scouts. The Rector (Rev A.J. Gadd) spoke in impressive terms from the text “The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.” Burnmoor Scouts, in charge of their scoutmaster (Mr J. Forster), attended in force. Flowers for the altar and war memorial were sent by Mesdames Charlton, Taylor and Winship. Family mourners present at the service were: Mrs M. Elliott, widow; Mr and Mrs A. Elliott, father and mother; Mrs L. Wise, sister; Mr and Mrs Jos. Elliott, brother and sister-in-law; Miss J. Elliott, sister; Mr T. Richardson, brother-in-law and Mr and Mrs W. Baker, cousins. Mrs E. Watson, mother; Mr T. Clark, Mr and Mrs E. Clark, Mrs D. Williams, uncles and aunts, and Sergt. Iris Yates. Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, father and mother; Mrs R. Allinson, sister; Mr J. and Miss Charlton, cousins. Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, father and mother; Miss E.J. Hewison, sister and Mr and Mrs R. Horne, uncle and aunt.

Appendix 5



Jack Watson was born on 21st March 1921, the son of Ernest Watson, a bricklayer, and Mary J. Watson. By 1939, Jack was working as a clerk at Shire Hall, Durham. The family were living at 19 Wood Row, Sixth Pit, Fence Houses. Jack enlisted into 197 Squadron of the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was Flying Officer 169431.

Jack died on 17th June, 1944, aged 23, while flying Typhoon Ib MN269.



Above: A Typhoon fighter plane.

Jack's mission was to attack a bridge near Caen. It is not known whether he was shot down or caught in his own bomb's blast.

(Source: <http://www.newmp.org.uk/article.php?categoryid=99&articleid=1275&displayorder=15>)

Jack was awarded the D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross).

His final resting place is a grave in St. Martin-de-Sallen Communal Cemetery, Calvados, France. There are just two Commonwealth burials of the 1939-1945 war in this cemetery.

(48008) WT.P.2259/2808 20.000 3/53 A.&E.W.LTD. GP.685

Graves Registration Report Form.

COUNTRY: FRANCE
~~COMMONWEALTH~~ REPORT No. : SCHEDULE No. : 1

PLACE OF BURIAL: ST. MARTIN DE SALLEN COMMUNAL CEMETERY

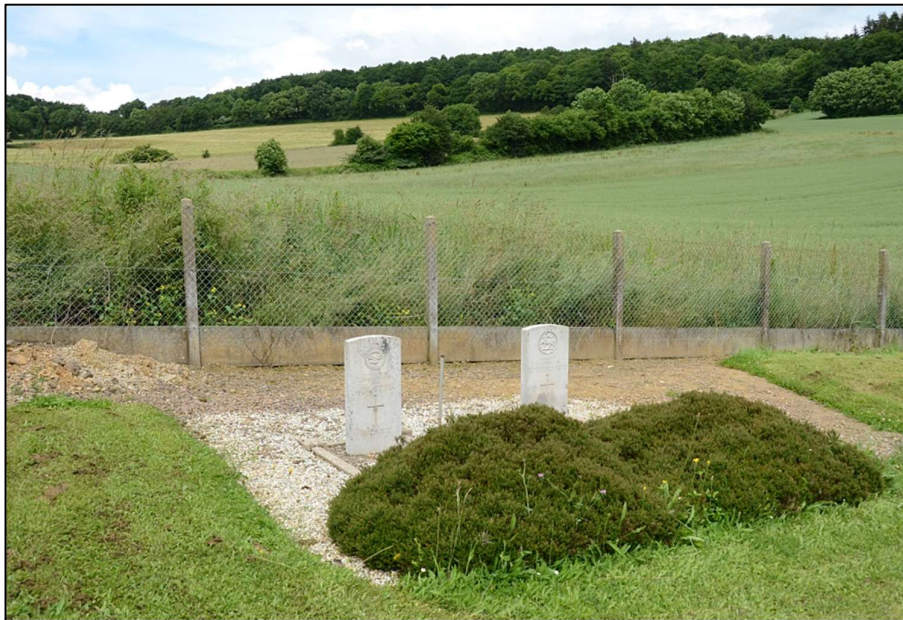
Land belongs to

Certified complete and correct.

