

DOG FIGHT OVER EASINGTON.

By Mary N. Bell.

Rumours that England was to be invaded by Germany on August 15th 1940 reached us in Easington Colliery via Pathe News at the picture houses and newspapers. I was 9 years old.

It was happening, the INVASION. My dad had been in 10 pm shift, he was in bed, he ran down the stairs. The three of us squeezed into the cupboard under the stairs, me squashed between mam and dad. Deafening noises of bombs dropping, ack ack gunfire and the tat-tat-tat of machine guns filled our heads and rattled our end terraced house. The ground shook so much if the world had been flat we would have been thrown off. The raid went on for a long time.

We were regularly woken at night by the air raid siren, a daylight raid was unusual and frightening. The weather was warm, bright, sunny and clear. When the noises became distant and quietened down my father opened the front door to see if the pit was still there. It was. My father shouted to me, excitedly " Mary, Mary, hurry, come and see this, you might never see this again". In the background of the pit in the clear, blue sky above the North Sea a dog fight was in progress. We could see and hear tracer bullets from both aeroplanes. There were 2 planes battling it out over our sea. I watched in awe. One plane dramatically plummeted into the sea, the other flew south. The silent air unnatural, it smelled acrid. My father said, "Never forget that Mary. Ours has won."

Dad ran from the house to go to his brother Tom's house; he lived near the pit where he guessed the Germans were aiming.

My mam went to the back yard gate and was told Mr. Mullany and Mr. Hardman had been killed in the pit yard. They were in the Home Guard. News travelled quickly in this village. From my bedroom window I watched open topped lorries acting as ambulances speeding up the main street to the village hospital. Blankets covered some, others were being held down, no doubt in extreme pain.

My cousin Tom who had been watching the planes coming overhead was machine gunned in the leg. My father came back, informed us " It's hell down there". A toilet was on a rooftop, the Auxiliary Fire Service and police were there. The death toll was 14. 300 were homeless, many were injured.

Years and years later there was a competition in the Northern Echo asking for experiences of the war. I sent this story in and won. Then I had a phone call from the R.A.F. archive reps. Visit me. They did. The gist of this was they had tracked every German plane in that raid but one and the dog fight I had seen was the one they were looking for. I showed them where the dog fight had been. They then asked me if I would like to know what had happened to the Spitfire. The plane had crashed in Hart (Crimdon) sand dunes. The white South African pilot taken to a hospital in West Hartlepool. He had recovered and gone back into the R.A.F.

I contacted the War Office and they told me he had died in France. I asked if the letter I had sent could be passed on to his family. Sadly I heard no more.

EASINGTON PIT DISASTER

(A poem by Mary Nightingale Bell)

Head bowed at the foot of the mass grave,
Atmosphere serene and quiet,
My mind zoomed instantly back to the past,
Imagination running riot.

May twenty ninth nineteen fifty-one,
Can you hear the clash of a gate,
As an unsuspecting pit lad checks,
He has his water bottle and bait.

He glances back at his home,
Unaware of what lies ahead,
Not knowing the echoing sound,
Is his swansong, unsung, unread.

Pit baths, change clothes, catch cage,
Travel rocky underground hills,
Eighty one ill-fated coal getters,
Walk to death in the North Pit duck Bills.

The explosion rocked the pit,
Black killer dust, white-hot hell,
To add to the anguish of Easington,
Two rescuers perished as well.

Jim, Jack, Tom, Bill, Joe,
Jesse, Peter, Bert and John,
George, Mattie, Steve, Fred, Hughie,
A few of the names that we mourn.

Name written on the memorial,
On the hill overlooking the sea,
Ensuring the disaster of Easington,
Is forever preserved in history.

Accountants are able to reckon,
Politicians fight to control,
Argue prices rates and profits,
Easington knows the cost of coal.

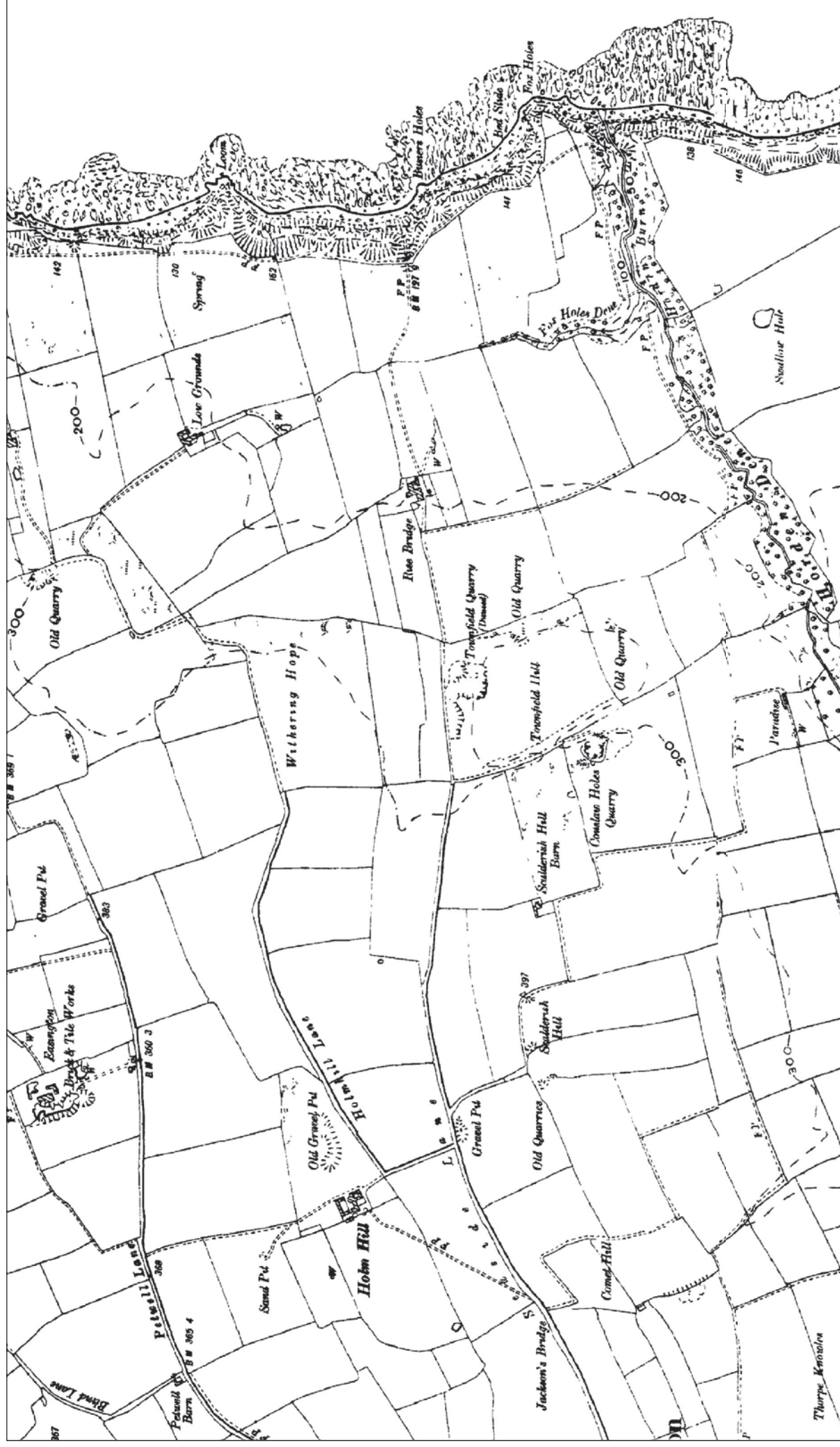
ILLUSTRATION FEATURE

The Growth of Settlement in the 20th Century:

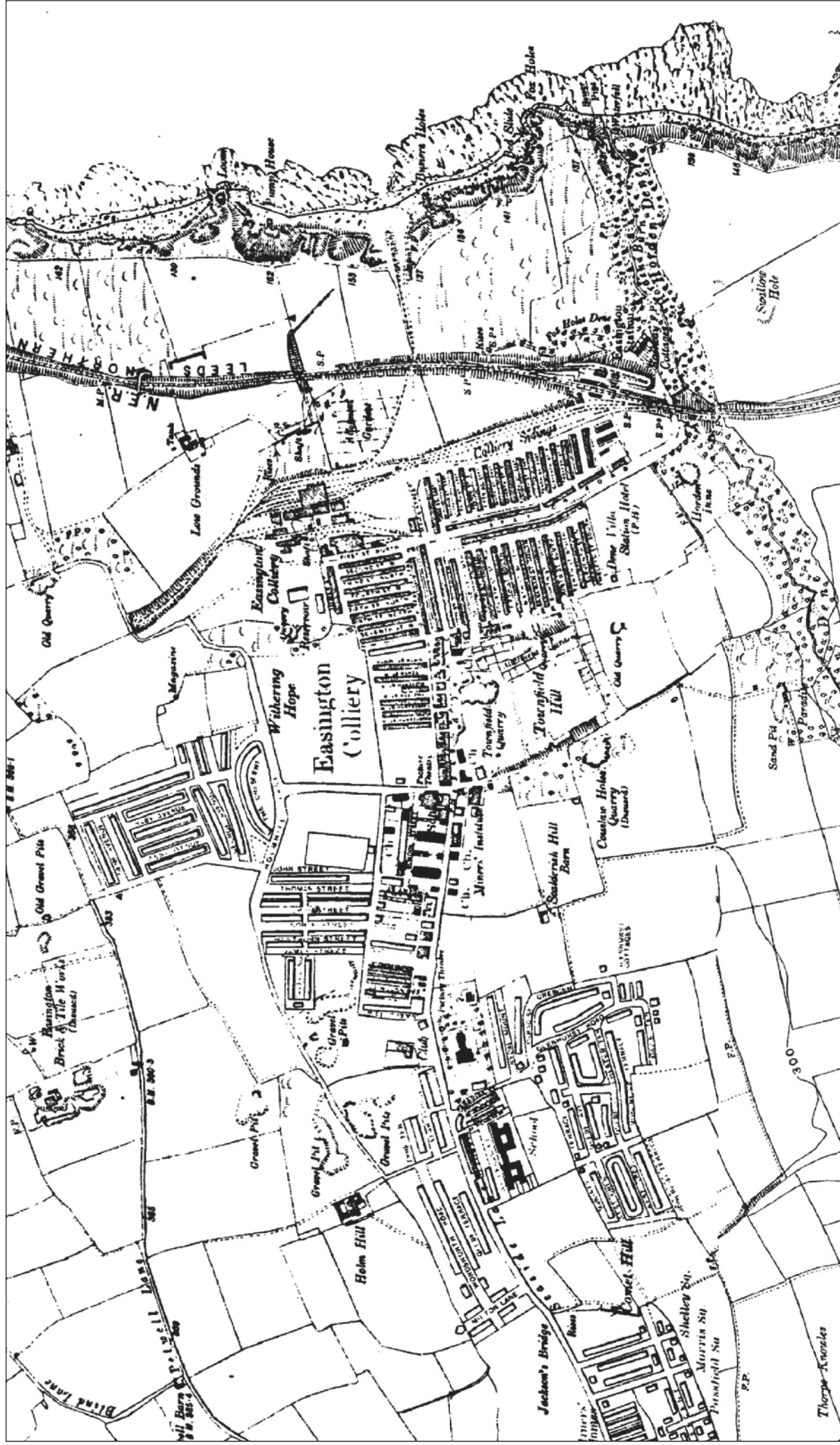
Easington Colliery and Easington Village

