# Cartmel: Notes for a historic walk around the village

This started as a research project to prepare a historic walk around Cartmel as part of the Magna Carta Celebrations in September 2015. We have subsequently taken members of Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society on the same walk and additional information has been added as well as photographs (which I have taken over the years). It is not complete and we welcome any information you wish to share with us.

Pat Rowland June 2017

#### **Sources**

#### **Books**

The Annals of Cartmel. J Stockdale 1872
The Land of Cartmel. A History. J C Dickinson 1980
The Priory of Cartmel. J C Dickinson 1991
Cartmel Millennium Heritage Initiative Series - Vol 1 The House Detective Historic Buildings of Cartmel; and Everyday Life in Cartmel from 1900 to 1950
Notes on Old Cartmel and The Valley. Womens Institute, Cartmel 1980
Cartmel Quaker Meeting: Our First 150 years.1859-2009. Larry Walters 2009
Why Cartmel? Survival of a small racecourse 1856-1998. Rollo Pain 2001
Cartmel Priory Building Stones. Murray Mitchell 1993

#### **Articles**

Cartmel, The earliest Christian Community CWAAS Transactions 1984 p61-66 Farmary Field, Cartmel CWAAS Transactions 1990 p195-198 Report of archaeological excavations at Priory Gardens, Cartmel in 1998 CWAAS Transactions 2000 p161-180

#### Cartmel

Scandinavian origin meaning 'sand bank near rocky bank'.

King of Northumberland granted St Cuthbert the land which is called Cartmel is about 685.

Also referred to as Churchtown; Kirkby in Cartmell

#### Geology

West side is Bannisdale Slate of Silurian age. Hampsfell to east is Lower carboniferous Limestone. The junction is hidden by glacial debris but probably is on the eastern side of the village. Four types of sandstone are from Quarry Flatt at Holker  $2^{1}/_{2}$  miles away from Cartmel

#### The Village

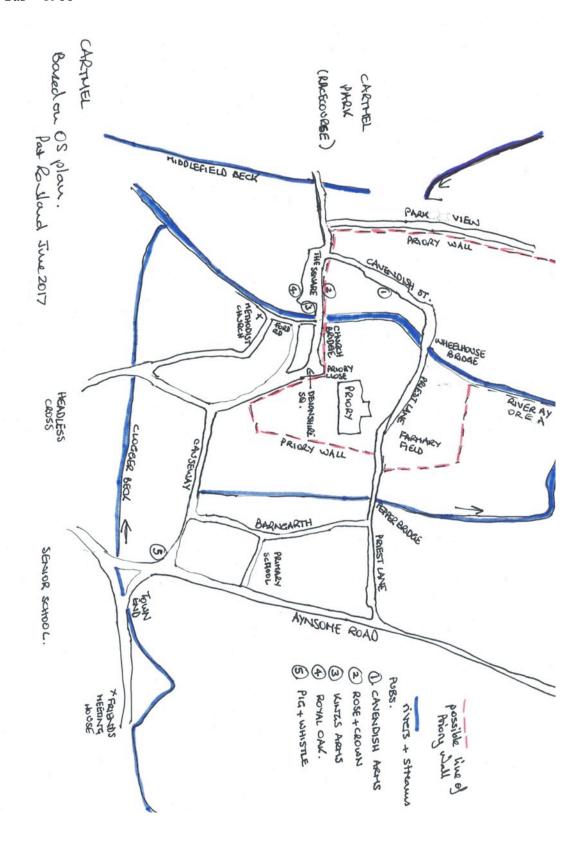
42 listed buildings

27 barns in 1900; many now converted to dwellings

Many old cottages demolished since 1900 – by Thimble Hall opposite the racecourse entrance; from the green opposite the Pig and Whistle; Priest Lane; Barngarth; side of the Institute

Mains water – 1910

Primary sewage treatment plant – late 1920



2 blacksmiths – Cavendish St and Priest Lane

Cartmel Aerated Water Company existed before First World War near what is now Mallard Café

Cartmel Grammar School established 1624 in the Gatehouse. Moved to purpose built building erected on outskirts of village but use ceased 1912. Old Grammar Building on outskirts of village beyond racecourse used for practical training for children who were not selected for higher education at Ulverston. When modern Secondary School built in 1958 use of old Grammar School building ceased. It has been used as a Hotel and a Care Home in recent years. In 2017 it has reopened as a Hotel.