The following are buried here :—

Signature: *[Signature]* Date: 7 FEB 1956
 Records Dep. - France

P.R.G.	No. and Rank	Initials, Name and Honours	Unit	Date of Death	For works use
169431.	F/O (Pilot)	J. WATSON (D.F.C)	197. Sqdn. R.A.F. (VR)	17.6.44	C.H
5951659	L/Cpl	E.F. OVERTON	1/7 th Bn. Queen's Royal Regt.	7.8.44	C.H



Jack's fellow countryman in the cemetery is Lance Corporal Edwin Frank Overton, 5951659, 1/7th Bn., The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). He died 7th August 1944, aged 24. Son of Edwin Charles. and Helen Tirnna Overton, of Salisbury; husband of Dorothy Erhen Overton, of Salisbury. His headstone bears the inscription "He Who Would Valiant Be."



The inscription on Jack's grave:

*To live in hearts
We leave behind
Is not to die.*



Jack is also remembered:

- Roll of Honour, Chester-le-Street Grammar School: <http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=10596>
- On the Great Lumley Lychgate Memorial. See appendix 8. Also: <http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=7375>
- On the Lumley 6th Pit Institute War Memorial. See appendix 9. Also: <http://www.newmp.org.uk/detail.php?contentId=9238>
- On the family grave in St Barnabas' Churchyard, Burnmoor



Inscription:

In loving memory of / George E. / beloved husband of / Mary J. Watson / died Sep. 17th 1947 / aged 59 yrs. / also the above / Mary J. Watson / died May 21st 1955, aged 67 yrs. / also of F/O, Jack Watson, D.F.C., son of the above / died June 17th 1944 / aged 23 yrs.

Durham Chronicle, November 24, 1944

A memorial service for four Fence Houses men who have lost their lives in the war will be conducted by the Rev A.J. Gadd in Burnmoor Parish Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The names of the four men are: Pilot Officer J. Watson (23), Sergt. J. Charlton (28), Private R.E. Hewison (38), Sergt. T.D. Elliott (26).

Durham Chronicle, November 26, 1944

"Lest we Forget"

Memorial to Burnmoor's Brave Men

A memorial service was held at Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday to four men in the district who made the supreme sacrifice in the war this year: Sergt. Thomas Douglas Elliott (26) R.A.F., who lost his life off the West African coast on June 3rd, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Elliott, Panfield Terrace, New Lambton, who had only been married a few months; Pilot Officer Jack Watson (23) R.A.F., son of Mr and Mrs E. Watson, Wood Row, Lumley Sixth Pit, killed at St Martin de Salles, France, June 17th; Sergt. John Charlton (28) Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in Normandy, July 30th, son of Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, Sydney Street, Fence Houses; and Pte. Richard Edwin Hewison (38), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, killed in Italy on October 19th, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, Morton

Crescent, Fence Houses (former residents of Handon Hold (Pelton)). The first three mentioned had been members of the Bible Class, all confirmed at the church. They were Scouts. The Rector (Rev A.J. Gadd) spoke in impressive terms from the text "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God." Burnmoor Scouts, in charge of their scoutmaster (Mr J. Forster), attended in force. Flowers for the altar and war memorial were sent by Mesdames Charlton, Taylor and Winship. Family mourners present at the service were: Mrs M. Elliott, widow; Mr and Mrs A. Elliott, father and mother; Mrs L. Wise, sister; Mr and Mrs Jos. Elliott, brother and sister-in-law; Miss J. Elliott, sister; Mr T. Richardson, brother-in-law and Mr and Mrs W. Baker, cousins. Mrs E. Watson, mother; Mr T. Clark, Mr and Mrs E. Clark, Mrs D. Williams, uncles and aunts, and Sergt. Iris Yates. Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, father and mother; Mrs R. Allinson, sister; Mr J. and Miss Charlton, cousins. Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, father and mother; Miss E.J. Hewison, sister and Mr and Mrs R. Horne, uncle and aunt.

Appendix 6

John Charlton was born in 1918, the son of Thomas Michael Charlton, a coal miner hewer and Sarah Frances Charlton. The family lived at 2 Sydney Street, Fence Houses.

In 1939, John married Doris Legate, of Flitwick, Bedfordshire.

He enlisted as Serjeant (sic.) 5952044, 1/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He died 30th July, 1944, aged 26 years. He is commemorated on panel 12, column 3 of the Bayeux Memorial, Calvados, France.



The memorial stands opposite the cemetery and contains the names of 1,798 men of the Commonwealth land forces who died in the early stages of the campaign and have no known grave. They died during the landings in Normandy, during the intense fighting in Normandy itself and during the advance to the River Seine in August 1944.

