

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Summer 2008

CONTENTS

- 2 From our President
Clare Brockbank looks forward to the new season
- 2 Carved Stone on Reston Scar
Whose initials are these? John Berry makes some suggestions
- 3 James Tyson J.P.
Martin Crossley-Evans tells us about the man whose memorial has been saved
- 6 The Staveley Cinema Company Limited
Zoë Atkinson recounts the post-war local cinema in the Village Hall
- 9 Airey and Bland Re-union
Donna Fraser reports on this special event
- 10 The Will of Leonard Airey
Rosamund Ridley tells of the controversial will of this early Kentmere resident.
- 11 Heritage Open days
A request for volunteers to man the Churches
- 12 Summer Walks
A report on the first walk of the Society's summer programme

The views expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

Cover photo – Navvies working on the Thirlmere Aqueduct on Reston Scar (see p.2)

The next issue of the Journal (the winter issue) will be published on the 9th December 2008. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the meeting on the 11th November.

From our President

I was sorry not be at the AGM this year but the feedback to me was entirely positive and I am so glad to know the Society is in such good hands. We have got a fascinating series of lectures coming up starting on October 14th with Andy Lowe who must be one of the best lecturers in the County. And we finish with the History of the Short flying boat factory at Troutbeck Bridge.



Now what can we do except come and listen to the lectures? John Berry would love to have some old photographs and memorabilia which he can scan and copy and keep in the archives and return the originals to you. We have quite a lot about the Carnivals, the Coronation and Victory parades and also of the latest Carnivals; so we are looking for material from before and after that. Things like house deeds, posters advertising sales, photos of buildings no longer looking the same etc etc. If you have an urge to look in that old suitcase in the attic remember the History Society.

Enjoy this Journal it holds some interesting conundrums of which some of you may know something the researchers don't know – so let us know!

I look forward to seeing you all again in October.

Clare Brockbank

Carved stone on Reston Scar

One of our members has sent in this photo of a stone on Reston Scar (NB - on the dangerous side of the top fence) with carved names and initials. The date suggests that it originates from the time of the building of the Thirlmere Aqueduct. The name carved vertically on the right is almost certainly that of George Heuchan, born 1884, whose family (from Scotland) lived in Rawes Mill Yard.

The other very neatly carved initials dated 1893 are more difficult to attribute. The 'HM' is probably Hugh Murphy from Dublin, lodging in the Reston Scar Navvy Hut, but there is no-one else which fits the 'GHH' initials except a 'George' – no surname - who is in the same Navvy Hut. Any other suggestions?



John Berry

James Tyson J.P. - a Staveley Methodist and his monument.

At a time when Staveley and District History Society are considering the possible re-erection of the monument to James Tyson on the north wall of the nave of the St. James' Parish Church it is appropriate to look at the life of the man and his contribution to the village and to rural Methodism in the late 19th century. His monument has been rescued from the derelict interior of the Staveley Wesleyan Chapel.

