

# Staveley & District History Society

## Journal Winter 2008

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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 picture – The opening of the Staveley Bypass in December 1988 (see p10)*

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The next issue of the Journal (the spring issue) will be published on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March.

## Editorial

I last wrote an editorial for the *Journal* in winter 2005/6, and in it I innocently stated that it would probably take us until the end of 2006 to catalogue the information left to the Society by Joe Scott. How wrong I was! Here in 2008 I am still sifting through box 1 of some 10 boxes.



I started by reviewing the census records and spent the next 12 months putting them into a form that would be readily accessible to members. Then came the early maps, including those wonderful 1836 Corn Rent maps; Joe had only listed a few of the schedule details so it was necessary almost to start again – encouraged by the staff at the Kendal Record office who were rightly concerned at the state of the originals. Iain Johnston kindly did the Kentmere ones but otherwise the schedules were a solo effort.

There is better news on the photo front though, as Zoë Atkinson has made a good start at sorting the old photos and slides into some semblance of groupings, mainly dates and places, and adding to the list any names of people appearing on the photos. Some of this information has been forthcoming from visitors to our exhibitions, but most has come from Zoë's own research asking people around the village.

Much of what Joe left us is in the form of notes on his visits to record offices in Cumbria, Lancashire, and in the PRO in London, as well as notes on local sources used in the compilation of *A Lakeland Valley Through Time*. Some of these local sources have subsequently been deposited at Kendal Record Office. The total list of references and sources comes to some 15 pages of typescript.

Many of the notes refer to entries from the Manorial Court Rolls, and from the wills of local people. On the page opposite you will see from Don Morris a review of the *Historic Farmhouses* book. Some of the oldest buildings in our area are, or were, farmhouses and it would be of great interest to us all if the stories of earlier life at these buildings and of the families who lived in them could be pieced together from the book together with Joe's notes and references. Is there a member out there who would be interested in taking on such a task for one building?

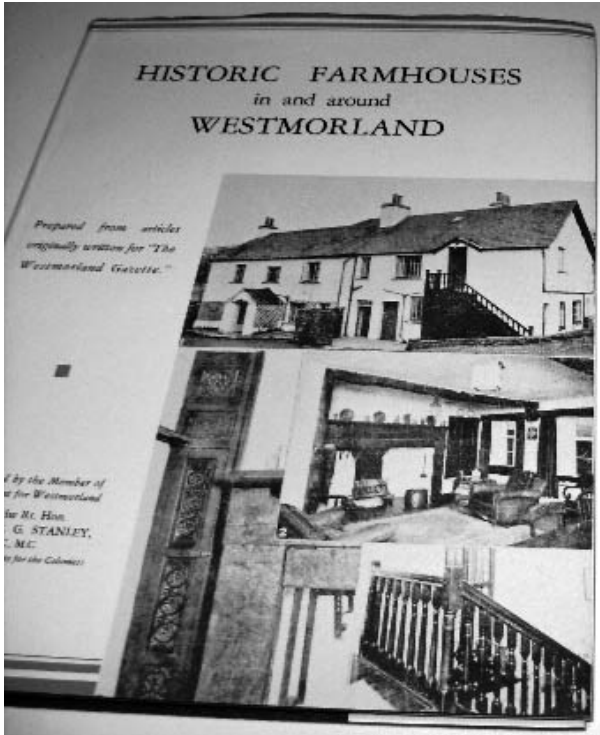
*John Berry*

## Journal References

In *Journal* 10 we provided an index of all the contents for issues 1-10. It has been suggested that as some of the articles are unique, we should look to providing an index just of articles from the *Journal*, such that they can be easily referred back to in any subsequent publication, or indeed to show new members what has gone before. Please contact any committee member if you would like a copy of such an index.