- Historic Maps and Built Environment -

Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898 (6 inches per mile), showing Easington Colliery Village (site of)



Extract from the Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey, 1939 (6 inches per mile), showing Easington Colliery Village



Scale 1:10000

1000 m

800

600

400

200

0



Extract from the 1936 Ordnance Survey (6 inch) map of Easington Colliery Village

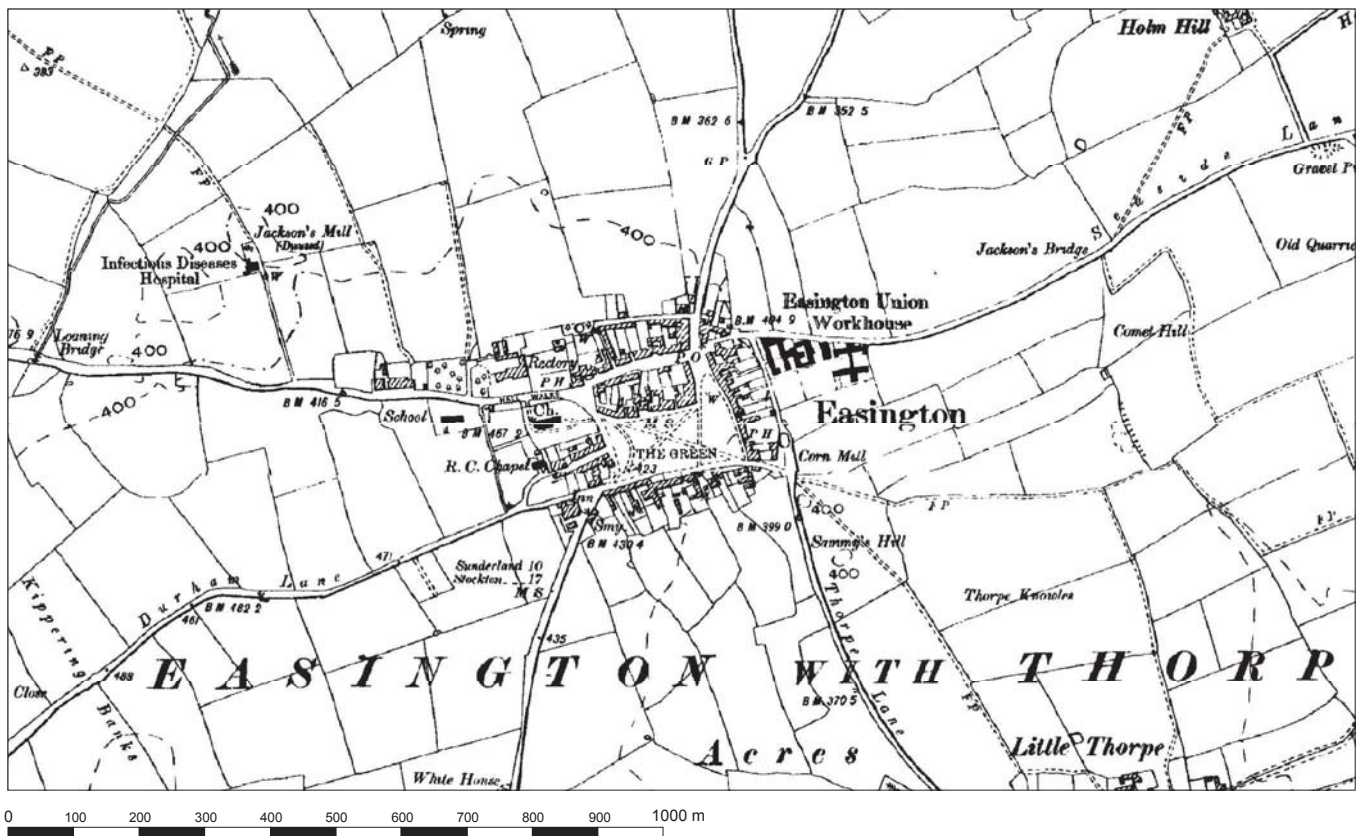


Extract from the 199h Edition Ordnance Survey (6 inch) showing Easington Colliery Village



Scale 1:10000

0 200 400 600 800 1000 m



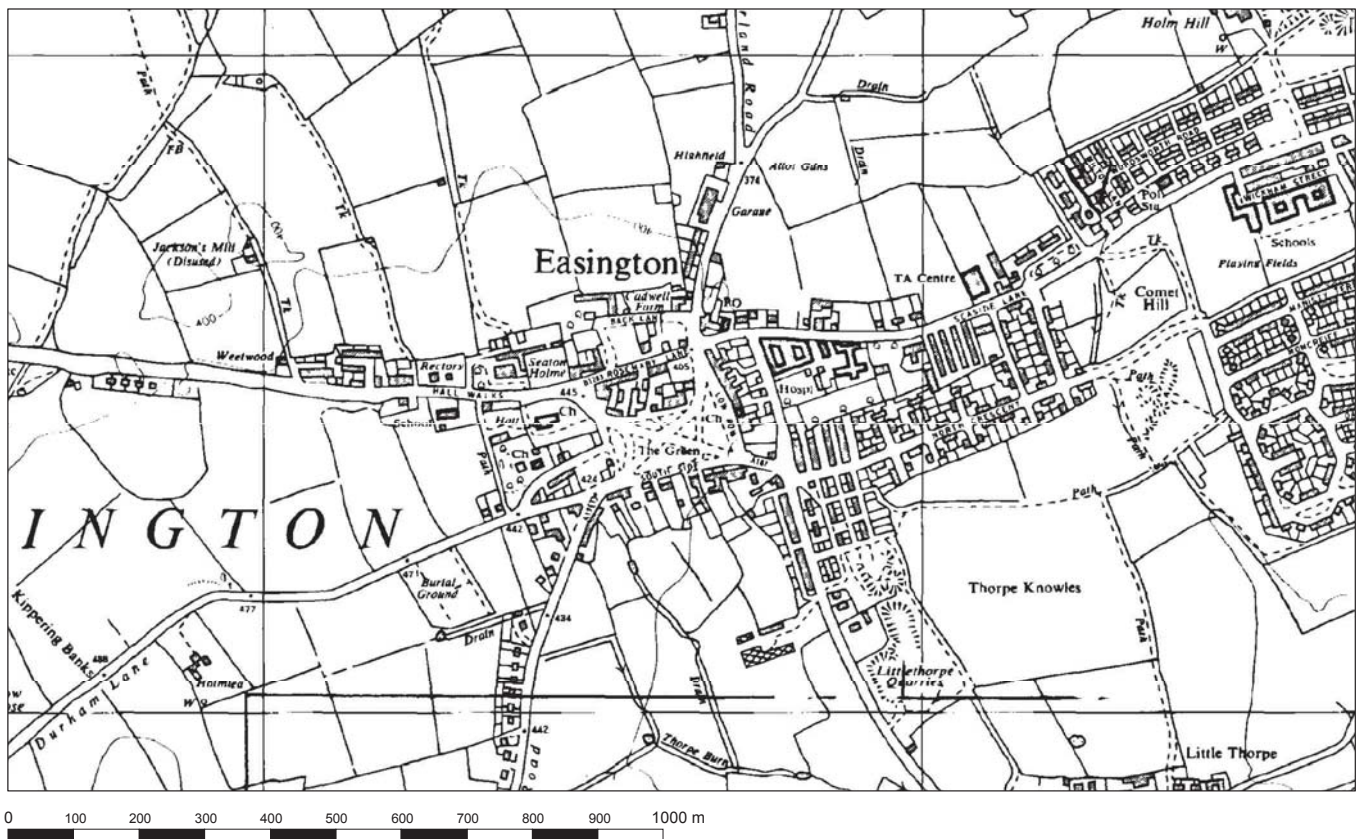
Extract of the 6" 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1898, showing Easington Village.



Extract of the 6" 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1914, showing Easington Village.



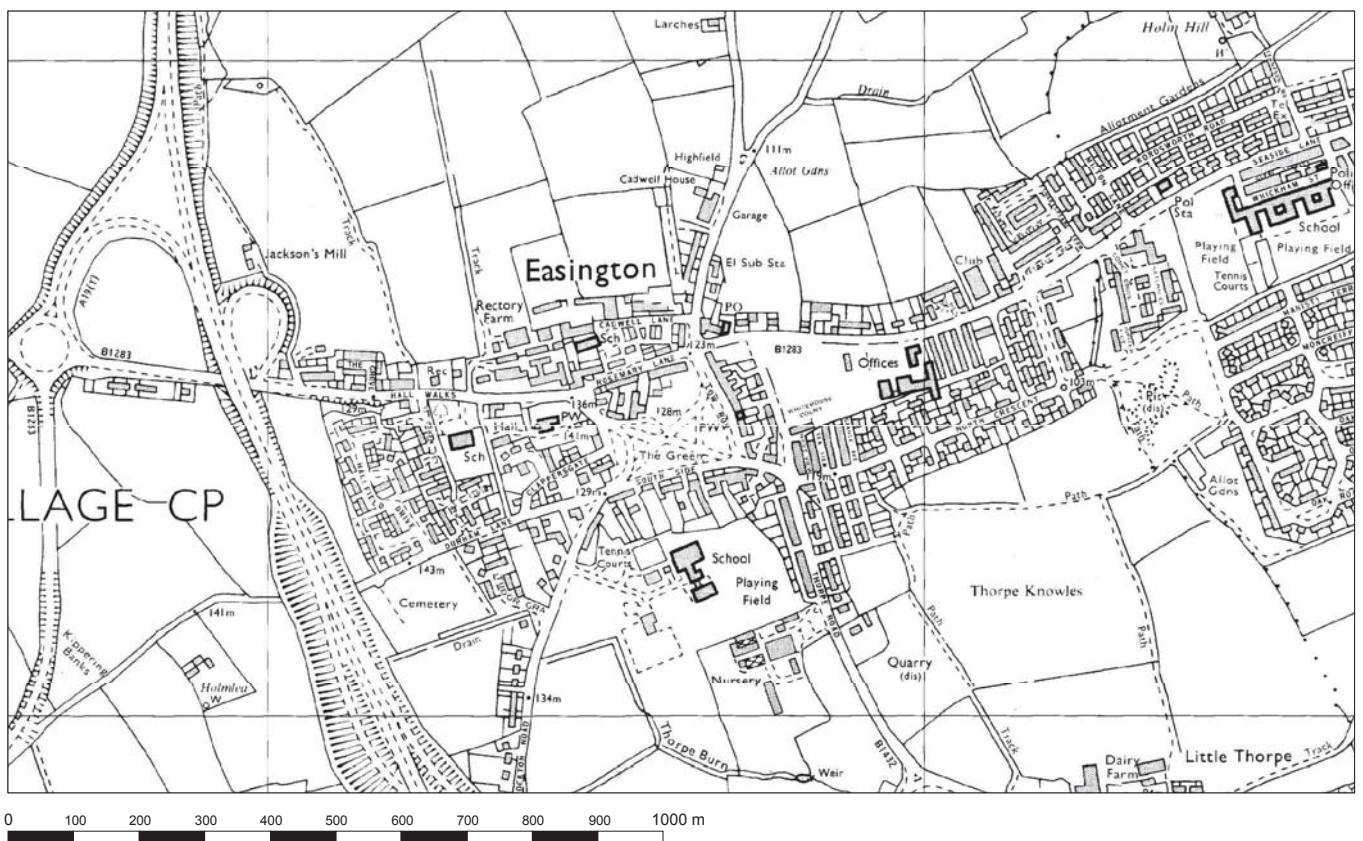
Extract of the 6" 1949 Edition Ordnance Survey, showing Easington Village.



