

# Staveley & District History Society

## Journal Winter 2018-19

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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: A group of shale spindlewhorls discovered during the Bryant's Gill excavation*

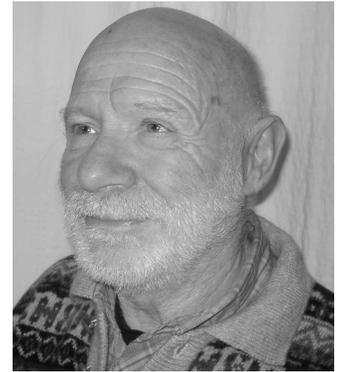
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The next issue of the *Journal* (No 45, the Spring 2019 issue) will be published about the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. All contributions (letters, articles, etc.) are welcome at any time but should be with the Editor by early March.

## Essential Lynchpins: from the former Events Secretary.

The Society moved its monthly meetings from Staveley to Ings at the beginning of this season. We were delighted that over fifty members and non-members attended our first talk given by Steve Dickinson. It was also gratifying that several people stayed behind afterwards to enjoy tea and biscuits and were able to question Steve at leisure.



There is however much more work to be done to ensure the continuing survival of the Society, and we owe it to the memory of our founder Joe Scott to see that this happens. The title at the start of this article is taken from a foreword in the Spring edition of *The Local History News* by its editor Alan Crosby,<sup>1</sup> and it makes salutary reading. The reasons for our move were manifold but possibly the main one, but with a few notable exceptions, was that although the good folk of Staveley, Ings and Kentmere were happy to attend the meetings, few were willing to help with the running of the Society. That may seem a harsh sentence but nevertheless I believe it to be true. Our Society does not run itself, there is a lot of work that goes on to ensure the Lecture programme runs smoothly and that there is a Journal three times a year. Currently an inordinate amount of this work falls on the shoulders of our present Chairman and this is not acceptable.

The article I allude to above mentions two local history societies in Lancashire that have recently disbanded, and one of these is Blackburn Local History Society in a town of 100,000. Some of the reasons are common to all societies including expensive room hire, high cost of speakers and unsustainable attendance levels. Apparently it does not have to be a one way trip towards oblivion. The local history society in Preston started in 1948 and in 1998 was virtually moribund. Today it has a regular attendance of 150 and the meetings have moved to a parish church. Which way do you want our society to travel? I am closing with the last paragraph of the Crosby article:

*“So much depends on the individuals. In the case of Preston Historical Society it’s dedicated and endlessly enthusiastic AV, PA, and PR man, Paul Swarbrick, died suddenly just before Christmas. A source of inspiration to many, someone who was a master of the media and a really practical organiser, as well as being passionate about the history of his home town, he is sorely missed. Time and again, when arranging to give talks to societies, and of course when visiting them, I’m dealing with the same familiar people, seeing the same familiar faces. Of course, that’s one of the pleasures - it’s great in many ways - but I do fear for the future of some other societies.....the ones where the same person is simultaneously the programme organiser, the secretary and the chair, or when I say ‘Hello, are you still doing that’ and the reply comes ‘Yes, I am, I’ve been trying to hand it over for years but nobody’s come forward’.”* (<sup>1</sup>Local History News, 2018 Number 127, p4.)

Don Morris

## The Kentmere Archaeological Project

From 1981 to 1990, many local people will recall that a large team of volunteers and professional archaeologists ran a complex survey and research programme in the Kentmere valley. The results from this exciting project are to go online in 2019, enabling everyone across the world to access not only the outcomes from the fieldwork, but to place them in the context of understanding part of the human evolution of the Lake District National Park World Heritage Site.

There are several reasons why this online publication has been so many years in the making. One of these was the sheer scale of the project; which was the first in the Lake District to merge large-scale archaeological excavation (of two sites, at Bryant's Gill in the north-western part of the valley, and a site near Kentmere Hall), with over 21 square kilometres of field survey of the upper Kentmere valley. The physical outcomes of this were impressive: such as thousands of 'small' finds, such as charcoal deposits and medieval pottery, from hundreds of archaeological contexts and features; and hundreds of archaeological sites recorded, most of these for the first time as new discoveries. There have been many other archaeological projects in other parts of the Lake District since, but few have integrated such large-scale, long-term excavation as part of their tool-kits.

