

# Staveley & District History Society

## Journal Winter 2006

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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 – A group of boys at Barley Bridge circa 1900*

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The next issue of the Journal (the spring issue) will be published on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Any contributions (letters, articles, etc.) should be with the Editor no later than the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

## Foreword

Once again the pupils from Staveley CE Primary School have delighted us with their entries to our Local History Competition. It is rewarding to know that youngsters in our village are being encouraged to have a sense of history and to develop a better understanding of what has happened in the past to make Staveley and District what it is today. Their work is very interesting and reveals all sorts of unknown details about people, places and organizations within our locality. It is clearly the product of enthusiasm but it also shows an ability to engage in research even at this early age, collate the findings and present them in an attractive and imaginative manner. Topics ranged from personal histories of homes and families to buildings, the development of the villages and farms, the effect of national events and sporting prowess representing a very wide range of interest.



There were 19 entries and we congratulate the pupils for all of them. Six of the entries were considered particularly worthy of note and the judges awarded book tokens to Joe Fallows (*Gilpin Bland, etc*), Callum Gallop (*History of My House and My Family Tree*), Lawrence Lee (*Staveley During the Second World War*), Ellen Woodward (*My House*), Christopher Moore (*The History of My Family*) and Jacob Parker-Whitehead (*Religious Buildings in Staveley*).

We have extracted some of the more interesting pieces of information and publish them for your interest in this copy of the Journal.

*Iain Johnston*

### **Roger Brockbank**

Although not a regular attender at our meetings Roger Brockbank was a staunch supporter of this society and through his wife, our President, Clare, gave much encouragement and assistance whenever needed.

The society expresses condolences to Clare and the Brockbank family.

### **Monumental Inscription Survey of St James, Staveley**

The survey began in the spring and is progressing well with over half of the inscriptions now surveyed. Additional volunteers would be appreciated for the 'hilly' section of the churchyard. Some of the inscriptions are quite interesting – a variety of verse has been used in particular around the 1900s.

We would appreciate help with the following inscription:

*To the loving memory of Lt Col Edgar Gartson Harrison CB DSO  
Lt Bn Duke of Wellington's Regiment Ane (And?) East African Rifles*

*Son of Daniel and Frances Ann Harrison, who died June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1947 Aged 84*

Are any of his descendants still living locally? His parents are buried next to him but how did a local man become a member of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment? Where do the East African Rifles fit in? He obviously survived any fighting that took place – but where did the regiment fight and what would his position of Lt Col involve?

If anyone can help regarding Lt Col Edgar Harrison please forward details to the Editor so that we can print an update in a future Journal.

*Zoë Atkinson*

## **St Catherine's Church, Crook**

Since the publication of Issue 7 of the Journal one or two members have mentioned that they were sorry not to have been able to come on the Summer Walk to Hollin Hall and St Catherine's Tower at Crook. Should any one wish to visit St Catherine's Tower on their own, the following notes in addition to those in the Journal should prove helpful.

The former Church was situated on what was once the main packhorse route and line of communication between Kendal and Furness in the days before the Lyth marshes were drained and the new road built. Much of this old route can still be followed.

The age of the church is difficult to determine as no early historical documents survive. It is mentioned in the will of Christopher Philipson in 1566 and there is an undated letter to un-named recipients from the Duke of Norfolk referring to a dispute at Crook over the nature of the Church Service and over the appointment of a suitable priest. The dispute was to be settled at Appleby Assizes. This letter has been tentatively placed in the early 1560s. Further light was shed on the dating of the Church by a document from the Levens Hall manuscripts discovered in the 1970s which contains the testimony of a group of men from Crook given in 1575:

- Robert Ackridge (age c80 in 1575) *helped to lead free stone for doors and windows to build it (i.e. the Church) as it is now upon the free grant of Rowland Philipson.*
- Thomas Clarke (age 79) *did lead free stone to the same chapel from Hutton Roof.*
- Thomas Wilson (age 60) *said that his brother Henry led free stone from Hutton Roof towards the said doors and windows.*
- Myles Wilson (age 78) *said that his father walled one side of the said Chapel. Rowland Philipson, then living did grant onto the township of Crook ... the said chapel with the chapel-yard as it is now walled in with four saddle-ways.*

Rowland Philipson died in 1516 and as he is described in this testimony as *then living* the Church must have been built before 1516. A probable date for the Church is therefore likely to be in the early years of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

It is probable that there was an older church on this site. The bell in the present Church at Crook was removed from St Catherine's and bears the legend *Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis*. There is also on the body of the bell an heraldic shield with the arms of France and England quartered. The College of Heralds says that the period when this shield was in use was between 1340 and 1405. This and the distinctly medieval *prayer* noted above suggest that the bell may once have hung in a medieval church before St Catherine's was built. If so, where was this church?

