

Staveley & District History Society

Journal Spring 2018

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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: Barley Bridge weir. Will ongoing discussions about flood mitigation affect Staveley's industrial archaeology?

The next issue of the *Journal* (No 43, the Summer 2018 issue) will be published about the 12th August 2018. All contributions (letters, articles, etc.) are welcome at any time but should be with the Editor by early July.

From the Chair

Another year, in which the Eagle and Child Bridge was finally re-opened, has passed. Don Morris, who is bringing down the curtain on his very successful term as our Events Secretary, ensured that SDHS's fare was as diverse and as interesting as ever. He will be a hard act to follow. We are grateful to new member David Telford-Reed who replaces him in the Autumn.



Last Summer, we had walks around Ambleside and Kendal and a visit to High Lickbarrow farm. The topics of our Winter talks were richly varied: Grand Entrances; The Lakes through Victorian slides; Windermere oral history; How to study the history of your house; Liverpool Cowkeepers and The Yards of Kendal. Thanks for all your hard work Don in organising this and all the other eclectic programmes since you were appointed in 2008.

I am pleased to report that our new Oral History recording equipment has been put to good use, and we have two new transcriptions to add to the archive, thanks to Phil Booth's expertise with keyboard and foot-pedal. Our Buildings project to document information about older properties in the area makes slower progress. Perhaps the article by Rob David in this Journal will rejuvenate interest?

Your committee made the difficult decision to move the venue for our talks this Autumn from Staveley School to Ings Parish Hall. There were inevitably many conflicting issues: other regular events on Tuesdays; the challenges of winter nights; walking to the venue; parking in Ings; refreshment facilities; IT support, all of which had to be carefully considered. In the event, the problems the committee have in supporting Tuesday evenings weighed most heavily. So, we will restart our next SDHS year in October in Ings, on 3rd Thursdays, normally at 7.30pm, the December and January meetings being at 2.30pm. Its a compromise that regrettably won't suit everybody, but we sincerely hope that it will allow new members to attend and that current members will continue to support the talks. If transport is a problem, then please ask a committee member for assistance.

John Hiley

Nancy Houston 1935 – 2017

Nancy, one of our longest serving members, passed away last November. She grew up in the north-east, and met Mike, our vice-president, in 1952. They were, subsequently, contemporaries at Hull University where she studied English. After teaching in Lincoln, she married Mike in 1959, who was teaching at Windermere Grammar School, and began teaching English at Kendal High School. She later taught at St Anne's (now Windermere) School and, thereafter, worked at the Armit Library, then at Ambleside Library. After retiring she spent many happy years at Staveley and Bowston, reading her beloved English authors, tending her plants and garden, enjoying membership of various societies including our own, and spending time with family and friends. She will be much missed.

Coronation seats - further research

In Journal 39, I wrote an article in which I tried to describe the history and location of the seats that were made to celebrate the Coronation of the Queen. I used some childhood memories of Mike Ambler and received assistance from other long standing local residents. It transpires that there were several errors in my report.

The first mistake was corrected by Tommy Bland, as reported in Journal 40, who recalled helping to construct the seats while apprenticed to G.W. Reed at Victoria Forge, Windermere. This site is next to Booths, now used by Windermere Auto Centre.

The next development occurred just before the start of the recent November meeting. I was given a file by Zoe Atkinson which, besides having a number of interesting local photographs and documents, had the original "Statement of Account of the Staveley Coronation Fund." This was printed by Kentmere Ltd. sometime after June 1954. Besides the fascinating financial statement of account, included here, there was also the original location of the coronation seats. These are printed below but they throw up other questions. I have lettered these A to P so they may be compared with my own list in Journal 39, which was numbered 1 to 16.

Coronation Seat Locations

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Windermere Road, opposite Middle Reston. | B. Windermere Road, near the Old Quarry. |
| C. Windermere Road, approaching Seed Howe. | D. Kentmere Road, opposite Barley Bridge. |
| E. Kentmere Road, Starvation Hill. | F. Bottom of Elf Howe Lane. |
| G. Fell Foot Lane. | H. Benson Hill. |
| I. At the top of "Cuddy". | J. Two Seats in Abbey Square. |
| K. Three Seats on the Ayland. | L. Main Road, near Sandy Hill. |
| M. Plantation Bridge. | N. The Banks. |
| O. Moss Side Lane end. | P. Crook Road, below "Sidegarth". |