## Leaves from the Library

Unlike Marjorie, my predecessor, I don't intend to bring a selection of library books to the Tuesday meetings. The books **are** all still available. Every member should have a list of our library books from *Journal* 10 (please let a committee member know if you need a copy) and there are a couple of ways the books can be accessed. If you



phone me, arrangements can be made for collection or delivery. Alternatively, the library can be viewed *in situ* in my home at Ings. Instead, I intend to mention a selection of books in the *Journal* in the hope of whetting your appetite. So here goes:

***Historic Farmhouses in and around Westmorland* by J.H. Palmer, Westmorland Gazette, 1952.**

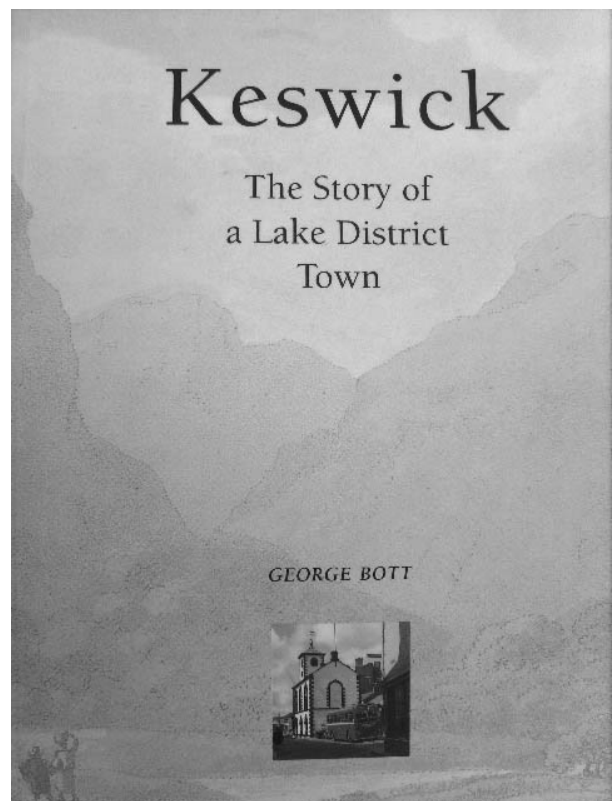
A copy of this book, a donation from Joe Scott, should be in every household in Westmorland in which someone cares for the farmhouses of our old county. About sixty properties are featured, ranging throughout the whole of the county. However, a good number of the properties

are fairly local and include Ashes farm, Burneside Hall, Calgarth Hall, Hincaster Hall, and both the Hollins of Staveley and Burneside. The book is a collection of articles taken from the Gazette. The first edition was published in 1944 and the photographs are much brighter than the rather anaemic ones in the subsequent reprints. Strongly recommended for anyone who is unaware of the book.

***Keswick (The Story of a Lake District Town)*, George Bott, Cumbria County Library, 1994.**

George Bott, who died a few years ago, was, perhaps, the doyen of all matters Keswickian for the second half of the last century. His book is a distillation of many years research and is a really lively study of Keswick from the middle ages to the present day. Highly recommended.

*Don Morris*



## When was the Eagle & Child built?

Until a few months ago the only information we had in our records stated that the current Eagle & Child was built in 1846. This was based on an advertisement which appeared in the *Kendal Mercury* in January 1847. (see box below)

### DESIRABLE INN TO LET

### TO BE LET

BY TICKET,

For a Term of Three, Five or Seven Years, to Enter upon at Whitsuntide next,

ALL that Newly-erected and Well-accustomed INN or PUBLIC HOUSE, called or known by the name of the EAGLE AND CHILD, situate at the south-east end of Staveley, adjoining the Toll Bar, together with Stables, Barn, and about FOUR ACRES of excellent LAND, part of which is cultivated as a Garden, with excellent Fruit Trees.

The Kendal and Windermere Railway, now in course of formation, passes through a corner of the Land, and probably the Staveley Station will be built close by. The Kentmere Reservoir, already commenced, will, when completed, give an impetus to the trade of Staveley.

Proposals for the same will be received until the 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1847, addressed to WM. WILSON, Canal Head, the owner, and the Tenant will be declared within a week after.

