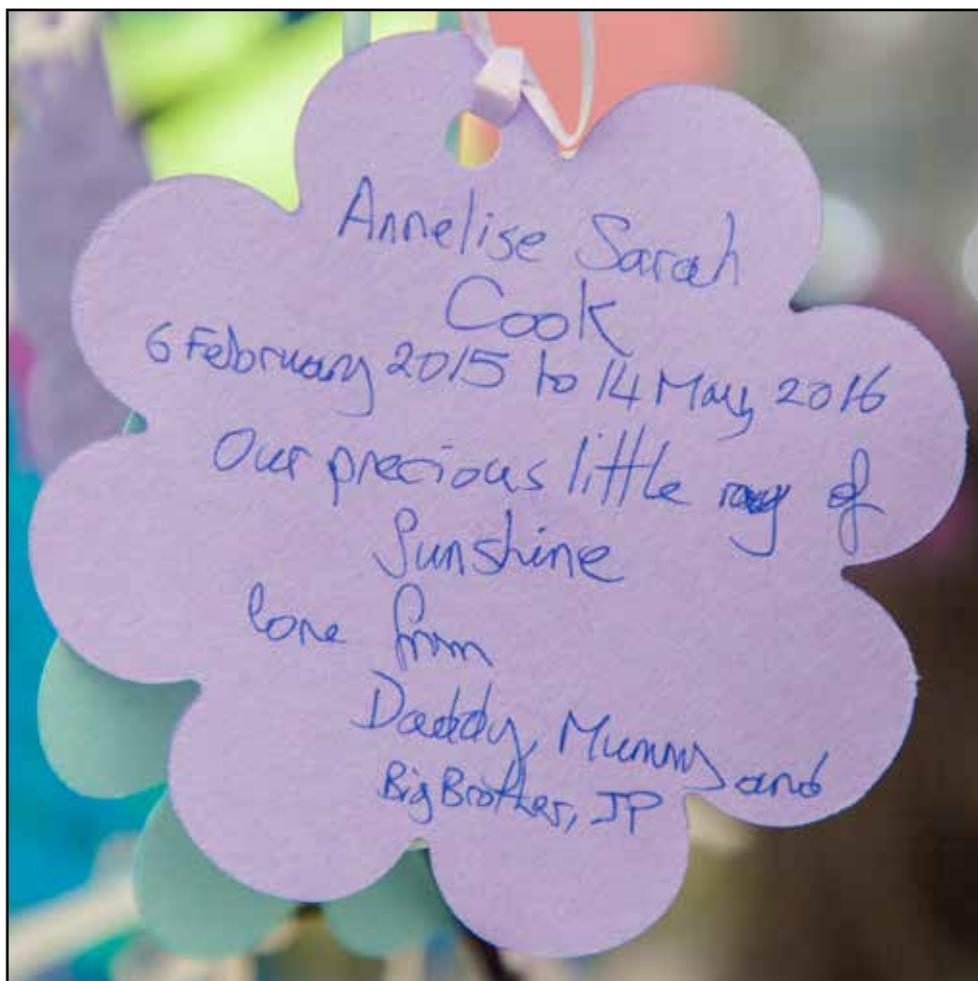
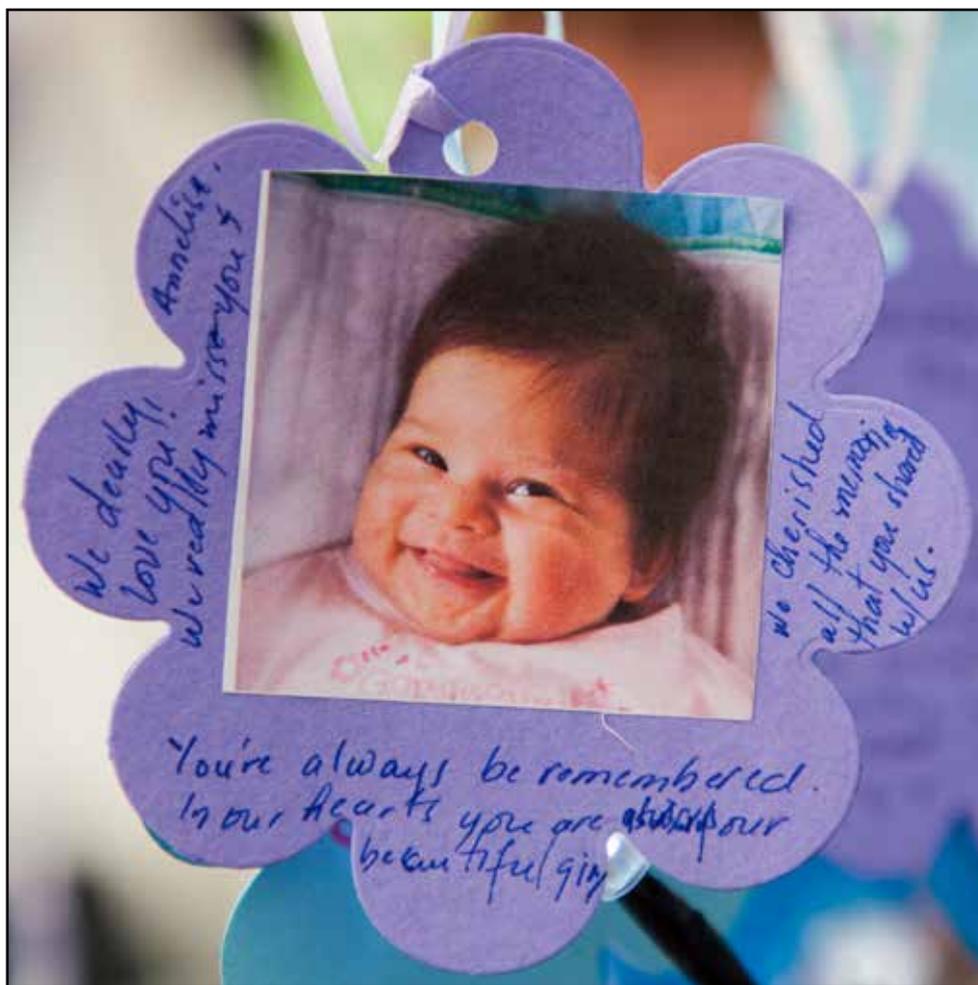