Extract of the 6" 1967 Edition Ordnance Survey, showing Easington Village.



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El gscgef gnt 6" 199h Eaiged Oradsdct . ur7t S 4wey idv Es4idvged Vinsvt o

STREET VIEWS OF EASINGTON COLLIERY - COLLIERY PERIOD HOUSING



View east from Town Quarry



Corner of Ashton St.



Ashton St.



Station Rd.



Easington Colliery Officials Club



Barwick St-Bradley St.



Browning St-Bourne St.



Miner's Welfare Institute



Vincent St.



School St.



Cemetery Lodge



Thomas St.



Thomas St.



James St.



James St.



Vane St.



Thorpe St. from the north



Holmhill Road corner

STREET VIEWS OF EASINGTON COLLIERY - COLLIERY PERIOD HOUSING CONTINUED...



Raby Ave/Dene Ave



Petwell Lane East-end garages



John St. (N)



John St. (S)



Paradise Cres towards Paradise



Glebe Avenue



Hazel Crescent



North Cres. towards the Village



North Crescent



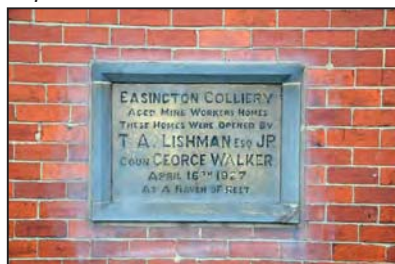
Jupiter Court



Aged miners homes



Aged miners homes Hopper St



Aged miners homes tablet 1



Aged miners homes tablet 2



Cardiff St.



Cornwall St.



The Urinal (North elevation)



The Urinal (oblique from NW)

STREET VIEWS OF SEASIDE LANE EASINGTON COLLIERY



EASINGTON COLLIERY ALLOTMENTS



Holmhill Lane Allotments



Holmhill Lane Allotments



View east along Holmhill Lane showing allotments entrance



Allotment gate on Holmhill Lane



Allotments between the east end of Petwell Lane and Dene Avenue



View towards Easington Colliery over allotments at the west end of Petwell Lane



Allotments at Paradise



Trotting a horse at allotments in Paradise



Seaside Road Pidgeon creche

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EASINGTON'S ALTERNATIVE HISTORY – SITE GAZETTEER

1. 'Sammy's Hill', Thorpe Quarries – Quarry with Austin 7 at the bottom. The wider Sammy's Hill area is littered with glacial erratic stones in the surface boulder clay which, it is suggested, may well have been exploited as a source of building stones used in the construction of Easington church and other significant buildings. Next to the quarry were a group of wooden huts (c1950s-'60s), one of which housed Tyson's taxi firm.
2. Blackberry Jane's Cottage (1930/40's) – on Thorpe Road, in front of Shoulder of Mutton PH. Blackberry Jane was a local woman who lived alone in a small cottage and lived by scavenging food and other materials. One of her ways to collect fuel was to follow the coal waggons, collecting spills or 'donations' in a rickety wheelbarrow.
3. Witch's House on Low Row. Possibly associated with Hare myth.
4. Pound in the south-east corner of the village, now gentrified but formerly used to enclose stray beasts.
5. Form Seat – gathering place for village youth.
6. Andrew's Hill – used for rolling eggs by villagers, sometimes also by courting couples – now largely under the A19.
7. Pitch and Toss location under the second bridge towards Beach Banks – on Sunday mornings up to 50 miners would gather to bet on tossed coins up to the 1950s (betting could be for a 'dollar' [5 shillings] or 'ten bob'). Look-outs were on guard in case of police interest place for the police.
8. Petwell Lane Brickyard – Closed before the 1940s when a single, isolated property associated with the brickworks was occupied by two 'old maids'.
9. Strawberry House Farm – a local landmark on the road eastwards from Easington Village.
10. Workhouse – men in blue suits; women in blue dresses. Closed in the 1940s when it became part of the hospital.
11. The Urinal or 'The Mansion in the Hollow' (as called by people 50 years ago). On the Pettwell Burn which forms a natural division between the Village and Colliery; presumably built there as it was between the colliery and residential centre in the village (also, perhaps, between pubs!).
12. Dog Track – built by Frankie Franks who then swapped it for a house on Stockton Rd with Mr Riddell, a builder. Although there were on-course bookies, betting was mostly illegal until 1964, using unofficial 'agents' who stood on street corners, at the doorways of houses or made house calls. Florence Remembers that her father once made the mistake of approaching an off-duty policeman in the belief that he was such a 'runner'; only to find out otherwise to the detriment of his pocket and good name: *"His name was in the paper"*.
13. Tunnels in Townfield Hill quarry – sometimes known as the Easington Tunnels, created as (or made into?) air raid shelters in WW2, complete with 'dormitories', a

medical centre, canteen and toilets. They were closed after the war when a girl called Theresa Jones died when the concrete roofs collapsed on her. The tunnels could also be accessed from the 'B' streets.

14. Wash House – This was a communal wash house where women would take their family washing. Each woman would be assigned to a sink and set pot for boiling water, but the process of washing was entirely manual. In the 1950s it was still necessary to take your own pale of coal to do your washing. Some women did not regard this as too much of a chore because it was, a “good place to gossip”. A popular day to wash was Monday; it made sense for everyone to wash on the same day because it minimised the inconvenience of the drying lines strung from one side of the street to the other would. The Wash House building was extant in 2014.
15. The Hippodrome cinema, east of the Rialto) – George Cole was manager there in the 1940s and 50s. Other cinemas included the Rialto (west of the Hippodrome), which survives as a carpet shop, and the Empire, opposite the Wash House, around the corner from The Diamond PH. Other places of entertainment included the Welfare Dance Hall.
16. Honeymoon Terrace – really Ashton Terrace, one of the streets beginning with 'A' (formerly they were numbered) forming the 'North' part of the Colliery village. Other parts of the village included 'East' (the 'C' streets), 'South' (the 'B' streets), 'Canada' (Holme Hill estate) and 'Wembley' (built at the time of the old Wembley stadium behind the Hippodrome, near the cemetery). Honeymoon Terrace was so-called because, being the location of the poorest, cheapest properties in the village, it was popular with hard-up newly-weds.
17. Hawthorn Dene Cottages – Two cottages beside the viaduct, abandoned in the 1930s, but surviving as ruins. They are loosely associated with the site of a bandstand nearly 200yds up from the viaduct in a grassy, oval area.
18. The Dead House – concrete building on top of cliffs, underneath aerial flight coal tipper, but no longer extant.
19. Hawthorn Dene Caves – alongside the railway line, they were sude by Irish navies who lived there whilst working on the railway. On the beach, in Boatman's Bay, were fishermen's huts which may also have been lived in at times.
20. Jack Mitchell's Barn (property of Paradise Farm) – a landmark remembered by many from the 1940s and later on the road to the red-roofed Hedge Gooses farm, behind the library.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS:

(Listed in order from colliery to village) Catholic (pulled down due to subsidence), Methodist (extant on south side of road, opposite the shops), C of E Church of the Ascension (extant), Apostolic (a small wooden structure at gates to Recreation Ground, no longer extant), Bourne Methodist (wooden building on the library site, no longer extant), Salvation Army citadel (extant), Baptist (no longer extant), Wesleyan Methodist (no longer used, but extant as Emerald's furniture shop opposite the schools), Easington Village C of E church, the Church of St Mary the Virgin on the village green; Low Row Methodist chapel (extant off the village green).

11. CONCLUSIONS

Easington has long been a place of great significance within the Magnesian Limestone Plateau land of East Durham, a place that mattered with a history as an administrative and ecclesiastical centre stretching back to Anglo-Saxon times. Its ancient church was the focus of a large parish encompassing Hawthorn, Haswell and Shotton, whilst 10th/11th century documentary references indicate that Easington was the capital of a similarly extensive estate, or 'shire', the property of the monks of St Cuthbert based at Chester-le-Street and then Durham. In the Middle Ages Easington Ward was one of the four administrative districts or 'wards' into which the Durham Bishopric was divided, and the parish rectory, Seaton Holme, was the seat of the Archdeacon of Durham. Easington's manor court still governed the affairs of the Bishop's tenants as far away as Quarrington, Cassop and Sherburn at the time of the Civil War in the 17th century. More recently, in the 1800s, Easington became the centre of a large Poor Law Union and then a Rural District Council. Only with the abolition of Easington District Council and the shift to a unitary county authority in 2009 has this regional prominence apparently come to an end. In the 20th century Easington witnessed the development of one of the most productive collieries in the country, regarded as a super-pit almost to its very end. A second community grew up around the colliery, its life governed by the rhythms of the mine, marked by hard work, dignity and occasional tragedy. As a result of all this history two communities now call Easington home, distinct in character, one from another but intimately interlinked.

11.1 Conclusions

1. The geology of Easington, like that of East Durham generally, is accepted as internationally important. It includes the remains of a 260 million year old barrier reef from the Permian era, with a section through the reef exposed in Townfield Quarry and the reef crest marked by Beacon Hill. Much later remains, belonging to the period of the Ice Ages, include a series of sands and gravels in Warren House Gill which formed a marine bay at the edge of a pre-existing ice sheet some 470,000 to 300,000 years ago. Later still the raised beach high in the cliffs at Shippersea Bay, also precedes the last Ice Age at 240,000-200,000 years old and preserves the fossils of marine molluscs amongst its sands and gravels.
2. The Magnesian Limestone bedrock resulting from these geological processes supports nationally important grassland flora and fauna, with the coastal cliffs representing the most important ecological habitat in the area. The latter's shallow soils and limestone outcroppings are ideal for calcareous plants and a number of nationally important species can be found there. But the study area as a whole contains a range of habitats from arable lands to sea shore and deep denes, which together support a variety of wildlife.
3. Earliest evidence of human occupation around Easington comes in the form of numerous flint tools made by hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic period (around 10,000-4000 BC) found along the coast. This must have been a particularly advantageous zone to occupy though it is worth remembering that the actual coastline at that stage may have been many miles further to the east or north-east as sea levels had not yet fully recovered after the Ice Age. Perhaps the cliffs provided a good vantage point from which to watch the movement of game out to the east on the plains of Doggerland.