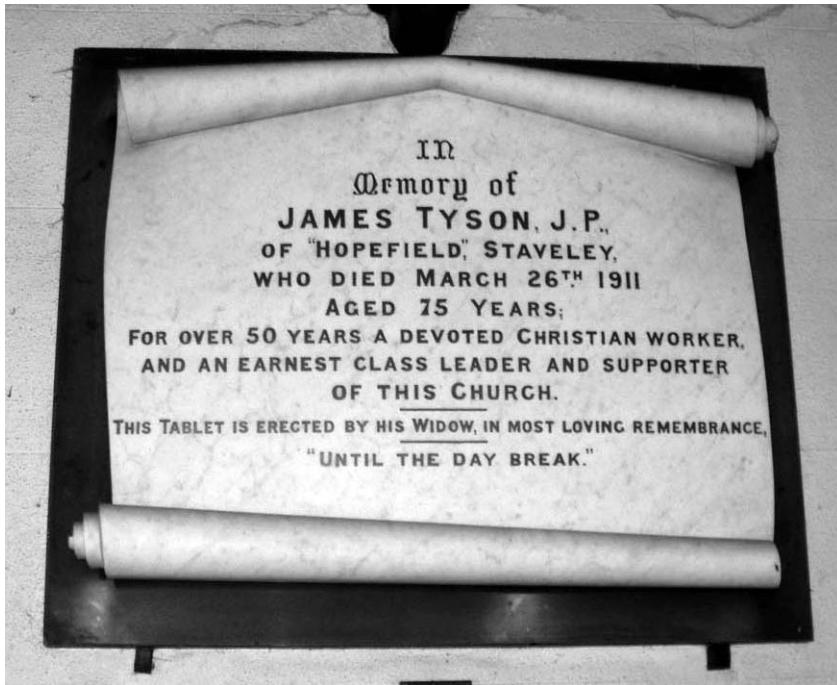
In January 1875 a new manager was appointed to oversee the bobbin mill in Staveley owned by Messrs Chadwick and Co., cotton manufacturers. James Tyson, a 40 year-old native of Gosforth in Cumberland and his wife, Isabella, left their home in Dalton in Furness and settled in the Mill House, which was their home for the next 24 years. They were a childless couple, as both their young sons died before reaching maturity. The Tysons lived comfortably and without ostentation, and they thriflily kept no resident servant, which at the time was unusual for a couple in their social position. James Tyson lived in Staveley for the next 35 years. One of his obituary notices says that “by his energy and business application [he] raised the concern into a high condition of prosperity”. His employers valued his work as manager and on 30th September 1898 he was presented with a purse of money and a handsome clock, suitably inscribed, as a token of their esteem and appreciation. When he resigned as manager of the mill during the following year the Tysons decided to remain in Staveley and settled at Hopefield, which may have been built for them, and commands an excellent view of the parish church and was then adjacent to the Wesleyan chapel.

Like most men who were committed members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at this time, he was active Liberal in politics, taking a prominent part in the South Westmorland Liberal Association. He was appointed a justice of the peace for the County of Westmorland in 1892. When Over Staveley Council was established in 1894 under the terms of new legislation designed to overhaul the local government system, he was elected and remained an active member until the deterioration in his health led to his resignation in 1907. He served as the council’s chairman for many years and it was said of him that: “during the period of his residence in the village he took an active interest in the place of his adoption”.

James Tyson was best known as a Wesleyan Methodist. He became attached to the cause in the 1850s when he was in his early 20s and remained a committed member of the church, filling almost every office that was open to a layman. His monument, recently removed from the Wesleyan chapel, records that he was: “for over 50 years a devoted Christian worker and an earnest class leader and supporter of this church”. When he arrived in Staveley in January 1875 the proposal by the congregation to build a new chapel had already been approved by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. When the land on the north of the village was purchased for the purpose in the autumn of 1875, the conveyance was made to the superintendent minister of the

Kendal Wesleyan circuit and fifteen trustees, of whom he was one. The chapel was opened the following year.

Mr. Tyson's deep attachment to the Wesleyan Church in general and to Staveley chapel in particular, can be seen by looking at the provisions of his will. He gave the trustees of the chapel the sum of £50, either "the principal or interest of which may be used for cleaning and lighting of the said chapel or other purposes of the Trust",



The Tyson Memorial before removal from the Wesleyan Chapel

together with a further £350 "any portion of which, not exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds may be set aside towards the purchase of a new organ, the balance to be used towards heating or lighting the chapel". He also left £200 to the Wesleyan Foreign Missions; £100 to the trustees of Spark Bridge Wesleyan Chapel for the chapel "or the services" thereof; and a further £200 to the Wesleyan Worn out Ministers' Fund. Tyson's philanthropy was not merely sectarian and he

bequeathed a further £150 to the Kendal Memorial Hospital. His charitable bequests amounted to a third of the gross value of his estate, which was put at £3,354.15s.11d.

Isabella Tyson, who was a native of Spark Bridge, Furness, died in July 1904, aged 69. The loss of their two young sons must have been a source of great grief to husband and wife particularly as they appear to have been unable to have further children. In death she was buried with her sons in the family grave in the cemetery at Dalton in Furness. Shortly after his wife's death, James Tyson remarried, but the union was of short duration. In 1906/7 he had a severe illness from which he never fully recovered. He was an invalid for the last two years of his life and took to his room six weeks before his death which took place peacefully on 26th March 1911, at the age of 75.