John's connection with his wife's home town of Flitwick has been researched by Philip Thompson in his publication "Flitwick. A Story Of Two World Wars," an excerpt of which is reproduced below:

John Charlton's connection to Flitwick seems to have been through his wife and her family. John was born in County Durham around 1918. John's parents were Thomas and Sarah Charlton. John married Doris E Legate in Flitwick just before the start of World War II between July and September 1939. Doris was born in the first quarter of 1920, both of her parents being from the Bedfordshire area. Her father and mother were Arthur Frank and Annie Margaret Legate (nee Askern). John was a Sergeant in the 1/7th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His service number was 5952044. John died on or around the 30th of July 1944 near Caen in France soon after the Normandy Landings and the subsequent breakout from the beachhead. John's body was never found and identified, therefore he is recorded as missing presumed dead. At the time of his death he was 26 years of age. John Charlton's death is recorded on the Bayeux Memorial in Calvados, France on panel 12— column 3. Sadly John and Doris would have had very little married life together as the war so cruelly interrupted their lives

Source: <https://www.flitwick.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Warbook-V8.pdf>

Durham Chronicle, November 24, 1944

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Wise, sister; Mr and Mrs Jos. Elliott, brother and sister-in-law; Miss J. Elliott, sister; Mr T. Richardson, brother-in-law and Mr and Mrs W. Baker, cousins. Mrs E. Watson, mother; Mr T. Clark, Mr and Mrs E. Clark, Mrs D. Williams, uncles and aunts, and Sergt. Iris Yates. Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, father and mother; Mrs R. Allinson, sister; Mr J. and Miss Charlton, cousins. Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, father and mother; Miss E.J. Hewison, sister and Mr and Mrs R. Horne, uncle and aunt.

Appendix 7

Richard Edwin Hewison was born in 1906 at High Hold, Pelton, the son of John and Elizabeth Jane Hewison. On the 1911 census, the family were living in 4 Victoria Terrace, Pelton. By 1921, they had moved to 4 South View, High Hold, Pelton. Richard attended West Pelton School and later worked at Handon Hold Colliery. Finding himself out of work, he went to Canada and worked on a farm there for 6½ years before going to New Zealand where he joined the army as Private 236748 in the 25th Bn., New Zealand Infantry Army. He was posted to Italy in January 1944.

By 1939, his parents, John and Elizabeth Hewison, had moved to 22 Morton Crescent, Fence Houses.

Richard was killed in action on 19th October, 1944. His final resting place is grave I, E, 8, Cesena War Cemetery, Provincia di Forli, Emilia-Romagna, Italy.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle 01 November 1944

Roll of Honour

Hewison (Fence Houses, late of Pelton)

Killed in action in Italy, Oct. 1944, Richard Edwin (Dick), of New Zealand, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, 22 Morton Crescent, Fence Houses. Deeply mourned and never to be forgotten by father, mother, sisters.

Durham Chronicle, November 3, 1944

The High Commissioner of New Zealand has notified Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, 22 Morton Crescent, Fence Houses, of the death of their only son, Pte. Richard Edwin Hewison (38), 32nd Battalion, New Zealand Expeditionary Force, killed in Northern Italy on 19th Oct. He was born at High Hold, Pelton, and went to West Pelton School and later worked at Handon Hold Colliery. When he was out of work, he went to Canada and worked on a farm there for 6½ years, going to New Zealand. He joined the New Zealand Army and went to Italy in January of this year. He was unmarried and intended having a holding of his own in New Zealand after the war and his parents intended going out to join him.

Durham Chronicle, November 24, 1944

A memorial service for four Fence Houses men who have lost their lives in the war will be conducted by the Rev A.J. Gadd in Burnmoor Parish Church at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The names of the four men are: Pilot Officer J. Watson (23), Sergt. J. Charlton (28), Private R.E. Hewison (38), Sergt. T.D. Elliott (26).

