

# Waterhouses Wanderings

September  
& October  
2005



Registered Charity number 1054325

News, Views and Events from Waterhouses and the surrounding area provided by the Waterhouses Community Association.



using heroes  
The Queen's Award for  
Voluntary Service 2005

## Fly the Flag - Get our Drift Our Own History

The project funded by the Local Heritage Initiative resulted in the repaired Waterhouses Colliery Banner being proudly displayed in the Village Hall and also includes an oral history aspect which everyone is welcome to take part in. So **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Do you like talking about your childhood? Do you have vivid memories of the district when you were a lad? Perhaps you remember your first job – was it at the store or maybe in the pit?

*I'm sure you recall the games you played in the back street or when you had your first baby. memories are helpful in making history live for our children and also for the rest of us.*

Would you be able to help to establish a picture of what it was like to live in Waterhouses in the past? We would like to collect a series of spoken memories, which together would make up a valuable historical record from which everyone can benefit.

A small group of volunteers is available to talk to people or rather to listen to people, to record them and add the memories to a village database. You don't have to be a long-term resident to join in. Even yesterday is history and it would be really useful to interview a whole range of age-groups, occupations, natives/incomers, etc. **WE'D SPECIALLY LIKE YOUNGSTERS TO COME FORWARD.** I bet it's really different being 8 in 2004 from being 8 in 1944. Please help if you can.

**If you would like to be interviewed or can spare the time to help with the recording, ring Pauline on 0191 3734275 for further details or to arrange a convenient time.**

As well as the banner restoration and the oral history project the funding of £23,000 from the Local Heritage Initiative has already enabled us to

\* Make a short animated film, and

\* Make a half hour documentary 'Waterhouses Past and Present' and of how we are trying to preserve our heritage

If you haven't yet seen the film and documentary contact Rhona and a further showing may be arranged.



### The Buses!

The letters that you wrote and the 80 or so people who attended the protest meeting at the beginning of August showed Arriva and the County Council how much we wanted our weekday hourly bus service back again!

They have responded and the new schedule from 4<sup>th</sup> September gives us one bus per hour, and also includes buses later in the evening than at present.

Many thanks to all of you who supported this campaign. Now please support and use the bus!



### Award Presentation

The Lord Lieutenant, Sir Paul Nicholson, representing the Queen, visited the hall on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August to present the Community Association, represented by chairman Barry Sims, and secretary Rhona Foster, with the certificate, signed personally by the Queen, for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2005. He also presented a piece of commemorative crystal. Following the speeches and presentation Sir Paul and his wife spent an hour with the many villagers and others who had gathered for the presentation and buffet lunch that followed.

*Thank you all involved in preparing the hall and grounds for this significant event in the Association's history.*



See [www.waterhouses.info](http://www.waterhouses.info) for all that is going on

## The Queen's Garden Party

*Ivey Gardiner writes about the visit to Buckingham Palace that she, Dorothy Thwaite, Anne Pears and Val King made on behalf of Waterhouses Community Association in July. If you want to know more contact any of the ladies, they have many tales to tell!*

Our outing began at Teesside airport where a young boy looked at us four ladies and said to his mam "Those ladies are going to meet the Queen." His mam said "No, they are going to a wedding" but Anne said "He's right!!" and from then on we were the centre of attention.

On leaving the plane at Heathrow we were on a raised road full of cars and taxis. Anne contacted our taxi man and said "Look out for four ladies with four large hats." He replied "I can see you now!" so we got a quick pick up and were on our way to the palace.

When we arrived they put our invitations into sacks (no keeping them as souvenirs) and we went straight into the quiet park – like Hyde Park only more magnificent, with a lake, rose gardens, shrubs and trees. There were many people (over eight thousand) of different ages, cultures and styles. There were chairs everywhere and tables near the food tents. Anne and Val did a tour to bring our tea – dainty mouth sized pieces.

