

PINE CONE



The Newsletter of The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wreay

Issue No29 November 2024



Homage to Sarah by Jane Hanson

Wreay View
1842

Homage to a Beech Tree
Carlisle Southern Link Road

DEAR FRIENDS



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"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning"

Benjamin Franklin

You could say that Pinecone 29 looks forward as well as back.

Sarah Losh certainly lived at a time of great growth and progress and embraced the improvements of science whilst being fascinated with the achievements of past civilisations. The item in this edition listing the events of 1842, the year in which St Mary's was completed, demonstrates clearly what a time of technological and social change it was.

The 'Wreay View' exhibition held in August celebrated the history and environment that surrounds us with wonderful and varied works of art often in modern, expressive ways. It is a delight to include a selection of these images. Thank you to all the artists that took part.

We also record the passing of a fine old beech tree in the churchyard which hopefully will spur us on to plant new for our children's children.

And I offer my own personal view on the new link road. It is held up as a sign of growth and progress but is it improvement and achievement leading to success? I leave you to come to your own conclusion.....

Raymond Whittaker, Chairman and Editor

CARLISLE SOUTHERN LINK ROAD



Photo Stephen Tweedie

A very personal observation from the Editor.

The large billboard at Junction 42 of the M6 announces the construction of the Carlisle Southern Link Road with the statement '*Connecting Communities*'. I must admit that I always thought we were well connected already and that the closure of roads over the past 6 months disconnected and inconvenienced us considerably. Surely the new road is intended to whisk traffic from west Cumbria to the M6 without stopping and has little to do with 'connecting' our rural communities?

From the air the scar that is the roadworks can be seen crossing what was part of the Losh estate. Indeed the area is known as North Park, lying just to the north of Woodside where Sarah Losh lived. A year ago it was a landscape of flat parkland with tree lined roads and open views to the Pennines and towards the Lakeland hills. It is now crossed by tarmac and dotted with man-made mounds to hide it from neighbouring properties, sunken areas to act as drainage ponds and ramps and bridges for cycle routes. It progresses across the land regardless of historic landscapes. But is this progress?

Then again, I stop to wonder what Sarah would have made of it. After all she supported the railway cutting through her estate only a short distance from Woodside. Perhaps she would have seen the road as progress though, no doubt, she would have been sad to see her trees felled.

1842



6th - 13th January

The British Army suffered one of its greatest defeats at the hands of the Afghan forces in the Battle of Gandamak. Led by General Elphinstone, they were ambushed and massacred on the road from Kabul to Jalalabad. Amongst the victims was William Thain, aid-de-camp to Elphinstone. Thain had been brought up in Wreay and was a close friend of Sarah Losh.



22nd January

Charles Dickens and his wife arrived in Boston aboard the RMS Britannia during their first trip to the United States and Canada. Dickens toured, lecturing and promoting his writings.



January

The American medical student, William E. Clarke, at Berkshire Medical College, became the first person to administer an inhaled anaesthetic to facilitate a surgical procedure - a dental extraction.



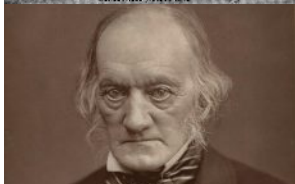
February

John Henry Newman, the controversial Anglican cleric, withdrew to "the house of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Littlemore" outside Oxford and established a semi-monastic community. Newman was to become a Catholic cardinal and canonised in 2019.



2nd March

The Grand National was won by Gaylad ridden by Tom Oliver. At the home turn spectators encroached onto the course unseating Robert Hunter from his mount, Peter Simple, but he remounted and came third.



March

Palaeontologist Richard Owen coined the name Dinosauria from the Greek, deinos - terrible, powerful, wondrous and sauros - lizard.

11th May

The Income Tax Act 1842 established the first peacetime income tax in Britain with seven pence in the pound for incomes over £150.

14th May

The Illustrated London News was first published. It was founded by Herbert Ingram as the world's first weekly illustrated newspaper.