Kendal, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1846.

We were somewhat concerned therefore to see on the recently restored 1836 Corn Rent maps a building in the position and the shape of the new 'Eagle'. It could have been drawn on later, as the maps were working documents until replaced by the first edition of the Ordnance Survey maps in 1859. Unfortunately, with the maps being hand drawn, there is no easy way of distinguishing between inks of that age. There was a clue in the schedules, as the field adjacent (409) showed no boundary with the building, and the schedules made no mention of it. However,

the way that the number of the plot of the old 'Eagle' (411) had been drawn did not help as it could have referred to either building. (see map on the opposite page).

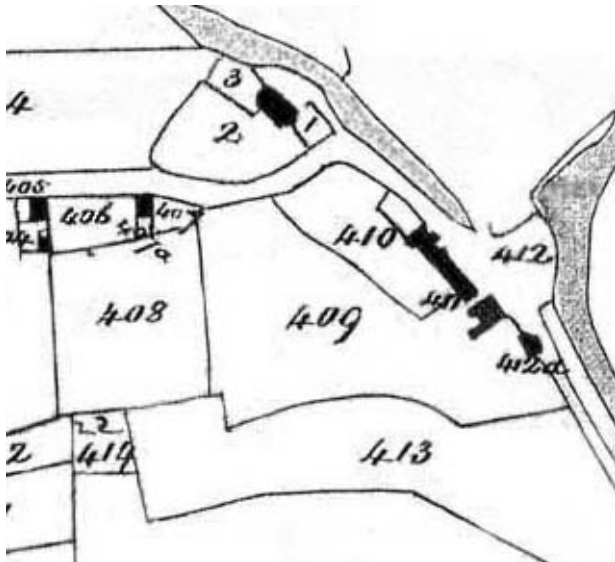
The first step was to try to find some old documents that would shed some light on the building. The current owner, George Cannon, kindly allowed us to inspect his deeds in an attempt to discover more of the history, and one of our members who owns one of the Gowan Terrace cottages loaned us part of his deeds.

The deeds show that sometime between 1830 and 1836, James Braithwaite of Ings purchased property including the old Eagle & Child from Robert Braithwaite, son of the Robert Braithwaite of Scroggs Mill. All the properties were at the time 'Manorial Tenancies' – an early form of leasehold where the Earl of Lonsdale had to approve any change of ownership and receive a rent.

This transaction is not specifically recorded in the deeds, which gave rise to a further concern when trying to piece together the ownership. The Corn Rent schedules

clearly show James Braithwaite as the owner, but by 1844, in the book of reference for the Kendal & Windermere Railway, the owner is listed as William Wilson – which also ties up with the name on the 1847 advertisement. A further mystery is that the replica poster which currently hangs in the ‘Eagle’ – dated 1855 – shows George Kirkby, sole surviving trustee of the will of James Braithwaite, as the owners representative.

Whilst the deeds do show George Kirkby, there is no mention of Wilson. There was therefore no alternative but to look at the will of James Braithwaite for a clue. Most wills for our area are stored in the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, and this one was no exception. From James’ will we learnt that William Wilson was in fact Braithwaite’s son in law, married to daughter Hannah. The provisions of the will were such that although the old Eagle & Child was left to Hannah and her husband, it was only in trust, and on their death it was to support their three daughters - via the trustees - until they reached the age of 21.



A section of the 1836 Corn Rent map. Plot 410 is Bowling Green Meadow – almost ½ acre – whereas plot 411 is the Eagle & Child homestead. The new building does not seem to be numbered, nor is it listed as part of plots 409 or 412.

James Braithwaite died in 1843, and his wife Hannah in 1845, so it is probable that Wilson started the building of the new ‘Eagle’ at around this time. It appears in the 1844 railway plans but unfortunately is not listed as it is outside the ‘limits of deviation’, so we have no way of knowing whether the building was complete or under construction at the time. There is even the possibility that it was simply planned in 1844, as many of the details in the railway plans were copied (sometimes not very accurately) from the 1836 Corn Rent maps. The new Inn, whilst on Manorial land, would not itself be part of the tenancy and later, two of Wilson’s daughters were able to raise mortgages on it when they married. The two census lists, either side of 1846, show a single entry for

the Inn in 1841, but separate entries for the Eagle and the ‘Old Eagle’ in 1851.

