

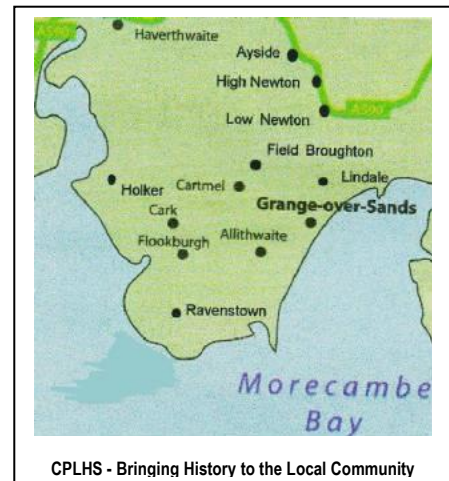
# Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

*Founded in 1996 with the aim of promoting an interest in local history within the area*

## Grange Special Edition Newsletter: October 2016

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### Chairman's Message

Welcome to the last newsletter for 2016. For each one this year we have selected a theme (although this does not stop the usual notices and other articles of interest being included). The theme this time is Grange-over-Sands and we have an amazing array of articles touching on lesser-known as well as better-known aspects of the history of the town (still referred to by many as "the village" – or does that betray my age ?). The table of contents above shows the breadth of topics covered. Our thanks to all contributors and, as always, to Phil (our editor) for their efforts in producing another edition of fascinating interest.

Your Society has now well over 100 members which shows the depth of interest in local history. We are compiling our programme for next year and if anyone has suggestions for speakers please contact Pat. I wish to highlight the meetings planned for October, November and December. Our speaker in October is Andy Lowe, always a popular visitor to our Society. After his presentation all are invited to stay for a glass of wine or a soft drink and nibbles to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. After the formal (brief) business of our AGM in November we shall have a presentation entitled "Then and Now", drawing on old images of the Cartmel valley and beyond and featuring some from the late Arthur Frearson. December sees a new initiative when we seek to help anyone who wishes to undertake research or increase their knowledge as to how research can be undertaken. We shall also feature an insight into what many of our members are doing by way of research. More details of these meetings are on pages 21 and 23.

*Stuart Harling*

## A Brief Introduction to the History of Grange-over-Sands

The first reference to Grange can be found in 1490 when Henry V11 was on the throne. In 1536, Grange with Kentisbank is detailed in the Cartmel Priory Registers. The John Spede map of Lancashire (1577) shows the Carters Lonnye Crossing indicating a right of way across Morecambe Bay. By 1684 parts of the village of Cartmel and Grange were shown on Widow Houseman's map. The warehouse, with a Coast Office employed, was built in 1729. Around 1730, the Bay Horse (now Commodore Hotel) was built and this was followed nearly sixty years later when the Crown Hotel was built on the site now occupied by the Crown Hill Flats. 1832 saw the erection of a house on Holme Island and in 1841 Eggerslack Cottage was built.

The Census for 1851 shows there were forty houses in Grange. These stretched from Spring Bank Farm down to Windy Harbour, which was sited around what is now the Grange Hotel and railway station. The only properties left today are: Spring Bank Farm, Woodheads, Hardcragg Hall, Grange House, Bay Villa, Myrtle Cottage, The Commodore Hotel, Cragg Cottage and some of the fishing cottages around Eggerslack Terrace. Kents Bank Road, Main Street and Fernhill Road did not exist but it is likely there was a track, which lead down from Eggerslack following the road which is now Main Street, leading up Grange Fell Road and over to Cartmel past Hardcragg Hall and Woodheads Farm. The road from Lindale came past Lindale Church and threaded its way through Eggerslack, possibly entering Grange at Windermere Road. Some evidence suggests the name of the track could have been Pepper Lane. There will also have been a track leading to Cart Lane and the Guide's House. In 1851

there were 188 people living in Grange: 52 men, 66 women and 70 children. The occupations included brewer, farmer, agricultural worker, tailor, stone mason, coachman, wood hoop maker, laundress, inn-keeper, retired master mariner, seed and spice merchant, butcher and paper cordwainer. 'Landed proprietor' appeared several times. Surprisingly there were no fishermen recorded.

It has been established that the site of the granary from which Grange derived its name was situated at John Brough's Farm, later to become the first Police Station. The granary belonged to Cartmel Priory and was used for storing cargo brought by boat. In 1851, the farm was 55 acres and Brough employed one farm labourer.

Sarah Ann Clark of Liverpool was staying with the Wright family at Bay Villa. She was not happy that a number of the poor mothers of the village could not spare the time to go to church at either Lindale or Cartmel, so she set to, raising funds to build a church in Grange. **Sketches of Grange**, a booklet printed by John Hudson of Kendal in 1850, formed part of the fund-raising for the church.

*Robin Webster 2001*

Robin Webster, was a teacher at Cartmel Priory School, historian (although not a member of CPLHS) and sportsman (and much more) who died in November 2015.

*Sketches of Grange is a booklet containing a series of Letters originally published in the Kendal Mercury in the late 1840's. Robin wrote a new introduction for the book when it was reprinted in 2001, and the above article is an extract of his introduction. Ed.*

## Hazelwood Hydropathic Hotel

The 1881 census records an establishment called Maude's Mansion standing unoccupied or in the process of construction, with the Maudes living at "Blawith". William Edward Maude is recorded as 62, owner-occupier of 200 acres, employing three men and one boy. His wife, Ruth, is 50 and the household is supported by a cook, a parlour maid and a scullery maid. It seems that William Maude found the finished house, now called Brown Robin Mansion, too large for his needs and sold the property to the Furness Railway Company. The property was extended and opened as a hotel.

An extract from History, Images and Maps of Grange-over-Sands by Nick Thorne:-

*Alterations were carried out to turn it into a Hydropathic Establishment in around 1887, and by 1891 facilities included a billiard-room and a dark room for the new hobby of photography. Dancing and concerts were also provided as entertainment, and the ballroom is still in good condition downstairs. A cycle house was also built where machines were stored at a charge of 1/-per week, including free insurance against burglary and fire*

Possibly about this time, the room at the top of the tower was decorated as a nursery, presumably for the use of guests' children and their nannies. An early advert, from the Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser, 02 July 1888, reads as follows:-

**GRANGE-OVER-SANDS--HAZLEWOOD HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT** --*This beautiful health resort occupies an airy and bracing position half a mile from the station; magnificent sea and mountain views; central for Lakes; terms moderate. Physician Dr Anderson. Apply Manageress.*

By the 1891 census, the Hazelwood Hy-

dropathic is up and running, with 50 guests and 17 staff in residence at the census date, the last mentioned being Sarah Fryer, Lady Manager of the institution. Of the 50 guests, most are either professional or merchants and quite a few are living on their own means.



The 1901 census records 90 guests and 21 staff with the manager as Eli Martin, assisted by his wife Alice. The guests are of a similar status to the previous census, with several married women, some with children, holidaying without their husbands.

In 1911 there are 73 guests and 22 staff under the management of Frederick Wells. The censuses only record persons present on the night of the census, any off-duty, non-resident staff will be missing from the record. This may explain why, in 1911, only a male bath attendant, John Wood is shown. In 1901, Sarah Brown and John Askew are bath attendants, whilst in 1891 only Mary Morris is listed.

The Grange Red Book of 1913 shows that Wilton Bradshaw, erstwhile manager of the Hazelwood Hydro, is the new proprietor of the Grange Hotel.