Durham Chronicle, November 26, 1944

"Lest we Forget"

Memorial to Burnmoor's Brave Men

A memorial service was held at Burnmoor Parish Church on Sunday to four men in the district who made the supreme sacrifice in the war this year: Sergt. Thomas Douglas Elliott (26) R.A.F., who lost his life off the West African coast on June 3rd, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Elliott, Panfield Terrace, New Lambton, who had only been married a few months; Pilot Officer Jack Watson (23) R.A.F., son of Mr and Mrs E. Watson, Wood Row, Lumley Sixth Pit, killed at St Matin de Salles, France, June 17th; Sergt. John Charlton (28) Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in Normandy, July 30th, son of Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, Sydney Street, Fence Houses; and Pte. Richard Edwin Hewison (38), New Zealand Expeditionary Force, killed in Italy on October 19th, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, Morton Crescent, Fence Houses (former residents of Handon Hold (Pelton)). The first three mentioned had been members of the Bible Class, all confirmed at the church. They were Scouts. The Rector (Rev A.J. Gadd) spoke in impressive terms from the text "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God." Burnmoor Scouts, in charge of their scoutmaster (Mr J. Forster), attended in force. Flowers for the altar and war memorial were sent by Mesdames Charlton, Taylor and Winship. Family mourners present at the service were: Mrs M. Elliott, widow; Mr and Mrs A. Elliott, father and mother; Mrs L. Wise, sister; Mr and Mrs Jos. Elliott, brother and sister-in-law; Miss J. Elliott, sister; Mr T. Richardson, brother-in-law and Mr and Mrs W. Baker, cousins. Mrs E. Watson, mother; Mr T. Clark, Mr and Mrs E.

Clark, Mrs D. Williams, uncles and aunts, and Sergt. Iris Yates. Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, father and mother; Mrs R. Allinson, sister; Mr J. and Miss Charlton, cousins. Mr and Mrs J. Hewison, father and mother; Miss E.J. Hewison, sister and Mr and Mrs R. Horne, uncle and aunt.

Newcastle Evening Chronicle 19 October 1945

In Memoriam

On Active Service. Hewison (Fence Houses, late High Hold). Treasured memories of our only son, Dick, Med. Ord. 2 N.Z.E.F., killed in action Italy, Oct. 19, 1944, buried at San Mauro. Years will not darken, nor shadows dim, the beautiful memories we have of him. Always remembered by mum, dad, sisters Betty and Ivy, Wilf, Hazel, New Zealand.

