

# Staveley & District History Society

## Journal Summer 2004

---

### CONTENTS

- 2      **From our President**  
*Clare Brockbank introduces the Journal and pays tribute to the late Joe Scott*
- 3      **Ken Hoyle**  
*A short appreciation of the work of our late committee member*
- The Staveley District is just right**  
*Joe Scott gives the raison d'être for the society*
- 4      **The Oral History Group – a brief history**  
*Our acting Chairman, Mike Houston, tells the story of the Oral History Group*
- 5      **100 years ago**  
*An excerpt from the Westmorland Gazette of 1904*
- 6      **Mid 19th Century Staveley**  
*The first excerpt from the files of the late J.C. Robinson*
- 7      **Jack's Toffee**  
*A vernacular story with translation from JCR files*
- 8      **The Musical Tradition of Staveley**  
*J.C. Robinson's notes on Staveley musical personalities*
- 9      **The Staveley Song**  
*Did you know there was an official Staveley Song?*
- 10     **Crawling Around Craggy**  
*Barbara Blatchford describes the work carried out during the recent survey*
- 12     **Addenda and Corrigenda**  
*Corrections and additional information on the Society's publications*
- 

The next issue of the Journal will be published on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## From our President

As your President I have been asked to contribute to the Journal. I feel very privileged to be asked to provide a Foreword to this new venture by your Committee. First of all I would like to tell the Readers of the very great debt the Staveley & District History Society owes to its instigator Joe Scott who died on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2004.



It was early in the year 1990 that Joe approached me and suggested we start a Staveley & District History Society. He came to me as he thought I knew everybody! Now that was the first brave thing he did. Whoever heard of an off-comer coming and telling Staveley what it should do. Fortunately I am an off-comer too albeit from Kendal and now of nearly 50 years standing, so he had a sympathetic ear. The second brave thing he did was to suggest that it was an interactive Society – that is we wouldn't just sit and be spoon-fed bits of our history diligently dug up by the Committee and speakers found – no the thing was we should all do our own History, so that no one could say *he doesn't know owt, it wasn't like that at all*. The third brave thing was to marshal all the willing horses together and make them into a working team. Joe was a good at delegating and was, most importantly a good diplomatist. Joe wore his academic ability very lightly and never disdained our efforts. Of course he was the main workhorse and with his facility at the computer keyboard, out came the envy of all local History Societies, *A Lakeland Valley Through Time* which was published and launched in September 1995. Themed evenings were organised - one time it would be the local Farmers and another time local industrialists, the idea of getting the information from us both as memories and as contemporary history. Alongside this mammoth task ran Summer Walks programme and the Oral History programme. One imagined that there would be some resting on laurels, but not a bit of it. Occasional papers ensued and by 2001 the Society stood possessed of 902 slides, a second printing of the book was going well and a proposal for a video was underway. The Video has sold very well and the history of St. Margaret's Churchyard *History Sitting Down* has proved very popular.

It was only a few weeks ago that Joe was telling me about the school local history prize and the results of this. Joe's latest idea was to have a Journal published by the Society and it is a sad that he will not see the first issue. Joe was always the prime mover and the shaker of people into action and I think during his Secretary-ship and Chairmanship he has turned the Society into a curious and interesting body of people. Perhaps I should rephrase that! Joe has turned the Society members into a body of people interested and curious about their surroundings. We shall miss him very keenly, not only in the History Society but in the community of Staveley as well; he was a breath of fresh air to all of us.

I would also like to pay tribute to Ken Hoyle who died at the beginning of June. He was Hon. Treasurer for a number of years and his expertise in husbanding the Society's money has meant that we must be one of the few Societies that doesn't have to fund raise and scratch around for money. A tribute to Ken, written by Joe Scott, appears elsewhere in the Journal.

Sadly also Bill Bethom has had to retire through ill health from the Committee but we hope we shall hear his sage remarks from the back of the Hall for a long time to come.

I hope that the Staveley and District History Society and its Journal will continue to flourish and be a happy reminder of Joe Scott.

*Clare Brockbank*

## Ken Hoyle

Ken was an active member of our committee from the beginning until his sad death in May this year. He was our expert on industrial history, on water power and of course on the growth of the Barley Bridge Mill. He made a vital contribution to our book *A Lakeland Valley Through Time*. He was also an active member of the group who collected and organised the Society's archive of local photographs, and acted as treasurer for many years. He always made a useful and wise contribution to our committee discussions and will be sadly missed.



