

Water powered mills were in decline in the early part of the twentieth century when the more reliable and efficient steam power took precedence. What is left from all this small industrial past is a happy and supportive community who, along with their red squirrels, thrive in a “green and pleasant land”.

Margaret Gowling adds: I have just come across this reference – in 1422 the mill on Coupland Beck, Appleby, was part of the dower of Elizabeth Clifford, widow of John de Clifford, knight. It was a fulling mill, which probably means there was an active cloth-making industry in the area. Certainly there is evidence of yarn and cloth being traded as far as York in the previous century by Appleby merchants, such as the Goldington family, and one, Nicholas de Langton of York was owed 12 marks by Thomas de Helbeck of Brough for cloth. The information comes from the State papers, and the Inquisition Post Mortem of John de Clifford.



FROM ASSEMBLY ROOMS TO CRAFT CAFÉ, TO DENTIST
by Anne Taylor



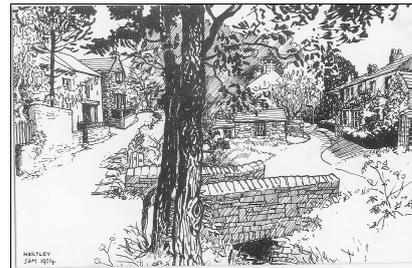
Engraving of the Assembly Rooms, part of the King's Arms Hotel, from Braithwaite's *Illustrated Guide to Kirkby Stephen* 1884

Who remembers Pendragon Gallery, the café and art and craft shop, where Kirkby Stephen's dental practice is now? The whole building dates to the 19th century, built by Mr John Powley of the Kings Arms, as Assembly Rooms for large functions. There is a now a Blue Plaque at the site, see this link for more information: www.upperedenhistory.org.uk/bp1.htm.

The Assembly Rooms fell out of use once the Ballroom was built. At some time the building might have been a pharmacy – there were lots of small drawers on one wall possibly for powders and pills, but later it was Johnstone's Fruit, Veg and Fish shop.

For the next part of the history I am indebted to Anette Watt, Barbara Dowson and Bob Marshall.

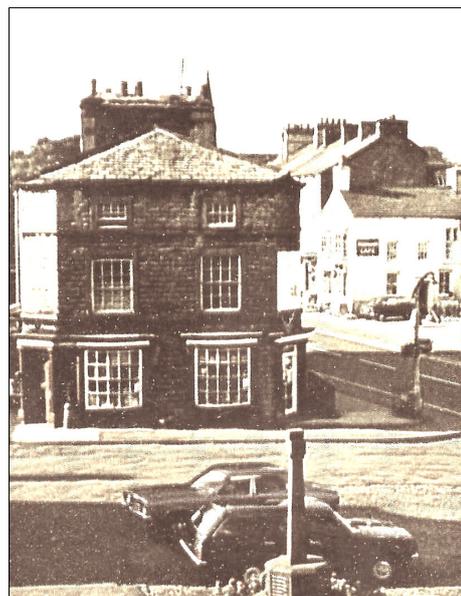
Bob is one of Jean Marshall's sons and he has written: “My parents, Jesse and Jean Marshall, bought the shop at the end of 1971 and we moved in at Easter 1972.” At that time Kirkby Stephen was off the tourist/visitor trail except as a stopping place for buses going to Blackpool. Jean named the shop Pendragon Gallery, sold home-made food and decorated the walls with paintings – her own, and those of other local artists.



One of Jean's pen and ink drawings of Hartley, printed as a postcard, signed with her initials JAM.

The shop sold art materials, books, gifts, wool and knitting machines. The café part closed after a couple of years and Jean developed a knitting business, which then expanded into a small factory. Bob's memories again: “The building adjoining the shop was an extremely smelly public toilet, with the Council Offices upstairs.” His parents sold the shop in 1981 and moved to Hartley, and later to Scotland.

The shop was sold to Peter Denby, who ran the Outdoor Shop opposite (see the September 2020 newsletter), and he sold it to David and Anette Watt in 1985. They set up a dental practice there, and the two upper floors were occupied by David's parents.