His funeral was recorded in the pages of *The Westmorland Gazette* and *The Kendal Mercury and Times*. The choir of the Wesleyan chapel and his family and friends sang one of his favourite hymns at the house and the Revd J. W. Hardcastle, the superintendent minister of the Kendal Wesleyan circuit led the mourners in prayer, before accompanying the coffin, Mrs Elizabeth Tyson the widow, and the mourners on the journey to its final resting place. His remains were carried by workmen from the Staveley Wood Turning Company past the Parish Church and across the bridge

over the River Gowan to the railway station where they were conveyed by train to Dalton in Furness. At Kendal station the cortège was met by a deputation, which joined the mourners on their melancholy journey.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Staveley chapel on 26th January 1912, James Tyson's co-executor, Nicholas Shepherd, timber merchant of Staveley, who was one of the chapel's trustees, petitioned on behalf of Mrs Tyson for permission to erect a marble tablet in the chapel to the memory of her husband. After due discussion this was proposed by Joseph Hewertson of Bowness, bicycle agent, and seconded by Edwin Brockbank of Windermere, bobbin maker, who were both trustees. The motion was passed without dissent, but with the added proviso: "that the local trustees be appointed with the Rev J. W. Hardcastle to overlook the inscription on the tablet and place of erection". The monument was probably erected later that year. At the same time the trustees purchased a new organ from J. Wilkinson and Sons of Kendal, partly with James Tyson's bequest, and the small chamber organ continued to do duty until the closure of the building in October 1994.

The removal of James Tyson's monument to the parish church will ensure that an important part of Staveley's late 19th century history will be safely preserved for future generations, and there it will be a visible reminder for those who worshipped at the chapel until its closure and subsequently became members of the congregation of St. James.

M. J. Crossley Evans

Sources:

Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, WDFC/M2/50, Staveley Wesleyan Methodist Trustees Minutes 1911 – 1947.

Will of James Tyson J.P., of Hopefield, Staveley, dated 5th September 1909, proved 22nd May 1911 at Carlisle.

The Westmorland Gazette, 1st April 1911, p.12, col. c.

The Kendal Mercury and Times, 31st March 1911, p.5, col. f.

M. Holland, *A History of Methodism in Staveley*, (The Staveley and District History Society, Occasional paper No. 23), pp.2-3.

Can you help?

In order to re-erect the Tyson Memorial in St James Church we will require some funds to be raised. A number of donations have already been received, but more would be appreciated. Please contact our treasurer, David Hooson, (01539-822248) if you can help.

The Old Eagle & Child

If any member knows of the existence of an early photograph, engraving or painting of the original Eagle & Child (demolished 1883) would they please contact the General Secretary.

The Staveley Cinema Company Limited

Part of my induction as a committee member involved looking after a couple of boxes stuffed with files, pamphlets and various notes. After reviewing the top couple of inches for a display of photographs and items in the Post Office window, I came across this brass plaque.



was presenting the films or when Wheatman & Mallinson took over so if you remember things a little different please bear this in mind.

The Company minute book held at County Archives, Kendal gives some useful information regarding the management of the Company. The first minutes were dated 2 September 1947 and held at The Working Men's Institute, Staveley. Those present were W J Knowles, W E Nicholson, Alvin Birkett, William Bethom and Mr H B Greenwood (Solicitor).

At the meeting, W J Knowles was appointed Chairman, the Certificate of Incorporation was produced and the design of the company seal was adopted. Mr Brian Shaw was appointed Manager and Secretary at a salary of 30/- a week from 12 April 1947. The Registered Office was to be The Green, Staveley (home of Mr Shaw) and it was at this property that the brass plaque was attached to.

A licence from the Trustees of Village Hall was granted to Mr R Cowpe, a banking account was to be opened at Martins Bank (Staveley Branch). 50 Ordinary £1 shares were allotted and issued each to the following making a total capital of £1,200.

William James Knowles	Edwin Mallinson	Alvin Birkett
William Bethom	Brian Shaw	Joseph Morris
Samuel Crossley	Harry Rack	Norman Nicholson
Reginald Long	Jessie Morris	Bert Nicholson
Dorothy Buckley	Elizabeth Birkett	Cecil Stockwell
John Jas. Dobson	Leslie Banton	Richard Buckley
William Edward Nicholson	Arthur Paxton	Bessie Hugginson
Alice Kathleen Mather		

Messrs Arnold Greenwood & Son were appointed solicitors and the auditor Mr F Griffith of Kendal was appointed. The first meeting then closed.