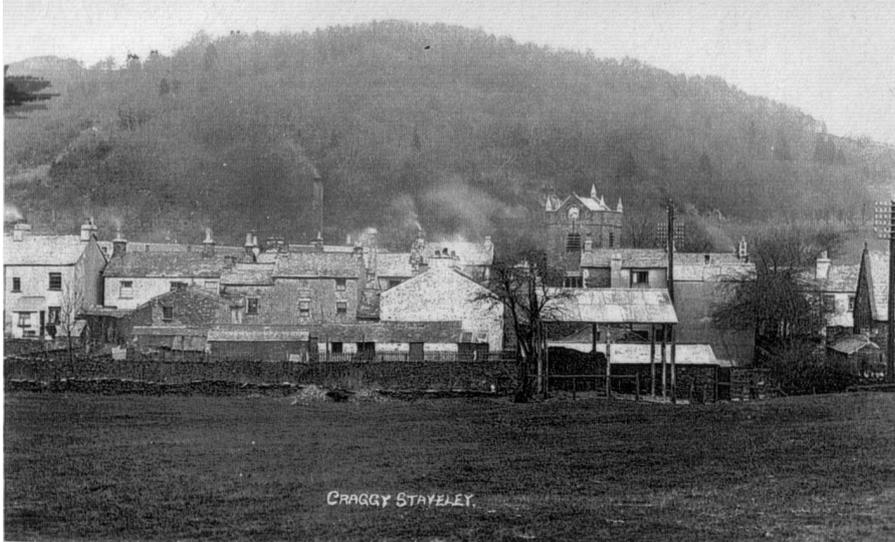
The first obvious discrepancy between the two lists is in the number of seats. Some people believed there was a seat for each year of the Queen's life when she ascended the throne. That would have been 25 when her father died and 27 on Coronation day. I 'discovered' 25. There are only 19 on the 1954 list so that belief is wrong – a second error on my part. There is however one seat that is not on the original list that certainly seems to qualify for inclusion. This is the one in Grassgarth Lane (No. 1 on my list) which has the most ornate Coronation inscription of all the remaining seats. Mike Ambler erroneously believed Joe Rose made the seats and he did live very close to this seat. It is possible that Joe did make just this one seat but we will probably never know. I should point out here that, as mentioned in Journal 39, the Hugill Parish Council decided to offer the Ings Entertainment the right to make their own arrangements. I have found no evidence that this Committee ever met. If it did, then perhaps Joe did make a number of seats for the area of Ings. There is therefore the possibility that there were 25 or 27 seats altogether.

Staveley Coronation Committee-Statement of Accounts

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| INCOME | | | |
| Donations (including special efforts by Village Organisations and private individuals) | 246 | 10 | 11 |
| Collections:- | | | |
| House to House | 240 | 9 | 3 |
| Shops and Hotels | 17 | 9 | 6 |
| Dances and Concerts (Coronation Committee) | 158 | 3 | 4 |
| | ----- | | |
| | 662 | 3 | 0 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Cheques | | 10 | 2 |
| Printing:- Kentmere Ltd. | 38 | 5 | 11 |
| Westmorland Gazette | 5 | 9 | 0 |
| Harpers | 2 | 0 | 6 |
| Gift to National Flood & Distress Fund (Mayor of Kendal's appeal) | 52 | 6 | 0 |
| Programme Blocks | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| Provincial Insurance Co. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ellisdons Ltd. (badges) | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| Bailie & Hargreaves (Coronation Spoons) | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| (Coronation Mugs – gift) | | | |
| (Coronation Testaments – gift) | | | |
| Gratuities:- P.Wilson ("Queen") | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| N. Charnley. ("Attendant") | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| H.Hankin | 29 | 7 | 6 |
| R. L. Smith (Decorations, Sweets, etc.) | 21 | 6 | 0 |
| J. W. Johnson (Staging etc.) | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| M. Johnson (Decorations) | 7 | 1 | |
| Foods:- Danes Cafe, Mrs. Robinson, Messrs. Hodson, Miller, Linch, Armstong, Mallinson, Suart, Clement, Lennon, Armer and Reiss | 53 | 17 | 10 |
| Flowers:- N. Crow | 11 | 6 | |
| A. Birkett | 18 | 5 | |
| Earl Haig Fund (wreath) | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Working Men's Institute | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| J. W. Boon (powdered wax) | 4 | 0 | |
| North West Electricity Board | 1 | 17 | 11 |
| Westmorland County Council | 9 | 6 | |
| G. W. Reed (Coronation Seats) | 138 | 2 | 6 |
| P. Bland do. | 65 | 5 | 0 |
| R. Ambler (fixing seats) | 38 | 0 | 0 |
| S. W. Rural Council (maintenance of seats) | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Recreation Ground Committee (mainenance of seats) | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Secretary's Expenses | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Treasurer's Expenses | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| | ----- | | |
| | 662 | 13 | 0 |