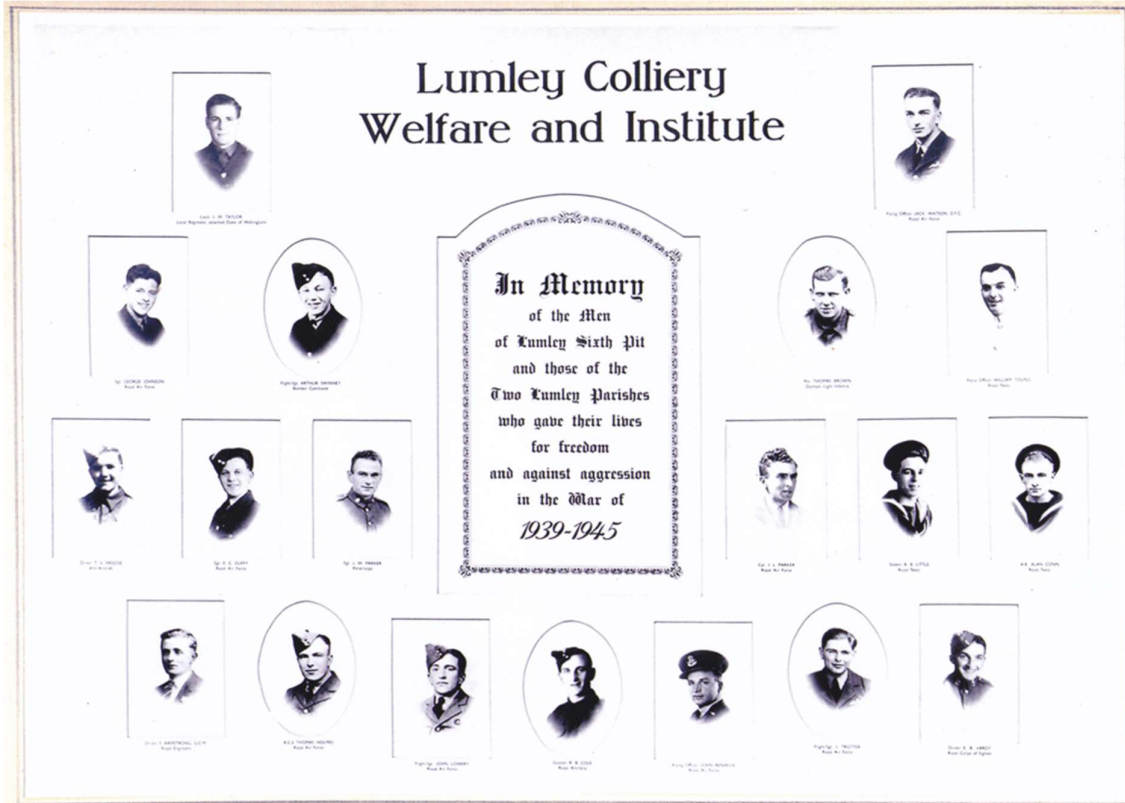
Appendix 8

The 1939 - 1945 Roll of Honour Memorial on the Lychgate at Christchurch Great Lumley



Appendix 9

Memorial, Lumley Sixth Pit Colliery Welfare and Institute. The current location of this memorial is not known.



Appendix 10

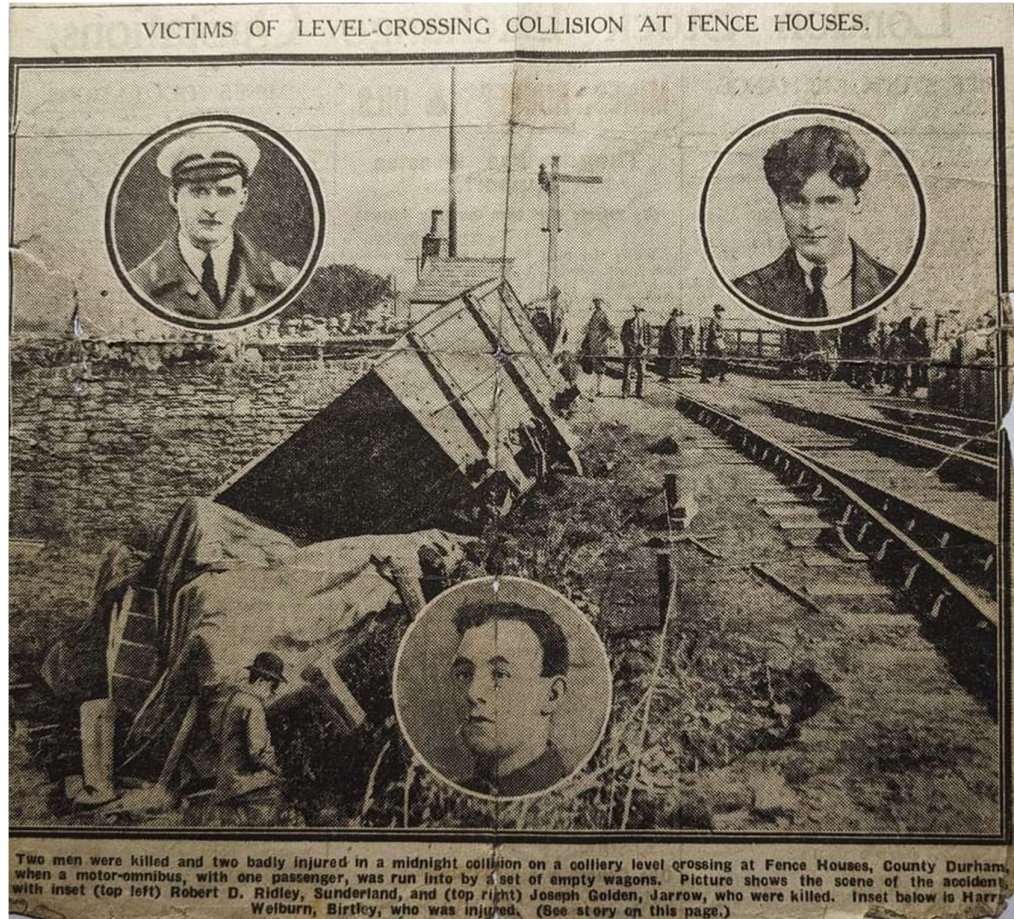
Summer Camp Locations

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2021:
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2019:
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Appendix 11

18th August 1924: A fatal accident occurred at the railway crossing which was once adjacent to where today's Scout Hall stands. Note the stone retaining wall to the left in the picture below which still exists today.