4. Burial monuments of probable Bronze Age date have been found just outside Easington, in Hawthorn and at Low Hills, but the later prehistory is mainly represented by several ditched settlement enclosures of Iron Age date (C. 800 BC – AD 43). Examples have been identified near Holme Hill Farm, near Glenhurst farm and most recently in the Low Hills area. Generally roughly square or rectangular in plan and originally containing round houses, some of these settlements may have continued on in use well into the Roman period. However a late Roman belt buckle found near Thorpe Beck at the bottom of Andrew's Hill is the only definite Roman find in the area. Unfortunately the results of the Low Hills excavations are not yet publically available.
5. The 6th-century Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Andrews Hill is a site of major significance in East Durham as relatively few cemeteries of this kind, where burials are furnished with grave goods, have been found north of Yorkshire. The 9 burials excavated in 1991-2, following discovery of the site by metal-detectorists, probably represent only a fraction of the original cemetery, which had been badly damaged by ploughing. Finds include elaborate brooches of several different types, belt buckles and ornate fittings to attach to leatherwork or fit onto wooden chests or the like. Many more finds have been recovered by metal-detectorists giving an impression of the original scale of the site.
6. Easington fortunate to have two outstanding medieval buildings, St Mary's Parish Church and the rectory, Seaton Holme, which was home to the Archdeacon of Durham between 1256 and 1832. The earliest fabric in the church – the tower – appears belongs to the mid-1100s, whilst most of the rest – the nave, aisles and much of the chancel – dates to around 1200. However there are faint traces of possible earlier features in the tower and, more decisively, the discovery of two late Anglo-Saxon carved stones demonstrates there was a church here by the 10th or early 11th century. It may have been a much earlier timber church which was rebuilt in stone at this stage. Similarly, the standing remains of Seaton Holme are those of a manor house built in the 13th century as an aisled hall, with the rector's private chamber (solar) at the east end, and other buildings of the manorial complex surviving to the north. However the discovery in 1998-9 of a post hole, foundations and earth bank just to the east was interpreted by the excavators as forming part of a late Anglo-Saxon structure and enclosure. These could conceivably be related to the documentary references to Easington as the centre of a large composite estate, or 'shire', in the early 900s, belonging to the bishop and clergy of St Cuthbert at Chester-le-Street and encompassing a cluster of adjoining township communities or vills.
7. Most recently the gable wall of another probably medieval building has been spotted incorporated in a much later building on the south side of the village, a hint at what may lay beneath wall render elsewhere.
8. During the Middle Ages the township or vill of Easington and its subsidiary hamlet Thorp (now Little Thorpe) belonged to the Bishop of Durham. It is itemised in surveys of the period, including the famous Boldon Book of 1183 and the still more detailed survey commission around 200 years later by Bishop Hatfield in 1381. These provide a detailed picture of the structure of the community, the number of tenants, size of their holdings and their obligations to their lord, the bishop. With other information we can gain an impression of the spatial layout of the vill and its different components, for example the location of the arable fields on the one hand and the moorland common waste on the other.

9. The enclosure and dividing up of Easington's medieval open fields and moorland between 1656 and 1672 was the catalyst for the creation of a new landscape of hedged fields and dispersed farmsteads between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. This forms the origins of the rural pattern we see today in those parts of the former Easington Township which are not built up.
10. At the beginning of the 20th century a new chapter in the history of Easington was opened when Easington Colliery was established near the coast. The first sod was cut on 12 March 1899 but very difficult geological conditions, caused by strata of water-bearing sand beneath the porous Magnesian Limestone, meant the sinking of the three shafts was not completed until 1909, and required the help of German engineers, skilled in freezing shafts to prevent sudden flooding.
11. A new community grew up, Easington Colliery, focussed on the life and work of the pit. This steadily expanded over the course of the early to mid-20th century, eventually linking up with Easington Village. Together the communities sustained a wide range of amenities, churches and chapel, schools and hospitals, pubs and clubs, dance halls and cinemas. Despite the settlements merging geographically the two communities remained different in character with the Village retaining its role as an administrative hub and a focus for the surrounding farming community whilst life in the Colliery was dominated by the demands of work in the pit.
12. Easington came to national prominence for the most tragic of reasons on 29 May 1951 when an explosion in the Five Quarter Seam just as shifts were changing over killed 83 miners including two rescuers. A disaster fund set up for the bereaved families raised over £190,000, a huge sum for that time.
13. Easington Colliery was one of the most productive pits in the Durham Coalfield and indeed nationally throughout the post-War period, the beneficiary of substantial investment in mechanisation of the coalfield by the National Coal Board which ran the collieries nationalised in 1947. There were regular assurances from NCB management regarding the long term viability of the pit and indeed it survived the Robens closure programme of the 1960s unscathed. By the 1980s rumours of further large scale closures were circulating, eventually precipitating the Miners Strike of 1984. Even in the aftermath of the strike it seemed that Easington might survive as one of a much reduced number of 'super-pits', with ministerial assurances as to its future as late as 1987. But the political and economic environment had changed radically with privatisation not just of the coal mines but of electricity generation in the pipeline. Closure was announced in 1992 and the last coal drawn on 30 April 1993, part of a programme which to bring an almost complete end to deep-mine coal industry in Britain. A year later virtually all trace of the pit had been removed.
14. A much lower key event, but one of great long term significance, was the abolition of Easington District Council in 2009, as local government was reorganised into a centralised, unitary authority. This brought to an end Easington's role as the administrative centre for much of the Magnesian Limestone Plateau, which stretched back over 1000 years of continuous history.

As a result of the events of recent decades the people of Easington face major economic and social challenges going forward. The two communities will doubtless overcome those challenges with the same resilience they have shown in the past and perhaps in doing so will forge a more unified identity deriving from an appreciation of the full extent of their common heritage as Easington folk.

11.2 Recommendations

The following recommendations for further research, archaeological investigation and heritage protection work are made.

1. Exploring/Discovering Easington's internationally renowned geology and its ecology clearly has great potential to enthuse local schoolchildren about their environment as demonstrated by the work undertaken with schools by specialists as part of the Atlas programme of activities. It is to be hoped that this may be continued, perhaps with the aid of school visits and guided walks by local enthusiasts.
2. The prehistory and Roman past of Easington are much less well understood than the later periods of its history. Flint tools used by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers have been found along the coast and a number possible Iron Age settlements have been identified, which may also continue into the Roman period. Overall, however, the Roman period is a virtual blank, which makes the cancellation of the community excavations on Kinley Hill in Hawthorn, designed to excavate the site of Roman coin finds, particularly unfortunate. The lack of published archaeological investigation means there is little definite information, though this may improve once the report on the Low Hills investigations becomes publically available in the HER. Major progress is likely to require further investigation, including field-walking, geophysical survey, excavation.
3. More is known of the early medieval history of Easington than is the case with many comparable communities, with evidence including a 6th-century cemetery, later Anglo-Saxon carved stonework from St Mary's Church, remains of earlier timber structures on the site of Seaton Holme and documentary reference to Easington vill and probable shire estate. However there remain many gaps in our knowledge. The settlement associated with the population buried in the cemetery has not been found and it is not clear whether we should be looking for a single village or hamlet, a number of dispersed farmsteads, or a mixture of nucleated and dispersed settlement. The date at which St Mary's Church was founded is unclear – whether it can be pushed back beyond the 10th or 11th centuries – as is the nature of that foundation – monastery or secular minster? The St Mary's/Seaton Holme area is one obvious focus for investigation should development or trenching for services present an opportunity for archaeological development. The area extending from Andrew's Hill towards Little Thorpe might be another zone of interest.
4. Much is unclear about the development of the medieval village of Easington. Was it built up gradually or laid out at a single point in time? And was there ever a substantial replanning of the layout. Some work to investigate these questions was begun in the 1970s, but the results were inconclusive and the funding for a wider programme of investigation was not secured. Geophysical survey of the village green showed there had been a lot of disturbance recent there. Opportunities for archaeological intervention in the green and the surrounding village rows may be presented by householder developments or excavation of new services. This would also be a good location for a programme of community test-pitting in gardens etc., if widespread participation could be secured.
5. One of the most important landscape changes in Easington's history occurred following the enclosure of the township's open fields and moorland in the mid to late 17th century. This entailed the transition from a landscape characterised nucleated village and hamlet settlements surrounded by open fields of arable land laid out in strips and wide tracts of moorland, to one which also included farmsteads dispersed throughout the township, all surrounded by smaller enclosed fields bounded by

hedges or walls. The historical map evidence for the prior to the mid-19th century is not sufficiently detailed to chart when each of the new farmsteads was established. However further work on the Easington Parish records and local wills, which generally record the place of residence of the individual concerned, could help greatly to clarify this process.

6. Seaton Holme is the key cultural heritage resource in the village, forming a striking pairing with St Mary's Church opposite. Its potential as an exhibition space, heritage centre and cultural resource is currently under-utilised. A scheme to maximise that potential would benefit the wider community.
7. The Miners Welfare Hall (the 'Welly') plays a similar role in Easington Colliery, with its splendid dance floor attracting groups from across the region. As a key symbol of Easington Colliery's heritage as a former mining community its importance for local morale and identity can scarcely be overestimated.
8. Easington Colliery and to a lesser degree Easington Village are gradually being denuded of the most striking buildings from the 20th century relating to the dramatic growth of the settlement following the opening of the colliery in 1913. As a result, the community is cumulatively at risk of losing much of its built character particularly along the Colliery's main street, Seaside Lane. A review to see how buildings can be adapted to new uses to serve the needs the community going forward and which buildings most merit retention (such as splendid Thorpe Pumping Station) would be beneficial. Where buildings have to be sacrificed it may still be possible to retain some elements to maintain the texture of the built environment (for example the Master's House and the Manual Instruction Block within the Easington Colliery School complex on Seaside Lane).

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Journal and Corpora Abbreviations

- AA¹ *Archaeologia Aeliana*, First Series etc.
- Corpus *Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture. Volume I: County Durham and Northumberland*. R Cramp, (1984), Oxford University Press for the British Academy; Oxford.
- CW *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*.

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APPENDIX 1: Easington in the Hatfield Survey c.1381

Translated from the Latin text published in Greenwell (ed) *Bishop Hatfield's Survey*, Surtees Society **32** (1857), 127-32.

Easington (*Esyngton*)

❖ **Free Tenants (*Liberi Tenentes*)**

- William de Swalwell holds 1 messuage and 9 acres of (arable) land, formerly belonging to Nicholas Aukez, and returns 18d per annum at the four main terms established in the Bishopric (*in Episcopatu constitutos*)
- William Fairhe holds 1 messuage and 30 acres of land, formerly William Fleming's, and pays 7s 6d per annum.
- Janyn de Thorpe holds 1 messuage and 3 acres of land, formerly Robert Basterd's, and pays 6d per annum.
- The same Janyn holds 1 messuage and 9 acres 3 rods of land, formerly William Buttesfeld's and pays 3s.
- John Burdon holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land formerly John Spenser's and pays per annum at the same terms, 12d.
- John Watson holds 2 acres of land, by right of his wife, formerly Robert Pecors' and returns 6d.
- Thomas Menvill holds 1 messuage and 18 acres of land, formerly Richard Barbour's, and pays 3s per annum.
- Alan Smyth holds 1 messuage and 6 acres of land, formerly Peter de Hellerton's and pays 12d per annum.
- And all the aforesaid tenants carry messages for the bishop.
- Walter de Slykworth holds 3 rods of land, formerly belonging to his father, William, and pays 12d per annum.
- William Guy holds 1 toft and 2½ acres of land and pays 12d per annum.

- The Lady Isabella de Claxton holds the 'manor' (demesne farm) of Pespole (***manerium de Pespole***) formerly William Denom's, and pays 13s 4d per annum.
- The same Isabella returns for the aforesaid manor, at the feast/festival of St Cuthbert in September, 1 pair of shoes (*j par calcarium*).
- The same Isabella holds 4 acres of new waste land in that same place and returns 6d per annum.
- The same Isabella holds **the field (*campum*) called Boisfeld**, formerly Robert de Bosco's, and was accustomed to render 50s per annum, now she pays per annum at the four terms 13s 4d.
- Walter Hawyk holds the **field called Flemingfield (*Flemyngfeld*)**, in the moor of Easington (*in mora de Esyngton*), who was accustomed to pay 79s 8d per annum (£3 19s 8d), now pays 13s 4d per annum.

