

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2010

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Cover picture – Clipping at Hartrigg c1950 (photo by Stan Hardman, former Staveley Postmaster)

The next issue of the Journal (the summer issue) will be published about the 12th August 2010. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the 30th June.

Chairman's report

Here we are at the end of another successful year and once again I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this society – from the hardworking officers and committee, to the wonderful group of speakers who have fascinated us this season and to all of the members who have attended the meetings in large numbers even on the most inclement evenings. It has been very rewarding and I have been proud to be your chairman.



Behind the scenes the work goes on with more and more records being and collected, collated and digitised to make them available to more and more people. This is a never-ending task as we are aware that events that happen today will be history tomorrow and we have a responsibility to future generations to keep the records for their interest and information. However we still do not have an active group studying buildings in our area. We need to renew our work in recording information about buildings in the district and establishing how they have been developed and altered as time has passed. If anyone has the interest or expertise to lead a group in this activity we would be delighted to hear from them. Similarly John Berry, who has done magnificent work in developing the Journal, would like to give that up and so we are looking for someone who will take over that very important role – volunteers please. An initiative which is proving to be very productive is that of welcoming visitors to our committee meetings. We will continue to publish the dates and we invite any member to come along and see what we get up to.

In the autumn several members attended the Cumbria Local History Federation's annual convention at Newton Rigg. This year there was a significant emphasis on the rekindling of the Victoria County History project under the leadership of Professor John Beckett but there were also opportunities for delegates to have some hands-on experience in heraldry, in research using newspapers, in assembling and digitalising records and palaeography. We were also treated to a visual conducted tour of the magnificent new Record Office in Carlisle.

One very innovative and worthwhile expedition was undertaken this year by several members of the committee who went to visit Sedbergh History Society. That august organisation has its own room where records are stored and there is space available for anyone to go along and undertake their own research. Your committee was very taken with the idea and it has spurred them on to try and find accommodation in Staveley where we could have a similar facility.

So, what next? A significant part of our activity in the coming year will be to maintain the impetus in collecting new information – and looking for somewhere to store it. Arrangements are in hand for a School History Prize this coming year and we look forward to the fascinating and interesting contributions made by the older pupils in our school. We always learn something from them and we sincerely hope that it is

two-way traffic. All that and another interesting programme of walks and talks ... we have a great deal to look forward to.

Iain Johnston

Post Office Memories

I lived in Staveley Post Office from 1950 to September 1959, while my father was Postmaster and ran the associated shop (which I, presumably because of my age of the time, remember mostly as selling sweets), and left for New Zealand with the family at age 15. Dad's name was Stan Hardman (Frederick Stanley). In addition to running the Post Office Dad did an early morning mail run on his motor bike to outlying houses and farms, with the postman doing the village itself.

He was, as the *Journal* article says, a photographer - semi-professional I would say - and did portraits of people in the village, particularly children. His photographic studio was one of the rooms on the top floor of the Post Office building, facing the street (just off the photo in the article). The darkroom was over the stairs to the third floor, behind the two front rooms. Although he is not the more famous Hardman photographer (I saw some of the latter's photos in the Kendal Library collection last July) he did have some photos published in *Cumbria* magazine. I have prints of some of the photos, which are largely of farming-related activities near Staveley, particularly in the Kentmere Valley. The *Journal* also mentions Reginald Cave as Postmaster in 1963. The name seems familiar and I suspect it was him that Dad sold the Post Office to.

It's interesting that the Postmaster listed in 1953 is John Smith, because he was my maternal grandfather. In the early 50s he and his second wife lived with us in a flat on the back of the ground floor of the building, while we had the upstairs. But he never to my knowledge ran the Post Office, being into his 70s by then, I think, and retired some time earlier. Dad originally took over from him the Post Office in Scotforth (Lancaster) and we all moved together to Staveley. Maybe there was some technical reason why my grandfather was listed.

Both my grandparents died during the early-mid 50s and are buried in the Staveley churchyard. I looked for the graves in July and couldn't find them, but I saw a photo in December that my brother-in-law has (my sister died in 1999). When the grandparents died we took over the flat as our living/kitchen area and mum took in bed and breakfast clients in part of the upstairs. We had one of the early televisions in the village and I recall lots of visitors coming to see the Cup Final at our place. We were the only Bolton supporters in the village (my parents both came from Bolton) for the famous 1953 Bolton versus Blackpool final where everyone else wanted Blackpool to win because it was thought to be the last chance of a winner's medal for the great Stanley Matthews. One complication with visitors for TV was that our dog wouldn't let people leave and had to be locked up before anyone stood up. I suppose that was a reasonable qualification for canine security at a Post Office.