The Red Book of 1914 shows that a new company has been formed at the Hazelwood Hydro and Mr Frederick Wells is still the manager. In 1913 Richard H Doorbar was manager at Imperial Hydro Hotel, St. Annes-on-Sea. During 1914

Imperial and Hazelwood were run together and Richard H Doorbar was named as manager of both.

An advert in the Birmingham Daily Post of 8<sup>th</sup> May 1914 reads:-

**GRANGE-OVER-SANDS--HAZLEWOOD HYDRO.** 35 acres beautiful grounds: Tennis, Croquet, Golf - R H Doorbar, Manager. Also of Imperial Hydrotel, St Annes-on-Sea.

On 10 April 1915, the Westmorland Gazette reported as follows:-

*A good class of visitors put up at Grange this Easter, but the place hardly seemed as busy as in some previous years. Nearly all the chief boarding places however had booked up well before Easter and on Thursday quite as many trains arrived as usual notwithstanding the lack of cheap bookings. Hazelwood Hydro had over 100 visitors, and The Grange, Commercial and Crown Hotels all did well and Berners Close had as many as usual. St Pauls was crowded Easter Sunday. On Easter Monday a large number of motor driven vehicles of all descriptions passed through and raised such clouds of dust that on Tuesday morning (a wet one) the water cart turned out and helped. The golf course was well patronised by visitors on Bank Holiday and there was a considerable amount of driving and rambling done.*

The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer, on 23rd November 1915, carried the following advert:-

**GRANGE-OVER-SANDS HAZLEWOOD HYDRO**  
*Electric light throughout. Terms from 5s per day.  
Finest Garage North of England. Book early for Christmas.*

*Also in conjunction with Imperial Hydrotel, St. Anne's.*

The Westmorland Gazette on 29th April 1916 had the following report:-

*Grange -The Easter weekend has for many years been regarded as one of the busiest periods of the whole year in Grange, and this year it has been no exception. On Wednesday last week a good number of visitors came in, and several hundreds more arrived on Thursday, and all the hotels, hydros and boarding houses were well filled.*

On 17th June the report reads:-

*Owing to the curtailment of the holidays Grange has not been as busy as compared with previous years, but nevertheless there has been quite a good number of visitors in the place.*

### **The Golf Hotel**

By 26<sup>th</sup> May 1920, the Hazelwood Hydro had changed its name to the Golf Hotel and seems to have been part of the Hamilton Islands Holidays Group along with the Hotel Majestic at St Anne's and the Grange Hotel.

The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer carried the following advert, showing Richard Doorbar as manager of both hotels:-

**THE GOLF HOTEL, GRANGE-OVER-SANDS** (late HAZELWOOD HYDRO), overlooking Bay. New 18-Hole Golf Course and Flying Ground.—For Tariff, apply Managing Director, Richard H. Doorbar

*Roger Handley*

*The full article will appear on the website Ed.*

## Dent / Belvedere Hotel, The Esplanade, Grange-over Sands

The building on the Esplanade in Grange-over-Sands which became the Dent / Belvedere Hotel was built in 1877 and was originally named Mentone Villa. The initials RMA crossed with a large T on the date stone are the initials of the first owners Richard and Mary Ann Tinkler. but the Tinklers did not live there. Richard was a blacksmith in Grange living in Rose Villa Eggerslack Terrace and Mentone was occupied by Mary Peel until late 1880. The house consisted of 2 well-furnished drawing rooms, dining room, breakfast room, hall and 10 bedrooms according to a sale of its' contents in Dec 1880. The household furniture and bedroom appointments included a library of almost 100 books, Spanish mahogany and walnut furniture, art gems from China, Italian Statuary in Carrara Marble, the sale being organised by auction by Mr Curwen.

In the census of 1881 the property was empty and then had various occupiers until 1889 when Mrs Sherlock occupied the villa until 1894. According to the 1891 census Mrs Sherlock aged 43 a widow from Otley in Yorkshire was a lodging house keeper. At the time of the census there were 21 people living at the property which included 2 servants and 18 visitors 2 of whom appear to be personal friends. The visitors seem to have been 3 separate wealthy families plus servants, 2 families were living on their own means and the other a retired mayor. The house was owned by Mrs Tinkler, Richard having died. On Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1894 according to a handbill Lowden and Postlethwaite were given instructions by Mrs Sherlock to sell the household furniture.

After the death of Mrs Tinkler the property was owned by their son Alfred. From 1895-1898 it was occupied by Richard Beardsley and after being empty for a short while was then occupied by Elizabeth and Margaret Dent. Although in the rate books it still

appears as Mentone, in the 1901 Census the property now appears as Dent's Private Hotel run by 3 sisters Elizabeth age 31 Margaret 27 and Emily 22.



The Misses Dents had previously in 1899 managed a Temperance Hotel on Main St and had originated from millers in Kings Meaburn. In 1901 the hotel had 9 visitors and 1 servant and was now owned by the Dent sisters. In an article in the Furness Railway Holiday Resorts booklet the Misses Dent are congratulated on providing excellent comfort and convenience for visitors "the establishment being furnished in the most up to date style with coffee and smoking rooms, private apartments en suite and a number of airy comfortable rooms with hot or cold baths and lavatories on each landing". The ladies are reported as being unremitting in their efforts to ensure the enjoyment of their guests. In 1902 the hotel is noted in the Abel Heywood guide as having good stabling and is CTC registered. In 1911 the oldest sister Elizabeth had married Robert Wilson a coachbuilder and they had a son Christopher. The Wilsons were later

owners of the garage which is now the Audi garage in Lindale. Margaret and Elizabeth were joint hotel proprietors the hotel having 18 rooms and there were 13 visitors. In Nov 1920 the business was for sale according to an article in the Lancashire Evening Post. It is noted as having 15 bedrooms, a garage, is freehold and has been in the same hands for many years. The sale was due to the owners retiring. Margaret Dent moved to Hoose Crag Lindale where she died in 1956.

The hotel was bought by Mr E H Bentley and Miss A G Bentley and changed its name to Belvedere Hotel. By 1933 it became RAC registered. By 1961 it was owned by Mrs Bennett and by 1964 had been converted into flats. Mrs Bennett continued to live there until 1972.

*Jan Tomlinson with many thanks for help from Pat Rowland*

## A Department Store in Grange-over-Sands

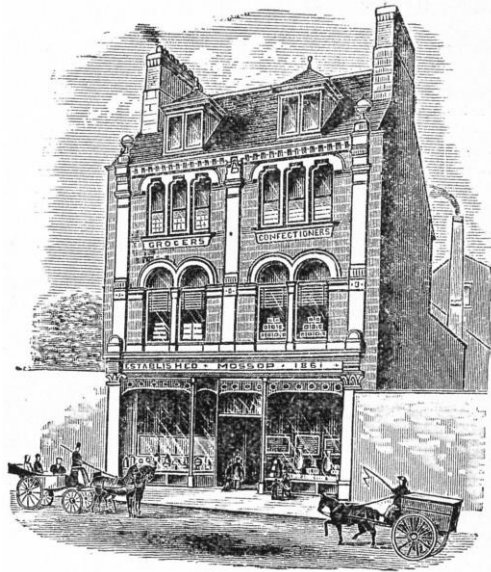
According to parish registers for the Priory Church in Cartmel, Thomas Mossop, a yeoman, married Ann Burrow there in 1761. Where in the parish they lived is not known but the name 'Mossop' was quite a common one throughout the Furness area and the county of Cumberland. It is known that they had at least one son, George Mossop, born in 1773 and he and his wife Mary followed in his father's footsteps and farmed at Fell Gate near present day Grange-over-Sands. They had three children, Thomas and Ann who remained unmarried and farmed together at The High Farm under Hampsfell and another son, William, born in 1810 who became a 'Hoop Maker' for making Creels for the fishermen of Morecambe Bay. He married Margaret Gibson of Hornby and she came to live in Grange where they lived in 'Sunnyside Cottage' which was on the site of the current Post Office in the town. There were very few cottages in Grange at this time, as can be seen from the section of the 1851 OS map below.



