

Autumn 2024

2024 No.2, issue 83

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*

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THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF
LOCAL HISTORY, Autumn 2024

2024 No.2, issue 83

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CHAIR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

Nina Gaubert

Thank you to everyone who responded to the questionnaire, a total of 34 were received, Since, some of these include responses from couples I think they provide a good sample of your views to draw upon.

We are grateful for suggestions for talks and for visits and these are being considered. When thinking about the costs of visits, most members did not want to pay more than £20 if they were travelling to a venue, or £35 if transport was being provided.

Nearly half the membership is based in Silverdale and this was reflected by the number of respondents suggesting that Silverdale would be a more suitable venue, one reason being that Silverdale does have a larger hall than Yealand. Two of the meetings last season had over 80 people attending the talks, which is close to Yealand Village Hall's capacity as set down by fire regulations.

We have to consider the safety of members in the very unlikely event of a fire. One solution might be to make the talks ticket only events. However, neither the committee nor I would want to limit numbers, as we want anyone interested in local history to be welcome; For these reasons, we have decided to have the talks from January to April 2025 in the Gaskell Hall, Silverdale. We will review the situation at the end of this season.

I hear the people of Warton, Yealand, Carnforth, Borwick and Priest Hutton wondering if Mourholme is going to becoming only Silverdale centric. The answer is a definite no. I am already in discussions about doing a history weekend in Warton next year and possibly smaller one day events in the other villages. More details will be provided next year.

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The Silverdale History weekend was a huge success, although at a small financial loss to the Society. On the plus side, some new members joined. We hope that people who enjoyed the weekend will be wanting to contribute a short paragraph or two about their experiences, these would then appear in the next magazine.

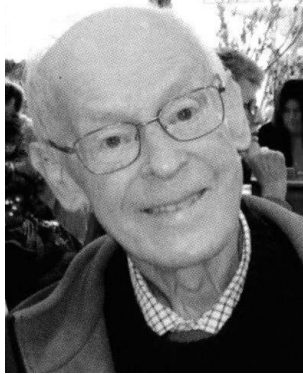
I need to say a huge thank you to those people who opened their doors and let us visit their homes; to the school; to the speakers; and to the attendees, numbers of whom exceeded all expectations. A final thank you to the non-committee members who stepped in at the last minute to assist. There have been a lot of lessons learned by the committee in how to run such events in the future.

Teas, coffees and cakes were provided by the Scouts and Guides and both of them made a profit, it was nice to support these and other groups.

It is with great sadness that we heard that Clive Holden passed away in October. He was a stalwart of Mourholme Local History Society; Clive was a long standing committee member, and resident of Ackenthwaite. An obituary is in this magazine.

This sad loss does mean we need to look for new committee members; Recent joiners to the committee have come from Silverdale, more representation from the other parishes would make a more balanced committee. As we only operate for eight months of the year, on average we have only four committee meetings a year, We usually meet at around 4.30pm for an hour or just over and we hope some of you will consider joining this friendly group.

CLIVE HOLDEN
1935 -2024
A tribute by Jenny Ager



It is with great sadness that we received the news that Clive Holden, a long-time member of the Mourholme Local History Society, died on Friday 11th October, at the age of 89.

I first met Clive, in the early years of this century. Jane Parsons and I were involved with a local history course run by Lancaster University, and asked whether we could come and learn from the people who were involved with writing a book about the history of the area (*Warton 1800 – 1850: How a North Lancashire Parish Changed*). Clive was part of that group and also contributed his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm to that publication and to the sequel (*Warton Parish 1850 – 1900: Borwick, Carnforth, Priest Hutton, Silverdale, Warton, Yealands*).

Clive served on the Mourholme Local History Society committee, he contributed regularly to the magazine, being especially diligent in writing lively and humorous reports of the society meetings. His well researched articles for the magazine,

drew both on his extensive knowledge of Carnforth and on his passion for railways. In his presentations at society meetings, he also shared his knowledge and research into these subjects.

Clive's nephew Thomas Holden has told me a little about his uncle's life. Clive was born in Carnforth; and had close family ties with the area, his grandfather having been Station Master at Silverdale station. Clive was educated at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and after his retirement, became archivist for the school's records. Among his other interests, Clive was a keen cricketer and played for the Carnforth team.

He served in the Royal Navy during the Cold War and learnt Russian and Czech. After his service in the Navy, he went to the university of Leeds where he studied Russian. After graduating, he taught English for a year at his old school and then joined the staff at Kirkbie Kendal School, where he taught English until his retirement.

At the age of seventy-two, Clive married Val. They were very happy together and she was deeply mourned by Clive when she died five years ago.

The Society mourns the loss of a valuable member; but we have not only lost an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the society: we have lost a good friend whose quiet and genial presence enhanced both committee meetings, and monthly meetings of the Society. We are grateful for the huge contribution made by Clive Holden. He will be much missed and his legacy will be treasured.