Michael Hardman

Tales from the Tapes – John Williams (continued)

We come up to the Vicarage. Now this vicarage here hasn't been here for ever, it was built - at least I think it was built for Mr Pigott who had a large family and either he enlarged the building that was already there to make it big enough for his family But anyway, before that the vicarage had been over at, er, just beyond your house, wasn't it, Clara, (So they say) So they say, yes. That would be inhabited by the Reverend Hayton who was the vicar of Kentmere for 50 years. So they say. In fact, they do say, it's on the stone in the churchyard. He was followed by Mr Schofield - dare I mention Mr Schofield? Now he was vicar twice in Kentmere but he's the earliest one I



Kentmere Vicarage

I remember and I also remember the second time, just at the beginning of the war, and you could get supplementary clothing coupons if you were doing manual work but you had to get your application endorsed by a man of some standing and one of the things it said on the form was 'The Vicar' so I went trooping up there with my form, told him what I wanted and I said, "Would you do this for me, Mr Schofield, as you're the vicar" So he wrote it, signed it, but he wrote

underneath "Clerk in Holy Orders" - so that put me right, I thought he was just the Vicar! One thing about Mr Schofield though, he visited. Oh I don't know what regularity he came with, but he would visit and you'd had a visit from the parson, because he would stand there for about quarter of an hour and say nowt and then go away there, saying, "Mm, Good afternoon" and that was it, you'd been visited by the parson. I suppose that's better than nowadays.

Followed by Mr Holt, John Owen Holt, he finished as vicar, or incumbent, should I say, of St John's at Windermere and I remember he clipped me very hard round the ear one day in Scripture lesson because he said, "And what sort of religion are you?" and I said, "I'm a Protestant" Whack, right round the earhole. He said, "You've sworn that you believe in the Holy Catholic Church. You're not a protestant." I didn't argue, but I still don't know what the difference was. Then he had a housekeeper called Miss Vasey, because he wasn't married in those days, and he used to go to Staveley everyday on his bicycle. Some said he used to meet the District Nurse, but I don't know how true that is, I never used to follow him. But his housekeeper was called Miss Vasey, and she was courting Bernard Gilpin who lived further up the valley but they very seldom met and they wrote to each other with great regularity and I was the messenger boy, the real go-between. Didn't realise what it was until then. Anyway they got married, so whether that was my fault or not I don't know and they lived at the Scale Cottage.

Then we move on to the Grove, as I say Jossie Bland was I think the last man to farm it as a separate farm. Up to The Nook where on the Greenhead side we were contemporaries with Jeremy, Jeremy Barkway, whom some of you know, ay some of you know him very well. And he used to come home on holidays and he was at the Bluecoats School in Liverpool and wear a rather peculiar uniform and that afforded terrific amusement for the rest of the valley, and probably did to him too, I don't know, but we used to tease him no end about that.

George Leyland from the Grove used to sell paraffin, shilling a gallon it was, and of course, in those days, when there was no electricity you needed paraffin And every week we used to traipse across with a two gallon tin to George's and he would get his old can out and squeak away with his pump and give you two gallons of paraffin He didn't fill a two gallon can for you, which is what you took, he filled two measures, he filled a measure of paraffin twice, so that you weren't getting too much. He pumped it up...blown the can out, or something. But anyway; it was one of the rituals of the week, on Saturday morning to go across and get the paraffin. And old George had a magnificent Indian motorcycle with a side car and he would go up and down this road like a bat out of hell, for an old one, he really was not fit loose. One day he met Sammy Mitchell with the school car - well, Sammy Mitchell was the official taxi and his idea of driving carefully up Kentmere Road, when he saw anything coming he stopped, didn't matter where he was, either side of the road, or in the middle, it was usually in the middle, and poor old George didn't know what to do, so he had to