# Northern *news*

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

March to May 2018





# Editorial Ramblings

May is always a difficult month for all of us as it was on the 14th of this month that our dear little Annelise left us to go to Heaven. She left us on the day that we had arranged for JP to celebrate his birthday party, his birthday being on 10th May. This year, JP became a teenager and the three of us we enjoyed a meal in an Italian restaurant, sadly, without Annelise.

This is my THIRD attempt at compiling this newsletter. Despite saving three copies of my first attempt, none of them would open in the program I use; Adobe InDesign CS6. All I got was the error message *Cannot add data to "unknown document"*. It would seem that all three copies (each on different hard drives) had somehow become corrupted. This morning (2 June 2018), I had the biggest shock of all. I'd almost completed the newsletter of 37 pages with a file size of 6.5GB and it wouldn't open - again! And neither would the back-up file. I even uninstalled and then re-installed Adobe In-Design, just as a precaution, but nothing worked. Therefore this newsletter will be extremely short as there is no way I'm going to spend several days (as I had with the previous version that wouldn't open) re-compiling it. I haven't yet decided what I'll do for future editions.

I have to say that was enjoying not having to go to work, however my temporary 'retirement' was cut sooner than I expected as I started a new contract on 2 May 2018. As you will know, I've never been a great fan of going off to the daily grind. After leaving school in 1965, I spent the vast majority of those more than 50 years following the misery of school having to work, so it's wonderful to have a break sometimes so that I can do things that I want to do - if the weather ever makes that possible. I was thinking back over the last many years since I've been alive (I'll be 69 in June) and realised that the vast majority of those years have been unhappy / very hard / downright miserable. My misery began when I started school in about 1955 and continued until 1973. I was quite happy then for a couple of years or so, then the misery and hard times began again for most of the years until 1997 when I went overseas to live. The best and happiest years of my life started when Grace and I got together and we married in November 2000. Of course, the terrible tragedy of losing our dear little Annelise cannot be overstated, but, despite that, my life with Grace, JP (and Annelise) have been the best of my life - even all that time when we were homeless and living in our caravan. One of the happiest times was the five weeks that JP and I rode our bicycles along the course of the River Rhine in July/August 2016. That was an amazing experience for both of us. Let's hope we can all have more adventures in future.

Our caravan went into the workshop for major repairs on 25 May 2018 and will be there for about 3 weeks I expect. It will be good to get it back into service once more. Our friends, David and Elsie, have bought a brand new caravan and are enjoying themselves immensely so we hope to joint them with our caravan in the near future.



**Photograph left:** JP celebrating his birthday at an Italian restaurant where the staff presented him with this cake and sang 'Happy Birthday' to him.

**Cover photograph and on next page:** The Remembrance Tree at Derian House where you can see Annelise's photograph hanging from a branch. We all attended a Remembrance Ceremony on 13 May - one day before the anniversary of her going to Heaven. Sadly, there were many other parents there who, like us, had lost a child.



## *Watling Street Workhouse, Preston.*

In simple terms, workhouses were established to provide accommodation, food and work for people who couldn't support themselves - these were often destitute families.

This rather grand Victorian era building, the Watling Street Workhouse (designed by Leigh Hall) was built in the period from 1865 to 1868 and could accommodate 1500 people. Conditions were deliberately rather harsh so as to ensure people stayed there only for as short a time as possible before leaving to stand on their own feet again. They also provided free medical care and education for children - which wasn't available to the general populace. Men and women were accommodated separately, in this case male accommodation was in the East Wing and female accommodation in the West Wing.

With all the homeless people there are begging on our streets these days, maybe it's time to bring back a modernised version of the workhouse.



Aerial photograph (*above*) courtesy of URL:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/rpsmithbarney/5655452693>



The grand entrance to what was formerly the Watling Street Workhouse in Preston.