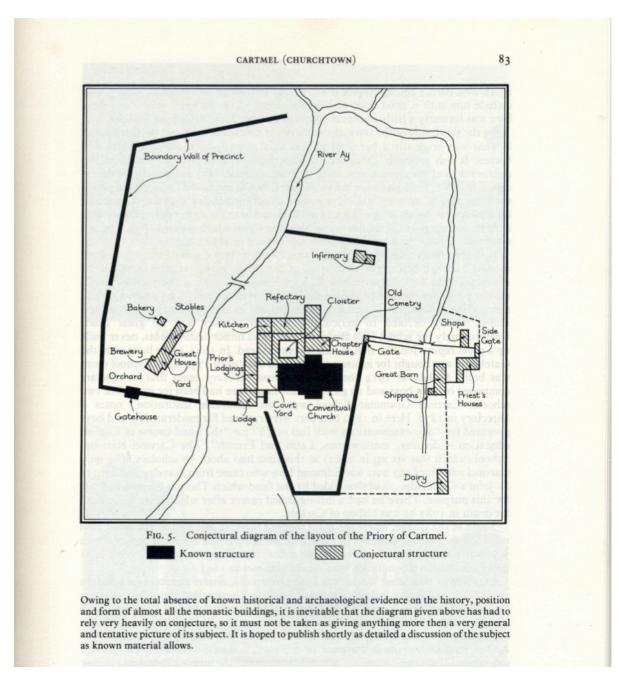
#### **Cartmel Priory**

Grade 1 listed

In 1190 a monastery was established by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. The site was above the flood plain between 2 marshy lakes and probably was the site of an earlier church. In 1391 the Parish Church of St Michael was said to have been 'where the monastery is now'. The monastic buildings would have included a chapter house, dormitory, refectory (dining room) cloister, priors lodgings, infirmary, bakery, cellars, mill, fish pond and were all completed by about 1250 AD. In 1322 it was attacked by Robert the Bruce, causing so much damage that the priory's property value was reduced by four fifths. By 1390 the priory buildings surrounding the church were suffering from collapse because of their foundations being on soft or marshy land. The decision was made to relocate all the buildings to the north of the church at huge expense.

At the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 the Priory Church was spared because it was used by the locals as a place of worship. The first brethren were from Wiltshire and were Austin canons. Many of the medieval papers have been destroyed or lost and there are large gaps in the history of the place. It is located on land between the Ay and the Eea, 2 streams that flow in opposite directions. A wolf's head weathervane on top of Cartmel Priory is related to a legend about the Harrington family killing the last wolf on Humphrey Head.

(description of Priory not included here as it has its own guides).



Conjectural plan of Priory Walls (J C Dickinson The Land of Cartmel (1980) Titus Wilson (Kendal))



Memorial to local soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars

## **Devonshire Square**



**Devonshire Square from Priory Entrance looking toward the Square** 

## **Institute and Reading Room**



Reverend Thomas Burton Holgate of Ivy Cottage, Cartmel bought this early 18<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed building and turned it into the Working Men's Institute which opened on 3 May 1865. He died in 1871 and left money towards its

repair. It was used for meetings but its main role was 'edification' with quiet enjoyment for the working man. Newspapers, magazines and books were provided

and rooms were used for billiards and other games. Nothing is known about the building before Rev Holgate purchased it.



**Reverend Thomas Burton Holgate (painting in Cartmel Priory)** 

Listing Information: Grade 2 listed building.

Institute with shop units. Early C18. Roughcast stone with ashlar dressings, slate roof. 2 storeys with attic, 5 bays. Ashlar base, bands over windows and cornice; quoins. Round-headed windows with imposts and keys are sashed with glazing bars. Attic has hipped dormers with slate-hung cheeks and horizontally sliding sashes with glazing bars. Entrance has eared architrave, panelled pilasters, pulvinated frieze and consoled segmental pediment with fanlight. Gable-end stacks. Left return is blank. Interior altered in C19 when building became Institute, the dormers probably being added at this time.

## **Priory Close**



The buildings on the western side of the Churchyard mark the boundary between the private grounds of the Priory and the outside world. It was probably accommodation for high ranking guests such as bishops, archdeacons etc. Fell into disrepair but refurbished in 17<sup>th</sup> century with Georgian façade added later. Medieval timber mullion window in attic.