The income account was signed off on 21st June 1954 by the Treasurer, A. Philipson and the Chairman of the Finance Committee , N. Wadsworth. The Auditor, C. W. Raffels, approved the accounts on 1st July 1954.

The next interesting feature is the description of some of the locations - E, H and I – which are new to me. Andrew Taylor informs me that Starvation Hill (how does this name arise?) refers to the land just after the Ravengarth Estate past Barley Bridge. This corresponds to No.7 on my list. Andrew also believes that Cuddy is another name for Craggy. If correct then this would tally with the seat north of Craggy that



was recently stolen. The location of Benson Hill is a mystery to me. The only seat on my list which might be a candidate is No.16, on the short path beyond Staveley Park. This is guesswork, however Alan Bowness states that my conjecture is correct, though how this name arose isn't known. He has also

told me that the stretch of road from the milk stand at the bottom of the road leading to Craggy wood entrance to the cattle grid was at one time known as Cuddy.

For the other seats, some in the lists can be paired as follows (readers will need to consult Journal 39): 3A,4B,7E,5F,16H,15K,12L,13M,11N,9O. I note there are no seats at Fir Tree Corner in the original list. There are currently 2 seats there bearing an insignia. I also believe there other green seats that have the small E11R insignia that are not originals. I will be happy to receive further information or to be corrected yet again.

Subsequently, I asked in a recent Parish Magazine if any locals had any information on Benson Hill, a request that fell on stony ground. Then, Rob David gave a talk to the Society in January telling us how to study the history of our homes. He mentioned that between the census records, which always occur in a year ending in 01, the trade directories were a useful source of information. Inspired by this knowledge, I consulted some old Trade Directories. In the section on Over Staveley in the Mannex directory of 1851 there are two Park Farms. One is Far Park which had Matthew Rawlinson as the farmer, and Near Park where the farmer was Elizabeth Benson. I presume this second farm to be the one we now know as Park Farm. This *may* explain Benson Hill. Interestingly the Parson & White directory of 1829 only mentions Matthew Rawlinson at what was then called Staveley Park. A second farmer, Joseph Knowles, also resided at the same farm. There was, however, no listing of an Elizabeth Benson.

Don Morris

Investigating the histories of houses in the Staveley area. Where to start and how to progress.

These notes were provided by Rob David of Levens History Society for his talk at our January 2018 meeting. He has kindly agreed to their publication here.

Making sense of house histories involves investigating three themes:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Studying the building itself | Finding out about the owners and occupiers | Understanding the connections between the house and the community |
|------------------------------|--|---|

Good examples of this approach can be found in:

Trevor Hughes and Arthur Nicholls, *'The Yards of Kendal'* (2017), p26-42 (the chapter on Collin Croft)

David Olusoga's BBC2 programme called *'A House Through Time'*.

Information about houses can be found:

| | |
|--|---|
| In the community | Eg: The title deeds, old photographs, oral history |
| At Kendal Local Studies Library [KL] (ask for Sylvia Kelly or Kate Holliday) | Eg: Printed maps, Census, Trade Directories, newspapers on microfilm, old photographs, histories of the communities that have already been written |
| At Kendal Archive Centre [KAC] | Eg: Printed maps, Enclosure and Tithe maps, the 1910 Valuation, Building plans and other sources suggested below |
| The National Archives, Kew | The full 1910 Valuation |
| Online | www.ancestry.co.uk ; www.findmypast.co.uk ; http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ |

Information about communities and occasionally older and more significant houses can be found in:

Antiquarian literature

Nicholson and Burn, *The History and Antiquities of the counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*, 1777, (KAC and KL – reprint available)

William Whellan, *The history and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland*, 1860, (KAC and KL)

Recent historical literature

Books about Cumbria: Individual communities may be in the index, but these books are more valuable as a source for what it was like in Cumbria at specific times in the past. Reading sections of these books will allow you to compare your community with other places, both nearby and more distant. They may allow you to answer the question – was your community typical?

