

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2013

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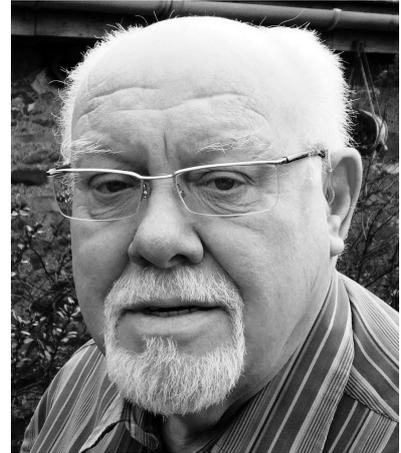
The views expressed in articles in this Journal are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

Cover photo: Cricket team at Beck Nook. View to Long Close, Methodist Chapel c1900

The next issue of the *Journal* (No 28, the Summer issue) will be published about the 12th August 2013. All contributions (letters, articles, etc.) are welcome at any time but should be with the Editor no later than early July.

From the Chair

The annual meeting brings us to the end of yet another hugely successful year. Within the society it has been a time of considerable change starting with a new General Secretary and a new Treasurer, Peter Lansberry and Roger Collinge respectively. At the same time John Hiley took over the editorship of the Journal and it is a mark of their combined diligence and enthusiasm – not to forget expertise – that the changes have seemed almost seamless and the society goes on from strength to strength. The committee includes Margaret Beck, John Berry, Don Morris and Mike Houston and during the year Jemma Metcalfe-Gibson joined them. They do a wonderful job.

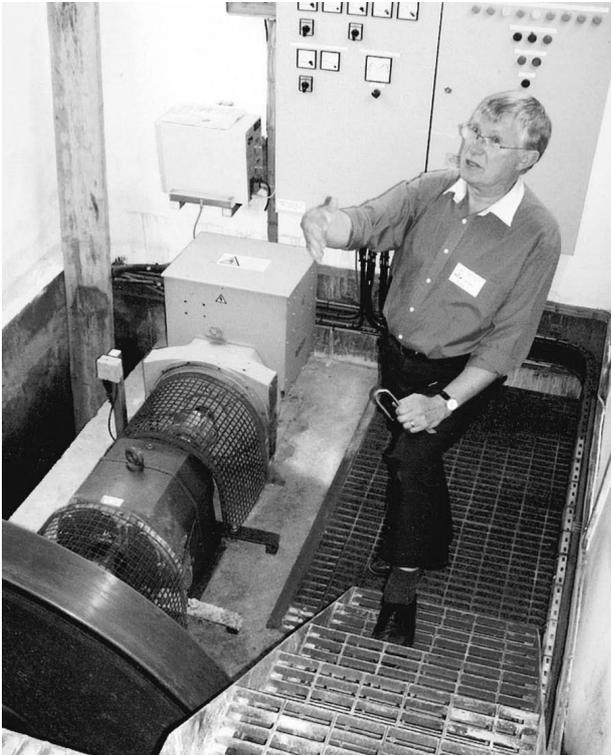


The meetings are congenial occasions but the business is always conducted in an enthusiastic manner with everyone contributing to the success of the enterprise. Don was responsible for putting together another interesting programme with a wide variety of topics and the summer walks attracted an increasing number of followers. That interest was also taken up by the pupils of Staveley Primary School and last summer saw a magnificent range of work contributed by them. The exhibition of their work at the first meeting last October brought many favourable comments on the quality of work from the young people. The standard was extremely high and the different ways in which the projects were presented was a real eye-opener for many people. As you will see on the back cover of this journal the varied programme for the coming year is again full of interest.

Another change came from the decision not to continue to hold a library. The books in the collection were offered to members and some were offered to the Local Studies collection and a few were sold. The decision was made because it seems that without a reference room or easy access to the material, the works were underused and merely to retain and store them was unproductive. The archived material we still have, including many hundreds of photographs and lots of exhibition materials, are stored in an office in the Mill Yard and are easily accessible. However the tenure of that office is in some doubt and we may need to seek a new storage space. Please keep a lookout and let me know if you can think of anywhere that might be a suitable alternative.

