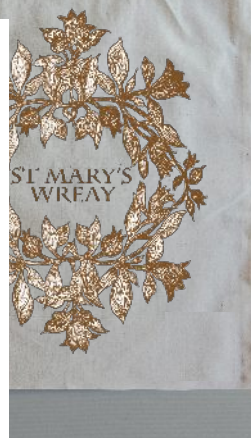
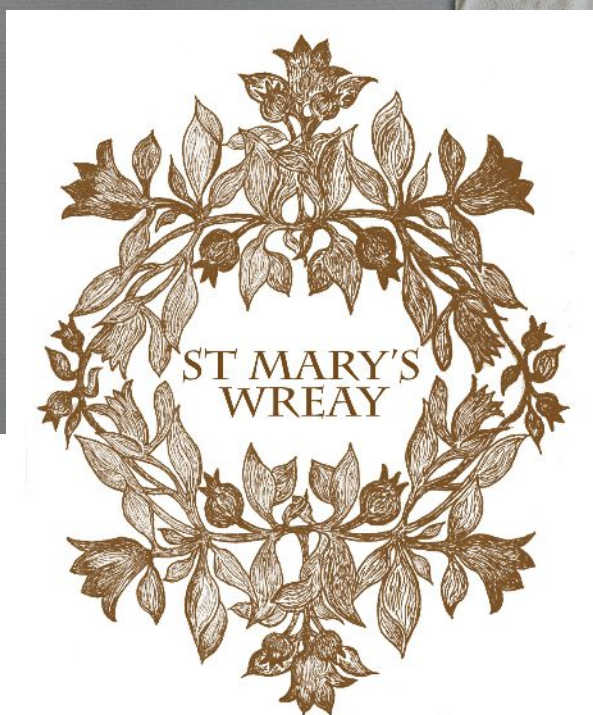


ST MARY'S TOTE BAG OFFER

ST MARY'S TOTE BAG £6



Following the sell out success of the souvenir tea towels back in 2019 and 2022 we have now produced a cotton tote bag with a new design by local artist, Bettie Gray, based on the floral decoration of St Mary's font. This tote bag is now available to purchase at £6 each plus p&p and makes an attractive present.

To purchase a tote bag contact Raymond Whittaker, The Garden House, Wreay, Carlisle CA4 0RL or email raymondwhittaker53@gmail.com or complete the contact form on the church website, www.stmaryswreay.org stating your name, address, email address, telephone number and how many tote bags you require.

PINE CONE



The Newsletter of The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wreay
Issue No27 November 2023



**The Seal of St Mary's
Local Brickworks
Memories of Wreay School**

DEAR FRIENDS



The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wreay

c/o Wreay Syke Fold, Wreay CA4 0RJ

Website: www.stmaryswreay.org.uk

Chairman: Raymond Whittaker 016974 73687

Secretary: Janet Madden

Treasurer: Mike Jones 016974 73744

'Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.'
Henry Ford

It was a delight to celebrate the story of education in Wreay from the 1680's to the present day as the subject of The Friends Annual Event this June. The three day exhibition, *Memories of Wreay School*, was not only an account and record of village school life but a reflection of history seen in the everyday happenings of a small rural school. It also stirred memories as visitors recalled their teachers or spotted their younger selves in school photographs. In Pinecone 27 we have just a small selection of the memories. The concert with the school choir was a joy and meeting some characters from history with their tales of school life was an education in itself.

The Rev Hall clearly believed that his role as vicar of St Mary's was as a teacher and recorder of history. We have him to thank for setting down local history in his publication, *Wreay*. Here he explains the significance of the seal of St Mary's Church that adorned the cover of his Annual Parochial Statements.

An article in Pinecone 26 threw new light on the brick construction of The Keep, the original house that used to stand near the Brisco crossroads. This led me to investigate further the history of brickworks in our local area.

I was intrigued to open a recent publication, *1001 Buildings To See Before You Die*, and find St Mary's sharing the pages with the likes of the Taj Mahal and St Peter's in Rome - grandiose company.

So keep learning and stay young!

Raymond Whittaker, Chairman and Editor

PS Don't forget to order your St Mary's tote bag in time for Christmas!

THE SEAL OF ST MARY'S by Rev A R Hall

This seal was on the front cover of the Rev A R Hall's Annual Parochial Statement throughout his time as vicar of St Mary's. On 6th February 1939 he wrote:

'The central figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Infant Jesus is copied from an old Carlisle Seal, lent by Mr Horrocks, who lived at Eden Brows when the Wreay Parochial Statement was first issued in 1894.