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

Introducing the ledger

The ledger came into our hands from Peter and Jane Rimmer, who found it in 1970 when they bought the ‘old cobbler’s shop’ at 7, Stankelt Rd., Silverdale, from a Mr. Shaw. It had been in the Richmond family for more than a hundred years, they believed. When the Rimmers bought it, it had become largely a newsagent’s business, also selling shoes. The cobbler’s workshop had been behind the retail area and had also been the village reading room.

The ledger they brought is massive, leather bound, measuring 7cm x 21cm x 32cm, and has running accounts for all purchases and footwear repairs conducted on credit from January, 1878 to 1937. There were also cash dealings, evidenced by part of an exercise book covering a short period in 1886 and 1887. This details single purchases and somehow fails to tell a story. The ledger itself was instantly stimulating, however, with its Dickensian overtones; the information enfolded in four hundred double pages of longhand; and the quality of the volume itself, holding together through sixty years of daily use, and nearly ninety more of storage. It is quite difficult to follow because of occasional illegibility; by many abbreviations to be decoded; and by the fact that consecutive owners did not want to leave any blank spaces. Thus, if a client had seemed to stop coming and some space was left at the bottom of their page, a new client would be started there but have to be carried forward elsewhere in the ledger. Then the first client could reappear and also have to be crammed in. There is an index at the beginning of the ledger but it is incomplete. The ledger is one of a sequence and

there are references to OL (old ledger) at the beginning, and to NL at the end.

In the 1886 Lancaster, Morecambe and suburban directory, Richmond Thos and Sons are listed as boot and shoe makers and stationers. By 1905 they have added booksellers to their list. This evolved in 1913 to bootmakers, stationers and newsagents. In 1934 they have listed themselves three times: as Booksellers and Stationers; as Boot and Shoe Dealers and Repairers; and as Newsagents.

The accounts are full of abbreviations. It was possible to overcome the difficulty of deciphering some of them: 'esb' means elastic sided boots; 'brepd' means boots repaired; 'bsdhd' means boots soled and heeled; both the last two appear often. Some abbreviations I failed to decipher, such as 'lele', perhaps 'CC'; or 'new TCP' for 15 shillings and 6 pence, which is quite a sum. Some abbreviations one thought had been cracked by context but 'dr' appeared repeatedly, appearing to be doctor, daughter, or debtor. There is also 'car' which never came to mean anything.

Apart from abbreviations there are also archaisms such as the double 's' being written in the German manner as a sort of lower-case p with an extended upstroke, as well as archaic use of Martinmas as a date.

The nature of the accounts

To follow the account for the first entrant in the book might give a flavour of transactions. On 2nd January 1878 John Hebden Esq. had his wife's boots soled and heeled. Over that year there are eight records of repairs to the Hebdens' shoes, boots and slippers. The account of 12 shillings is paid in October, and then

again in February, 1879, after new bluchers are purchased (bluchers being low boots named for the Prussian general). The account continues in much the same way and includes the purchase of shoes and of clogs, until 22nd November, when New Blue, possibly used to whiten linen, is bought at 14 shillings, 6 pence. New shoes usually cost 16 shillings, so this is an expensive product. From 1881 until 1882 there is nothing new except three harness repairs, but then, bizarrely, there is an order for six loads of Road Soil. The account is being paid steadily every few months. Until August 1884 there is again little change, except that a strap is repaired a couple of times. We then jump from p.1 to p.115 which holds account entries from November, 1884 to 1893, when the final bill is paid. This page chronicles the usual repairs to footwear but, in addition, there is a repair to a strap, to a mattress, to two dog collars and to a dog strap. In terms of transactions, it is surprising that once someone had an account going, even so small a repair as that to the dog strap at 5 pence was put 'on tick'. Two dog muzzles are purchased and "butt" boots for Mrs Hebden. This is a steady account with a good customer.

Although John Hebden paid his account steadily, some customers needed tedious chasing. William Hutton incurred a charge of 1 pound and 4 pence, in November, 1903 and it was not settled until 15th July 1907. Another account of just over a pound was paid off in four irregular stages, but that was better than the customer who, owing 3 pounds 7 shillings and 7 pence, paid off 10 shillings, (less than one sixth), at which point, as happened with several others, a slash was drawn through the figures and the account was closed. Sometimes these accounts were marked 'Bad'. Some accounts are hard to read: on p.90 there are 15 entries dated from 18th April 1905 to 17th January, 1906 squeezed into the space of 3 lines.

It was nice to see some bartering: an account in 1880 owes 8 shillings and 2 pence, less 4 measures of peas for 2 shillings and 4 pence, paid 5 shillings and 10 pence. There is a confused account with John Richmond (perhaps a relative?), a boot dealer in Bolton-le-Sands. His credit is paid by cash, cheque, and 'rent of part of garden'. There is still money owing and it is partly covered by 'making up P. Bolton shoes' presumably a work order given by our Silverdale cobbler himself.