The Priory Shoppe (adjacent to Priory Close) was the principal newspaper and sweet



shop between 1900 and 1950. There were 9 different owners and other goods were sold from time to time. Mr Lowis had a shoe shop next to the **Priory** Shoppe in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A walking stick maker lived and worked in a cottage next to the Institute in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and he attracted customers from throughout the north.

# **Unsworth Yard**



Replaced Central Garage run by the Unsworth family and opened in 2010. Business originally set up as a motor repair business in temporary building close to Village Hall. Mallard Café (to left and out of picture) was a petrol station until late 1990s. It was reported that the first motor car was seen in Cartmel in 1904.



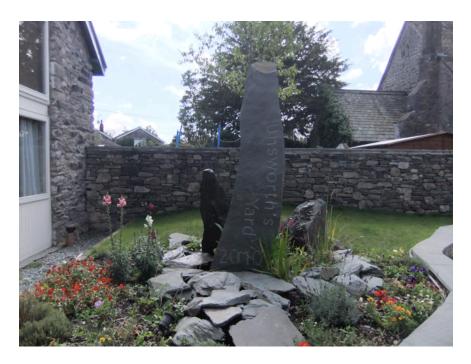
## Mallard Café

The tunnel to the right hand side leads to the Flatts.

# **Unsworth Yard**



Unsworth Yard shops
Currently include a cheese shop, a bakery and a microbrewery.



2010 datestone



# No.3, Holly Tree House, The Flatts.

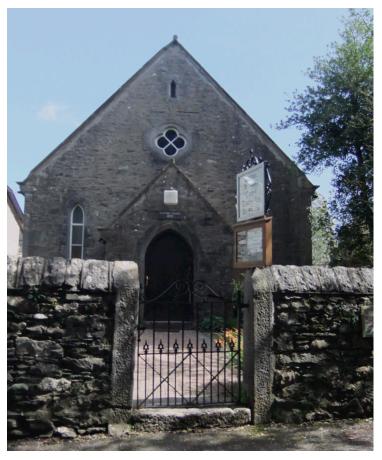
Access through tunnel adjoining Mallard Café or from lane to right of Methodist Church.
This use to be the home of Arthur Ransome's cousins, the Butterworth's, whom he visited in 1905, aged 21, when courting Barbara Collingwood, and when staying at Wall Nook, Cartmel.

**Church Bridge** over River Eea; 1829 datestone (located between Devonshire Sq and The Square)



View of Church Bridge from outside of Cartmel Methodist Chapel

## **Carmel Methodist Church (known as Wesleyan Chapel originally)**



It is located beside the river behind Unsworth Yard, facing The Kings Arms. In 1871 John (James) Gunson of Ayside purchased, for £60, a piece of land, formerly a tanyard, as a site for the new chapel. The foundation stone was laid in November 1871 and the church, built to seat 150 persons, was opened on October 1st 1872. Detailed design of 1871 by J.W.Grundy for a singlecell, 3-bay chapel, with diagonal buttresses at corners and lancet-type windows in pairs. (Detailed plans at Z 1095, CRO Barrow).

## The Square or Market Square

# **Gatehouse Gatehouse** and former Mr Field's shop on left of archway



Not the original gatehouse but possibly a 14<sup>th</sup> century building. Small door in east wall gives access to rough uneven steps to first floor room where the manorial court was held in

medieval times.

In 1624 Cartmel Grammar School was established here after purchasing the building. In 1791 it was sold because it was 'awkward and difficult' and the school was moved to a building on the outskirts of the village. The Grammar School existed until 1912. Eventually the Gatehouse was sold to James Field in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and became a shop. It is said that in Victorian times the court room was used as a Methodist Chapel and later as a billiards room.

It was restored by Mr R O'Neill Pearson and presented to the National Trust in 1922. Listed grade 2

## Field Family from 1872 Stockdale Annals of Cartmel p575

The shop of shops was at Cartmel Church Town, kept by the late Mr Field, and there was sold nearly everything the people of Cartmel Parish ever used; and to this shop of course the whole parish resorted.