The original parish of Wreay was formed from a township in the ancient parish of St Mary's, Carlisle, and the dedication of the Church follows that of the Mother Church.

The niche, in which the Virgin Mary is seated, replaces one more ornate on the Seal, and is meant to recall the arcade in the apse of the present Church.

At the sides of the central figure are the sacred Monograms formed from the first two and the last letters of our Lord's names in the Greek language, IESOUS CHRISTOS, IHS and XPS, where the H stands for a long E, X for CH (a single letter in Greek), and P for R. The final S is sometimes written in its alternative form as a c.

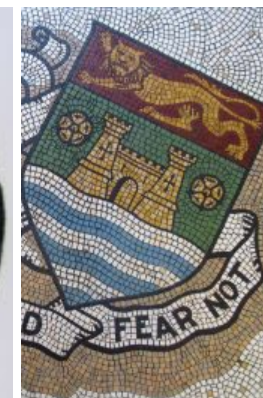
In the Arms of the City of Carlisle in ordinary use are three wavy lines, which are said to represent the three rivers, Eden, Petteril and Caldew. One of these has been retained and more bent – for 'Wreay' means a corner or bend, and one of its names in an old document is 'Petrel-Wrey'.

The other ornaments are meant to recall features of the Church – the oak wood and the palm trees, the dove and the lily carved on the font, the corn and the grapes on the pediment of the altar, the cones and the bees on the roof beams and elsewhere.'

St Mary's Seal

16th C Common Seal of Carlisle

1610 Carlisle Crest



MEMORIES OF WREAY SCHOOL

A small selection of the memories of Wreay School that formed part of the exhibition held on Friday 17th - Sunday 18th June 2023 in Wreay Village Hall.

1738 Petition sent by 11 Trustees to Sir George Fleming, Bishop of Carlisle.

"We do nominate and present unto your Lordship, Joseph Parker, being a person well affected to ye present constitution and Government both in Church and State, and of sober life and conversation, to be the curate of our said Chappel. We do hereby most humbly recommend him to your Lordship to be ordained deacon and licensed Curate and Schoolmaster of ye said chapel and chapelry."



Sketch July 1836 by Rev W Ford



Sketch July 1836 by Rev W Ford

1830 Sarah Losh

"The old Schoolhouse having become ruinous, my sister and I erected a new one, which was completed in 1830. The tything men had made over to us the old one that we might employ the materials in the work. We left the walls standing to serve for a court, and made use of the other materials on the spot."

1863 School Log Book entries by William Postlethwaite the School Master.

"January 5th 70 names were already on the School Registers and 10 more have been admitted this morning. Mrs. Postlethwaite had only a part of the girls under her charge in the afternoon, as many of them had not brought their work. January 6th All the girls at work knitting and sewing this afternoon. January 7th Several children absent from school on account of the stormy morning."



Circa 1898

1902 James Arlosh presented medals to mark Edward VII coronation.

"Scholars of Wreay School; Mrs Arlosh and myself decided to give each one of you a medal as the most lasting memorial of this day. It may be that in years to come, in the many chances of life, you may be far away from your early home, but wherever you may be you will always have opportunities of seeing the portraiture of Edward VII, King of England, and if you look upon the reverse of this medal you will see the arms of the county of Cumberland; and these may serve for all time to remind you of your birthplace and your early home in that grand old county."



Tea party 26th June 1902

1919 The 1st Wreay Brownie Troop

Brownies were founded in 1914 for girls between 8 and 11 years. The 1st Wreay troop photographed in 1919 must have been one of the first. Limited number in uniform and lack of badges implies this was early days.



1st Wreay Brownie Troop 1919

1920 Mr Jardine, Headmaster, recorded the erection of the 1st World War Memorial.

"The school reopened this morning after the Xmas Holidays. During the closure an Oak Tablet has been erected in the School on the South Wall recording the names of those connected with the School and Parish who served with either the Navy or Army during the War 1914-19. There are 128 names. On each side are hung the Photographs of those who sacrificed their lives - 17 in all. I read over the names and made a few remarks on the Tablet and its silent teaching."



1st World War Memorial

1929 Rev A R Hall in his book, *Wreay*.

"The School buildings will now compare favourably with those of any other village in the county. They serve not only as a place for teaching children, but also as the centre of the social life of the parish; lectures and concerts are given there. Evening classes are held for such subjects as sewing, cookery, nursing, dairy work, folk-dancing, and singing. For the children, also, the School is more than the place where they learn their lessons; it is their home for the day."



