# BUILT ON COAL

# THE STORY OF EASINGTON LANE

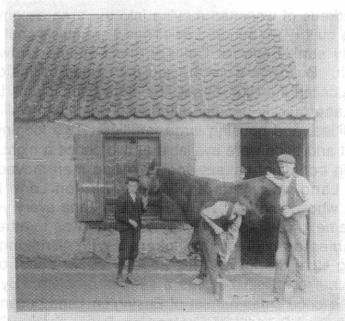
BY J.R. Sanderson Looking at Easington Lane today, it's hard to believe, that, as the name denotes, it was once a quiet lane between the parishes of Houghton Le Spring and Easington village, a hamlet of a few cottages and a farm.

Three events were to take place near by, that was to change this small hamlet forever. The first of these events was in 1821 and was the sinking of a coal pit at an area called the Lyons. The second was a year later in 1822 and was the building of Stephensons famous Hetton Railway. The success of these two projects prompted the third. This was the sinking of anther coal pit that was to become known as Elemore Colliery. This was sunk on high ground just above the beautiful vale of Elemore in the parish of Pittington Close to the parish border with the small hamlet of Easington Lane. It was the sinking of this colliery in 1825 that was to play a major part in the growth of Easington Lane into what it is today.

With hundreds of workmen moving into the area accommodation had to be built. Two hundred dwellings were quickly put up just of the newly sunk Elemore Colliery and become known as the Brickgarth. Buildings were erected both sides of this quiet lane and were called the High Street. Elemore Lane, Lyons Lane, and Murton Lane quickly became filled with primitive dwellings, with little facilities, and housing large families. Two lodging houses were built and beds were available at two pence a night. With the coal trade booming, tinkers and travelling men moved into the district. Land was made available in Murton Lane for these travelers, who would "winter" in Easington Lane every year. This land became known as the Gypsy Yard and was to attract lots of undesirables as well as the tinkers. With "Drinking Houses Springing Up", the lane in it's heyday could boast of fifteen, drinking and rowdyism became a serious problem. By the year 1856. The once small hamlet of Easington Lane became known the Length and Breadth of England as Tinker Town. Conditions became so bad many began to take advantage of the chance to emigrate to the colonies of New Zealand and Australia.

By the year 1865 changes began to take place. Three chapels had now been built, and these were well attended.

The Hetton Coal Company built a school in Elemore Lane children now attended regularly. Tradesmen moved into the area. Eugene Charlton and William Horney were Clock Makers. The village boasted at having Six Tailors, Jas Charlton, Jogan, Joseph Kippling, John Smith, Joseph Moore and William Straughan. Boot and Shoe makers were, James Robson, Samuel Bowler, Peter Watson, John Fawcett and Alexander Sexton. Of the travelling tinkers, the name of Francis is best remembered. He became well known for making pots and pans. He also specialised in miners Water Bottles. His descendants still live in the village today. William Scott was making flour in his Brickgarth Corn Mill, and fitties learning Academy was thriving in the brickgarth. In all Easington Lane could boast at that time as having 73 shops and small businesses within it's boundary.



This was Easington Lanes first shop. The old Blacksmiths shop stood between Robinsons cake shop and the Free Gardeners Arms.

As "The Lane" moved into the 1870s the demand was growing. Miners wages rise with this demand. Coal Hewers at Elemore Colliery were Earning twenty to thirty shillings a day, with the boys being paid in proportion.

The miners have "Money To Burn". Eggs two dozen for a Shilling, Beef at Sixpence a Pound. A bottle of Spirits costs Shilling and Sixpence and Beef was Two pence a Pint. No one thinks about "Tomorrow", and a gambling craze takes over the village, with Rabbit Coursing and Pigeon Racing attracting Large Wagers. All Public Houses had Quoit Pitches and money would change hands on the result of Games. But the Money Gambles took place in the Three Tuns Inn, locally called "The Top House". In their ball alley around the back, hundreds of pounds would change hands at the Bowling Matches held there. All the top players knew the "Top House Alley". But sadly for the folk of Easington Lane the big money days were soon to he over.

By the year 1876 there is a serious recession in the coal trade. 18,77 saw wages drop to Four Shillings and Eight Pence a day, and with coal stocks piling up there are worse times to come.