'Sunnyside Cottage' is the building above and to the right of the 'Ruin' and seemingly included the building on the crossroads and the surrounding land too. The small building to the right of the cottage is still there today and was the stables and coach house for the neighbouring Crown Inn.

William & Margaret Mossop had six children George, William, John, Thomas, Robert and a daughter Anne Isabella. Sadly, George, who went into farming, died at the early age of 20 but all of his siblings became involved in the retail and grocery business. According to the 1851 census Margaret Mossop was a baker and son William, who was just 14 at the time was listed as an 'Errand Boy' so perhaps this was the makings of what was to become a successful Grocery and Bakery business in Grange.

In fact it continues to be so under the 'SPAR' banner but W & J Mossop, Grocers and Provision Merchants were established on this site in 1861.



This alone is quite remarkable since William was only 24 years old at the time and his brother John was 21. If one stands well back from the front of the building on Main Street in Grange it can be seen that the building in this picture from the '1906 Little Red Book' for Grange was not built until 1880 so the business must have been based elsewhere and was probably in the building on the map above situated at the crossroads by present day Pig Lane and the High Street. This junction was known for many years as 'Mossop's Corner' and can be seen in archive photographs with that name, which perhaps goes some way to confirming this assumption. A closer look at the image of the shop may give one the impression of some industrial activity going on behind the shop but building plans submitted for the new shop in 1879 also included plans for stables and a bakery and the chimney in the sketch is probably from the latter.

But what of the Department Store as mentioned in the title? Once again, the 'Little Red Book' for Grange in 1906 also has a full-page spread advertising this very splendid store and is shown below.

Established 1861. Established 1861.

**W. & J. MOSSOP,**  
**Grocers and Provision Merchants,**  
**MILLERS,**  
**BAKERS, AND**  
**.. CONFECTIONERS ..**

**Bread and Confectionery Department.**

ONE GOLD MEDAL AND TWO DIPLOMAS AWARDED FOR BREAD.

Plain and Fancy Bread, Cakes and Pastry made on the premises daily.  
 Bride Cakes, Birthday Cakes, &c., supplied on the shortest notice.  
**Jams, Jellies, and Dessert Fruits.**  
 Mossop's Digestive Brown Bread, prepared from the Finest Wheat by our own process.  
 MANHEE BREAD. HOVIS' BREAD.  
*Analytical Reports on application*

**Grocery and Provision Department.**

Hams and Bacon, Cheese in variety, Pure Lard, Farmers' Factory and Colonial Butters,  
 Pure Cane Sugars, Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Rice, Tapioca, Sago, Dried Fruits.  
 A large selection of Preserved Goods, including Tongues and other Meats, Salmon, Sardines,  
 Apricots, Peaches, Plums, &c. A large assortment of Proprietary Goods.  
 Agents for the Mazawattee Tea Company, Ltd., and United Kingdom Tea Company, Ltd.

**Milling Department.**

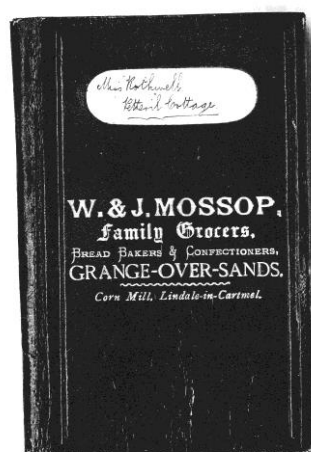
Flour, Sharps, Bran, &c. Oatmeal—fine, medium and round. Oats, Indian Corn,  
Pea Meal and Indian Meal.  
 Linseed and Cotton Cakes—in cake, nutted or ground. Barley & King's Compound Feeding Cake.  
 Customers' own Oats crushed, ground or made into Oatmeal.

**W. & J. MOSSOP,**  
 Shop & Bakery: Mossop Corner, Grange-over-Sands.  
 CORN MILL: LINDALE-IN-CARTMEL.

There was a Bread & Confectionery Department, which is probably where the business first started, and included the sale of 'jams, jellies and dessert fruits', and there was a Grocery and Provision Department that included the sale of 'cheeses, cooked meats and tea, coffee and cocoa as well as a 'large assortment of proprietary goods'.

Finally there was the Milling Department that not only offered a wide range of milled flour, oats and bran amongst other things but also invited customers to bring along their own oats to be 'crushed and ground or made into oatmeal. This last service was able to be offered because the corn mill in Lindale would also seem to be in the ownership of W & J Mossop as seen on the bottom of this advertisement. John Mossop died at the relatively early age of 59 in June 1899 but his partner William continued to run the business assisted by his younger brother Robert until his death in 1916 at the age of 79. He had no family of his own to succeed in the business but John had children from two marriages and these continued to manage the business in conjunction with Robert until his death in 1926.

It was not long after this that new owners were to take over the shop. T D Smiths was the name of the company and they also had branches in Settle and Lancaster too. For those wishing to know more about the W & J Mossop story, there is an 'order book' in the archive at Barrow Library that makes interesting reading. It is dated 1910/11 and itemises every single item that a Miss Rothwell, of Petterill Cottage in Kents Bank purchased from the store. She paid her bill just once per quarter and the first entry is 'carried over' from the previous order book and amounted to £3-5-8½ which equates in 2016 currency to £259.51, so her quarterly bill would have been well over £300 in today's money. Could you see this happening today except on one's credit card?



*Malcolm McIvor*

## Merlewood

Merlewood, situated between Grange and Lindale and now an establishment of the Holiday Property Bond Company, was originally built in the 1850s as a retirement home for Alfred Binyon and his family. Alfred laid the foundation stone on Thursday 19 May 1853 in the company of his wife Lucy and their friends. The Lancaster Borough Band, which by chance was on tour in the area, was prevailed upon to grace the occasion by playing the National Anthem and other appropriate tunes.



The house was designed by George Webster, of the firm of architects then known as Thompson & Webster based in

Kendal. George had retired from the business in 1846 and was living at Eller How above Lindale, but had produced the design 'to oblige a neighbour', leaving the constructive part to his partner Miles Thompson. It was built of Urswick limestone, most probably from Eden Mount Quarry in Grange. The house was described thus: *on the ground floor, four spacious entertaining rooms, housekeeper's room, excellent kitchens, servants' hall, butler's pantry, laundry, wash house, &c; and on the first floor, eight principal and five other bedrooms, bathroom, &c. The attics are spacious and convenient; the outbuildings include excellent carriage house, four and two-stalled stables, loose box, and harness room, with commodious residence for a coachman over part of the same.* Richard

Carradus Shaw, who later became an architect and designed several fine buildings in Kendal, submitted an estimate for painting Merlewood, including 19 transoms @ 2/3d each.