The occupation of account holders is sometimes noted, and it shows that income was not a criterion for credit being accepted. There is, for example, a fisherman; doctors; a Policeman; the Silverdale Railway Station Master; farmers; and a postman. Both women and men held accounts and there is sometimes evidence that, not just the account holder, but members of his or her family are well known. Examples of this are: repairs done to a client's granddaughter's boots; or family members' names being written down, as in 'son, John'. Servants are also occasionally listed under an account, One family's servants have a separate heading: 'Thomas Gibson's Servants,' but whether these shoe repairs are considered a perk or whether the servant had to repay his employer we don't know.

The footwear business

Much of the business recorded is in cobbling. The number of such repairs may well seem remarkable to us today, with our throw-away-culture. But the repairs are done at a time when products are expected to last and when they are made of materials that would bear repairing. In the accounts we can see that footwear is: 'strapped'; heeled; lifted; capped; 'sharfed'; soled; and 'specked'. Clogs are vamped; toe banded; clogged; and calkered. Slippers are 'socked'. Boots are repaired with

leather and nails; toes pieced; and tongues put in. In short, anything that can be done to extend the life of an item is tried. From April, 1930, to June, 1931 Jo Hisom has at least 43 repairs done to ladies', men's and children's shoes. In addition to footwear the cobbler puts his skill to repairing elastics; leggings; garters; harness; braces; girthing; a side saddle; regular saddles; a portmanteau; a machine belt; gears; and a whip. He leathers a bee fumigator; pieces a machine band; he repairs a fish basket; a carriage strap; a knife sheath; and a purse. One has the sense of belongings being valued, cherished, having a good life. This is continuity where things are not readily discarded, and there is a solid faith in the craftsman and in the product. One can visualise all the items being handled, their surfaces burnished through touch. There is nothing at arm's length. This was a tangible world, long before the age of automated manufacture.

The sale of shoes carried on until, the Rimmers told us, they finally closed that trade in the 1970s. We have varied names for footwear nowadays with new descriptors being coined, and it was the same in the time covered by this ledger. The major categories are, initially, clogs, shoes, slippers and boots. It is interesting to see how clogs became less important, with the last purchase of new ones being in 1924, which is early compared to industrial Lancashire. One single sale was for four pairs sized 3, 2, 2, and 12; a holiday-making family outing? There are clogs bought by ladies as well as children and men, and clasp clogs and lace clogs are named. Of the varied slippers, there are some as exotic as 'Grecian'; 'Venetian'; or 'Norwegian'; cashmere; or calf. Some are sturdy enough to be soled, and some, which would have been day-to-day wear, described as 'carpet' 'cloth', or 'felt'.

Boots were initially the most common footwear, having descriptors as to function, material, or style; one can trace development of new names. Rubber boots became Wellington rubber boots, and then just Wellingtons. There are shooting boots; fishing boots; strong lace boots; glove kid button boots; house boots; and many more.

Fashions changed and I was surprised to see ladies' stiletto bar shoes in 1928. I can imagine them worn by flappers with silk stockings, but I had thought the term "stiletto" was first applied to shoes in the 1950s. Some customers clearly know their own minds and one settles for nothing less than Willow Calf Brogue golf shoes. There are also glace shoes and lace shoes; patent ankles; and dancing shoes. Sandshoes came in in the 1890s and plimsolls somewhat later.

Close reading of the ledger, reveals the way styles of footwear changed over the decades to keep pace with both fashion and local needs. A large variety of styles and types of footwear is recorded, and there is some evidence of the way that the names of footwear developed and changed. Particularly interesting is the expectation that footwear and other leather goods would last as result of repeated and skilled repairs.

In the next Mourholme Local History Society magazine, Sheila Jones will continue her skilled and fascinating exploration of what might otherwise have seemed a ledger of dry as dust accounts. In Part 2 she explores the large variety of other goods sold in this Silverdale shop.

MEMORIES OF QUICKSILVER

Richard Carter

It all began with a chance encounter in the summer of 1982. My wife, Awena, came out of Emesgate Stores in Silverdale (where the Pharmacy is now) to find the newly arrived Vicar, Richard Masheder, and Bill Cropley chatting outside the NatWest Bank which was then next door, where the surgery is now. Bill was the clerk in charge of this sub-branch of the Bank. She joined them and they said they were talking about the possibility of forming a band to play at the vicarage garden party, and where they could find musicians. She mentioned that I played the clarinet, and so I was roped in. But what kind of band was it to be? It turned out the Bill had been a professional drummer for several years at Pontin's holiday camp in Morecombe. I had always fancied playing in a dance band, since my teens, when I had enjoyed learning ballroom dancing. At that time I had had bought a small selection of dance band music which we could use to get us going. And so a band was formed with other members from Silverdale, including the experienced trumpeter, Peter Shirra. Our first public appearance was in the Gaskell Hall, so presumably the garden party had been moved indoors by rain. I have a vivid recollection of the excited reaction of the children present who had probably never heard music like that before.