The really big change to affect the society will be the enormous gap which will be left by John Berry when he moves away from Staveley later this year. John has been the engine which has driven this society for a very long time. When Joe Scott died, John took over all of his records and has been working assiduously to make them accessible to a much wider audience. Other collections have since been added. This has been a tremendous challenge but now all of the society's vast collection of photographs have been digitised and by the time this journal is published they will be available on our website for all to see. The website is another of John's successes and

it has developed over the last few years into a valuable reference medium which draws in enquiries from all over world. He has also been contacted by several local people with interesting artefacts and records which he has sorted and catalogued and ensured that they are appropriately stored either with the society or more often with



John Berry explaining the workings of the wood mill turbine

the County Records Office. Furthermore he has been pivotal in the organisation of some splendid exhibitions both in the Roundhouse and in the Hawkshead Brewery and he has even found time to undertake his own research including a paper on the coming of the railway and another on the history of the Eagle and Child. These are just some of the activities which John has undertaken during his membership. There are many more and the list of his work seems almost endless. His contribution to has been immense. Staveley and District History Society will forever be in his debt and he will be sorely missed but we wish him and Gill well as they move away. We are fortunate that Zoe Atkinson has agreed to continue to manage the photographic records and add in new ones as they come to hand and John Hiley, with Don Morris, has agreed to assume responsibility for the website keeping it live

and interesting and updated on a month by month basis.

Where can you help? Well, we are always looking for new committee members, we are always seeking new ideas and we are always looking for new evidence of our local history. In her article in the last journal Jemma Metcalfe-Gibson urged us all to keep our eyes open and to record history as it happens along with uncovering what has gone on before. There is always a lot to be done and we always have a great deal to learn. Please keep your eyes and ears and cameras at the ready. Keep up the good work and let us ensure that during the next year the society continues to grow and prosper.

Iain Johnston

The Biggham Family in Staveley

My paternal Great Great Grandmother, Mary Biggham, came down from Kirkcudbright, Scotland, sometime after 1859, following the death of her husband William (a farm bailiff) who had died from consumption. The 1861 Census records Mary and four of her children living in Back Lane, Over Staveley. I presume the reason for the family settling in Staveley was for the employment of the sons, James

and Robert. It seems that mother Mary was pregnant at the time of the census (Father unknown). Ann was born in Staveley on 25th July 1861. Another daughter, Euphemia, did not appear on the 1861 census but her death is recorded in 1863, having died of consumption. She is buried in St Margaret's Churchyard.

In 1868, mother Mary was appointed nurse at Milnthorpe Workhouse. Her salary was £18 per annum but

when, in 1872, she became head nurse, her salary was increased to £21. The extract shown here is taken from the poor law records. Note that by this time the name had changed from Biggham to Bingham. Mary resigned from the Workhouse in 1874.

The Guardians proceeded to the Election of a Nurse for the Milnthorpe Workhouse in the room of Margaret Nelson resigned. Applications from 5 Candidates were received viz. Margaret Ann Mackerech. Beathwaite Green. Rachel Syne. Kendal. Jane Metcalf. Bent. Mary Halliwell. Milnthorpe. & Mary Bingham Staveley. Mr G. S. Brattwaite proposed Mrs James Thompson seconded the Election of Rachel Syne. Mr John Hoome proposed Mrs Geo. Morton, seconded the Election of Mary Bingham. The other Candidates were not proposed. On a show of hands there appeared for Rachel Syne 5 for Mary Bingham 10. The Chairman declared Mary Bingham duly elected on the same terms as Margaret Nelson now holds the office subject to the approval of the Poor Law Board she to commence her duties on the 14th inst.



In 1870 Robert Bingham, (my Great Grandfather), Mary's second son, married Isabella Swidenbank, Granddaughter of John Swidenbank and cousin of Anthony Swidenbank who were both tailors and, in 1861, living just a few doors away from the Bigghams in Staveley. By 1871 none of the Bingham family were in Staveley and the whereabouts of James, the eldest son, was unknown. Mary, the eldest daughter, was in service in Lancaster and Ann was living with her brother Robert and family at Oakbank Burneside. William the youngest son was recorded as a student on board a smack in Whitehaven harbour.