# Sizergh Castle, Cumbria

21 April 2018



*Photograph above: Sizergh Castle, by Grace*



[Click here to watch the video.](#)





Sizergh Castle and Garden is a stately home and garden at Helsington in the English county of Cumbria, about 4 miles (6.4 km) south of Kendal. The castle, a grade I listed building, is in the care of the National Trust along with its garden and estate. It is the home of the Hornyold-Strickland family.

The Strickland family has lived at Sizergh for more than 750 years, and it remains their home today. Set in large, beautifully landscaped gardens and based on an impressive 14th Century solar tower, Sizergh was extended in Tudor times.

While a subject of much historical debate, the 14th century four story structure has been identified as a Solar Tower, not a pele tower as previously believed.

The romantic fortified mansion contains some of the finest Elizabethan carved overmantels in the country, as well as a collection of good English and French furniture and family portraits.

Of particular interest are the large gardens surrounding the Castle, a notable feature being the National Trust's largest limestone rock garden, including part of the National Collection of Hardy Ferns. Enchanting wildflower and water gardens also add to the charm of this elegant estate.

Sizergh Castle stands in the former county of Westmorland, not far from the popular beauty spots of the Lake District National Park. Built by the Strickland family in the fourteenth-century, the castle was transformed during the next two hundred years into a fortified manor house. Remarkably, a descendant of the original twelfth-century Norman landowner still lives at Sizergh and cares for the family archives, though the castle was presented to the National Trust in 1950.

*Text Courtesy of:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sizergh\\_Castle\\_and\\_Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sizergh_Castle_and_Garden)

<http://media.vam.ac.uk/media/>

[documents/loans\\_sizergh\\_](http://media.vam.ac.uk/media/documents/loans_sizergh_castle.pdf)

[castle.pdf](http://media.vam.ac.uk/media/documents/loans_sizergh_castle.pdf)

and The National Trust

*Photograph right: JP in the rock garden.*





Each of these individual gorgeous stained glass windows were all set into a large window frame, with clear panels in between allowing one to look outside, as well as admire the stained glass.





# *Fleetwood*

28 April 2018

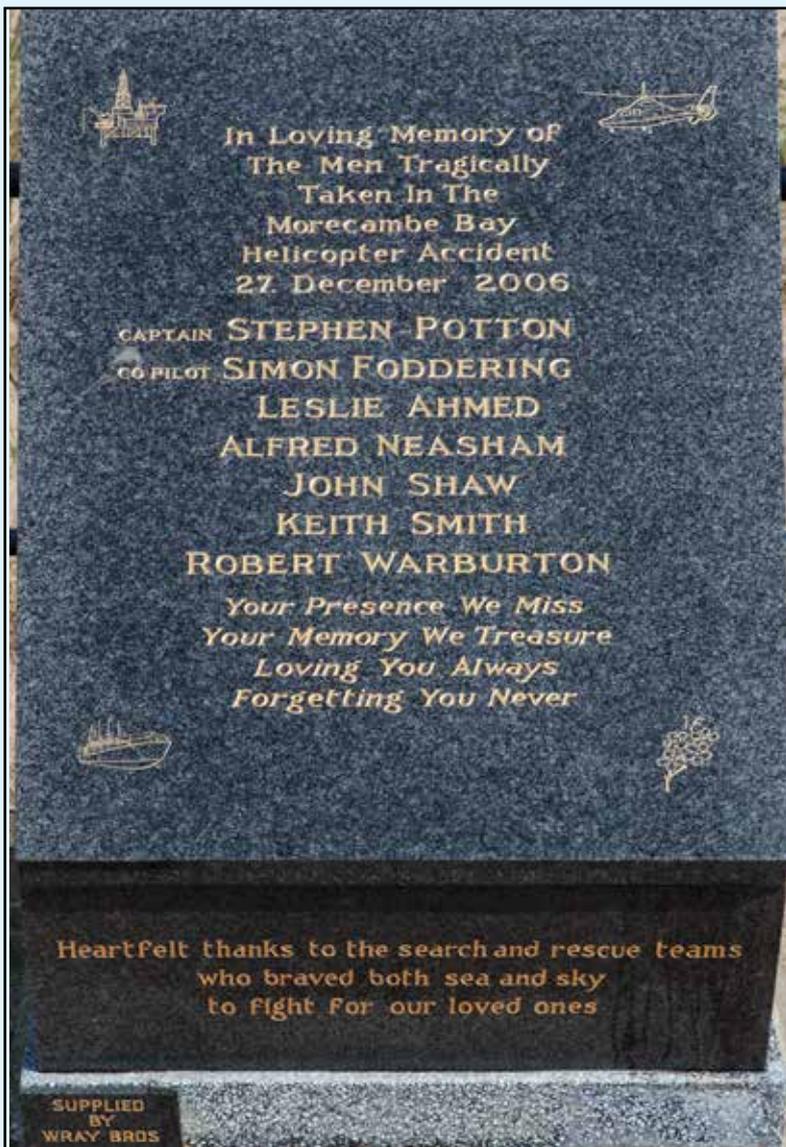


THE REAL PRICE OF FISH IS THE LIVES OF MEN

The Fleetwood-based trawlers listed here came to grief on fishing operations at the cost of life. Many other Fleetwood fishermen have been killed or injured in ships great and small during peace and war from Morecambe Bay to beyond the Arctic Circle.