C. M. L. Bouch and G. P. Jones, *The Lake Counties 1500 – 1830*, Manchester, 1961 (KAC and KL)

J. D. Marshall and J. K. Walton, *The Lake Counties from 1830 to the mid-twentieth century*, Manchester, 1981 (KAC and KL)

S. Denyer, *Traditional Buildings and Life in the Lake District*, London, 1991 (KL)

R. W. Brunskill, *Traditional Buildings of Cumbria* (KL)

A good way to begin an investigation is to focus on about a century ago (c1910) and about 150 years ago (c1850-60). Then move on to more recent and older material. If you have access to the **Title Deeds** of the house you are investigating, then that could be a good starting point. However they can be very difficult to understand, and if they are old, to read, so you might feel more encouraged to begin an investigation in the following way, and return to the deeds once you have got your eye in.

A century ago (c1910)

Start with the **Census**. You can access the censuses (1841-1911) at www.ancestry.co.uk (free at libraries) and at www.findmypast.co.uk or on microfilm or microfiche at KL. The census provides a snapshot of the occupiers of the house on census day in a particular year. It is a superb resource, although there are a few problems you need to be aware of. The 1911 census provides the information for a century ago.

But who occupied the house between censuses? Trade Directories (from 1829-1930s) can help you here. They are available in KL and KAC. Kelly's directories for 1906, 1910, 1914, 1921 span the centenary.

What more can you learn about the occupants? Their baptisms/marriages and deaths may well be recorded in the parish registers which can be viewed on microfilm in KAC. [The Cumbria Archive Service *Cumbrian Ancestors* is very useful].

Check out **maps**. The nearest Ordnance Survey maps to 1910 are the Second (c1898) and Third Editions (c1915). These are at a scale of 25":1 mile, or if the area is very rural 6":1mile. OS maps can be found at KL and KAC.

There is another source that is a bit more difficult, but if you have a go, extremely useful and worth the effort. This is **The 1910 Valuation**. This information requires a number of documents and is in two locations.

First go to KAC and ask for the 1910 Valuation map for your community (WDTV1 is the reference for maps). You will find the map has been annotated in red, and you need to identify the handwritten red number that has been added for your property. This number connects to two books. The first is also in KAC and you need to ask for the 1910 Valuation book that goes with the map. Look up the number and you will find a summary of basic information about the owner, occupier, status of the property, size and value.

Second take a trip to The National Archives in Kew (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/). You need to take the red number with you. At Kew there is another book that provides considerable detail about the property, down to the level of number of rooms and what they were all used for. At Kew you need to provide the unique reference for the volume covering your property.

To find it visit <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>. Click on 'Discovery Catalogue'. Go to advanced search. In the spaces provided, fill in 'Over Staveley' or 'Nether Staveley' under Word and IR58 under reference number. There are 3 books for each part of Staveley, and you will need to order the volume that includes your number.

Photographs: there is an extensive collection of photographs filed by village at KL.

150 years ago (c1850-1860)

The **Census** is available for 1851 and 1861 (as before). There is also a **Mannex Trade Directory** for 1851 (KL and KRO). The parish registers also exist as before.

There are also two **Maps** of use. The Tithe Maps are pre 1851 and are at KAC. You need to ensure you get the SCHEDULE with the map as this provides the key to all the numbers on the map. The other map is the OS 1st Edition at a scale of 25":1 mile or 6":1 mile (KAC or KL). On the 25" maps every field is numbered and the key is in the OS Book of Reference for 1861. These are rare and you will need to ask at KAC.

Enclosure maps are mostly earlier but will also be helpful. They exist for numerous parcels of land enclosed under parliamentary enclosure acts in the 19th century. You need to ensure you get the SCHEDULE with the map too as this provides the key to all the numbers on the map. These are all available from KAC (WQR/I/+ unique number). It would also be worth asking at KAC if there are any **Estate maps** covering your area of interest.

While at KAC ask for the Place Name index volume. This index includes references to stray documents indexed by village.

Manor Court Records

A useful, but more difficult source, are the **manor court records**. To see what is available go to <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search> and search under Staveley and Hugill. Put in place name (eg Staveley and Hugill) and it will list all records available locally and elsewhere. In this case 62 collections mostly in Carlisle AC (Lowther) and Kendal (Levens). You will usually need to know the name of the tenant of your house as names of houses are not often included. You will learn about tenancies and maybe the nature of your property. To find out more visit www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/index.htm This site provides a lot of valuable background material on manorial records and also links you to the manorial documents register at The National Archives.

