

EAST RAINTON

VICAR:

The Rectory, West Rainton. Tel.: Houghton-le-Spring 843263

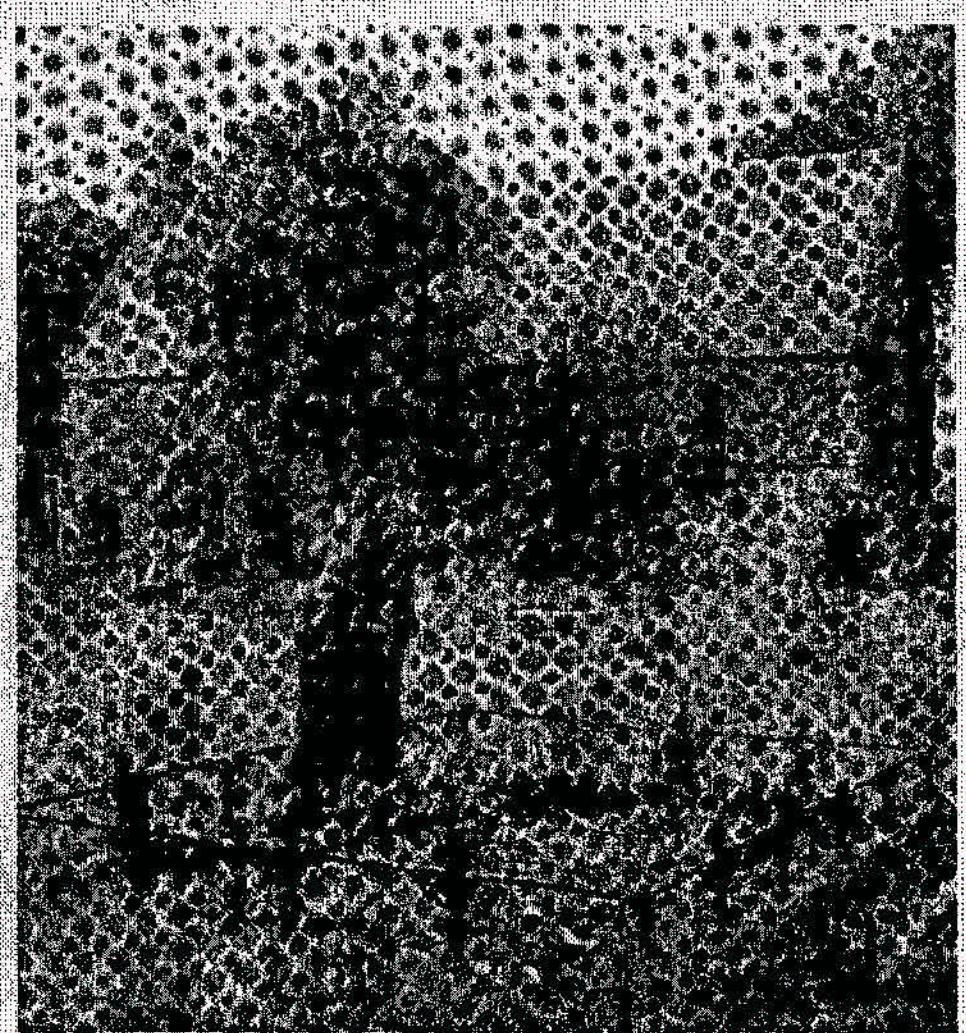
CHURCHWARDENS:

Mr. N. C. Stewart,
'Normanhurst', Grange View, East Rainton
Mrs. J. Weighill,
23 Fairburn Avenue, Houghton-le-Spring

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Hon. Secretary:
Mr. J. G. Wiseman,
'Camelot', 2 South Street, East Rainton
Hon. Treasurer:
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Parish News Editor:
Mr. W. M. Morley,
'Muirhaga', East Rainton



PARISH NEWS

EASTER 1986

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EASTER 1986 EDITORIAL

When the Christmas issue of 'Parish News' was published, it was confidently expected that the Rev. George Ward would be involved in parish affairs by now; indeed we printed his name in our last magazine! Unfortunately, owing to a health problem, Mr. Ward has decided to remain at Simonside and it has been necessary to again initiate procedures for a new incumbent. No further information is available as this magazine goes to print.