BELGIAN	4-19-34	All Hands (54)	11 of 100	196	RODAMA	4-19-34	All Hands (52)	10 of 100	196	ROZEMOND	2-1-40	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1940
BRAND	2-1-34	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1940	SALT SEBASTIAN	10-1-37	100 of 100	100 of 100	1937	STANLEY	10-1-37	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1937
CLARA BELLA	Feb 34	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1934	STONEMAN	Jan 38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	TIMOTHY	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
DAVID	1-1-37	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1937	TRIMMOR	2-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	WILLIAM	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
EMMA	2-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	WILLIAM	2-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
FRANK	6-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	ZEPHYRUS	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
GEORGE	10-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
HENRY	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
JAMES	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
JOHN	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
LESLIE	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
MARY	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
ROBERT	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
THOMAS	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938
WILLIAM	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938	YOUNG	1-1-38	All Hands (100)	100 of 100	1938

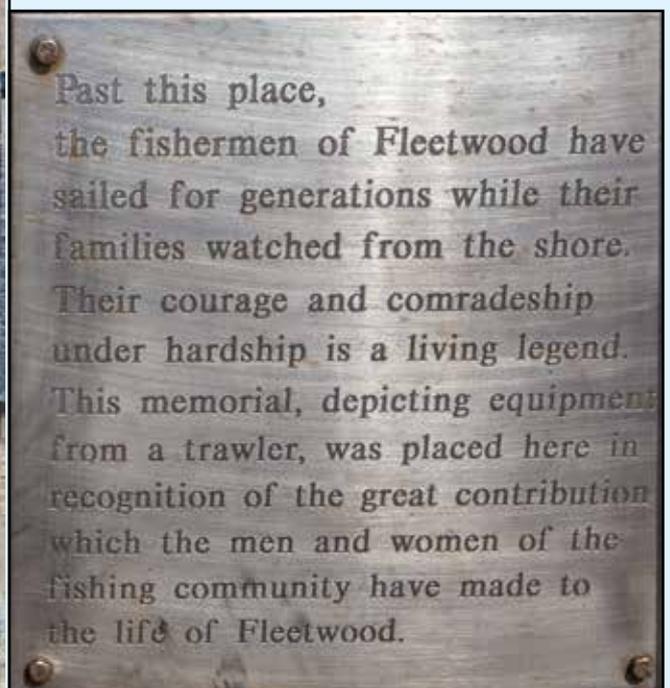
## In Memorium at Fleetwood



The two plaques, *above and below* remember the fisherman and their vessels lost at sea, both during war and also in peacetime.

These plaques are located on the memorial shown on the previous page.

The memorial, *left* is to remember those who perished in the helicopter crash of 2006.





## *Beacon Fell*

On 14 April 2018 we visited Beacon Fell Country Park. This is a place we often visit so you will have seen many photographs taken from this park. The panorama above is a different view than usual as we decided to park in a different location and see what the views were like from there. As you can see, the weather wasn't great but that's the way it is here in the north-west of England.

*Click here to  
Ride with JP on his bicycle through this country park.*

*Photograph below:* Trees in the Beacon Fell Country Park by JP.



