

# Staveley & District History Society

## Journal Summer 2010

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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 – The old Rawes Mill seen from Beck Nook*

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The next issue of the Journal (the winter issue) will be published on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## From our President

When I was young a year seemed like an eternity but now a year is like a month. I was amazed when John Berry said it was time to write this introduction. This last year has been a very productive and also a sad year for the History Society. Elsewhere in this Journal tribute will be paid to Adrian Runswick and Morison Harding both of whom died recently and who added so much to the warp and weft not only of the History Society but the whole communities of Staveley, Kentmere and Ings.



I would like on your behalf to applaud our excellent Committee who do so much for us; arranging talks, and walks, occasional papers and husbanding our book and manuscript collections. I know we get capacity audiences for our monthly meetings and I hope too for the Heritage Open Days in September. But it is their hard work that makes the Society what it is and why we all flock to the meetings. They cannot continue however, without some 'new blood'. John Berry has asked for someone (or a sub group) to take on the task of editing our Journal from next Easter; David Hooson, our most conscientious and helpful treasurer has indicated that he too would like to step down at the next AGM. The committee has been carrying a vacancy for over 12 months now so where are the volunteers from our 150-strong membership? It would be so sad if all the good work started by Joe Scott 20 years ago was to come to nothing.

Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition next Easter should be a cause for celebration and I hope that we can count on you, our members, to come forward and ensure that the good work continues.

*Clare Brockbank*

## Our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The inaugural General Meeting of the Society was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1990, followed by the first official 'committee' meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October. The first members evening was on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and our first outside speaker, Sam Forrester, spoke at the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The Society did not hold its first AGM until January 1992, covering a 15 month period. Another 15 month period occurred in 1998 when the AGM was moved to April to make it easier to complete the end of calendar year accounts. So exactly when our 20 years occurs is debatable. Your committee has decided that the next *Journal* (which will be number 20) will be a special edition including some colour pictures, and in 2011, after the next AGM, we will celebrate properly with a 10-day exhibition at the Roundhouse. The theme will be 200 years of change, illustrating how Staveley, Ings and Kentmere have changed since 1811. If you have any items – photos, papers or artefacts that you think may be of interest, please let us know via any committee member.

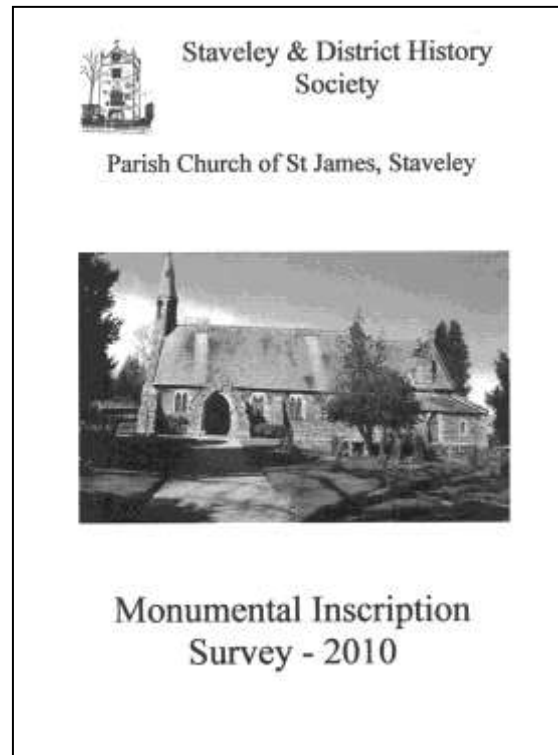
*John Berry*

## Memorial Inscriptions

Just too late for the last bulletin, but shown to those who attended the AGM, the Memorial Inscription booklet for St James' Church has finally been completed. Zoë Atkinson was the main organiser, ably assisted by Alison Shaw and Jack Castling. Alan Lord provided the key map of the churchyard.

Only four copies of the new booklet have been printed; one copy remains with Zoë and one in our History Society library. The other two are in the church and vicarage respectively. The records are shown in both numerical (grave position) and surname index and will be greatly appreciated by those looking into family history. As with all our current publications, an electronic copy is also held by our General Secretary.

The next step will be to provide a similar product for St Margaret's; the County Record Office already holds the list of original inscriptions but with the re-opening of the graveyard a new numbering system has been devised by Alan Lord and a new listing incorporating both old and new inscriptions is to be prepared. This of course will be an ongoing project for some years ahead.