After that beginning, we thought it would be fun to carry on playing dance band music together. In those early days most of the members of the band were from Silverdale with a few more from outside. I don't recall the names of all the members, but they certainly included Peter Shirra (trumpet), Nicholas Ager (trombone), Bruce Sherdley (piano), Richard Masheder (bass), Roger Siddle (guitar), Bill Cropley (drums), and me on clarinet. Later, I acquired an alto saxophone and learned to play it. Other

local musicians who joined later on included Simon Ager (tenor saxophone), Tom Whitby (alto saxophone) and Jim Hall from Warton (trombone). The band needed a name and after considering and rejecting, Silverdale Swingers, because of the unfortunate connotations of the abbreviation SS, we settled on Quicksilver.

The difficulties of finding suitable music

The next thing we needed was more music than the few sets I had contributed. And there lay a difficulty. Up to the 1960s dance bands had been quite common and music shops in many places stocked music arranged for them. I still have a catalogue from the period which lists hundreds of pieces, both standards from the 1930s and post war pop tunes. (see figure 1)

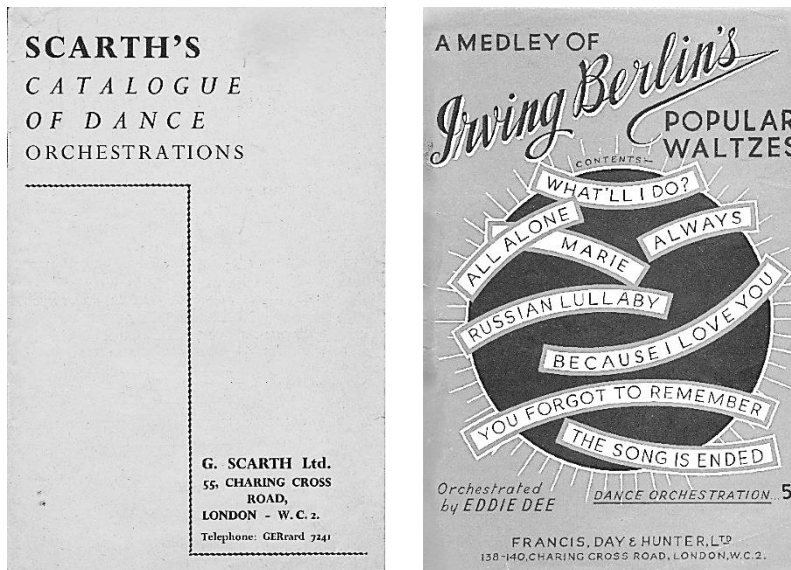


Figure 1:
A typical music catalogue and the sort of music that could be ordered

Each week new arrangements would become available for the tunes that were listed in the Hit Parade. By the 1980s dance bands had gone out of fashion, and music arranged for them could only be bought in one shop in Denmark Street in Soho, which still kept a small selection. We managed to buy some music from that source, and a colleague of mine passed on a collection of music, much of it tattered and incomplete. A big breakthrough came when the widow of a Morecambe bandleader gave his entire library to the Vicar. After that we were spoilt for choice.

Lineups for different sized bands

Dance bands came in many shapes and sizes from trios, up to big bands with up to 20 musicians. Much of the music we had was arranged for small bands of up to 10 musicians in the three sections as listed in Table 1.

Reeds	First saxophone (alto) and clarinet Second saxophone (tenor) Third saxophone (alto)
Brass	First trumpet Second trumpet Trombone
Rhythm	Piano Bass Drums Guitar

Table 1: The typical dance band line up

The music, as the catalogue claimed, was specially arranged to ‘suit any combination from trio to full dance orchestra.’ So, for example, it was possible to leave out the third saxophone and

second trumpet depending on who was available. However, arrangements for bigger bands would have two more reeds: a second tenor saxophone; and a baritone saxophone. They would also have another trumpet and a second trombone. Occasionally parts for other instruments like violins, a cello, or a flute were included. The arrangements for big bands, like the Glenn Miller band, used four trumpets and four trombones, a total of seventeen musicians in all. At times Quicksilver did include more musicians so that we could play the big band arrangements, though we were never able find someone who played the baritone saxophone with its luscious bass sound. Most of the time there were ten or a dozen members. Whatever the size of the group, the drummer is the key player who sets the tempo, maintains the beat throughout and signals the end of each section of the piece. Bill Cropley was an amazing drummer. He sat behind the rest of the band (see figure 2) and sometimes I felt as through the energy of his drumming was about to lift us bodily into the middle of our audience.