Western Daily Press, 20 August 1924

'Bus Over Embankment

Two Men Killed in Durham

Robert Ridley, aged 19, an omnibus conductor, of Sunderland, and Joseph Golden, 23, of Harrow, a passenger, were killed outright as a result of a collision between an omnibus and a train of empty trucks at a colliery crossing near Fencehouses, Durham, late on Monday night. The 'bus was struck broadside by the foremost wagon and thrown over the embankment, being overturned in its fall. The 'bus driver, who was pinned amongst the debris, had a miraculous escape. Extricated after two hours' arduous labour, he was removed to Sunderland Infirmary, as was the guard of the train. The guard, who was riding on the front wagon, was hurled into a field and sustained a fractured leg.

Western Daily Press, 22 August 1924

Unheeded Signal

The Durham Motor-'bus Smash

The inquest was opened yesterday on Joseph Golden, a cartman, of Jarrow, and Robert Ridley, 'bus conductor, of Sunderland, victims of the motor 'bus smash at Fencehouses level crossing on Monday night. The driver of the 'bus and the guard of the train could not attend owing to injuries, and the inquiry was adjourned for a month after evidence had been given by the crossing keeper, William Henderson. Henderson said he waved a red light to the approaching 'bus which, however, did not stop. There were no gates at the crossing. He denied a suggestion by the 'Bus Company's Solicitor that he never showed the red lamp. Albert Nixon, taxi driver, said he turned off at a road near to the crossing when the 'bus was approaching and he saw no red light shown.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail 19 September 1924

Fencehouses Level Crossing Smash

Coroner and Primitive Traffic Methods

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned at the inquest, which lasted seven hours, at Lumley, Durham County, yesterday, on the body of Robert Davison Wrigley (19), Sunderland, 'bus conductor, and Joseph Golden (23), of Birtley, a passenger, who lost their lives in a midnight collision on a colliery level crossing at Fencehouses, when a motor-omnibus was struck by a train, and after being carried about ten yards was toppled over an embankment into a field ten feet below. The leading truck fell upon the 'bus, flattening it out. When extricated an hour later, both the 'bus conductor and passenger were dead. The 'bus driver, Mr Thomas Henry Welburn, was carried into the room on the back of a friend and fainted once while giving evidence. It was suggested at this stage that evidence should be temporarily adjourned and the driver's reply was "Come on, let us get it over."

Driver's Story

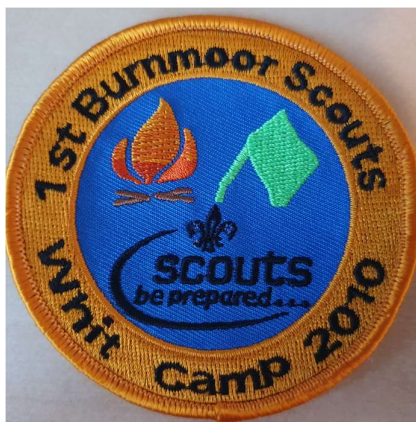
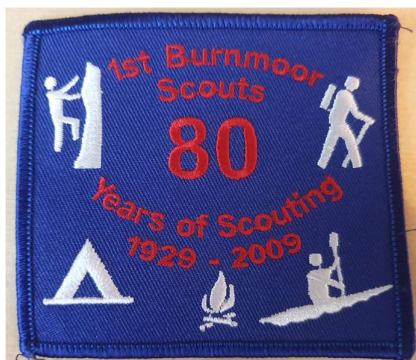
Welburn's story was that he did not know what happened until he was bumped and dragged up the line. There was no watchman at the crossing and no red light was shown. There was nothing to indicate that a train was coming. After the collision, when he was pinned down, the man came with a light and although in agony, he strongly urged the man to go away, thinking he was in danger. There was no light and he thought the watchman had been late in coming out of his cabin. Nathaniel Adams, the guard of the train, said he was riding on the buffers and the engine was behind 32 trucks. When about 100 yards away, he saw the reflection on a 'bus which was travelling unusually fast. He saw the gateman standing on the middle of the turnpike and witness's signal was clear.

Watchman and Driver Exonerated

The Deputy Coroner (Mr Pearce) said the arrangements were primitive and suggested that closing gates should be placed across the highway. Trains should not be driven from behind. The colliery company was not free from blame in employing an aged watchman and not having better methods. The jury exonerated the watchman and the 'bus driver but expressed the opinion that the mode of controlling the traffic was very inadequate and recommended the colliery company to take steps to improve their methods.

Appendix 12

1st Burnmoor Group Commemorative Badges







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