Due to the recession, the coal owners ask the miners to take a reduction of Ten Per Cent in their wages. This is refused and a six week strike ensues. A tribunal is set up, and after arbitration the miners go back to work accepting an 8.75% per cent reduction in wages. These are hard times for the folk of Easington Lane with poverty lurking around every corner. The population of the Village Decreases as more and more people leave to seek work elsewhere, and many properties stand empty. But the folk who stay, strive to make the village a better place to live. A new church had been builtin the high street, and with three Chapels in the Brickgarth Religion was now playing an important part in the life of the village. Modern Medicine in the name of DR John, Edward, Albany, Parker. Had also arrived. He was to attend the Sick for many years to come, and was a well Respected Figure as he toured the village with his little Black Bag on his visits to the sick, he always arrived in his Horse Drawn Carriage.

The village was "Torn Apart" in December 1886. A large Explosion at Elemore Colliery claimed the live of 28 Men and Boys. The Colliery is closed for many weeks, and the village takes months to recover from that savage blow 1892 sees the owners of the Colliery asking the workers again to take a reduction in wages. Again this is refused, and leads to one of the most bitter strikes in the history of the Durham Miners. The folk of Easington Lane are ill prepared for the struggles of this terrible Strike. And after 13 weeks of mounting debts and little to eat, the men are starved into submission. But the scars inflicted during those Terrible Days take a long time to heal. It was these hard times that forged Easington Lane into the Closely Nit Community that it is today.



This is how the Doctor would arrive in the late 1800s.

The horse and carriage of Dr. Parker.

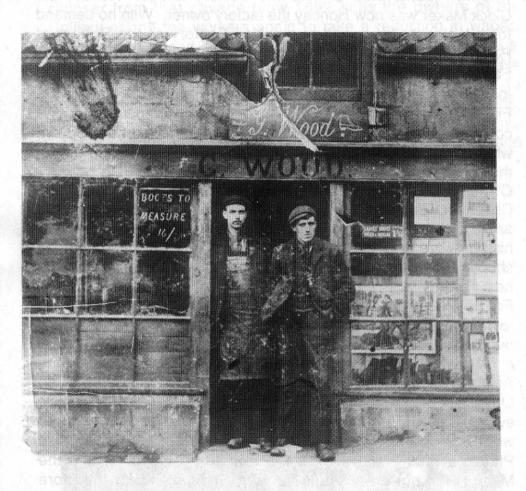
Coachman Tot Stephenson.

By 1896 The Recession had taken it's toll, most of the tailors and boot makers had left. The travelling men no longer arrived in their hundreds. The village had now lost it's "Wild West" image, and was now just a "Run Of The Mill" colliery village. Honcey the Clock Maker was now Honcey the factory owner. With no demand for his clocks, he opened up a Nail Factory at the Bottom of Pembertons Bank. Nails were made there for many years. John Fawsett set himself up as a Talo Chandler, and made Talo candles for many years, at his premises, also on Pembertons Bank. Kit Fisher was the proprietor of the Rope Works. His ropes and twine could be seen lade and stretched out along the old trow lonnen, what now Tyne Street. The Ropy Works was gone by the turn of the century.

Of the Grocers that served the village, there was Taylor, Cook, Chapman, Thursby, Gardener and Holmes. Later pringle was to arrive and serve the village for many years. Danda Wylie peddled his hardware around the village by House and Cart, and from his shop in High Street. He was to be House' hold name well into the

next century.

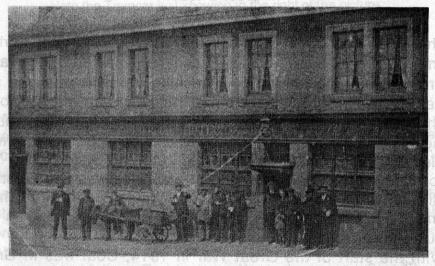
For Entertainment, the folk of Easington Lane could choose to go to Thompsons Music Hall. This was a Dilapidated Old Shed, built over stables at the back of the free Gardeners Arms Public House. It was owned by Thompson the local Cabinet Maker, Travelling Artists would Perform there. A Theatre Owned by a man called Lloyd, stood on Ground Close to Neil Street. Dramas Of The Day, such as murder at the Red Barn, and Sweeny Todd the Barber were Enacted. Travelling Circuses and Wax Work Shows also Played at this Theatre. For the Children the Church and the Miners Hall put on a Magic Lantern Show. And for the more learned in the community there was Reading and Organ Recitals. Of the Public Houses the Joiners Arms had now become the Commercial Inn. And the three Tuns had appeared in Elemore Vale.



