

# Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society Newsletter: Winter 2017/2018

<p><b>IN THIS EDITION:</b> Autumn newsletter Four new committee members 2018 subscriptions AGM 2018</p>	<p>Help wanted please! with Casterton WW1 servicemen Looking after your personal information Contacting the committee</p>
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## Autumn newsletter

We are sorry there was no newsletter in the autumn. The committee was under-strength at the time and didn't have the time necessary to write, publish and distribute it. However we now have...

## ...Four new committee members

We are delighted to welcome to the committee, **David Stocks** as Secretary; **Paul Smith** as Membership Secretary; **Miriam Stocks**; and **David Pelter**, which takes us back to constitutional full strength of four officers and eight members. We thank them for offering their support.

Paul writes: *My name is Paul Smith and I have volunteered to become the new Membership Secretary following on from Judith Manifold. I am retired and live in Low Biggins, Kirkby Lonsdale. I am a "newcomer" to the area having moved up from Plymouth 5 years ago.*

And Miriam and David: *We were very surprised, but also pleased, to be invited to join the Committee of the Civic Society, as we have only lived in Kirkby Lonsdale for three & a half years. Having lived in South Cumbria, however, for over 30 years prior to moving, we have some knowledge of Kirkby and its environs but were keen to learn more and become involved in the local community. There is also some hope that our skills - Miriam's in modern languages, (French & Spanish) and David's as a Chartered Civil Engineer who worked in the water industry - may be of some use in our new rôles. Our interest in local history & wildlife will also, we hope, enable us to make a meaningful contribution to the work of the Civic Society, as will our other voluntary work, with 19th. Century documents at the Bowes Museum & with visitors at the K.L. T.I.C.*

## 2018 subscriptions

Just a reminder membership is renewable in January each year and is £7 per annum per family (same address) or £5 per individual. If you have already renewed your membership for 2018, then thank you for the support you give to the Society. And if you are a tax payer, Gift Aiding your subscription has significant benefit for the Society at no extra cost to you; please contact Paul for a Gift Aid form if you would be happy to do this.

## Formal notification of 2018 AGM

The 2018 AGM will be held at 19:30 on Monday 12th March in the Lunesdale Hall. **If you would be interested in joining the committee please contact any current member by Monday 5th March.** Note that the 'constitutional full strength' referred to above is not a limit as we can co-opt as many extra members as wish to join us!

It will be followed by a talk by author Simon Williams on '**The 'Matchless' Disaster of 1894, Morecambe Bay's worst boating accident**'. The sinking of the pleasure boat the 'Matchless', in rough weather off Jenny Brown's Point, resulted in the deaths of 25 passengers and led to new safety regulations. Simon will recount the tragedy and the controversy over the inquest.

## Help wanted please! with Casterton WW1 servicemen

Member Jean Hamlett writes: As requested by Casterton Parish Council in 2014 I have been researching the lives of the men from Casterton (20-plus, from a handwritten list recorded in the Parish Council minutes in 1919) who served in WW1 and who survived and came home again. I am still struggling with a few and should be most grateful for any help - particularly input from family members. On the other hand if any family members are interested in learning more about the men I have quite a lot more information about most of them.

The men I have already researched are: John William **ASKEW**, Edward Oliver **BRIGGS**, Geoffrey Duke **BURTON**, Charles Edward **CLARKE**; Hector, Cecil and Victor **COLLINSON**, Francis Wilfred **DEAN**, William **DENNISON**, Arnold **HAYTON**, Walter Scott **HUTTON**; Evan, James and Leonard Henry **MAKINSON**, John Hall **STACKHOUSE**, Edwin **TAYLFORTH** and John Tatham **WILSON** (Frank WILSON's brother).

If any member can help or would like family information please contact Jean on [jean.hamlett@btopenworld.com](mailto:jean.hamlett@btopenworld.com) or 015242 71015.

**Thomas MASON, b.1897, The Terrace, Casterton.** Thomas had two sisters and two **ELLERSHAW** stepsisters. He married **Hilda May WILLAN** in 1919 and they had three children: Alice, Gordon and Vera. Between 1919 and 1939 Thomas and Hilda moved to Morecambe, where Thomas worked as a chauffeur/gardener. I understand that Thomas fought in WW1 but there were many Thomas Masons.

**Still needed: Service details and a photograph** (one at any stage in his life would be welcome!)

**George BARROW, b. 1891, Thompson Fold, Lupton.** Before WW1 he was working for Mr. **GREENBANK** at **Bellgate Farm in Casterton**, and married the farmer's daughter "Maggie" in 1920. They had one daughter, Annie May, and lived in Gt. Eccleston for many years, returning to Casterton (**Norwood Cottage**) c.1950. He died 1959 and is buried in Casterton churchyard, as is his wife. As you can see, he was in the army in WW1.

**Still needed: Regimental details, and/or possibly a close-up photo in uniform.**



**POWLEY, William, b. 1882, Levens.** (By 1886 the family had moved to **Old Hall, Casterton.**) William's father was a farmer but William himself chose a quite different path in life. In 1901 he was working as "Boots" at the Royal Hotel, Windermere. In 1911 he was an Assistant Manager at the Hotel Metropole in Brighton - and at some point after the war he became the Manager of the Charing Cross Hotel in London! During the war it appears that William was temporarily made a 2nd Lieutenant with the Expeditionary Force Canteens, Royal Garrison Artillery; later he was a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He married Kate **WILLIAMS** of Salisbury in 1909 and in 1910 they had a son by the name of Hector Wilhelm Maxwell POWLEY. William died in 1931 (still working at the Charing Cross Hotel).