As has been mentioned before we should not be solely concerned with spiritual affairs, important as they are; the environment and its relation to the community is also a matter of importance. In his 'School Report', Mr. Wiseman makes reference to increasing vandalism, needless damage to both public and private property, public foot-paths which are virtually impassable and litter in abundance despoiling our pleasant countryside.

If we all made greater efforts to control these nuisances either by direct action or by alerting local officials to the problems in affected areas, perhaps improvements could be made. In this issue we publish photographs which we hope will focus more public attention on these problems which seem to be increasing.

Who is responsible? Are parents sufficiently aware of their children's activities? Are members of the community prepared to be involved when they witness acts of vandalism or see litter louts unloading their rubbish on to our pleasant walkways?

Unless we are all prepared to take positive action
matters may deteriorate even further. Unfortunately it
may not end there; historically society's cankers seldom
disappear of their own volition.

May we conclude by wishing all readers a very Happy Easter.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;
For we know that You have made the world
In a way that man must find his own path
To peace with himself and with His neighbour.

We cannot pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world;
If we only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all men;
If we use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
For You have already given us the power
To clear away the slums and to give hope;
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
For You have already given us minds
With which to search out cures and healing;
If only we would use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God,
For strength, determination and will power
To DO instead of just pray,
To BECOME instead of merely to wish.

TAKEN FROM A BOOK BY HAROLD S. KUSHNER

Contributed by Mrs J. Johnson

The Christmas entertainment proved highly successful.
It was a great pleasure for us to welcome not only the senior citizens of our village but also the residents from Earls House, Durham. Children are generally quite unperturbed by the presence of physically handicapped people and it does them no harm to mix with people less fortunate than themselves. It is also beneficial for our handicapped friends for it gives them an opportunity for integrating into a 'normal' situation. One can shelter them and shield them from the rigours and hurly burly of everyday life but in doing so one would also deprive them of enjoying, as nearly as possible, a normal life. We hope they will come again.

This year the Spring term is too short to put on a production of any kind, but next term we hope to present a musical play called 'Swashbuckling for Beginners' - a story, as you will have guessed, about pirates, with a slight hint of Gilbert and Sullivan. Some of you may already have heard it, if, like my mother, you enjoy listening in to the Schools' Radio - Monday morning at 11.00 a.m.

On a more serious note, the school building has suffered a spate of vandalism recently - windows broken at the rate of one or two each week, the boundary fence smashed, an entrance gate wrenched off its hinges and so on. Perhaps nothing as bad as some schools suffer but it does give cause for concern. It is our school, it is part of our community and as such we ought to

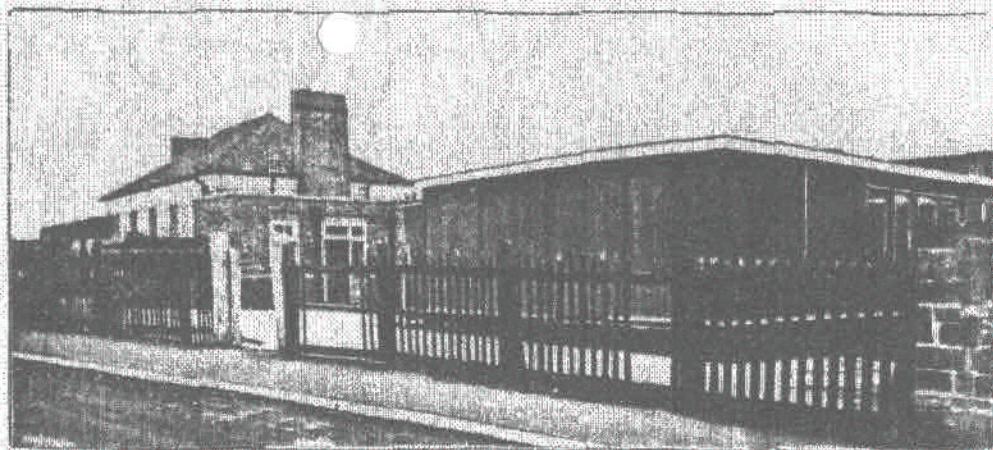
e when this wanton damage occurs. We often get reports school children - many of whom are past pupils - being wild around or on the school buildings, at night. Wonder if the parents of these children who are causing the damage ever enquire of them as to their activities whilst they have been out? Perhaps it is only a case of 'Out of sight, out of mind', but surely this is just not good enough.