The *Westmorland Gazette*, reporting the dedication of the new church in 1887 wrote that the earthen floor of St Catherine's was flagged only in 1800, and that rushes were strewn until that date; right to the end *rude and simple baulks of timber served as seats*. The report also said that *the body of the old church was utilised for the nave of the new one, and this required the demolition of the ancient structure*.

A few additional notes are given in the *Transactions* of the CWAAS Volume VI (Old Series) where it is stated that St Catherine's had no chancel, only the nave and the tower. Part of the west end was partitioned off to accommodate the village school, also used as the vestry. There was a three-decker pulpit and an ancient stoop for holy water and traces of a rood screen of a very rude description being only rough hewn and covered over with whitewash. A small stained glass pane from the East Window was taken to fill the vestry window in the new church and is referred to in the Church Warden's account book for 1834. Some stone from St Catherine's was used to build the Memorial Hall.

Thomas Machell travelled by St Catherine's in 1691 and gave the measurements of the church as *twenty yards long and seven broad*. The tower had one bell and the place was in good repair *except for the floor*. His reference to the Vicar's stipend of £3 per annum is one more piece of evidence to suggest an early foundation.

The appeal leaflet of 1885 which preceded the building of the new church gives reasons why a new church on a new site was needed:

- The climb up to St Catherine's was a severe task for the aged and infirm;
- The original site was determined by its proximity to the old road which was now disused;
- St Catherine's was exposed to the storms and had suffered severe damage, including the loss of most of the roof, in 1884;
- The cost of repairs and of building a new road up to the church would be as much as the cost of a new church.

There is no evidence to indicate that St Catherine's was deconsecrated or that the parish lost any rights over it. This strengthens its claim to be a dedicated memorial and therefore to be protected and preserved.

*(Article penned by Mike Houston, based on notes and research by Robert Gambles)*

## More on Thomas Taylor

*In Journal 7 we asked for help in discovering more about the early days at the Wood Turning mill where it was thought that Thomas Taylor was the first owner. Since the last issue we have found two more references to Thomas. Thanks to some research by our member Susan Stuart we have found in the Carlisle Record office details of a petition from tenants of Hugill and Staveley in 1822 which we hope to enlarge upon in Journal 9. From the files of the late Joe Scott we have found details of the final disposal of Taylor's estate in 1872. It would seem from this that he owned a considerable part of the village, including the Ayland – then just another field. Below is a copy of the auction notice, with some added comments taken from the 1871 census.*

Valuable Accommodation Land and Houses  
At and near the Village of Staveley, Westmorland, for Sale.  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By Mr. M. Derome,

At the Duke William Inn, Staveley, on Tuesday, the 17th of December, 1872, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, by order of the Devisee in Trust under the Will of the late Thomas Taylor, deceased (unless previously disposed of by Private Treaty, of which due notice will be given), in the following or such other Lots as may be determined upon at the time of Sale, ALL those valuable Lands, Dwelling Houses, and Premises, situate at Staveley aforesaid, known by the names and containing in statute measure the quantities following, that is to say:-

**Lot 1:** Two Allotments of Land, situate on the East side of and adjoining the Road leading from Staveley to Kentmere, in the respective Townships of Over Staveley and Hugill, and containing altogether 45a. 3r. 5p, statute measure, or thereabouts, in the occupation of Mr. William Douthwaite. (*William Douthwaite farmed 87 Acres at Croft Head*)

**Lot 2:** Five Cottages, situate at Low Green, at the high end of the Village of Staveley, on the West side of the Road leading to Kentmere, with the Gardens and Appurtenances thereunto belonging, in the occupation of Mr. Anthony Swidenbank and others. (*Anthony Swidenbank was a Tailor & Draper*)