Wreay School 1920

1940 Brian Hodgson recalls his time at Wreay School as a wartime evacuee.



The Hodgson family at the Plough

"I attended Wreay School during 1940 and 1941 when the school building was very much smaller than it is today, basically consisting of two classrooms separated by a moveable partition. One classroom was for 5-8 year-old scholars and the other for the 9-14 year-old scholars. There were two teachers only. Miss Clark, taught the "baby class" and the headmaster, Mr Jardine, taught the other children. He was quite a good master, if he hadn't had a problem with drink.

1952 HM Inspector's report.

"This is a small country school of 34 children between the ages of 5 & 15 years. One large room is divided into two classrooms and a porch at the back of the building serves as a cloakroom and a kitchen for heating plates and washing up. The midday meal is sent from a central kitchen some miles away and is served at well-appointed tables. There is no waterborne sanitation. Both staff and children have worked hard to make the ground in front of the School into a most pleasant and colourful garden."



Miss Irving and the Junior Class



DJ Noel Edmonds visits

1969 Noel Edmonds visited

Noel Edmonds visited Wreay School in June 1969 where his aunt, Olive Irving was Headmistress. At the time Edmonds was a DJ on Radio Luxembourg and joined BBC Radio 1 just 1 month after this visit.

1978 Ian Roberts remembers the pantomimes of the 1970s.

"Derek Coulthard was headmaster for most of my time at Wreay. He really excelled at arts & crafts and particularly music. I don't know how the pantomimes came across to the audience, but they were quite something for the children participating in them! Costume making was assigned to parents with varying degrees of success. On the night, liberal make-up was applied to all the performers which, with the boys at least, didn't go down well."



Jack & the Beanstalk 1978

1983 Joan Rayder, Secretary of St Mary's PCC, in support of Wreay School.

Letter to the Assistant Director of Education

"Dear Mr Marriott,

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Wreay, has requested me to write to you to express their concern and distress at the proposed closure of Wreay School. There have always been close links between the church and school. These are on-going and the Parochial Church Council wishes them to be maintained for the strength and benefit of the school and village community."



Wreay School 1984

1987 Kate Haynes, Infant Teacher, 1986-2004.

"During the late 1980s the first computers came into school, I should say computer, a BBC Acorn which needed to be loaded from a tape! All I can say is in the early days of computers in school you needed perseverance and patience. Equipment was expensive and development in a small school was not easy. Even when I finished in 2004 we had very limited IT resources. In the late 1980s we also saw the introduction of the National Curriculum and SAT Tests. I don't think the Education Minister, Kenneth Baker knew the first thing about small schools or Education for that matter!"



Wreay School 1988



Cinderella 1993

1999 Children's wishes for the future in the Millenium Project 2000 words.

"My dream is that boys and girls can play any sport. Even if its football or netball it doesn't matter." Jamie Williams

"I hope in the future that everyone is happy and people will not die and everyone can go on holiday." Stephanie Weston

"My dream is that everyone is kind to other people and it doesn't matter if they are black or white." Amie McKenzie

"I wish that there were no dreadful people in the world and all the people would live in harmony together." Mark Bell



Sports Day 1995

2006 Pupils took part in Songs of Praise recorded in St Mary's 2nd December.

"Songs of Praise Interview Section :Wreay CofE Primary School - who talk about their favourite parts of St Mary's Church. The BBC would like to give special thanks to the pupils and staff of Wreay CofE Primary School for taking part in the programme."



Songs of Praise
the moon, the stars, is he

2019 Sir Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education visited the school now part of the Good Shepherd Trust.

"Inspiring to see the dedication of the teachers at Wreay CofE Primary School & the magnificent school choir. Huge thanks to @johnstevensonmp for showing me round & showing what the extra investment @conservatives are making in #education will do for his constituents in #Carlisle."



Gavin Williamson visits

2020 The COVID 19 pandemic closed the school with children learning online.

"Update 23rd March 2020.

Our schools are now closed. Our schools will provide care for the children of Key Workers ONLY when alternative arrangements are impossible and where safe staffing levels can be reached and maintained. The Trust board would like to express their gratitude to the staff at each of our schools for their dedication and hard work in navigating the complexities of this unique situation."



School closed due to pandemic

2023 The school choir win at the Carlisle Music & Drama Festival once again.

The adjudicator David Hoult said, "It was an excellent performance both technically and artistically, commenting on the clarity of diction, careful attention to dynamics, sustained singing and well-balanced parts".

Choir leader Gill Wadeson said, "It was wonderful to be back at the festival following three years of absence owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions on singing collectively. As a result, the choir competition felt extra special and there was a real sense of occasion. We have missed it so much and it's great to be back doing what we love, performing and singing".