Vandalism in whatever form, is a serious thing and I think all ought to make an effort to stop what after all is a very small minority, from damaging our environment. Is not only the school which is suffering; the bus shelters are often a target, as well as John Bailey's pile of hay, and I must point out that anyone's child could be responsible in whatever part of the village they may live. Parents must be more insistent on knowing where their children are going and what they've been doing whilst they have been out.

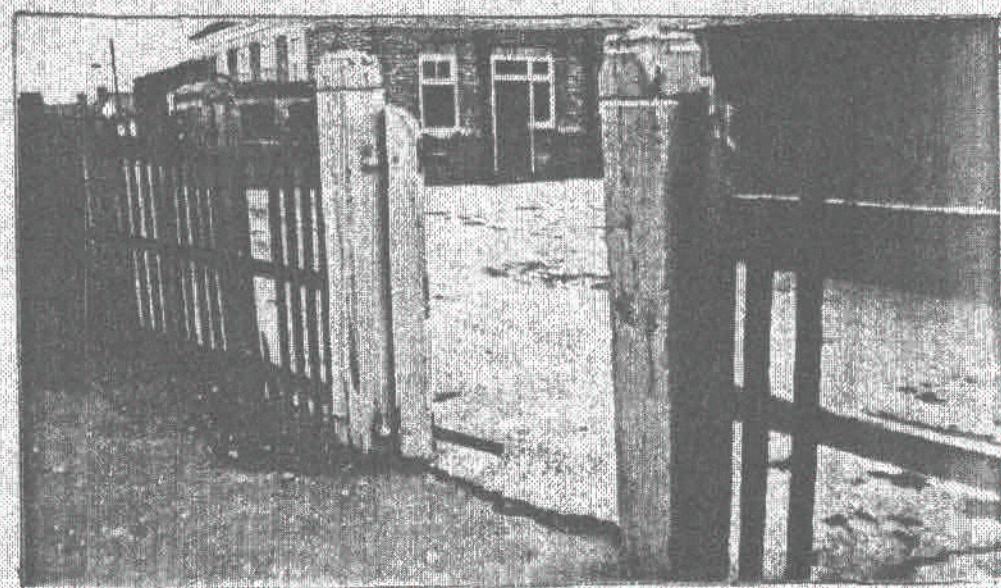
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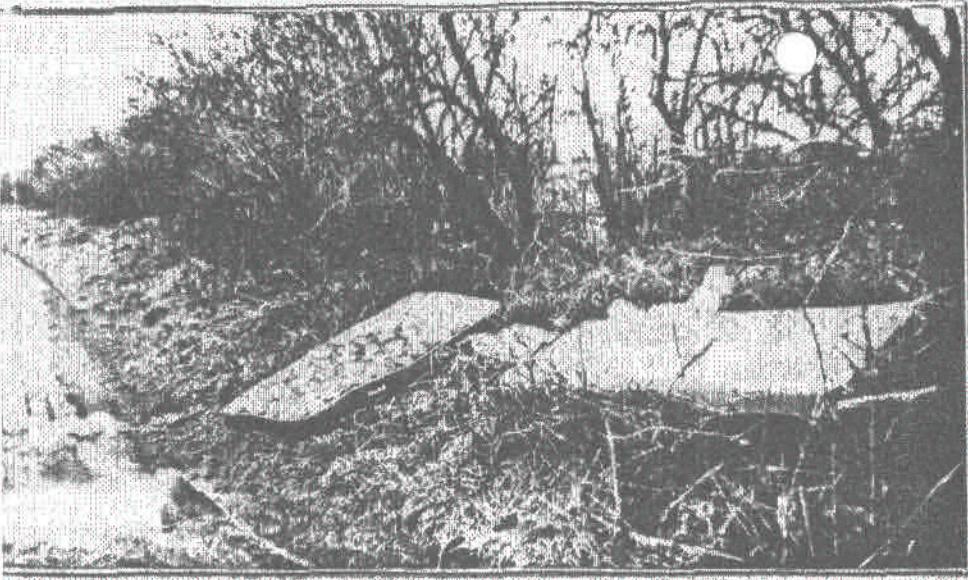
St Rainton Primary School