*Joe Scott*

## The Staveley District is just right

The area of a local history society needs to be one that has its own character and traditions, so that you can watch them change over the centuries. It needs to have some buildings that pose questions about when and why they were built – buildings like Kentmere Hall or St Margaret's Tower or Reston Hall. It's useful if it has boundaries that date back a long way, so that you can compare population figures back to the 1801 census, and other figures even further back- our Civil Parish boundaries have not changed much since a tax return of 1332 – perhaps it's about time they did!

The most important need is for friendly people who have played part in local activities in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and are ready to explain them to “offcomers”, and offcomers who are keen to learn. The best evidence for that is the Society's membership list!

It's also very useful if historically-minded local people have done some of the ground-work locally - people like Joseph Martindale, Staveley Schoolmaster 1859-1902, or Rev E. W. McConnel Vicar of Staveley 1920-1943.

Another essential is access to the documents on which all history is based – from entries in Domesday Book (1086) to the most recent Parish Registers. The County Record Office, only four miles away has nearly all you need, carefully indexed and freely available, and Kendal Library has an excellent stock too.

It's hard to see how you could find a better place for a Local History Society than the Staveley District!

## Joe Scott

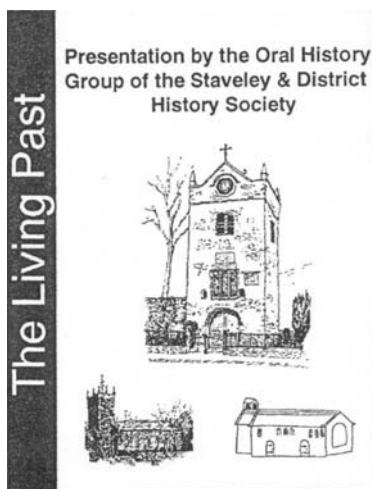
Joe wrote Ken's obituary and the article above before his own unfortunate death in July. It was felt by the Committee that we should continue to publish the Journal as Joe had planned, and that in the next issue we would include a formal obituary to Joe, giving time for ordinary members to write in and express their individual appreciation of the work that Joe has done both for the Society, and for Staveley and District in general.

If you have some personal recollections to add to the next issue, please let the Secretary (Pat Ball) or the Journal Editor (John Berry) have them no later than the November meeting.

## The Oral History Group – a brief history

Everyone has a story to tell which is what the Oral History Group is all about. The group was formed on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1990. It was considered essential to collect as many memories of local people as possible to assist in the production of 'A Lakeland Valley Through Time'. Excerpts from some of these memories have been printed in italics in the book with a credit to the person interviewed.

A talk to the Society by Sam Forrester and Cynthia Thompson of Ambleside Oral History Society on December 11<sup>th</sup> 1990 gave us all the encouragement we needed and by early 1991 we had started to collect our recordings. Our group (we did not call ourselves a committee) included Clare Brockbank, Jean Critchley, David Edmondson, Jean Harding, Veronica Holder, Mike Houston and Adrian Runswick who kindly convened our meetings and allowed us to meet at Moss Side. Joe Scott also recorded interviews on specific topics for the book.



By the end of 1992 we had completed several interviews and we were asked to give a presentation, using samples of the recordings, at the Society's January meeting in 1993. The presentation included a programme with an invitation to members to purchase a copy of the tape entitled 'The Living Past', the proceeds of which went towards the production of 'A

Lakeland Valley Through Time'. We had an excellent response from more than 40 members requesting a copy of the tape. It was agreed that the tape should be accompanied by an illustrated transcript, at a cost of £1-00 to members, with a few amendments to the original presentation. The main purpose of the transcript was to assist in deciphering some of the unclear passages.

After the publication of the book, the views of the Oral History Group members were divided. Some considered that the group's work had been done, others that, instead of memories, we should be portraying Staveley at or around the millennium, and a further view was that we should be concentrating on transcribing the interviews already recorded. It was agreed that the group should continue under a less formal arrangement and we were authorised by the Society to purchase a cassette transcriber.

A transcriber is operated by the foot and allows the cassette speed to be slowed down or stopped and started, leaving the hands free to type the script. The operation requires concentration, can be tiring, and a touch typist has a distinct advantage. It is essential to make an exact transcription and not a summary of what is said. It is also important to include any idiosyncrasies of accent or dialect as the tapes may have more uses to future historians than any factual or historical content.