Playing for dances

We were what was called ‘a strict tempo dance band’ like that of Victor Silvester, playing music for people to dance to. The core of our repertoire comprised quicksteps (Ain’t Misbehavin’; American Patrol), slow foxtrots (Night and Day; At Last) and waltzes (What’ll I do; Now is the Hour, was usually played for the last waltz). At village dances it was possible to see parents dancing with their children, obviously counting, ‘Slow, slow, quick quick, slow,’ or ‘One two three, one two three.’ We also played some Latin dances of which the cha cha was most popular, and Old-Time dances like the Barn Dance and the Valeta. Some tunes were arranged as Dixieland or Trad Jazz. The Darktown Strutters Ball was a favourite of mine along with Stranger on the Shore (Acker Bilk) and Midnight in Moscow

(Kenny Ball). I loved playing the clarinet in the top line to get the characteristic Glenn Miller sound of Moonlight Serenade, but I never managed to master the complex cross rhythms of The Peanut Vendor.

A dance band differs from other bands and orchestras because the music on the stands is not just selected for that performance but includes everything in the current repertoire. The stack of music (the ‘pad’), up to an inch thick, is arranged and coded so that it is easy to respond to requests. The musicians need to be able to play any number almost at sight. I recall hearing that in the 1960s it was usual for bands to play the latest numbers from the Hit Parade for the first time at the start of the evening when only a few people were present, sight-reading them in a public rehearsal.

The size of each musician’s pad means that it is far too big and heavy for a conventional music stand; so, quite early on we had a set of folding music stands made to our own design by a workshop in Caton which employed disabled people. The stands were painted blue and embellished with a large ‘Q’ in silver., as you can see in Figure 2

A busy schedule

I still have my diaries from 1983 onwards and can see that we rehearsed nearly every week in various locations around Silverdale including the School, the Methodist Schoolroom and Bill Cropley’s front room. On one occasion we tried a room in the Leeds Children’s Holiday Camp. The floor, ceiling and walls were all hard, and the acoustic so live that it was impossible to hear each other. In desperation we opened all the windows to try to damp the sound down a bit.



**Figure 2: The band at Silverdale School in August 1985.
The Silverdale contingent comprises:
Front row: Richard Carter (2nd from left); Nicholas Ager
(extreme right);
Second row: Peter Shirra (centre);
Back row: Bill Cropley (centre); Roger Siddle (right).**

Before long we began to play in public for dances and for live entertainment on a few occasions in the village. By 1985 the number of ‘gigs’ had increased with bookings for dances at places like Warton Grange, The Strathmore Hotel in Morecambe and the RAOB Club in Kendal. We sometimes provided live music in pubs: The Silverdale Hotel; The Station Hotel, Carnforth; and the Redwell Inn. My 1985 diary lists at least 15 public engagements including some in places which I don’t remember. I found myself thinking ‘Did we really play there?’

Changes in Quicksilver

The band suffered a great blow with the untimely death of Peter Shirra in early 1986. His long experience from playing six nights

a week in Paisley before he retired from his work as a printer, and his skill as a musician were hard to replace. As some members left, and new ones joined, the centre of gravity of the band moved away from Silverdale and there was a desire to take on even more bookings.

At the same time the pressures of my work were increasing, and I was often away on university business. Our four sons were getting old enough to have musical activities and other opportunities, often needing to be driven to two or more different locations at the same time, so we both had to be involved. This meant that I could no longer give the band my full commitment so, regretfully, I played ‘Now is the Hour when We Must Say Goodbye’ for the last time, around the end of that year. In those four years I had finally been able to achieve my teenage ambition and it had been tremendous fun.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF WARTON PART II
FROM THE 16th TO THE 19th CENTURY
Nina Gaubert**

In this article Nina Gaubert continues to draw on the potted history of Warton that was written for the Bicentennial of the USA in 1976, It had been produced because of Warton's connection with the family of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America.

In Part I of this history, profound changes in Warton's status during almost five centuries were traced (see the Mourholme Magazine of Local History, Spring 2024, No.1, issue 82). These changes continue apace in the following article.

16TH CENTURY WARTON

Crime – A Village Pastime

It is tempting to think that village life in the past was cosy and romantic – very different from the bustle and strife of the present day. The Manor Court Record, covering Warton and Lindeth, dated 1593 during the Golden Age of, Good Queen Bess (Elizabeth I) shows how wrong such an impression can be. It is the first of a magnificent series of Manor Court Records for Warton and Lindeth which go right down to 1947.

In 1593 there are minor criminal offences recorded such as hubbleshowes [noisy affrays], bloodwicks [assault leading to bloodshed], and flights [noisy quarrels] . Nearly everyone in the village seems to have been involved at one time or another. Life in the 21st century, with all its faults, seems far more peaceful.