Alfred Binyon had been a partner in Thomas Hoyle and Sons, a firm of calico printers in Manchester, founded by his wife's grandfather in 1788. Unfortunately Alfred did not enjoy a long retirement – his wife Lucy had died in November 1853 whilst the family were on holiday in the Pyrenees, and he died at Merlewood on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1856 and was buried in the churchyard at Lindale. Alfred had gathered together a valuable collection of hothouse and greenhouse plants, foreign ferns and mosses in the conservatory which was accessible by a verandah from the house. Merlewood then passed out of the hands of the Binyon family, and was bought by Mrs Eliza Horrocks of Preston. She was the sister of Thomas Miller junior who was by then the sole proprietor of Horrockses, Miller and Company, cotton manufacturers, with ten mills in and around Preston employing over 3,000 operatives and producing about 230 miles of cotton cloth every week. Mrs Horrocks soon began to extend her new estate, acquiring the adjacent Blawith Farm, rebuilding the farmhouse on a site nearer the road and re-naming it Merlewood Farm in 1862.

Mrs Horrocks died at Merlewood in 1872, and the house was let for some three years. It was then purchased by Mrs Horrocks's nephew William Pitt Miller, who had already inherited from his father an estate at Thistleton in the Fylde. In 1875 he married Emily Mary Schultz, daughter of a stock-broker in Liverpool, and Merlewood became their main residence. Some alterations were made in 1881 when a tower was added to provide additional bedrooms for children and servants. A bay

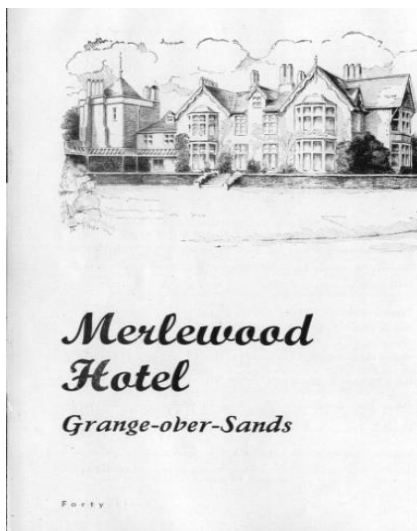
window was added to the right-hand gable on the south front, and a fireplace inserted in the downstairs room. This contains decorative coloured tiles either side of the fire grate.



The census report of 1881 reveals that there were nine servants living in the house, the coachman and his family occupied rooms over the coachhouse, and the gardener and his family lived in the lodge. A number of neighbouring houses – Slack House, Yewtree Cottage and Hazel Bank – were purchased in order to accommodate the butler, George Bateman, other servants and a laundry.

William Pitt Miller and his wife were very supportive of events and societies in both Grange and Lindale. The first Conservative Ball ever held at Lindale was given in the National School in 1889 when the room was decorated with ornamental plants from the conservatories at Merlewood, and in the same year the children attending the school were invited to tea at Merlewood followed by games and races. William Pitt Miller was a member of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society, and took great interest in the excavation of a cave which had been discovered in the limestone cliff immediately below Merlewood, sending in one of his boys to reach its furthest extremity. He frequently visited his estate at Thistleton, and it was there whilst on a shooting trip that he contracted pneumonia and died in November 1893 aged 44.

Mrs Miller was in her seventy-ninth year when she died at Merlewood in 1930, having lived there for fifty-five years, thirty seven of them as a widow. The Merlewood Estate was then offered for sale by auction in 1931, when it was described thus: *This Valuable Freehold Estate comprises the excellent stonebuilt and slated Residence of "Merlewood", with Gardens and Grounds, Conservatories, Garages and Outbuildings, Entrance Lodge, Farm Lands, Farmhouse and Buildings, Plantations, The Slack House, Cottages and Laundry, with a total area of about 138 acres. The house was sold as Lot 1 – it contained Entrance and Inner Halls, four large Reception Rooms, with Billiard Room, Kitchens, Scullery, Pantries, Larders, Butler's Pantry, Housekeeper's Room, Servants' Hall Lavatories, &c on ground floor, with 20 Bed and Dressing-rooms, Bathroom, &c above. It is cellared and all in excellent repair and condition, and is ideal either as a Private Residence or as a Hotel, School, Nursing and Convalescent Home, or similar Institution.*



It eventually became the first of these options, opening as the Merlewood Hotel in 1938. *The Hotel is well appointed in its own grounds of 37 acres facing south; open view of the bay, off Windermere Road. Central heating throughout, hot and cold running water in all bedrooms and all beds fitted with Vi-spring mattresses. A first-class Hotel with own tennis court, putting green, bowling green, full-size billiards table in spacious room, table tennis, etc. Lovely laid-out gardens with exquisite walks in own woods.*

Two years later it was requisitioned by the War Office and used as a training centre by the Army. It reopened in 1947 continuing as a hotel until 1951 when it was bought by the Nature Conservancy and converted into laboratories for scientific studies on moorland and woodland vegetation and soils. In 2003 the decision was taken to move to Lancaster University, and Merlewood was bought by the Holiday Property Bond Company.

*John Beckett*

## Merlewood Cave



The Merlewood Estate, built in the early 1850's, lies between Lindale and Grange-over-Sands in South Cumbria. William Pitt Miller, the owner of the Merlewood Estate since the mid-1870's, probably discovered the cave and arranged for an archaeological excavation. The excavation of a small cave in the face of a cliff immediately below Merlewood was conducted by H Swainson Cowper House in 1892. It was described "as a limestone cavern situated in the face of a small cliff or ledge of limestone". "The excavations at

the cave mouth have revealed a chamber facing north-west measuring seven feet wide, sixteen feet long, with a roof sloping to the back. At ten feet from the entrance the chamber diminishes to half its width at the mouth, and from the extreme back and lowest part, a winding passage leaves the right-hand corner".

The cave, also known as Windermere Wood Cave, was visited in the 1980's by a member of the Furness Caving Club, and was described as a 10 foot rift. On a re-visit in 2011, the cavers reported that it had been extended to 20 feet deep with 3 low passages going off and with a draught.

The finds were Romano-British pottery and metal artefacts, Saxon artefacts and cut-marked animal bones. The excavation yielded 7 stycas. The best description of the coins is given in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries. They were as follows: + ED E L RED REX, FOR D RED ; VICMVND IPEP, COENRED ; +EANRED REX, CADVTELS; +EDILRED RX, EARDV LF (retrograde letters and legend on both sides); + ERDED VEX, LEOFD EC N; uncertain ; broken and uncertain. The deposit is to be dated by the coins of the late, blundered series. A coin that turned up recently with an uncertain pedigree is probably the same as the second listed above.

*Phil Rowland*

## Grange-over-Sands and the Plimsoll Line

Many readers will have heard of the Plimsoll Line, that mark on the side of a ship that must remain above the water line if the vessel is to go to sea safely. Far fewer, I suspect, know that the line is named after the Victorian campaigner Samuel Plimsoll; and that Plimsoll's major treatise *Our seamen: an Appeal* was written in 1872 at the end of a year's retreat to Grange-over-Sands. Few books, it has been claimed, have ever moved a generation of the British people so widely and deeply. So why did Plimsoll write it?