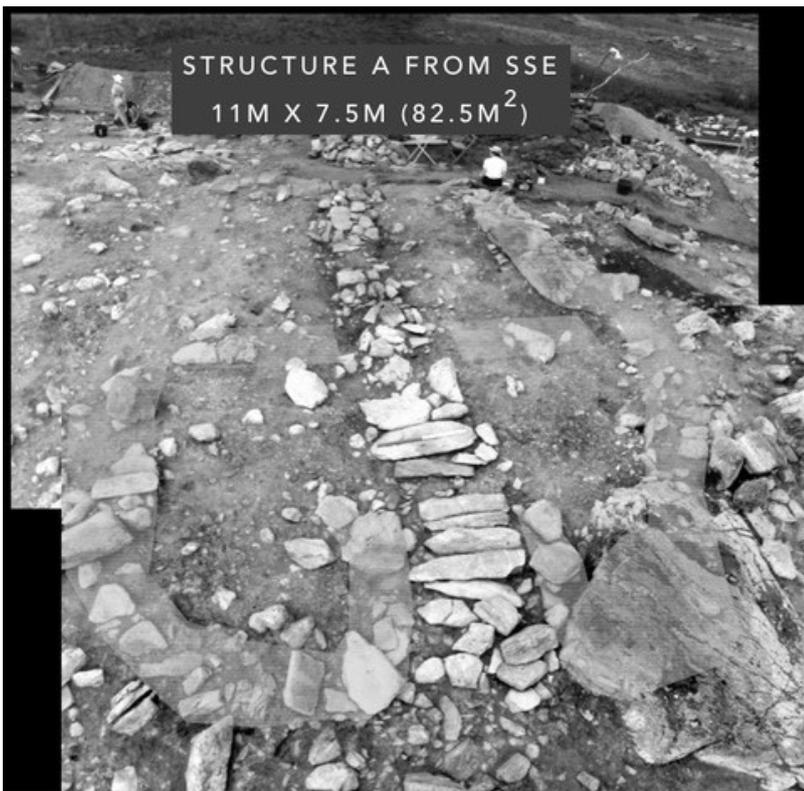
Another reason for the slow delivery of the project report is that it has taken an immense amount of time to do the background research necessary to place the results in their proper national and international contexts. For example, the Bryant's Gill excavation over a period of four years revealed radiocarbon dated evidence for a pre-Viking and Viking period settlement at 290 metres up in a hanging valley below Rainsborrow Crag. This site was surrounded by extensive remains of a relict field system, cairns and other remains. In other parts of the Lake District similar groups of features have usually been assigned to the Bronze Age, which in this area means they would range in date from some 4000 years to around 2400 years ago. Even during the excavation we began to question this; and the post-excavation research programme produced results indicating that we were right to do it. Understanding the evolution of any landscape can't be a simple result of archaeological survey alone. Excavation always reveals a more complex picture; which has to be assessed in relation to what has been excavated and analysed elsewhere.

**Time to step back:** It's timely to recall the state of research into the landscapes of early medieval and medieval Lakeland at the time the Kentmere Archaeological Project (KAP) started. Understanding of Scandinavian settlement; indicated in the Lakes by a plethora of place-names, was dominated by place-name studies that originated in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, receiving a boost from scholars like William G Collingwood, who, besides being Ruskin's secretary, was editor of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and

Archaeological Society for many years; and a keen author of Scandinavian historical novels set in Cumbria.

Despite the occasional find of Scandinavian metalwork from the fells, including two spearheads dredged up from Kentmere's lower lake bed, there didn't seem to be any hard archaeological evidence for that Scandinavian settlement; beyond the Anglo-Scandinavian stone sculpture visible on the fringes of the mountains in places like Gosforth and Lowther. In particular, following the late '40s and '50's of the twentieth century, which saw J R C Hamilton's excavation and key publication of the Scandinavian and earlier settlement complex at Jarlshof in Shetland, there didn't seem to be any 'classic' 'Viking' longhouses in the valleys of the Lakes. These distinctive long buildings, with their series of internal rooms laid out length-ways, and roofs supported, not by the walls, but by internal posts, were and still are considered characteristic of rural domestic settlement in the Scandinavian heartlands.