## Adrian Runswick

When our Oral History Group was set up in 1990 we were a disparate group requiring structure yet wishing to avoid the formality of being a committee. We were indeed fortunate to have as our touchstone Adrian Runswick, recently retired and living at Moss Side where he and Maureen kindly let us hold our group meetings and discussions.



Adrian's energies and enthusiasm seemed boundless. Our remit was to supply Joe Scott with information and Adrian could put us all to shame. On one occasion he interviewed two different people at separate locations on the same day and as early as the next day his recordings were ready for discussion by the group before being passed to Joe with our comments.

Adrian's years of experience in the field of education were of inestimable value, not only to the Group but to the Society as a whole. If a grammatical or similar error slipped through it would certainly not have been Adrian's fault and we were all kept

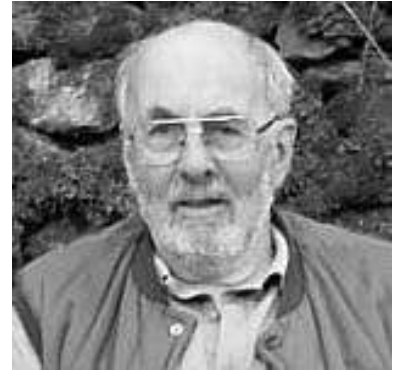
on our toes. Not all our members will have known that Adrian was a lover of, and a great authority on the work of Charles Dickens. More recently and despite illness his energy remained unabated and his attention was turned again to Shakespeare. His reward came late last year when he was awarded a PhD by the University of Lancaster almost certainly the university's oldest student to gain such an honour. He served as an example to us all as he was one of an increasingly rare breed, he was a scholar.

As a further tribute we are including an interview by Adrian of Margaret Storey, who will be remembered by many as a great campaigner for Staveley's by-pass.

*Mike Houston*

## **Morison Harding**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June a congregation of almost one hundred friends, family and representatives of various organisations gathered in Staveley Village hall to celebrate the life of Morison Harding. The many tributes left one in no doubt as to the esteem in which he was held.



An architect by profession, Morison and Jean left their native north-east on retirement and, no strangers to the Lake District, came to live in Clappersgate near Ambleside. What the north-east lost we certainly gained. Morison's committed involvement with a range of local amenity and countryside bodies reads like a who's who of the conservation movement. The list includes the *National Trust*, the *Ambleside Civic Society*, the *Ambleside Field Club*, the *Lake District Horticultural Society*, the *Staveley Roundhouse* and our own *Staveley & District History Society*. Almost certainly there are countless others we do not know about, but that was typical of a man who was as anxious to shun the limelight as he was to give his services generously.

Our Society will be eternally in his debt. Some of his work is there in many of the line drawings in *A Lakeland Valley Through Time* and our *Occasional Papers*. His last drawing for us was in the *Eagle & Child* paper in early 2009. What we shall never know is the time and care he gave to the task on our behalf. We shall of course miss the occasional quiet question at our monthly meetings, invariably throwing new light on the topic being discussed or the subject of a lecture. We shall also miss the figure out with his dog on local walks. We shall however have constant reminders of his presence as we walk through the conservations areas of Ambleside and Staveley; stroll through the walled garden at Holehird, its building fitting snugly into the landscape; or, nearer at home as we visit art exhibitions in the Roundhouse or peep into what was his garden on Brow Lane.

We should like to think that Morison would approve of our evaluation of him as a real benefactor of the Society, and indeed of the village of Staveley.

*Mike Houston*

## Tales from the Tapes

*[Transcript of Margaret Storey interviewed by Adrian Runswick: 16/11/1993]*

*You were born in Staveley, lived here till about 11 yrs old, but then moved to Windermere. You did have a job in Staveley and then you came back to live here permanently about 1974; did your mother & father live in this house?*

No. Down the village in the middle house next door to Pat Shaw, past the Bank.

*You were born there?*

No; I was born this side of the Bank. They had the babies at home in those days and so my mother had me at my grandma's.

*How far did your family go back in Staveley?*

My grandma was born at Littlewood. My father was born at Littlewood and his brother was born at Littlewood. In the first place my father was a builder. He served his time and so did my uncle and they both served their time to be builders, but in those days if it was raining they didn't get any wet time. They lost their time you see so my father went on to the railway to work and that's why we went to Windermere, because he was a ganger and so we changed houses with someone who wanted to come back here and we went to Windermere into her house. My grandfather broke stones on the road. Littlewood was a farm but it belonged to my grandmother's parents you see. My father and Uncle were both born up there. My Grandmother's family were called Fox.