Prior to Plimsoll's campaign, merchant seamen on ocean-going vessels had no rights whatsoever. Unlike seamen in the Royal Navy, who had a modicum of protection, those in the merchant navy had none. And while there were many Victorian shipowners who operated safe ships, there were also many who did not.

A song 'A cheer for Plimsoll' showed the unsafe side experienced by many seamen:

*There was a time when greed and crime did cruelly prevail and rotten ships were sent on trips to founder in the gale. When worthless cargoes well-insured would to the bottom go. And sailors' lives were sacrificed that men might wealthy grow.*

Huge profits could be made from transporting goods and passengers around the Empire; if the ship foundered, equal profit could be gained from insurance claims. Since any evidence suggesting the ships were unseaworthy was at the bottom of the sea, courts were forced to take the word of the shipowners. And, since the crew went down with the boat, there were no wages to pay either. From the point of view of the ship owners, overloading made commercial sense.

In addition, as Nicolette Jones has pointed out in her fascinating book *The Plimsoll Sensation*, merchant sailors were generally regarded as 'idle, dissolute wastrels, who no sooner came ashore than they spent

their pay in brothels and on drink'. The law required that these sailors could not refuse to go to sea if they felt the vessel unsafe – though many chose the squalor of the cells to the squalor *and danger* of vessels at sea. In 1866, several whole crews were jailed, one after the other, when they refused to set sail in an old ship named *Harkaway*. The sailors complained that even at anchor on a calm sea, the ship took in water to a depth of more than a metre each day.

To achieve his aim of greater safety at sea, Samuel Plimsoll knew that he had to have a corrective law passed by Parliament. To that end, he managed to have himself elected MP. Here he used every opportunity to harangue MPs whom he considered to be opponents of reform. At the same time, he needed to change the public perception of merchant seamen, to show that the seamen were genuinely hard-working men. And he had to provide evidence to prove that their complaints of lack of seaworthiness were valid.

In his year in Grange-over-Sands, Samuel managed to bring all these disparate statistics together into one immensely powerful volume. He used Board of Trade statistics to show that many ships went down close to the coast, often in 'very fine weather'. Between 1861 and 1870 5,286 ships had gone down – with the loss of 8105 lives. The statistics were overwhelming, and they had nearly included Samuel and his wife, whose ship was one of the few not to founder on a trip to Redcar. The public were already aware of the Bridlington disaster that had been widely reported in the newspapers: overladen coal-carriers went down close to the shore in easy sight of the people of the town – who also had to watch their own lifeboat crew founder in a vain attempt to rescue stricken passengers on the ships.

It is one of the features of Plimsoll's campaign that both Samuel *and* his wife were equal partners in the campaign. Even though the national newspapers in male-dominated Victorian England gave all the praise to Plimsoll, without his wife Liza and her female supporters the campaign could not have succeeded. They worked tirelessly but in the background, ensuring that male supporters like Lord Shaftesbury had the ammunition to take the fight to the country. Significantly, Florence Nightingale donated £5 to campaign funds, thereby endorsing the positive image of merchant seamen, and reinforcing the *national* importance of the Plimsolls' campaign.

Financial support for the campaign came partly from individuals from every walk of society; and, crucially, from workers becoming increasingly unionised in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The coal mined in Durham and Yorkshire was taken by ship to the London market, and the miners well knew the dangers their comrades faced on the sea. Each miner in the NE coalfields donated one shilling, and

this enabled two substantial cheques (each of £1,000) to be sent from the Durham and from the Yorkshire miners to the Plimsolls.

Plimsoll's Grange-written treatise provided the essential focus for the whole campaign. It identified irrefutable evidence of the need for change, together with ammunition to counter the arguments of the rogue ship owners. And it presented both ship owners and crew with a simple, easy to administer solution that would enable all parties to establish instantly whether or not a ship was overloaded and therefore not seaworthy – the aptly named Plimsoll Line. Samuel Plimsoll and his wife had raised sea safety to the national conscience. Samuel could not have done this without retiring to Grange-over-Sands to collect his thoughts, to assemble his evidence, to write the book that moved a nation.

Grange-over-Sands can be justifiably proud of its (not yet) famous son!

*Will Garnett*

Anyone know where Mr and Mrs Plimsoll stayed in Grange? Ed

## **Grange-over-Sands Post Office**

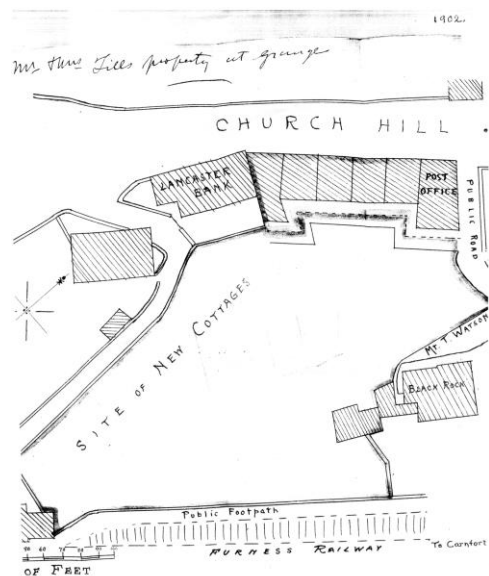
The first Post Office in Grange-over-Sands opened on 3 January 1848 according to an index of Post Offices of the UK compiled by Ken Smith. Until that time letters for this area came by Royal Mail Coach to Newby Bridge or Lindale, before being carried by a local post messenger to Grange. A more regular collection and delivery service was established from 1857 with the opening of the railway. Where the first Post Office was situated is unknown and the census returns 1851 & 1861 do not record a postmaster or any postmen in Grange. The first mention of a postman by name was in a local newspaper, when it was reported in 1866, that Thomas Watling had been presented

with "a suit of rich blue cloth with scarlet facings" after serving as a postman in Grange for eight years.

The 1871 census lists Thomas Jopson of Devonshire House, Main Street as Postmaster, Telegraphist and Dealer in Fancy Goods and in 1881 he is still the GPO sub-postmaster with three Post Office employees lodging in his house. In 1891 William T Wilson of Main Street was Postmaster and there were nine other postal employees recorded. At the end of the nineteenth century residents and visitors to Grange were able to post a letter by 9:30 am and know it would reach

London, Liverpool or Manchester later the same day.

In 1901, Mr William Till, Joiner, Builder, Contractor of Fernleigh, Grange, who had built six lock-up shops at the top of Church Hill, Main Street, submitted plans to the Grange Urban district Council for the alteration of the end shop to a Post Office. This would contain a basement sorting office, a ground-floor double-fronted shop and post-master's office, with a storeroom and WC on the first floor. The rent was set at £40-0-0 / annum and opened for business in August 1901.



A 1905 photograph shows sixteen of the Post Office staff and the postmen employed at that time outside this building. It was open for business from 7am to 8pm six days a week, and from 8am to 10am on Sundays! There were eight collections

between 5:55am and 9pm and three deliveries of letters daily, with a 6:30 am delivery on Sunday. As well as the usual sale of stamps, registration of letters and parcels, money orders and licences, there was the Telegraph and Savings Bank, also the sale of insurance and annuities. The building was extended at a later date to provide truck and bicycle storage in the basement, a larger sorting office on the ground floor behind the public office and a telephone room, battery room and staff rooms on the first floor.