Mr Field was a clever man and had made himself so thoroughly acquainted with parachocial matters that no other person thought it worthwhile to think about them; he was indeed all in all in these matters, and through him, at one time, the parish may be said to have been governed, though he appeared to be unconscious to the fact. He was grocer, ironmonger, tallow chandler, high constable, bridge master, post master, stamp distributor, savings bank clerk and treasurer, manager of the parish charities, vestry clerk, clerk and writer at all sales, will maker, lease and agreement maker, general arbitrator, trustee under numerous wills, and agent for five of the principal owners of estates in the parish. He was an excellent antiquarian and numismatist, and so to him we owe the preservation of what remains of the ancient Headless Cross and several of the other still remaining antiquities of the parish. To the other numerous callings of Mr Field may be added that of banker and money lender, he frequently lent money to persons not very likely to refund it; whereby many an endeavouring young man was enabled to go forward in the world. Whether for the smallest article in Mr Field's shop, or a bill on London for a thousand pounds, there was equal facility. Finally to sum up Mr Field's good properties, we may say he was – 'an honest man, the noblest work of God' and nothing was so common as to hear him called ' the father of Cartmel'. He died on the 3 January 1860, in his 90<sup>th</sup> year of age, universally regretted.

In 1816 he was appointed bridge master for Lonsdale north of the Sands and held the appointment of high constable from about the same time. Both posts were held until his death in Jan 1860.

As all of William's children had died the business and house went to his cousin's son James who continued running the shop until his death in 1877 when his son Robert took over the business. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the shop was taken over by the Overend Family. Miss Overend sold hardware, haberdashery and clothing accessories and had a reputation as a formidable business woman.

### **Market Cross Cottage**



Probably late C17 with mid Cl9 2nd floor. Roughcast stone with slate roof. 3 storeys, 4 bays, the 4th bay, part of Gatehouse. Top frieze and bracketed eaves with moulded gutter. Ground floor has windows with paired

sashes with horns to 1st and 3rd bays; 4th bay has small-paned bow window with cornice. 1st floor has sashed windows with horns, paired sashes to 1st and 3rd bays; 4th bay has small-paned casement window. 2nd floor windows have 3-centred heads cutting into frieze; windows are sashed, that to 4th bay with vertical glazing bars. Entrance to 2nd bay has architrave and panelled reveals, and modillioned cornice, and 4-panel door. Entrance to 4th bay has bracketed flat canopy and paired 3-fielded-panel doors. Gable-end stack and cross-axial stack.

#### Fish Slabs



The fishermen would bring their catch from the bay, here, to sell it. Wild animals were brought to the village for exhibition at the fish slabs in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a man with a barrel organ and a monkey often performed close by.

## Fish slabs, water pump and Market Cross Market Cross

Medieval cross shaft was destroyed by the Roundheads.

#### **Church Town House**

Once this was an ale house and Inn called the Rose and Crown or The Crown. It is a 17<sup>th</sup> century building and grade 2 listed. The Misses Cowerd (or Cowherd) of Stoney Dale bought the Crown Inn in 1888 and turned it into a temperance hotel called Shaftsbury House.



## **Cartmel Village Shop**



What is now Cartmel Village Shop or The Sticky Toffee Pudding shop was Teasdales Grocery shop in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was also the Village PO. Teasdales ran the shop for 3 generations until 1950s. This is the home of Cartmel Sticky Toffee Pudding. Baking started in 1990s in Cartmel Village Shop but because

of its popularity, preparation and baking were moved to larger premises and it is now made at Flookburgh but still sold in the centre of Cartmel.

During the First World War there were 4 grocery shops in the village. One survived to the 1980s and was then converted to an antiques shop.

## Building in corner of Square (formerly known as Tarragon Kitchen Shop)



In the corner of The Square this was a shop which sold motorcycles and cycles in early 20<sup>th</sup> century (until 1926). Subsequently it was used as a general store, tobacconist/sweet shop, haberdashers, antique coin shop and a kitchen shop at different times. The columns supporting the first floor may have been salvaged from an earlier Priory precinct building. It is a 17<sup>th</sup> century building and is grade 2 listed.

## Former Savings Bank, The Square.



The left hand building probably was designed by Miles Thompson in 1847,whose client was the Rev. Thomas Machell Remington (1836-1900) of Aynsome and was intended for the Kirkby Lonsdale Savings Bank.

Nat West Bank occupied it in recent years (left of Bank Court entrance). Peter Bains Smith's bookshop was on the right hand side.

