

Spring 2025

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The Mourholme Magazine of Local History



*Mourholme Local History Society (Charity Reg. No. 512765)
Covers the Old Parish of Warton containing the Townships of
Warton-with-Lindeth, Silverdale, Borwick, Priest Hutton,
Carnforth, Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne*

www.mourholme.co.uk

JENNY AGER
1940 – 2024
A tribute by Awena Carter



In the last Mourholme magazine, Jenny Ager wrote a fitting tribute to Clive Holden, and in this magazine, I have the sad task of writing a tribute to Jenny, who died suddenly last year on the 1st of December, Advent Sunday.

Jenny served the Society well, as committee member, secretary, magazine editor, and Chair, most of them at the same time. Eventually we invited her to become our President, a very fitting role for her.

Jenny first became interested in local history when, in 2002, she enrolled with the Continuing Education Department at Lancaster University, for a Certificate in Local History. There she met Jane Parsons, and they both decided to extend their knowledge of local history by joining the Mourholme Local History Society. They soon found themselves being part of the Society's Book Group, which had already published *'How it Was: A North*

Lancashire Parish in the Seventeenth Century.’ Jenny was involved with two subsequent books: *‘Warton 1800-1850: How a North Lancashire Parish Changed’* and *‘Warton Parish 1850-1900: Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton, Yealands’*. Jenny protests that she was only there to learn; and what a fast learner she was.

Jenny’s local history studies continued when she took a Post Graduate Certificate in Regional and Local History run by Lancaster University, for which she researched farms and farming in Silverdale before the First World War. Her interest in local history never waned, always wanting to find out more about the ancient parish of Warton and the people who lived here before us. I remember going on a guided walk looking at the ancient family graves in Warton Churchyard. Too polite to correct the guide’s errors, or to add to his partial knowledge, she nevertheless kept up a sotto voce commentary to me.

Later, spurred on by television programmes about the history of houses, Jenny began to research the history of her own early nineteenth century house, and also that of her son Simon’s house in Bangor, North Wales, researching the first people who had lived there.

Jenny published numerous articles in The Mourholme Magazine of Local History, and in Silverdale Parish magazine. The last thing she wrote was a short book about a late nineteenth century family holidaying in Silverdale. Her interest was piqued by a number of water colour paintings of Silverdale on eBay. She bought one of the paintings and set about researching the family. Jenny was born in Sussex to Welsh parents. In the nineteen Fifties she registered on an innovative course integrating nursing and health visiting with a university degree. The course was a

joint venture of Southampton University and St Thomas' Hospital London. On graduating and qualifying as a Nightingale Nurse, Jenny began working in Bournemouth as a Health Visitor. The group she studied with forged lifelong friendships together, regularly meeting up in person, or sometimes in later years via Zoom.

After she and her husband Brian moved to Silverdale, Jenny worked as a practice nurse at Ashtrees surgery in Carnforth and as a family planning nurse in Kendal.

For many years Jenny's sat as a JP. Her level headedness, Christian faith and extensive professional experience with people from all walks of life, all contributed to the wise judgements she made.

Jenny and Brian were our earliest friends in Silverdale when we moved here fifty-three years ago, we joined the baby-sitting group that Jenny and a friend had organised, and over the years our lives and those of our children became involved in friendship; in church; in playgroup; in school; in cubs and scouts; and at bonfire parties, Some years later, Jenny and Brian started a Scottish Dancing group that was great fun, but as we got older it morphed into a dining club....

Jenny's interests were legion: besides local history she was a long time Times reader, a voracious reader of books and a member of a reading group, She sang with at least three choirs, learned to play the piano in later life, and was an enthusiastic member of the Silverdale Strummers ukulele group.

Jenny Ager is very much missed by her family and her many friends, and by the members of the Mourholme Society of Local History that she served so well for many years.

A PRESIDENTIAL HELLO
Simon Williams

Many of us still miss the presence at Mourholme meetings of our last president, Jenny Ager, and we dearly wish she was still with us. She was usually ready with thought-provoking questions and points of view at our meetings, and she gave great encouragement to those of us that dabble in local history research. It's not the first time I've followed Jenny – I became Chair of Mourholme for eight years following her retirement from that position, and thoroughly enjoyed my time in that role.

I feel truly honoured to have been invited to become Mourholme's President, and I promise not to have a catchy Presidential slogan, such as Make Mourholme Great Again! President is an honorary position, that is, without duties, but gives me the chance to be involved and supportive towards the current Chair, Nina, and the Mourholme Committee. If you attended the Silverdale History Weekend last year you may have seen me at the Mourholme stand, selling our wares and whipping up interest in building an artwork at Jenny Brown's Point to commemorate the victims of the sinking of the Matchless in 1894. Or my talk at the Institute on the entire 2000 year history of Silverdale in just 60 minutes I may have missed a few items! So I keep up a strong interest in history, both local and national, though the two are very different in nature and purpose.

What is local history, and what use is it? Whether your family has lived here for many generations, or you are an "offcomer", a proper knowledge of where you are massively enhances your understanding and sense of belonging in your home. Take any walk in the seven townships that make up the Mourholme catchment, and with a little reading you can be immersed in the

stories of the lives of those that came before us. The nineteenth century Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt wrote:

‘History is the record of what one generation finds worthy of note in another.’

It’s the stories from our past that show up the differences from modern life, that fascinate us. As the author L P Hartley put it:

‘The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.’

They certainly do. Over 300 years ago the schoolmaster John Lucas put pen (quill?) to paper, to record his memories of the customs and practices of the old parish of Warton and surrounds. Such as at Warton’s weddings:

‘The schoolboys make fast the church doors and demand a piece of money of the bridegroom, and if he refuses they seize one of the bride’s shoes, which I have seen done.’

Or, of Carnforth:

‘The houses in this town, two or three excepted, are covered with straw thatch.’

Or, of Borwick:

‘The House here is a large handsome stone building, and in August 1651 afforded a hospitable entertainment to King Charles II when he marched his army out of Scotland to Worcester.’

And, of Warton school:

‘The boys brought their fighting cocks to their master on Shrove Tuesday in the morning, and spent the whole forenoon in seeing them fight.’

For me, my walks in the area have provoked long researches into the stories and personalities that produced some of our built structures. The mile long wall jutting out purposelessly into Morecambe Bay from Jenny Brown’s Point; or the lonely

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chimney pointing at the sky nearby; or the remains of an iron forge on the Westmorland border at Leighton Beck; or the collection of wells that dot the Silverdale map. All have stories, and real people behind them, and historical research uncovers their ambitions, flaws, successes and failures. Mourholme member Geoff Wood more than once set a picture quiz at Christmas meetings, featuring local artefacts and built structures, titled 'What Is That?' Which succinctly describes my motivation to begin researching a new topic. And then one thing leads to another, and you may eventually have a story, a magazine article and a PowerPoint presentation to share.

Our history is a relatively gentle one. There was no famous Battle of Yealand; none of our inhabitants became Prime Minister (though Warton provided the gene pool that eventually produced America's first President); and the impact of the industrial revolution here was comparatively modest; leaving much (not all) of our landscape recognisable to our forebears from centuries ago. We have a history that misses the turbulence of the national story, but is nevertheless endlessly fascinating. As the poet Longfellow noted:

'History is the course of life, where men come and go,
and tides rise and fall.'