The Company was incorporated in 1947 and ran for a period of nine years with the Declaration of Solvency signed in 1956. It operated in the Village Hall. Speaking to people in the village it is not always clear whether they remember the period when the Staveley Cinema Company Limited itself

Noisy children were discussed in December 1947! It had also been noted that occasionally parents with small children did not pay for them and it was therefore decided that all children should have to pay, as children in arms were not allowed into performances. In 1952 it was decided that children over 3 should have to be paid for but by 1953 it was decided that those children under 5 should not have to pay. For Christmas 1952 it was decided to show a free film for the children – it's not clear whether this was an annual treat or not.

1953 saw the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II; a film “A Queen is crowned” was shown at Staveley taking £12.

Management of the cinema

Initial wages were paid to Mrs Mallinson 7/-, Miss Mallinson 10/- and Mr Crossley 18/-. In 1947 it was proposed by Mr Nicholson that two torches be bought. The same year it was proposed that vending machines be bought however, whether this actually took place and where they were sited I haven't found out.



The one remaining cinema seat

Tickets were paid for at the small ticket office to the left of the main steps into the Village Hall. The price is remembered by one lady as being 9d and the two back seats for courting couples priced at 1s.

Mrs Mallinson (caretaker) showed people to their seats and Irene Robinson looked after the ticket office together with Mrs Buckley. Sammy Crossley was the projectionist and was occasionally helped by George Shepherd.

The seats used were not the typical cinema seats, although one of these still sits in the projectionist's room upstairs. The seats were the everyday Village Hall seats – straps of canvas for back and seat with two steel bars on the base. These were just about tolerable until over the years the seat canvas began to sag below the bars and so legs would go numb on the steel bars!

The general consensus was that the audience tended to enjoy Westerns or films with dancing girls and by 1949 showings were to be held on Tuesday and Saturday

evenings with the Tuesday evening suggested at a later start and to be advertised in the Westmorland Gazette.

A quick review of the bank statements show that films were hired from many different Companies – Warner Bros, 20th Century Fox, RKO Radio Pictures, Assoc. British Pathe Ltd to name but a few. Repairs were required from time to time; the projectors were in need of overhauling and spools needed replacing in 1952. A splicing machine cost £4-4s-0d in 1953 as since the introduction of safety films it made hand joining impossible.

Low attendance was a grave concern by 1953, and the police inspector inspected the emergency lighting in July 1954 finding it to be unsatisfactory. I assume this was rectified as performances continued to be shown but whether this was a cost for the Cinema or the Village Hall Committee is not known.

Wheatman & Mallinson began showing films but I do not have any information to show when they ceased. Attendance dropped for a variety of reasons, some people blame the increase in the frequency of the buses others that television was beginning to make its mark and of course lifestyles change and people sought other means of entertainment. The machines were dismantled in April 1955 as Messrs Wheatman and Mallinson were starting to show films using their own projectors from the first week in May.

The village hall committee said the equipment could stay in the room until it was sold but preferred to have it removed as soon as possible. Wheatman & Mallinson purchased some of this equipment, however the remainder must have stayed in storage for some time as it was only recently disposed of. The original screen was finally scrapped after a boon day in the Hall as recently as 2007 – apparently the perforations throughout this screen allowed the sound to come through to the audience.

Costs

In 1949 a June dividend was paid of 10% but the following year the auditor advised against this and therefore no dividend was paid for June 1950. Further dividends do not appear to be mentioned.

The monthly rent to Staveley Village Association was presumably negotiated at a competitive rate as it decreased from £16 in 1947 to £12 in 1949 with a further decrease by 1952 to £8. However, looking at the list of shareholders is it possible that some were also on the Hall Committee.

“Numerous cases of cancelled bookings due to local groups having first choice” were discussed in March 1950. Three months later, costs must have been going up, as there were questions over whether the penny programme should continue. The possibility of getting a reduction in printing by using a duplicating machine was to be looked into and in October it was decided that the penny programme was to be printed every

other month rather than monthly. Cost cutting was still an issue later in the year when the secretary pointed out that by reducing overheads (i.e. wages) the company would show a higher profit and that he (the secretary) was willing to take a reduction.

The 1951 AGM suggested that funds in the bank should be invested – this rather contradicts the events of the previous year when cost cutting was the main topic of discussion. In September 1951, Mrs D Buckley took over the management of the cinema at a salary of 30/- a week.