Pendragon Gallery, mid to late 1970s

One of the artists who worked at the gallery, and sold his own work there, was Tom Oldham. Bob Marshall has this story about Tom: “A lady walked in and asked if they sold pencils. He showed her what they had, and she bought practically the entire stock. Tom asked why so many pencils were needed, and she replied ‘I’m buying them for my husband.’ ‘Does he eat them?’ asked Tom. ‘No, he’s Wainwright.’ Tom had no idea who she was talking about, even though there were a number of Wainwright’s books in the shop.”

Does anyone have photographs of Pendragon Gallery or Jean’s work, more memories to share or tablemats and tea towels printed with Jean’s drawings? It would be good to have more information for UEHS archives. Bob Marshall has a lovely website about his mother, see <http://jeanmarshall.info>.



WINTON HALL by Elizabeth Davy

The first evidence for a building on the site of the present Winton Hall is in 1314, although it was not actually named. It is recorded as a *messuage* with details of the extent of the property, its land and valuation.

According to Nicolson & Burn (1777, *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*) the first naming of Winton Hall is in 1422, when it is said to have belonged to the Cliffords. Sometime after this it was either acquired or tenanted by the Scaife family. The present house was probably re-built against the east gable following destruction by the Scots at the end of the 14th century. Recent professional opinion is that the remains of a medieval house probably include the east gable and the doorway in the NE corner of the building, together with a substantial part of the north wall; a large mullioned window was installed in Tudor times.

The Scaife family were active in local affairs and prosperous. Around 1730 some of the Scaife family decided to emigrate to America and the Winton Hall estate was sold to a Mr Gerard Andrews, whose heir and daughter, Bowes, married a Mr Bartholomew Dixon, Gentleman. Records show that Bowes Dixon had a little black servant girl (or companion) named Zorayda Anna, “a blackamore girl ... from Senegal ... she is about eight years old.”

In the 1660s the Hall had undergone considerable modernisation and now, a hundred years later, it was again updated and gentrified by the addition of a Georgian “wing” (probably a former barn).

The Dixons died, childless, in the late 1790s, and Mrs Dixon left the estate to Dr Jackson, an apothecary in Kirkby Stephen. It passed to his great-grandson, Colonel Mason, and then to the Mason-Hornby family. From 1800 to 1958 Winton Hall was tenanted and, because of continuing neglect, ran steadily downhill.

In 1958 the then tenants, Mr and Mrs Coates, bought the Hall from the Mason-Hornby family, together with the garth and a small shippon/shed, and rented a few acres to farm. They lived solely in two large Georgian rooms, which were divided into several smaller rooms. The older part of the house was closed off and used for storage and animal shelter.

In 1989 Mr Coates died; his widow sold the Hall and moved into a bungalow (the converted shippon/shed). By then part of the roof had fallen in and the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments of England, alerted to the imminent loss of an old Westmorland manor house, made a detailed report on what remained. New owners in 1990, with advice from a professional engineer, made the structure of Winton Hall safe and replaced the roof.

We (my late husband and I) bought the Hall in 1993 (without the outbuildings and bungalow). It was still in considerable disorder and, with the advice of a conservation architect, we spent the next 10 years restoring it as a family home.

It is thought that the Hall garden and the small adjoining field were once the garden of the 18th century Winton Hall. There was evidence of yew trees and a Cedar of Lebanon, felled within living memory. There was also a fine well, beautifully stone-lined although now filled in with earth, which was almost certainly the previous water supply for the Hall.

Elizabeth adds: we wrote this in 2006, partly as a record of the building, and partly for the many visitors we had each year – historians, descendants of the Scaife family or people who were just interested in old buildings.



Editor’s note: there is another listed building in Winton – Winton Manor. Advertised as a school in the *Kendal Mercury* (16 March 1844), and later called Manor House Academy, it was run by Thomas Twycross: “Youth are boarded, clothed, provided with books and educated ... There are no extras, nor vacations.” See Kirkpatrick RJ, 2017, *Charles Dickens, Nicholas Nickleby and the Yorkshire Schools, Fact v Fiction* for more information.