One of the early Boot makers in Easington Lane
This shop stood on Pembertons Bank.



Standing in front of the Bonnie Pit Lad 1890 Landlord and family



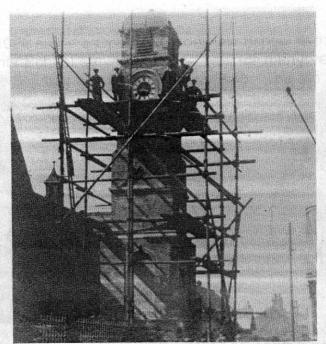
The Commercial Hotel 1910. This public house was first called the Joiners Arms and is now called Deuchars.



The Free Gardeners Arms, Easington lanes oldest public house built 1825. The Tudor fronting was built on around 1928.

The 1900s arrived with work insecure. The Colleries were working on a day to day basis. It was around that time that the Salvation Army moved into the area. Preaching the evils of Drink, and Helping the Needy was to be their "Trademark" for years to come. The Apostolic Church also got a "Footing" into the Village about the same time. 1905 saw a new type of transport in the form of Electric Trams, running through the village to Sunderland. The cost of riding on there Newfangled Machines was One Penny a Mile. 87 Minutes was the time it took to get to Sunderland. These Trams were to run through the village until 1925. It was then that Buses began to take over the service routes.

With the start of the Great War in 1914, Coal was in Great Demand for the War Effort. And the Village had a brief period of Prosperity. 158 of the Lanes Proud Sons died in that Terrible Conflict of 1914 To 1918. A War Memorial Clock Tower was built in their memory.



The building of the clock Memorial Tower 1921.

Note the Tramcar just showing to the right of the picture.

Stone for the tower was taken from the ruins of the old.

Hetton Hall. The Robson Family played a big part in the building work. Building behind the tower, is the old school.

By the early 1920s poverty had again raised it's ugly head in the village, and for the first time, soup kitchens were set up to feed the needy and unemployed. Kay the Butcher set up these kitchens. Local Shopkeepers gave produce free. These were really hard times for the folk of Easington Lane.

The Twenties saw the building of the lanes first Council Housing Estate. Locally called "Behind The Cosy". Later to be called Forest Estate. The two Theatres, were by now just a memory. Entertainment was now Silent Films. These were show in a Ramshackle Hall on Pembertons Bank, known as Star Electric Cinema. Bella Snowdon Played the accompanying music on the Piano. Twopence was the entry price. But Children could get a seat at the front for a jamjar.



Boys doing a mans job. Elemores Boy Miners of days long gone. J.Croft. J.Maddison. J.Brown. T.Scorer.



Waiting for the cage. More of Elemores Boy Miners.
J.Craig. C.Gouge. P.Hardy.

October 1928 saw the Opening of the New School at the top of the Village, this School served the area well for many years. Sadly part of the Building was burnt down in 1975. The fire was started deliberately by a former pupil As the twenties came to a close. We find that the Brickgarth Mill is now disused. The Gypsy Yard is hardly used. The Rope Works, the Nail Factory, and the Candle Factory, along with the Tram are now fading into memory.



A Soup Kitchen of the twenties and thirties Kay was the local Butcher.



Outside one of the entrances to the Gypsy Yard. This entrance was behind what is now Workmans Club. Note the Crude type of Caravan just inside the gate.

With the opening if the New School. The Catholics, having had a Church in the Village for some time, decided to take over part of the old school in Elemore Lane, and turn it into a school for Catholic Children only. It was to remain that way up to the 1970s. The early thirties saw the building of the Second Council Estate this was called the Prospect Estate, and was on the site of the Trow Lonnen.

The only other building work to be done in the Thirties was the building of the Pit Head Baths in 1933. These were on a Grand Scale, with Showering and Locker Facilities on Two Floors, the Cosy Cinema was built in 1938. Easington Lane of the thirties, was a place of little money, that depended solely on the local Collieries for work. It was a place where no one need lock doors. and seldom did. Serious Crime was rare, and neighbours helped each other in time of need.