**Lot 3:** Six Cottages, with the Gardens and Appurtenances, situate in the Village of Staveley, on the West side of the Turnpike Road, in the occupation of Mr. Raven and others, as Tenants. (*John Raven was a labourer, living with his wife, five children and a lodger in one cottage*)

**Lot 4:** A well-built and commodious Dwelling House, containing Two Sitting Rooms and several Bed Rooms, with a good-sized Garden and Orchard, and the Barn, Stable, Cow House, Gig House, and Cottage adjoining, situate on the West side

of the Turnpike Road, in the Village of Staveley, in the occupation of Messrs. Ireland and Edmondson and others, as Tenants.

**Lot 5:** A close of excellent Meadow Land, with the Tenter Ground at the North end thereof, called *Tubman Field*, containing 6a. 0r. 4p., statute measure, or thereabouts, at the North end of the Village of Staveley, in the occupation of Messrs. Ireland and Edmondson. (*George W Ireland does not appear in the 1871 census but in 1881 he is shown as a Woollen Merchant, living at Elphow*)

**Lot 6:** A close of excellent Pasture Land, called *The Ayland*, with the several Cottage Gardens adjoining, containing altogether 4a. 3r. 0p., statute measure, or thereabouts, situate at the South end of the Village of Staveley, adjoining the Turnpike Road, in the occupation of Mr. John Cannon. (*John Cannon farmed 130 Acres at Sandyhill*)

**Lot 7:** A close of land, containing 0a. 2r. 12p., statute measure, or thereabouts, situate near the Village of Staveley, on the South side of and adjoining the Road leading to Crook, in the occupation of Mr. Thompson. (*Richard Thompson was a Railway Porter living at Station Cottage*)

**Lot 8:** Three Inclosures of excellent Pasture Land, now lying together, situate at Seedhow, near Staveley aforesaid, on the South West side of and adjoining the Road leading from Staveley to Windermere, containing in statute measure 4a. 3r. 25p., or thereabouts, in the occupation of the representatives of the late Edward Dickinson. (*The only Edward Dickinson in the census is the landlord of the 'Fat Lamb' in 1871*)

The above Property is of Freehold Tenure, with the exception of Lots 2 and 8, which are of Customary Tenure; Lot 2 is held of the Manor of Staveley and Hugill, by payment of the yearly Customary Rent of 1s. 8d., and Lot 8 is held of the Manor of Staveley, by payment of the yearly Customary Rent of 6s. 8d. The Fields are most conveniently situate for occupation in small parcels, as Accommodation Land; they adjoin good roads, and are in the immediate proximity of the Village of Staveley. The Dwelling houses are in a good state of repair, and, from their situation, never fail to command good Tenants at remunerative rents; and the various Lots, either together or separately afford a most excellent opportunity to parties wishing to purchase, whether for investment or occupation.

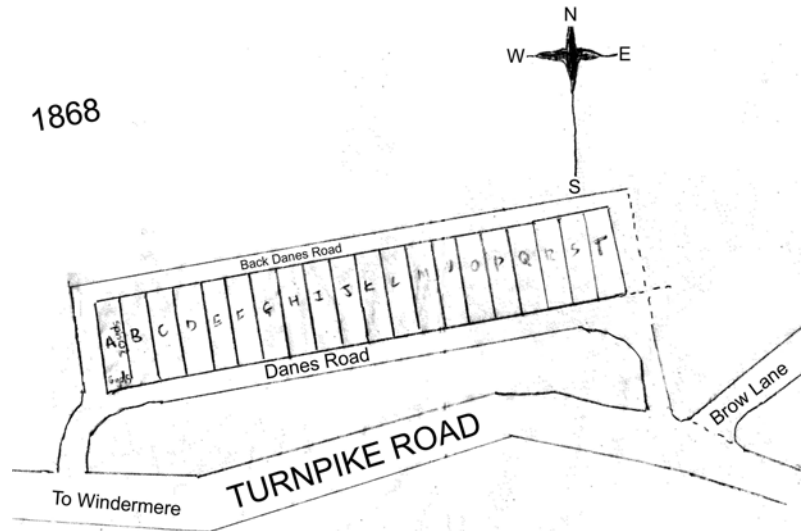
The respective Tenants will shew the Premises, and further particulars may be had on application to Thomas Ullock Esq., Quarry How, Windermere; J. H. Taylor, Esq., Cambridge Park, Twickenham; or at the Office of Messrs. Harrison and Son, Solicitors, Lowther Street, Kendal, where a Plan of the Property may be seen.