For a Manor Court, a jury, of sixteen gentlemen and prominent farmers, was sworn in, and presented the offences committed since the last court was held. As the extract below shows, they were not always popular.

Extract of 1593 Manor Court Record

Manor of Warton. [with Lyndeth]

Court of the lady Queen Elizabeth, Lady of [this] Manor, Defender of the Faith, held on 19th September 1593, in the thirty-fifth year of her reign, by George Middleton Esquire, Steward of the Manor.

WARTON

We present John Hinde for a bloodwicke against Roberte Housman, 6s 8d.

We present Robert Housman for calling and saying that the last jury p of the Manor Court] was perjured, 6s 8d.

From thenceforth we are fully agreed that whatsoever they be that doth give any such report of a Jury, to pay for the same presently upon sufficient proof – 40s 0d.

LYNDETH

We present John Browne and his wife for calling Richard Helme thief – 3s 4d.

The like to Richard Helme for saying that Browne and his wife were witches [a very dangerous allegation] and saying that he had great lose [loss] by them – 3s 4d.

We present Robert Greenolde and Margaret his sister-in-law for a fight between them, each to pay 12d.

17th CENTURY WARTON

Social Security in the 17th Century

From the Tudor period, local government was the responsibility of the Justices of the Peace Meeting of Quarter Sessions, acting as a sort of non-elected county council. Under them the officials of each parish: churchwardens; constables; highway-surveyors; and overseers of the poor, looked after day-to-day affairs. From 1662, the large parishes of the North of England were split up into their component townships for most local government purposes. Thus, the files of Lancashire Quarter Sessions are an incredibly rich treasury of information concerning the affairs of the county's villages from the 16th to the 19th century. It was common practice for people to submit petitions to the Justices, especially if their own village officials refused to give them their due. Many of these petitions are concerned with poor relief and with road maintenance.

The extract below [translated into modern English] concerning one family, b, is probably the only trace of the family in recorded history.

Petition of Bridget Winder for poor relief. 1698¹

To the right worshipful his Majesties Justices of the Peace and Quorum for the County Palatine of Lancashire at this present Sessions at Lancaster this 3rd day of May 1698.

The humble petition of Bridget Winder of Warton

That your poor petitioner is a very poor woman and has a boy aged 3 years [who] has rickets and your petitioner has sought several ways of cure for the infant, like the woman in the gospel, she hath spent all her living and yet is nothing bettered; while

¹ Lancashire Record Office, Quarter Sessions Petitions QSP809/7

the child was young she could have laid him down or otherwise worked and had added something towards maintenance she likewise sold her household utensils and all the clothes off her back for sustenance; but now the child be grown more humorsome [capricious] and tedious and she is willing to do her endeavour to him so long as it pleases God to continue him in this sad case, and not anyways able to relieve herself and this poor lame child without some allowance out of the town or parish where she lives, doth humbly beseech your good worships to take her miserable condition into your judicious considerations and to grant her what you in your Worships judgement shall think fit, til it please God to dispose of her child as is his good pleasure;

And your poor petitioner will ever pray as in duty bound for your good Worships' health and prosperity.

18th CENTURY WARTON

The enclosure of the Myers Common, an action by the villagers in 1740

By the middle of the 18th century, profound changes were just beginning to take place in England. The industrial revolution was not far into the future. Even in rural villages some stirrings were in evidence; there were moves towards greater agricultural efficiency to feed a growing population. The most common thing associated with this, is the extensive Enclosure of the common land, which took place in the 18th century. In the North-West this common land was almost exclusively pasture. Although there was some arable land, the arable strip fields had gone long before, Enclosures were mostly done by Act of Parliament, but below we have an example of the most substantial male

members of a village community acting in their own behalf, and also trying to solve a growing social problem, that of poverty.

Enclosure of the Miers by agreement 1740

Whereas the township and Manor of Warton with Lindeth is at present very much burthened with poor, and that several poor people who keep or might otherwise keep cows for support of themselves and families are not able to take summer grass and hay for keeping such cows. Now we whose names are subscribed Freeholders and Tenants of the said Manor (in pursuance of our custom and decree ratified by Exemplification under the Great Seal of England) do hereby severally and respectively consent and agree with the approbation of his Majesties Steward, or his lawful Deputy, and the Jury within the said Manor to take up and Enclose as soon as conveniently may be after date hereof, a certain parcel of waste or Common Ground within the said Manor called the Miers, such enclosure to begin at James Nickolsons Meadow Gate and to be drawn to the south corner of James Garners Garden Wall, taking in a small part of Westmorehills being dry ground and so to draw the Enclosure from the Pinfold to Hind Ditch, leaving out the Town End Ware; and that four or more sufficient and suitable persons tenants of the Manor, be elected and chosen by a Majority of the said tenants to the Directors and Managers of such Enclosure and the letting to farm, stinting [limit use of], grazing and pasturing the same for the use and benefit of the poor of the said township for cow grasses or hay grasses or otherwise as shall be thought most convenient and beneficial. Dated 26th December 1740

In another hand:

22 April 1741 allowed by me, William Dickinson, Deputy Steward, so as it is no injury or prejudice to the Rights and Liberty of the said Manor of Warton.