The school 'taxi' with Gordon Gilpin and Blossom

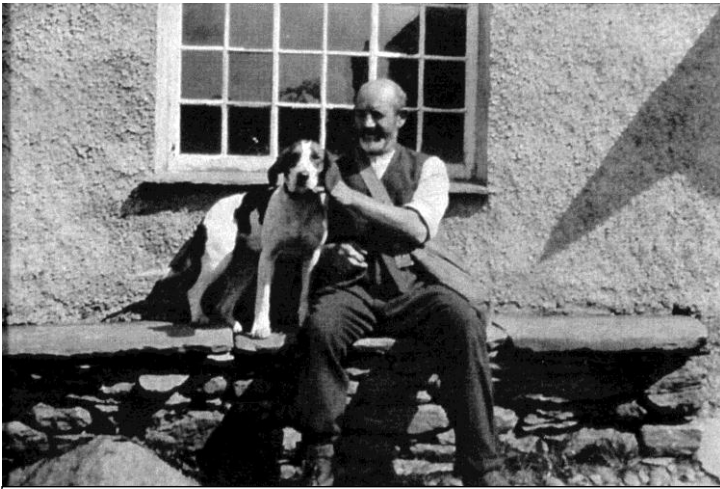
go right up the bank, clean under the nut trees. So the next time Gerard Hayton saw him he said, "We nearly got you that time, Mr Leyland.!" He said, "Nay, there was plenty room under t' nut trees!" Then before Sammy Mitchell, was Arnold Dobson from Staveley took over the school taxi job from Gordon Gilpin and the chariot, as we call it. And he was followed by Sammy Mitchell, then Mr Smith from Staveley, Mary's father, took over from there

and then Gerard took over as a temporary job which he's had for 37 years. And he'd have it for another 37 if they would let him.

Move back now to Head Cottage, the Pattinsons had nine children. There were everyone of them musically minded but they didn't have much in the way of musical instruments but they did their best. And if they were having a musical evening, they say old Mrs Pattinson would join in with the spoons rather than be left out, and apparently it must have been a very happy household. Leslie the son that I knew, couple of years older than me perhaps, and when he left school he went to work at Brow Top for his first term in farm service and he got £12 for the six months, which

was standard pay for that time and £8 of that he spent on a piano accordion, which I thought was a little bit expensive. But anyway he loved it and that's what he did, and by gum, he didn't half earn it. I remember - I think he lived in a Brow Top, although his home was just across the field - anyway one Christmas morning, I was going up to see Gerard and Jack who were my friends and got into the yard and there was Leslie busy yoking the old horse and cart up and Mrs Hayton, Grandma, came down the yard, bit of a matriarch was Mrs Hayton, she was too, and she said, "What are you doing, Leslie?" He said, "I'm going to lead muck, Mrs Hayton" "Nay, Leslie, on an Christmas morning, you're never going to lead muck, wait while you've had your dinner".

Another interesting point about Brow Top was that they were the first tractor to come to Kentmere arrived there - and it's still there, came in 1942 and it's still in the yard at the back, an old Fordson. They also had the first land-girl, unfortunately you can't say the same for her, she went for her reward some years ago but she was a grand lass.



John Bland and Glory

On to Rook Howe, and John Bland, who was the postman and when I was at school I could look out of our kitchen window and there weren't many trees You could see the path that came across the pasture field down to the Post Office - at Low Bridge then - and I would wait until Mr Bland stepped off the top stile and that's when I had to go to school, because he was so absolutely punctual, it worked perfectly And I was never late for

school because I waited till Mr Bland came to the stile Another thing that Mr Bland was famous for - he dug a fantastic drain to drain the higher meadows, and to do that, I don't remember that, but people tell me, you'd see shovelfulls of soil coming out of this trench, it was so deep.

On to Hartrigg, which is beyond, the Bindloss family, and they were more or less the first clipping of the season. I think there was one that Clara mentioned that was earlier, but it was the first major one. And you always went to Hartrigg clipping because if you went there, you'd get invited to all the others. It was



a good thing to be invited to clippings because there was plenty to eat and plenty to drink, even at our age. So we always made sure that we got to Hartrigg clipping. But I don't know what they'd do now if you went on clipping day, they'd give you something to do.

Then we'd better move on to the Quarries, Now the Quarry - just going to mention it in passing. In its heyday, they employed 20 to 30, even more, men and most of them. 20 of them at any rate, used to live in the barracks up there. Which must have been a fairly spartan existence, but of course they could work all the hours that came and most of them were working on contract so that if they wanted to work they worked and if they didn't, they did what else they wanted to do. But they only got paid monthly and so consequently when the month end was up they disappeared in the direction of Staveley. In fact, my Uncle Bill always used to say there was far more slate made in the Fat Lamb at Staveley, than there ever was in Kentmere Quarries. But I don't know whether there's any left there now.