- Walter of Edderacres holds the manor farm of Edderacres (***manerium de Edirdacres***) for certain services set out in his charter, and pays 13s 4d per annum.

❖ **Demesne Land (*Terræ Dominicæ*)**

- William Swalwells holds 15 acres of demesne land and returns 16s per annum at the four main terms.
- William Hull holds 15 acres of land from the same demesne and pays 16s per annum at the same terms.
- Richard Collyng and Richard Lawes hold 20 acres of the same demesne and return 21s 4d.
- Walter Eliotson holds 20 acres of the same demesne and returns 21s 4d per annum.
- Matilda Emson holds 20 acres of the same demesne and returns per annum 21s 4d.
- John Hull holds 20 acres of the same demesne and returns 21s 4d per annum.

- Adam Glede and Alan hold 10 acres of the same demesne and return per annum 10s 8d.
- John Edesson holds 15 acres of demesne land and returns 16s per annum.
- Walter Slykworth holds 15 acres of demesne land and returns 16s per annum.
- Elias Geffraison holds 20 acres of the same demesne and returns 21s 4d per annum.
- Thomas Hobeson holds 5 acres of the same demesne and returns 5s 4d per annum.
- John Dawson holds 15 acres of land of the same demesne and pays 16s per annum at the same terms.
- John Wilkynson holds 15 acres of land of the same demesne and pays 16s per annum at the same terms.
- John Watson holds 15 acres of land of the same demesne and pays 16s per annum at the same terms.
- Peter Emmeson holds 10 acres of land of the same demesne and pays per annum 10s 8d.
- Matilda Watwyff holds 15 acres of demesne land and returns 16s per annum.
- John Birden holds 10 acres of land of the same demesne and pays per annum 10s 8d.
- Ralph Robinson holds 20 acres of the same demesne and returns 21s 4d per annum.
- William Huchonson holds 15 acres of demesne land and returns 16s per annum.
- John Herleseey holds 10 acres of land of the same demesne and pays per annum 10s 8d.
- The same tenants hold collectively 6 acres of land from the same demesne, proven by measurement, just as is set by an ancient rental, for which they were accustomed to pay 8s per annum, now leased with the demesne.
- The same tenants hold 4 acres of land from the same, just as is set out in the same rental, and are accustomed to pay 6s 8d per annum;
- and they defaulted on 20 acres of the said demesne which are in the tenure of all the above tenants.
- All the aforesaid demesne land is leased to the tenants of the vill by a new lease, and returns per annum in total, £18.

❖ **Bond Land (*Terræ Bondorum*)**

- William Swalwels holds 1 messuage, and 2 bovates (oxgangs) of land, each bovat containing 15 acres, and returns per annum at the four terms for works 11s 9d, and for *scatpenys* and *averpenys* at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 19d, and for *scatpenys*, called by the tenants *maltpenys*, 15d, and for *averpenys*, at the two feasts of St Cuthbert and at the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist, 12d, and for wood loads (*wodlades*), at the same Feast of St John the Baptist, 8d, and at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 6 bushels of Exchequer oats (*avenarum de scat*), and at Christmas, 2 hens, and at Easter, 10 eggs, and he was accustomed to work (on the lord's demesne) just as they (the tenants) of Boldon do, just as is contained in a certain book called the Boldon Book (*Boldonbok*), and for those works he pays 13d at the Feast of Saint Michael, in total 17s 4d.
- Walter Silkeworth holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
- John Watson and William Huchonson hold 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum 17s 4d.
- John Hull holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land and returns per annum 34s 8d.
- Walter Elliotson holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land and returns per annum 34s 8d.
- William Hull holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum 17s 4d.
- John Hudeson holds 2 messuages and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum 17s 4d.

- Walter de Sylkworth holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum 17s 4d.
 - Elias Geffrayson holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land and returns per annum 33s 8d.
 - Thomas Hobeson and John Wylkynson hold 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum 17s 4d.
 - John Dawson and John Hudson hold 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum 17s 4d.
 - John Wilkynson holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - John Watson holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - Peter Emmeson holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - Matilda wife of Walter holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - William Swalwels and William Hull hold 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum 17s 4d.
 - John Birden holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - Ralph Robinson holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 33s 8d.
 - William Huchonson holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - John Herleseey holds 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and returns per annum at the same terms 17s 4d.
 - Ralph Beaufoo holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land, which used to return at the same terms as the above bondlands and now are leased as herbage until anyone comes who wishes to pay the full rent, and he returns per annum at the same terms 20s.
 - Richard Lawes and Richard Collyng hold one messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum for certain terms 12s 8d.
 - Walter son of Robert holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land and returns per annum 33s 8d.
 - William Swalwels and Peter Emson hold 1 messuage and 2 bovates of land and return per annum 17s 4d.
 - The aforesaid bond tenants pay for each pair of bovates, at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 6 bushels of oats.
- ❖ **Hens (*gallinae*) and eggs (*ova*):** The same tenants pay for every 2 oxgangs, 2 hens at Christmas (*festum Natalis Domini*), and 10 eggs at Easter (*festum Paschae*).
 - ❖ **Cornage (*Cornagium*):** The same tenants pay 30s for cornage at the feast of St Cuthbert in September only.
 - ❖ **Castlemen:** the same tenants pay 40s for Castlemen at the 4 great terms.
 - ❖ **Wine carriage:** the same tenants shall carry 1 tun of wine.
 - ❖ **Metrith:** The same tenants pay 12s for 1 metrith cow at the feast of St Martin only.
- ❖ **Cottage holdings (*cotagia*)**
 - Alan Smyth holds 1 cottage, and 4 acres of land, and makes 4 autumn works (*opera autumnalia*), the price of a work being 2d, and returns per annum 4s 4d, and 4 autumn works.
 - Alan Glede holds 1 cottage, and 8 acres of land, and makes 4 works as above, and returns per annum 6s 8d and 4 works.
 - The aforesaid Adam holds 1 cottage and 4 acres of land does work as above, and returns per annum 2s 6d and four work days.

- John Smyth holds 1 cottage, and 4 acres of land, and returns per annum 20d, 4 hens, and four work days.
- John Hudson holds 1 cottage and 4 acres of land, and returns per annum 2s 6d and four work days.
- Henry Litster holds 1 cottage, and 4 acres of land, and returns per annum 2s 6d, and four boon works.
- Richard Lax. holds 1 cottage, and 7 acres of land, for which Adam Glede returned for 2 acres, 16d, and he returns per annum 4s four boon works.
- John Herleseey holds 3 cottages and 10 acres of land, from which Adam Glede returns 16d for 2 acres, and the aforesaid John returns per annum for the remainder 6s 4d, 4 hens and 12 work days.
- The same John returns for additional land there, in respect of a certain exchange, per annum 12d.
- Walter Worshall holds 1 cottage and 2 acres of land, and collects hens, and takes them to the manors between the Tyne and the Tees, and returns per annum at the four terms 16d, 4 hens and 4 works.
- John Dawson holds 1 cottage and 4½ acres of land, and returns per annum at the same terms 16d, 4 hens and 4 works.
- Richard Collyng holds 1 cottage and 3 acres of land, and returns per annum at the same terms 20d, 4 hens and 4 works.
- Peter Emmeson holds 1 cottage and 4 acres of land, and collects hens, and takes them as above, and returns per annum 2s 6d and 4 works.
- John de Birden holds 1 cottage there, and returns per annum at the same terms 16d and 4 works.
- John Hoge holds 1 cottage there, and returns per annum at the same terms 4d and 4 works.
- John Hudson holds half a cottage and ½ acre there, and returns per annum 13d, 2 hens and 2 works.
- Ralph Beaufo holds 5½ cottages in Thorp which are untenanted (*extra tenuram*), and are now leased for herbage until anyone arrives who wishes to pay the full rent, and he returns per annum 2s.
- And there are in Easington 16 cottages out of tenure, and rented for herbage, until anyone arrives who wishes to pay the full rent for them, and they return per annum 6s 8d.
- Peter Emson holds 1 cottage and 7 acres of land which was formerly a parcel of 1 bond (tenancy/land/bondage) and returns per annum 4s, that is at the feast of the Purification for scatpenys, 4½ x ¼d, and at the Feast of St Martin for the like (*consimili*) 3½ x ¼d, and for averpenys, at the two feasts of St Cuthbert and at the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist, 3d, and for wood loads at the Feast of the Birth of St John 2d, and 3 bushels of exchequer oats (*avenarum de scat*), 2 hens, and 10 eggs, but nothing for *castelman* (the fee for castle ward); – (total) 5s 1½d, 3 bushels of exchequer oats (*avenarum de scat*), 2 hens, and 10 eggs.
- William de Staynyngton holds 1 cottage and returns per annum at the four terms 12d.
- The aforesaid tenants hold collectively 2 cottages of the above 16 cottages, which are not furnished at present, and they used to return per annum £4 19s 10d, therefore it was inquired into, and they return for the said cottages 12d.

❖ **Parcels of the Hallgarth (*Parcellæ del Halgarth*)**

- Richard Collyng holds one tenement, parcel of the lord's manor (*parcellam manerii domini*), and pays 7s per annum at the 4 terms.
- William Hull holds one tenement with garden, formerly a parcel of that same manor, and returns per annum 3s 6d.
- John Coke holds 1 cottage, parcel of that same manor, and returns per annum at the same terms 3s.

- John Birden holds 1 garden, parcel of that same manor, and returns at the same terms 2s.
- Margareta Whitheued holds 1 cottage, parcel of that same manor, and returns per annum 2s.
- John Smyth holds 1 smithy (*forgium*) with 1 open space (*placea*), formerly Ralph the smith's, and he returns per annum at the same terms 2s.
- William de Swalwels holds 1 garden next to the Maison Dieu (*iuxta Maysendieu*), and pays 12d per annum.
- Peter Emson holds 1 yard/'curtilage' (*curtilagium*) there, and pays 6d per annum.
- John Harlesley holds 1 toft, called the Gerner, and returns 4s per annum.

❖ **Exchequer Land (*Terræ Scaccarii*)**

- Adam Glede holds one toft, formerly Thomas Glede's, and returns per annum at the same terms, 12d.
- Peter Emson holds 1 messuage and 7½ acres of land, formerly Henry the smith's and returns per annum, 10s.
- John Coke holds one tenement, and 8 acres of land, called Punderland, and returns per annum at the same terms 4s, 80 hens, and 600 eggs.
- Janynde Thorp holds 1 toft, and 3 acres of land, formerly Roger Basterd's, and returns 2s 6d per annum.
- William Swalwels holds 1 tenement and 15 acres of land, formerly 1 bovat of bondland, and returns per annum for works (labour services) 8s 8d, and makes and returns just as did half the previous bondland, formerly (belonging to) Gamel son of Hugo, and returns per annum 8s 8d, 3 bushels of exchequer oats, 1 hen and 5 eggs.
- The same William holds one piece of ground (*placea*) from the lord's waste to enlarge his house, and returns per annum at the same terms 4d.
- Alan Smyth holds 1 piece of ground (*placea*), 1 smithy (*forgium*) from the lord's waste, and returns per annum 2d.
- William Hull holds 4 acres of land, formerly William Smyth's, and returns per annum at the same terms 6s.
- John Hull holds 2 acres of land in Moresbrak, and returns per annum at the same terms 19d.
- Thomas Menvill holds 1 piece of ground (*placea*), from the lord's waste in front of his door (*ostium*), formerly Richard Barbour's, 2d.
- John Acley the chaplain (*capellanus*) holds 1 piece of waste ground (*placeam vasti*) in front of his door (*ostium*), and returns per annum 1d.
- Elias Geffrayson holds 1 acre of meadow, formerly belonging to Simon son of Hugh, and returns per annum at the same terms 2s.
- John Birden holds 1 piece of ground in herbage, formerly 1 cottage, and returns per annum 1d.
- John Herlesley holds one addition to his tenement (*incrementum tenementi sui*), called Herkerstones, and returns per annum 4d.
- Walter Eliotson holds 2 acres of land, formerly belonging to Elias de Thorp, next to Risebrig, and 2 acres of waste land, which used to return 16d per annum; now the said 4 acres return nothing per annum at the same terms, except 20d.
- The aforesaid tenants hold between themselves one tenement, formerly Geoffrey Tode's, and return per annum at the same terms 3s.