**Royal Oak** – early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed.



Kings Arms – 18<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed.



Taking the road to the left of Cartmel Village Shop

### Village Hall



Opened in 1934 by
Lord Richard
Cavendish of Holker
Hall. Before this
meetings were held at
the Institute on
Devonshire Sq, the
Steeplechase Counting
Room on Bigland Rd or
at the Gatehouse Court
Room. A large upper
room in the Royal Oak
was also very popular.
Wheel House Cottage
was used as a parish

meeting room and the scouts used the lower room.

Plans dated 1933 by Manchester architect John Knight (1844-1937) describe it as Parish Hall, for the Cartmel Parish Council. 1934: date of opening; commemorative foundation/date stones

Interestingly the plans showed on the north side a Tennis Court (now part of car park) and on south side a Bowling Green, 85ft/26m square. Were either developed? Plans at BSRDNL/3 835, CRO Barrow.

There was a detailed design in 1914, by J.W.Grundy, for a building on a site on west side of road in village centre. Plans not sufficiently detailed to identify site. Do you know where it might have been proposed? (Plans at Z 1289, CRO Barrow). From the WI book Notes on Old Cartmel and The Valley it says on p16 'There being no Village Hall, meetings were held in the Cartmel Institute, Gatehouse, Vicarage Rooms or Friends Meeting House. In 1924 the W.I. passed a resolution to 'take no part in the New Hall Scheme' at present, as there was a doubt about the viability of such a measure, but in May 1932 this was rescinded, and a small committee of members formed to 'further the building of a New Hall.' In Oct 1934 the W.I. meeting was held in the Village Hall for the first time.'

#### Racecourse

Washing slab on Racecourse. Before washing machines and indoor running water the villagers used this slab to wash their clothes. There is another by Pepper Bridge on Priest Lane.

## Inscription reads 'Presented by Cartmel Steeplechases July 1984'



Racing was recorded in 1856 on this field but was established long before this date. Course is about 1 mile long. Around 14000-20000 visitors are attracted. Until 1969 there was only one meeting a year which was held at Whitsuntide. In 2017 there are 6

race days, 2 at the end of May Bank Holiday weekend; 2 at the end of June and 2 at the August Bank Holiday weekend. In 1983 it was described as 'a beautiful little racecourse that is truly unique...and it attracts bank holiday crowds that would do justice to Royal Ascot'. It was said in The Times on Aug 31 2010 that 'Cartmel is not just a race meeting, it's a destination, a street party, an institution. It thrives against the tides of fashion and recession and racing should cherish it'. A cock pit was located on the mound close to the entrance to the racecourse. The grandstand was replaced in 2004 by a larger one.



**Old Grandstand** 



New Grandstand built in 2004



**Cartmel from the Racecourse** 

An Agricultural Show has been held on the land in the centre of the racecourse every year since 1898; the first show was in 1873 on Farmery Field.

William Field Log Book

Cartmel Agricultural Show 1873 Sept 9 <u>The 1<sup>st</sup> Agricultural Show held at Cartmel</u> which was quite a success.

There were 10,000 visitors to the show before first world war. The local football team and cricket team play on the land in the centre of the racecourse and have their own pavilion there.



Taking the road to the left of the Village Shop

## **Park View**

## **Parkside House**

Farmhouse and former barn with 1658 date stone B I . E; 7 light single chamfered-



mullion window on ground floor and a 30 pane sash on rear gabled wing.
Was Michael Gibbon Gallery in later part of 20<sup>th</sup> century (sculptorcarver of wood).

1658 1.E

## VILLAGE LOCK-UP

listed Grade 2



(East side) Former lock-up. Date uncertain. Stone rubble, part roughcast, with dressed quoins; slate roof. 2 storeyed rectangular structure. Gable end to street has lintel to blocked entrance or window, and 1st floor window with chamfered wooden mullion to frame and iron bars to front. Right return has entrance, the door with ventilation holes to top. Rear has gable-end stack.

In 1937 on west side of the road a new entrance to the racecourse was designed. It comprised 2 pairs of double gates for pedestrian access to a gatehouse and turnstiles, and to the north a recessed semi-circular access with gates for racehorses. On east side of the road, further north, a U-shaped development of 40 single-storey loose boxes were built. Designed by Pain & Charles Pease of Liverpool & Keswick, 1937. Plans at BSRDNL/3 1425, CRO Barrow.