Now there was an old quarryman called Blowfat Gregg who built his own barracks



Group outside the quarry smithy. Blowfat is in the centre.

which was there until ten years ago when the chap who had the quarries, I think it was Michael Hodgson, he bulldozed a way through it to get a straight road up into the quarry. And it was a dinky little cottage that he built and he had it entirely for himself and he also had a bit of an encounter with the Rates Collector, because he built the house but naturally nobody told him that he'd have to pay rates on it, and in those days each

valley, or each village, had its own rate collector and the local rate collector one evening decided he'd better go up and see if he could get some money off old Blowfat. So he went up and he went in and said what he'd come for, so Blow-fat gets his meat cleaver out and starts sharpening it up. "How much dust ta want" So he told him. He said "Ay, did anybody see thee come in?" He was excused rates that year.

Now next is the Hart Crag quarry I think. Quarry workings in my time were the Jam and the Steel Rig. The quarries were powered by an engine and a compressor and it was a gigantic engine this was, and it was driven by a chap from Kendal who used to come on his motor bike, he had an old Norton, and his name was Teddy Jeffries and his family had the wire mill on Stramongate Bridge and they lived in the house which is now the hotel up Sedbergh Road, and God knows why he wanted to come up Kentmere to drive that engine, but he did. And he did it for a long time and then old Tommy Brocklebank took it over.

Pout Howe was farmed by the Gilpin family - Bernard who as I mentioned before married Miss Vasey - and he worked for a little while at Brockstones. Very sad, he was working one summer and he lost two half crowns when he was piling the hay in the barn and for the rest of that winter, he refused to let anybody else move any hay out of that barn. And he never found it. And he was found dead on Christmas Day in the same barn. I suppose, poor old lad. He had a brother called John Gilpin who went to Liverpool to run a Milk House with his uncle. And he used to come back to Kentmere and go round the village saying that he was very glad to come back to his roots and that Liverpool was stressful and that he was making money that fast he hadn't time to count it, which must have been a fact because he left quite a lot to Kentmere Church and rather a lot to the Gilpin Trust, so at least he knew where to leave his money.

Fold Howe's a holiday home, Hallowbank, used to belong to the Rayner family and they were wanting to build a mansion at Brockstones and they put in an ornamental gateway which is still there and a carriage drive which is still there, But then they lost all their money, either in the American crash, or in some shipping somewhere or other and they never got any further with it and they disappeared. Brockstones was farmed by the Armby family who were also butchers. Not the one with the Rolls Royce - no it was Benny Dickinson that had the Rolls Royce, I'm coming to him. Benny Dickinson was the last - well, his son's farming it now - when Benny was there he had this Rolls Royce and he followed Dr Waterson. He said Dr Waterson farmed it but he ranched it.

We move down from there up to the Green Quarter. Now they say the Vicarage was once at Green Quarter but nobody can be quite sure where it was, at least they'll argue all day about where it was, but Maggs Howe was the Gilpin family's headquarters. The Forge was also there, known as the Old Forge now and Dewy Baldwin lives there. I never remember it working, but I certainly do remember it with all the equipment in place. High Bridge Farm was farmed by Mr Birkett and Mr Birkett was never married and he used to be something of a power in the valley and old Mr Hayton, G Hayton, that's Gerard's grandfather, used to get very cross because he said, "Folk in this valley call me Old G and they call him Mr Birkett, and I's married and he's not." However they were never short of children at High Fold and in fact the vet was there one day and the kids were playing in the yard and the vet - just for something to say I suppose - said, "Are they your children, Mr Birkett?" "Oh No, no, no, no, they're the housekeeper's."

Well, we'll have to let it go there and say why I live in Kentmere - well, to be born in Westmorland and to be Westmerian is something worthwhile but to have been born and lived in Kentmere is beyond rubies.

John Williams

The Window and the Stamp

Already on my desk when I first arrived as Vicar of Staveley, Ings and Kentmere in May 1994 was a letter from the William Morris Society. It was a request for an international coach party of members to view the East window of St. James's Church, Staveley, during a Lake District tour the following September. From the outset I gathered that the window had a certain importance beyond the local church and community. It was apparent on the night of my induction that the window was a thing of beauty, viewed not only from the inside of the church, but also from the outside after dark with the church lights shining through.