The Performance Rights Society licence for 1949 cost £4-4s-0d. The return for 1952 was for 60 seats at 10d, 135 seats at 1/- and 39 seats at 1/6d a total of £15-14s-6d. In 1953 an increase cost from 1/- to 1/3 was decided and a proposal to sell ices was made but later turned down. £500 was invested in 3% Defence Bonds, these were redeemed in February 1956 when the Company ceased trading with interest received in September 1952 of £3-9s-0d.

By 1954 the balance sheet showed an adverse balance of £80, the decision was made that the company could no longer operate and steps were made to wind up the Company. The Declaration of Insolvency was signed on 20 February 1956.

Zoë Atkinson

Airey and Bland Re-union

On Saturday, May 31st 2008, 72 descendants of the Airey and Bland families of Kentmere met at Magg's Howe in Kentmere for morning coffee. This was followed by a guided walking tour led by Mary and Tommy Bland which ended at the Women's Institute hall and a nourishing buffet lunch catered by Christine Hevey.

Genealogy charts, an historical chronology of Kentmere, and other interesting photos and information decorated the walls of the hall. This Society was represented with a table of publications and an offer to answer questions about the history of Kentmere. The room was buzzing with chatter as people renewed old friendships and made new ones.

The church was open and enjoyed by many of the visitors. For some it was their first visit to the beautiful valley where their ancestors lived.

The Airey family are found on the 1332 lay subsidy of Kentmere and lived continually in the valley, particularly in Hallowbank Quarter, until the late 1890s. The Bland family were first recorded in Kentmere in 1801 and descendants were still living in the valley in the 20th Century.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their visit and the hospitality of the beautiful Kentmere valley.

Donna Fraser

The Will of Leonard Airey

'Knowing the uncertaintie of this life on earth, and that all flesh must yield unto death when it shall please almighty God to call, I do make, ordaine and pledge this my last will and testament'. So stated Captain Leonard Airey, of Gilthroten, Strickland Ketel, and Longhouses, Kentmere, on 11th November 1690.

Born at Longhouses, baptised at Kendal Parish Church on February 1, 1619, Leonard was the son of Charles Airey and grandson of another Leonard. Charles died in 1623. Leonard senior died in 1629. In his own will, he made plans for the ten year old's education. "*It is my wyll and mynde that Leonard my grandchilde shall be educated and brought up in learning and the fear of God...*" Education was greatly valued in Kentmere. As for '*the fear of God*.' How did the Aireys of Longhouses '*fear God*'? Most of their neighbours were Protestants. Some bolder Aireys made no secret of their religion. In the Puritan 1620s, one Kentmere Airey was christened 'Urban', Urban VIII (1623-44) being the reigning Pope. Catholic or not, young Captain Airey was certainly a Royalist, forfeiting his estates after the execution of Charles I. Branded a 'delinquent', he was fined £17 10s. Other local 'delinquents' included Thomas Browne of Troutbeck, Robert Gilpin of Kentmere and the Stricklands of Sizergh. In 1660, Captain Airey was restored to his Westmorland estates. The King entrusted him with a bag of gold, to reward loyal Scots.



Longhouses, Kentmere

All family historians know the Commonwealth gap, interrupting most parish registers. There's no record of Leonard's marriage. His will mentions his late wife and his daughter, Ann. He was buried in Holy Trinity, Kendal, on November 15th, 1690. Ann and her husband, Thomas Powley, expected to inherit everything. The old Royalist had scores to settle. The Powley family had supported Cromwell. Ann Powley would inherit land at Staveley Park, '*and get the yearly rent of Twenty Shillings*'. The rest of Leonard's '*wordly goodes and temporall estates*'; his '*messuages and tenements*' in Kentmere and Over Staveley were bequeathed to his granddaughters. Alice Powley was legitimate. Ann Coll, a year older, was '*a bastard childe, gotten on the body of my said daughter, Ann*'.

In '*flaming anger*', Thomas contested the will. From beyond the grave, Leonard was cheating the legitimate heir of her birthright. The handwriting scrawls in fury: '*If you and such like had not bene, wee should have no akaison of giving you trouble in this nature. Appoint you one man, and we shall appoint one... Mr. Birkhead was*

pleased to say that a will would be great satisfaction to my wife, but it proves not soe to be... These things were left to her and hers, and not to you and yours'

After Leonard's funeral, his solicitor, George Browne received Powley's expense account. Powley claimed a reasonable '*£50, for his table, for five years*'. Other costs included '*Brandy and sugar, when he laye sykke*', malt for the burial ale, food for the mourners. The final item speaks for itself: '*For Charge and Trouble, in the house, at the time of his death - £2. 2s. 0d.*' In all, as well as losing their expected inheritance, Powley estimated that he and his wife were £42.14s.9d out of pocket. George Browne suggested they seek permission to sell one of Leonard's horses, and try to recover some debts due to him.