This lack of Scandinavian longhouses in the Lake District begged some questions about some post AD 1650 farmhouses and other buildings still found in the landscape here that seemed to retain evidence for multiple rooms on a long axis. Architectural historians such as Ronald Brunskill and others described some of these as 'longhouse derivatives'; but were rightly



Bryant's Gill Structure A longhouse  
(wall footings reconstructed at ground level)

circumspect about their origins. Others sought Viking influence in the introduction of Herdwicks and their sheep ear (lug) markings, and other Cumbrian folk customs, such as wrestling and crafts. As over seven hundred years separated these distinctive folk practices, buildings and animals from their suggested origin, a special network of evidence would have to be articulated and demonstrated to verify this.

Clues to the kind of buildings that were erected in the Scandinavian period in the Lakes were also sought in

ruins visible above the fell intake walls. For example, the Lake District historian Bill Rollinson identified some foundations at Blea Moss in Little Langdale as being 'Norse-Irish or early medieval shielings' (a shieling being memorably described in the Oxford English Dictionary as a 'roughly constructed hut for shepherds or sportsmen'); though he did not explain why. Others found indications in Lakeland

place-names like ‘-sætr’ or ‘-skáli’. The former is Old Norse (ON) for a ‘shieling or summer pasture’, (visible in local names like *Satterthwaite*), and the latter is ON for a ‘shieling, summer pasture with a hut’ (though it can, interestingly, also refer to a hall or the main room in a farmhouse). *Scales* names, such as that assigned to the building on the left before you approach Hartrigg Farm on the way up western Kentmere, are common in the Lakes. Skeel Gill, just north of where the KAP team excavated at Bryant’s Gill, is derived from this name.

Collingwood had recognised some of these upland structures in the 1920s in Mardale, and had even got round to digging two of them at Whelter (a name derived from a Gaelic and ON term, again for a shieling and summer pasture). He says little of what was found; possibly because digging such upland sites with spades and picks (typical of the time), would have produced little other than evidence of wall foundations.

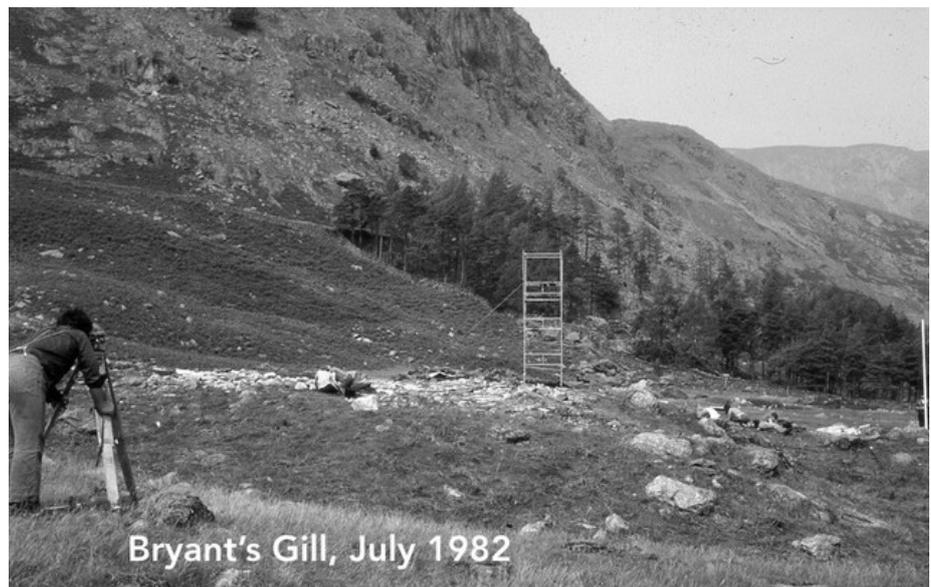
**Bryant’s Gill:** These Mardale explorations were in the days before careful and systematic excavation using modern systems of uncovering and recording sites, and forensically examining and dating finds and features. During the design and early development of the KAP, we were able to concentrate on a systematic research-led approach using the latest in excavation techniques at our first site at Bryant’s Gill. Situated high on platforms overlooking the beck from which it took its name, this site was found as a result of our conducting a series of trial trenches in the summer of 1981.