Of the shops that were trading at the time, the Co-op was the largest with it's four departments, order boys and delivery carts. Pringles and Holmes were a close second, with others, the likes of, Moores, Walter Wilson, Red Stamp, Metcalfes, Stewards, and Gardeners having there regular customers. Logan was Local Milliner and Tailor. Walker was selling Bicycles, Gramophones, and Wireless. And of the five Butchers, piper is the only one trading today. In all Easington Lane of the Thirties, had about Thirty Five Shops and businesses plying their wares around the area.



All dressed up for the local flower show. The delivery cart of one of the local shopkeepers.



A Fruit shop of the thirties.

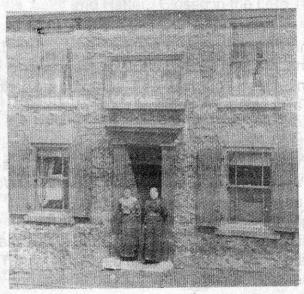


A thirties view of Pembertons Bank. Building on the left the old Church Hall. Building to the right of the Telegraph Pole is the Old Star Electric Cinema. Later it was to become The Church of the Salvation Army.

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A thirties view of the High Street. A Large Fire was to burn down the Workmens Club in 1939.



Closed in 1936 the Black Horse stood in Lyons Lane



Locally called the Monkey House. This Public House the Albion Hotel closed in the early 1930s. The High Street Doctor's Surgery stands on it's site.

With the thirties coming to it's close, as well as Three Public Houses, The Nags Head, The Black Horse, and The Albion. Martins Bank, due to the lack of Trade, had also closed down. Logan the Tailor was soon to follow.

August 1939 saw the start of the Second World war. And for the next Five Years the Village suffered nightly Blackouts and Rationing. With many men away Fighting the War, Women had to take over many of the jobs done by the Men.

1945 brought an end to the War. 29 of the Lanes Proud Sons were killed in that Conflict. The late Forties saw many changes starting to take place. Plans were laid for extending The Prospect Estate. Time was running Out for the Old Brickgarth.



Logan the Tailor and Hatter. Closed in the Late Thirties.

Folk in Post War Easington Lane were wanting better Houses with more Facilities. As the Lane moved into The Fifties these plans were now a Reality. The Old Brickgarth was Leveled to the Ground and the Council Embarked on a Building Programme that was to change the face of Easington Lane forever. Over the next Few Years, as well as Prospect and the Brickgarth, New Estates were built in Lyons Lane. And at the top of the Village around the Gargles Farm.

The fifties also saw the Closing Down of two of the Original Projects that brought Easington Lane into being. 1950 saw the closing of the Lyons colliery. And 1959 brought about Closure and Dismantling of the Famous Hetton Colliery Railway.

1963 brought about a Big Redundancy Programme at Elemore Colliery. This was due to seams being worked out. Around sixty workmen were Transferred to local Colleries. The sixties saw the Lane in Carnival Mood. There was a Revival of the 1930s Jazz Band Era. Two Bands were formed in the Village, and Competitions were held on the Brickgarth Flatts Field. Bands from Surrounding Villages would compete.



The Buccaneers Jazz Band.



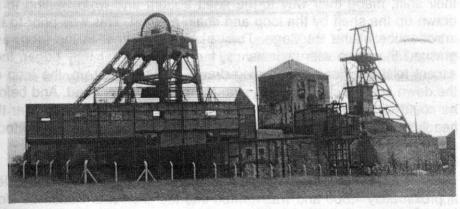
The Fusiliers Jazz Band.

A national Coal Strike in 1972, brought Elemore Colliery to a Standstill for Six Weeks, It was this stoppage that "Set wheels of Closure" turning for Elemore Colliery. 1974 brought about the closure of the Colliery, Thus ending 149 Years of Mining in the Village. No jobs were lost with this Closure. Men and Boys were Transferred to Other Collieries. Within Two Years the Surface Building and Winding Heads were Demolished and Cleared away. Leaving only the slag heaps to remind us of our Mining Heritage.

1984 saw the start of the year long Coal Strike, the most bitter dispute in union history. And once again The Mining Community of the Village suffered Unbelievable Hardship. Handouts and Food Parcels were only means of support for many. With no money for fuel it was a daily sight seeing logs being carried from Elemore Wood, and men digging for Coal

on the Slag Heaps around the area.