Older records

These include the Manor Court Records as well as:

Taxes

There may be **Land Tax** lists available in the Archive Centres. A few **Window Tax** lists survive as well. The **Hearth Tax** records date from the later 17th century. The Westmorland sets are particularly good. Westmorland (1670-71 and 1674-5) is covered in the Westmorland Hearth Tax volume published by CWAAS. Refer to Nether and Over Staveley as well as adjacent locations (eg Kentmere).

More recent records

Perversely it is more difficult to find out the recent history than that of a century or more ago. This is in part because there are restrictions placed on the release of more recent documents. However one document that has, in part at least, become recently available is the 1939 Registration which can be viewed on www.findmypast.co.uk This is a bit like a census and was taken on 29 September 1939. As the issuing of ID Cards and ration cards was based on this information it is pretty complete. However at the present time entries of people who are still alive and below the age of 100 are redacted (although there are errors in this). Like the census it is easier to find named individuals rather than buildings, but using advanced search the addresses can be found. You need to know that Staveley is in South Westmorland Rural District.

If you want to go further then it would be a good idea to buy a book on house history:

N.W. Alcock, *Old Title Deeds*, Chichester, 1986

N. Barratt, *Tracing the history of your house*, London, 2006

J. H. Harvey, *Sources for the History of Houses*, London, 1974

D. Iredale, *Discovering This Old House*, Princes Risborough, 1968

Dowdy, Miller and Austin, *Be Your Own House Detective*, London, 1997

Rob David

Tales from the Tapes: Staveley Pharmacy, the 4th and concluding part.

Recording by Adrian Runswick on 4th November 1997 of John Wood, who kept the Chemist's Shop in Staveley. John is a pharmacist. He now lives in Ings and was doing so at the time of the recording.

Do you think, John, we've given a fair picture of your shop and your function in Staveley?

Yes, there's just one thing I've forgotten about actually, because it's closed at the moment and moved to Kendal – the Abbey Home.

Oh, yes.

Now I provide medication for the Abbey Home off doctor's prescription, but there again, to make it easier for the staff in the Home, to save them opening bottles and seeing who takes what, again we issue them with weekly amounts in these little cassettes. On the back again is printed what every patient has and I also provide them with what I call a master medication record sheet which has the patient's name on everything that's in the cassette plus a month's tick-sheet so that when they give some medicine to take they can tick it off on the sheet. If the particular patient doesn't want to take their tablets, they are not forced to take their tablets, then they just put "refused" and then the tablets come back to me for destruction.

I also go into the Abbey periodically to train new staff how to use these systems, on general medicines, because sometimes the patients ask "Can you go and get me some Rennies?", "Can you get me laxative?", "Could you get me some cough mixture", so we have to know what occasional medicine the patient can take along with the regular medication. So I go and advise and say "Right, with certain products you cannot take certain other products" and so we try and train the staff so that they are not going to give anybody anything by mistake that they shouldn't have. The only other thing, which is quite amusing, and I would think by the time this is heard that the truss will be a long forgotten item of torture and uncomfortableness. I don't know if anyone has ever worn one. I tried one once but I decided and went and had an operation, 'cos I didn't like it. But I used to go out, I still do if requested, to measure and fit these elastic hernia belts and also elastic hosiery for people who have problems with veins in their legs.

Have you covered everything?

I think we've possibly mainly covered it. I can't think of anything else we do.

So, John, you've lived for 20 years in this lovely house called Ghyll Cottage at Ings. What's it like to live in Ings?

What's it like to live in Ings? It is hard to say, I mean it's very quiet and peaceful, you're surrounded by fields, sheep, cows, and OK, there is a road which runs in front of us, the A591, which sometimes gets noisy but as you live there a long time you don't hear it any more. The house, bought along with my in-laws, in twenty years, 1977 will it be, mainly because of my sister-in-law who was disabled and my mother and father-in-law were feeling that they couldn't manage her for a lot longer.

Perhaps we could say your father-in-law was George Dobson – I once got him to talk exactly as you're talking. We have a tape.