Three years later, 500 square metres of excavation had uncovered a complex of buildings, walls and paving on the platforms, and artefacts including distinctive spindlewhorls (weights used to draw out skeins of wool for subsequent treatment.) The excavation also produced enough charcoal (this being prior to the days of scientists being able to date single small fragments of this), to give us three radiocarbon dates for the occupation of the site, placing it in the period AD 650-990 once the dates had been calibrated. Most English archaeologists specialising in the early medieval period place the period of Viking activity in Northern England and Ireland between attacks on the monastery at Lindisfarne (AD 793), and early 9th century attacks on Irish monasteries, the mid-ninth century Scandinavian foundation of Dublin, and capture of York in AD 866. So our upland settlement at Bryant’s Gill pre-dates this period (but not by much), and, at its largest extent, when an 11 metre long by 7.5 metre wide longhouse was created there, it falls right into the time of Viking settlement, where ‘Viking’ means, following scholar Stefan Brink, the warrior-led expansionist and initial colonisation and settlement phase of Scandinavian activities.

**Viking upland settlement in Northern England?** We were not alone in trying to identify Viking settlement in the north of England. Alan King’s 1975-6 excavation at Gauber High Pasture, near Ribbleshead in Yorkshire, and Denis Coggins’s, Keith Fairless’s and Colleen Batey’s 1976, 1979 and 1981 work at Simy Folds in Teesdale

had all produced similar evidence for long buildings with gable entrances. Gauber High Pasture had been dated to the late ninth century AD on the basis of coin finds, and Simy Folds to the mid eighth century via radiocarbon analyses. Alan King drew no conclusions as to the origins of the builders of Gauber High Pasture. However, a memorable reconstruction drawing of the site showing a big longhouse, accompanied by a description assigning it to the Vikings, appeared in a major exhibition about Viking York, and this description was repeated in several books in the 1980's. Coggins, Fairless and Batey considered Simy Folds to be 'Anglo-Scandinavian', which, whilst acknowledging their mid eighth century dates (a bit early for Viking influence), hedged their bets as to its sources of inspiration.

However, between 1984 (our last year of excavation at Bryant's Gill), and the early years of the present century, other archaeologists specialising in Viking England began to question whether it was possible to identify Viking settlement in England through archaeology at all. The



debate about this, started by scholars Julian Richards and Dawn Hadley, focused chiefly on aspects of building construction (such as bowed side walls), and distinctive small finds. Hadley concluded that if the local population were to adopt Scandinavian building forms, the settlers and the locals would be 'archaeologically indistinguishable.'

But this, to me, seemed to create a particular issue here in the Lake District, where local immediately pre-Viking period settlement archaeology was either almost non-existent, or confined to small nucleated defensive sites, such as the hill-fort at Castle Crag above Shoulthwaite Gill, north-west of Thirlmere. Here, no gable-entranced building foundations were visible. Instead, such Cumbrian evidence as existed indicated completely different building forms were adopted in the immediately pre-Viking period; usually structures based on one room, with entrances through opposed doorways positioned centrally, not in the gables but in the long walls. Alternatively, small sunken featured buildings, such as those found in excavations at Fremington near Brougham in the Eden Valley, were created.

**Moving on - evidence from elsewhere, and its application to Bryant's Gill:** To address this conundrum, what was needed was, firstly, more archaeological evidence from two sources. Source one - building evidence from indisputable areas of Viking

period settlement; i.e.: settlement that was directly attributable to Viking-Scandinavians, and no other ethnic groups. Source two - evidence of pre-Viking Anglo-Saxon (English) and Irish buildings. These groups of archaeological evidence could then be compared with those from Bryant's Gill.

Secondly, it seemed to me to be important to acknowledge that our understandings of how people in the past created and lived in specific forms of building had moved on from those current at the end of the twentieth century. Differences in form, distinctiveness and status; expressed, for example, through the sheer scale of material and people-power involved in their creation, have become increasingly central to any adequate, thorough attempt to interpret buildings, how they were lived in, and how those who lived in them wanted their identities and more to be expressed through the buildings and what (and where) things happened in and around them. Those who watch programmes like Channel 4's *Grand Designs* can see this in action!

From central western Norway itself, (a core Viking area), survey and excavation in the 1980's (published by the University of Bergen in 1992), in the inner recesses of Sognefjord had produced evidence for upland gable-entranced buildings with aisles, internal posts for roof supports, hearths, paving and artefacts such as spindlewhorls. An example of one such building from Fossdalen had been radiocarbon dated to AD 780-1170 (calibrated). From excavations of the large Viking town at Kaupang in Skiringssal, southern Norway, (founded c. AD 800, abandoned in the mid-10th century AD), came small aisled buildings with central hearths and roof-bearing internal posts. Whilst these did not have clear evidence for the positions of their entrances, the excavators concluded that they were in the gables due to the location of the buildings in relation their plot boundaries.