*What are your earliest recollections?*

My sister and I we used to go to dancing classes run by a Mr Cannon in the Drill Hall and then at the end of the session they had a King and a Queen. And then we used to play hopscotch in the streets.

*Did the boys go to dancing classes too?*

Just as many boys went as girls. You had to do it properly. He had a fiddle did Mr Cannon and if you didn't do it right, well you got a smack with his fiddling stick. It would be at night, not so late, after school time. I went to Staveley School and it was a Mr

Anderton was the master. Then he left and it was Mr JC Robinson took over, and then of course we went to Windermere, and it was Miss Martindale from here that taught at Windermere.

*Do you member anything about the Infants' class?*



The Drill hall from Gowan Bridge

Oh yes there was a Mrs Budall was a teacher at the infants and a Miss Barnes and we used to do sewing and needlework and things like that. I was at school when they put the pipe track in and they had all the big pipes in the schoolyard and we used to play in and out these pipes. They came right through Kent Drive - down there. I can just remember the pipes and being in the pipes, but I can't remember about the workmen - they would be Irish navvies.

*What about friends?*

Oh yes there's some living in Staveley now that I went to school with. There's Norah Taylor - of course some of them have died now.

*What do you recall about Staveley as a child that's different from what it is now?*

The Recreation Ground. It was locked up at a certain time at night and it was locked up all weekend and they had a man who used to look after it called Mr Troughton and he lived up Crook Rd just about 4 cottages on your left just past the Health Centre, and he looked after it. Of course you could play hopscotch on the street. Where the car park is now that was a row of cottages. They were lovely little cottages. What is the antique shop that was the Co-op. What is the chip shop that was the tailors. Then what is the kitchen shop now that was Threlfalls and they sold all sorts, and then further up the road at the top of the back lane there that was the fruit shop, Mr Nevinsons. Then you come down 'ere. What is the rose garden now there was a shop there. Across the road that used to be a long time ago the post office. Then it was a café. Then next door it was fruit shop, and then across 'ere was the butchers and then the garage and they sold petrol and everything. Then where Jessie Derrick lives that was my auntie's shop and that was a fruit shop and sold sweets and things like that. Then you went further down and what is the PO now was the PO but it was also a café. Opposite was a cobblers, Mr Greenhow, and further down, just past the Drill-hall was a wooden hut and he used to do cobbling and cut hair - Mr Metcalfe. Then there was a cobbler on Gowan Terrace and then on the Banks there was a sweet shop on the banks where there is an archway - where Ivy lives. Then you come round and where Holland lives now that was the Temperance Hall and they used to have concerts there and all that sort of thing. It's called Nether Hall. Then what is Mr Coupland's now that used to be a grocer's shop. Then you came down and you turned up and there was the smithy where they shoed horses and that sort of thing and then opposite Mr Suart went there and sold groceries there. Then there was the institute and you used to go in there and play billiards and there was a reading room, and in the room at the bottom there was a bath and people used to go there and have a bath because there was no water toilets or baths in the houses and they used to go there each week and have a bath. It cost about 6d I think. The tailor, what is the chip-shop now - they used to make suits or alter things - Mr Middleton's - and then they sold



The Café at 42 Main Street

cottons and things like that. When you went to the Co-op when I was little you bought syrup loose; you took a jar, vinegar, treacle, all those sort of things were loose. *What did you have to buy by going to Kendal?*

Well if you wanted clothes you'd go to Kendal. And my mother used to go to go to the Maypole, and you got butter and margarine and things like that. Shoes and all that sort of thing. But the old lady across here - we called it the Old Vicarage - if you took flour and yeast and that she baked the bread for you. You would know what is the Roundhouse was the gasometer.

*There would be buses?*

Yes there were K buses and then the Ribble buses as well. There were plenty of buses. We used to go to Kentmere by bus. We used to go to Burneside, and then at Barley Bridge there over the bridge that was the flourmill and I've seen that working. Mr Robinson had it.

