

Kirkby Lonsdale & District Civic Society Newsletter - Summer 2016

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Photographic Archive

The Society would like to create and catalogue a photographic archive of the Rainbow Parish. It already holds a small number of images and would like to create a more complete picture of our area now and in times gone by. Images can be of people, events, buildings, scenery - almost anything which gives a flavour of the Rainbow Parish that might be of interest to future local historians. We would like to hear from any member who has images of an historical nature that might be included. We shall be delighted to receive hard copy or digital images or video. Please send items to the editor by email attachment or post hard copy photographs. The latter will be scanned and the originals returned to their owners. Other than inclusion in the archive, no use will be made of images without the owner's permission.

Planning Matters

SL/2015/1185 - Land off A683 near Devil's Bridge - Conversion of Agricultural Buildings into dwellings. Although we made strong objection to this application it has been granted; this was a mystery since an earlier request for change of use from agricultural buildings to dwellings had been refused. It seems that SLDC made an administrative error, so that consent to a change of use was deemed to have been given. This then allowed the above full planning application to be submitted and subsequently approved.

SL/2016/0229 - Sunnyside, Barbon. This farmhouse and attached cottage look like early examples of traditional Westmorland farmhouse building. We believed that the design, position and scale of the proposed extension would constitute an incongruous addition to the traditional and largely unaltered farmhouse and attached cottage. This does not appear to maintain the quality of the setting and the local vernacular tradition, so we objected to it. Barbon Parish Council and YDNPA also objected, but the application was approved.

SL/2016/0337 - Garage/Gym at Terret Dene, Kirkby Lonsdale

Terret Dene is an attractive building in the local vernacular style, but this proposed building would sit most uncomfortably in front of it. The northern elevation facing Kendal Road presents a plain box containing 4 small windows, below a flat roof, sitting opposite the Grade 2 listed Abbot Hall. Its design is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings and the flat roof is incongruous, so we objected to it.

SL/2016/0317 - Former Cedar House School, Kirkby Lonsdale

Whilst the whole site brings much needed residential accommodation into the town centre, we are concerned about the design of the six townhouses on the footprint of the former school canteen building. These have a very pedestrian and repetitive appearance which does not replicate in any way the character of the older buildings in the area. Whilst the other proposed buildings are relatively screened from outside the site, several elevations of this block will be very visible from Kendal Road, the more so as the proposal also envisages removing the hedge adjoining the road. This seems to be a missed opportunity to introduce a well designed 3-storey terrace, and will give a poor appearance to the site as a whole, so we objected.

Enforcement - Jeweller's Shop, Main St, Kirkby Lonsdale. The traditional 20-pane windows (left) of this listed building were replaced by a single plate glass window (centre) without planning permission. Enforcement action was taken and eventually a new window (right) matching the format of the original has been installed, which helps to preserve the character of the building and is more in harmony with the adjoining shopfronts.



Design Award for Kirkby Lonsdale house

For 50 years the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has championed and celebrated the best architecture of all types in the UK, and around the world.

Successful projects must reflect changes and innovations in architecture, but at their core display a commitment to designing and developing buildings and spaces for the improvement and enhancement of people's lives.

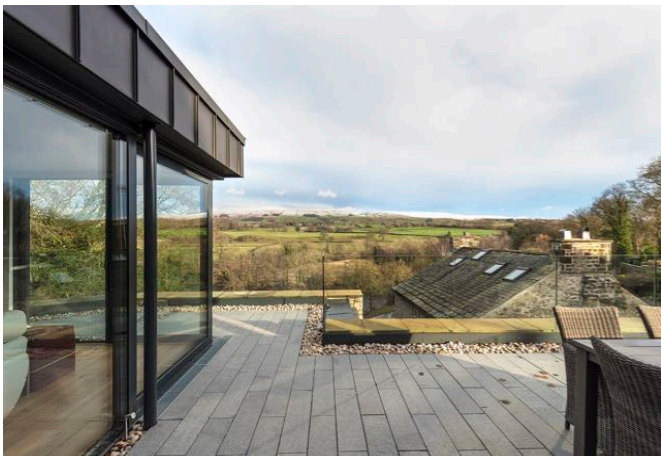


The RIBA Regional Awards 2016 winners were announced in April and a new Kirkby Lonsdale house is one of them.

The judges commented: "...you would not expect to find such contemporary domestic architecture inside such a heavily constrained Cumbrian market town with a very active conservation lobby. The architect worked hard to demonstrate clearly how their pavilion design for the site would - despite being more contemporary - be a far better 'fit' for the town than the higher density pastiche units that were originally given planning permission". The judges continued: "...the planning of this upside-down house takes full advantage of the spectacular views afforded to it, whilst maximising privacy within a very tight urban fabric. The high quality of workmanship is evident from the natural stone walling through to the bespoke carpentry within the living spaces".

One of the key objectives for the design was the use of traditional materials and applying them in a more contemporary style. Much of the stonework was salvaged from existing walls on the site. This

was re-laid to give a dry stone wall appearance and by doing so, 'lose' the appearance of the new walls amongst the existing. Large areas of glass have helped blend the building into its setting. At times the glass provides reflections of surrounding buildings whilst at other times the eye is drawn right through to the trees behind.



Finally, the use of a dark grey zinc cladding to the walls and roofs has allowed the upper part of the building to blend into the dark background of the trees. From afar the property appears as little more than a

continuation of the pre-existing stone retaining walls surrounding the site.

On 23rd June it was announced that the design has also been awarded an RIBA National Award, one of only a handful of private houses to do so. It has also been included on the list of houses being considered for the RIBA/Grand Design House of the Year for which filming is due to take place shortly.