There are many pitfalls when making recordings, nor did we escape them, despite Sam Forrester's early warnings. It is not an easy exercise. It is very sobering to listen to a recording played back only to discover that you are continually agreeing, verbally, with the interviewee or, worse still,



repeating what has just been said in a questioning way:- Question – *How long did you work at Chadwick's?* Answer – *About fifteen years.* Further unnecessary question – *About fifteen years?* Indeed all the usual mistakes were made in our interviews; clocks ticking and chiming in the background, dog barking when someone calls at the door, the timer going off on the cooker, someone deciding to fill a kettle, loose connections on a microphone ruining a recording... and one could go on.

Memories however are not infallible. One interview, seeking the opinion of an elderly native gentleman as to his views of the Post Office being on the other side of the road as reported by an equally venerable gentleman, elicited the terse reply:- *Twer nivver theer!*

Occasional inaccuracies apart, however, the tapes provide hours of entertainment. Rather like the once-upon-a-time letters in a postman's bag they traverse the complete breadth of human emotions. Conrad McNamara's account of life in the Abbey Home can not be heard without at times choking back the tears; whilst farmer John Carradus had his audience helpless when relating how, having killed a pig without a licence during the war, he managed to trick the Ministry Inspector by putting the pig in bed and saying that it was his wife who was ill. Indeed the tapes are gems, despite being at most twelve years old. In all we have almost forty tapes, fifteen of which have been transcribed, which leads us to the future.

So, if everyone has a story to tell and Staveley's population is between one and two thousand there remains plenty of scope. An interesting project, as yet untouched, would be to document the units in Staveley Woodturning's Yard – why the occupants decided to come to Staveley and how successful they have been. The yard probably employs more workers now than it has done in its history.

## **How you can help**

If you are interested in helping us to transcribe some of the outstanding tape interviews we should be pleased to hear from you. We should also be pleased if you could let us know of any Ings, Kentmere or Staveley people who would be interesting and would be willing to be interviewed. If you would like to be involved with the group, please get in touch. We in turn would be willing to help any bona fide researchers who would like access to our recordings and transcriptions. In the first instance, contact the Acting Chairman at the address inside the front cover.

## **100 Years Ago (January 1904)**

STAVELEY has had an experience which it will not forget. The man in the street who sees one of the immense cast-iron cylinders through which the water is conveyed from Thirlmere to Manchester, finds it difficult to believe that it could be shattered by any pressure of water due merely to gravitation.

The peculiarity of the accident at Staveley is that it occurred while the spot was surrounded by workmen engaged in laying a second line of pipes and involved loss of life as well as the flooding of the neighbourhood. A column of water, with the weight of Thirlmere behind it is no respecter of persons.

One poor fellow when it struck was flung into the air like a cork, and then carried by the torrent into a pipe. It was the next day before he could be recovered. The shock of the first impact would render him unconscious, as a second man who was also struck was rendered unconscious and would have perished too, but that his mates were able to grasp and drag him into safety.

*(Transcribed from the Westmorland Gazette)*

## The J.C. Robinson Files

J.C. Robinson (Headmaster of Staveley School 1924-55) was a well-known local historian and raconteur. Some of his papers were passed to the society by his daughter and have recently been 'converted' to computer format. We intend to reproduce some excerpts from these papers in each of our Journals. *Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century Staveley* is a paper written by Robinson based on both local knowledge and a survey of the back issues of the 'Westmorland Gazette' and runs to some 7 pages; we will therefore be offering just part of it in each Journal.

### Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century Staveley (part 1)

**Movements:** Movements in a village of wood-turners and workers with some agriculture thrown in, stemmed, in the main, from the religious bodies. The Church of England, it seems was neither active nor inactive; the Wesleyans strong numerically and as a body enthusiastic had their chapel and initiated a movement towards the enlightenment of the working people in 1851 when we read that twenty persons at a public meeting enrolled as members of a Library and Reading room for Staveley.

The voice of the Reverend William Chaplin B.D., who later, in 1858 was to become Vicar of Staveley, was already heard in the land, for he was, at this time the stirringly active curate of Kendal. His name appears "with regularity" in the Birth, Marriages and Deaths column and he was chairman of an association for the defence and extension of Protestantism with its object the circulation of tracts, delivery of lectures and all other moral means to defend and spread Protestant principles.