William Thornton	J. Dawson	John Dawson
Thos Walling	T. Guy	Tho Welch
Richard Watson	T. Hest	James Lucas
John Bisbrown	Robert Lucas	Edmond Bouskell
Jas Jackson	Albert Hoshon	

Figure 2: The Freeholders and tenants of the township and Manor of Warton with Lindeth

19th CENTURY WARTON

Warton enters the rage for roads in the early 19th Century

A fascinating map in the Lancashire Record Office² illustrates how the region around Warton was being opened up to road traffic in the 18th and 19th centuries. For centuries, the only really practicable route from Lancaster to Ulverston and points west had been across Morecambe Bay sands. In 1752 the route from Lancaster to Carnforth, and then along North Road to Burton, Crooklands, and Kendal had been turnpiked; while the alternative branch from Burton through Holme to Milnthorpe, Heversham and then Kendal was turnpiked six years later. From the 1760s, it was possible to go from Lancaster to Newby Bridge via Kendal, a long route on good turnpike roads. Thus it was that plans were made in the early 19th century to make a short cut by building two completely new stretches of road. It was actually accomplished in 1818, and the present day A590, between Greenodd and Levens, was built, much of it on a causeway over the marshes. The southern stretch (now the A6) was not built as initially marked on the map, the A6 diverted on the Warton side of the old Keer Bridge.

It is strange to think that many of these turnpike roads were bankrupted by the railways, which were built in the 1840s and

² Lancashire Records Office TTK 3

1850s, and at that time the future for roads in this country looked very bleak indeed.

Inexorable change

Parts I and II of potted history of Warton have recorded some of the great changes over nine centuries in the governance and status of Warton. The area of its once extensive manor is vastly reduced and Mourholme, its once proud castle, lies in ruins under the holiday resort of Pine Lake in Carnforth, itself the site of a worked-out gravel pit. Over the centuries, vast change, in social, political, and economic attitudes and values have produced a village that would be as unrecognisable to the Norman French Lords of the Manor of Warton as their Manor and way of life would be to us.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS
Clive Holden, Gill Ribbons

28th February 2024: Seeing the North with Sankey. In 2018 Signal Film and Media embarked on this project, a journey to re-house, catalogue and celebrate the incredible Sankey Family Photography Collection - **Liz Critchley** of Signal Film and Media and **Peter Laird**, a local historian from the Furness peninsula, who has been working on the project from the beginning, shared with us a selection of images from the collection and gave us a little background to the Sankey family's activities.

The Sankeys were a father and son trio who documented life in Barrow and Cumbria for over 70 years. They took photos wherever they went, which is more difficult than it sounds - plate cameras were taller than a man and very heavy, however this did not stop them from taking one up Scafell Pike. Sankeys also patented a postcard machine and printed between 500-1000 postcards a day. They were also innovative salesmen, taking photos of people going to the Lakes by train from Fleetwood, printing them and then selling them to these visitors – sounds familiar nowadays! They were also able to scrape off the plates and reuse them.

We were treated to a selection of more local images from the Silverdale area, including: St John's Church and Shore Cottages; and at Arnside: the Railway Station; The Crown (now The Fighting Cocks); The Albion and the viaduct. The whole collection and other information can be viewed on The Sankey Photography Archive website

at <https://www.sankeypphotoarchive.uk> and also
at <https://signalfilmandmedia.com/sankey-now-and-then>

27th March 2024: Morecambe Winter Gardens. A large attendance welcomed **Peter Wade**, an authority on the history of the Winter Gardens. It began life in 1878 as The People's Palace, soon eclipsing the less successful Summer Gardens and had a variety of attractions such as an aquarium and electric lighting. In 1897 it became even more impressive by the addition of the Victoria Pavilion, which became the theatre. In its early years the very popular Morecambe Music Festival was held there, and no less a celebrity than Edward Elgar was a star attraction in 1905.

Amongst the well-known artistes of later years were comedians such as; Norman Evans ('Over the garden wall'), Al Read, Jimmy James and Frank Randle; singers such as a young Vera Lynn, Joan Hammond, David Whitfield and Frankie Vaughan, and bands conducted by Jack Payne, Ambrose, Henry Hall and Ted Heath, not forgetting the Central Band of the RAF. Not that all was theatrical or musical; at Christmas time pantomimes were always popular, silent films were shown, and there were 'ghost nights'.

What has happened to the Winter Gardens in recent times we were not told, but were shown many old posters and programmes, unfortunately they were not projected onto a screen, so that most of them, being of smallish size, would leave most of the audience in the dark.