The Church Hill Post Office served the people of Grange until 1936 when the Postmaster General and HM Office of Works proposed that a new Post Office should be built on the larger site further up Main Street, opposite the Cinema. It was of a modern design and constructed in local stone, with a 20 foot counter, large sorting office and a yard for the loading and unloading of the mail vans. The opening ceremony was performed by the Council Chairman Councillor Haydock on 11 Sept. 1938. The building continues to serve as the Grange-over-Sands Post Office. There have also been three sub-post offices in the town: Kents Bank (1890-2016), Grange Fell (1930-2008) and Cart Lane (1946-1989).

*Anne Cowan*

Further information is contained in the article on the website. Ed

## **Benjamin Hall, owner and developer of Yewbarrow Estate**

Benjamin Hall inherited what was to become known as the Yewbarrow Estate, Grange-over-Sands in 1815 on the death of his father. However as he was only 3 years old the estate was placed in trust until his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 22 June 1832.

Carter Brocklebank was paid a retainer of 3 guineas a year to manage the plantations in Grange and assistant James Rowlandson was paid 1 guinea until Carter Brocklebank died when he too would receive 3 guineas to manage the plantations in

Grange. The extent of the estate is unknown but when Benjamin died in 1874 it comprised about 50 acres and several mansions and villas. It occupied the area between what is now the Victoria Hall and the shops on Yewbarrow Terrace and stretched up to the ridge of Yewbarrow Woods and down to and including the Ornamental Gardens and would have been open to the Bay before the railway was built.

Benjamin was the son of Quakers Isaac and Ann Hall of Newton-in-Cartmel and he was born on 22 June 1811. His father was a flax dealer and manufacturer and they lived in Newton-in-Cartmel. Benjamin married Catherine Candler on 28 July 1831 at the Quaker Meeting House in Tasborough, Tivitshall, Norfolk. He was described as a yeoman of Laplingham, Norfolk. Lawrence, Catherine's father had been a miller and on his death in 1820 his personal estate was worth no more than £18000.



Pat Rowland: Autumn 1985 a view of part of the Yewbarrow Estate showing the derelict Yewbarrow Lodge

In 1834 an advert for a cottage to let in Grange referred to Benjamin Hall of Yewbarrow Lodge. This is the earliest reference I have found to a property called Yewbarrow. In 1839 Benjamin was called for jury service at Lancaster and he asked to be excused on the grounds of non-residence. He was registered at Broughton East (the township which at this date included the hamlet of Grange) but he said he only visited it occasionally as he lived in London. However the 1841 census records him at Yewbarrow in Grange.

The 1841 Census shows the family at Yewbarrow: Benjamin (1811) of the Stock Exchange London, wife Catherine (1805), sons Frederick (1832), Basil (1834), Edwin (1836), daughters Ann (1838) and Louisa (1840). Benjamin's daughter Ann died aged about 7 in 1845. I have not found the family in the 1851 census but son Basil was visiting the Parson's family in Leighton Buzzard. His occupation was given as a bankers clerk.

The 1861 Census records Benjamin (1811) living at Andy Field with his wife Catherine (1805), son Frederick B (1833), and three daughters Catherine (1839), Louisa (1841) and Ellen (1843). Husband, wife, son and youngest daughter were all born in Cartmel. Catherine and Louisa however were born in Middlesex. Benjamin's occupation was land owner. Sadly several members of his family died during the 1860s. His second daughter Louisa died of consumption in 1861. In July 1862 his eldest daughter Catherine married T C Cowper and moved to near Harrow but she died there in December 1865. Benjamin's wife Catherine died in January 1866 and his eldest son Frederick died a few weeks later in March 1866.

In the 1871 Census Benjamin was living at Yewbarrow with 1 servant. When he died in 1874 he died at Hill Side, on the Yewbarrow Estate. His will was very simple. He left his gold watch and his guns to his son Basil who was living in New York; his housekeeper received £100 and his possessions in any shooting boxes and lodges in Scotland; his other surviving son, Edwin, received everything else. The estate was sold by Auction and Basil purchased Yewbarrow Cottage. Basil died in 1875 and his death was recorded in the Ulverston district. He was buried at Cartmel Priory but his name was recorded on a headstone at Heights Quaker Burial Ground. In 1882 a sale on behalf of Mrs B Hall, who was leaving the district, took place. Virginia Hall born in New York and

her 2 children Louise (born 1874 in America) and George (born 1875 in London) were recorded in the 1881 census at Yewbarrow Cottage. Finally the Hall Family connection with Grange was finished.

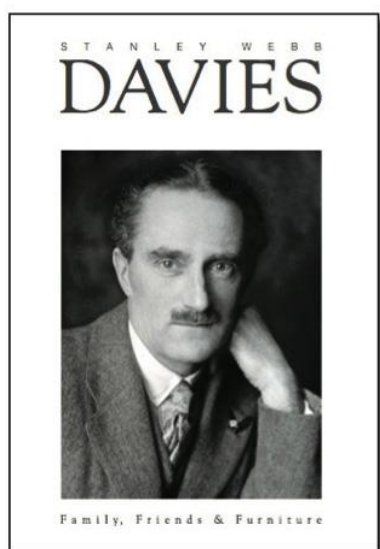
Edwin married his cousin Rosie Ann Candler (born 1851) in 1874. They had a son, Edwin in 1876. Rosie Ann died in 1884. In 1886 he married Maria Hayward (born 1864) and they had one son Percy born in 1890. In 1891 they were living at Dorset House, Norwich with Edwin (1876) and Percy (1890). In 1901 Edwin, Maria and Percy were boarding with the Postlethwaite Family at a farmhouse in Low Newton.

Benjamin was responsible for building the five houses on the estate and there is

evidence in the newspapers that he lived in several of them in turn and let the others. The properties were Yewbarrow Lodge, described as a family mansion and villas Yewbarrow House, Yewbarrow Cottage, Hillside Cottage and Handyfield. Benjamin exploited the growing popularity of Grange as a gentle convalescent and retirement resort and provided houses fit for wealthy individuals to rent. The auction following his death offered the steeply sloping land, rising to 425 feet above sea level, as 17 building plots but much of this land was not developed leaving us with a hillside of trees. Handyfield is now known as Hampsfell House Hotel.

*Pat Rowland*

## **Stanley Webb Davies; Family, Friends & Furniture by Ian Naylor and Harold Hays.**



A new book – but one mystery remains. Perhaps you can help?

Six months of hard graft by experienced researcher and writers resulted in an excellent biography of former Grange-over-Sands resident Stanley Webb Davies who went on to become a leading light in arts and crafts furniture from his base in Windermere.

The book traces his family roots from mid-1800s Congregationalism, through the Lancashire textile industry, his work with the Friends (Quakers) war victims relief team in France during the Great War, marriage to his lovely wife Emily at Cartmel Meeting House and his move to Windermere.

Pat Rowland, who was one of the team involved in research for the book, says: "It's a very interesting book and everyone involved learnt something new."



The book has a wide range of characters, among them Mahatma Gandhi, buccaneer Captain Henry Morgan, Walt Disney, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, King George VI, and a wide range of action and adventure – fleeing the Boxer uprising, the return of Rembrandt's Night Watch to the Rijksmuseum after the last war, the sinking of the Bismarck, prison and daring rescues in the hell of the Great War.

But one thing eluded co-authors journalist Harold Heys of Darwen and academic Ian Naylor of Bingley. And it still annoys them. Perhaps, just perhaps, one of our readers can throw some light on the puzzle ...