The late Eighties saw the Building of Flats behind the Clock Tower, and the Building of a small Estate being Workmens Club on the sight of the Old Gypsy Yard. As the Lane moved into the 1990s We find that the Elemore Slag Heaps have been leveled out to make way for a New Golf Course and small Lake, thus removing any visible sign that a Colliery once supported the Village. Easington Lane has long since lost it's dependency on Coal, it is now part of the City of Sunderland. But we must never forget that is was coal that "Breathed Life" into that once Small Hamlet, and saw it through the hard times and it's "Growing Pains".



Elemore Colliery 1825 to 1974

# SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST.

- 1829. Rossetta Coals died at the great age of 101.
- 1830. Riots at the Brickgarth, lots of windows were broken, two men were wounded with marbles and slugs.
- 1836. Two Easington Lane men, hewers at Hetton Down pit, got into the loop to descend the shaft when they both fell to their deaths. It was later discovered that the loop had not been fastened to the chain properly their names were Philip Snooks and Mathew Rutherford.
- 1841. On Thursday evening September 9th. a labourer from Easington Lane William Cummings, was in a public house in Hole. He was much the worse for drink, and had spent all his money. In his drunken stupor he offered to allow anyone to chop off one of his fingers for a quart of beer. The landlord took him to his word, and with the consent of Cummings applied a bread knife to one of his little fingers and struck it with a poker. The finger was severed at the first joint. Cummings was in such agony it took three men to restrain him. The wound was dressed by surgeons and the man recovered.
- 1842. Alice Thompson died at the great age of 105.
- 1857. A ghastly accident took place at Elemore Colliery on the 6th of August. Two miners, Henry Hunter and George Lishman, having finished their shift, made their way to the shaft bottom and were waiting to be drawn up the shaft by the loop and chain method. This was prior to the introduction of the Pit Cage. They placed their feet in the loop, and grasped the chain with their hands, facing each other they began their ascent to the surface, after being drawn about halway up, the loop on the down coming chain slipped over the poor Hunters head. And before he could slip it off, his head was torn from his body. Seconds later the headless trunk of Hunter appeared at the surface, the feet in the loop, and the hands still grasping the chain.
- 1868. Easington Lane was an area of 700 acres. Population approximately 4,500 and was formed into the District of Hetton Le Hole Feb. 15th 1869.

- 1890. Easington Lanes first Cycling Club in the Bonnie Pit Lad public house.
- 1898. The Sunday school at the Primitive Methodists Chapel had 484 scholars attending.
- 1905. Andrew Curry aged 40, hanged himself on railings in front of the Colliery managers house.
- 1906. Two brothers called Gaffney, killed by a fall of stone at Elemore Colliery Jan.22nd.
- 1906. Jim Edwards fell down Elemore shaft and was killed July28.
- 1912. Easington Lanes Workingmens Club affiliated.
- 1912. C. Nairns, felldown Elemore Colliery shaft. He was killed instantly.
- 1915. Snow drifts ten feet deep closed Elemore Colliery.
- 1916. Walter Thompson aged 15 of Easington Lane got his foot trapped in his pit pony harness. He was dragged two miles underground at Elemore Colliery. He died the next day, August 17.
- 1920. Easington Lanes Catholic Church built. The first curate was Father Lucey.
- 1923. J.Wilkinson Easington Lane youth aged 18, a clerk at the Lyons Colliery, came in contact with a live wire connected to a printing press he was using during his work. He was electrocuted immediately.
- 1927. R.Walton killed on Pembertons Bank, run down by a bus. He was one of the first persons in Easington Lane to be killed by a bus.
- 1928. Easington Lanes new school opened. There were 364 children on the roll.
- 1928. Elemore Colliery Welfare Hall opened. Became Community Centre 1974.