This was the age when Friendly Societies grew into healthy bodies. In 1851 the Royal Kent Lodge of Oddfellows celebrated their eleventh anniversary and held a "sumptuous" dinner. One hundred and forty brethren were present at church to hear the Reverend Elleray. In 1852 a lodge was opened at the Abbey Hotel, Staveley, when twenty members were initiated. The following year we hear of the Oddfellows all being held at the Eagle and Child and that the assemblage was "highly respectable". Lectures under the auspices of the Order of Mechanics on the "Rise, progress and beneficial effect: of the Order 'were held in the assembly Room at the Abbey Hotel. The Club Walk at Staveley at Whitsuntide 1853 was an event attended by 160 members, The Kent Lodge Widows and Orphans Fund was started, the amount expended on sickness and funerals during 1852-3 being £112-1-11d.

In 1854 the Staveley Working Men's Reading Room Association was formed after an initial meeting held in the Free Grammar School at Staveley. This association flourished, for in 1855, we read of a sale of 'periodicals and newspapers, journals etc. where these (mostly given by those few people who were of affordance to subscribe to them) made "almost original prices."

This must have been an enterprising concern for Thomas Gough Esq. of Reston Hall (son of John Gough, "the Blind Philosopher" and himself a surgeon gave a series of lectures on the subject of Natural History for the benefit of the Working Men's News Room and Library in 1856. On the occasion of the 3rd Anniversary of Staveley Working Men's News and Reading Association the purpose shows its design to be the "improvement of the moral and social conditions of the youth of the village" and the donors of papers and magazines are mentioned by name.

**Temperance:** We find that the theme of Temperance was much in peoples minds in 1855. There was a Staveley Abstinence Society in that year, the Secretary of which succeeded in setting two hundred and sixty signatures in favour of the total closing of public houses on Sundays. At a temperance meeting at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1855 Kendal Band of Hope Flute and Drum Band was in attendance. In 1856 a Temperance Lecture by George Lomas to a "respectable audience in the Primitive Methodist Chapel was a means of infusing fresh zeal to the temperance movement in the village".

The operatives of Messrs Simpson and Ireland's manufactory, Staveley, held a tea-party the object of which meeting was to keep the men from attending the public houses, as many of them had

signed the temperance pledge. Upwards of sixty partook of tea and the evening was spent in singing hymns and the temperance melodies.

In 1858, in connection with the Staveley Maine Law and Temperance movement a meeting was held at the Primitive Methodist Chapel when a considerable portion of the audience consisted of the "fair sex". Several of the members met together in the village and having formed themselves into a procession joined in a "teetotal chorus" on the way to chapel. In this same year it is interesting to note that Mr. Richard Walker (the school master without hands) took the chair at a Maine Law Temperance meeting in Staveley School In May 1859 the Total Abstinence Society was active. The members met in the village, formed a procession and joining in a "teetotal chorus" proceeded to the Primitive Methodist Chapel. *(to be continued)*

## Dialect Stories

Robinson was also a raconteur of dialect stories, and one of them, in his own spelling, together with a translation, is reproduced here.

### Jack's Toffy (Dialect version)

Can thoo mind Jim Thistalthet? He wes a gert lish fella thet werkt fer t'Manchester Corporation; he ust ta walk t'pipe-line ivery daa that ivvor cum fra Troutbeck, aside o'Windermer, ta Lang Sleddel. He telt me this teaale about Jack Airey. They'd bin doon at George Cannon's at T'Eagle an'Child ye Setterda neet, gitten on ta Crisemas, an' the' aw hed hed fairish Jim was gaan yam ta Reston Cottages wi't farm lad fra Ings Haw, efter cloasin' time. T'neet was es black es pick, an' thoo cuddent offer te see thi hand afront o' the' an' it wes rowky. Ther legs wes pletten a bit an'the cud hardly keep te t'rooad. Aw ev a suddent the' hard summat stirren aboot in t' dry leeaves in t'rooad side, an' ivvery noo an' agean ther wes a gert grunt. Jim hed bin i'Jack company, an' when he telt this yan, he aullas sad Jack hod gitten a fair skinful an' hed left radar afooar him. Sea Jim thowt it mud bi Jack, happen, in t' gutter. Sea Jim inquired, 'Is that thee, Jack?" "Aye, it's me, mi lad," sed Jack, "it's me, awer; an' Jim, ah want ta tell tha summat" "Aye, ga on, Jack." 'Ah want ta tell tha, Jim, ah've lost mi toffy." Jim thowt ta hissels, 'Dal, ah mun tawk his waa' an' try ta persuade hem ta git up an' cum yam, sea he ses,"Cum on wi tha' Jack, that's mi lad. Ah hev a pocket full on 'em ..baith treakel an butter; thoo can hev sum o'mine. Cum on we'll away yam." "Nay" ses Jack I's nut cumman till ah've fund mi toffy". "Cum on yam, Jack that's mi fine lad; thoo wants nowt scratten about theaare, this time o'neet thoo'll nivver fin' it; it's that dark." Well, thoo sis Jim, ah'll be bund ta fin' it.....ah's nut boddert boot mi toffy - that much...but thoo sis mi teeth's in it!