The authors had access to family papers and diaries, although they struggled with gaps in the narrative. Service with the Quakers relief workers wasn't a problem and neither was his time learning his craft after turning his back on a comfortable position with the family firm in his home town in Darwen. Equally his marriage and honeymoon in Scotland and time setting up and developing his successful venture in Windermere and building a new home there – all are well detailed.

But the book doesn't have much more than a hint of where Stanley and Emily first met. It seems to have been rather a speedy romance and they married just a few weeks after they became engaged. But where did their loving relationship over the next 50-years actually begin? Where did they first meet?

Says Harold Heys: "We came across several stumbling blocks during months of research. The biggest problem we had was putting a date to him losing an eye because of cancer. We had so much detail on so many aspects of his life but couldn't work that one out until our deadline was looming and Ian got a lucky break looking through the tiny writing in a diary from the mid-50s. It was one of those Eureka

moments that everyone interested in local history will know well."

But how did that first meeting of Stanley Davies and Emily Thomas occur? The co-authors had to finally admit defeat. Ian Naylor says: "We'd been confident that we would sort it out. It didn't seem to be a problem. But we never did crack it."

Stanley was in his mid-20s when, after the Great War, he pitched up in Grange-over-Sands to where his father, Thomas Pearce Davies, had moved after retiring from the very successful Greenfield and Waterfield Mills in Darwen. The business had been left in the care of Stanley's older brothers Percy – later to become the first Lord Darwen – and Willie who spent time in France with the Friends Ambulance Service during the war.

Stanley had spent a couple of years learning his trade with arts and crafts furniture legend Arthur Romney Green on the South Coast before deciding, in 1922, that he was ready to start out on his own. He returned to live with his father while he got his venture under way,

Emily, meanwhile, was also living in Grange. She and her younger sister Daisy and younger brother Charles had been orphaned after the deaths of both their parents when they were children and they had been cared for by aunts and uncles. They were comfortably off and the girls moved to Grange and attended Miss Brindle's "ladies boarding school" at Kents Bank House.

They stayed on in the town and lived at Eden Mount when in 1916 they were working as nurses at Eggerslack which was an auxiliary military hospital in the town. Charles, a slight lad, had served the Colours for just a couple of months before being discharged as medically unfit.

So ... in 1922 Emily was living with Daisy in Eden Mount while Stanley, on breaks

from his work with Romney Green, was staying "round the corner" at Pengarth, Ashmount Road. Charles Thomas had married in 1919 and Daisy was to marry an academic in 1923, the same year that Stanley and Emily were married.



Stanley had been expected to stay a bit longer with Green and his departure came as something of a surprise. Perhaps a friendship with near neighbour Emily was beginning to blossom? They could have met socially at the home of mutual friends or perhaps just bumped into each other. Perhaps he had splashed her as he drove past? Perhaps their pet dogs had met up?

Emily was pretty and friendly, Oxford-educated Stanley was a personable chap with a charm to match his good looks. The fact that she was about ten years older didn't seem to be a problem and she was happy to become a Quaker.

They had a lot in common, an interest in nature and the arts. She became an expert wood-carver, probably under Stanley's guidance and she was an inspiration to him during a happy, loving marriage which lasted 50 years at Gatesbield in New Road, Windermere, although they didn't have any children.

Half-a-century! But how did it all begin? Answer, please, to Pat Rowland.

- Stanley Webb Davies; Family, Friends & Furniture costs £15 plus £2 p&p from [info@naylorpublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@naylorpublishing.co.uk). Grange information centre have had a few copies on sale. It's a glossy A4 production of close on 200 pages of 60,000 words and some 150 photos. It is the third book produced by the Friends of Darwen Library to mark the Centenary of the Great War. Their two previous books went to reprint and sold out.

*Harold Hays*

## Summer Outings Reports

### Lindale walk May 2016

Nine people, including five born and brought up in Lindale, met for a damp walk round Lower Lindale on the evening of 19 May 2016, to examine the former course of the Lindale Beck, armed with an excellent base map produced by John Shippen.

A possible original course of the Lindale Beck, down the Ghyll, was identified and its present engineered course was examined. John Shippen showed us round the impressive Stonebeck development of John Wilkinson's Castle Head Farm, and the possible site for a former flax mill. The existence of a pond or lake where the houses of Sheepbarrow are was agreed, though it was less clear from where its water intake came. We saw a former trough along the Back Of the Fell Road, now unfortunately dry. Its water supply was possibly disrupted by the building of the Lindale by-pass in 1977. Some more research is needed here.

The hypothesis we were trying to test was that the Lindale Beck was kept at a higher level, from the former Corn Mill in 'The Square', in order to provide a water supply for the flax mill at the foot of the village. It is a pity that Mike Davies-Shiel died before his research into the flax industry of the High Newton/ Lindale area could be fully published. Some short accounts do exist, but there remain several questions

- What was the Sheepbarrow Pond water supply used for? Was it a retting pool for flax?

- Or was there a retting pool downstream of the Mill?
- If so how did they keep the salt water out, as this area is at sea level and is tidal?

Memories were shared of working at Tyson's Farm (now Stonebeck): the old milk stand was pointed out and the farm's former entrances were traced. Other memories related to the Smithy above the former Lindale Inn, which had access to the Lindale Beck both above and below the smithy. At the top of the village the Lindale Beck runs under Broomhill Farm, and the kitchen sink formerly emptied directly into the beck. Further downstream some people came down the steps at Skittergate to collect drinking water from the Lindale Beck until the 1960s. Some of these former access sites need clearing to be able to see the Beck again.

People commented on how little notice they had taken of their childhood in Lindale. They knew where people lived, for example on Sunny Terrace, but didn't remember house names.

Thanks are due to David and Noelene Shore for their idea for the visit, and for their continuing research on Lindale's name (Flaxdale) and its flax industry.

*Sylvia Woodhead*

## Summer Outing to Morecambe June 2016

The first of the summer visits was to Morecambe to explore two buildings which have played a significant part in its leisure industry: one going back to the late Victorian era and the other an icon of the Thirties. Our first stop was to the Morecambe **Winter Gardens** which is a Grade 2 listed building and was built in 1897 by Magnall and Littlewood. The architectural design followed closely many large railway stations being built at the same time and this was apparent from the domed internal ceiling space. The beautiful sandstone facade is still in good condition but its dominant place on the seafront is overshadowed by more recent commercial development. The foyer, staircases, ceilings, mouldings and chandeliers still give a feel of its former splendour but much of the circle and balconies have sadly been reduced to their bare fabric. Our guide from the Friends of the Winter Gardens, Peter Wade, gave us a detailed and engaging walk and talk about many aspects of the building moving from the stalls, into the gods through dressing rooms to backstage and finishing on the stage itself. Peter skilfully managed to recreate the part MWG had played to generations of locals and holidaymakers while explaining their hopes for its regeneration. After much climbing of stairs, the Friends of MWG welcomed us to afternoon tea and we were able to admire their collection of adverts and photos of performers and related memorabilia. It was a chance to take a stroll down a 50's and 60's memory lane for those who had visited MWG in its 20th century heyday.