- 1929. Easington Lane's Mother's Union formed.
- 1930. Double fatality at Elemore Colliery. J Moss and J Seymoor killed.
- 1933. Elemore Colliery Pit Head Baths opened. Youth, J Lyons drowned in Brickies Pond August 2nd.
- 1934. The distribution of milk in the school started. Some children got milk free.
- 1935. Mrs M Blackburn aged 46 burnt to death in her home.
- 1937. T Tempest aged 27 killed at Elemore Colliery in March.
- 1937. April. Mrs A Brown was drowned in the rain barrel.
- 1937. Kathleen Nicholson aged 3 died in Sunderland Children's Hospital from injuries believed to have been received when she was knocked down by a dog September 8th.
- 1938. April. A Brodie killed at Elemore Colliery.
- 1941. 14 ft snow drifts closed Elemore Colliery for 2 days. Due to heavy falls of snow only one child reported for school. He was sent home. Soldier W Kent coming home on leave got trapped in a snow drift on Pittington Road. He was found dead.
- 1943. March. W Bond drowned in Elemore Vale Dam. September W Hardy killed Elemore Colliery aged 15.
- 1947. Snow drifts closed Elemore Colliery. The Head Teacher of Easington Lane School, Miss I M Graham, was killed in a railway accident when returning home from holiday.
- 1945. June. Two Easington Lane youths, J Telford and W Rodgers drowned at Crimdon beach.
- 1950. April. A Mortimer killed while picking coal on Elemore slag heaps.

- 1951. Elemore Colliery's new medical centre opened. Nursing Sister P Anderson was in charge.
- 1955. J Crawford, Colliery Deputy, killed at Elemore Colliery.
- 1961. Easington Lane's Lady Club formed.
- 1967. Salvation Army Church opened in Elemore Lane.
- 1974. Robbers stole £2,500 from Easington Lane Post Office in February.
- 1979. W Gulliver burnt to death in his home.
- 1985. December. A new roof put on the church at a cost of £40,000.
- 1986. January. Richard Crow aged 83 was killed while taking a short cut home. A wire got entangled around his neck as he was getting through a hole in a wire fence near his home.
- 1987. March. New street lighting installed along the High Street. Free butter and cheese handed out to the old and unemployed. This was due to Common Market surplus.
- 1989. June. Fire damaged Dover's Sawmill in Elemore Gardens.
- 1989. July. The guard dog at Dover's Sawmill tried to jump the wall with his chain still attached and hanged himself in the process. The chain was not long enough to allow him to drop to the other side.
- 1989. July. Rioters pelted police with stones in a major civil disturbance in the village on Thursday 27 which left a house burnt out on the Forest Estate. 3 were arrested.
- 1991. December. Young vandals wrecked the inside of Easington Lane's library and damaged hundreds of books. The library was closed for three weeks.

#### EASINGTON LANE'S "HALL OF FAME"

H Colwill. Distinguished Conduct Medal 1914/18 War.

J Groves. Military Medal 1914/18 War. J Maughan. Military Medal 1914/18 War. J Roxby. Military Medal 1914/18 War.

N Squires. Military Medal 1914/18 War.

T Storey. The French Medal for Bravery. 1914/18 War. G Dawson. Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. 1939/45 War.

G Robson. Distinguished Conduct Medal. 1939/45 War.

R Cook. Under Manager at Elemore Colliery received award for

trying to save life of a workman trapped underground

at Elemore Colliery.

S Wright. Presented with medal for trying to save the life of a

workman trapped underground at Elemore Colliery.

C Grey. Elemore Colliery Miner. Became a Member of

Parliament and Controller of the Queen's Household.

B.Usher. Played football for Sunderland and England Under 23's team.

A. Rogerson. Schoolboy football international player for England.

T.Williamson.Schoolboy football international player for England.

J.Straughan.Became international rugby linesman 1974.

W.Richardson.Played football for Durham County as a schoolboy.

R.Maughan. Played in goal for Hetton Methodists in the All England Methodist Football Cup Final.

S.Bainbridge.Played for Hetton Methodists in the All England Methodist Cup Final.

W.Taylor. Played in Durham County Youth Football team. He held the record for the fastest goal - 15 seconds.

R.Asbey. County Boy's Club Boxing Champion. M Savage. County Boy's Club Boxing Champion.

J.Laing. County Table Tennis Champion - Junior Section.

Brass & Winners of the Up North Combine Pigeon race two

Bruce years running with same pigeon. Mons 1921 and Troys

1922. A record which still stands.

All England Silver Grey Rabbit Show Winner. B.Colwill. All England Silver Grey Rabbit Show Winner. C.Gauge. Won a super billiard cue from the "News of the World" J.Groves. newspaper for the greatest fluke on a snooker table. Workingmens Club County Cribbage Champion. T.Davis. County Individual Domino Champion - Women's J.Haswell. Section. County Workingmens Club Domino Champion. J. Foster. County Workingmens Club Individual Whist G.Murphy. Champion.