### Jack's Toffee (a more readable version)

Jim Thistlethwaite, who was employed by the Manchester Corporation to 'walk' the pipe-line from Troutbeck to Longsleddale, and who lived at Reston Cottages, told me the following:- They had been down to the "Eagle and Child" one Saturday evening, and Jim was returning after closing time with a farm-servant from Ings. It was a pitch-black night and there was some fog. This was in the days before there was any street lighting in the Hugill end of Staveley. Suddenly out of the darkness of the roadside, came a curious sound as of someone stirring amongst the leaves in the gutter. Jim, knowing that Jack Airey had been in his company much of the night and, as he said, "had 'gitten' a fair skin full", and left the "Eagle & Child" earlier, guessed that it might be his old friend. "Is that you, Jack?" enquired Jim. "Yes, it's me," said a voice from the gutter, "I've lost my toffee!" Persuasively Jim drew nigh and said. "Come on with you, Jack, that's my lad; I've a pocketful of such like. You can have some of mine! Come on with you, we'll away home!" "No" said Jack, "I'm not coming until I've found my toffee." "Come on home" said Jim "I tell you, I've plenty of toffee; you needn't bother to find a little bit o' toffee...scratching about there!! You'll never find it; it is that dark!" "That's what you think", said Jack, "I'm not bothered about my toffee that much, but you see my teeth are in it!"

## The Musical Tradition of Staveley

*Notes for an article prepared by J.C. Robinson based on comments gleaned from various older people 1960.*

**Miss Amanda Blamire** — 85 years old, 1960, was a member of the first girls' choir to compete from Staveley at an early Musical Festival. They took first prize at the first attempt. There were eleven girls in the choir; the prize was a "Nightingale" brooch. This was appropriate as the set piece was 'The Nightingale.' (Miss Blamire told me, with considerable pride, that she has it still.)

There was also a Boys' Brigade Choir, of which Vic was a member and Mrs. Banks (Former Miss Nelly Chaplin of Staveley Vicarage) the conductor. Rehearsals were held at her house at Aikrigg End, Kendal; the choristers went by train, and were always given supper. "Mary Wakefield" competitions were held in the Kendal Drill Hall at this time.

**William Bowness**, was a really musical person, with some knowledge or theory, and said by some who knew him to be miles ahead of Harry Read, his co-organist at Staveley Church, but, perhaps, not such a steady character. It is said that he wrote on his white cuff the tune of a hymn heard at Burneside Church and on his return home put it into four-part harmony. This tune is in the Manuscript Book of tunes in Staveley Church and is still used.

**John Parsons**, who was a boy in the Staveley Choir when William Bowness and Harry Read were organists, tells the story of how William, who was rather fond of his liquor used to turn up at choir practice "Three sheets in the wind" whereupon Mr. Chaplin the younger, well knowing the situation, would remark, "*I think Henry had better play to-night, William*"; William would reply, "*Very well, Mishter Chaplin. . .very well!*"

**George Birkett** (grandfather to Mrs. Ada Burrows, nee Birkett) was organist at St Margaret's Church. He was a tailor and used to go round the farms making garments for the men-folk. On the occasion of the opening of the new church organ at Staveley in 1852 he was working at a Kentmere farm. The farmer's wife was a little annoyed with him, as she said, "*He nobbut com at drinkin' time, an bi't Time he'd hed his dinner he sed he mud be gaa'n; he was back i'Steavla bi't time t'skeal. childer wes ga'n back after t'dinner.*"

**Mr Jack Birkett** (Mrs. Burrow's father) was also a tenor singer in one of the Staveley competition choirs.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Arnot** (Betty Burrows) now the official accompanist at the Mary Wakefield festival, was the winner of the Junior Sight Reading, later the senior Sight Reading and after a successful career at the Royal College of Music graduated G.R.S.M and A.R.C.M. She is, of course, the great grand daughter of George Birkett (of "Pop goes the Weasel" fame) and, very ably carries on the Staveley musical tradition.