Kendal, November 20th, 1872.

## School History Competition

*Whilst in many of the entries we can find extracts from well-documented local history, there are always some new facts to be learnt. Family histories often tell us much of how life was lived, and research into individual houses often gives details which can only be gleaned from the original deeds and from personal observation.*

Callum Gallop's entry includes interesting facts about Danes Road. There have always been arguments about whether the houses are in fact Danes Row, on Windermere Road or whether the main road itself changes name at the corner of Brow Lane. Callum's 1868 sketch from his house deeds shows the main road having a separate existence at that time, with Danes Road having its own alignment in front of the 20 plots, separated by a small field from the main road. This field was subsequently incorporated in the house gardens when the road was downgraded to a footpath.



Callum's sketch – slightly enhanced for Journal purposes

Joe Fallows gives us some intriguing facts about his great-grandfather, Gilpin Bland who won the Grasmere bouts at Cumberland Wrestling on six occasions. He has also documented a family tree and the equivalent of a family bible inscription taken from an old sampler. Included in the entry are many pictures relating to life at Kentmere, some of which we have not seen before.



Picnic during hay time – Gilpin Bland on

Not all of the interesting facts come from the prizewinners. Alice Brock with *history of my house* helps to confirm a number of assumptions made during the work on the railway cottages in 2003 when surveyors were unable to gain access to 'Greenside' under the previous owner. We knew that originally it had been two cottages and our assumptions as to where the second door and the stairs were have been confirmed by Alice's entry.

Ellen Woodward's account of her house contains some interesting sketches as to how

it had developed from being part of Barley Bridge Farm. It would appear from the text that 'dad' had previously discussed the history with Joe Scott, and had produced some drawings as to how the changes had taken place. Such drawings are an important addition to our records as it is generally only the householders themselves who can document internal changes. Ellen also includes some details of the families who lived there, and includes a photo from 1910 of a wedding reception at the farm.

Some very useful facts unearthed by Staveley children; we look forward to the entries in next year's competition.

*John Berry*

## **Railway Accidents at Staveley**

*The Kendal & Windermere Railway opened for traffic in April 1847 and the first recorded fatal accident was only three months later in July 1847, when Richard Backhouse was killed by a runaway wagon coming down the hill from Ings. Some 40 years later another fatality occurred and was reported in gruesome detail by the **Westmorland Gazette**, as was the norm at the time. The first report, outlining the basic circumstances of the accident appeared in the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1887 issue; we reprint below the follow up article which appeared on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, following the inquest.*

An accident happened three weeks ago at Staveley Railway Station to Wm. Studholme, a bobbin turner, living at Hugill, which was reported in the *Westmorland Gazette* at the time. Studholme was crossing the line from the up to the down platform, when a passing engine knocked him down and afflicted very serious injuries. He was brought to the Memorial Hospital at Kendal, and lingered until Saturday last, when he died about noon. The inquest was held at the Town Hall on Monday afternoon, by Mr. J. B. Wilson. – Mr. L. D. Price represented the railway company. The jury, of whom Mr. C. Nowell was foreman, having viewed the body at the Memorial Hospital, the following evidence was adduced: -

John Studholme said: *I live at Grassgarth, Hugill, and am a bobbin-turner by trade. I have seen the body of deceased; it is that of my father William Studholme. My father was a bobbin-turner. He was 47 years of age. The deceased came to my uncle's at Staveley on the 29<sup>th</sup> October to a pig-killing. I account for the deceased being at Staveley Railway Station because he was in the habit of going to Windermere on a Saturday evening for a butcher's meat. I heard of the accident to the deceased when I was in Staveley that evening and I went to the station. I found my father had been put into the train when I got to the station. The station master was present. I came down with deceased to Kendal and left him at the Memorial Hospital. The deceased was carried from the railway station at Kendal to the Memorial Hospital on a stretcher. He was conscious all the time. I have seen the deceased about six times since the accident, but he has never described to me how it happened. I heard of deceased's death on Saturday night.*