Cartmel Racecourse Loose Boxes. From the Square take the road through the Gatehouse arch

#### **Cavendish Street**

Probably named after the Cavendish Family in the 18<sup>th</sup> century who still own and live at Holker Hall.

#### **Tower House**



Occupied throughout 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Field Family, it was acquired by the Overend family before the First World War.

**Tower House, Cavendish Street facade** 

#### **Cavendish Arms**



Site of 13<sup>th</sup> century building, rebuilt in early 18<sup>th</sup> century grade 2 listed. In the days of the Monastery the building that was used for hospitality to the travelling public was located here. What is now the

Cavendish Arms was the guest house building. The buildings to its south were storage buildings for the beer as there is no cellar because of the slate bedrock beneath it. The remains of a cockpit was found in the attic of the Cavendish Arms.

There is a mounting block dated 1837 between the tunnel to the rear and the entrance to the pub. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century 'horse buses' travelled between Cavendish Arms and Cark Station and also to Ulverston and Kendal. Initially they took 10 passengers.

Later four horse charabancs were used and these were replaced by open motorised coaches.

A bowling green used to exist behind the Cavendish Arms but it is now a car park.



Plaque about Enclosure Act

#### L'Enclume

In the north east corner is the former smithy building. The steps into the stream allowed the iron rim newly fitted to cartwheels to be put into the water to cool and contract. Now occupied by Simon Rogan and it is a 2 Michelin star restaurant with rooms. L'Enclume is French for anvil. It was established in 2002 and in 2014 was hailed by the Good Food Guide as the best in the UK.100 people are now employed in his enterprises around the village.

Mr Wearing, the clog maker, was located in Cavendish St in the inter war period. The shoe retailing business continued until 1955 under another owner. Mr Wearing's built up a reputation for quality shoes and people travelled from a wide area to buy from him. They used to hang sheets of leather under Wheel House Bridge to mature. The shop also gained a reputation as an illegal betting centre.

### **Old Eating House**



A bakery and restaurant in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century run by Mrs Ayres and inter war her daughter and son-in-law Mr and Mrs Campbell; where the first telephone exchange was located; an antique brick beehive shaped bread oven was located here; later became the doctor's surgery

Raleigh All Steel Bicycle sign
On the wall of barn opposite to L'Enclume.



View of Cavendish Street looking toward The Square. L'Enclume to left and barn with Raleigh sign to right.



#### Priests' Lane



## Priest Lane looking towards Priests Houses

Semi-detached houses on north east corner (right hand side in distance) may have been priests houses as they were within the medieval precinct of the Monastery. In the late eighteenth century Peter Richardson who was the incumbent at the Priory Church lived here and the 2 yew trees outside were names Peter and Emma after him and his wife. The Vicarage was built in 1864 towards Cavendish Street to the left of what is known as Farmery Field. This was where the Monastery's Infirmary was located. 1509 document mentions shops which were probably located on the south side of

Priest Lane. A small local prison was located on the other side of the street. A police station was located here in more recent times.

A Market Garden was run from Priory Field and other fields in vicinity which supplied Mr Eccles greengrocery business from 1933. He supplied many homes around the district and employed many Cartmel people.

#### **Bridges on Priest Lane**

Wheelhouse Bridge over River Eea



County Council (CC) Wheeelhouse Bridge Pepper Bridge over Eea



**County Council Pepper Bridge** 

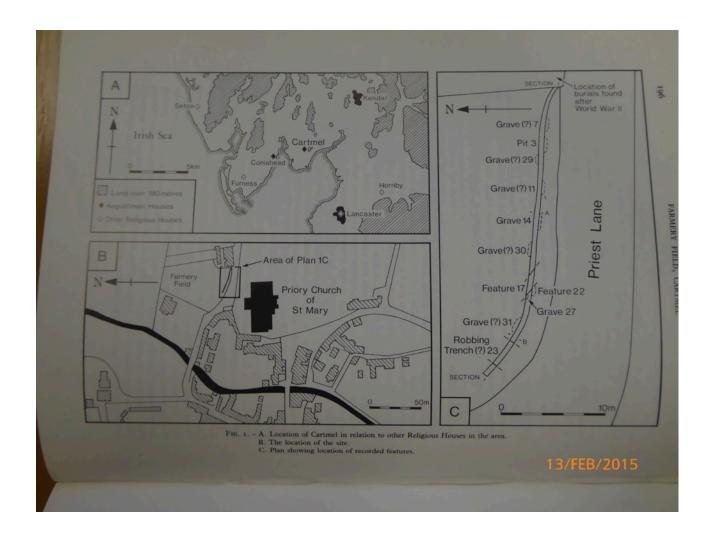


Washing stone at Pepper Bridge, Priest Lane (see also Racecourse washing stone)