❖ **Meadow and Pasture (*Pratum cum Pastura*):** The tenants of that place hold jointly 9 acres of meadow with pasture in that same place, and pay £4 per annum at the same times.

- The same tenants pay jointly for the assart (*incrementum*) of the Ryddyng, and return 16s 10d per annum at the same times.
- The same hold 22½ acres of land formerly John Ramesey's, and pay 23s 4d per annum.

- ❖ **Common Oven (*Communis Furnus*):** The same hold the common oven there and used to £13 6s 8d and now pay 4s.
- ❖ **Mill (*Molendinum*):** The aforesaid tenants hold the windmill (*molendinum ventriculum*) there and were accustomed to pay £13 6s 8d and now pay £6 13s 4d.
- ❖ **(Abandoned and waste tenements)**
 - And there are there 20 acres of land in default from the lord's demesne there, and they are in the collective tenure of all the above tenants.
 - Also the tenants hold together 6 acres of land from the said demesne, proven by measurement, just as is set by an ancient rental, which used to return 8s per annum, now leased with the demesne.
 - Also there are there 4 acres of the said demesne, as set out in the same rental, which used to return 6s 8d per annum.
 - Also they declare that Ralph Beaufo holds 2 messuages and 4 bovates of land, which used to return per annum just as the above bondlands do, and now are rented for herbage for 20s per annum, until anyone comes who wishes to pay the full rent.
 - And there are 5½ cottages in Thorp, untenanted and rented for herbage to Ralph Beaufo for 2s per annum, until anyone arrives ... etc.
 - And there are 16 cottages in Easington, untenanted and leased for herbage, until ... etc., and the aforesaid cottages used to yield £4 19s 10d per annum, as above.
 - The tenants of the demesne land hold together 2 house in the said manor farm (*manerium*), that is a kitchen (*coquina*) and 2 byres (*bovarias*), and now in the hands of the farmers/renters (*firmarii*) of the said demesne lands free of any return as they declare.
 - And there is in the same place 1 waste cottage, which used to return per annum 12d.
 - Also there are in the field called *Conyerflatfeld* 17 acres of land pertaining to the cottages of Thorp, and lie each third year in fallow (*in warecta*), and now lie waste and untenanted.
 - And there are 2 acres of waste land in the field of *Shaldefordriddyng* (Shadforth Riding).
 - And 10 cotmen used to return collectively for the smithy of the Lord Bishop's demesne 2s, and now it is untenanted.
 - And similarly 140 acres of land in New Moor (*Newmoure*) which used to return per annum £4 5s, now waste etc.
 - Also a certain piece of ground, formerly belonging to Sibilla daughter of Geoffrey, which used to return per annum 18d, now waste and untenanted.
 - And a certain piece of ground, formerly William Cladwell's and formerly Walter Grimbald's, and used to return 17s per annum, now waste.

APPENDIX 2: Parliamentary Survey of the Manor of Easington 1647

(reproduced from Kirby (ed.) *Parliamentary Surveys II*, Surtees Society **175** (1972) , 175-7, 179-81)

The manor of Easington with the rights members and appurtenances thereof in the County or County Palatine of Durham And all rents of assize Free Rents Customary Rents Rents Rents Service and all other Rents and yearly sum or sums of money commonly called Rents of Assize Old Rents Chief Rents or Quit Rents to the said mannor belonging or appertaining per annum £12. 19s. 5½d.

Easington Manor Leaseholds

EDWARD PAXTON and JOHN CLARKE

13 November to Car. Bakehouse in the township of Easington late in the tenure or occupation of Edward Paxton and John Clarke.

For the lives of James Paxton, John Clarke and Anne Clarke. All in being.

Rent 4s. 0d. Improvement 10s. 0d.

ROBERT AIRE

5 November 11 Car. Wind corn mill commonly called Easington Wind Mill near Easington aforesaid together with the site ground and sale whereupon the said mill is situated.

For 21 years. Rent £2. 0s. 0d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

ROBERT HEDDRINGTON

2 November 5 Car. Water corn mill within the township of Shotton with all that stream or course water belonging.

For 21 years. Rent £1. 6s. 8d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

ROBERT DIXON and THOMAS THURSBYE

6 July 13 Car. Water corn mill in the township of Sherburne.

For the lives of Richard and Thomas Thursbye and Jane Dixon. All in being.

Rent £2. 0s. 0d. Improvement £10. 0s. 0d.

Thorpe Township Leaseholds

JOHN JURDESON

16 October 20 Jac. Moytie of one half of a messuage or tenement in the township of Thorpe also Littlethorpe being parcel of the demesne lands of Easington.

For the lives of the said John Jurdeson, Jane Jurdeson, and Richard Jurdeson. All in being.

Rent £2. 4s. 0d. Improvement £9. 0s. 0d.

ROBERT PAXTON

27 March 1 Jac. Moytie or one half part of a messuage or tenement in Thorpe aforesaid and also all those three lands there each land containing 30 acres within the fields and precincts of Thorpe. And also the moytie or one half part of 3 maynes being parcel of arable land parcel of the desmes of Easington.

For the lives of George Paxton, Christopher Paxton, and James Paxton. Two of the said lives in being.

Rent £2. 7s. 1d. Improvement £9. 0s. 0d.

RICHARD WALKER

31 August 9 Car. Tenement in Little Thorpe aforesaid And also those 3 husband lands and 4 maynes being parcel of the demesne lands of Easington within the several fields there containing in each field 40 acres.

For the lives of Richard, Nicholas and John Walker. Only John is living.

Rent £4. 14s. 2d. Improvement £18. 0s. 0d.

WILLIAM JOHNSON and MILDRED ROBINSON now in the possession of the Trustees. Moytie or one half of a messuage or tenement in Littlethorpe aforesaid and parcel of the demesne lands of Easington.

Improvement £11. 8s. 0d.

ABRAHAM PAXTON now in the possession of the Trustees.

Moytie or one half part of a messuage or tenement And all those lands in Littlethorpe aforesaid each land containing 30 acres Also all the moytie of 3 maynes being parcel of arable lands of the demesne of Easington each mayne containing 10 acres.

Improvement £11. 7s. 1d.

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Easington Township Leaseholds

GEORGE PAXTON

5 October 16 Jac. Parcel of waste ground in Easington And also all that cottage with a garth with common of pasture for one horse and one cow and 5 sheep.

For the lives of George Paxton, Emma his wife and Edmund Paxton. All in being.

Rent 9s. 6d. Improvement 13s 4d.

WILLIAM PAXTON

4 November 10 Car. Messuage or tenement in Easington.

For the lives of Christopher, Robert and Collin Paxton. All in being.

Rent £1. 13s. 0d. Improvement £6. 8s. 0d.

ELLEN relict of Henry Clarke

16 October 2 Car. Messuage or tenement with one main land containing 9 acres in Easington.

For the lives of Henry, Ellin and Richard Clarke. Only 1 life in being. Rent £1. 12s. 4½d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

ELIANOR PAXTON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement with one land and one maine and one half land in Easington.

For 21 years. Rent £2. 8s. 4½d. Improvement £8. 10s. 0d.

CHRISTOPHER BELL

5 May 11 Car. Messuage or tenement and also that messuage and half a husband land commonly called the Pinders land in Easington.

For 21 years. Rent £2. 3s. 4½. Improvement £7. 10s. 0d.

RICHARD HESTER

18 September 11 Car. Demesne lands containing 9 acres in Easington and also demesne lands containing 18 acres in Easington.

For 21 years. Rent £1. 10s. 0d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

GEORGE PAXTON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £1. 15s. 4d. Improvement £6. 10s. 0d.

GEORGE ROBINSON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £1. 12s. 4½d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

RICHARD JURDSON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement and one mayne land in Easington
For 21 years. Rent £1. 12s. 4½d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

THOMAS PAXTON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement and one half mayne of land containing 4½
acres in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent 13s. 0d. Improvement £3. 0s. 0d.

JOHN DRAWER

16 March 6 Car. 12 acres of demesne land in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent 12s. 0d. Improvement £2. 0s. 0d.

KATHERINE JOHNSON

5 May 11 Car. 9 acres of demesne lands in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent 10s. 0d. Improvement £2. 0s. 0d.

WILLIAM WARDELL

14 December 11 Car. Messuage or tenement together with 1 mayne land and ½ mayne
containing 14 acres in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £1. 9s. 4½d. Improvement £6. 0s. 0d.

ROBERT AIRE

10 October 7 Car. One messuage or tenement together with 1½ maynes of land containing
13 acres in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent 16s. 3d. Improvement £9. 0s. 0d.

THOMAS PAXTON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement together with 1½ maynes of land in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £1. 18s. 3d. Improvement £7. 0s. 0d.

WILLIAM PAXTON

5 November 11 Car. Messuage or tenement and 1 mayne land in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £2. 7s. 8½d. Improvement £8. 0s. 0d.

JOHN SIMPSON

20 Car. 6 November 18 acres of land in Easington.
For 21 years. Rent £1. 0s. 0d. Improvement £4. 0s. 0d.

WILLIAM INGLEBYE

29 March 20 Car. Piece or parcel of pasture ground commonly called Fleming Field and
being near Ludworth.
For the lives of Christopher, John and Robert Conyers. All in being.
Rent £1. 0s. 0d. Improvement 39. 0s. 0d.

