

Sir Daniel Gooch 1816-1889



Born in Bedlington, Daniel Gooch was the son of an iron foundry manager. He spent his early years around the Bedlington Iron Works. After an engineering apprenticeship in Newcastle he was recommended by Brunel to be locomotive superintendent of the Great Western Railway at the age of 21. During his 27 years in service he designed 340 locomotives including the Iron Duke and the Great Western, which were safer and faster than previous engines.

Gooch was chairman of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company and masterminded the laying of the first cable under the Atlantic. He was MP for Cricklade, awarded a Baronetcy and was also responsible for the Severn Tunnel Project, linking the Great Western Railways.

Mary Weightman 1906-2005



Mary was born in Bedlington in 1906. After a brief move to America with her family they returned in 1925 and Mary married local school teacher William Weightman. They had one daughter, Molly.

Mary became an active member of the community, best known for her work helping animals. With a friend she set up an animal clinic which became the charity Peoples Animal Welfare Service (PAWS). A tireless fundraiser, Mary was directly involved in the charity into her old age and received many awards and an MBE for her work. The clinic in Bedlington continues to treat sick and injured animals today.

Dr John Brown 1926-1996



Dr Brown served the Bedlington community for over 50 years and was awarded an MBE. Remembered as 'a true gent' who was always willing to help others, he could often be seen with hat and pipe, taking a walk with his boxer dog, Rory. A member of the local Presbyterian Church, Dr Brown was also a keen sports fan, especially the Bedlington Cricket Club.

He is particularly known for his work treating injured miners, climbing down mine shafts to help them at great personal risk. He instructed miners in first aid which confirmed his link with the St John Ambulance Brigade which was to span over five decades. He would also give free medical treatment for people unable to afford the fees.