**Photo needed.**



**TAYLOR, James Edward, b. 1877, Kendal** Before WW1 James worked for a plumbing firm in Kendal and used a bicycle to get to work. While he was working at "Barbon Towers, near Casterton" (Barbon Manor?) he met his future wife Annie Louisa **STAINTHORPE**, who was a servant there. They married in 1909 and by 1911 they were living at **Clergy Cottages, Casterton**, and a year or so later at Yew Tree. It looks likely that James did not enlist until 1916, when conscription came into force for married men. I understand he was nearly 40 on enlistment and was "not sent out to fight but was sent to Ireland" - possibly Randalstown, where there was a Command Depot. In later life James and his wife had a sub-post office and shop in Windermere Road, Kendal, and ran this all through WW2.

**Which regiment was James in? What was he doing in Ireland? I have no other service details.**

**SPENCER, H.** This gentleman is most elusive. He did not appear to live in Casterton in 1881, 1891, 1901 or 1911, and there were no Spencers mentioned in the 1911 Census Summary Book nor in the 1899 or 1915 Electoral Registers. There is an outside chance that he may in fact have been 2nd Lieutenant **Henry Norman SPENCE** (no 'R'), who was born in New Zealand in c.1890. He gave a Hampstead address in April 1915 on enlistment.

It seems that he had his own motorcycle, which he intended to use, as a Corporal in the Royal Engineers (Motor Cyclists' Section). However after checks apparently he or his motorcycle was considered "unsuitable", and he was transferred in October that year to the 10th (or 11th) Reserve Border Regiment as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant (later a full Lieutenant in the 2nd Bn). In December 1919 he was repatriated to New Zealand, and died in Ranfurly (NZ) in 1969.

**Still needed: Anything and everything about H. Spencer of Casterton!**

**STIDSTON-BROADBENT (aka BROADBENT, Reginald C.) b. 1887, Brockley, London (Lewisham)** Reginald's father was a draper, and "Head of the firm" (this may in fact have been Broadbents of Southport - later Beales?) He was born Stidston (in Devon) but by 1894 (when he changed the family name by deed poll to Stidston-Broadbent) he was in Southport.

Reginald himself decided to go out to South Africa (probably 1909). During WW1 he served in the South African Army as a Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, and later as a "Temp." Captain. After the war he stayed in South Africa and became a planter. He made a brief visit home in 1919 when both parents died, and in 1928 married Elsie Walker (from Ilkley) at Fort Johnston, Nyasaland (now Mangochi, Malawi). He died there in 1971.

His younger brother Wilfred was a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps, and was sadly killed in France in 1917 and is commemorated on the war memorial at Lymm, Cheshire. Wilfred's probate record shows the family home as **Old Hall, Casterton** at the time.

**Does anyone know more about the Broadbents store connection? Did Reginald and Elsie have any children? Photo also needed.**

**WILSON Frank, b.1894, Casterton** Frank's family home was **Fern Cottage, Casterton**. Although we have a photograph of Frank we have very little idea of what he did in WW1. According to the Westmorland Gazette, 7 October 1916, "Frank, youngest son of Mr. T.A. Wilson of **Fern Cottage, Casterton**" was a 2nd Lieutenant and was "accidentally wounded by a revolver shot in the leg" on 7 October 1916, from which he was "making good progress towards recovery". Unfortunately it does not mention which regiment he was in, and even the National Army Museum was evidently unable to give a definite identification. Frank married Mary Anne **ROSS** in 1922 in Glasgow. He was a civil servant working in Glasgow at the time. They subsequently moved to Manchester in late 1927 or 1928. Frank died in the 1950's, possibly in Manchester. Mary died in Scotland in 1960.



**Still needed: War service details.**

### Looking after your personal information

As you know when you join the Society we ask for personal information such as name, address and contact details. We only ever use this within the Society, mostly for sending newsletters and talk information. If you would prefer us not to use some of this information please tell us.

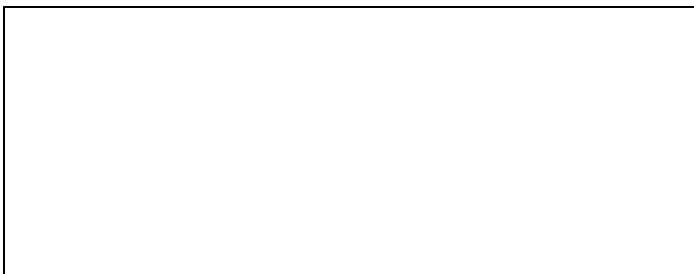
We would particularly like to know if those who prefer to have printed newsletters, but whose E mail address we have, are happy for us to E mail other information. So we will be contacting you to ask, which will, of course, be a one-off contact if you prefer not.

### Contacting the committee

Following the complete change of committee officers in 2017 we have set up general E mail contact addresses, to avoid having to update addresses when officers change. These are:

- Chairman (Anne Burgess): [kldcschairman@gmail.com](mailto:kldcschairman@gmail.com)
- Treasurer (Mike Butcher): [kldcstreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:kldcstreasurer@gmail.com)
- Secretary (David Stocks): [kldcssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:kldcssecretary@gmail.com)
- Membership Secretary (Paul Smith): [kldcsmemsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:kldcsmemsecretary@gmail.com)

The general address introduced last year, [klcs@cantsfield.com](mailto:klcs@cantsfield.com), can still be used for now.



### Contact us

Please see the note above for E mail.  
You may also phone the Chairman, Anne Burgess, on 015242 72463

This edition was edited by Anne Burgess with thanks to all our contributors. The views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Civic Society Committee and its members as a whole.

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