## The Staveley Song

Did you know that we had an official Staveley Song? The Rev E.W.J. MacConnel, then Vicar of Staveley, composed it in 1928. It is called *Round Reston Scar* and is sung to the tune of “The Vicar of Bray”.

(1)

There lived a man in Staveley Town  
Whose look was always surly;  
He grumbled high, he grumbled low,  
He grumbled late and early.  
At last his wife took up the broom  
Quoth she, “John cease your pouting”  
She drove him off to hear us sing  
And now he’s always shouting:-

*Round Reston Scar, both near and far  
The echoes all are ringing,  
And woes take flight, and hearts are light,  
When Staveley lads are singing.*

(3)

Some sing them songs to get them brass,  
And some to make them famous;  
We sing for friendship’s name alone,  
And so you must not blame us.  
Then hang not down your head, my friend  
Nor take life’s cares too gravely,  
For if there’s joy in heaven above,  
There’s some of it in Staveley.

*Round Reston Scar...*

(5 – The Kentmere verse)

He met her in the Kentmere bus,  
His heart was young and tender;  
He wished to speak, but knew not how,  
He feared he might offend her.  
He shyly said, “I’ve half a mind  
Ta hear the lads on Frida”  
“By gum”, she cried, “ah’ll cum an’ all”  
An’ there he sits beside her!

*Round Reston Scar...*

(2)

There lived a cow on Staveley Head  
She kicked the buckets over;  
The lads they beat her with a stick,  
The lasses gave her clover.  
In vain they coaxed; in vain they cursed  
She would not do her duty;  
She heard us sing; she fills the pail,  
They call her “Staveley Beauty.”

*Round Reston Scar...*

(4)

There lay a trout beside the Mill,  
The biggest trout in water;  
They came with worm, they came with fly,  
But not a fisher caught her.  
WE sat beside the bank and sang  
WE knew that we could win her;  
Then up she leaped; we held a net  
And took her home for dinner.

*Round Reston Scar...*

*[Composed in 1928, by the Rev E.W.J. MacConnel, then Vicar of Staveley and Padre of the Toc H Group. Sung by the Toc H Concert Party for the first time at a concert in the Drill Hall, Staveley, April 21<sup>st</sup> 1928, and, with the addition of verse 5, at a concert given in Kentmere]*

## **Crawling Around Craggy**

In 1986 the Lake District National Park Authority bought Craggy Plantation and Whinney Close and Birkhag Woods, 14.89 ha (36.83 acres) of woodlands which are such a prominent feature of the local landscape, growing on a south-west facing spur above Staveley. By the time the LDNPA management plan was published in 1997 a public footpath through the woods had been established and an ecological survey completed but an archaeological survey was needed.

A small team from the then SEARCH Archaeology Group (now part of Kendal CWAAS) field-walked the woods in the Winter/Spring of 1998/99 endeavouring, as far as the crags and steep slopes allowed, to systematically walk the entire woodlands spread out in straight(ish) lines looking for manmade structures and recording boundary walls. The next challenge was to record all the features found onto an OS 1:2500 base map. For this the skills of John Parker, a retired OS surveyor, proved invaluable, the terrain often making it difficult to tie in the features to a fixed survey point. The results are shown on the plan. Nothing of archaeological interest was found to the east end of Craggy Plantation which is not shown on the plan.

Apart from some land taken out of the plantation when Craggy House was built in the 1920's the boundaries of the three woods remain unchanged from those shown on the 1836 map accompanying the Kendal Corn Rent Awards. However the wall, on the east side of Whinney Close is in a ruinous condition. In 1836 Birkhag Wood, then called Pike Howe Wood, unsurprisingly, belonged to Pike Howe. The other woods were part of the Craggy Park estate. By 1986 they were in common ownership.