Robert continued working as a bobbin turner at Staveley, then Oak Bank and probably at Fellfoot mills. In 1879 he started work at Croppers paper mill, first as a labourer and then as a fireman in the boiler house. He remained in this occupation until the end of his working life. His wife Isabella died of consumption in 1897, age 52yrs. Robert died in 1917. They had eight children. The photograph above, c1890, shows Robert and Isabella and six of their children.





In 1873 William and his Sister Mary sailed from Liverpool to Boston. Mary, shown previously, married a Scotsman James Thom in Maine and they had five children. They later moved to New York and were proprietors of an amusement park and owners of a Ferris wheel. There are descendants still living in the USA. William settled in Boston and married Ellen Byron an American and they had six children. It seems there are no descendants. Mother Mary and daughter Ann followed William and Mary to America sometime between 1874 and 1877. Mother Mary married a plantation Farmer Hiram Carter in Maine in 1877 she died in 1891 at Waterville age 64, and is buried in the cemetery at Hallowell Maine. There are no records of what

happened to Ann, only that in 1880 she was living with her sister Mary and family in Maine. Where James the eldest son went to remains a mystery.

David Bingham

Staveley's Water Supply

Some of our members were fortunate enough to attend the talk last November on the Thirlmere scheme. In it we heard how Manchester had given up using river water in the 1830s in favour of wells and boreholes, as the rivers became more polluted by industrial waste. By 1880 pollution had seeped into the wells and boreholes, and a clean supply of fresh water was urgently needed. This gave rise to the Act authorising construction of the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

In Staveley, a similar situation existed, though delayed by several years as Staveley's industries were both smaller and developed later. Staveley moved to wells and boreholes about 1870 (see Occasional Paper 8) and it was well into the 1920s when pollution finally made a clean supply necessary. A report to the South Westmorland Rural District Council dated March 1926 gives some interesting statistics. In the three Staveley Parishes (now Staveley with Ings) there were 322 inhabited houses which, when compared with the population, gave 4.3 persons per house. The report also lists the chief industries of Staveley as:

- (a) Scroggs Woollen Mill, on the river Kent, employing 10 hands.*
- (b) Kentmere Mills (printers, cardboard box manufacturers etc.) on the river Kent, employing 40 to 50 hands.*
- (c) Chadwicks Bobbin Mill (Cotton reels) on the river Kent, employing 20 to 30 hands.*
- (d) Gatefoot Mill (door knobs etc) on the river Gowan, employing from 10 to 15 hands.*
- (e) Rawes Mill, not now in use.*
- (f) Reston Mill, on the river Gowan, not working at present.*
- (g) Barley Bridge Corn Mill on the river Kent, employing about 3 hands.*

The total number of persons employed in the above mills is therefore between 80 and 110. In the summer an appreciable number of visitors stay at Staveley and when a water supply is installed, it seems pretty certain that the number will be increased.

The next section of the report deals with the shortcomings of the existing supplies. The tap at the bottom of the Banks (Gypsy Well) is said to be *of doubtful quality and liable to pollution. In summer the supply dwindles to a dribble and the inhabitants often have to wait several minutes for a bucketful.* Other supplies are said to be simply *impure water.* An interesting table then follows, giving the distances that residents of each street had to carry water, ranging from 21 yards to 156 yards. This was only from those within the village who used the existing pumps. For the others it simply states *at a few outlying houses the only water supply is from the river, into which the sewage discharges. The water in the well near the Station is bad, and Abbey Bridge water is also impure. The Vicarage is one of the few pure supplies, but even this supply runs short in a dry summer. The same remark applies to Danes Row, the supply being very limited, while in addition the water will only supply taps on the ground floor and will not rise to the bedrooms. Practically all the wells are shallow, in some cases they are in the vicinity of privies and ashpits, and, as the subsoil is*



The Millrigg installation with the stream flowing down to the left from the old workings

largely gravel, the risk of pollution is undoubted. Analyses prove in many cases the water is bacterially impure, which is no more than might have been expected.