APPENDIX 3: The Easington Colliery Disaster – 29 May 1951 List of Fatalities

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Occupation</i> |
|----------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | |
| John Anson | 64 | Shifter |
| William Armstrong | 55 | Datal |
| Mark Smart Bedding | 38 | Filler |
| Matthew Blevins | 27 | Filler |
| George Brenkley | 20 | Filler |
| Thomas Brenkley | 32 | Filler |
| Louis Brennan | 49 | Stoneman |
| George Miller Brown | 50 | Datal |
| Bertram Burn | 25 | Filler |
| Emmerson Cain | 63 | Stoneman |
| Frederick Cairns | 23 | Filler |
| George Calvert | 50 | Stoneman |
| James Calvin | 38 | Conveyor maintenance |
| Frederick Carr | 50 | Electrician |
| George William Carr | 45 | Timber drawer |
| James Carr | 38 | Timber drawer |
| John Edwin Challoner | 53 | Deputy |
| Richard Champley | 43 | Cutter |
| Albert Kerr Chapman | 44 | Stoneman |
| Joseph Charlton | 42 | Master shifter |
| John Clough | 57 | Shifter |
| William Arthur Dryden | 27 | Filler |
| John Ellison | 19 | Datal |
| Charles Fishburn | 54 | Shifter |
| Henry Fishburn | 23 | Filler |
| Thomas Garside | 20 | Datal |
| Joseph Godsman | 41 | Cutter |
| George Goulburn | 57 | Mason's labourer |
| Albert Gowland | 51 | Deputy |
| Ernest Goyns | 60 | Stoneman |
| Herbert Goyns | 56 | Stoneman |
| John Harker | 53 | Shifter |
| John William Henderson | 56 | Shifter |
| Thomas Heppell | 31 | Filler |
| Daniel Hunt | 54 | Datal |
| Stephen Hunt | 24 | Filler |
| William Hunt | 43 | Datal |
| Arthur Chambers Hutton | 42 | Filler |
| Frederick Ernest Jepson | 68 | Shifter |
| Lawrence Jones | 36 | Filler |
| Thomas Edward Jones | 35 | Deputy |
| Herbert Jeffrey Jopling | 57 | Shifter |
| John Kelly | 57 | Datal |
| William Kelly | 28 | Filler |
| John Edward Armstrong Lamb | 43 | Datal |
| Jesse Stephenson Link | 44 | Datal |
| Joseph Fairless Lippeatt | 37 | Filler |
| Peter Lynch | 20 | Filler |
| Denis McRoy | 23 | Filler |
| William James McRoy | 31 | Filler |
| Robert William Milburn | 26 | Filler |

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Occupation</i> |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Harold Nelson | 49 | Stoneman |
| Albert Newcombe | 67 | Stoneman |
| Norman Nicholson | 29 | Filler |
| Robert Noble | 45 | Shifter |
| William Parkin | 24 | Filler |
| William Edward Forbes Parks | 62 | Shifter |
| Robert Pase | 63 | Shifter |
| Stanley Peaceful | 37 | Cutter |
| Alexander Penman | 42 | Cutter |
| James Porter | 32 | Filler |
| John Thomas Porter | 23 | Filler |
| Thomas Valentine Rice | 53 | Shifter |
| John Robinson | 50 | Shifter |
| John George Robson | 50 | Shifter |
| George Scott | 53 | Datal |
| Albert Seymour | 64 | Datal |
| Frederick Sillito | 52 | Shifter |
| George Henry Stubbs | 60 | Shifter |
| Hugh Bell Surtees | 36 | Datal |
| Matthew White Surtees | 61 | Shifter |
| Lawrence Thompson | 54 | Datal |
| Thomas Thompson | 28 | Underground bricklayer |
| Thomas Trisnan | 43 | Stoneman |
| Robert Turnbull | 64 | Master stoneman |
| George Wilkie | 63 | Shifter |
| Reginald Wilkinson | 40 | Stoneman |
| Robert Willins | 45 | Foreoverman |
| Matthew Williams ²⁹ | 18 | Datal |
| John Wilson | 62 | Hauling engineman |
| Stephen Wilson | 60 | Shifter |
| John Young Wallace ³⁰ | 26 | Back overman – Rescue worker |
| Henry Burdess ³¹ | 45 | Deputy – Rescue worker |

²⁹ Fatally injured, died after having been brought out of the mine.

³⁰ Poisoned by carbon monoxide gas during rescue operations on 29 May 1951.

³¹ Poisoned by carbon monoxide gas during rescue operations on 1 June 1951.

RECOLLECTIONS OF WILLIAM CLARK – EASINGTON COLLIERY

Bill was born to in Easington Colliery to David Clark (born March 14, 1895 in Crossgate Moor Durham) and Mary (nee Fletcher Birth 19 April 1899 in Witton Gilbert, Durham) on 27 October 1938, he was the youngest of six children. His father was a coal miner and was at Shotton Colliery on the 1911 census and married in 1919.

SCHOOLDAYS

Bill went to Easington Colliery Infant and Junior Boy's School from about 1943 – 1951. He thought it was an excellent school and there were about 40 pupils in each class. During the 2nd World War years when a bell rang they had to dash across to the air raid shelter in the school yard. They went down steps into the shelter which was about 15 metres long.



During the war places had to be in darkness with no street lights. Windows had to be covered with blackout curtains or blinds and no lights had to show into the street. His father can recall walking into a lamp post it was so dark. There was a canteen during the war where people could eat in or take meals home. Bill thought they were absolutely lovely. Everyone had to have ration books and could get only small amounts of butter, sugar sweets, etc.

The main air raid shelter near his home was at the top of their street. It consisted of two almost parallel tunnels about 80 metres long with inter linking tunnels. Inside were a sick bay, toilet and canteen. There were brick built seats the length of the tunnels and there were oil lamps. As the tunnels were drilled into a limestone hillside, water was dripping from the roof.

I remember when the sirens went and the searchlights lit up the sky having to run to the shelter. There were hundreds there keeping warm in coats or wrapped in blankets. I only remember going once with my mother when I was about 5 years old. After that occasion my mother said we were not going again. She said if we were going to die we might as well die in our own home.

In 1947 there was very bad winter; the snow was so deep everything was brought to a standstill.

"The cruellest cold snap in modern history could not have come at a worse time. In January 1947 after the long, valiant but ruinously expensive struggle to defeat the Nazis. The shelves were bare, the Treasury coffers were empty and the coal stocks were perilously low. On New Year's Day the mines had come into public ownership, joining the railways, road haulage and utilities in the Labour government's nationalised empire. In just a few days, so much snow fell on Britain and by the end of January, hundreds of remote Northern farms and villages were cut off by 20-foot snowdrifts. (*Daily Telegraph*)

I can remember my sister Flo taking me to the main road between Horden and Easington about 1946/47 where a plane had crashed onto the road killing the pilot and two people in a car, wreckage was scattered all over the place.



The Colliery main street called Seaside Lane runs from east to west from the colliery to the village. One day I was when I was about seven we were on the main street with a fellow

whose mother lived next door when we saw a plane heading towards the coast and it crashed into the sea. It must have been a German plane heading home. Many shops in the main street had their windows shattered ; some still needed repairs after the war. On the top of the cliffs was a concrete building which was a look out point across the sea. It was always known as the dead house, any bodies found floating in the sea were taken there.

My uncle was a Warden at the coal mine to assist in the safety of the workers. One day a bomb dropped in the colliery yard & he was blown to pieces.

THE MYSTERY

I had a cousin Robert Mackintosh, who was supposed to be a bit of a tearaway but I didn't know him. The story is he went to London & joined the Fascist Party. That was the British Nazi party, one time quite popular led by Sir Oswald Mosley, a brilliant speaker. They dressed all in black, hence their name the Blackshirts. Robert was found cut to pieces on a railway line wearing someone else's coat, was he pushed, did he jump or slip? Very strange!

My sister Mary was 16 when she went to Huddersfield to work as a nurse before the war. Her husband fought the Japanese in Burma. My sister Nora worked in the local Co-op store. Sister Flo was still at school during the war; she went to Horden Catholic School and cycled there and back. My brother was fitter at the colliery, at the outbreak of war he tried to join the RAF but didn't gain entry. He enrolled into the Royal Navy & was demobbed as Chief Petty Officer. At one time they were sent to the United States to collect a ship. When they arrived the Yanks had not started to build it so he spent 18months in Boston, Massachusetts. He celebrated his birthday there & it was on 4 July.

When the war ended there were street parties. Flo tells me when my mother bought me a banana I wouldn't eat it because I didn't know what it was. Foreign fruit was mostly not available during the war. One day at school we were marched to the front of the class to pick out a nice red, rosy apple from a box sent from Canada. During and after the war we also received food parcels from relatives in Australia. They wanted my mother to send Flo & I over for safety but my mother declined.

DISASTER

Easington came to a stop on Tuesday, 29 May 1951 when an explosion occurred down the pit & 81 miners & two rescue workers were killed. My Dad's drinking partner Jack Kelly

would call on him on the way to the club, telling him to hurry up. Poor Jack & one of his sons died in the disaster.

Details below from Durham Mining Museum web site.

Explosion, firedamp propagated by coal dust, ignition caused by sparks from cutter picks striking pyrites

Kelly, John, aged 57, [Data](#), father of William, address: 11 Clifton Street, Easington, leaves a widow and two sons, *Buried:* [Garden of Remembrance at Easington Colliery Cemetery](#)

Kelly, William (Billy), aged 28, Filler, son of John, address: 11 Clifton Street, Easington Colliery, *Buried:* [Garden of Remembrance at Easington Colliery Cemetery](#)



Photo Courtesy Mr. Bradley.



For days after the main street was full of hearses taking the bodies to the cemetery. I can still picture several victims, though I did not know them personally.

GANG WARS & MORE

Gordon Gowland (I thought his name was Golden) got us into more trouble than enough. Bernard Jones, my best pal. Teddy (Basher) Green – we agreed with anything he said.

Little areas of Easington were always prone to fighting among us kids. The Council houses, we never went round there. Wembley – No problems with the gang. Canada gang – too far to travel for fighting, Northies – a match for us. Easties – keep away from them.

This was not supposed to happen. Open warfare broke out one dark November night; the Northies were raiding our bonfire. We squared up to each other from about 30 yards distance. Bricks, stones, pieces of wood were hurled & catapults used – real war. I was in the frontline near the bonny standing next to Bernard Jones brother, John was about three years older & 4 ins taller than me. He let out a yell and fell to the ground, he was carried to

the Doctors but they could not save his eye. His older brother said the injury ruined his life. I was that close to a serious injury.

We lit a sky rocket one bonfire night and stuck it in a milk bottle. Our other friend Gordon McClury looked into the top of the bottle to see why it did not light. Then it did take off, just glanced his eye. In the darkness Alan Smith felt what he thought was sparkler, it was a banger! Split his hand open and had to wear a glove for several weeks. I don't like Bonfire Nights!

There were three cinemas, the Rialto, the Hippodrome and the Empire. We could sneak into the corridor of the Empire while the film was on, take a pushchair or pram from the corridor & wheel each other round the streets, then return them before the film was over. The Empire burnt down during the war and was rebuilt in the mid 1950's. It did not last long as due to TV people stopped going to the cinemas and has since been demolished.

About six of us broke into a shopkeeper's wooden garage opened the sliding roof & got into the car. We pretended to drive it but luckily had taken the hand brake off. Later Gordon Gowland & I decided it would make a good gang HQ for our recently formed gang. We found paint & emulsion in some nearby shop yards & started to paint the inside. Suddenly the door was opened by the garage owner who went ballistic, he caught Gordon but I escaped, we never went back.

We used to go the barbers owned by George & Ethel Owens. Ethel would take the thick off then George would do the finishing touches. We used to believe everything the older gang members told us & Gordon McClury was there when a one armed man was getting his hair cut. Gordon told us Ethel had accidentally cut it off with the shears & we were petrified. However we got out with a haircut and both arms intact.

NICKNAMES

Nick names have often been passed down in families such as Buddy Carr, Topper Burdess, Jarpy Parkin, Dinky Emerson, Salty Watson, Snowball Welch, Hatchy Halliday, Pud Summers, Shotbox Caulfield, Tiger Hall, Bonky Maddison, Diker Dixon.