CHAIR'S REPORT, MARCH 2025

Nina Gaubert

Mourholme Local History Society mourned the loss of two prominent and active members last year: Clive Holden, who had been a committee member for many years and who had a wealth of knowledge about Carnforth and the industries nearby; and our President, Jenny Ager, a tribute to whom heads this magazine. Both of them have left their legacy in articles for The Mourholme Magazine of Local History, and also in the books that the Society has published.

On a happier note, after the success of the Silverdale History weekend, St Oswald's Church, Archbishop Hutton's VC School and the Society are going to run a history weekend on the 11th and 12th October in Warton. It will be run similarly with Silverdale's weekend, with exhibitors and speakers. Please note the date in your diary.

Continuing on the good news, the committee had a discussion about whom we would invite to be our new President, Simon Williams the former Chair was formally offered the role, which he accepted with his customary grace. As many will know, he is still actively working towards getting a lasting memorial for the twenty-five victims of the 'Matchless' sailing boat tragedy, the largest single loss of life on the Bay.

The Society has been approached by a project team which has made a bid for Lottery Heritage funding to research the history of Carnforth Library (opened in 1936) and its role in the changing Carnforth community over the past 90 years. The plan is to produce a small booklet and also to showcase the team's historical research, at an 'open day' style event at the library

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during its 90th anniversary year in 2026. Members of the public would be invited to come and view the outputs and, through participatory activities, contribute their ideas about the future of the library for the next 90 years. The project co-ordinator Alison Lloyd Williams would welcome any articles, photographs or reminiscences "Alison Lloyd Williams"
a.lloydwilliams@globalink.org.uk

The decision to move the Society talks from Yealand to Silverdale, as I know from my inbox, has caused some consternation from members. As promised, we have invited all members to vote on the options and the result was announced at the AGM. As I write this, in March, I do not know what the result will be but the committee will respect the wishes of its members.

The Society as you know is run by a dedicated band of volunteers, and we are looking for new committee members, especially from villages other than Silverdale, to help shape the Society.

Lastly, do you have an interesting article you would like to publish, or do you know an historical venue that would offer a private tour to our members? We are always open to hearing from you.

**A HOUSE THROUGH TIME:
IVYLEIGH, WOODWELL LANE, SILVERDALE
Dr Christine Boydell**

When we bought Ivyleigh in 2018 we were lucky to inherit a complete set of deeds. These papers, along with census and electoral records formed the basis of detective work to find out more about our new home and its previous residents. The extensive renovations we began in January 2020 uncovered additional information.

Ivyleigh is the left half of a pair of semi-detached properties (the other is Fir Nook, now known as Fir Trees) that were the first houses built on Woodwell Lane. (figures 1 and 2). They can be found near the bottom of the lane before you reach Woodwell. The front elevations face west toward the shore, and the rear of the properties face east toward Woodwell Cliff

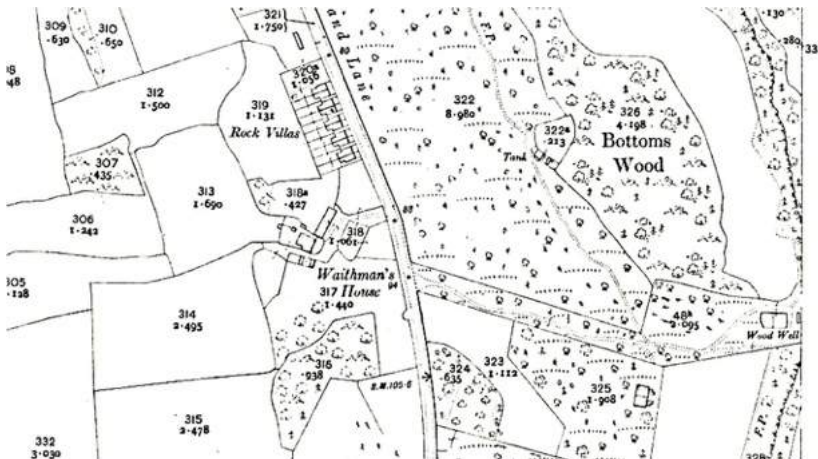


Figure 1:
Undated postcard, possibly 1920s, showing Ivyleigh and Fir Nook
(Message on the reverse reads:
With best wishes to all.
V Happy New Year,
from Fir Nook, Silverdale)



Figure 2: Ivyleigh in 2025

The two houses are built at right angles to Woodwell Lane and at the time of construction were in the parish of Warton-with-Lindeth (Figure 3)



**Figure 3 – Detail of Lancashire map XVIII.10 Revised: 1910,
Published: 1913, National Library Scotland.
Ivyleigh and Fir Nook can be seen to the right of plot number 325**

Lizzie Waterhouse

The deeds for Ivyleigh record Lizzie Waterhouse as the person responsible for the construction of the two houses, which were built around 1910/11. Initially I was very excited to find a photograph of Elizabeth Waterhouse in Rod Ireland's book *Old Silverdale*,¹ where she is noted as the Silverdale schoolmistress. However, after a little more digging it became clear that she wasn't the woman I was looking for. Lizzie (never 'Elizabeth') was born in Thornton near Bradford in 1868. Through inheritance, she became a woman of independent means. She was the third child of Jonas and Emma Waterhouse; her older siblings were Fred and Herbert; and she had one younger brother. In the 1871 census Jonas Waterhouse was described as the 'manager of worsted mill' and the family were living in a modest house on Dole Street. During the same year the *London Gazette* lists Jonas as a 'worsted manufacturer' and a director of the Bradford & Thornton Carrying Company.² Before the next census Jonas and his business partner Francis Craven, operating from Dole Mill, were declared bankrupt. But by 1881 Jonas appears to be in business again, the census records him as a 'Stuff or Worsted manufacturer' and the family had moved to better accommodation at 3 Spring Place, Horton, Bradford. In 1887 Lizzie's younger brother died. By 1891 her other brother Fred is married with two children Charles and Ernest. Fred is listed as a 'Stuff Manufacturer' at 33 St Andrews Place, Horton and Lizzie, now 23, is living with her father Jonas, mother Emma and a servant Annie Rawson, next door at number 35. Shortly after the census Jonas died. By the time of his death, the

¹ Ireland, R.J. *Old Silverdale: the loveliest spot on Morecambe Bay*, Palatine Books, Lancaster, 2016

² *Bradford Daily Telegraph*, 13 October 1871

Waterhouse family were reasonably well off, as the *Commercial Gazette* notes Jonas's assets as £2,778.14.6.³ Lizzie and her mother had moved to 14 Retford Place by 1901. At the time of Emma Waterhouse's death in 1904 her assets are listed as £2,024.3.6.⁴

What brought Lizzie to Silverdale is unclear. She may, like many others from Bradford, have holidayed in the area. Since the arrival of the Ulverston to Lancaster railway in 1857, tourism was on the increase. The deeds tell us that Lizzie bought a piece of land close to Woodwell in May 1910 and set about building two properties.

The Land

The Ivyleigh deeds provide quite a lot of information on the early and pre-history this house. Lizzie bought the land from William Henry Hatch a builder and contractor based in Lancaster. An enclosure map of 1818 notes that the land had previously been owned by JW Jackson and on the tithe map of 1846 it was in the hands of William Henry Fleetwood a wealthy banker of Woodford Park, Mellor. Fleetwood owned a lot of land and property in Silverdale and Lindeth. The next owner of the land was John Maddy Moore Hewitt, Fleetwood's son-in-law who sold it to William Henry Hatch in 1900. Hatch mortgaged the property by way of a private mortgage to Alexander Burrow and in 1906 security for the mortgage was transferred to Sarah Howson. This was paid off when Lizzie bought the land in 1910 for £122.2.0.