After a set of calculations, based on population and consumption at 15 gallons per head, and 300 gallons for each of the (then) 10 farms a

total consumption of 21,000 gallons per day is arrived at. The new scheme is then outlined: *Briefly the scheme consists of obtaining water from the tunnel or adit of the old lead mine near Philipson's Wood, where a portion of the water would be diverted into an intake tank adjoining. From here it will gravitate along the road in a southerly direction to a reservoir at Sunny Bank, and from this latter point, a watermain will be laid direct into Staveley Village.*

The volume of water flowing from the old lead mine was measured at 258,000 gallons per day and from verbal advice given by the Forester and Gamekeeper of the Fell, it was stated that the flow of water did not vary greatly either summer or winter. The proposal was to erect a new supply tank at Millrigg. *The site of this tank is*

about 300 yards N.N.E. of Low Millrigg, and 400 yards east of Sawmill Cottage. This tank will be about 12 ft. long by 5½ ft wide provided with a sump to intercept sand, a fine meshed screen and a notched wire so that the flow can be gauged when required. This tank will be built of concrete and provided with the usual inlet, outlet, overflow and washout pipes and valves. The T.W.L. is 532 ft. elevation. The area of land required is 1000 sq. yards (150 ft. by 60 ft.)

From the Millrigg tank a 3-inch cast iron pipe, capacity of 33,000 gallons per day, was to run at a hydraulic gradient of 1 to 325 to a reservoir at Sunnybank, about 300 yards north of the south end of the Ravenscar plantation. The Sunnybank reservoir is described as being about 31' by 31' by 10' deep, with a capacity of 60,000 gallons and a T.W.L. of 495 ft. elevation. (It) will be constructed of mass concrete walls and floor, and ferro-concrete roof, and provided with the usual inlet, outlet, overflow and washout pipes and valves. The area of the land required for this reservoir is 625 sq. yards (75' by 75')



The Sunnybank covered reservoir with the modern water treatment plant behind.

The report describes the distribution pipework - All the water mains will be of cast iron, with lead and yarn joints, laid 3 ft. deep so that they will not be affected by frost or heavy traffic. A 5" pipe will be laid from the service

reservoir to the Brow and thence 4" to Abbey Home. 3" diameter branches will be laid (a) from Abbey Home along the Windermere Road to High Reston (b) a short branch from the east end of Danes Row, past the Vicarage to the Kentmere Road (c) from Abbey Bridge, past the Railway Station, to Common Head House (d) 4" from Abbey Home, along the Kendal Road to Gowan Bridge and thence 3" to Sandyhill Farm (e) from the Railway Station to Gowan Bridge. This is then followed by some calculations on 'loss of head' including one for the use of the fire hydrant at the Abbey Home.

The total cost of the scheme was estimated at £7,700 including pipe easements, engineering, clerk of works, loan and legal charges. This might seem a bargain today, but with inflation you could probably add a couple of noughts to that figure. There then follows a series of calculations as to how the money will be raised by a combination of water rates and 'special expenses rates', pointing out that should the scheme manage to obtain 'Grant-in Aid' the 'special expenses rate' would be nil. The most obvious question is then answered – what about lead in the water? A

sample of water from this old lead mine adit has been analyzed and is most satisfactory, the analyst pronouncing it 'a good water for all domestic purposes' A copy of the analysis is appended to the report.

The final paragraph contains a pointer to the future: *As this district is an outskirts of Windermere and building developments are taking place, we do not doubt but that immediately the scheme has been completed a further increase in the number of new buildings will take place.* How right they were. The number of houses has more than doubled since 1926, though the population has remained fairly constant. We certainly do not have an average of 4.3 persons per house today!