## Farmary Field or Infirmary Field.

Adjacent to the Vicarage an archaeological dig took place here in the late 1980s. Burials were discovered after World War 2 when a water main was inserted. In the late 1980s archaeological excavation found 7 or 8 graves with a Christian orientation (head west; feet east). Suggestion it was a lay cemetery which ceased use when cloisters moved to north side of the Priory. Some of area may have remained in use beyond the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Dickinson may be correct that from that date burials concentrated in new public cemetery to south of Church on site of demolished cloister.

# Plans from CWAAS article on Farmary Field Excavations (CWAAS Transactions 1990 p195-198)



To be located on Infirmary Field a housing development was designed in 1935 by J.W.Grundy of Ulverston, with access opposite Priory House, for J.L.Eccles (In the 1939 register Joseph L Eccles and his wife Dorothea were living at Broughton Hall. He was described as a wholesale fruit merchant. He was born on 5 Dec 1887 and she was born on 17 Jan 1893. He died in the area in 1964. He came from Darwen where his father was a cotton spinner and manufacturer. Dorothea died in 1978 in Poole, Dorset). It was a market garden site, proposed to be developed as a crescent for 6 pairs of semi-detached houses, and a single house. Detailed plans of the first pair of houses exist as "our client ... is very anxious to house his employees as quickly as possible." Development not carried out. Plans at BSRDBL/3 1036, CRO Barrow.

## **Barngarth**

A huge barn was situated here. The monks needed milk, butter and cheese and the cattle were grazed in the field between the Priory and Barngarth and on land south of the barn.



Site of former Tithe Barn has been redeveloped

## **Primary School**

National School was built in 1860 on land between Aynsome Road and Barngarth on land donated by Lord Cavendish. Designed by E. G. Paley, 1859. It was built around a central courtyard, divided into boy's and girl's yards, and with separate residences for the Master and Mistress. Headmaster's House at the north end, facing Aynsome Road, the Mistresses' House at the rear on Barngarth (Plans at BTSP 70 in CRO, Barrow).



Front of school on Aynsome Road



Rear of school from Barngarth

Shops were noted on this road in the 1600s. Mr Benson had his saddlery workshop on Barngarth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Barngarth

# **The Causeway**

Name probably derives from when it was a raised timber causeway that gave access from the ecclesiastical buildings of the Priory to the east of the village. Post reformation buildings.



Former animal pound converted to steam engine shed in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now converted to self catering unit

## Town End Pig and Whistle



Datestone on the left 1845.



Village water pump opposite to Pig and Whistle with 1825 datestone

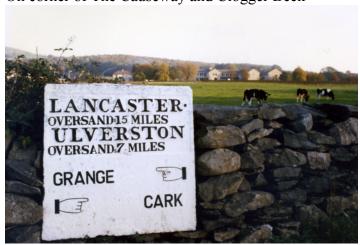
# **Cartmel Priory School**



Church Secondary School for the Cartmel Peninsula. Built in 1959 and extended several times since.

## Miscellaneous Old direction signs

On corner of The Causeway and Clogger Beck



Opposite Headless Cross junction there are 2 signs





### **Cartmel Quaker Meeting House**



Located on edge of village, on road to Grange-over-Sands, the land was purchased in 1858 to build a Quaker Meeting House which came into use in 1859