³ *Commercial Gazette*, 10 June 1891

⁴ *Bradford Daily Telegraph*, 16 June 1904

The land Lizzie bought consisted of a field off Woodwell Lane (see figure 4). A covenant restricted building to ‘two semi-detached dwellinghouses and a bungalow with a summerhouse... to be of not less structural value than £250 each’. In addition, Hatch was restricted as to use of the adjoining land and was not allowed to carry out ‘any noisy noxious or offensive trade or business’

The deeds also tell us that in August 1910 Lizzie had taken out a mortgage of £300, presumably to finance the construction of the properties.



Figure 4: Glass slide of Woodwell Lane, 1901, by Owen Graystone Bird, (Red Rose Collection, Lancashire County Council).

In May 1919 Lizzie exchanged the strip of land to the west of the property with William James Sharp. (Figure 5) Later that year Lizzie pays off her mortgage.

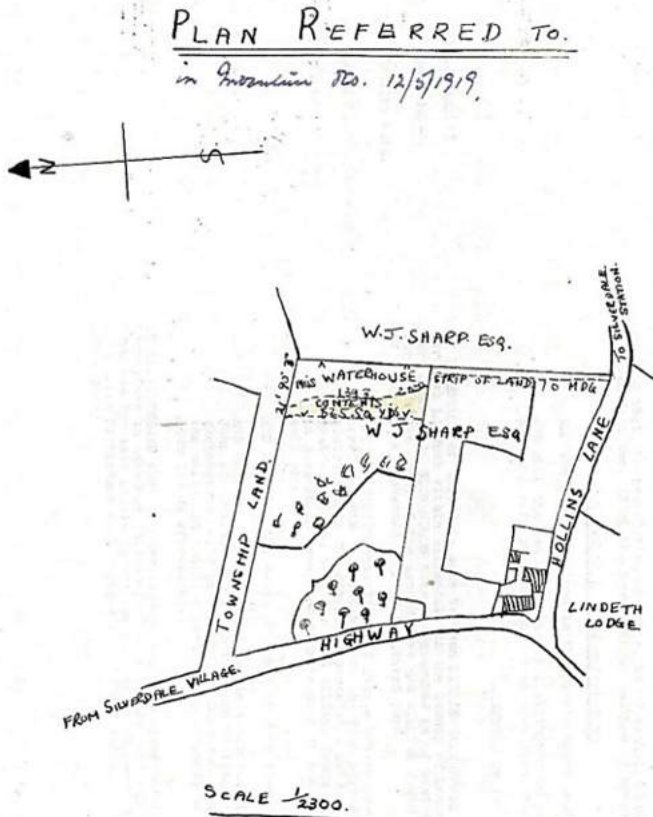


Figure 5: This plan was attached to the deeds for Ivyleigh. The main area Lizzie purchased in 1910 has her name inserted and the strip runs from the south of the area to Hollins Lane. The area below the main plot is the land she received in exchanged for this strip in 1919.

The Houses

Lizzie wasted no time in engaging builders, although unfortunately it has not been possible to determine who the builder or architect was. The houses were constructed of local limestone with Burlington slate for the roofs, they have a mixture of timber sash and more modern casement-style windows. Each house consists of a sitting room, living room and a scullery. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The living rooms of both properties have French windows onto the garden and these have timber shutters on the interior. Fir Nook has a small cellar, but there is no cellar at Ivyleigh, probably due to the presence of limestone bed-rock. The houses are designed in an arts and crafts style, popular at the time, with gables and sandstone headers to the windows that function as decorative embellishments. (Figure 6)



Figure 6:
Contemporary image of the
north elevation of Ivyleigh
showing the decorative window
headers

Each had an open porch at the front with a slate roof. The arts and crafts style is reinforced in the interior, particular in the living room.

In Ivyleigh the original fire surround survives (Figure 7) and the original green art nouveau-style hearth tiles were uncovered during the renovations. (Figure 8)



Figure 7: Ivyleigh's reginal fire surround restored.

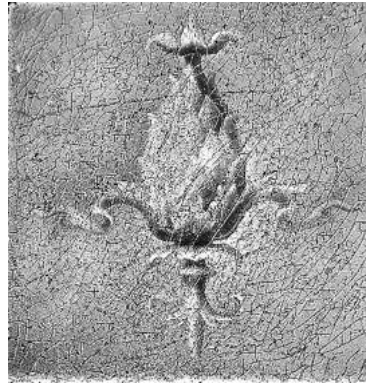


Figure 8: Art Nouveau – style hearth tile.

By 2 April 1911, when the census was completed, Ivyleigh and Fir Nook were occupied. Lizzie resided at Fir Nook and Ivyleigh was rented out to Yorkshire woman, Maria Cope Pyrah aged 62, who is described as a 'plain and fancy needleworker', five years earlier she had been living at Moss Cottage, Silverdale. Although Lizzie uses Ivyleigh as her address on some electoral registers (1912 and 1935), the 1921 census has her living at Fir

Nook. It is probable that in constructing the two houses her intention was always to rent out one of the them as a source of income. She probably chose Fir Trees as her residence as the garden is larger and is south facing and the house is more private than Ivyleigh.

Water

Lizzie chose to build her properties close to the most reliable water-source in the area – Woodwell. In 1910 there was no mains water in Silverdale and Lindeth, it arrived in 1938. At the end of the nineteenth century residents had invested heavily in roof water collection systems. The population of Lindeth in 1911 was 169, but there was added demand for water as tourism increased. At the time of construction of these properties it was necessary to secure a ‘water certificate’ from the Rural Sanitary Authority, to ensure that the size of water storage facility would be adequate for the size of house being built and would be enough if the property had a bath and water-closet. Properties of this type were required to have a covered tank with a capacity of 3,000 gallons.⁵ When we renovated Ivyleigh we uncovered a large water storage tank that had been built under the scullery.

Holiday Rental

Between 1911 and 1935 (when Lizzie died), Ivyleigh was rented out mainly for winter holiday visitors. Advertisements appeared in the classified section of several newspapers between 1912 and 1935, the first in the *Lancashire Evening Post* on 8th February 1912. It was also advertised in Runcorn, Leeds, Hull,

⁵ Wright, M.D. Silverdale’s Water Supply 1800-1940, 1993 (Dissertation presented for the Diploma in Local History, University of Lancaster)

Morecambe, St Helens, Widnes and Sheffield newspapers (Figure 9) and in the 1930s permanent, as well as short term lets appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post*.

SILVERDALE. - Furnished House; 3 bedrooms, sitting, living-rooms, scullery; bath, &c.; good garden; situated in beautiful surroundings. - Waterhouse, Lindeth, Silverdale, Carnforth. (ax

Figure 9 – Classified advertisement for Ivyleigh rental, *Runcorn Guardian*, 13 August 1915.

These advertisements emphasised the ‘beautiful location’ and ‘indoor sanitation’. Perhaps Evelyn Wilson saw one of these advertisements as she was resident at Ivyleigh when the census was undertaken in June 1921. It records Evelyn along with her four children, her sister-in-law, a ‘boarder’ and a servant, as ‘visitors’, all from Walton, Liverpool’

Owners of Ivyleigh

In the year following Lizzie’s death in 1935, Ivyleigh was inherited by her nephew Charles Waterhouse, a bookkeeper from Bradford, while Fir Nook was left to his brother Ernest. Charles chose to let Ivyleigh to the Cottam family. Richard Cottam was a retired dentist from Bury who lived at Ivyleigh with his wife Eliza and his unmarried daughter Florence. Richard died in 1938 and Eliza and Florence are recorded as residing at Ivyleigh in the 1939 Register. Florence purchased Ivyleigh from Charles Waterhouse in 1950 for £1,500. She was 64, and took out a twenty-five-year mortgage for £500 with the Halifax Building Society.