Those with long memories may recall that in 2004 planning permission for nine flats on this same site on Mill Brow was refused, but in 2010 permission was given for 3 dwellings to be shoe-horned into the same space. The house which now sits so well in the plot is a credit to the vision of all those involved. So as well as a

plethora of fine Victorian and Georgian buildings, Kirkby's Conservation Area can now boast a fine award-winning modern building at its very heart.

Book Review

'Jessy's Journal' by Maurice Dybeck – The Hardens of Brathay Hall 1804-1811

Long-time Kirkby Lonsdale resident Maurice Dybeck has been awarded 'The David Winkworth Prize for Illustration and Presentation' by the 'Lakeland Book of the Year' judges. Awards founder and judge, Hunter Davies, said: "...it is one of the best edited books I have ever come across". Jessy

Allan was born into an upper middle class family in Edinburgh in 1776, and enjoyed a privileged early life before marrying a widower, John Harden, an Irish painter of independent means in 1803. They bought Brathay Hall in 1804, drawn by the scenery which was such an inspiration for John's paintings, and lived there for 28 years. Some 500 of John Harden's drawings were donated to Abbott Hall Art Gallery in 1974.

From the time she first visited the Lake District until her sister's return from India in 1811, Jessy wrote extended journals of her everyday doings and those of her friends and relations. These were sent to her sister in India in the form of some eighteen extended letters, each covering a period of up to four months.

Maurice Dybeck has edited Jessy's journals and combined them magically with many of John's drawings, to vividly create the everyday life of well-to-do family in Ambleside in Georgian times. To purchase this book call 0844 225 3100 or email brathay@brathay.org.uk. All profits from the sale of the £20 book will support Brathay's work with young people.



Yorkshire Dales National Park

From August 1st the parishes of Barbon, Casterton, Middleton and Mansergh (amongst others) will be included in the National Park. From that date responsibility for Planning switches from SLDC to the NP, and already we have noted the NP authority commenting on local planning applications in relation to the two 'Statutory Purposes' under which they operate.

Public Rights of Way are currently the statutory responsibility of Cumbria County Council. These may be delegated to the NP authority, and volunteers have already made a detailed survey of all PROWs in the extension areas, and it seems likely that this activity will also pass to the authority in due course. National Parks have a good reputation for PROW maintenance.

Margaret Llewelyn Davies was a social reformer, writer, and feminist who developed the Women's Cooperative Guild into "the greatest working women's organization of modern times". She lived in St Mary's Vicarage from 1889 to 1908. This article, written by a relative, describes her background and achievements, and in summary will be included on the Interpretation Panel to be erected in St Mary's Churchyard.

Margaret Llewelyn Davies (1861-1944) - by Tim Burnett

Born in London, where her father was Rector of Christ Church, Marylebone for thirty three years,



Margaret was the only daughter among the seven children of John and Mary Llewelyn Davies. She went to Girton College, Cambridge (founded by her aunt, Emily Davies), but left after two years to help in her father's parish; where she became a Sanitary Inspector, visiting the homes of the poor, listening to them, and recording in detail the conditions they lived in. Her involvement in the Co-operative Movement led in 1889 to her appointment as General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild (WCG), whose aims were to educate its members, advance co-operative principles, and improve the conditions of women all over the country.

In the same year (1889), John Llewelyn Davies became Vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, and Margaret accompanied her parents here. For the next nineteen years, the "Red Room" on the first floor of St Mary's Vicarage became the unlikely national headquarters of the WCG: which Margaret ran with the help of Lilian Harris, who was from a

local family and became her life-long friend and companion. (see picture below)

Focussing attention on the truly appalling hardships of working wives and mothers, and tirelessly lobbying public health authorities and governments, they helped the Guild pave the way for huge changes in the provision of maternal and infant welfare in the early years of the 20th century. At times, they were so busy that the gardener's wheelbarrow was enlisted to carry all the reports, petitions and circulars from the Vicarage to the Post Office.



In 1908 on her father's retirement to Hampstead, Margaret accompanied him and took the WCG head office with her, remaining General Secretary until 1921. During her thirty two years in the post, the membership went from 1100 to 52000, and when she retired she was described not only as a "Teacher, Writer and Leader", but also as "the inspiring genius and moving spirit of this great democracy of working women".

The next edition of the Newsletter will have further background about the Llewelyn-Davies family.

<p>Editor: Dr Ken Humphris The views expressed are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Civic Society Committee as a whole. The Editor would be delighted to receive comments or articles from members of the Society for inclusion in the newsletter. Registered Charity No. 502315</p>	<p>Committee Chairman Dr Ken Humphris Lowgill, High Casterton, LA62SD Tel: 015242 71983</p> <p>Secretary Mrs Sue Pelter The Garden House, 12 Mill Brow, Kirkby onsdale, LA6 2AT Tel: 015242 73284</p> <p>Mrs Lynne Seignot Tel: 015242 74390</p> <p>Mrs Anne Burgess Tel: 015242 72463</p>	<p>Membership Secretary Mrs Judith Manifold Tel: 015242 73457</p> <p>Treasurer Mr David Dalgoutte Delph cottage Jingling Lane Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2AW</p> <p>Mrs Audrey Phillips Tel: 015242 72514</p>	<p>Mr Peter Stockdale Tel: 015242 76443</p> <p>Mr Tom Felix Tel: 015242 72248</p> <p>Ms Margaret Bunch Tel: 015242 76494</p> <p>Mr Peter Yorke Tel: 015242 76420</p> <p>Mr Mike Marczynski Tel: 15242 71200</p>
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