The general conclusion is that our original beliefs are still correct, and that the new Eagle was completed in 1846 as the advertisement implies.

*John Berry*

*(It is intended that the large amount of information obtained on both the old and new ‘Eagles’ should be put together to form an Occasional Paper during the coming winter months. If anyone has any further information which might be of use, please contact the Editor. We would be particularly interested in any early photos or drawings which show the old ‘Eagle’ – it was not demolished until 1883).*

## Early Year Memories

I was born at home at Arniston Cottage, St. George's Square, St Anne's on Sea, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 1922, and baptised at St Thomas's Church, St Anne's on Sea, 6 weeks later - this performed by Canon Ellison, the incumbent and son in law of one of the Mather daughters. Dad was employed by Harold Mather as Chauffeur, and the family lived in the 'Big' house adjoining the cottage. They also owned Sidegarth in Staveley and eventually moved there permanently when I was about 3 years old, when my memories began.

We lived above the garage at Sidegarth, Mum, (Florence Jane Steele, née Oakley), Dad (Herbert Steele), Oakley (Eric Oakley, my older brother) and me. I loved following the handyman around, who must have had a lot of patience with me. He was an old man (the father of the joiner there). I loved playing with the shavings as Eric made & repaired farm gates in the joiners shop. I suppose I was a lonely child - no other children to play with, but lots of grown ups. Oakley never took much notice of me, but in any case, had started school - Staveley C of E infants and primary. Because of the distance, he was driven to and fro daily. We stayed at Sidegarth until Ivy End was built further down the Crook Road, where we lived until I was about 11 years old. I remember the house well. It was semi detached and built by Mr Mather for his chauffeur. The other half was rented to a Mr and Mrs Ivinson. Mrs Ivinson made big fat chips for her family on a paraffin stove in the wash house, and she always made some for Oakley and me. They were lovely - hot and crisp. Again, I spent many hours playing by myself - only 1 other child around, Mary Simpson from



the farm down the lane. She was 2 or 3 years older than me and our friendship was spasmodic. She told me there was no Father Christmas, and could be a bit spiteful and unkind.

Mum went up to Sidegarth regularly to dress Mrs Mather's eye - she

had had cancer in it and the eye had been removed at Christies, Manchester. I remember picking wind-fall plums in the orchard, while mum was busy. Afterwards the daughters, Kitty & Peggy came out to take photographs - Oh dear; I'd filled my elastic legged knickers with plums, and couldn't sit down on the garden seat!

Mum was a very good needle woman, and made all my pretty dresses with knickers

to match out of pieces of material Mrs. Mather gave her in return for treating her eye - so when I started school at five I stood out a mile from the poorer dressed kids, and took a bit of taunting. I made little friends, but only when at school, because my home was so far away from the village. I was happy though.

I remember the medical checks at school, standing in my vest and liberty bodice in the cold room. Mum was with me. The dentist came to look at teeth and some children had extractions which went into a bucket on the floor by the dentist's chair. I imagine they were just baby teeth, but am only guessing this!

The school cap was a red sort of square thing, and mum couldn't get one to fit me. They were all too big. I must have tried on several, and in the end didn't have one - the same goes today! At least you can't call me big headed!

When I was 10, Oakley and I had new bicycles - Hercules. His had a 3-speed, not so mine. I had learnt to ride by myself on an old ladies bike at Sidegarth. Even when I rode it, it must have been old. It had thread guards over the back wheel to prevent ladies clothes getting caught in the spokes. And this makes me remember the time Chris Huck (the gardener at Sidegarth) was bringing me home when I'd been at Sidegarth. I was riding on his bike cross bar, caught my ankle in the spokes. The doctor was called and cauterized the wound. I spent a few days lying on the sofa. I think I must have been a sickly child - regular Scott's Emulsion and spoonfuls of malt, and syrup of figs every Friday night.