Florence is an interesting character, the 1921 census records her as a professional musician and reports of concert performances appear in several newspapers. In an article on Silverdale in the *Lancashire Evening Post* in 1953, Florence is described as a cellist and pianist. In the 1910s and 1920s she performed with the St. Anne's Pier Ladies' Orchestra. (Figure 10)



Figure 10 - St Anne's Pier Orchestra – the central figure with the cello is likely to be Florence Cottam. Amounderness.co.uk

When Florence died, in 1956, the executor of her will, Elsie Smirk of the Silverdale Post Office, organised the sale of Ivyleigh to Kathleen Starkie, a widow aged 57 originally from Wigan. Kathleen had lived with her Methodist Minister husband Herbert in Morecambe. She became an active resident of Silverdale; she was President of the Women's Institute and the *Morecambe Visitor* reported that the WI's July meeting in 1967 was held in the garden of Ivyleigh.

In 1969, She married her cousin, Harold Fortune, a retired wholesale confectioner, at Trinity Methodist Church, Silverdale. Both Harold and Kathleen were active in the church and Harold was also a member of the Silverdale Bowling Club, on the committee of the Leeds Children's Home and a Freemason. Many children brought up in Silverdale in the sixties and seventies remember Mrs Starkie/Fortune fondly. She loved children and regularly invited them to her home. The Silverdale youth club came several times and others remember king and dressing up. After the death of Harold⁶ in 1975, Kathleen lived alone at Ivyleigh. There is a famous story of the time she fell and landed in a ditch at the side of Woodwell Lane. It was winter and she lay there all night until she was discovered in the morning by her cleaner. She was lucky to survive, she claimed it was due to her extra warm Jaeger coat. She wrote to the company to advise that the coat had saved her life – the company sent her a replacement!

When Kathleen Fortune passed away at the end of 1984, Ivyleigh was purchased by Kenneth (a teacher) and Margaret Howarth for £45,250. Unfortunately, Kenneth suffered ill-health and died in 1990. Many will remember Margaret who edited the parish magazine for many years and was active in village life. She was an accomplished pianist, if you visited Ivyleigh during her residence you may remember the grand piano that sat by the French windows in the living room.

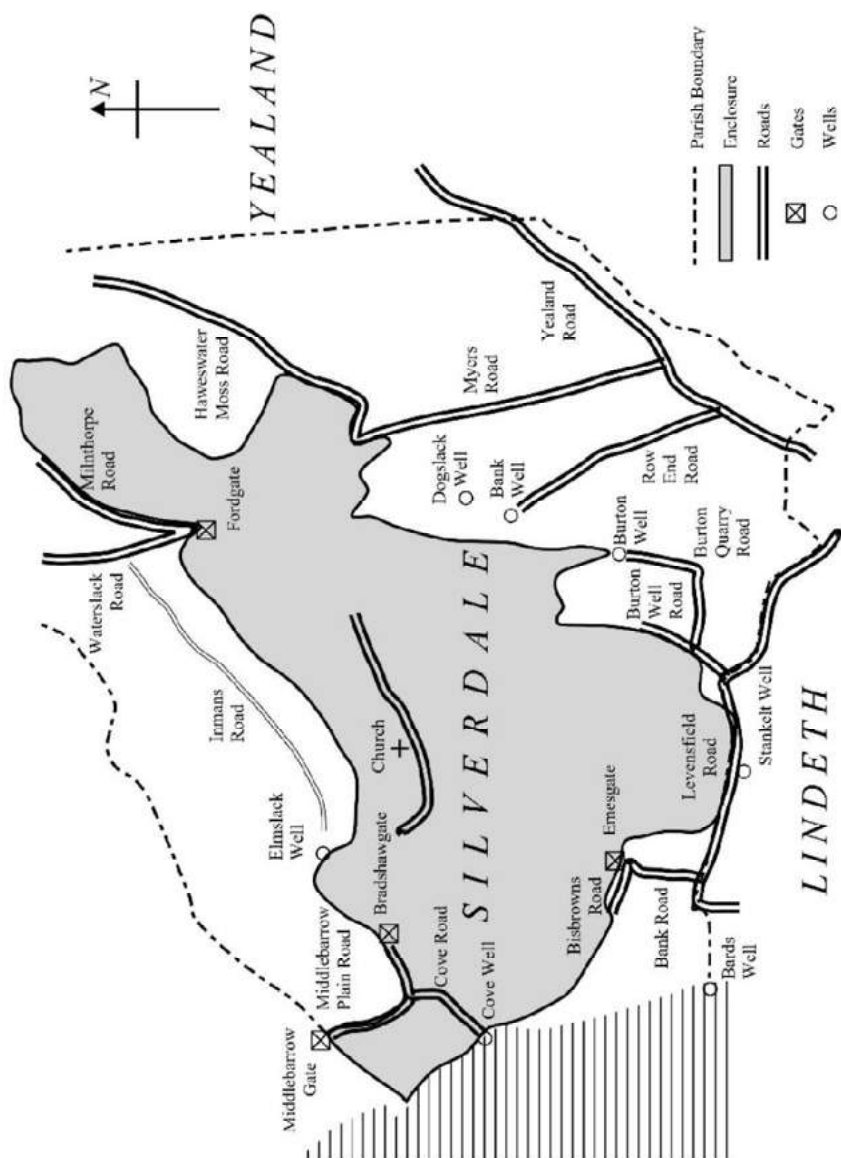
⁶ Funeral of Mr Fortune *Lancaster Guardian*, 7 November 1975

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One hundred and seven years on from the construction of the house by Lizzie Waterhouse, Ivyleigh has been completely renovated. It retains its arts and crafts style, although we have added a contemporary extension and a traditional oak-framed outbuilding in the garden. I wonder what Lizzie would think?

This fascinating article is the first of an occasional series called 'A House Through Time.'

If you would like Christine to write about your house, email her on Mourholme@hotmail.com



SILVERDALE'S ROAD NAMES

Terry Bond

The origin and development of Silverdale's road names is endlessly fascinating. The map on the opposite page, shows that from the 17th Century, Silverdale, a scattered settlement, was enclosed by a walls and hedges punctuated by gates.

In his book, *'Old Silverdale: the loveliest Spot on Morecambe Bay*, Rod Ireland points out that the area outside the gated enclosure was known as 'the commons and waste'. Inside the enclosure the best arable land. During the growing season grazing livestock were kept out of the farms' arable land to graze on the commons and waste land. After harvest the gates were opened so livestock could be driven into the enclosure to graze. This had the effect of fertilising the land in preparation for the next year's planting, when again the livestock would be driven out and the gates closed against them.

Another look at the map, shows the roads in Silverdale, most of which end when they reach the wall/hedge enclosure. The gates in and out of the enclosure were called Ford Gate, Middlebarrow Gate, Bradshaw Gate and Eames Gate, some of which we still recognise. The road which we now call Stankelt Road was the boundary between Silverdale and Lindeth. On the map it is called Levensfield Road

At the other side of the contemporary settlement, the road from Bradshaw Gate to the Cove and Cove Well, was then called Cove Road and the section of road that we now call Cove Road which crosses the county boundary, was then called

Middlebarrow Plain Road so that the gate at that point was called Middlebarrow Gate.¹

What was then called Bank Road, ran from Levensfield (Stankelt) Road to Eames Gate. This was situated at the top of what we now call Bank House Lane but was then called Bisbrown's Road, after the local landowner. Bank Road, leading from Levensgate Road to Eames Gate is part of what we now call Emesgate Lane.

