

## Topics

### Education

Chop Gate – 70 children on the register. 3 rows in small room, 4 rows in large room WT  
Boundary was Cam House to Crookleiths WT  
Teachers – Miss Scaling, Miss Bottomley, Mrs Jackson taught WT  
Mrs Jackson was strict, normally used straight cane, occasionally “Hookey one” but they liked her. WT  
Vicar visited the school regularly but didn’t teach. Had RE for ½ hour every morning, an RE inspector visited the school WT  
Everyone took the 11+ exam  
WT left school the day after he was 14 to work on Cossey’s farm

### Games

Wrestling in the school playground, boollers – played with a bike wheel and a stick, conkers in season,

### Lighting and Heating

Used wick lamps (*paraffin?*) then lamp with a mantle (*gas*) and candles to bed, but it burnt down, burnt the sleeve and charred the table WT  
Electricity 1953 – agnes *iff*

### Cooking

Turf fire in summer, no plate at Akitt, hearth and a side oven cutting turf known as graving turves cutting, setting them to dry and rooking then... (*what?*) normally burnt coal and wood in winter WT

**Retail** = Fergusson selling sweets, came by car WT ... aero chocolate was a new thing

Shop at Cowslip run by Mrs Garbutt WT  
small grocers shop at Rievaulx House WT  
paraffin and candles sold from Bridge End (Robbie Brotton’s house) (*by whom*) WT  
Mrs Allenby’s shop WT  
In Stokesley WT bought a pair of flannels a sports oat and a pullover & had change from 30 bob

### Farming

WT age 14 worked for Cossey, board & lodge and 5 shillings a week  
WT & Ernie tied corn by hand, it was cut with a *manual?*  
Philip Shone from Hasty Bank got 2 shilling a day  
Harry Todd from Holme Farm used to sit on the scamper, putting the sheaves off WT  
Threshing day – Agnes *iff*  
Farming with horse and 1<sup>st</sup> tractor – William *iff*

### Undertakers

Garbutts at Adamson Hill WT  
Willie has caps all over the place *was he a garbutt, Fred’s uncle* – Janie had a right clear out

### Joiners

Uncle Harris was a joiner, but down town WT

Agnes *iff*

### **Bilsdale Show**

Was a big occasion, WT's father got 1<sup>st</sup> prize for a heifer + photo, Mabel's father (Robert Garbutt21) used to show Clydesdales, took place behind the buck

There was a dance in the marquee after the show, it was lit with stable lamps, later and after the war Bill Wood fixed a dynamo and we had electric light.

After the war the musicians were Robbie Brotton, Cecil Ward from Fangdale Beck, Alec Brotton perhaps and possibly Maris Johnson playing drums

### **Chapel Anniversary**

Another big event, Sunday and Monday, people returned to the dale for it

### **Pastimes**

Cricket behind Cowslip Cottage WT

### **Weather**

Big snow in 1940 WT's father dug the road out. It had to be cut in layers,

### **WW2**

There were evacuees from Gateshead, most farmhouses had some evacuees WT

2 searchlights, at Bilsdale Hall and opposite Fangdale Beck 20 soldiers at each searchlight WT

Soldiers at Urra were mainly coalminers from Durham

A plane, probably Halifax dropped 2 pear shaped objects, land mines in parachutes, near Carlton bank, don't think they exploded

A Bullfighter came from Cleveland, altimeter wrong, it scraped the moor, somersaulted, burst into flame, near East Banks WT identified the correct grid square for rescuers – 2 crew died A string of bombs was dropped on Garfit land, assumed they were being jettisoned before returning

another time they got the moor burning one night on the west side of Raisdale Ernie saw a Junkers, Wilf saw a Heinkel cloud hopping WT

### **Observer Group**

6 "A" men did full time the days, B men did 4 hour shifts at night, 3 shifts 8 til 8,

Can recognise Heinkel and a Dornier and Fieseler Storch and an American Noorduyn Norseman saw it with Ted Atkinson

### **Oil Exploration**

There was a derrick above Raidale, on Raisdale Moor, drilling for oil, but they took it down during the war

### **Events**

one of Wilf's father's cows got Fred *Garbut's* shirt off the hedge at Cowslip and ate it WT

Wilf Todd & James Wass Leckonby crashed a 3 wheeler bike into fence opposite Adamson Hill

Wilf Todd and Len Hughes went fishing, tickling & cotton and string, an 8" trout was called a ronker

Allenby's fire – Eric *iff*

### **Transport**

3 people had cars – Garbut Johnson at the Buck, RP Brotton and Major Beal from Hall Garth + Bob Wilson had a solid tyred wagon

All the roadside fences were brand new when we were kids *presumably due to road improvements*

Road widening 1930's William *iff*

### **Hunt**

English foxhounds – George *iff*

*Iff* indicates interviews carried out for the “Ironforgefest” in 2012

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