I loved my bike! Struggling to push the thing up the hill to the entrance gate to Sidegarth and then free-wheeling all the way down to the station. It was quite safe to wander far off in those days and I toured the nearby roads and lanes gathering wild flowers which I pressed, named and put in an exercise book. I took my bike on the 'rec' - the recreation ground in the village to play on the swings etc.

The school sports were held in a field at Fell Foot (on the way to Kentmere). It was a long walk from home, but a happy occasion I remember. I joined in all the races. The tea was given out in paper bags - jam sandwiches and a cake, which we enjoyed sitting on the grass. One of the helpers had a big tin of toffees and they raced round the field throwing handfuls around, which we chased in the hope of finding a few. Is that when I discovered my sweet tooth? We were all very tired even before the long walk back to Staveley, and Church as usual the next morning, with Sunday School at 1.15pm and then a walk - perhaps to Lily Fell.

We didn't have much spending money, and it took ages to part with one penny at the village shop - choosing took an age, which must have been more bother than it was worth to Mr. Naylor - Gob Stoppers lasted the longest, but I liked sherbet with a liquorice stick as well. We made 'Spanish Water' with the stick of liquorice steeped in a bottle of water - a good drink! The best shop for value was Threlfalls. We always tried to wait to be served by him. His big hands grabbed a lot more mint balls from

the jar than any of the assistants, and he always put them in a square bag. If anyone else served it was a cone shaped bag — with Mr. Threlfall we always got more than ‘our ha’peth’ (half-penny)!

I learned to swim in the Mill Pound, ‘round the back of the Beck’. The Mill was Edwin Brockbank’s, where they made pit props and bobbins. He and his family lived in the house you see up ‘Craggy’. The Beck was a great place for swimming, even with a diving board, and if you climbed the tree nearby from which a rope dangled, you could plunge down into the water. I never did any of these things - a bit daring. My brother did though.

I remember the Mill catching fire on two occasions, both very serious. The Staveley fire engine was at the scene, after they caught the horse from the field which pulled the engine. Tommy Johnson (the local undertaker) was in charge. On the first occasion I must have been about 7 years old. From Mrs. Ivinson’s landing window there was a wonderful sight, and she let me go round to look. I was a bit scared, and remember saying ‘I will never light a match as long as I live’.

At the age of 11 or 12, we moved house, literally across the field. The house was again built especially for the chauffeur - still there today - Hillfield - a lovely 3 bedroom, detached property, with about an acre of ground. Mum and Dad worked endlessly in the garden, and it was very beautiful. Dad grew vegetables, and Mum (a country lass at heart, coming from Shropshire) bought a couple of pigs which turned out to be a good investment, as when the second world war started in 1939 (I was 17 then) we were self-sufficient in pork, bacon etc.

A British Restaurant was started in the disused Methodist Chapel in the village, near to the Post Office, serving a good nourishing, cheap lunch to the public daily. We never ate there ourselves, because of the distance from home, but daily, the leavings were collected by Mum or Dad, boiled in the big wash tub and together with mash, was good food for the pigs. Wartime made everyone very frugal. We kept lots of poultry too, making good use of the land at the back of the house, below Lily Fell.

The two Miss Bintley sisters who lived at Common Head were our nearest neighbours - two dear old ladies. They kept a cook and a housemaid and each evening changed into long dresses for dinner. Miss Annie was the elder of the two. She used an ear trumpet for her deafness. Miss Alice too was very prim and proper.

I am a bit hazy about the start of the Staveley Village Band, but there must have been a Brass Band at some time earlier as the instruments were discovered under the stage in the Drill Hall. The villagers were full of enthusiasm, and fund raising began towards buying new instruments, music and to find a conductor for the ‘Staveley Village Band’. A committee was formed and things took off from there. These meetings were held at my home, Hillfield, my brother elected as secretary. Dances toward funds were held in the Village Hall, and there was much support.