From Ford Gate ran two roads, Waterslack Road, which extended to Silverdale Plain Road, on the side of Silverdale moss. Milnthorpe Road, now known as Ford Lane, ran past Challan Hall; just after that, off to the right, was Claypoles Moss Road, now the track that runs down and around Haweswater.² Haweswater Moss Road is now better known as Moss Lane. Row End Road only went from the Yealand Road as far as Bankwell.

As well as the gates, one of the many wells of Silverdale also gave rise to road names. If we look on the map at Burton's Well, we see Burton Well Road (which we now call Bottoms Lane,), terminating at Bottoms Farm. The track that led down to Burton Well itself was then called Burton Quarry Road.

¹ *The name Middlebarrow Plain is still preserved in Holgates' Caravan Park's address: MiddleBarrow Plain, Cove Road, Silverdale.*

² *Challen Hall and the roads and features beyond it are off the top of the map on page 16*

A map from 1818 starts to give us the layout of the village as we know it now. The road was extended down from Emesgate to the old chapel and called Emesgate Lane. Cove Road also extended eastwards back to the old chapel. Both Bottoms Lane and The Row were extended to join other roads and make a through road.

Inmans Road was never an actual formal road, just the track, through what is now Eaves Wood, to enable people to travel to their parcels of land. It is the track that folk now walk along from Castlebarrow round to Waterslack.

By the 1840's we have a formal Elmslack Lane. There is also a road up to the farm owned by Daniel Wallings and which we now call Wallings Lane, an obvious choice since he owned much of the land in that area.

Myers Road ran from the Yealand Road, Myers Farm (now RSPB Leighton Moss]) and straight to the top of Moss Lane. However, with the arrival of the railway this was blocked and the road diverted along what we now know as Red Bridge Lane. The railway also affected Waterslack Road, cutting it in two. Hence there is the short part up to the house and farms, and then the other side of the railway is the road that takes us now to Middlebarrow Quarry. Apart from Springbank, originally called Barkers Lane (Springbank was then just the name of the terraced houses), most other roads are postwar but with local connotations in their names.

As for Warton-in-Lindeth, the road layout has hardly changed in 200 years. The road down to the Shore is one of the older thoroughfares and Lindeth Road extended to Jenny Browns Point, Hollins Lane ran to the road going to Warton, by way of 'over the crag', until New Road, under the Crag, was built. The

track up to Woodwell gradually became known as Woodwell Lane.

It could be interesting to look at the origins of some of the names, such as Slack Wood, Flea Garth, Gibraltar and Levensfield, but that will have to wait for another article.

References

Ireland, R.J. *Old Silverdale: the loveliest spot on Morecambe Bay*, Palatine Books, Lancaster, 2016

The computer-generated map by Richard Carter is based on:
A map of Silverdale Township, showing the 17th century gated enclosure (Rod Ireland, p5).

A map dated 1811, showing the gated enclosure and roads and pathways.

The 1848 OS map.

MURIEL BEATRICE OGILVY
Sue Brown



St John Ambulance VADs

Muriel Beatrice Ogilvy was born in Lewisham in January 1876. She had a sister, Marguerite and two brothers Ernest and Percy, their father was a bank clerk. In the 1901 census Muriel is recorded as working in Beckenham as a governess.

In 1908 Muriel's brother Ernest, who was a priest in the Church of England, became the Vicar of Warton, serving the parish until 1937. Muriel, Marguerite and their widowed mother moved into the vicarage at Warton with the new vicar.

In 1915, Muriel became a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse, in the Order of St John. She was in service with the West Lancashire no. 26 Detachment, between 26 Jul.1915 until at least the 25th Sept. 1919.

Since Muriel was a St John's VAD, her uniform would have been a grey dress, a plain white apron and a white cap. She would also have had a St John Ambulance (SJA) badge at her neck and a SJA armband. If a St John Ambulance VAD served overseas the armband would be replaced by a Red Cross one. This was because, in October 1914, the British Red Cross and the Order of St John formed a joint war organisation. Serving in this larger organisation would provide some protection for St John's VADs working overseas.

VADs might be untrained or only partially trained as nurses but with experience they moved on from being cooks, canteen workers and ambulance drivers to working in field hospitals overseas. They also worked in recuperation hospitals in Britain and there were VAD hospitals in many large towns. Muriel's service was in the UK.

Muriel died on 18 November 1920, aged 44, and was buried in St Oswald's churchyard on 22 November 1920. Her memorial head stone states she was 'The sister of the Vicar of this Parish'. In St Oswald's Lady Chapel is a brass plaque in memory of Muriel. It reads:

'This Chapel has been furnished to the glory of God and in loving memory of Muriel Beatrice Ogilvy who fell asleep Nov 20, 1920 after having nursed all through the Great war.'

The renovations were done in 1925 and unfortunately Muriel's date of death was not accurately checked. However, there is an additional memorial to Muriel in Lancaster Priory. A St John's Ambulance, Lancaster Division memorial lists Muriel as one of the fallen of WW1. The inscription on the brass plaque reads,

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'Sacred to the Memory of the Members of this Division who fell on active service in the Great War 1914-1918.'

There are four men listed with Muriel, at least three of whom have war graves overseas. We know Muriel had been unwell for some time before she died but there is no indication on her death certificate as to why she was one of the fallen.

GLEANED FROM THE ACCOUNTS LEDGER OF A SILVERDALE VILLAGE SHOP: 1878-1937

Part 2

Sheila Jones

In his article, Sheila Jones continues her skilled and fascinating exploration of the ledger of Thomas Richmond and Sons, a Silverdale village shop. Part 1 may be read in Mourholme Local History Society's Autumn 2024 magazine, (2024 No.2, issue 83).

A great variety of goods and services

In the 1934 Lancaster, Morecambe and Suburban Directory, 'Richmond Thos and Sons' listed themselves as Booksellers and Stationers; as Boot and Shoe Dealers and Repairers; and as Newsagents. However by this time, they were also selling toys, art supplies, fresh fruit, vegetables, and garden flowers; such a diverse selection of goods that it is difficult to classify them. A short list of ledger entries will show the variety of things sold, although some are so intriguing that it is hard to decide which ones to note. Customers bought, for example: kid reviver; (I was excited by that, at first!) birthday cards; reversible tweed leggings; music books; porpoise laces; pie dish collars; one "Garden of the Soul"; braces; cork socks; the Daily Mail Income Tax Guide; six quarts raspberries; a tin trunk; six penny novels; a jar of honey; horsehair socks; two shaving brushes; a doll; and a boat. The shop seemed able to accommodate itself admirably to people's needs and wishes. It is in these varied items that one sees the increasing use of trade names, such as Stephenson's ink; Meltonian blacking, Firmas; Blanco; or, in 1923, Seccotive Seccotine; all showing customer preferences.

Various Silverdale clubs and organisations feature, and they had special requirements such as ballroom powder; whist score

cards; tennis balls; and dominoes. The Silverdale Tennis Club held an account from 1925-27, the Institute from 1921-29, the Badminton Club from 1934-7, and the Bleasedale House Hospital bought correspondence cards, apples, drawing pins and hooks. There is an order from the Bradford Dyers (?) for mustard, cress, a bottle of Gloy and penholders. This particular customer aroused a curiosity which was satisfied by a sentence in the 1934 Directory: "Near the centre of the village stands the Convalescent Home of the Bradford Dyers' Association, a magnificent building with beautiful oak panelled rooms and staircases."