*George Dobson?*

Yes. He never lived in Staveley *He used to deliver to that mill?*

Oh yes he would do. My aunty that had this shop they had a market garden where there's one or two bungalows now. You go over the little footbridge down the village and on your right going up there's three bungalows. That was a market garden. They'd two greenhouses and they used to



The old Corn Mill (*Morison Harding*)

go round first of all with horse and cart, selling tomatoes, strawberries lettuce - you name it, and then they got a van and went round. There's a bungalow at the top that is called Netherdene. That was built by my father and uncle in 1926 during the strike. Everybody was on strike. It was a national strike. It never had anything done to it until they've altered it just a few years ago.

*Your Aunt who kept the shop, was it all their own produce? Did they buy stuff in?*

Only sweets and things like that. Oh it was a big garden there. They weren't frightened of hard work then.

*What time did people get up in those days?*

Before we went to Windermere - my father worked at Windermere and he would have to get up about six o'clock and bike to Windermere. He had his breakfast when he got to work. In those days they worked Saturday morning and then on a Sunday they had to go what they called "looking the length" and so he had to go and see that the lines were alright. Of course if it was snowy they were called out. He knew Chris Huck, who was a signman, but before that (or was it after - no it would be after) he was a gardener up at Sidegarth. When I worked there he worked there. There was Eric Iverson and his father worked there. His father was odd-job man. Eric was the joiner, and then they had a lady who used to go in to do the washing and ironing and things like that and then there was the cook and me. Two lived in, cook and me.

*When did you start there?*

I had a job before that at 14, took me to about 16 - I'm 80 now,

*So about 1930. How did you get the job?*

I don't really know. I know we had to be in at nine o'clock and you'd one day out a week, and every other Sunday. You'd to be in at nine, but even if I was living at home I'd to be in at nine.

*Where would you be before 9 if you were going out?*

Well there wasn't really a lot to go to - perhaps the first house of the pictures or something like that at Windermere. We were living at Windermere when I was at Sidegarth, so I'd get the bus home.

*Who owned the house when you worked there?*

Mr Mather and he owned New Hall and the Ashes Farm and Ashes was what we called the home farm and if we wanted milk or potatoes or anything like that we went down there for them.

*He was married?*

Yes three daughters and they were at home. I had a bedroom up the back stairs.

*A pleasant room?*

Yes.

*What time did you get up?*

About 7 o'clock.

The cook made the breakfast. I don't



Horse & cart getting wood from Sidegarth

know whether I had to do the grate first - or take tea up stairs to bed to them - I think that would be the first things I had to do. I had to polish the grate - I was as black as the grate at finish! I had to wait on a lunch and dinner at night - I just can't remember really.

*Was there a housekeeper?*

No just the cook. There was a lady who came in on a Monday; Mrs J Gilpin, she did all the washing. I had to make the beds. And dusting - I was the housemaid so I did the housework and dusting through the front and that sort of thing. I got one half day off a week and half of every other Sunday.

*Brothers and sisters?*

I just had 3 sisters all born in Staveley and I was the oldest. When I was working up there the two youngest would be at school. My youngest sister died, but the next to her, she's 74.

*So there was a cook housemaid, gardener, handyman ...*

And a joiner and a chauffeur. The house where Mrs Youdell used to live that was built for the chauffeur. They called him Steele. I remember it being built. (*see Journal 14 page 6*)



*When you worked there, so in the 1930s?*

Yes.

*You were a big team! Did you enjoy it?*

Yes. There was a lot of land then to it, you see,

*Was it hard work?*

Not really. Harder than what they work now. I mean I don't think a lot of them nowadays would know how to start and black-lead a grate. Like someone came here one day one of the home helps - and she had to light a fire and she said she's never ever lit a coal fire. They'd never had a coal fire at home where she lived so she didn't know how to start.

*Now no NHS – what did you do about Doctors and Dentists?*

Well we used to go - it's Mr Brownson's now - that was the Doctor's. Over the bridge here and there's Bridge End cottages and then there's one stands this way and that's Mr Brownson's [Stanley Bank] And you used to go there and he made the prescriptions up for you, because there was no chemists here then.

*How did you pay?*

You got a bill whenever you were ill. I did send some old bills to Mgt Parkinson - was there a doctor's Bill in that? And she said she would let Mr Scott have them. And there was also a list of subs to the Clock Tower and I let her have them and the subs - one of them was a shilling but in those days it was a lot of money. It was over a hundred years old. And I gave her a farewell letter from Mr Chaplin who used to be Vicar here and that was over 100 years old. But she did say she was going to sort it out. And there was also bills from my grandmother's funeral and that sort of thing, and how much people were charged for laying her out and that.