Nothing of archaeological interest was found within the steeply sloping mixed conifer plantation of Whinney Close Wood. Craggy Park Wood, as it was called in 1836, is like Whinney Close, an ancient replanted woodland. It was planted with beech and other broadleaved trees from 1840 onward and with some larch in 1960. In Craggy Plantation the siphon well for the Thirlmere aqueduct is shown on OS maps. We surveyed in the known remains of two survey pillars thought to be used in the construction of the aqueduct between 1888-92 and the now redundant reservoir and pipeline which provided Craggy House with water and hydroelectricity.

Birkhag Wood is listed as an ancient semi-natural woodland which had been managed as coppice with standards, mainly sessile oaks, until the 1940's. The coppice wood had been used by the local bobbin mills. The management plan stated that charcoal pitsteads would be likely in this area. We found six roughly oval 10x7metre earth platforms and a broken wall in the southern part of the wood with a D shaped platform behind, all possible pitstead sites requiring further investigation.

The lower courses and more fragmentary remains of sections of several walls were found in the northern half of Birkhag Wood. The south-west corner of the remnants of an enclosure starting to the south of the rock outcrop shown on the plan has a distinctly rounded corner and bracken was growing within it. None of these old walls are shown on the Corn Rent map or first edition OS maps.

Both ecologically and archaeologically Birkhag Wood has proved to be the most interesting of the three areas. Writing this article has reminded me that more work needs to be done investigating the possible pitsteads and remnant walls.

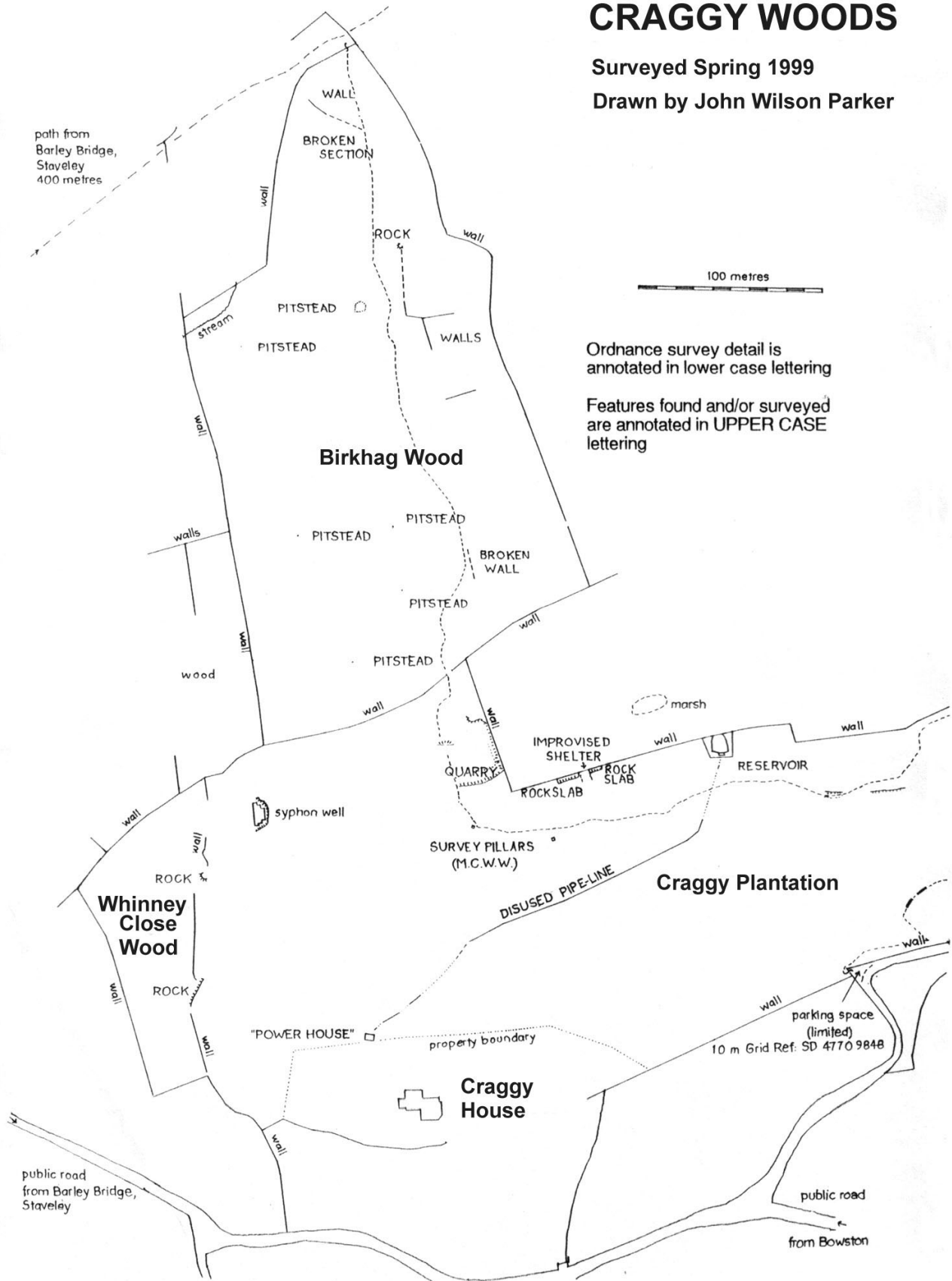
The pitstead sites are not easily seen being mostly at the bottom of a steep slope and well below the footpath but the remains of the old walls can be seen from the path, especially in winter.