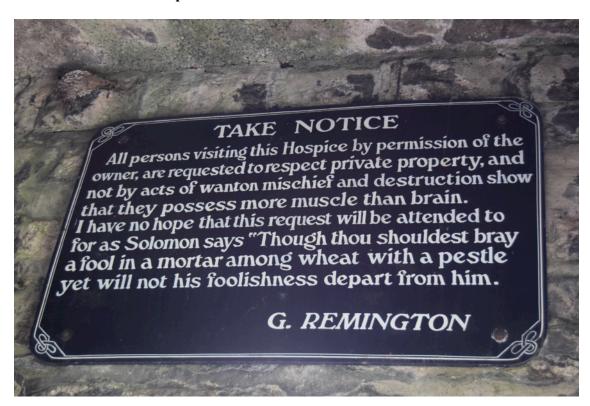
## **Hampsfell Hospice**



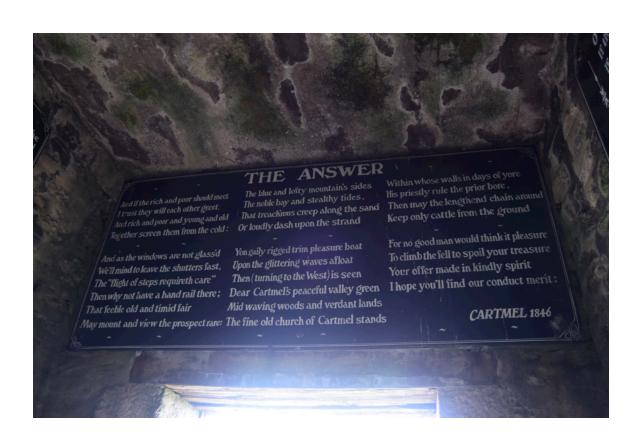
Built probably in 1846 (some say 1834) by the Rev. Thomas Remington of Cartmel, the Hospice is a welcome shelter located 727 feet on top of Hampsfell. It is a squat, square tower of limestone blocks with stone seats inside and an external staircase giving access to the roof from where a magnificent panorama is visible. It is grade 2 listed.

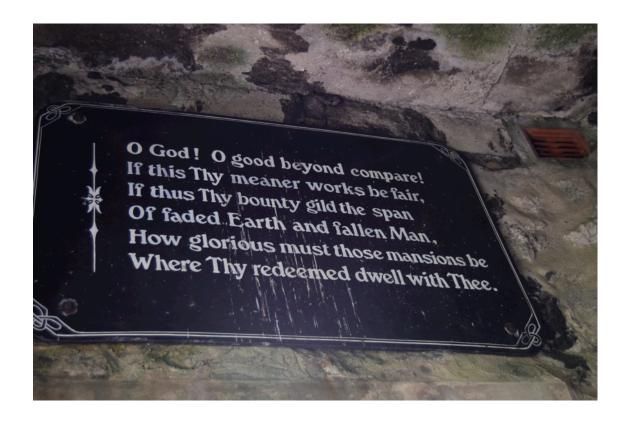
Thomas 'walked upto the top of Hamspfell every morning before breakfast, in winter starting from his house at Aynsome in the dark, and as a Thank offering for all the beauty he had seen there he had the Hospice built.' He was the incumbent at Cartmel from 1835 to 1854.

### **Boards inside the Hospice**









### Children's Home, Broughton Road.

Detailed design of 1917 by J.W.Grundy for Miss Coward. Accommodation for a Foster Mother and dormitory for 14 beds. (Plans at Z 1287, CRO Barrow).

Miss Coward is probably a lady that lived at Stoney Dale, Cartmel. Rachel Maria born in 1852 in Kendal and Frances Margaret born 1854 in Field Broughton were recorded under the surname Cowherd in 1901 and 1911 census. Frances died in 1912. Rachel Maria Coward is the lady who employed Grundy to design the children's home as she was quite a wealthy lady. The family had lived at Stoney Dale, Field Broughton since 1852 and her father was an apothecary and general practitioner (doctor). They were devout Methodists and there is a plaque in the Methodist Church, Cartmel to Frances (picture in the leaflet about the Church). They bought the Crown Inn in Cartmel Square in 1888 and turned it into a temperance hotel called Shaftsbury House. In a newspaper report in 1919 (Aug 5) in Lancashire Evening Post Miss Coward's personal assistant John Kendall was found dead on the road after leaving the house on his motorcycle. He died from heart failure. He was the organist and choirmaster at Cartmel Priory.

I have not been able to identify a death date for Rachel. We have not identified if the property was built.

Pat Rowland Feb 2015 Additional Cartmel Info from Chris Wright with additional research by Pat Rowland July 2016 Updated June 2017 (v2)