From the accounts we can see that some societies were short-lived, for example, the Silverdale Advancement Association which lasted for only one year. The League of Nations was provided with stationery and printing only from 1927-1929. Some organisations will have extended beyond the life of this ledger, others perhaps found their needs better met elsewhere.

As well as sales and repairs, the shop managed various services. There are references to library fines, and one charge for a library book unreturned, so the business either had a private library or acted as an agent. There is a charge of one pound and a penny for "Lanc Post left at station Oct 2nd1925 - Aug 3rd1926,". That amount will only have covered the cost of delivery. Printing is mentioned several times, as is binding, but there is no hint if this work was done on site or bought in. Mrs Champion paid to have volumes VII and VIII of "Great War" bound at a cost of 4 shillings for cases and 2 shillings and 3 pence each for binding. Parenthetically, this is one of a very small handful of references to the war. There is a charge for delivering handbills in 1923 for Mr Weeks of Carnforth. (These are believed to have advertised showings at the Roxy cinema in Carnforth).

Printed matter

The movement in trade towards printed material was gradual, although it is impossible to be certain because of the accounts ledger only giving us a partial picture. By 1913-1917 business in papers and periodicals and in footwear sales and repairs apparently make up the bulk of the trade, but from then on printed matter seems to predominate. Before general ownership of wirelesses, topical printed material will have provided a valued source of information and entertainment. There were many local and national newspapers, some that we still have today. Throughout 1918 Mr Percy, daily took the Manchester Guardian, the Dispatch, the Morning Post and City News. Of the local papers, the Lancashire Post has gone, but the Lancaster Guardian and the Yorkshire Post were popular. There were also orders for the Whitehaven News. Mrs Champion, in March to June, 1917, took the Daily Mail but also 10 weekly periodicals. She was also receiving in weekly instalments, the "Great War" that she paid to have bound (see above). As today, some periodicals catered to pastimes or occupations. There were, for example, New Needlecraft; Stockbreeder; Our Feathered World; several motoring titles; and Outward Bound. Other publications were geared to entertainment for both children and grown-ups, such as Playtime, Rainbow, Smart Set, and Our Homes and Gardens. Then there were those of general interest, such as Punch.

Looking through the accounts, I, personally, found it impossible not to be elated by Gordon Bottomley of The Shieling, Silverdale. This had been the home of Miss Gaskell, daughter of the author, at least until 1913, and Bottomley and his wife moved to Silverdale in 1914. It is rare to meet someone of Bottomley's range of taste, and erudition. His orders were largely for publications, and the scope is magnificent. He orders

“Modern Icelandic Plays”; Tchekoff (sic); “Per Amica Silentis”; a catalogue of Japanese Colour Prints; “Six Weeks in Russia” by Arthur Ransome; Sophocles; Yorkshire Dialect Poems; “Splendours of France”; “Greek Vase Painting”; a dictionary of the Scottish language; Strindberg; and so many more. He occasionally ordered 6 copies. Also, in the early 1930s, he ordered “a marionette and instructions on how to make them”, and stage lighting for a little theatre. The most bizarre order, written without any quotation marks or capitals, was for “1 arabic deserter” at 30 shillings! Which shows, if nothing else does, quite what a village shop was capable of!

Gordon Bottomley was sufficiently interesting to call for further investigation. The 1921 census lists him as an author and dramatist. This suggested he might be on Wikipedia and indeed he is. This is not the place for a biography, but suffice it to say he had a considerable reputation, such that in 1944, still living in Silverdale, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from Leeds University.

A fund of social history

A close reading of the ledger provides a fund of social history. We can read of the highly varied footwear; the great amount of cobbling and other repairs undertaken; the very varied sales and how the shopkeepers adapted to local needs; the enormous number of journals and weekly publications purchased in the period covered from the 1900s to the 1930s; the coming and going of village clubs which held accounts; and we can infer hobbies and pastimes reflected by the purchases. Different readers will be struck by different points of interest. There is also the nature of payments by those who had accounts, from efficiency to backsliding, to dishonesty. And, perhaps a sign of the diminishing custom of maintaining an account for small

purchases, is that newspaper sales seem to begin to predominate in the ledger. This could be that they are the business most sensibly paid on account. Worthy of admiration, now that we are all used to the metric system, are the computational skills required for dealing in pounds, shillings and pence, and these skills had to be held by customer and tradesman alike.¹

A debt of gratitude is owed to the Rimmers for rescuing the ledger and then, years later, when they might have discarded it themselves, striving to find a home for it and giving us the benefit of its riches.

Thanks are also due to Brian Jones who has improved and enlarged the index, making it a valuable reference for people and addresses. It will be available on the Mourholme website. The ledger itself will be in the Mourholme area for a while and available to researchers, but will ultimately be given to the Lancashire Archives at Preston.

¹ *Many hours of Primary education, before metrication, were devoted to working in the four rules of positive number, including long multiplication and long division, in multiple arithmetical bases, not only those for money, but also for length, weight, and time.*

**THE SHIFTING SANDS OF LANCASHIRE HISTORY
THROUGH THE AGES**
Chris Jenkins

I am a severely sight impaired history enthusiast, who recently attended the Mourholme history weekend on the 19th and 20th October in Silverdale, Lancashire. This is a multi-sensory take on my experiences.

You may be thinking, how might someone with not much useful sight be able to interact with text and imagery? There are some technological options which I can use. I am fortunately able to use technology to aid my sight, however, about 70% of people in my situation who are aged over 50 cannot access text and imagery with technology.

No technological aids are as good as human sight, so every effort to ensure that displays are as inclusive as possible is needed and appreciated. The technology I use is my smartphone with the app 'Seeing AI' and I used this to read the various boards at the event. For example, I was able to find out why the local history society is called Mourholme because my phone read to me the following: 'In 1907 the Rev J.K Floyer read a paper to the Society of Antiquaries which contained the first clear evidence that the Castle of Mourholme had been sited in Warton'

Most of my good experiences over the two days were when the exhibition was less busy. This meant I could position myself and my phone optimally. This is much harder to achieve when it's crowded as my phone, when I need to hear alignment instructions and to hear the text, can be distracting to others who may prefer quiet when they are reading the display boards.



Figure 1: A quiet moment at some of the exhibition boards

Technology is being developed that attempt to describe pictures with artificial intelligence. Currently the descriptions are either overly verbose; can hallucinate objects that are not present; or miss the point a sighted person would highlight as a priority. I use technological aids with caution and a pinch of salt!

However, over the weekend my phone app enabled me to find out things I was able to chat about with other attendees. For example, we talked about a male midwife from the 19th century and a female all action hero, called Jessie in the early 20th century.

On the Sunday, there was an exhibit, from the Cumbrian metal detectorists, which was behind glass. It was opened so that I was given a guided tactile tour of all the artefacts, including explanations about where in the North of England they were found and what they were. Many of the objects are not used in

modern times. It was great fun guessing the object and being totally surprised by the actual purpose (see figure 2).

