

Melling Millennium Cobblestone Designed and made by Maggie Howarth and Melling Villagers.

Many villages wanted to do something to mark The Millennium, but what?? Melling was very fortunate to have Maggie Howarth and her team to direct operations to construct and lay a cobblestone mosaic. Teams of villagers designed and made a section of mosaic, of a design of their choice.

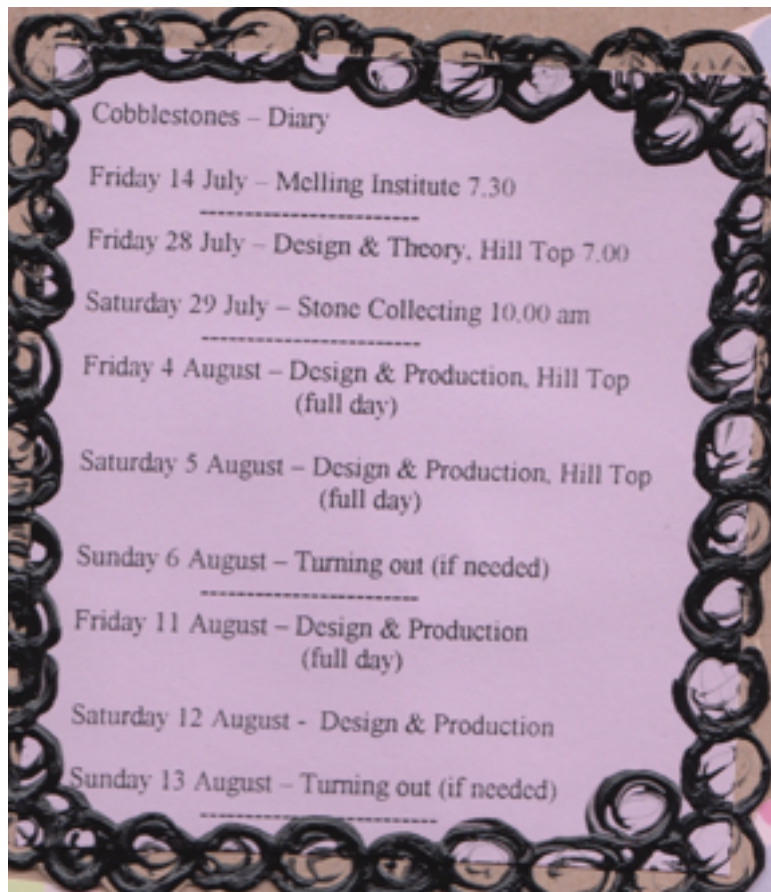


This photograph was taken at the inauguration of the cobble, outside the door of the Melling Institute.

From left to right:

John Lowery, Pete Flowers behind John Glossop, Austin Kennedy, Sue Flowers behind Pru Glossop, June Fawcett, Susan and Louise Frost with Heather and Leonard Priestley behind, Freda Kelbrick with Steph Williams behind, June Tallon, John Tallon behind Max Simon, Dorothy Gibson, Jessie Gregson, Rosemary Lutze, Ged Kelbrick, Alan Porter and Frank Parr.

The teams were trained and directed by Maggie, at her workshop at Hill Top. Each design was made in discrete sections, and the whole laid down outside The Institute by John Lowery and his team.



Once the interested teams were assembled, a program of work leading up to the making of the mosaic was put together by Steph Williams (Left). Maggie provided the artistic and practical skills, and everyone learned that laying a mosaic is not as easy as it may appear! For example, the design has to be laid upside down, or 'in negative'. Among other things, this ensures that the mosaic is flat when turned over. It must be remembered that the stones are of random sizes, having been collected from seashores and riverbanks.



June & John Tallon

June and John Tallon (left), made the beehive, as they are beekeepers, and they are being shown how by Maggie.



June Fawcett

Dorothy Clark made the 'Lune Salmon' and is shown here under instruction by Maggie.



Dorothy Clark

June Fawcett's design was of the Parish church (left). Seen here cutting pieces of slate for the design.



Steph Williams

Steph Williams, seen here (left) made the owl design and is here cleaning up the upper surface. This is when the mosaic has been cast in concrete and turned over-an anxious few minutes.



On the left here are Freda and Ged Kelbrick, who made the Celtic Cross design, based on a gravestone in the Parish Churchyard. It also included the words "MELLING 2000" in small white pebbles, to remind future generations what it was all about. The weather was kind to us over that period, as the work was carried out mostly outside. Packed lunches were eaten in the sunshine.



Shown above are Pru Glossop and her son Ben. They made the 'swallows in flight' design.

The arrival of the migrating swallows and house martins in Melling is an event looked forward to. They arrive about the middle of April and can be seen during the summer flying around feeding on the wing, although it has been noticeable in recent years that their numbers are dwindling year on year.



This is Rose Adams, one time Proprietor of Melling Hall. She produced the design of 'The Tulip' inspired by the 'Tulip Tree' in the garden of Melling Hall.

The circular design in the centre of the mosaic is a stylized representation of a tractor wheel, with a rainbow background.

The wavy design round the circumference of the mosaic is to represent the River Lune, which dominates this area of the Lune Valley.



This is Kath and Mark French with baby Megan. They produced the 'crow' design.

The Crow (or Jackdaw, some say!) is included because of the numbers of them that live in the Parish Church Belfry.

This is Heather and Leonard Priestley who lived at “The Cottage” in Melling. They were retired farmers from Lowgill. They were also dog breeders, and had been judges at Crufts. Indeed they had travelled the world judging breeds such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

It was their choice then to make a mosaic of dogs.



Below left is Louise Frost being elevated to The Board by her mother Susan. They did the rainbow.

Below right is Sandra Towers, with Heather. Sandra helped with the outer edge of the mosaic.





Shown in the photograph above are the Flowers family, Pete, Susan, Kate and Adam. They are seen enjoying a picnic break accompanied by Dorothy Gibson, and Mrs. Le Clerc.

Pete made 'The Flowers' in the mosaic, and Susan made the Central Wheel design. (Photograph below). The wheel represents the tractor wheel. Dorothy Gibson, Susan's mother, made the Curlew and Mrs. Le Clerc (It is thought) did the Heron.



Maggie Haworth assembling the village mosaic at her studio at Hill Top.



This is the finished mosaic, set out but not fastened together or the edges grouted. It being ably demonstrated by Katy and Adam Flowers, on a beautiful sunny day.

The mosaic was transported in individual panels down to the Institute, and was laid in a recess excavated at the Institute door. On that day it poured with rain, but the team persevered and finished the job in time for The Millenium inauguration. The installation team was John Lowery, Ian Gardener, Tommy Toase and Andrew Thwaite. See photo below.

Thanks are due to Maggie Howarth of Hill Top, for masterminding this project. Also to Steph Williams and others for taking the photographs without which this archive could not be made.

Ged Kelbrick
March 2017



An old picture of Melling Institute dated 1925.



Maggie risks the traffic