

# A Story of Generosity and Vision

## Arnside Archive Committee

Dennis Bradbury was well known in the village. Throughout his retirement he amassed a huge collection of press cuttings, photographs, postcards, and local maps. Always happy to share his extensive knowledge, he gave many lectures, mounted exhibitions and was an accomplished author.

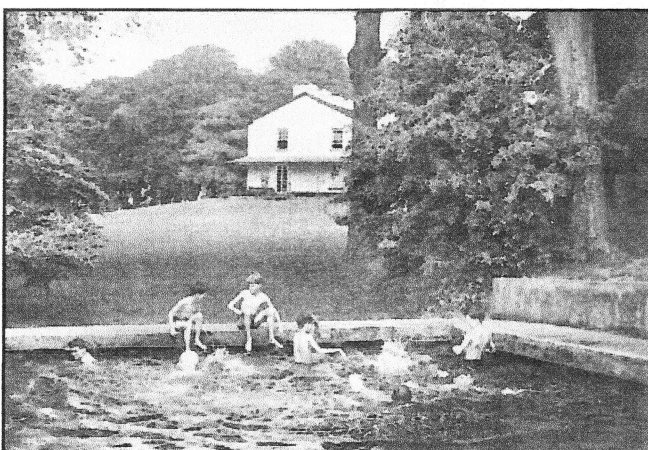
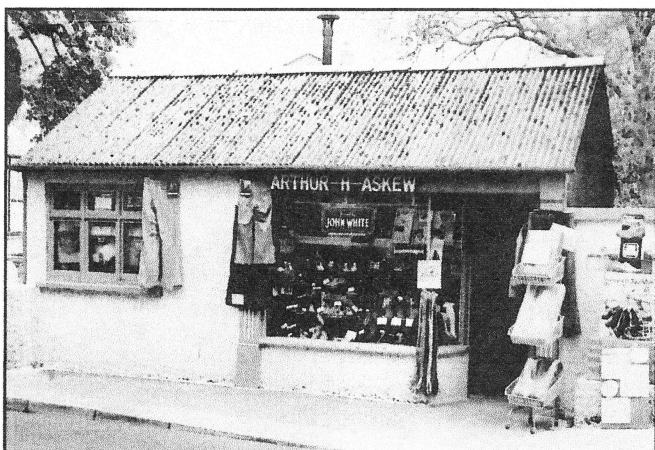
Dennis was looking for a permanent home for his collection that was accessible to the village. He was pleased therefore to be approached by The Arnside Educational Institute [AEI] who had also been thinking of setting up a village archive. Subsequently an open village meeting was arranged to discuss the formation of an archive society. A steering group was formed to draw up an action plan. Meanwhile the AEI generously refurbished a room for safe storage of the archives - now named the Dennis Bradbury Room. He moved in many

of his materials but sadly died before the archive was inaugurated. With a constitution and elected officers in place Arnside Archive was launched as an AEI member group at the February 2013 AGM. This provided an excellent opportunity to stage the first exhibition.

In addition to suitable storage space, computers, programmes, printers and specialist archive storage materials were necessary. In order to ensure that national principals and guidelines are followed, members attended training at the County Archive in Kendal. Further training, on a cascade principle in the CALM system and preservation techniques is planned. Grants from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund; the Local History Society and United Utilities, and funds raised by coffee mornings, helped and continue to make this possible.

To enable Arnside residents to be involved in this very important project and have access to the materials archived, coffee mornings are held in the Westmorland Room of the AEI every third Saturday of the month. Each month a different exhibition is on display. Welcomed are the donation of documents of interest to the whole community (or copies). Information and memories can also be of value.

At these events there is a second hand book stall to help raise funds and donations of books are welcome. Limited editions of Dennis Bradbury's publications are available. His work continues through his son, David, whose EBook published April 2014 entitled 'Arnside: A Guide and History' includes a revised version of Dennis's biography of William Berry of Ashmeadow. This is available at [www.arnside-past.co.uk](http://www.arnside-past.co.uk)



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