Wednesday 24th April 2024: St. George across cultures and traditions. A good attendance welcomed **Dr Sam Riches**, who delivered her talk in an interesting and entertaining way. The title of her talk was 'St. George across cultures and traditions', and it soon became evident that there were many of each to be considered. 'St. George for England!' is a familiar cry, but Dr Riches told us that many other countries could claim the same patronage, even though George is not necessarily the number one choice.

We learned that George, originally a Christian martyr, is not always a mounted knight in shining armour, the personification of virtue, thrusting his spear into the evil dragon, although that is probably the commonest representation of him. He can be appealed to by the sick, the poor, indeed anyone in need of help; if your crops are not growing well, have a few words with George and he may put things right. George, the Christian martyr of Roman times was not always so revered; he did not become our patron saint until mediaeval times and many parts of his history owe their existence to more modern embroidered interpretations.

All in all, it would seem that St George is what you want him to be, always of course as long as he is on your side. Even Malta has George as its patron saint; perhaps it is not by chance that for its bravery in the Second World War it was awarded the George Cross.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Awena Carter

All of us who were at the Mourholme Local History Society's meeting on 31st January this year, were fascinated by Keith Hildrew's erudite and well researched talk about the Brownes of Townend Farmhouse in the Troutbeck Valley. Especially interesting were his excellent slides and his way of bringing to life members of the Browne family by his careful descriptions of their lives, and by his reading of the letters of one of them.

I am also grateful to Keith for contacting us, reminding us about some of the facts he covered in his talk, one of these was the practice of the Brownes invariably to name their eldest sons George, and their second sons, Benjamin. One can only admire the way that Keith kept track of these Georges, two of whom were High Constables of Kendal in the 18th Century.

The last George, sometimes called Victorian George, who died in 1914, was an expert woodcarver. It was he who was responsible for most of the woodcarving that visitors to the house admire today. The house is now in the care of the National Trust who rely upon expert volunteers like Keith, to provide clear background information about the family that owned and lived in this four hundred year old farmhouse.

Keith began his communication with this pleasing compliment, 'I am always pleased to receive the Mourholme Magazine and the very interesting articles that it contains. This first issue of 2024 is no exception providing some fascinating reading. I was especially pleased to read the comments on the two Silverdale Players' photographs and the additional names added by Janet Adams and Robert Bolton. Both of them had already helped to

provide much useful information for the Players Centenary in 2022.’

Thank you, Keith. Your talk would make a fascinating article for the magazine, and I hope you will consider writing it up.

A Call for articles

The magazine always welcomes contributions, especially from new writers. So if you have completed a piece of research, however small, which you would like to share, I would be very glad to publish it.

And I hope to be able to include a collection of people’s impressions of the Silverdale History weekend, perhaps thinking about what attracted you to the weekend, what you enjoyed about it and whether you learned something new about the village.

**MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S
LECTURE PROGRAMME**

December 2024 to April 2025

(All meetings begin at 7.30 p.m.

Our talks generally finish by 9 p.m.)

PLEASE NOTE

**December 2024's meeting will be held in
Yealand Village Hall**

**The meetings for
January, February, March and April, 2025
will be held in
The Gaskell Hall, Silverdale**

**18th December 2024: Most truly yours, Aunt Anne Geddis
Gilchrist OBE**

Peter and Barbara Snape

Aunt Anne Geddis Gilchrist was a Lancastrian collector of folk songs and Music. Peter and Barbara will focus on the songs she collected, celebrating a remarkable woman who was a pivotal figure in the folk song-collecting community of the early 20th C.

**29th January 2025: Children, School and Rural Society in
Late-Victorian Lancashire**

Keith Vernon

By the end of the nineteenth century, all children were supposed to be in school, but what was education like in rural Lancashire? Drawing on log-book evidence, this talk explores the experience of school life for children and their teachers in a typical village school.

26th February 2025: Thomas Mawson, a Lancastrian Garden Designer

Brian Smith

Silverdale has one of Thomas Mawson's designed gardens at Grey Walls, but there are also others in the region including Rydal Hall. Mawson's life was remarkable, and this talk will tell you about some of it, and about the gardens he designed locally.

26th March 2025: Cromwell's Northern Journey 1648

Nick Burton

Walking in the footsteps of the New Model Army across Yorkshire and Lancashire to fight the Battle of Preston in August 1658

30th April 2025: The Leeds Children's Holiday Camp Silverdale

Stephanie Davies

The history of The Leeds Children's Holiday Camp, Silverdale from 1904, with oral histories from children who stayed there and the staff who looked after them, including the founder of the charity, Mrs Helen Curren Briggs, the first Lady Mayoress of Leeds, and her connection to the Lake District and the Arts and Craft designer Charles Francis Annesley Voysey.

Note: This talk will be preceded by a short AGM