George Dobson, famous Pork Butcher. In fact, diverting now, but I mean George, my highlight when I was manager at Boots in Windermere, and lived in Windermere, and he still had his Pork Butcher's shop. The highlight of my year was every Christmas helping George link sausage. I got to be quite a good sausage linker, but couldn't quite get all four the same size so I didn't make it as a Master Sausage Linker. That's diverting, sorry.

We bought the house, now this belonged to a Miss Synge and it was a Georgian residence. By the side of it was a barn which didn't have any windows in, but it did have, apparently, this mahogany floor because just after the war, the Second World War, it needed a new floor, and Mr Ken Walling, was it Ken Walling who used to have the joiners opposite the doctor's Surgery, his sons have it now. That was his first job when he came out of the forces, to re-floor this and the only wood that was readily available was mahogany, so we've got that superb mahogany floor which is still there in the barn. We knocked windows through the barn, and my family, my wife and myself and three children lived in the barn conversion and my in-laws lived in the main house.

We arrived shortly after the new vicar, a Mr Ian Robins, the Rev. Ian Robins who was, as well as being the vicar of Ings, or the Priest in Charge I think they call him, was also to do with education, particularly for kids of my kids' age, under 12s, and he organised lots of little clubs down at the Schoolroom, and Youth Clubs. It was quite an active little community – there was always Harvest Suppers, Whist Drives, and small dances in the Hall which seem pretty tame now but at the time it was very enjoyable. You got to know everybody there. There were quite a lot of people with children of the same age, who have now moved out. I don't think there are many children there at all, but that's what it was like then living in Ings.

You've seen it changed though, haven't you, especially the other side of the road, I'd have thought, with the arrival of a pub.

Oh, The Watermill. Yes, the one thing, I think that two of the vicars thought, but mainly Ian, he always felt sorry for the non-churchgoers of the village because the centre of the community was the Church and the Hall and he said it would be nice if there was a Public House or a Hotel with an open licence where other people could go and meet and have a chat. We'd go along as well, and, well after he left it eventually arrived. Well I don't know, some people think it gets a bit noisy – I quite like the occasional walk down to The Watermill, you meet a lot of people there, you can have a good chat and whatever. Thankfully it's not a public house that has electronic music going all the time and Pool rooms and this sort of thing. It's mainly a meeting place for a quiet drink and a meal if you wish. I think, personally, it's been an asset to the community but not everyone would agree with me.

Also at the time the village bought what was the old school and playground, and just recently, I think it was Mr Kewley who was instrumental in the playground, which is a really nice playground for the children. Hopefully there might be a few more local children to use it. My kids actually though, because they lived in Staveley to start with, spent a lot of time on their bicycles going on what is now the cycle way but was a footpath, although I insisted that they use it as a cycle way, biking to and from Ings to Staveley to play with other children, which at that age, unfortunately, is not a thing I'd let them do now, which is a bad reflection on society. It's moved on but at that time you thought nothing of it, they just went down to Staveley and came back on their bikes. It seems young kids nowadays I think need computers and Sony Play Stations and Game Boys to amuse themselves. Mine used to spend their time either damming the River Gowan and getting pallets and building rafts. Quite a lot used to come up from Staveley to join them. Basically they spent a lot of time doing simple things like that.

How old are your children now?

The youngest is 21 this December, that's Timothy; the next youngest, Simon is 26 – I think it is – and Joanne, the eldest, she'll be 28 in February.

What's their view of Ings now that they are grown up?

Joanne is quite happy with Ings, she spends a lot of time reading and mountain biking, so living in Ings is fine. Entertainment they always move away to Bowness, Kendal, or wherever some music is played. For discos or live bands, mainly they go to places like the Lindale inn or the Brewery Arts Centre, these sort of places. The middle son, Simon, works on a farm. He has some sheep of his own now on a field that he rents at The Heights, near Williamson's Monument, so he spends most of his time in Ings farming and he is quite happy doing that. My youngest son, Timothy, I think that as soon as he's financially able, will move away to a town. I think he finds it a bit boring – he prefers a lot more things happening so he will be more likely to live in Kendal, I would think.

If your children were young, now, would you look forward to bringing them up?

I don't think I would. I don't know. Again kids seem to have changed. I don't know whether they would be happy being brought up the way we would want to bring them up because kids nowadays always seem to have to have what their peers have, be it Adidas trainers, if that's the right word, or a Sony Play Station. They're not always happy with the smaller, freer things of life and in Ings as it is now I think I would spend a lot of time transporting them.

The end