

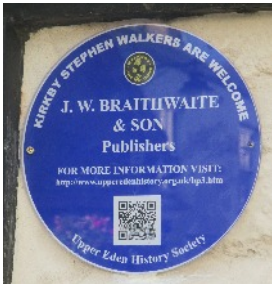
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3 – September 2020 Edited by Anne Taylor

Firstly, **ZOOM** – several members have replied very positively to an emailed question about joining Zoom meetings, so the committee will arrange some short meetings. These will probably last for about an hour in October, November and December. If you have no computer or smartphone or are unwilling to join Zoom, you might be able to go round to a friend’s house and watch from there. Initially there were some security difficulties with Zoom, but I have been using it regularly with no problems.

Many small items this month, from a range of sources and with references to several books. Also many thanks to Ros Strupish for her design work, turning our dolphin logo into a more interesting header. Anne Taylor, UEHS Chair



BLUE PLAQUES IN KIRKBY STEPHEN



Next time you buy your newspaper at Hall’s newsagents, take a moment to look at the Blue Plaque, on the front wall just to the left. This is the site of Abraham Dent’s shop that

became, in the 19th century, the premises of J W Braithwaite & Son – book seller, stationer and publisher.

The Blue Plaque Scheme, marking where notable people have lived or worked, was started in London in 1866 and is now run by English Heritage. Ann Sandell, UEHS and Kirkby Stephen ‘Walkers are Welcome’, became aware that historical buildings could be marked in the same way, after seeing examples in Snaith and Cowick, East Yorkshire. Ann thought this would work well in Kirkby Stephen, highlighting the history of some of the town’s buildings, for residents and visitors alike. There are 5 plaques in place, with more to come.

Kirkby Stephen’s Blue Plaques incorporate modern technology with a QR code linking to further information on the UEHS webpage, see <http://www.upperedenhistory.org.uk/bp3.htm> for more information about Braithwaite.



KIRKBY STEPHEN BENCH WALKS
from Anne Cradock

Below, right to left: High Sheriff Julie Barton, Anne Cradock Nateby & Wharton WI, Town Council Chairman Joan Johnstone, and Phil Dew Cumbria County Councillor (Eden) attending the launch.



At the beginning of August this small group gathered in the Silver Street Gardens in Kirkby Stephen to launch a new project. Initiated in 2019 by Anne Cradock, Activity Co-ordinator of Nateby & Wharton WI, the plan was to survey, record and map all the benches in and around Kirkby Stephen, so that people could walk between benches. Many of the benches have some historical significance, with plaques showing the names of the donors and when they were put in place. There are also many different bench styles – from plain to quite ornate.

Maps that show the bench locations are now available from Kirkby Stephen Visitor Centre, as well as from shops, cafés and B&Bs in the town.



Above: a bench near Stenkrith Millennium Bridge, presented by Kirkby Stephen Parish Council in September 1993 in memory of Arthur Llewellyn Salter, Council Chairman 1983–1990.



UEHS NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES
from the wonderful
collection of newspaper cuttings
of the late Marion Baynes

PETER DENBY'S SHOP

Reported in *The Cumberland & Westmorland Herald* 23 February 2002, the headline was 'End of an era for shop that has become a town institution.'

P N Denby's shop was unique, as you can see from the picture below – piles and piles of boxes going from the floor up to the ceiling. He called it a 'traditional shop with no fancy racks'.



Peter Denby in his shop,
Market Square, Kirkby Stephen, 2002

Peter had come to Kirkby Stephen in 1972, and was retiring after 30 years. In that time he had helped to set up what is now the mountain rescue team, and started the annual Yomp.



REMNANTS OF APPLEBY'S PAST
retold by Keith Jagger

On the ground in the small car park lying between 'Boots' and 'Spar' in Appleby's Boroughgate there is a shallow recess where, until very recently, the old bull ring could be found. Here the bull-baiting tradition was regularly carried out on market days, by order of a by-law that ensured its continuation – bull beef could not be sold unless it had previously been baited by dogs, and if butchers tried to sell unbaited beef they were fined.

The last bull to be baited, in 1812, was from Yorkshire and was known to have a severe anger problem. Its temper could not have been improved by the boisterous crowd gathered to watch the spectacle. The bull was tethered to the ground by its nose ring before an equally bad-tempered bull mastiff was introduced into the fray. This no doubt signalled an increase in the noise level in the market place. The dog attached itself to the face of the bull and after a short struggle the bull must have decided that there was little to lose so it lurched its head backwards thus tearing the ring from its nose and thereby gained its freedom.

The next half hour saw a great deal of panic from stall holders and customers alike as the bull, with the dog still holding on, rampaged around the town smashing into whatever got in the way. Eventually, exhaustion took over and the butchers were able to regain control. During the following week, the powers that be decided to change the by-law declaring that 'bulls must not be baited in Appleby market place' – very forward-looking of them for it wasn't until 1835 that a national law prohibited such events.

A similar story is told about Kirkby Stephen's Market Place, with its last bull baiting taking place at about the same date.



Appleby – just below the shadow of a parked car is the circular mark, showing the site of the bull ring

Sources: *Odd Corners in Appleby* by Gareth Hayes, *The Story of Appleby in Westmorland* by Martin Holdgate, *Things Old and New at and around Kirkby Stephen* by Rev Canon James Simpson.



JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH
ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL
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The following articles are in the July journal issue – if any member would like a copy of one or more of these articles, please let Jim Poulson know: jp2731983@gmail.com or: 017683 71653.

The Holland Causeway and Bridge End
Priory (Lincolnshire Fenlands)