The Melodic Minors



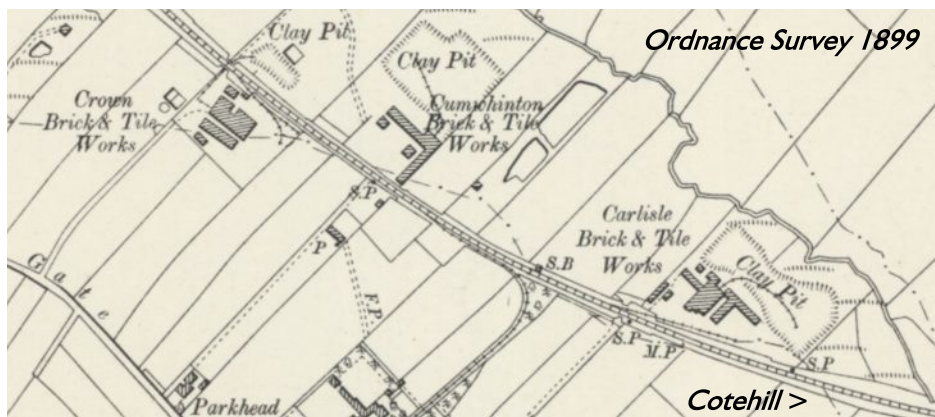
LOCAL BRICKWORKS ed. Raymond Whittaker

Hugh Ruding-Bryan's recollection in Pinecone 26 that his father built The Keep with bricks from the Lonsdale Brick and Tile Company and not the Esk Brickworks at nearby Brisco led me to investigate local brickworks and after a web search I came across these two articles.

Brickworks in the Cotehill area by permission of David O'Farrell and SCRCA
<https://scrca.foscl.org.uk/>

In the middle of the nineteenth century the demand for bricks increased significantly as towns became larger and more industrialised. The manufacture of bricks took place in small works which would usually be situated adjacent to clay pits where the raw materials could be excavated. The works also had to be conveniently located for the new buildings to minimise transport. The process involved drying out the clay, moulding or shaping it and then firing it in a kiln. Suitable clay for brick making had to be free from stones and other impurities. Such material was found in deposits approximately one mile north of the village of Cotehill on land that would later be adjacent to and beneath the Settle & Carlisle railway.

Carlisle Brick and Tile Works was originally owned by Claude Lonsdale and is often referred to as the Lonsdale Brick & Tile Works. It is thought to have been in production by 1884 and in August 1886 surveys were carried out by the Midland Railway for the provision of a siding. During the 1890s bricks, drainage, and roofing tiles were offered from what was called Carlisle Brick Tile & Pottery Works. By the early 1900's the product range had expanded to include chimney pots and ornamental items, mostly for the garden. The works produced a distinctive T-shaped chimney pot which was commonly used in Carlisle.



By 1911 ownership had changed to M Richardson & Son but by the late 1920's the works were disused and derelict. In early 1930 the site was purchased by the Carlisle Plaster and Cement Company who were operators of the nearby Cocklakes Gypsum mine and production plant. They viewed it as a viable proposition and by 1931 were again producing bricks and tiles. They also initiated the production of dried clay blocks which were used in the manufacture of hardwall plaster. These blocks were sold to McGhie's plaster works at Kirkby Thore. Subsequently both the Carlisle Plaster and Cement Company and Thomas McGhie & Sons would be taken over by British Plaster Board (British Gypsum).

The site was sold again around 1949 to the Lonsdale Brick & Tile Co. Ltd. Production continued until around 1982.

By 1993 the remains of the clay pits were still present along with the moulding and drying shed. Two downdraught kilns remained also but these and the sheds were demolished in 2004. More recently the site has been redeveloped and landscaped for recreational fishing with accommodation. It incorporates the clay pits from the adjacent brickworks to provide 5 fishing lakes.

Brisco Esk Brickworks by permission of Gordon Edgar
https://www.flickr.com/photos/12a_kingmoor_klickr/

The Esk Building Products Brickworks at Brisco, brainchild of Sir John Laing, was established in 1934. Originally built alongside a now exhausted sandpit the sand more recently was transported by road from Faugh, between Wetheral and Castle Carrock. The bricks were made from a mixture of sand and crushed stone, together with water and hydrated lime and subjected to a pressure of 3 tons per square inch and cured in high pressure steam in an autoclave. Common and facing bricks were produced, the latter in either smooth or rough finish in a choice of ten colours. Up to 400,000 bricks per week were produced prior to its closure. Due to the downturn in the requirement for bricks, Esk Building Products was placed into administration in May 2010, and the works mothballed. The site is now owned by A W Jenkinson Forest Products.