I remembered a sermon I had preached as a curate years before, based on a poster which read, *People are like stained-glass windows. They show their true beauty when the light shines from within.*

I knew nothing of the history of the window and it seemed that people I spoke to locally knew little of its significance other than that it had William Morris connections. An American website set up by a former Cumbrian, Neil Ralley, now living in New York State had photographs of all the William Morris windows in Cumbrian churches including Staveley, but gave little information as to their history. We invited the stained glass adviser for the Diocese of Carlisle to come and tell us about the significance of the window during a Sunday service and he told us that, in his opinion, we had the second best example of William Morris stained glass in Cumbria. The best example was to be found in Brampton Parish Church, but since he was a former Vicar of Brampton we were not totally convinced of his impartiality.

He did, however, provide me with a copy of the entry in A C Sewter's *The Stained Glass of William Morris and His Circle* (Yale University Press 1974 - ISBN 978-0300018363) which gives the date of entry in the Morris Catalogue of Designs as April 1881. Sewter lists the various elements of the window, identifying the central light as containing two designs by Edward Burne-Jones – Christ on the Cross with the Ascension above. The *Flying Angels* in the surrounding lights were all Morris designs. A tablet on the windowsill of the right-hand light with details of the dedication of the window is described by Sewter as follows; Wooden tablet insert: *to the glory of god in memory of daniel harrison of this parish who entered in rest February 25th anno domini 1878 aged 41*. The tablet is in fact of brass and the year is most certainly 1878. It too is a William Morris design, matching the lettering in the window itself.

The Harrison family lived at The Abbey although Daniel's widow, Frances Anne, and family appear to have moved out soon after his death since around 1880 Edward Johnson, the heir of RW Buckley, benefactor of church and community in Staveley,

made The Abbey his main residence. Buckley owned The Abbey but had a residence built at Browfoot so presumably The Abbey was let to the Harrison family. It is possible that Harrison, an Attorney at Law, acted for Buckley. They were obviously a family of means. Not only was the window given in memory of Daniel, but at a later date, the choir stalls in the chancel of St. James's were given in memory of Frances Anne, who died 4th July 1913. A brass tablet in memory of their son, Oliver Ormerod Harrison who died December 8th 1908 is affixed to the wall of the nave close to the lectern.

The central panel of the window depicting the crucifixion uses an existing Burne-Jones design from Jesus Church, Troutbeck, dating from 1872. The link seems to have been J S Crowther, the Alderley architect who designed Manchester Cathedral. He was active in the Kendal/Windermere area in from the 1850s and was responsible for "modernising" Kendal Parish Church. At the time Staveley formed part of the Parish of Holy Trinity Kendal with the local Anglican minister as a curate of that parish. When a new church for Staveley was mooted to replace St. Margaret's along with newly granted status of parish in its own right, the former curate, now Vicar, of Staveley, William Chaplin, employed Crowther to design St. James's. It was built in 1865, the same year that Crowther designed Holehird. In the early 1870s Crowther undertook improvements to Jesus Church, Troutbeck, and the East Window there was commissioned as part of the scheme. Perhaps Chaplin thought that what was good for Jesus Church was good for St. James's and when the opportunity came Morris & Co were commissioned to provide the new East Window here.

The window might have remained known only to those in the locality and admirers of Morris designs and the Arts and Crafts Movement. Then in 2003 the British Museum produced a children's "Stained Glass Colouring Book" (ISBN: 9780714130170). They asked permission to use a panel of the St. James's East Window as one of the designs. In addition to a number of paper pages, the book has two translucent acetate pages and an outline of the *Flying Angel with Mandolin* appears on one of these. It should be noted that the angel in question is in fact holding a mediaeval bowed instrument called a rebec.

In January 2009 I received a telephone call from Andrew Ross, commissioned to design the 2009 Christmas stamps for Royal Mail. His brief was Nineteenth Century Stained Glass and he had searched the web for possible designs and come across our window. He might like to use the same *Flying Angel with Mandolin* as one of the designs and would it be possible to send a photographer to the church? The call was quickly followed up by a telephone conversation with the photographer. Andrew confirmed his intention to proceed with the design for the second class Christmas stamp, with large and small versions. We were asked to keep the news secret until the release date of 3 November. Although we hinted to the William Morris Society that they might listen out later in the year for news concerning the window, we otherwise did our very best to keep our excitement in check. Others, however, had access to the information for in August an East Anglian Philatelic website displayed images of all the Christmas stamps.