These Kaupang 'urban' buildings were particularly interesting due to their relationship with so-called 'Type-1' buildings from what excavator Patrick Wallace describes as 'Hiberno-Norse' urban Dublin, (though his 2016 publication summarising the results is titled 'Viking Dublin'!) A series of excavation campaigns from 1961 to 1981 had produced the well-preserved foundation remains of over 200 wooden buildings; over 150 of these from the Wood Quay site group in the city. Dated by coins from the ninth to the early 11th centuries AD, the Type-1s comprised over three quarters of the building total. Usually rectangular in plan, these distinctive buildings also had gable entrances, roof-bearing posts, aisles, central work and access areas, central fireplaces and compartmented corners - most features similar to those from Kaupang.

Using these results, and those from a series of recent small-scale excavations on rural building foundations in upland western Yorkshire conducted by teams under David Johnson, it proved possible to establish a model for how the longhouse at Bryant's Gill evolved, and was lived in. Starting out life as a small rectangular building, similar in form to those from urban Kaupang and Dublin, the building was

transformed, most probably in the ninth century AD, into a twin-roomed, gable-entranced longhouse with side aisles, central paving and posts supporting the roof. Evidence for metal working in the form of iron slag and a hearth bottom was found, along with nearly a hundred kilogrammes of burnt stone that had been cleared from the building and dumped in stages outside its south-east wall. This burnt stone, also found at Jarlshof in Shetland, indicates cooking through dropping heated rock into water or broth in metal or wooden containers (no pottery was found at Bryant's Gill). Along with the spindlewhorls that show wool was being prepared there, the longhouse was divided by a partition to allow sheep, and possibly goats, to be kept in its southern half; away from the 'firehouse' and sleeping areas. Its location, high up above Kentmere under the looming Rainsborrow Crag, with distant views to High Street and the Nan Bield Pass, indicates seasonal rather than permanent occupation, with a superstructure probably of thatch over a wooden frame that was capable of being dismantled, taken away, then brought back for re-use.

Abandoned, for reasons we don't yet know (was it climate change, or a change of policy and practice?) in the mid to late 10th century, this building at Bryant's Gill is, so far, unique in the Lake District; though others, such as the Duddon Valley Local History Group, are still actively seeking them; thus far without success. But is it a *Viking* longhouse? It will be evident, from the brief description I've given above, that there simply don't seem to be any other pre-Viking or Viking period examples in any shape or form similar to that of this Bryant's Gill Viking period dated structure in the Lake District. This means that people came in and created this building in Kentmere with models in mind from elsewhere. I would say that those models were Viking in origin, and that this is, indeed, a Viking building built by Vikings as a statement in what was, to them, a newly colonised landscape. Whether those who lived in it, and used it, were Vikings is another question entirely.

*There's only been space in this article to briefly describe some of the work that was undertaken by the Kentmere Archaeological Project teams and its hundreds of volunteer supporters, including all the local farmers; especially Mr and Mrs Dawson, then of Hartrigg Farm, who literally saved our project when it was hit by a massive winter storm in early 1984. More will be said online in 2019!*

*Steve Dickinson - Director, KAP*

*Further reading:*

**The Viking World:** Editors Stefan Brink and Neil Price. Routledge 2012. A good general recent introduction to the fascinating archaeology and history of the Vikings.

**The Vikings in England: Settlement, Society and Culture** Dawn M. Hadley. Manchester University Press 2006. A statement of the 'minimalist' school of identifiably Viking settlement in England, good on the background to Viking activities in southern and central England though.

**The Vikings And Victorian Lakeland:** The Norse Medievalism Of W.G.Collingwood And His Contemporaries Matthew Townend. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Extra Series No. XXXIV. Titus Wilson, 2009. A good overview of W G Collingwood's influence on studies of the Scandinavian settlement of Cumbria and the Lake District.