"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." (MARK TWAIN)

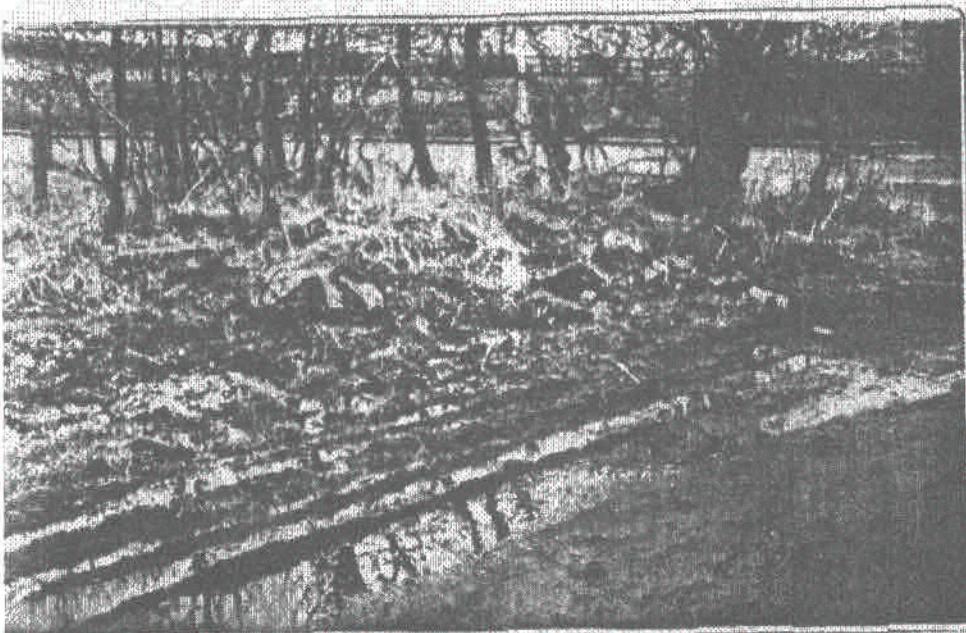


These two photographs illustrate the growing amount of vandal damage which is occurring in the village. The school boundary fence has suffered greatly and in his 'School Report', Mr Wiseman makes reference to the large number of windows which need replacing each week mainly because of the wanton behaviour of some young people. It seems that the situation will improve only if all sections of the community are prepared to be involved.





Two examples of the very many cases of illegal 'dumping' which threaten to despoil our environment. It seems inconceivable that this should occur when the local council is able to provide a free collection service for unwanted household effects.



- 6 -

EAST RAINTON METHODIST CHURCH

Members are involved in a six months support programme for Nicaragua. We aim to raise £200-£300 to supply medical/educational material for a container to be sent to Nicaragua.

As a group of Methodists, we have been concerned about a democratically elected government being attacked by American backed "contras". Already dreadful atrocities have occurred to many men, women and children - more than 10,000 since 1983. Many American Methodists have abhorred this state of affairs, spoken out for justice in the name of Jesus Christ and aimed to help poor Nicaraguans trying to build a fair and just society.

We hope our small effort will do the same and bring relief to the suffering.

DAVID C. GIFFORD

(Copies of the pamphlet 'Nicaragua Must Survive' are available from Mr Gifford at 22, Fieldside, East Rainton)

ALL ARE INVITED TO SHARE IN A SIMPLE, MEDITATIVE SERVICE WITH THE METHODISTS OF EAST RAINTON TO BE HELD IN EAST RAINTON METHODIST CHAPEL ON MONDAY 24TH MARCH COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