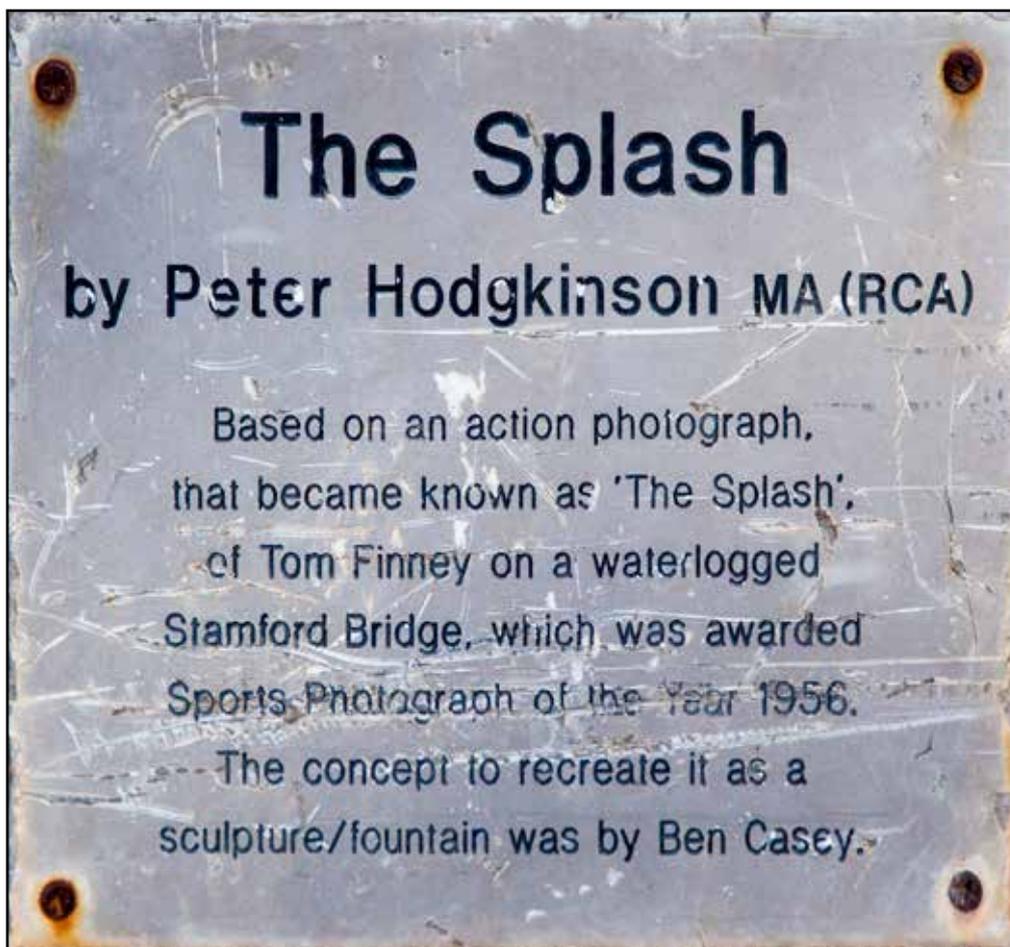


*Photographs left and below: Trees in the Beacon Fell Country Park by JP.*





## *Preston's Most Famous Plumber*



Sir Thomas Finney CBE was an English footballer, nicknamed the *Phantom Winger*, who played for Preston North End (his only league club) for whom he played 433 league games. (he made 569 first-class appearances in all). He also played for England. Footballers weren't highly paid in those days and Sir Tom had his own plumbing firm from which most of his income was earned. His 'plumbers' van was a common sight when driving round the city. This statute is outside Deepdale Football Ground, where he used to play. He was voted *Footballer of the Year* in 1953/54.

28 April 2018

# *Forest of Bowland*

*29 April 2018*



*Click here to  
Ride with us through the Trough of Bowland*



*Shap Abbey, Cumbria*





# Welcome to Shap Abbey



The abbey ruins are mostly laid to grass with stone and bound gravel paths.

**This remote valley was once home to a community of Premonstratensian canons.**

The abbey was founded in about 1200 by a local baron called Thomas, son of Gospatric, who granted the canons land beside the River Lowther.

Following King Henry VIII's suppression of the abbey and the eviction of its canons, the land was granted to the Governor of Carlisle in 1540. Some of the main monastic buildings were re-used as a farm, but most were gradually dismantled and the materials re-used.

The Premonstratensian order was founded in the 1120s. Like the Cistercians, Premonstratensian canons wore white habits and built their monasteries in remote places. Living a contemplative monastic life, the canons also served as priests in nearby parishes.

Willful damage to the monument is an offence. Unauthorised use of metal detecting is prohibited.

For more information on this site please telephone: 0870 333 1181

The abbey as it may have appeared in the 1530s, shortly before its suppression. The walled precinct also included an outer gatehouse, the abbey mill and fishponds. Illustration by David Fisher