Leonard Airey's will is remarkable. His granddaughters would each receive a half share of his estates. If either girl died before twenty-one, everything would pass to the survivor, legitimate or not. In the 17th century, illegitimacy was a serious matter. Fornication and adultery were punishable crimes. The guilty had to do public penance, in church, before the whole congregation. The influence of Puritanism was strong. In the early 17th century, only 1% of births were outside wedlock. Leonard was a Royalist and his King was no Puritan. The old man intended that Ann Coll should be well cared for after his death. Bills for her food and clothing confirm that his wishes were respected. In 1692, a '*gowne and petticoats*' for the child cost 6s 10d. According to a 1692 Kentmere inventory, this was about the same price as adult clothes.

George Browne had advice for the furious Powley. He could contest the will and '*jangle*' as he pleased. Leonard Airey's will was valid. English law would see justice done, even for an illegitimate child. Alice Powley married a fell-monger from York, receiving, via her husband, half her grandfather's money, on 7th August 1706. Ann Coll had already received her inheritance. On July 7th, 1705, she signed in her own name, receiving £56.17s. 6d. Her grandfather and English law treated this '*bastard childe*' astonishingly well.

Rosamund Ridley

Heritage Open Days 12 – 14 September

Once again, the Society will be participating in the annual Heritage Open Days sponsored by the Civic Trust and English Heritage. The programme will be similar to last year, though the exhibition in the Beer Hall will feature the newly restored Corn Rent maps. St. Margaret's Tower will be open on both Saturday and Sunday, but there will be only one 'History Tour' on Saturday afternoon.

We hope to have all three churches open over the period, but this will be subject to having sufficient volunteers to be on hand during the openings. If you can help, could you please contact Iain Johnston (01539 – 822571, for St Cuthbert's), David Clarkson (822613, for St James') and Tony Priestley (822301, for St Anne's).

Summer Walk 1 - Staveley Wood Yard

Between 20 and 30 members gathered outside Hawkshead Brewery and Wilf's on 13th May. This was the "second treacherous coo-quake* week" in May and groups huddled together avoiding the cool shadows and seeking what sunshine could be found. There was great interest in a photograph produced by Gill and John Bower of an inscribed stone on Reston Scar, (*see page 2*) but soon our leaders for the evening visit; John Berry and David Brockbank, arrived.

First John gave a detailed history of "Chadwick's" Mill from its original construction by Thomas Taylor through the various owners up to the Brockbank family. Members were provided with an excellent guide sheet with three plans of the mill depicting stages in its development, firstly in 1836, then in 1858 and finally 1898. In addition we had an exceptionally good aerial photograph (taken in the 1950s). Although the design and materials of the buildings have altered considerably over the past century, the roof area remains fairly similar.

David Brockbank then outlined what had taken place roughly over the last quarter of a century and his views for the future. He had an intimate knowledge of how the mill and its machinery worked, the fruit of his regular visits from being a boy. He was able to describe with clarity how to turn a tool handle in an oval shape. He went on to explain how he was forced into making decisions which were sometimes unpopular in the village. It became impossible to compete with countries abroad and by the mid 1990's the production was placed overseas, only about a dozen people were employed at Staveley and the drying sheds became light industrial units.

There ensued an informative question, answer, discussion session in which it was revealed that the mill yard almost certainly employed more people now than at any time in its history and was no longer a male only employer, a point not missed by our President who reminded us that she was only rarely allowed on the premises. Others pointed out that hand in hand with the yard's current prosperity had come more traffic causing a hazard at the yard entrance.

As the sun sank beneath the skyline on Main Street the temperature dropped, David and John were thanked for the excellent insight they had given us into the history and future prospects of the mill yard and most members retired to the Brewery to the warmth of the bar and the delightful music of the Lakeland Fiddlers with an obvious question - "would either of them have been here without the current development of the premises?"

* Traditionally "coo-quake week" was the second week in May when cows were turned out to grass after the Westmorland winter.

Mike Houston

(lack of space has meant that reports on the other summer walks have had to be held over to the Winter Journal – Ed)