I don't know who the conductor was, but he quickly made an impression on the young men who played in the band - and with concerts and music for sports days etc on the 'Rec', money was quickly raised for new instruments, music sheets from Boosey & Hawke's, and caps for the musicians. Giving thanks for the entire band and other officials, Mr Mather provided a meat and potato supper which was held in the garage at Sidegarth. I helped serve the meal, and with a pint of beer for the men too, it was a convivial evening.

But sadly, in 1939 the war came, and all the young men were called up. I was by this time leaving school and home to go to college, and so ends the stories and my few memories from 1925 - 1939.

*Joan Lyon (nee Steele)*

## **Rev Dr. Calderwood**

Readers of the Thomas Taylor articles and subsequent Occasional Paper may be interested in this extract published in the Kendal Mercury in 1847. It tells something of the husband of Thomas Taylor's eldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and the work he did in South Africa. The word *Kaffir* would not be used today, and we apologise to anyone who finds it offensive, despite its historical accuracy.

From the *Frontier Times* of November 1846:

*We learn that Rev Mr. Calderwood, of the London Missionary Society, has been appointed Chief Magistrate of the Anglo-Kaffir territory, that is the territory between the boundary of the ceded territory and the Buffalo River, which it is intended, it seems, to be the future boundary of Kaffirland. This appointment shows that, in his Excellency's opinion, peace is, or about to be, restored to that part of the country. The nature of the office is not mentioned, but, as Mr. Calderwood's appointment is until her Majesty's pleasure is ascertained, it seems intended to be a permanent one. It is supposed that his principal duties at first will be to communicate the intention and orders of Government to the Kaffirs; to ascertain the present condition of that people; to persuade the obstinate to timely submission; to collect the faithful who threw themselves from the first upon the friendship of Government; to restore them that are penitent, and to provide places of habitation in British Kaffirland for all such as may desire henceforth to live quiet and peaceable lives.*

The Kendal Mercury then continues:

*Mr. Calderwood is spoken of as an upright man, possessing vigour of intellect, and from his many years residence in Kaffirland, has such a knowledge, not only of the general character of the people, but of the chiefs and leading men, as to enable him to suggest such forms of settlement as may be most suitable to their customs, habits, and capacities for industry and obedience.*

*John Berry*

## Staveley School History Competition 2008

For several years now, we have organised, with the help of the School, an annual history prize - one of Joe Scott's many original ideas for encouraging young people to take an interest in the history of their area. The topics which the children choose must have some historical significance and should be connected with Staveley or, bearing in mind that several pupils come from the surrounding villages, the village where the pupil lives. Once again the contributions were a delight to read.

Most of the pupils in the oldest class at the school had sent in entries and it was evident that much time and effort had been devoted to the task by many of them. The age of the computer has meant that the presentation is often very professional with maps and photographs to enhance the work. This does not mean, however, that anyone using traditional handwriting and drawing is at a disadvantage. There is also a growing trend of support by parents and this encouragement certainly helps with pupils' understanding of their subject.

The topics ranged far and wide and many of the most interesting ones focus on the history of the pupil's own home. Again, the readers learned something new – even if the project dealt with something from the recent past.

As always, there was a problem in deciding upon the winning script(s) and again, because so many of the entries were of an equally high standard, it was agreed to award a prize of a book token to twelve of the pupils in addition to the certificates which all of the entries deserved. These were presented in the school before the end of the summer term.

Our thanks and congratulations are due to both school and pupils for their work. It is something with which Joe Scott would have been very pleased.

*Iain Johnston*

## 20 years ago

In December 1988, the long-awaited bypass of Staveley was opened to traffic. This was probably one of the most significant events in the life of the village in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and justifies mentioning it in the Society's *Journal*, even after such a short time.