*Barbara Blatchford*

# CRAGGY WOODS

Surveyed Spring 1999

Drawn by John Wilson Parker



## Addenda and Corrigenda

Many of the society's publications contain phrases such as *it is felt that* or *it is possible that* – simply indicating that the author does not have any concrete proof. In addition, we are all human, and errors do creep in from time to time. This is a slot in the Journal for you to point out mistakes or add comments to already published information.

### Occasional Paper 8: Staveley Banks and Gypsy Well - *correction*

Some of the plot numbers on the map are incorrect. Plot 105 should read 104, and 108 (below the Public Quarry) should read 105.

### Occasional Paper 14: The Extractive Industries of Kentmere -

*Addenda from Christopher Gregory*

#### Two Roads and Two Farms in Kentmere

In the course of walks in middle Kentmere with four different groups, I have explained how the valley road between the old lead mine (now Staveley's water supply) and Long Houses used to run on higher, and therefore drier, ground to the east of the present road. This old road passed through Old Millriggs, thence near a fulling mill on the Nuttera Beck, and close in front of the two Long Houses. I knew that there had been at least one serious fire at old Millriggs, and I assumed, quite wrongly, that this could have been one reason for the farm moving to the present site where Black Beck crosses the present road. I also suspected that the new farm had been more accessibly located on the new road, possibly after the second and more successful drainage of the mere in about 1876.

On one walk Tom Bland, Kentmere born and now retired as a blacksmith in Windermere, told us that several of his mother's family (Taylor) had farmed (new) Millriggs from 1875 until 1942, and that the fire had occurred in 1917 in the virtually derelict old Millriggs. (Only one barn now remains, and has been well restored in the 1990s.) New Millriggs has the appearance of a late C19 building, but it is clearly marked in its present form in the first edition of the six-inch OS map surveyed in 1858; and 'High Millrigg' is listed in the 1851 census with the Addison family of 7, two servants, and a schoolmaster lodger.

There is no mention of any Millrigg in the 1841 census, the first to be compiled in this area, and in the very detailed Corn Rent map of 1836 the site of Millrigg is shown as 'meadow' with no building. In both 1836 and 1858 the valley road follows precisely its present course, so this road, which I had always believed to have been associated with the drainage of the tarn, clearly precedes it. Also the earlier road, so easy to follow on the ground, is scarcely traceable as a continuous feature on the early maps. Can anyone throw any light on the sequence of the two roads and farms? And, just to add confusion, what became of the third farm, Low Millrigg, which stood on the west side of the road nearer to Ulthwaite Bridge?

## Letters to the Editor

As this is the first edition we do not have any letters to publish. Again, here is a slot for you to have your say.

## A word from the Treasurer

The treasurer asks us to remind you that subscriptions for the 2004/5 session are now due. You should find a letter and a subscription tear-off slip in with the Journal mailing.

## Our Web site

Our web site is now up and running (<http://www.sdhs.org.uk> for those with computers). Do have a look at it if you get the chance and let the Editor have your comments. The header picture is of the rear of the Staveley Woodyard mill (Wilf's Café) and the mill pond.