## Filming in Staveley – history in the making

Towards the end of the glorious hot summer of 2018 several immaculately presented colourful drawings of rainbows appeared on the outside walls of Staveley school, the former home of our monthly history society meetings. Not long after these rainbows changed and appeared as if they had been there for some considerable time. Enquiries revealed they had been professionally painted and then equally professionally given a ‘distressed’ look in advance of filming by Kudos Production Company and ITV. Considerable national and local media coverage had been given to filming in Windermere and parts of the South Lakes but no specific mention of Staveley. The area had been chosen as the setting for a new six part drama series based on the novels of Paula Daly which have been adapted for sale in fifteen countries. Paula, a freelance physiotherapist, has written several novels based around her Lake District home which she shared with her husband, three children and a whippet called Skippy. Screenwriter Anna Symons has cleverly woven together the novels and adapted them to create a drama series being filmed in the South Lakes and named ‘*Deep Water*’.

The leading role in the series is taken by multi award winning actress Anna Friel playing the part of Lisa Hallisto a disorganised mother of three who juggles her hectic family life with running a business along with two other mothers who all struggle to keep



their heads above water, hence the series title. The mothers all have the connection of the school gates, similar aged children, living in the beauty of the Lake District and are faced with tough choices often with difficult and messy repercussions.

Filming took place in October and has included two Sunday full day sessions around Staveley School and St James’ Church along with several days of filming at a house on Gowan Terrace, in addition to the more widely known filming actually done in Windermere. However although many actors and actresses have been seen coming and going in ‘luxury’ cars I am unsure if Anna Friel herself has been involved in the filming around Staveley. There has certainly been a large film crew around Staveley with lots of cameras, lighting and other equipment and a high number of filming related vehicles parked at the various locations. St James’s was used as the green room and for refreshments on numerous occasions, sometimes as early as 6.30 am!

This filming of ‘*Deep Water*’ is only one of several filming sessions to be done recently in the Lake District which has increasingly become a more popular venue for filming. Cumbria, a rather sparsely populated county with around a third of a million inhabitants, is often overlooked as a filming venue but is becoming increasingly well known and used. The finished series is planned to be shown on television at some date as yet unknown during 2019.

*John Morris*

**Tales from the Tapes:** recorded at Ings Parish Hall 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
James Walling *'Farming in seven decades at Misset'*

My family the Wallings originate from the Lancaster, Carnforth, Silverdale area and there is actually a lane at Silverdale called Wallings Lane. They moved from Silverdale to Bardsea in 1836 and then came to the Lyth Valley sometime, I can't remember when, but the interesting thing was that they came from Ulverston to Lakeside Station by train, I mean the cows and the machinery and everything! Dad and his brother came and they took tenancy of Howe Farm on Whitbarrow down the Lyth Valley. It belonged to the Church of England.

They also eventually managed to take tenancy of Dawson Fold farm which was an adjoining farm so they had two small farms. In 1947 Dad decided to strike out on his own and took tenancy of Misset which at that time was part of a private estate owned by the Joseph Crosthwaite family and his descendants. Misset is 200 acres and its actually one of the larger farms in this area so we are quite fortunate in that. However, it did have one third of it covered in bracken which is up towards High

Borrans and the rest was mainly rough, rocky, hilly ground with one or two reasonable meadows. When he came to Misset he had forty-five head of cattle, that's cows and calves, and he had eighty-two sheep with lambs, a few hens and two horses. The horses were kept in the stable which was at the



entrance, what we called the bottom entrance, the entrance to the farm and actually the original woodwork that held the hayracks is still in there. So that's what he started off with and the total value of 45 head of cattle, 82 sheep and 2 horses was £1537 pounds. The horses, 2 horses, the total value was £130 pounds so horses were quite valuable weren't they.

The buildings were old stone buildings opposite the farm house. There was a very, very tall barn and it had a dust proof floor and I learned later on in life from someone who had worked at High House that it was a barn where local people would hold wedding receptions and dances. And the farm house itself, was how you say, when we arrived there, sort of Victorian style. It has been built onto five times, extended five times into what it is today and the upper floor at one end was a Victorian drawing room with a staircase from the reception room going up and when Willy Taylor lived

there, before we came, his five boys lived in that, sorry, slept in that room, so that's how it started.