We made a trip to Shap Abbey, in Cumbria, on 6 May 2018



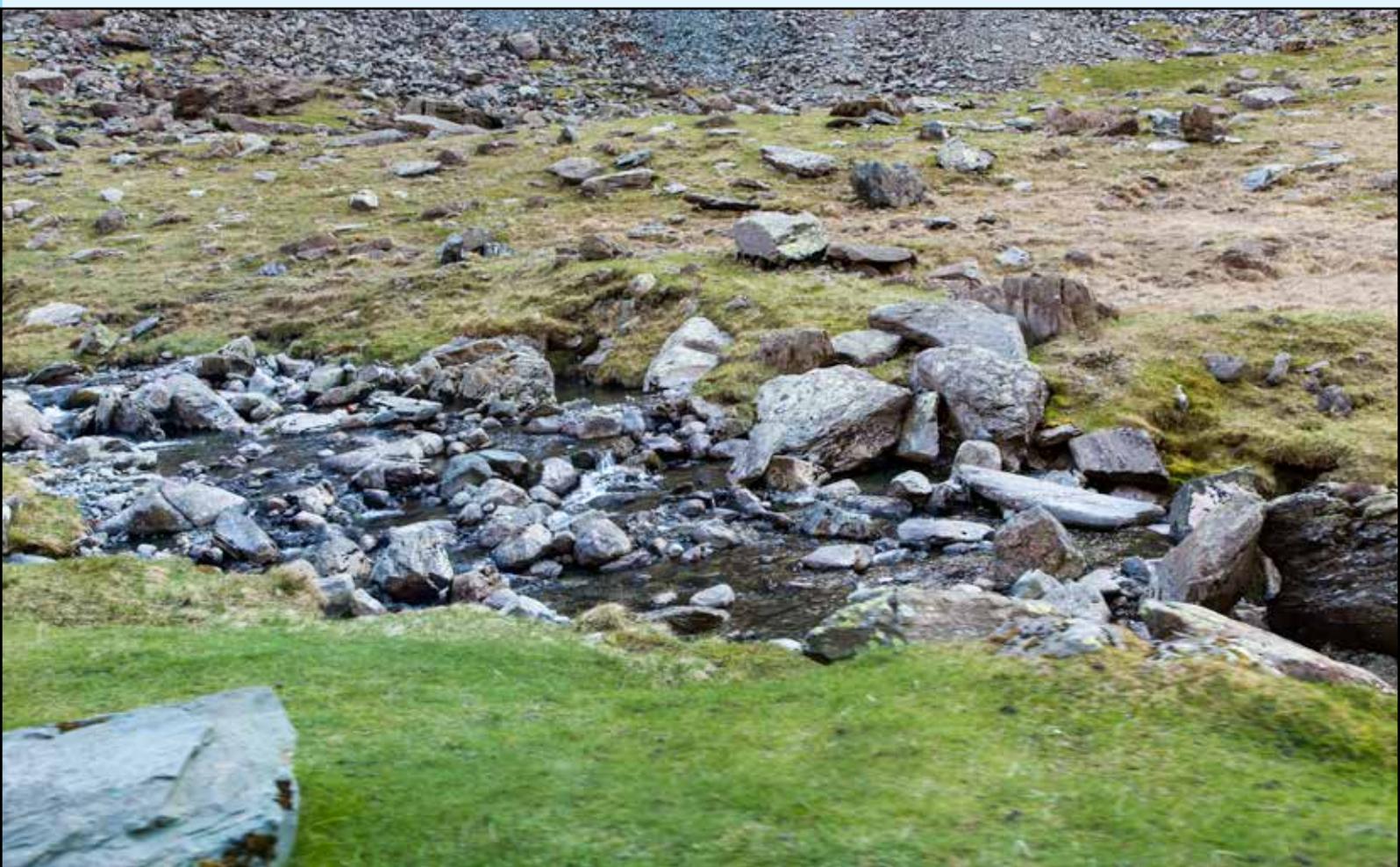


*Honister Pass, Cumbria*





We made this trip to the Lake District, on 6 May 2018



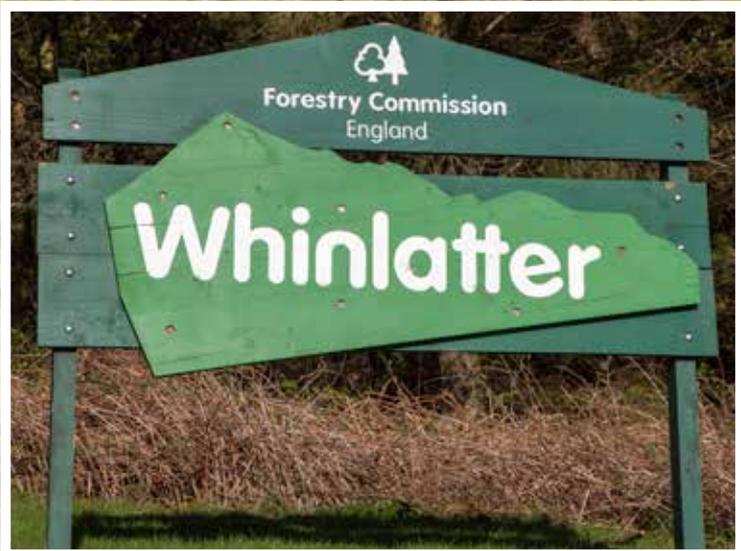


## *Crummock Water, Cumbria*



Canada Goose landing on Crummock Water







*Basenthwaite, Cumbria*





*On the Beach at Formby, Lancashire*  
5 May 2018



[Click Here to Watch the Video](#)