14th May

Alfred Tennyson's collection 'Poems' was first published. It was a two-volume collection of new poems and reworked older ones including some of his finest and best-loved poems. It helped to establish his reputation as one of the greatest poets of his time.

May

After Parliament rejected the second Chartist Petition a General Strike started among miners in Staffordshire and spread throughout Britain affecting factories and mills in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and coal mines from Dundee to South Wales and Cornwall.

George Dixon was elected Mayor of Carlisle. He was the son of Peter Dixon the textile manufacturer, remembered today in the name Dixon's Chimney. George lived in Old Tullie House and was Mayor in 1842-43 and 1848-49.

11th June

Oxford won the 6th Oxford & Cambridge Boat Race. In a race substantially interrupted by river traffic, Oxford won in a time of 30 minutes and 1 second.

13th June

Queen Victoria made the first train journey by a reigning British monarch, on the Great Western Railway from Slough to Paddington a route engineered by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.





June

The Antarctic explorer James Clark Ross charted the eastern side of James Ross Island named in his honour by a later Swedish expedition.



The first Cumberland Plate horse race was run over one mile and three and a half furlongs for three-year-olds and upward on the Sands racecourse where The Turf grandstand hotel had been built in 1840.



Beecham's Pills were first marketed in St Helens, Lancashire by Thomas Beecham so forming the basis of the pharmaceutical company. They are credited with the world's first advertising slogan with 'Worth a guinea a box'.



1st August

The Mines and Collieries Act made it illegal for women and girls of any age, and boys under ten years, to work underground, following the 1838 Husker Pit disaster in South Yorkshire which resulted in the deaths by drowning of 26 children aged 7 to 17.



9th August

The United Kingdom and United States signed the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. The treaty was signed by United States Secretary of State Daniel Webster and British diplomat Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton, agreeing the border between the United States and Canada.



29th August

Britain and the Qing dynasty of China signed the Treaty of Nanking ending the First Opium War forcing China to cede Hong Kong to Britain.

John Kilner & Co., glass manufacturers, were established in Castleford, Yorkshire, to produce bottles. John later patented the Kilner jar for preserving fruit.



5th October

Josef Groll brewed the first pilsner beer in the city of Pizen in Bohemia, now the Czech Republic. This pale lager was made with cool fermenting yeasts in caves.



21st October

HMS Cumberland, a 70 gun third rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy was launched at Chatham Dockyard. She carried a crew of 620 men.



J M W Turner painted Peace - Burial at Sea. The painting shows the burial of his friend the Scottish genre painter David Wilkie who had died at sea off Gibraltar having become ill on his return journey from the Middle East.



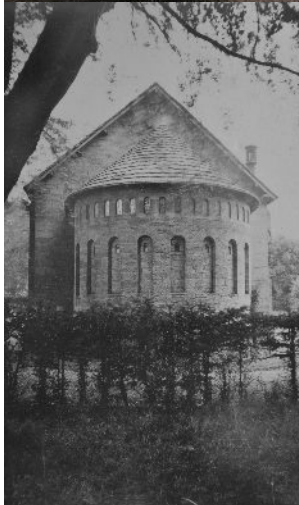
Felix Mendelssohn composed incidental music for a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream which included the popular Wedding March.



1st December

The new chapel of St Mary's, Wreay was consecrated in the presence of the Bishop of Carlisle, the Dean of Carlisle, the Chancellor, numerous clerics, local nobility, landowners and villagers. The Carlisle Patriot reported:

'Although we are aware that the unobtrusive and truly Christian character of that lady's benevolence, makes her prefer to do good by stealth, it is only right to add that the inhabitants are wholly indebted to the munificent liberality of Miss Losh, of Woodside, for the erection of this elegant and convenient place of worship.'



WREAY VIEW ART EXHIBITION



The 'Wreay View' art exhibition was held in the Sarah Losh Heritage Centre over the August Bank Holiday weekend and was a follow up to the art workshop led by Alison Critchlow on 15th June. Ten artists displayed work inspired by St Mary's Church and Wreay village. There was a steady flow of visitors who appreciated the variety of styles on show and enjoyed a coffee and cake as well. All works were on sale and, largely thanks to the generosity of artists, we raised just short of £900 over the weekend. A selection of the artworks follows.



