

The Arnside Archive

[Written by Dennis Bradbury]

Dennis Bradbury, retired Polytechnic Lecturer and Audio-Visual Specialist, has assumed the mantle of Local Historian for the Village and Parish of Arnside. He is, by a process of acquisition, involving gift or purchase, or short-term borrowing and subsequent copying, attempting to build up a pictorial resource collection concerning Arnside. Called the Arnside Archive, the collection includes original, or copies of, postcards, photographs, slides, maps, pamphlets, programmes, guides, cuttings and examples of the wide range of ephemera which largely refer to developments, events and personalities in Arnside over a period of some 150 years.

The collection now amounts to over some 2000 individual items, mainly slides, through the generosity of past and present residents of the Village. It is, however, no means complete. Week by week, I hear of more people who have interesting historical material in their possession. I feel sure that there are many other people who have photographs, old postcards and newspaper cuttings probably of some sentimental or family value but which can provide the historian with valuable information. Photographs which include shops; old buildings such as The Inglemere Hotel; schools such as Aylwin College, or simply people in the background at some ceremony, sports day or theatrical performance; can all provide clues to dates, relationships and bygone events.

The regattas of the last century are noted but there seems to be little detailed information about them unless you know something different. What about those old groups and societies of the past - the Y.W.C.A., Toc H, The Arnside Advancement Association. There must be still some elderly people who had connections with Oakfield School, Haslemere School, Inglemere School, Oakmount School, and HareHill School, to mention but a few. What about some photographs, school magazines, prospectuses?

Arnside history is largely the history of its people. There are no grand houses and families, little industrial archaeology, and no battlefields. Were the Vikings here? The Scots perhaps? The railway certainly came and breathed new life into this estuary-side hamlet. It's that life that concerns the Archive. If you think you can help please contact us at

The Educational Institute, ChurchHill, Arnside or arnsidearchivegroup@gmail.com -