DATES TO REMEMBER

WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL

PRIZE BINGO IN THE CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

SUMMER FAYRE

SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

HARVEST FESTIVAL

MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

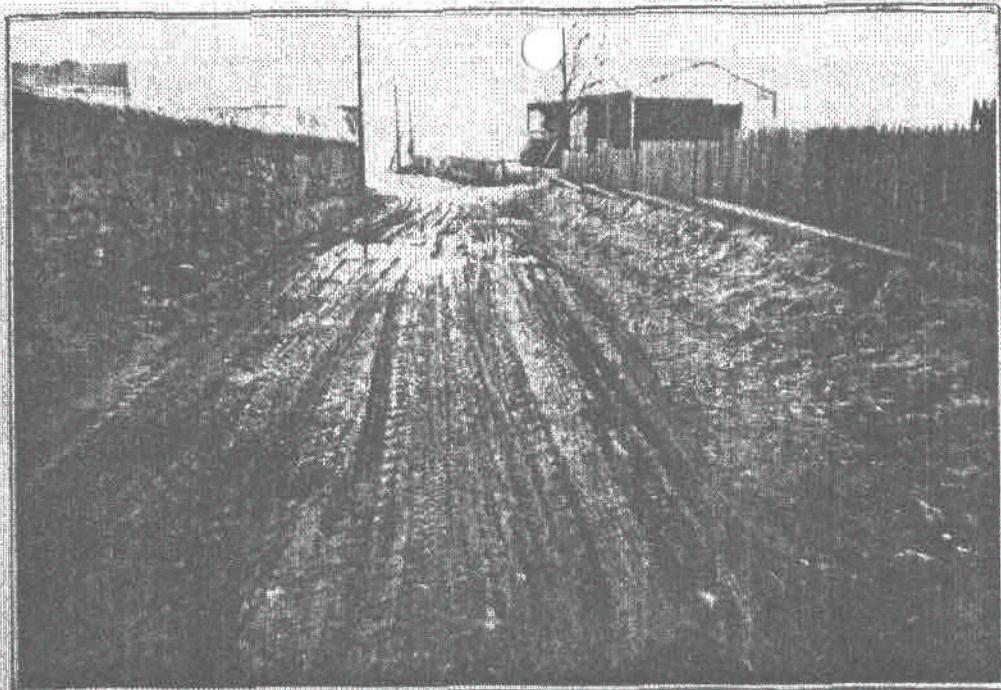
HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

PLEASE NOTE

From 1st April 1986 the Church Hall may be hired for private functions at a cost of £7.00. For further information please contact P.C.C. officers (names and addresses on back cover of this magazine).



Examples of the deterioration in many of our pleasant public 'walkways', as mentioned in the Christmas 1985 issue of this magazine.