John Berry

Cultivation of Lands Order, 1939

Paperwork from the war years doesn't often surface, but some letters recently deposited with the Society shed light on a little known part of the farming community's war contribution. The letters start with the preamble regarding the powers given to the *Westmorland War Agricultural Executive Committee* under *Regulation 62 of the Defence Regulations* and finishes with the warning *Failure to comply with this direction or any part thereof is an offence under the Defence regulations.*

We have three letters from local farms; Mr Wilson at Scroggs Bridge is told to put some 2½ acres under cultivation, mainly oats but some potatoes. Mr Blenkarn at Raw Ghyll is requested to put some 7¾ acres to the plough; again mostly oats. Mr Taylor at Sunny Brow has to cultivate 7½ acres of which 1 acre should be potatoes, the remainder oats. The letters are dated 1st January 1942 and give little time to get started; the warning in the preamble is followed by precise instructions: *Lea ploughing to be completed by 28th February 1942 and thereafter sufficiently cultivated and sown in due season for the specified crops for harvest in 1942. All other ploughing scheduled to be completed in time to permit of efficient cultivation and the sowing in due season of the specified crops for harvest in 1942. Invoices for any lime or fertilisers scheduled must be sent to the Committee for examination.* The fields around Staveley must have looked very different in 1942!

John Berry

Our Web Site

It is now 18 months since our new web site was launched. Although at first glance it looks much as it did in 2011 there have been a number of subtle improvements and enhancements behind the scenes. The Journal section now includes an index, both by author and title, so that you can quickly retrieve any article from a past issue – as well as downloading the issue if you haven't seen it. Just click on the last column giving

the issue number and page and the article will appear. The section which used to carry our library listing has now been removed, and replaced with one called Census, which allows downloading of the census listings for 1841 to 1901 previously available on CD. In this same section are included the Corn Rent listings and maps – all downloadable.

The main files from our photographic collection are also now all included, giving access to over a thousand photographs. Many photos in our collection do not have a provenance, so to avoid any copyright problems they are only shown at credit card size on the web site. Hovering over or ‘clicking’ on a photo will give a number which identifies the photo in our collection and in the associated index. Any member wishing to have a printable copy should contact the General Secretary who will advise as to any possible copyright issues and supply a full size image. There is not normally a problem with copyright on images used for personal research, only if publication is involved.

As I am standing down at this year’s AGM the web site will in future be looked after by the ‘Ings duo’ of John Hiley and Don Morris. Contact them if you have any comments about the site.

John Berry

Tales from the Tapes: A conversation about life in Ings – Part 5

Transcript of SDHS meeting held in Ings Parish Hall on 16th January 2001 chaired by Joe Scott (JS). The panel: Dorothy Buckley (DB), John Redmayne (JR), Denis Sowerby (DS) and Dorothy Whitwell (DW). Questions came from the ‘floor’ (Q) and the chairman. We resume with memories of farms, housework and leisure activities.

JS: There must have been a lot more people employed on the farms in those days?

LH: Of course there were.

JS: There’s very few nowadays - how many farms are there now in Ings?

JR: Actual farms - 12, 13 is there, farms around here now?

DS: I reckoned up there was about 10 compared with 25.

JR: Well, I had a few more than 25 and all

JS: A lot are now worked by one man and contract labour - that sort of thing?

DS: Yes. It was often a couple and one of their, perhaps a teenage child.



Nellie Unsworth delivering milk in 1930

Q: Did you have beef cattle as well, and .. where did you take them to be slaughtered?

JR: Just up the road at one time — the white house, just there on the corner. It was still a Slaughterhouse.

DS: Creightons, and Richardsons

JS: Fred, wasn't your father a butcher?

Fred: My brother, no his father. A butcher and a farmer from about 1938 or something like that, before that he was just a butcher.

JS: Was that down at Reston?

Fred: At Reston, yes. He had his own slaughterhouse there.

JS: Now we've talked about farming and we've talked about the school. What about domestic matters, what was the houses . I mean there was no electricity for instance. Dorothy what was it like inside?

DW Hard work. They were all flagged floors and paraffin lamps; cooking with a fireside range.

JS: No washing machine?

DW: Oh no,

JS: When did you get electricity?

DW: It was 1955 when we got it at High House? Early '60s the other side of the road.

JR: I'd never switched electric light on till I came back to Gowan Bank...1962 like.

Q When did you get water from the tap?

JR When we came back to Gowan Bank really, in my case.

DW I was still at school, but it was carry it!

DS: This building got water in the tap in 1933. When the mains water first came through here.