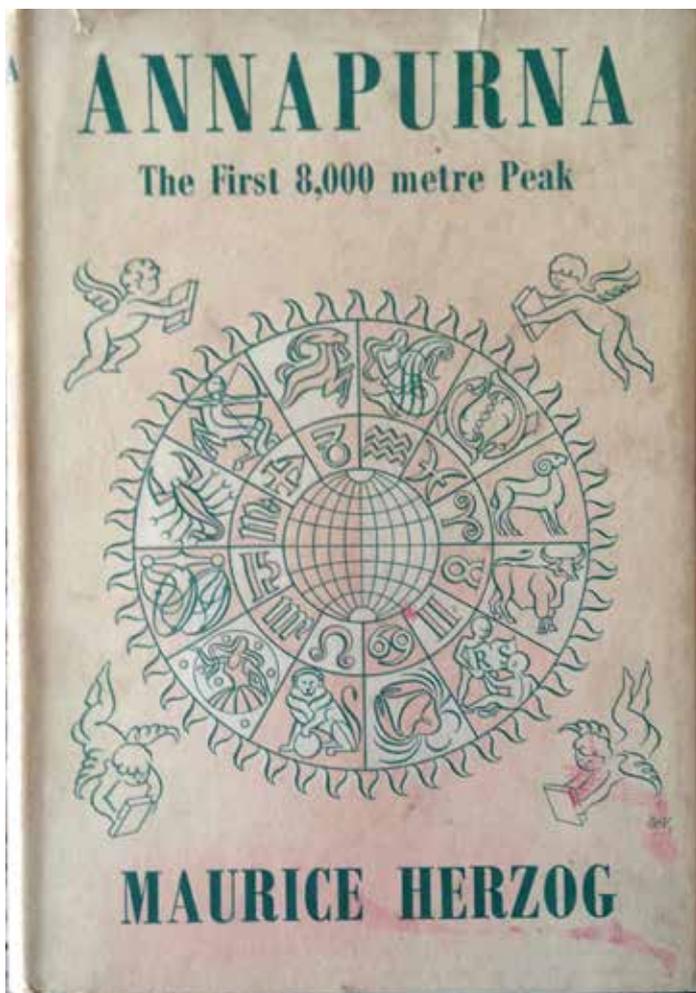


# The Adventurer's Page

Every month, I hope to add something of interest to this page (or pages!) concerning the world of travel and adventure. This may be a personal story of adventure or travel, a book review, or about something I've read or seen on-line. I would welcome contributions from any of our readers, many of whom I know are extremely well travelled. I hope some of what is written here inspires you in your future travels.

*The mountains had bestowed upon us their beauties,  
and we adored them with a child's simplicity and  
revered them with a monk's veneration of the divine.*

from *Annapurna - The First 8,000 metre Peak.*  
by Maurice Herzog



This heart rending story by mountaineer Maurice Herzog is almost certainly going to bring you to tears. If you're interested at all in knowing what mountaineering in the Himalayas is all about I cannot recommend it highly enough. I've read many mountaineering books in the past, but nothing that quite describes just what being a mountaineer is really like until I read this book (available from Amazon).

The French expedition to the Himalayas in 1950 concluded with the first successful ascent of a mountain of more than 8000 metres in height (there are only 14 mountains over this height in the world) and the two successful mountaineers who achieved this were Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal on this expedition to Annapurna (8091 m) - and they did it without using supplementary oxygen.

Herzog came face to face with death on more than one occasion during this expedition and he describes what he was thinking and how he faced it in a way that will get into your soul. How he survived at all is more of a miracle than anything else. This is a magnificent, but harrowing and horrific tale of human endurance - and unbelievable comradeship.

He describes having some of his frost bitten and gangrenous toes snipped off at 20,000 feet almost as a matter of routine - with no anaesthetic! Later in the text he describes his fear of flies landing on the open wounds by writing "*My fears were only too well justified: when, later, at Delhi, Oudot (the doctor) took off my dressings he found that my foot was harbouring a lot of wriggling maggots. At the approach of the surgeon's tweezers, they withdrew into their holes. By the time we reached Paris these maggots had grown huge, and there was quite half a pound of them.*"

Following this expedition, Herzog spent three years in hospital during which time he dictated the incredible story published in this book. He never lost his love of the mountains and later went on the climb the Matterhorn in the Alps.



*Civetta* moored alongside the Lancaster Canal on 19 April 2018.

We actually had a few days (3!) in April where I could venture outside to take some photographs. Of course, it was rather cold (the wind was an icy blast), but I took advantage of the cessation of rain and spent one day travelling on foot and bicycle along the muddy towing path of the Lancaster Canal.

# Alan's Reflections

## ALAN'S REFLECTIONS

When I was working in Kuwait in 2001 one of my colleagues questioned my use of a caravan. This was on purely economic grounds as he wouldn't spend any money at all unless he really had to. He was under the misguided impression that people bought caravans to enable them to have cheap holidays. No doubt he would have bought a caravan himself if it meant him saving money for his holidays. I had to explain to him that people choose to go caravanning because they enjoy it - not to save money.

Unless you have a fairly large family which require more than one room for accommodation, caravanning holidays (particularly abroad) usually cost considerably more than conventional 'package holidays' when one takes into account all the expenses involved as well as the initial outlay on the purchase of a caravan (and usually an awning). He too had actually taken the trouble of calculating the cost of caravanning holidays when compared to conventional holidays and reached that conclusion before asking me about it. I just confirmed that he'd got his sums correct. Even without the capital outlay, insurance, maintenance and additional fuel costs when towing, site fees are often very expensive, especially in the school holiday seasons. These can be anything up to £50/night - often more than hotel rooms. A 3-week holiday for the three of us would cost at least £2500 + entertainment / meals etc. Add that to what you've already paid out for your caravan / insurance / maintenance and in equipping your caravan, and you can see the cost soon adds up to being uneconomical. You should also factor in the loss of income based on what money you could have made out of the money spent on the caravan - an outlay that can be many thousands of pounds. And, don't forget, you also lose at least 6-7 days of your holiday by doing all the driving (and having all the aggravation that towing a caravan entails) to and from your destination in the sun. So what amounts to a holiday of only two weeks will cost in excess of at least £3000 for three people. Is it worth it? Only if you love caravanning. If you have a big family, it may well be financially worthwhile. Also, use your caravan at weekends on the less expensive sites to get the most out of your investment.

The only other economical way to caravan is to travel for extended periods out of season. That's when so many retirees go to spend the winter in southern Spain. That would suit me fine too. I wish.