Annie Knowles, spinster, living with her father Joseph Knowles, sawyer, Staveley, said *I was at Staveley station on the night of 29th October, about half-past eight o'clock. I saw the deceased, William Studholme, there. He was in the general waiting room. I left him there, and about two minutes afterwards an engine passed from Kendal to Windermere. I was on the platform when the engine passed, and I heard the deceased moan immediately afterwards. I called to the station master, who was in the booking office, and he went to the deceased. With assistance the deceased was moved off the line. The deceased was lying on his back when we found him, between the platform and the metals, about opposite the waiting-room. He was then taken across to the waiting room until the train from Windermere arrived. He was seen by Dr. Balbernie, of Staveley, who ordered him to be sent to the hospital at Kendal.* - A juryman: *Did you hear the engine whistle?* - Witness: *I did not notice it; I thought it was the ordinary coming up.* - A juryman: *Was there any official on the platform when the engine passed?* - *There was not.* - A conversation took place between one or two of the jurymen with regard to a passage from the west side of the station to the high-road which it appeared was by a flight of steps.

John Nicholson deposed: *I am now stationmaster at Milnthorpe. I was stationmaster at Staveley on the 29<sup>th</sup> October last. I was called by the last witness, Miss Knowles, out of the booking office. I found the deceased lying on his back between the metals*



The station crossing where the accident occurred

*and the platform on the line going towards Windermere. I got some assistance and took him across to the waiting room. I heard the engine whistle, and I went immediately to the booking hall, where I could see the engine pass. I sent for Dr Balbernie at once. He said he could do nothing there, and that deceased must be taken to the*

*Kendal Hospital at once. I sent the deceased by the first train to Kendal - the 9pm train from Windermere. I came to Kendal with the deceased and saw him removed to the hospital. The deceased had not booked by any train, but it is usual for passengers to cross the line when they have to book for Windermere.* - In answer to a juryman, witness said that a passenger could get from one side of the platform to the other by going down the steps from the booking office, proceeding under the bridge on the highway, and coming up the steps on the other side, but he had never seen it done. - A juryman: *Have you any board on the platform informing people of the subway or warning them of the danger of crossing the line?* - Witness: *No there is no board to that effect. There are general notices on each side of the station warning people*

*against being on the line, but none on the platform.*

Henry Jennings deposed: *I live at Helmside, and am engine-driver on the London and North Western Railway. I was in charge of a passenger engine going from Kendal to Windermere on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> October. I passed through Staveley station about 8-35. I was then travelling at the rate of about 25 miles an hour. I whistled before I got to the station - 300 or 400 yards south of the station. I saw nothing on the line at the station. It was very dark. I hit nothing, but heard a noise as if the engine had struck a piece of iron. I stopped and examined the engine, but found nothing worse there. I examined the engine again at Windermere, and found a step wanting on the left side. A human body would not have broken the step off; and it must have come against something hard. I found the step at Staveley station on our return. I had charge of the train in which deceased was brought to Kendal - In answer to the railway inspector, witness said he did not go back and examine the deceased. He did not know anyone was hurt. When he found nothing wrong with the engine he went on. - A juryman: Was it some distance away where you stopped? - Witness: Not far away. - The railway inspector: Was the station lighted? - Witness: It was.*

John Thornborough, fireman on the engine, corroborated the previous witness. Speaking of the step that was broken, he said that the support was about an inch and a half thick and was fifteen inches above the level of the rails. When they examined the engine there were no marks of blood, and it was not until they returned to Staveley that they knew any one was injured.

Thomas Beaufoy Green, surgeon, said: *I was called to the Kendal Railway Station about half-past nine o'clock on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> October. I found the deceased there. I ordered him to be taken to the Hospital, and found that he had a compound comminuted fracture of the right leg just above the ankle. He had a transverse fracture of the left shoulder blade, a lacerated flesh wound over the right brow, and a deal of injury under the surface of the skin and the soft surface of the thigh. I considered it prudent to wait for the amputation of the leg, which was absolutely necessary, until next day, as the deceased was suffering from the shock. I amputated the leg on the following day, and have attended the deceased from that time until his death, which took place on Saturday last about noon. The deceased could never give any clear account of how the accident happened. He said he did not know. The deceased has had pzoemia (blood poisoning) since the fourth day after the accident, consequent on the injuries, and died from that. - The Railway Inspector: Could you state in what condition deceased was with respect to alcohol? - Witness: I did not smell any alcohol. He answered questions and spoke quite rationally. - The Coroner: I think we may take it that he was not suffering from alcohol.*

The jury in returning a verdict of *Accidental death*, made the recommendation that a booking office should be provided at the west side of the station, so that might avoid the danger of crossing the line. - The Inspector said he would report the suggestion to headquarters.