As the release day approached, we indicated that Staveley Post Office might like to order more second class Christmas stamps than usual and Royal Mail sent Wendy Goss, their External Relations Manager North, from Salford complete with photographer to take the advance publicity shots and agree the press release. Once the information was released, my phone was busy with requests for interview from Radio Cumbria, BBC North West, Border Lookaround and the Church Times! The Westmorland Gazette carried the story on the front page and we hosted a successful Open Day in St. James's with assistance from the History Society on 21st November, two days after the floods hit Cumbria, including Staveley and Burneside. As a result of the Open Day Geoff Ducker produced a DVD which is presently selling steadily in local outlets including the church. The number of visitors over the winter months has increased in spite of the weather conditions and we look forward to seeing how far the window's new found fame attracts visitors to St. James's and to Staveley over the coming months. The *Flying Angel with Rebec* has become yet another feature of a unique village - its guardian angel, perhaps?

Geoff Watson

The Tie Pin

In issue 17 of the *Journal* we referred to the gold tie-pin presented to Edward Shepherd of Staveley by Robert Baden Powell. We have now received a copy of the note which Edward's wife Bertha wrote to their grandson Edward when he first joined the Scouts. The note reads:

Take care of this tie-pin; its solid gold. Grandad wants you to have it. Baden Powell gave it to Grandad. He used to guide him around the Lake District when he came up there. Grandad was a boy then and he used to call for Grandad and they would climb the mountain and go all over to see the lakes; that's where Grandad was born and lived until he met me. Baden Powell liked Grandad; he was with him a lot. That was before he started the Scouts.

You can almost picture Baden-Powell striding up to the door of The Old Vicarage on Main Street to call for young Edward Shepherd to be his guide. Was young Edward a role model for the Scouts? It is probable that Edward was a member of the Boys Brigade which had a thriving section in Staveley – possibly he was one of the leaders. It is well known that Baden Powell chose boys from the Brigade in the south of England to go on his inaugural Scout camp at Brownsea in 1908.

In the Boys' Brigade Gazette of 1 June 1904 Baden Powell wrote: *Something, I think, also could be done towards developing the Boy's mind by increasing his powers of observation, and teaching him to notice details. I believe that if some form of scout training could be devised in the Brigade it would be very popular, and could do a great amount of good.*



BP had a number of connections with our area; he was friendly with William Wakefield, one of the founders of the YMCA, and also with James Mortimer Sladen of Windermere, who became one of the first Scout Commissioners and founder of the pioneer Sea Scout troop in Windermere. It is probable that BP visited Staveley during one of his trips.

Cumbria County History Trust

A trust has now been set up to progress the Victoria County History of Cumbria (see Chairman's Report) and the inaugural meeting will be held at The Rheged Centre on 15th May at 10am. The Trust is looking for both members (contributing financially) and volunteers. If you are interested do go along to this meeting to find out more.

Financial Accounts for the year 2009

For the benefit of members unable to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting the following paragraphs highlight the main aspects of the Income and Expenditure Accounts and Year-end Balances for the 12 months ended 31st December 2009. The detailed accounts were presented at the meeting on 13th April 2010.

As in previous years the chief source of income is membership subscriptions at almost £1000. Other income arises from sales of the Society's LVTT Book and DVD (a much reduced figure than in 2008); sales of Staveley Walks Books (edited by John Berry) and donations towards the cost of erecting the James Tyson memorial in St. James's Church. Last year's bank interest was some £140. In 2009 - in common with all investments - this only reached £11. Overall income in 2009 was some £500+ less than in the previous year.

Expenditure in the year is some £80 less than the income total. Fees/Expenses to speakers showed a small reduction whilst the cost of hiring the school hall for our meetings increased by 15%. Sundry expenditure such as Postage/Telephone; Photocopying/Stationery; Printing the Society's Journal were broadly in line with the previous year. A major expense was the £650+ cost of erecting the Tyson memorial in St. James's Church (this cost was almost met by donations). During the year the Society gave donations towards the cost of the Staveley Woodland Walks Leaflet and the Bobbin Feature in the Staveley Sensory Garden (in total £100).

Balances at 31st December 2009 in both current and deposit accounts with Alliance Leicester Bank show the healthy state of the Society's finances. Copies of the detailed accounts are available to members on request to the Treasurer.

Thanks are due to Mr. Arthur Lloyd who has checked the recorded entries and found the Society's books to be in order.

David Hooson (Hon. Treasurer)