Yeomen of the Guard and grey suited and hatted Queen's staff were present; two bands played alternately; and the Queen, dressed in a lovely blue outfit of fingered material, walked among her guests.

Whilst resting after tea Val and Anne noticed something going on near the wall of the palace. They went to investigate and came hurriedly back to us. They grabbed one of the green chairs and we were 'off'.



People in wheelchairs were being placed where the Queen was certain to walk by on her way home. We took our places (Ivey on the green chair!) and waited. This is when we had 'the icing on the cake' and met the Queen, Philip, Charles and Camilla, Prince Andrew, Princess Michael and the Duke of Kent, Princess Alexandra and others. The Queen spoke to us ('I never realised there were so many sorts of wheelchairs' she commented smilingly, looking at Ivey sitting on the green chair.) Each of the others spoke or shook hands.

Then we took our leave after a memorable and wonderful day.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### The autumn programme

3<sup>rd</sup> September 10-12

Coffee Morning

6<sup>th</sup> September

River trip at York (fully booked)

8<sup>th</sup> September 7.30

Theatre Goers group meeting

1<sup>st</sup> October

10-1 Craft Fair & Coffee Morning

7.30 Ceilidh & Supper, £5

3/10/17 October 6-8.30

Radio Drama Project (see details below)

22<sup>nd</sup> October 7.30

Family Night including Quiz - £2 adults including bar

5<sup>th</sup> November 10-12

Coffee Morning

3<sup>rd</sup> December 1-3.30

Christmas Fair

16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30

Carols and Tree Lighting



### Radio Drama Project

*Are you interested in drama, digital photography or sound?*

*Are you a young person over 11 years of age?*

*Durham City Arts have free workshops in Waterhouses on Monday evenings (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October) from 6 to 8.30. No previous experience is necessary.*

*These lead into a final performance at the Gala Theatre in Durham in late October.*

*For more details and to register your interest contact Kathryn Watson on 0191 301 8726 or Rhona Foster at the hall.*

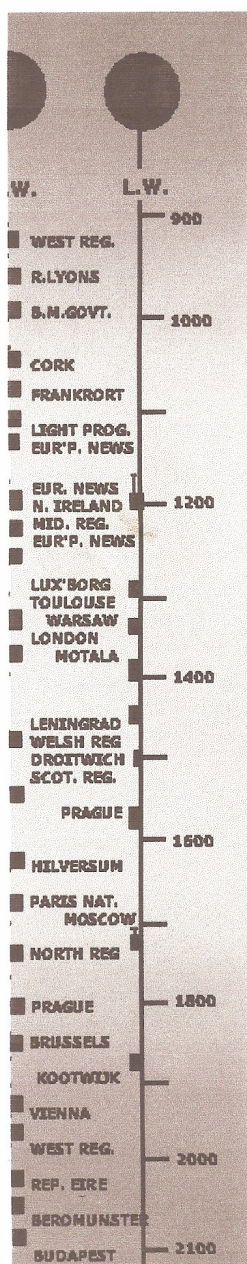
#### Telephone Numbers

Apart from hall bookings the number to use if you want to contact us is that of the village hall (0191) 373 9113. Leave a message and we will get back to you.

*Watch out for the next issue of 'Waterhouses Wanderings' towards the end of the year.*

**Full details of WOTZ ON are on the Village Hall notice board**

# radio drama project



## Drama and Creative Workshops

Are you interested in drama, digital photography or sound? Durham City Arts have workshops for young people over the age of 11yrs, taking place at:

Waterhouses Village Hall  
Mondays 3rd, 10th and 17th  
October  
6.30pm - 8.00pm

Intensive rehearsal week and  
final performance at Gala Theatre  
22nd till 29th October

For further information, contact Kathryn  
Watson on 0191 3018726

E-mail: [kwatson@durhamcity.gov.uk](mailto:kwatson@durhamcity.gov.uk)

**durhamcityarts**