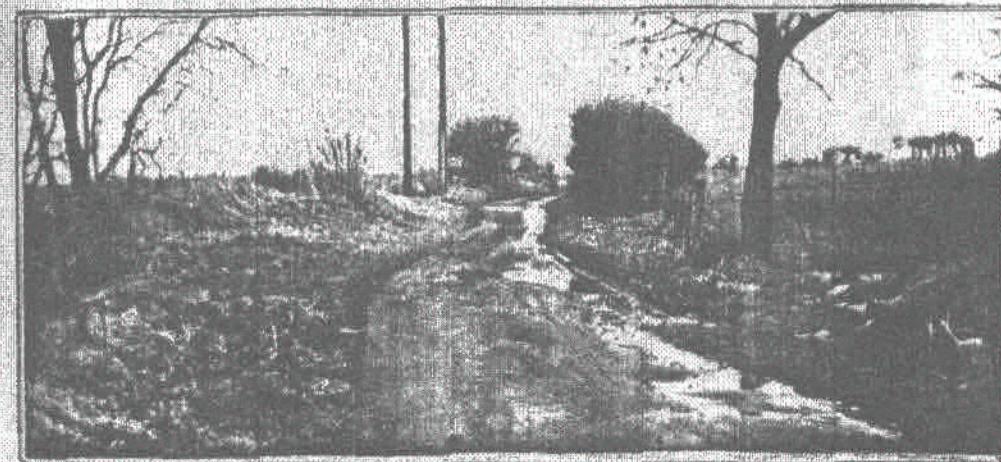
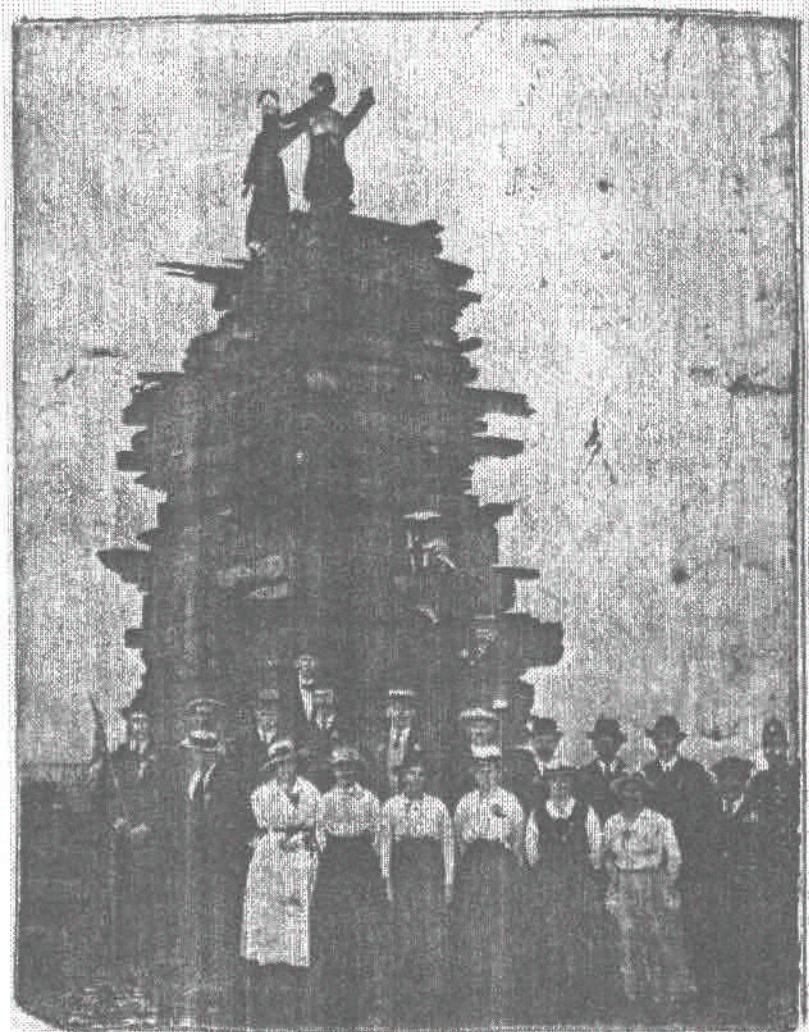


PHOTO QUIZ



An effigy of Kaiser Bill stands on top of this huge bonfire built to commemorate the end of the First World War. The photograph was reputedly taken in East Rainton. Where was it taken and who are the people in the illustration?

1ST EAST RAINTON BROWNIES

We have had a busy time recently with our 75th Birthday celebrations, which involved a Fun Day at Harrogate, candle ceremonies and numerous parties.

We held a sponsored "sunflower grow" and joined in the national Brownie Tea Challenge for Save the Children Fund. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members of the church who came to buy tea from the Brownies after morning service.

Plans for the future include organising a Jumble Sale which is to be held in the church hall on Saturday, 8th March at 2.00 p.m. We will be very grateful indeed for any contributions to this sale.

We now have a full pack of twenty four brownies but I have started a waiting list for future enrolments. If anyone would like to add their daughter's name to this list please let me know.

Finally I would like to announce that I have been joined by Mrs Jackie Brewer as Assistant Guider and it is lovely to have someone to share the workload with.

(SGD) PAT CROCKATT

Brown Owl

EAST RAINTON IN 1938

This was the eventful year in which Neville Chamberlain signed the Anglo-German Agreement. He told a cheering London crowd "This is the second time that there has come back from Germany to Downing Street, peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time". The following year we were to be plunged into a bloody war.

East Rainton seemed relatively unaffected by the gathering clouds although there were still many unemployed in County Durham mining villages. The two remaining village pubs, continued to attract a regular trade although, even in 1938, they were still bastions of male influence. Ernest Matthews continued attending his customers at the Village Tavern with William Coxon acting as mine host at the Travellers Rest.

Names of village farmers of that year bear a familiar ring including John Bailey, John Hutchinson and John Walker although records also show a Henry Wight carrying on business as a wholesale egg merchant from Summer House Farm.

Margaret Walker continued to dispense stamps from the village post office, Wilfred Lark was the newsagent and other shopkeepers included Thomas Jones and Wilfred Baxter. The East Rainton branch of the Moorsley Co-operative Society also flourished and the premises are still used today in a modified form as a car sales/repair business.