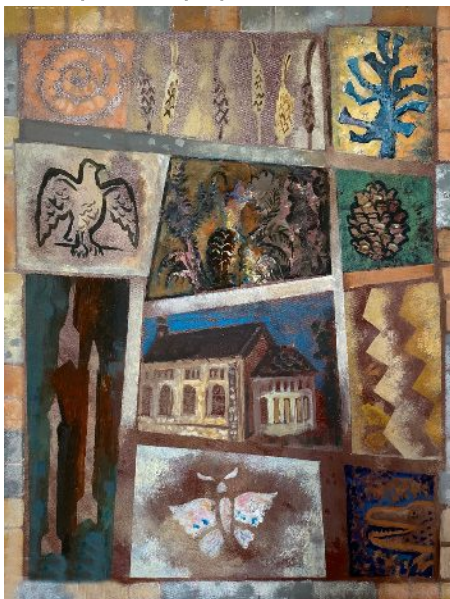


Welcome to Springtime by Bettie Gray

St Mary's Lectern by Mary Martin



St Mary's Wreay by Bill Kerr





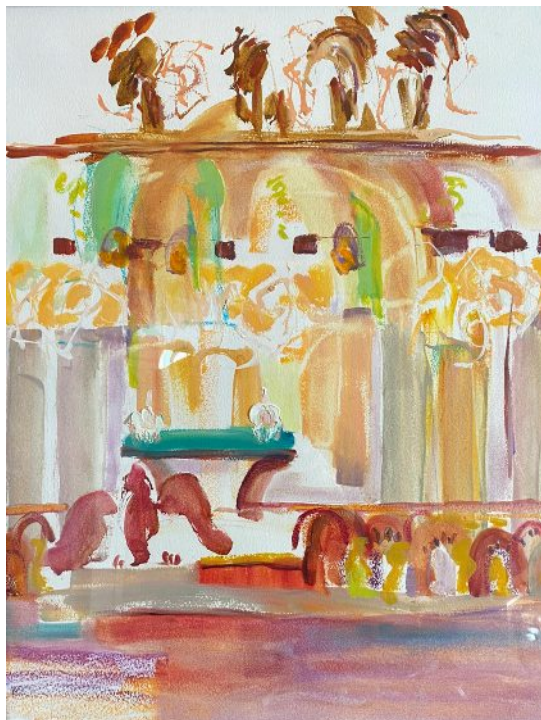
Sunlight on St Mary's by Pete Pieri

Sarah Losh by Raymond Whittaker



Green Angel by Jane Hanson



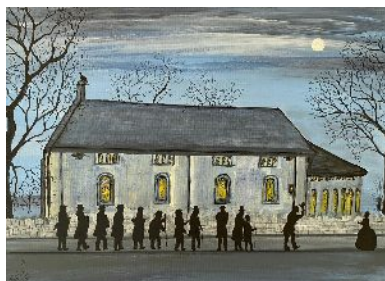


Homage to Sarah by Caroline Davies

Sarah Losh Symbols by Norma Adamson



Apse by Caroline Davies

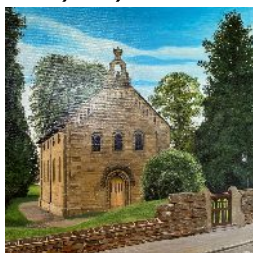


12 Men of Wreay by Pat Gill

Flora by Janet Patrick



St Mary's by Pete Pieri



HOMAGE TO A BEECH TREE

It is always sad when a tree comes to the end of its life particularly when it is as fine as the beech tree in St Mary's churchyard that may well have been planted by Sarah Losh. Unfortunately it was infected with the *Ganoderma* fungus and part of it fell in the January storms with a further section coming down in July. There is no cure and the only way forward was to remove the remaining section of tree and root stump. Now we should look to planting a replacement tree.



^ *Sunset through the beech (Photo Liz Grant)* ∨ *Hoar frost on the beech*