It is difficult to imagine how today's traffic would impact on the village had the bypass not been built. We are told that at the peak, over 1,000 vehicles per hour now pass along the A591. We are thankful to have our village back – as the *Gazette* reported some months after the opening.

*John Berry*

## **Heritage Open Days 2008**

The Society's contribution to the annual Heritage Open Days in September followed the pattern set up in 2007. The three churches were open on all three days, St Margaret's Tower was open Saturday and Sunday, and the exhibition of Corn Rent Maps was installed on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and remained in position until Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. John Berry led a History tour of the village on the Saturday.

All the feedback we received was extremely positive, and a number of people enquired about membership of the Society. The Tower was extremely popular, attracting over 100 visitors over the two days. Of those who signed the comments sheet we find that some 40 (including 8 children) were from Staveley itself, another 25 from South Lakeland or Lancaster, and the rest from all parts of the country; West Yorkshire, the North East, Merseyside, Cheshire, Shropshire, Nottingham, Birmingham, Scotland, the South East, and finally three from Australia!

Our thanks go to those members who staffed the various venues, without whose help the weekend could not have taken place.

## **Summer Walk 2 - Kentmere - Brockstones, Stile End and Hallow Bank.**

As a group of some 20 - 30 members gathered at the bottom of the Stile End road from Kentmere over into Longsleddale a determined draft whistled down the valley, hardly interrupted since it left the Arctic. It did little, however, to cool the enthusiasm of either our group or our excellent guides.

Ostensibly we were to learn about "The House that Never Was". We had three guides: Christopher Gregory, the instigator of the visit; Nick Pighills, Chairman of the Kentmere Parish Meeting who had lived in Hallow Bank for about sixty years and our Chairman who had co-ordinated and reproduced copies of documents provided by Christopher and Nick. These included the notices for the sale on August 19<sup>th</sup> 1899 of Brockstones, Stile End and Hallowbank Cottage and also a map of the area and photographs taken about 100 years ago.

For those of us who had puzzled about the reason for the imposing iron entrance gates through the wall on the left where the bridleway leaves to go over into Longsleddale, we were soon to have an answer. Dr. Lloyd Rayner had bought the above named properties in 1899, moved into Hallowbank, installed a tenant farmer in Brockstones and planned to build a large house for himself just south of Brockstones. We stood at the iron gates and were able to follow the sweep of the drive lined with trees, intended to lead up to the house. Further along the bridleway on the right is what is known locally as Garden Field. Permission had been given to inspect on the ground the two large rectangles marked out by huge stones and an adjacent stone pit.

The house was never built, however, reportedly due to financial losses in South Africa, and some six years after his purchase Lloyd Rayner died.

Our group then walked up to Stile End which had remained uninhabited since at least 1881. Here Nick was able to draw attention to the foundations and ruins of the settlement including the former farmhouse and farm buildings, one of which had been carefully restored. The former walled garden and well lay close by to the north.

We returned to our starting point much the wiser for our visit and greatly indebted to our guides for their interpretations and carefully prepared documents from which much of the above information was gleaned.

N.B. There is no public right of access to Garden Field.

*Mike Houston*

### **Summer Walk 3 – Ings and Grassgarth**

Some 15 members gathered at Ings Church for the final walk of the season, organised by Tony Priestley. The party first proceeded up to Grassgarth, where much discussion took place about the possible location of the original church, and as to whether or not



parts of the church had been used in the construction of the farm buildings and cottages.

Later we returned for a tour of the present Church, where we inspected the memorials, marble tiles, the boarded up West Gallery, and discussed the Bateman legacy.

*John Berry*

The picture shows the group assembled at Grassgarth

### **Back numbers of the Journal**

From time to time, and particularly from new members, we have had requests for back numbers of our *Journal*. Some issues were completely sold out, so the committee decided to have a small quantity reprinted.

If you would like a copy of any back issue, David Hooson, our treasurer, will be glad to sell you one for £1. They can be collected from any of our evening meetings, or posted if you supply a stamped addressed C5 envelope (that's one that takes A5 size paper).