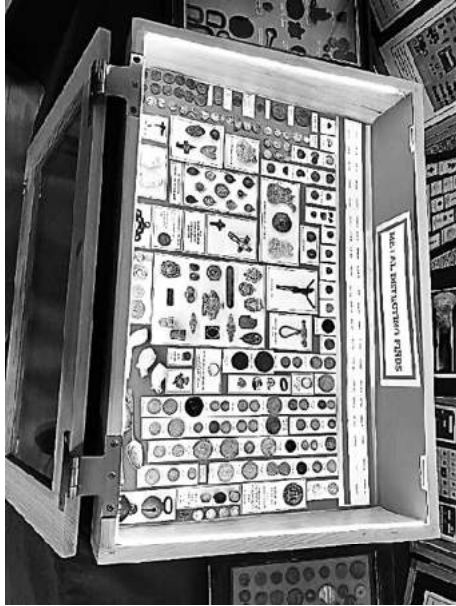


Figure 2, The exhibition from Cumbria metal detectorists

One of the highlights of the weekend was a talk on the life of Elizabeth Gaskell by Dr Diane Duffy, from the Elizabeth Gaskell Society. Although her talk did use PowerPoint, she briefly described what was on the screen which was useful. For example, about one slide she said, 'This is the house Elizabeth moved to'. Another highlight was a talk given by Michael Wilson, the King's official guide over the sands, about the trials and trepidations of walking across Morecambe Bay.

Some of the property owners also opened their doors for the weekend. The atmosphere atop Lindeth Tower and navigating up and down the interior, for me was a great experience. I found the intimacy and details of the venue were easy to take in. I felt and stepped my way along, knowing that Elizabeth Gaskell had regularly used this property during holidays, and had written novels there, including 'Ruth'. It may not be so easy for others.

The history weekend was a new venture for most of the Mourholme Local History Society's committee members and feedback from me and others was positive. I would definitely recommend attending the next one.

Top tips for inclusive events

- Clear fonts and pictures, using high quality ink.
- Good spacing between boards and exhibits, for people walking and wheeling.
- Tactile artefacts are always a bonus.
- Check hearing loops are working before talks begin.
- When using PowerPoint slides, describe briefly what is on the screen
- If you have a chance go and speak to someone with a disability before the meeting, it makes us feel included but it also helps the speaker adjust to our needs

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS

Gill Ribbons, Christine Boydell, Pam Davies, Nina Gaubert

25th September 2024:

Cumbria illustrated – Dr. Michael Winstanley.

This talk was different from that advertised in the programme due to the regrettable ill health of Bill Shannon.

Dr. Winstanley provided an interesting look at the reasons behind the rise in the number of prints of Cumbria and North Lancashire that were produced in the early decades of the 19th Century. He entertained us with excellent and interesting examples that could be seen on screen, many of which can also be viewed online - details of some of the websites at the end of this report.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries artists could make money from selling prints in books, however this was a costly process and therefore had a restricted market, mainly the gentry. In the late 1820's advances in printing techniques meant that quality improved and costs came down. Artists were making etchings and engravings as well as paintings, as they were easier to reproduce. Books now contained 'plates', pictures which could be cut out and stuck on the wall, cheaper than buying a painting. Post 1840's electrotypes and electrography allow pictures within the text, useful for the guidebooks which were becoming more popular as travel became more affordable.

During this time the Romantic and Pastoral were fashionable; tours to the Lake District were becoming popular for the wealthy and landscape paintings of these areas were in demand. Dr. Winstanley reminded the audience that at that time most people

did not travel and had no idea what Britain looked like so there was great interest in landscape images.

There were many artists painting in the North of England, notably Thomas Allom (1804-72) who completed the most prints of this area, ‘few men were more widely known in the Art World’ (in his obituary).

Images and information are available at:

<https://wordsworth.org.uk/the-collection/>

<https://www.lakesguides.co.uk/html/lakemenu.htm>

<https://archive.org>

https://www.google.co.uk/books/edition/A_Picturesque_Tour_of_the_English_Lakes

30th October 2024:

Lest we forget... Caring for our wounded soldiers in World War I – Liz Howard-Thornton.

Liz gave a very interesting and moving talk on how wounded soldiers from the 1st World War were medically treated. She outlined the nursing provided, and the convalescent services offered all over the country, including what is now Bleasdale school in Silverdale. The talk described how there was a very organised system of evacuation: first aid posts; dressing stations; and casualty clearing stations were very close to the front line and were often in tents. Soldiers could be patched up and sent straight back to the front line or be taken to base hospitals and onwards back to England, often within 48 hours. Liz kept the talk local with a reference to Muriel Ogilvy, a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse of the Red Cross from Warton. like so many

wartime nurses, her contribution to the war effort has largely been forgotten.¹

Liz also discussed some of the stories of casualties who are listed on the War Memorials at Hest Bank and Bolton-le-Sands; where those soldiers lived and worked and the impact of their loss on the local community. There was also reference to Thomas H. Mawson (British garden designer, landscape architect and town planner), a local Lancastrian who, after losing a son in World War I designed ‘Westfield War Memorial Village for Partially Disabled Soldiers’ in Lancaster. He was also the designer of the War Memorial on the Promenade in Morecambe, and Hest Bank War Memorial Hall. Liz dedicated her presentation to Private Thomas P. Clark, who is named on the Silverdale War Memorial and has a yew tree dedicated to him in the memorial garden there.

More details of Private Clark and other soldiers that are named on the War Memorials around the villages, are on the Mourholme website

27th November 2024:

Tales of the Unexpected, an oral compilation of stories from the region – Ambleside Oral History Group.

Members enjoyed a return visit from **Judith Shingler** and **Alison Peake** of the Ambleside Oral History Group. They delighted us with many unusual stories of Ambleside life that had been recorded by the group since it was founded in 1976.

The stories recounted, ranged from a young boy who helped protect a German soldier who had escaped from a prisoner of

¹ But see more about Muriel Ogilvy on page 21 of this magazine

war camp, to memories of the one-armed Lakeland wonder, Harry Skirrow who had lost his arm in a shotgun accident – but went on to run a successful business, manufacturing Midget cars for Speedway racing.

The presentation was accompanied by excellent images and recorded excerpts of interviews. Particularly noteworthy, were the World War II memories of Meg Walker who explained how some local farmers outwitted men from the Ministry who had been sent to check that no pigs had been illegally slaughtered - pigs were transported from farm to farm so numbers tallied with paperwork, while a pig carcass was hidden in a coffin stored under a bed!

We heard a recording of Alan Capstick (born in 1910) who remembered the Prince of Wales' (later King Edward VIII) visit to Ambleside in 1927. The Prince failed to live up to expectations, looking 'bleary-eyed' and wiping his nose on his sleeve.

The presentation came to a close with the voice of William Heaton Cooper (born 1903) remembering local resident Brigadier Gordon Osmaston who had made expeditions to the Himalayas and was the first Englishman that Sherpa Tensing encountered.

Alison and Judith emphasised the value of collecting oral histories, not just of the distant past, but also of more recent events, such as Covid and Lockdown. The Chair encouraged Mourholme members to consider collecting oral histories and perhaps to submit them for publication in our magazine.

18th December 2024:

Most truly yours, Aunt Anne Geddis Gilchrist OBE – Peter and Barbara Snape.

Barbara and Peter provided a very interesting talk about the achievements of Anne Geddes Gilchrist OBE who dedicated her life to collecting and studying folk songs, the majority of which were from her native Lancashire. She joined the Folk Song Society and along with the Yorkshire song collector Frank Kidson, scoured the North for songs.

Anne moved from her native Manchester to Sunderland Point along with a number of other family members; some of the songs that Anne collected were from the inhabitants of her new home.

