

## Doors of Lindale

A recent talk to the Grange U3A by Andy Lowe, former Building Conservation Officer for the Lake District National Park, on 'Grand Entrances' set me looking at the doors of houses in Lindale, to see if any original old doors still exist, as so many doors in Lindale have been altered or replaced. Most the oldest doors in Lindale appear to be in a small cluster at the top of School Hill, just below the Church.

Well Cottage, 'a small house' according to Brunskill's typography, has a black painted wooden door which may be the oldest in Lindale. The door is made of rough wooden planks, with masons'- type marks, and has some early vernacular fittings. It appears to have squarish iron nails, each handmade and original, probably hand forged by the local blacksmith. The door also has an elaborate metal latch and a vertical door handle, a common theme in farmhouses from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Given the relatively elaborate design of each they may date from a later time.

The 'grandest door in Lindale' is said to be at Sunset House. The 6-panelled door with chamfered edges is typical of 18<sup>th</sup> Georgian style, the work of a joiner carver; a grand entrance for a fine house. It has a round door knob and knocker, but no letter box, showing it to be before mail deliveries started in 1890. The more modest, and less well-maintained, door of No 1 Mount Pleasant, just adjacent, is of a similar style, with intricate insets. The wooden door, with its pointed arch, of St Paul's Church Lindale has iron nails, which look relatively even and may date from 1828 when the Church was rebuilt.

Down on Smithy Hill is an old wooden barn door, which may be hung on pins to open either way. The base has possibly been chewed by a dog.

### References

RW Brunskill 1999 *Vernacular building traditions in the Lake District*  
Linda Hall 1999 *The Building Conservation Directory*

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Photos : top row Well Cottage, Bell Hill, Lindale.

Bottom row l-r Sunset House, No 1 Mount Pleasant, Lindale church, barn door on Smithy Hill

