

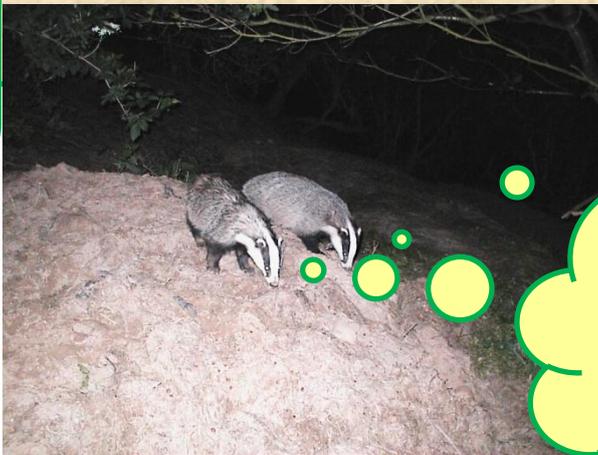
WHAT THE BADGERS



SAW 13

War is Over!

We hope you've listened to what we've had to say so far. Keep reading.



Yep! If you're local, you should have learnt a lot about our history. If you're not from here, we hope you've learnt a lot about County Durham.

The 50s and 60s was the time when Prime Minister Harold Macmillan told the people, "You've never had it so good!" You lot got Rock and Roll, colour TV, huge motorways and other such 'goodies'.

Not much use for a badger - we're not keen on noise, don't watch tele and the motorways can be very dangerous for us. In some spots where badgers keep getting knocked down, humans sometimes put in badger fencing, or even underpasses to help us cross the road.

Up to 50,000 of us are killed on the roads each year. That's the same as one person from EVERY family in Britain being killed each year! Drive carefully and, if you see a dead badger, please report it to your local Badger Group.

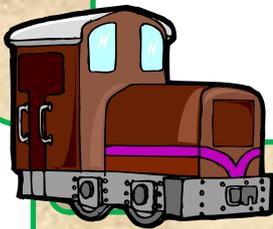
In 1951, Durham County Council published a scheme to get rid of 350 small villages. They were pit villages that had grown up around the mines. Now that mines were closing, people were moving out to live in the towns. The villages were to be left to die.

Can't see the point. I'd much rather live in the countryside!

On June 2nd 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in London.

Next it was trouble for the railways. Dr Richard Beeching was given the job of reorganising the railways. A third of Britain's lines and 95 stations were closed. Lines such as Darlington to Barnard Castle were lost.

Actually, we like railway embankments. We sometimes build setts there. Why not take a walk on some of the old lines? They're great for a family walk, now that the rails have gone.



1965 saw the birth of the first section of the new A1(M), following the route of the old Merrybent Railway to become the main road through the North East.

In many towns and cities, the old 'slums' were being pulled down and new developments built. This made the urban areas much nicer places to live, and helped combat the diseases that had spread through the old areas of housing.



In 1966, the Football World Cup came to Britain. Games were held at Roker Park in Sunderland and Ayresome Park in Middlesbrough. The final was a great affair, with England beating Germany 4 - 2 in the Final. Two lads from the North East played in that game - Bobby and Jack Charlton from Ashington.



On October 19th 1967, the Tyne Tunnel was opened by Queen Elizabeth II. Work had started in 1961. It was a difficult job to dig underneath a major river.



That's not a tunnel! You should see the ones we build. They can run for metres under the ground. They often turn to block out the wind, and at some point they dip and rise. This helps to keep warm air in the sett. (It works a bit like your toilet.) As cold air sinks, it's trapped in the dip. Lighter warm air can't sink and is kept in the chambers. Clever, eh?