EASINGTON CHARACTERS

Little Harry Casson was no more than 5 feet tall, shabbily dressed and wore clogs. He pushed a wheelbarrow with garden produce in it. The barrow was nearly as big as Harry, his father worked like a dog. At weekends when the Salvation Army played at the street corner, there was Harry looking 10 feet tall marching up the street to the Salvation Army Citadel.

The last time I saw him he was picking litter on Crimdon beach & the bag was almost bigger than Harry.

Harry Horton - a real eccentric, an ex-Royal Navy radio operator in the war. You could expect anything with Harry, sometimes he would only shave half of his face over a period of time, it was some sight. Then he obtained a coffin and slept in that.

Once there was a ragged little man around Easington Village known as Butch. He slept anywhere he could. One terrible winter night he was found covered with snow under a park seat and was taken to hospital. What happened to him he had no family?

In a broken down house near the village green there was little old woman, who dressed shabbily in dirty coat & shoes. She was known as Blackberry Jane. She used to walk down to the colliery shops & carefully examine all the fruit & veg on display picking out the damaged ones & ask how much, hoping to get them cheaper. She was supposed to be from well to do family.

We had no bathroom and an outside toilet. We only had a triplex and an open fire to heat the whole house. To keep warm we used paraffin heaters, and I can remember a man coming round the streets selling paraffin in his van. I think his name was Mr Elwell. So many characters I can remember clearly, Reggie Parkin with his horse, Sarah, and his cart selling fruit and veg, Harry Horton, an eccentric man who anyone from the colliery would know. Seaside Lane shops. Tates the Butchers, Robinsons Paper shop, Walter Wilson's the Meadow Dairy, Kilburns, Mr Snowden and his son in their grocery shop, Burdes's Bakery (who could forget those pies). Across to Bede Street and Mary Sparrow's, Blowers the Butchers and Fairs Fish and Chips. Ladiesware shop Nelly Morgan for the "classy lassy".
Quote from Gail Robson on Francis Frith page

Poor Harry Thorpe was aged about 40 but had a mental age of 2 or 3, he was totally harmless. He looked very odd, once or twice a week his mother would take him to the pictures. However when the film started Harry would get out his comic & try to read, even if sometime it was upside down. If any one in the film asked a question he would try to answer back with cries of "Shut up Harry".

My sister had a friend called Audrey Alderson, a nice family. They kept ducks in the backyards and they were often wandering around their home. They had a lodger living with them Bobby Knight, he was perhaps in his 50's, shabby clothes, always needed a haircut, Flo found him crying on the backstep. Mrs Alderson was hanging a mattress on the line, and

had thrown him out because he had wet the bed again. He was pleading to be let back in as he had nowhere to, she usually did until the next time it happened.

On Friday evening we would see a group of people walking from the village workhouse where they were inmates to the Rialto cinema for the first house. The women wore blue dresses & the men blue suits; it must have been the highlight of their week.

MY EARLY DAYS

I had some excellent teachers at Easington Colliery Infant & Junior Schools. Headmistress Miss Byron, Head master Mr Pigg, teacher Mr Douglas but best of all Mr Todd. Miss Charlton & Mrs Wilson used to send me to the fish & chip shop near where I lived & go to the side door to collect the wet fish they had ordered. I passed the exam at the second attempt to go to Ryhope Grammar School from 1951 – 1955, I travelled there by train from the colliery station. I obtained 7 GCE's & started as an apprentice at B. French Ltd, Worcester earning £2 a week. I worked for them at the old Stockton hospital. While working on a ladder on a polished floor it started to slide, I tried to grab the wall on the way down but landed on the floor & broke a few teeth. I finished my apprenticeship with Northern Electric. I had digs in Newcastle & broke my big toe falling down the stairs.

OTHER FAMILIES

Then there was Teresa, the youngest in the family. There was a disused air raid shelter with a concrete roof at the top of our street, bricked up to keep people out. However the children smashed their way in & played there for several years. While Teresa was playing there with friends the roof fell on her & they could not move the heavy concrete & she was crushed to death. I can still picture her 60 years later.

EVENTS

There is a footpath going under the railway leading to the beach near Grants Houses with vehicular access to tip rubbish. A stream running from Littlethorpe flowed through here & to stop it getting blocked they built a 10m conduit where we played, we called it the Cundy. We called it Station Dene & nearby were about 8 houses called Station Cottages, since pulled down.

In the pit there was a concrete pond or reservoir about 35 yards sq & 7 foot deep near the pit outbuildings with rubbish & dirt floating on the surface. A committee was formed to start Easington Amateur Swimming Club & volunteers emptied and cleaned the pit pond & it was open every day except Monday. It was open 12 years and 500 children were taught to swim & 50 gained life saving diplomas.

The British Legion held an annual outing & up to 30 coaches used to line up & each child was given 2/6 (12'5p) for spending money.

There was a wooden hut in the quarry at the top of South. This was the ToCH room for leisure activities founded by an army chaplain the Reverend Phillip Byard (Tubby) Clayton.

SHOPS

In Bede Street there were Donnellys, Dobsons, Walter Willsons & Fred Moore. Fred, wore a bowler hat, and travelled from West Hartlepool by bus every day. He had a part time helper Old Langstaff who delivered the groceries in a wheel barrow, He lived at 28 Barwick Street with his wife we called Ganny who smoked a clay pipe & wore a long black dress.

In Seaside Lane were Dixon Snowdon, Newmans, the Meadow Dairy, London & Newcastle Tea Co. & Thompsons Red Stamp Stores and baker's shops Burdess with wonderful pies. Further up was Mrs Fishers who did the baking for dance nights in the Welfare Hall & Potts opposite Healthworks.

In the 1950's Carroll & Doyle opened a wash house or laundrette, where those who didn't have a washing machine could do there laundry. There were 8 hand operated machines & mangles, hot water from individual boilers, and people took coal to heat them.

There were plenty of fish & chip shops. Shaws & Fairs in Bede Street, Mary Lizzies in Seaside Lane, Wilsons up Canada, Martindales (now a Chinese take away) Evans at the council houses & Owen Williams at Pitts Houses.

There was a small Italian community in the ice cream business Corinnas, Donnini, Equi, Moscardini and Passorotti.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

The RC Church near Grants Houses now a small housing estate. Methodist Chapel & Church of the Ascension, Wesleyan Church now the site of Emeralds furniture shop, Bourne Methodist now the site of the library all in Seaside Lane. Apostolic Church, small wooden church, long demolished next to the Welfare Hall. Salvation Army near the cemetery & the Baptist Church opposite the cemetery gates.

PUBS & CLUBS

Station Hotel, known as the Trust, now demolished, the Officials Club, Byron Street known as the Leathercap after the type of cap officials wore down the pit to distinguish them. The Black Diamond, opened & closed but now disused. RAFA club was converted to a business centre for Castle Dene. It had started a snooker club with about 8 tables ran by an Italian called Matt who was knocked down & killed in Chester-le-Street. Constitutional Club, always called the Tin Club in Vincent Street now a gym. Royal British Legion now the Irish Bar in Seaside Lane and the Easington Colliery Workman's Club opened 1912 burnt down in 1964 & rebuilt.



Station Hotel



Hippodrome

BUS COMPANIES

Three bus companies ran through Easington Colliery United, Northern and Sunderland & District (SDO) always known as the blue bus.

SPORT

Regular pitch & toss gatherings took place near the railway bridge. All you could hear was Heads a dollar, heads ten bob. There was lookout placed to watch out for the police. Easington Colliery had a welfare park with a good team playing in the Wearside League. They reached the first round of the FA Cup in 1955 for the first and only time in their history, which they lost 2–0 to Tranmere Rovers, to a record crowd of 4,500. For a short while there was a team called Easington Albion who played next to the colliery ground. The Catholic church formed the Easington CYMS (Catholic Young Men's Society).

As a child, born and bred in the area of Easington know as South we had everything we needed nearby.

There is a large playing field at the end of South walking towards Grant's Houses, through the railway bridge there was the Station Dene leading to the beach. If we turned right before Grant's Houses there was a dene, sometimes called Mitchells, sometimes Foggins, sometimes Lishies.

I think Lishman and Foggins were colliery officials, at the side of Mitchells Dene near the swings was Paradise Farm. The farmer was called Mitchell he was stone deaf, everyone called him deafy.

The swings were near South, also the air raid shelters which we often played in. The beach is a straight walk from South: or we could easily walk to Beacon Hill and Hawthorne Dene.

NICKNAMES

There was a woman called Nelly Goldburn who lived with her brothers in Station Road, there were two or three brothers. Two of them had nicknames, Yacker and Nanter, one of them when returning home after a night on the beer would pass the top of our street arguing with himself or asking questions and answering himself, he would walk a few steps and start the questioning and answering again. They used to come home in their pit clothes, have a meal and get into bed.

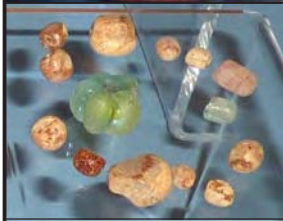
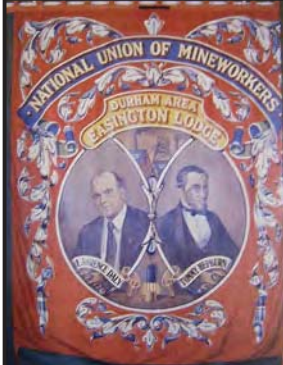
In the top house of one of the streets and old woman dressed all in black would stand at the doorstep watching the world go by, she used to be smoking a clay pipe, she was known as Gannny Longstaff.

HERE WE GO

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Walter Maddison | Bonky |
| Norman Robinson | Nonky Robson-Yankee |
| ? Caulfield | Shotbox Price-Knocker |

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ? Watson | Salty |
| Jimmy Halliday | Hatchy |
| Eric Summers | Pud |
| ? Welch | Snowball |
| Ralph Patterson | Buck |
| ? Burdiss | Topper |
| ? Williams | Darky |
| ? Richardson | Blacky |
| ? Dixon | Diker |
| ? Parkin | Jarpy |
| ? Brown | Tadger |
| ? Stephenson | Pussy |
| ? Hall | Tiger |
| ? Hall | Chucky |
| Bill Robinson | Cocky |
| ? Jones | Sticky |
| ? Jones | porky |
| ? Talbot | The Mad Monk |
| Walter Emmerson | Dinky |
| Gorden Glaister | Shack |

When the shows arrived on the site where Glendene School is hundreds of people used to go. On the day of the British Legion trip there used to be 20 or 30 buses lined up.



- The Easington Atlas -

This document forms the Easington Atlas project report, exploring the unique landscape and history of Easington from its geological origins to the present day. Placing Easington firmly in its wider landscape setting, the Magnesian Limestone Plateau and Coast of East Durham, the report shows how that landscape was transformed over time by geological forces and previous generations of inhabitants.

Now home to two distinct but related communities - the Colliery and Village - Easington has a rich and fascinating history. The area's geology is internationally renowned, preserving remains of a 260 million year coastal barrier reef from the Permian era. The ecology is very diverse, including calcareous clifftop flora, seashore rock pools, steep-sided woodlands in the denes, and arable land hedgerows.

Historically and archaeologically there is much to excite interest, whether it is the excavated finds from the Andrew's Hill Anglo-Saxon cemetery, imposing surviving medieval buildings - St Mary's Church and Seaton Holme - and the aspect of an ancient village laid out around its historic green or the much more recent and sometimes tragic history of the 20th-century colliery. In covering all of the above, the report demonstrates clearly that there is much to celebrate in Easington's heritage.