*What about the dentists?*

Well when we were at school the dentist came round to school but after that you'd have to go to Kendal.

*Did the Dentist extract teeth at the School?*

Yes.

*With an anaesthetic?*

Well he'd just freeze your gums wouldn't he?

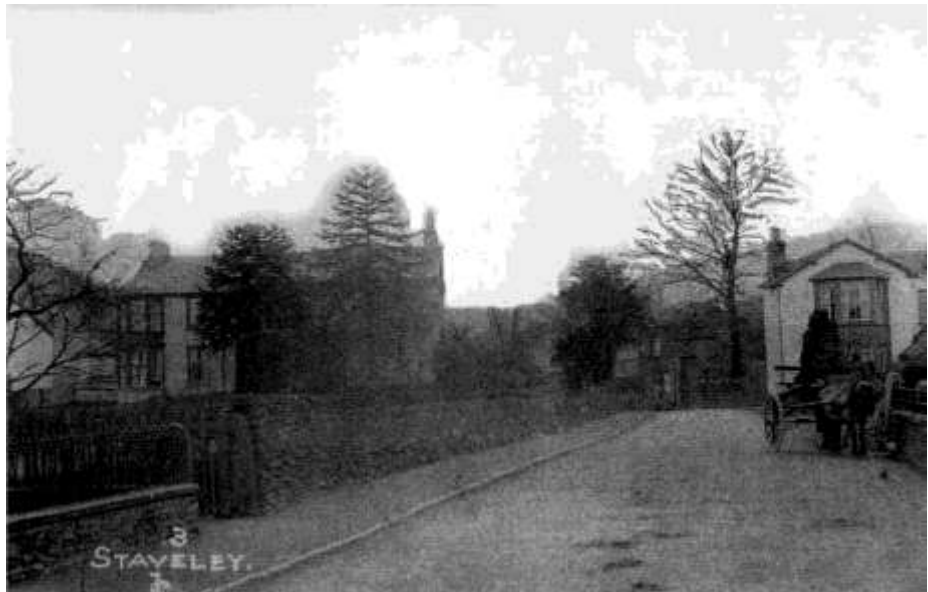
*Was the treatment free?*

Yes.

*What happened if you were poor and couldn't pay the doctor?*

I've no idea really.

*The Staveley Institute – how was that used before the war?*



Stanley Bank (Doctor's house) on Station Road (left)

There was billiard room and a reading room. At the left when you went in there was the bank room - that was a bank. Something like one day a week. We had a bank down here - it was there when I was little was the bank.

*Was the Institute used by women?*

No - not unless they used the bottom rooms. It was the top rooms where the billiard tables were and all that sort of thing and Mrs Taylor her living place was behind. There would be the Institute that would be used for functions and so on. There was no Village Hall then. There was the Drill Hall that was used for dances and whist drives and things like that. In the Shrovetide, you know when you'd a party on Shrove Tuesday and entertainment. They always had the Shrovetide. We didn't have pancakes or anything. You'd a party and that sort of thing, entertainment or a dance or something like that.

*What other spare time activities were there?*

A lot of people did pegged rugs - that sort of thing. You played cards, rummy or something like that, because there was no wireless, no TV or anything.

*As a young girl what did you do after school?*

Not a lot. After school we just used to play hopscotch, skipping, boolies, (hoops you know) hide and seek and all that sort of thing, because there was very few cars.

*Were there evacuees in the war?*

Yes, there was an evacuee in this house

*Your Uncle's house?*

Yes. They had an evacuee from the north-east. It was a girl. She stayed during the War. And Jean, Mrs Townson, she was an evacuee in this part of the house and she's still here and married.

*Tell me about this house?*

Well it was two houses. There was another two cottages down there but they couldn't pull this sitting room down because the bedroom up above belonged my Uncle. So they left this room and what is the bathroom now, so my uncle bought this room from the Council. Just past this beam that was the kitchen and you went out into the yard there and where the cabinet is you went upstairs where there was a stairs door. And where the bureau is that was the front door. But he bought it you see and then when I got it, it was put on to the other half.

*How old is it?*

Nobody seems to know but it must be very old. There isn't a straight wall in the house.

*You've lived here for 19 years?*

Yes - 19 gone June.