We moved across the Prom to the recently renovated art deco **Midland Hotel** where we were given a tour of the hotel by a Lancastrian from Liverpool who gave us an

engaging talk embellished with his Scouse humour. Built in 1933 for the London Midland and Scottish (LMS ) railway, by Oliver Hill, it contains nautically themed works of art by Eric Gill and photos of the murals by the Sussex born artist Eric Ravilious and his wife Tirzah Garwood and replicas of textiles designed by Marion Dorn. In her autobiography, Tirzah wrote how the hotel resembled a big white concrete ship facing out across the shining sands, mudflats and treacherous waters of Morecambe bay.

The Eric Gill bas relief which is entitled "Odysseus welcomed from the sea by Nausicca" was carved into 6000 tonnes of Portland stone and is behind the reception desk. On the wall in the South Room (now the Eric Gill suite), is a relief map of the Lancashire coast and the Lake District beyond. Other nautical themes were continued with sea horses on the outside of the building and (now the hotel's merchandising logo) and on the ceiling above the iconic spiral staircase, a circular medallion depicting sea gods and mermaids. The Midland hotel was a luxury hotel and it is not difficult to imagine the likes of Sir Laurence Olivier and many 'bright young things' of the time visiting it in the thirties. It is also not that difficult to see how it was used as a filming location for the thirties themed TV series: Poirot.

A rewarding afternoon exploring two very different buildings and with the help of our guides we left Morecambe with a better feel for how they had played their part in the life of Morecambe as a tourist destination.

*Rose Clark*

## Visit to Townend: 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

Fifteen members of the Society met at Townend, Troutbeck and were given a short but most interesting talk by Danielle Soper, the House Steward, before being free to view the house room by room.



Danielle explained that the earliest part of the house dates from the seventeenth century and she gave a brief glimpse into the 400 year ownership of the property by the Browne family who were yeomen farmers and eventually farmed just over 800 acres locally.

The house passed into the ownership of The National Trust in 1948 and at the time of our visit essential repairs were nearing completion, during which timbers affected by wet rot had been replaced. The property is very much smaller than most owned by The National Trust but its vernacular features and its furnishings provide an excellent example of a house owned by a relatively wealthy farming family.

The visit preceded the talk to be given to the Society by Emma Wright, the House Manager, on the Browne family and the recipes recorded by Elizabeth Birkett from 1699. She married Ben Browne in 1702 when she came to live at Townend.

*Stuart Harling*

### A New CPLHS Research Group.

The CPLHS has been aware for some time that the number of people in our thriving society (we have 109 members) interested in seeing and discussing the outcome of members research or perhaps developing their own interest is increasing and we wish to help and encourage this.

As the CPLHS Committee does not have the resources to facilitate several groups we have decided to hold one regular get together for all the members who are interested in finding out for themselves about any aspect of the local history of the Cartmel Peninsula.

Our first meeting is on **Thursday 15th December 2016** from **2.00 to 4.00 pm** in the Supper Room at Cartmel Village Hall. We will let you have more information in due course but please put the date in your diary. If you have any initial questions please contact me.

Nigel Mills

## Lecture Summary

### A taste of Townend: Recreating recipes from 1699. Emma Wright

Emma began by introducing the Brown and Birkett families and Townend itself. Elizabeth Birkett, who assembled the recipe book came to live at Townend when she married Ben Brown in 1703. The Brown family lived and farmed at Townend from the 1600s to 1940. By 1700 they were well established and styled themselves as gentlemen farmers. The Birketts, who were near neighbours, were also successful.

Townend as seen today has been enlarged since the seventeenth century, mainly by extension at the rear. Elizabeth would have cooked mainly on open fires, spits and cob irons. She did have an oven which was eighteen inches wide and very deep. The oven would only be fired up about once per fortnight. Once it was hot, the first things cooked would be those requiring the highest temperatures, these would be followed by a series of other dishes that required lower temperatures. Cakes, which could be as wide as the oven door, were placed in wooden frames to retain the shape and baked for up to seven hours. Meat, mainly lamb would have been smoked in the meat loft above the fire.

The recipe book, handwritten by Elizabeth, is the size of an exercise book and comprises 52 pages plus index and references. It contains culinary recipes but also instructions for household tasks such as dying, removing stains, how to 'Japan' objects and how to produce gold and silver effects. There are also cures for various ailments, such as nose bleeds, epilepsy, toothache, rickets; some of the cures are potions but others verge on sorcery.

The culinary recipes were mainly dishes for entertaining. Ordinary fare was dominated by clapbread, made from oats. Breakfast

would be porridge and clapbread, the main meal a broth of meat and vegetables with clapbread, the evening meal cheese and clapbread. The clapbread was made in large quantities by itinerant women who came to the house. The final section of Emma's talk considered a number of the culinary recipes in detail; she and her colleagues had recreated and sampled several of them. These included stuffed pike, roast mutton, shred pie (veal or beef with suet, currants and sugar), venison pastie (this had a hard rye paste crust – not to eat but to help preserve the contents), spinach tart, and capon pie. Deserts included green pudding (made with bistorte), little cakes (a bread bun with seeds), beancakes (sugar and almonds), apricot paste (apricot and sugar boiled down to create jelly like sweets), 'Mrs West's cake (egg white, yeast with seed and dried fruit). A surprising range of things for the recipes could be obtained from the village shop in the early 1700s.

The evening was rounded off with tasting of sweets made from one of Elizabeth's recipes while Emma described the period costume she was wearing.

*Mike Hornung*



## Website

All the full versions of the articles from the last newsletter (the Lindale Special Edition) are now on the website. Also there is a lovely article by **David Shore** describing the processes involved in changing flax into linen.

### **Other recent articles added:**

Eggerslack Auxiliary Military Hospital 1916-1919 by Pat Rowland

John Wilkinson's method of improving moss land by Pat Rowland

## Newsletter Articles

Members are encouraged to submit news items and summaries of research (1000 word max.) or snippets to the editor by the deadline indicated at the end of the Newsletter. The next Newsletter is a **special edition to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society.**

## Forthcoming Lectures (19:30 @ Cartmel Village Hall) & Events

**Thursday 6 October 2016 - Andy Lowe – Discovering a landscape of Industry (Lakeland Old Crafts and Industries).** One of our most popular speakers, Andy spoke on this topic in October 1996. Followed by wine and nibbles to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Thursday 3 November 2016 – AGM** followed by a presentation "Then and Now" featuring old images of the Cartmel District.

**15 December 2016 – Informal meeting at 14:00 in the Cartmel Village Hall Supper Room** – Members are invited to attend a social meeting to hear about ongoing local history research, or to inform the society of their own research.

## Contacts

### **Committee:**

Chairman: Stuart Harling, ([s.w.harling@gmail.com](mailto:s.w.harling@gmail.com)) or Tel 36296.

Secretary: Barbara Copeland, ([barbara.copeland1@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.copeland1@btinternet.com))

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Nigel Mills, ([nigelmills@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelmills@btinternet.com))

Lecture Programme: Pat Rowland, ([patrowland\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:patrowland_uk@yahoo.co.uk))

Newsletter & Website Editor: Phil Rowland, ([philrowland414@gmail.com](mailto:philrowland414@gmail.com))

Mike Hornung, ([michaelhornung@btinternet.com](mailto:michaelhornung@btinternet.com))

Catherine Bottomley, ([cnblever@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cnblever@hotmail.co.uk))

Rose Clark, ([roseclark83@gmail.com](mailto:roseclark83@gmail.com))

Website <http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk>

**Copy deadline for the next newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017**