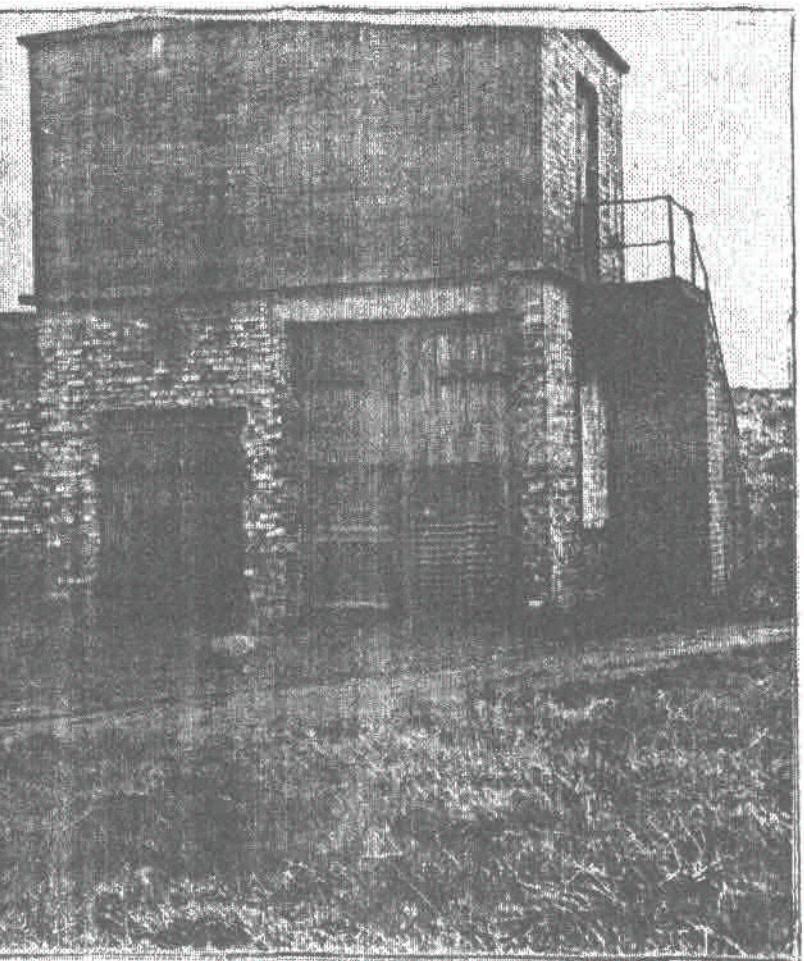
During 1937, East Rainton, which had previously been included in the Houghton-le-Spring Rural District Council's area, was transferred to that of the Hetton Urban District Council where it was to remain until 1st April 1974 when it was absorbed into the Borough of Sunderland in accordance

with the terms of the 1972 Local Government Act.

Despite the local government tie with Hetton many villagers thought of Houghton as their nearest 'shopping centre' possibly because there was a frequent, cheap and efficient bus service and many county services were administered from that town. These included police, library, weights and measures and the local education office; it also housed the local selective secondary school, one of only twenty for the whole county at that time.

In 1938 police foot patrols were commonplace, East Rainton being included in the Houghton-le-Spring Division for police purposes. The Divisional Superintendent at that time was Supt. J.G. Gargate and the local inspector, who some older readers may well remember was Inspector W.J. Clarke.

The 'new' school had now been in operation for five years with Mr James Tilley as headmaster, catering for the whole age spectrum of elementary education from 5 to 14 years. (The school leaving age was not raised to 15 years until after the War in 1947). In response to enquiries our records show that this school was built on land which included the original 'Pontop shaft' which had to be filled in before the 'outside toilets' of the school were built. However, we have no access to primary sources on this matter. The village cricket team, then known as Hazard Colliery C.C., continued to play its matches on the same ground as is used today and few really believed that within a year the country would be plunged into a terrible conflict of world wide proportions.



The last reminder of the Dunwell Pit, one of the coal mines which provided employment for the majority of East Rainton's male workers during the 19th Century.

These shaft buildings were demolished some years ago and little now remains to remind present day residents of the village's industrial past.