The talk did not just provide the history of Anne's life, some of the songs she collected were sung by Barbara with Peter accompanying her on the accordion and there was an expectation of audience participation.

A lot of these local folk songs would have been lost forever if it had not been for Anne and others like her. If you wish to hear some of the songs she collected, they can be found at:

<https://thesnapes.org.uk/listen/>

29th January 2025:

Children, School and Rural Society in Late-Victorian Lancashire - A talk given by Keith Vernon, Honorary Principal Lecturer in History at the University of Central Lancashire.

A large audience attended this fascinating talk about schools and schooling for the working classes in the 19th Century detailing the problems particular to rural schools at this time and the move to government involvement in schooling.

The speaker explained that during the 19th Century working-class children were essential to the family economy and were expected to work, especially at the busiest times of the year such as Harvest time. Factory Acts and Mines Acts in the 1830's and 40's, which removed younger children from the workplace and restricted hours for older children, were more successful in urban or industrial areas but more difficult to regulate in these rural areas. To illustrate life in a rural school the audience had been given a sheet of paper each with a page from the log book of Whitechapel School, Lancashire. Everyone had a different page and were encouraged to discuss what they had read with the rest of the room. A school was required to keep this log book, a record of routine activities and notable occurrences amongst other things, if they wished to receive Government funding. The excerpts were both shocking and insightful into what daily life was like in school at this time.

Literacy rates in 1850 were around 65% in men and 50% in women. The Government requested the Newcastle Commission to conduct an inquiry into the state of popular education for all classes which was later followed by the 1870 Education Act - attendance at school was required, and the 1880 Act - compulsory attendance was enforced.

The speaker concluded that although all schools were different, there were common issues and family and community remained priorities.

26th February 2025:

Thomas Mawson, a Lancastrian Garden designer – Brian Smith.

Brian Smith has spent 10 years rescuing the garden at Greywalls, Silverdale, designed by Thomas Hayton Mawson in 1926. Sadly,

he has had to give up on health grounds and put it on the market, and the garden's future is now uncertain. He gave a wide-ranging talk about Mawson's life and work, including several sequences of photographs with musical accompaniment.

Mawson was born in Scorton in 1861, and moved to London to work in a nursery, to support his family after his father died when his son Thomas was 14. A few years later Mawson married and honeymooned in the Lake District. There he realised the potential market for garden design as many new country houses were being built. His firm had an office in London in 1901 and then in Lancaster in 1906, with a staff of 25-30. His work abroad included a garden in Denmark in 1908 for Queen Alexandra, and a Peace Garden in The Hague funded by Andrew Carnegie.

In 1900 he published his book 'The Art and Craft of Garden Making', which ran to a 5th edition in 1926; he combined art with craft, starting each project with a detailed survey of the land concerned. He published 'Civic Art' in 1911 and an autobiography 'The Life and Work of an English Landscape Architect' in 1927, which he dedicated to his wife.

As well as designing gardens for rich individuals, Mawson was keen to improve the lives of working people, his own background being among the Lancashire cotton mills. He drew up designs for many public parks, including Stanley Park in Blackpool and Pittencrieff Park in Dunfermline. His work extended to the design of urban areas, with projects (not all of them now acknowledged) that included Bolton Town Centre, Banff in Canada and the reconstruction of Salonica after a fire in 1917. He designed the Westfield War Memorial Village in Lancaster and many other War Memorials, after the death of his son in World War I.

Mawson was a pioneer of town planning, combining landscape architecture and civic art. He lectured at Liverpool University, was a founder member of the Royal Fine Arts Commission and was the first President of the Institute of Landscape Architects when it was founded in 1929. In his career he designed over 250 gardens and 24 public parks, including 24 overseas commissions, and he was instrumental in the recognition of landscape architecture as a profession.

Brian's talk gave us a thorough introduction to the life and work of this Lancastrian who was a garden designer and so much more.

Note: Mawson's autobiography was republished in 2012, and his 'Civic Art' and 'The Art and Craft of Garden Making' can both be found in full online – <https://www.hathitrust.org> and <http://archive.org>. Brian mentioned two biographies: 'The Life and Times of Thomas Hayton Mawson' by Elizabeth Kissack (2006), which is available from Lancashire libraries, and 'Thomas Mawson: Life, Gardens and Landscapes' by Janet Waymark (2009), which is available from Cumbria libraries.

NOTES AND QUERIES

BORWICK POW HOSTEL

Richard Carter

Most people are aware of the existence of the Bela River Prisoner of War Camp 104 near Beetham, from 1943 to 1948. Some interesting information about the camp is available at <https://www.ww2pow.uk/home/camplist/>. At its peak the camp was responsible for over a thousand German prisoners of whom around 600 were at the main camp whilst the rest were in three hostels and in billets. Malcolm Sanders has pointed out that one of these hostels was at Borwick, and held 142 German prisoners in 1946 and 123 in 1948, when the Bela River Camp was closed and the administration of Borwick transferred to Merry Thought Camp 76 near Penrith. The documents available give very little information about the Borwick hostel. In January 1947 there were classes for mathematics, French and history, there was a small orchestra and a POW choir performed at the local church. Later that year the hostel had its own cabaret group. Does anyone know where it was or anything else about it?

**Mourholme Lecture and Events Programme
2025 - 2026**

Meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. and generally finish by 9 p.m.

***Members will be informed of the meeting venue
when the results of the vote are known***

25th September 2025: The Tides of Morecambe Bay and the Kent Estuary - Mike Warren

A look at how tides occur and their unique characteristics in Morecambe Bay and the Kent Estuary in particular, with a little history around access to the other side.

11th and 12th October 10am 4pm Warton History Weekend
St Oswald's Church, Archbishop Hutton School.

29th October 2025: Harriet Martineau – Terry Bond

A brief insight into the life of this Victorian author, feminist and political economist who travelled the USA before settling in Ambleside and becoming a keen walker. A contemporary of many noted Victorians and one of the founders of the movement for equality for women.

26th November 2025: Dungeons, Debtors and Death – A Dark History of Lancaster Castle - Gregory Wright

Today the Courtyard of Lancaster Castle is a safe place to relax, it was not always that way. It will highlight the building's fascinating but often rather grim history.

17th December 2025: Ice Houses and the International Trade in Ice – R David

An illustrated talk about the ice houses of North Lancs and Cumbria and the almost forgotten international trade in ice during the C19th. The talk also includes information about the

experiment in 1980 when Levens Hall ice house was filled with ice for the first time in over 100 years.

28th January 2026: Lancaster's Roman Fort -Dr Chris Tinmouth

This lecture will trace the history of Lancaster's Roman fort, from its earliest occupation in c.80AD to its abandonment in the 4th-5th centuries AD. The four stages of the fort's reconstruction will be addressed and will be set within the wider historical context of the role of Lancaster's Roman Fort in the defence and rule of Roman Britain.

25th February 2026: Carnforth Haematite Iron Works – Phil Baggley

A study of iron and steelmaking employed at Carnforth between 1866 and 1930. 65 years of innovation, process development, boom and bust.

25th March 2026: Gandhi's Northern Holiday – Nick Burton

The fascinating tale of Mohandas Gandhi's weekend 'up North' in September 1931, during which he visited Lancashire and the West Riding and stayed at the Quaker guest house at the invitation of a Darwen mill owner.

29th April 2026: The local finds of a metal detectorist – Nigel Law

An illustrated talk about the remarkable finds made in this locality. The finds cover a period of over two millennia, and how what is unearthed often leads to rich and fascinating research.

This will be preceded by a short AGM.

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