The cattle would be cows, heifers and calves and the milking cows would probably be around a dozen or so. They were housed in the fairly new at that time, brick building at the top side of the barn, the top barn and it had been built to conform with tuberculosis tested cattle and even today cattle are tested for TB in this area. It's every four years because we are free of TB. In other areas it's every twelve months so it was a good start to have an approved shippon. We also had the steel barn on the roadside to house hay and straw in and the milk was, the cows were milked each end of the day of course, the milking was...I have to explain...the milking machinery is operated by vacuum. So you need a vacuum pump and there was no electricity, so you had a petrol engine which drove the vacuum pump which sucked the milk from the cow in effect, into buckets. The buckets were then carried down to a building near the end of the house where the milk was passed through a sile. You know what a sile is? No? It's the norwegian word for a sieve, to get all the shit, straw, and whatnot out of the milk. And then it was put into churns and put on a milkstand, the concrete block that you still see round the countryside, where a lorry would come round and pick the the churns up, take it down to the factory which was at Milnthorpe and there it would be processed. Cleaning dairy equipment was a little bit of a problem. We had what was called a steam chest, you had a vertical boiler with a fire underneath and the pipework from the boiler took the steam into a large square container with a big heavy door. And you put all the milking equipment into there, closed the door and the steam sterilized the equipment, no chemicals you see.

The first winter 1947 was that notorious one with a lot of snow wasn't it, we lost 35 out of the 82 sheep, there was not enough for them to eat and Dad cut down branches from the ashtrees so that they could eat the bark off the ashtrees and still up there on that hillside, above Heaning and through there, you can still see these ashtrees with sort of truncated where they've been cut off and then they've bushed out again and I guess that's what was eventually termed fodder ash. So that was a bad start and getting the milk down to the milkstand here at Ings, opposite the Watermill there, was also difficult because I, I can remember clearly, that the Troutbeck road was filled with snow and Dad took the milk down through the fields, down through Alan Park's fields, down out onto the main road near White House, to get to take it down the road to the milkstand and then came back. He did that for a week or ten days, something like that. My Dad can always remember the council workers digging that, the cuts out, digging the snow out in three layers and throwing it down until they got it clear.

We also kept pigs, I can remember that, we kept pigs, we had two pigs, which we slaughtered, periodically. And I can always remember that I was quite good with my arm upto the elbow in blood making black puddings. It was good, black puddings were good - blood and fat and a bit of barley and stuff, and the intestines you know! You washed them first and you poured a tin through a funnel and I found it quite

exciting at the time. I wasn't very big you know! By the way the milk churns were twelve gallon which today would be illegal because they would be too heavy.

All the muck from the cattle was taken out of the buildings by wheelbarrow and fork obviously, the bedding would have been bracken, which would have been cut from the high ground and dried and then stored. The muck was then loaded into the cart, the two wheeled horse cart, and then the poor old horse would walk along the field in a straight line and we had what we called a muck drag which you dragged out a fairly big heap of muck and it dropped on the ground then sometime later, so you had all these little hillocks, and sometime later you'd go along with a fork and spread it on the field. So you see it was quite labour intensive in those days.

Hay was loaded loose, by fork, onto a trailer after it had dried. To get it dry in difficult conditions it was often piled into little heaps on the ground called haycocks which eventually became big heaps on tripods, - three wooden posts held together so that air went up the inside and dried the grass. All this initially was done by horse. Now the first tractor I ever drove was when I was about ten probably, and it was an old Fordson, where you stood on the backend, it did have a seat, but it was better to stand on the backend. It had these big mudguards, and the clutch and the brake were two together, you pushed the lever down, it went down through the clutch to the brake and that's how you stopped it. It was a very simple way and the steering wheel came straight back at you, I learned to drive with someone on the tractor, obviously.

So we, we made progress with the livestock. By 1949 we were up to 69 head of cattle and 90 sheep, with one horse, and some hens. By 1950 we had 100 sheep and one horse - even in 1950 we had a horse. By 1952 the horse had disappeared, the sheep had increased but the cattle had decreased back to 53. And so, all its life the numbers on the farm have changed. As I grew up I was given various jobs, shutting in the hens at night, there was two or three hen-huts and the eggs were sold. I think they went to a packing station actually, someone came and collected them. So, at sundown I had to go round these whether it rained or snowed or whatever it did, except that one evening the fox had beaten me, and there was the hens from one particular hut were all lying dead, all around the hut. You begin to realize how difficult nature can be.

When you are small as well its quite interesting to have a pet lamb, they are nice little things are pet lambs. We still keep pet lambs and the females actually I keep them because they have become like dogs and cats, they know you, and if you set off with a bag of feed on your back the pet sheep follow you and the other sheep follow the pet sheep. So you can move a hundred sheep with no problem whatsoever round roads and through junctions and everything and they'll all follow one another.

*To be continued*