# **PONY TROTTING**

Sulkie pony trotting was tried as a sport in Codgers Field at the top end of the village. This was not very successful and was abandoned after two meetings in 1962.

# BOXING

Easington Lane has had two county Boy's Club Champions - M Savage and R Asby. Others to try their hand at the sport were M Walton, I Croft and J Croft.

# DARTS

In the early 1950's the Three Tuns Inn, High Street had one of the best Darts Teams in the county. Three times County Champions. Mortimer and Merrington outstanding players.

# **TENNIS**

Never a game much played in Easington Lane. Two tennis courts were built. One by the Colliery Welfare Committee and one by the Cooperative Store. Both were built behind the Welfare Hall in the 1930's but through lack of use both pulled down in the 1950's.

# **FOOT RUNNING**

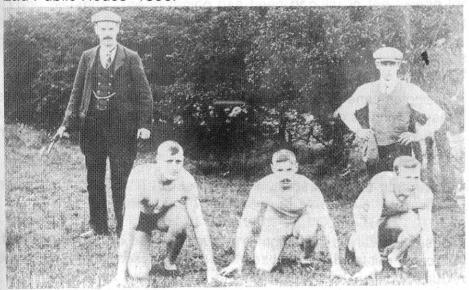
In the 1920's and 30's foot running had a big following. Handicaps were held all over the county. Easington Lane had many fine runners and many handicaps were won. Names that spring to mind are A Crooks, E Cook, J Brodie, H Young, T Wilkinson and J Harrison.

# QUOITS

Always a game well played in Easington Lane. Sadly has lost its popularity today. G Clough runner up in the final of the Vaux Individual Championships 1967.



Easington Lane Bicycle Club standing in front of the Bonnie Pit Lad Public House 1890.



Foot Runners of the 1920's

#### SPORTING NEWS OF EASINGTON LANE

# **FOOTBALL**

Easington Lane United. Played on Pasture Ground. Situated at the top of Elemore Vale. No known honours.

P.M. Chapel Team. Known as the P.M's. Played on Brickgarth Ground. Situated where the Welfare Hall now stands. No know honours.

I.M. Chapel Team. Known as the Boys Own. Played on Brickgarth Flatts Ground on Saturday mornings. No known honours.

St Michaels Church Team Played on Boys Club Ground Lyons Colliery. No known honours.

Lyons Boys Club Team. Played on their own ground at Lyons Colliery. 1948/1949 Season - League Winners. League Cup Winners. County Shield Winners. J Telford scored 69 goals that season.

Easington Lane Albion. Played on Potato Field Ground. Situated where Vale Allotments now stand. No known honours.

Easington Lane A.F.C. Played Flatts Ground Brickgarth. Five times league winners of Houghton and District League. Durham Amateur Cap Winners twice. Winners of many other cups. All honours won in the 1940's and 1950's.

Easington Lane Juniors. Played Pasture Ground. No known honours.

Easington Lane's Workingmens Club. Played on new Brickgarth Ground. Situated at the bottom bottom of Brickgarth. 1967 League Cup Winners. Domino Cut Winners. Knock Out Cup winners.

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Easington Lane School has produced many fine players. And can be proud of the fact that it has produced players to represent county and country from its field beside the school.

#### CRICKET

Lillywhites. Played in Colliery Field behind Lillywhite Terrace. No known honours.

P.M. Chapel Team. Played on Pasture Ground. No known honours.

# PIGEON RACING

Pigeon Miler Racing was very popular in the 1920's. The Miler Square was at the Elemore end of Brickgarth. The sport declined in the 1940's. Revived for a few years in the 1950's. A new racing square was built behind Cedar Crescent. Sadly Miler Racing is no longer seen in Easington Lane.

Long distance pigeon racing has been popular in the village for many years. The first Pigeon Club was formed in 1905 and is till going strong today. Successes have been many. Outstanding was Brass and Bruce. Winning the Up North Combine race twice running with the same pigeon, Mons 1921 and Troys 1922. A record still standing today.

# WHIPPET DOG RACING

Whippets have always been a feature in Easington Lane but a club was not formed until 1962 with G Mason as secretary. Racing was held in the Cemetery Field at the top of Murton Lane. The club moved to a new ground at the bottom of the Brickgarth in 1968 where racing was held for a number of years. Sadly whippet racing is no longer a feature in the village.