*What was food like before the War compared with today?*

Well it was all plain food. Well we had a lot of hotpots with a suet crust. I can only remember....perhaps on a Sunday we would have a cow's heart and my mother would stuff it with sage and onions. There was none of these fancy foods at all, and it was always rice pudding on a Sunday, because you see in those days people had to cook on the open fire. There was a fireside oven but all the vegetables and that were done on the open fire. I've gone to the butcher's many a time for a shilling's worth of stewing beef.

*What about the Church and Pub?*

When we lived down the village, where Mgt Parkinson lives now that was a pub - Fat Lamb, and right opposite that was the Chapel.

*When did it close? In the 20's?*

Yes. It belonged to a Miss Dickinson who was George Cannon's great Aunt. And then there was the Duke William. That was run by somebody called Stills. And when people used to come in coaches there was no trouble parking outside when they came in a coach and the kids all stood outside and they used to throw coppers and that for us to pick up. And then there was the Chapel up here, Methodists. And then there was the Church. We used to go to Church three times a day then - oh yes! morning, Sunday School and night. But now there isn't even a night service, and there isn't even a Sunday School.

*And it would be quite full?*

Oh Yes, yes. The Vicar was Mr. Oliver then Mr. Swidenbank then Mr Woolcock.

*What improvements have there been to Staveley?*

The by-pass is an improvement down here, because you couldn't have coped with the traffic. Last Friday when it was the bonfire there was so many cars, right up the street you couldn't have walked up the street and they were everywhere. One thing I do object to, they don't park, they abandon them and a lot of people do. They never think of going in that lay-by, they park in the road. The houses they pulled down [to make the car park] were good houses, only they had no back doors. We always had a policeman then. His house was on the Banks - I can't remember which. I'm sorry we haven't a policeman now I mean it's ten times bigger that it used to be. I remember Mr Hastings being policeman and before that it was Mr. Armstrong.

*Other regrets?*

I don't know. I think it's a lot of the new people that's come in, trying to take over. I know its progress. There's not a lot of the old people left now. Very few. They're all newcomers to the village.

## **Summer Walks**

### **Reston Hall**

It was a bright and sunny evening when twenty members of the Society arrived at Reston Hall for the May Walk. We were royally entertained by the owners Jean Wilson and Bill Johnson. The important role of Robert Bateman of Ings, who was responsible for the building of Reston Hall, St. Anne's Parish Church and St. Anne's Almshouses, was explained in some detail. The comprehensive tour of the property emphasised many of the features of this Grade II listed Georgian property.

### **Hag End**

Hag End was the venue for the second summer outing of the Society. Margaret Ibbetson met sixteen members at the top of the gated road from Ings. The earlier showery weather of the day had fortunately been replaced by a sunny evening for

walk to Hag End. On foot to Hag End we were told that the stretch of water before Borwick Fold covered an old lead mine and Borwick Fold was probably once an Inn.

On reaching Hag End we were shown old farm tools, books on the area, old photographs, and the old deeds of the farm. This coincided with the opening of the café (Troffers) when members of the Society were able to avail themselves of the delicious refreshments on offer.

*Tony Priestley*

## **Ravenstonedale**

On a bright July afternoon some 16 members assembled at the ‘old’ Kings Head in Ravenstonedale – ‘old’ as it had been closed for some 18 months. Our guide was local resident Caroline Morris who explained some of the complex history aided by a set of laminated photographs, mainly from the late Victorian period, of each site we visited. Outside the Kings Head we looked at the ‘new’ road and bridge built in the 1960s which raised the level of both road and bridge, making the identifying of old photos that much more difficult. Across the road we saw the route of the old mill leat as it ran through the garden of Coldbeck House and looked at some of the old mill cottages.

Then to the Churchyard, where we saw the remains of the Gilbertine Monastery followed by the church itself, with its sideways facing pews. Passing the School and the Old Vicarage we then saw the cottages adjacent to the Black Swan, one with a spinning gallery, and puzzled over the old photos of the original inn before demolition. The final section was in the area known as ‘Town’ where we saw what had been an old shop and Post Office, before moving up the hill to finish at the two Methodist Chapels.



Members listening to the explanation about the Gilbertine foundations.

*John Berry*

## **Heritage Open Days**

Enclosed with this *Journal* is a flyer for the events organized by the Society for this year’s open days. In addition to the events shown, our members Ros and Robert Ridley have agreed to open their house at Great Overend, Kentmere, to visitors on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm. So if you are in the area, have a walk up there.