After nearly three years of not being used, I towed our caravan from its storage location on 22 March 2018 in order to prepare it for action once more. Thanks to David at Greenacres Caravan Site, I towed it to his site so we could work on it. You may remember that our caravan was our home for about ten months on our return from The Netherlands, and we stayed on his site for some of this time. It was also the only home that Annelise had whilst she was in good health as the last time we used it was the day Annelise was admitted to hospital with cancer.

We had a week to work on it before taking it away for a short holiday. The first job was to clean it inside and out – and disinfect it. It took us most of the week to prepare it as there was so much to do. The day before we were due to leave I smelt burning – as in an electrical 'fire'. The smell gradually got worse as it took a long time to track down the source, located behind a wooden panel inside the wardrobe. I eventually removed the panel and discovered that the plug and socket connecting the mains connection to the distribution panel were extremely hot. There was no way I was going to obtain replacement parts so I thought the end of our proposed caravan trip was over before it had begun. Fortunately, I was able to deal with the problem and make it all work again so we were able to go after all.

The main purpose of our caravan trip was to help our friends, David and Elsie get to grips with their new caravan – total beginners at caravanning. We stayed at Springslade Lodge on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. The site is in a lovely location (*see photograph on front cover and at top of next page*) but is a very poor site – inadequate, only very basic facilities and very expensive – extremely poor value for money. This is not exactly a great site so I don't suppose we'll be returning.

Of course. The weather didn't exactly make things as enjoyable as it might have done – very cold and wet – not great for living in the great outdoors, however it was a case of 'Mission Accomplished' in terms of providing help to David and Elsie.

A few days before we left home, I bought JP an early birthday present – a new mountain bike. We went to the bicycle shop and he chose what he wanted – which happened to be something entirely different to what he had in mind when we entered the store! However, he is delighted with his choice and he has been able to ride it along some of the many bicycle trails on Cannock Chase.



Our 18 year old Bailey Senator Montana on site during the Easter weekend on Cannock Chase

## The Spirit of Caravanning

This Easter holiday proved to be a revelation to me when it comes to modern caravans.

Friends of ours, David and Elsie and their three children had just taken delivery of a new 'Swift' caravan and we arranged to meet them on a site not far from their home in order to 'show them the ropes' as they'd never been caravanning before. We took our 18-year-old Bailey Senator Montana Millennium and pitched near to our friends.

What struck me more than anything was the complexity and sophistication of the electrical / electronic systems in our friends' caravan. Complex electronic controls and alarms for just about everything. What happens when something goes wrong? If something breaks there is little chance they could fix it themselves in the middle of a field in a remote location. And think of the cost of getting those fancy electronic components repaired or renewed!

Do we really need this level of complexity in our caravans? No, of course not. Surely the original idea of a caravan was to provide a relatively inexpensive home on wheels, not a sophisticated and expensive 'gin palace' that costs a fortune to buy and maintain / repair.

Of course, manufacturers are rubbing their hands with glee as the money pours in but is it them, or us caravanners, who have lost our way?

My first caravan was a 1978 ABI Ace Rallyman. No mains electricity; gas lights; a gas fire for heating; battery lights and a water pump powered by the car battery. I later fitted it with a few mains power sockets connected to a lead that was routed out of the caravan via an open window. It served me well until 1997 when I moved abroad for a few years. I used it with my (first) family, and solo, both in the UK and abroad without

any sophistication or complexity at all.

With our old Bailey Senator, I can fix most 'DIY' things myself if anything goes wrong – and there is less to go wrong than in a modern caravan. It's simple engineering. In fact, we (including Annelise) lived in this caravan for ten months after returning to the UK after yet another contract overseas – where we also took the caravan and used it for holidays.

The one thing that I've decided during this Easter holiday with our friends is to keep our Bailey Senator operational for as long as possible and not change it for a new caravan. It's time we went 'back to basics' as far as our caravans are concerned. By NOT buying a new caravan, maybe manufacturers will get the message – although, judging by what has happened to car manufacturing, that seems like a faint hope.

There is nothing wrong with simple engineering – except the reduction in profits to the manufacturers.

Have we lost the 'Spirit of Caravanning'? I certainly hope not.

Our caravan went into the repair shop on 25 May for some major repairs - including repairs to the floor - a job I can't do myself. There are also some other quite major repairs and modifications that need to be undertaken so we can continue to use the caravan for many more years to come. At 18 years old and having been lived in for extended periods, it is inevitable that various items need attending to, so I'm quite happy to invest in these repairs and improvements - and look forward to getting on the road again once they've been completed in a few weeks time.



Our friends, David and Elsie's caravan on a snowy caravan site on Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, on Easter Monday (2 April 2018). Most of the snow had gone by the time I crawled out of bed to take this photograph.



Daffodils by the Lancaster Canal on 19 April 2018.

# Chipping Steam Fair

27 May 2018  
Photograph by JP



[JP Rides the Ferris Wheel](#)

[Watch the Videos - Part 1](#)

[Watch the Videos - Part 2](#)

[Watch the Videos - Part 3](#)