JS: If any farms had it at that time it would be their private supply wouldn't it. Yes Staveley water supply was about 1924 wasn't it?

DS. There were pumps before that, and there'd be pumps and wells around here.

Q: What about mains sewerage ? Would that be the same time?

Q: Well there weren't any bathrooms.

JS Do you have mains sewage now?

ALL: No. Not round here there isn't any mains sewerage, is there? It would be a privy at the bottom of the garden.

DS: That was the last job for the farm man to do when he was leaving the farm wasn't it?

DW: Digging it out - yes. Putting it on the muck heap - yes.

JS: It was hard work. Dorothy, was it hard work inside the house.

DB Yes, we had electricity, I think electricity came about 1934 to our little house, as far as I know. It was 110 voltage wasn't it, from Troutbeck Bridge? It was small because your father put the plugs in and they were 2 amp.

WB He put the lights in in Ings church about that time.

DB But we only had the 2 amp plugs in that house, so we had an oil cooker. We bought a new oil cooker, which had three chimneys. Does anybody remember that.. an oil container at the side and three chimneys and an oven that you put over the chimney. I don't think I used that oven very much, but we used that until we could get bigger plugs and I think Bill's father came and put us 3 amp plugs and then I suppose we bought an electric cooker. But I can't remember the date.

WB: That was after the war?

DB: It was after the war because I wasn't here till after the war. It was 1949 when we came to live here, we got electric in after that, we had the Tilley lamps and the stoves and that.

Q: Well I was in digs in 1949 and there were just oil lamps and that was on Station Road at Staveley. So it wasn't universal by any means, you know.

DB: The houses then were lit by gas, weren't they, quite a lot?

JS: It must have been hard work, things like washing and washday must have been a difficult time, Or if you got kids with nappies, none of your disposables. Did women, housewives, farmers' wives, or whatever, get any help in the house? Were there paid servants in any of the Ings houses.

JR: A lot of the better off ones had, hadn't they, like? Well, we didn't. Such as Audrey? Ellis's, when they were at Gowan Bank, they did. And a few more like.

Q: Did you ever go away on holiday and where did you go to?

JR: Down to Kendal and back, that was about it.

Q: What about entertainment? Did you have time for that?



Staveley Choral Society in 1949 after winning the Henry Leslie Madrigal Shield at the Mary Wakefield Festival

JR: We had the pictures. You had to go to Windermere.

JS: Well there were pictures in Staveley. Dorothy, weren't you the secretary of it?

DB: Oh dear, I ran the cinema, I don't know why - in the Staveley village hall. Mrs Mallinson was the caretaker and she used to show people to their seats and seats were - what - tenpence and a shilling.

DS: That would be in the fifties.

DB: Yes that was in the fifties, yes the children were small - yes just 1950.

WB: On twice wasn't it?

DB: Yes, Tuesdays and Saturdays.

JS: But you went into Kendal to the pictures or to Windermere in the bus. Or on your bikes.

Q: Presumably there wasn't a village hall in Ings therefore until this school became available.

DS: This school was used as a village hall, if you like, because there was social events, I mean, nothing like as many as there are now, but when we were at school every so often desks and things had to be altered before we left at half past three because there was some sort of an event on in the evening.

V: And you're still at it!

JS: What events were they? Events run by the church, were they?

DS: Yes, or by the local social committee. There was a social committee. It was called the Entertainments Committee which we still have. Whist drives, occasional dances, Beetle drives?

V: I met Fred at a dance here. In this school? Yes. He just came back from Ruddington from the Air Force and I came up from Staveley to a dance, and that's how we met.

Fred: I walked in through that door there, and I had a look round and I thought that one'll do. Its a long time ago.

JS: It sounds like a lively place, lots of things going on.

DW: That was 1945 er 1946 when you came back from Ruddington?

Fred: About '45

JS: You were saying Denis, there wasn't so much activity as there is nowadays.

DS: Oh no, of course nowadays we've people come from all over the place, but there wasn't transport, consequently the people who attended these things were nearly all local but Ings has, all my life, always depended on Staveley. We couldn't function without the goodwill of the Staveley people.

JS: That's very diplomatic.

To be continued