## The Federation AGM September 2006

*Our Society is a member of the Cumbria Local History Federation – Joe Scott was one of the prime movers in its setting up. We continue to support them and our Chairman attended the AGM in September on your behalf. Below are some important changes he noted.*



At the CLHF AGM Jill Wishart, who has been chairman since the Federation was founded, stood down and was replaced by Richard Brockington from Penrith. Derek Denman, who had been helping Jill for the past year, was elected secretary, and Alan Richardson agreed to be bulletin editor for one year only. Shirley Thornhill, treasurer for many years, continues in office.

CLHF has in the last year made improvements to its Bulletin, both in content and in the quality of production. It is now professionally printed rather than hand-assembled, a situation that could not continue. Additionally the website has been reinstated, so that together the Bulletin and Website provide a widely available coverage of member societies in Cumbria. The website helps the public to find and contact societies. The Bulletin offers a comprehensive listing of societies' events, news, current activities and issues.

A change is being made to the Bulletin arrangements for 2007, with the intention that societies should find it more worthwhile and cheaper to order copies for their members. The Bulletin has already been refocused to be more directly useful to the majority of members of history and heritage societies. While local societies naturally keep their members informed of their own events, it is often difficult to inform members about the meetings of other societies, conferences, courses and local history news specific to Cumbria. The Federation Bulletin is now intended to be a practical way of providing that information to societies' members, either in addition to or in place of societies' current arrangements.

*The cost of additional copies of the Bulletin for 2007 has been reduced to 20p (ie 60p for the set of three), the minimum sum which will cover the extra cost to the Federation. Our (SDHS) committee will be deciding early in the new year whether or not to take up this offer and for each of our members to receive a copy of the CLHF bulletin along with their **Journal**. Let committee members know as soon as possible if you have any strong feelings either way about this.*

## Joe Scott History Prize 2006

As only one satisfactory entry had been received, it was agreed at the CLHF AGM that no award would be made this year. It was also agreed that the committee look again at the conditions, in order to make the competition more attractive for 2007.

## Visit to Burnbanks

*In 1919 the Manchester Corporation authorised the construction of waterworks at Haweswater and the dam was finally completed in 1940. The workforce could not be supplied locally and from 1920 hundreds of workers were recruited from Manchester. A model village was built for these workers at Burnbanks. Some of the houses and original buildings can still be traced and modern houses now stand on this historic site.*

On 16<sup>th</sup> August, some 25 members of Staveley & District History Society together with some 25 members of Lazonby History Society, were the guests of Bampton & District Local History Society for a visit to the former model village of Burnbanks.

On arrival at Bampton Village Hall, members were greeted by Bampton's Secretary, Pat Garside, and introduced to Chairman Bob Dickman who gave a brief history of the Burnbanks project and of the Society's associated exhibition, part of which was on display in the hall. The award of a Local Heritage Initiative Grant had enabled them to carry out much research into the village and to provide not only the



Bampton member John Drinkwater explains the site to visitors

exhibition but also a comprehensive record of plans and oral history. They also were able to provide an interpretive panel at the entrance to the village.

Tea and biscuits were then followed by a digital 'slide' show put together by member Sharron Metcalfe.

The party then went on to Burnbanks itself where we were shown both the new houses erected on the

foundations of the former village, and the few surviving old maintenance buildings. Further on down the site we were shown the abandoned foundations of several other buildings, now almost invisible after some 60 years of natural growth.

Finally we stood looking at the Haweswater dam itself, and were thankful that the 1979 proposal to raise it by another 100 feet was thrown out.

*John Berry*

Right – the cast iron sign at the entrance to the village, now part of the Coast-to-Coast long distance footpath.

