

Barrow House history: 1927 - 1932



Joseph Glaiyser, the resident proprietor, standing outside Barrow House in 1928.



Daisy the cow on the grass in front of the house.

Material from 1927 to 1932, when Barrow House was being run as a guest house and youth hostel by Joseph Glaiyser.

Thank you to Judith Vincent (née Stanley) for showing us these documents and sharing what she knows about that period. Judith's mother, Elsie Stanley (née Corbett), was a parlour maid at Barrow House from 1927, and the following presentation includes letters, photographs, a youth hostel pamphlet, and a list of parlour maid duties from that time.

Barrow House parlour maids



This is one of the photographs that Judith showed us, depicting the maids outside Barrow House in 1928. Elsie is the one holding the dog.

Elsie May Stanley (née Corbett) (1907 – 2003) was born and brought up near Newcastle, but she moved to Barrow House to join her friend as a parlour maid when she was about 20. She was not familiar with Borrowdale and Keswick, but the area became her home, marrying a local Keswick boy, William Stanley, and raising her two children, Margaret and Judith, in Keswick.

Judith moved away from Keswick in 1969, but she is still a Keswick Reminder subscriber and so when she saw an article about us earlier this year (2015), she got in touch. We then had a lovely visit from Judith and her husband Rob, providing us with lots of new information about Barrow House in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Elsie must have made a good impression on Joseph Glaiyser and Miss Kettlewell (the housekeeper until 1931), for their letters, and her reference from Miss Kettlewell, are very complimentary. Joseph asks Elsie for help in recruiting a new member of staff, and he is obviously confident in her abilities.

Here are the parlour and kitchen maids in 1928. Elsie is the one holding the dog.

Parlour maid duties

- 06.30: Unlock doors. Open windows according to weather in dining room and Miss M's sitting room, dark room.
- 07.00: Take morning tea upstairs. Draw curtains in bedrooms etc. Sweep, mop, dust dining room.
Lay the breakfast table.
- 08.00: Kitchen breakfast. Tidy up in pantry.
- 08.45: Bring in breakfast. Prayers. Bring in coffee. Attend to own bedroom and help housemaid with beds.
- 12.15: Lay lunch.
- 13.30: Kitchen dinner. Clear lunch etc. Attend to drawing room fire and put room tidy.
- 16.30: Afternoon tea.
- 17.00: Kitchen tea.
- 19.00: Lay dinner.
- 19.30: Dinner. Coffee. Clear dining room etc.
Fasten all downstairs windows and doors before dark.

30 NEW HAY ROAD.

Huddersfield.

Oct 29th.

Dear Elsie.

Here is the desired reference. I haven't said very much. but you know I think very highly of you & will do anything further that I could to help you get a good post.

I haven't had any word from Barrow House. but I suppose you are home now, it will feel nice to be with them all again. Did you have nice weather after I left, it was quite decent in Hudds.

I got home quite quickly & it felt very nice to be with Mother & Father. I can hardly believe I have been here a week. the time has gone very fast. &

30 NEW HAY ROAD.

Huddersfield.

I've found plenty to do. As you know I intended to take them away somewhere for a holiday, but can't persuade Mother to go just now. she thinks home is best. They are both fairly well, but I think Father's heart must be in a bad state. he is very soon tired. & Mother looks very thin & frail.

I shall be interested to hear what you decide to do.

Remember me to your Mother.

yours very sincerely,

E. Kettlewell.

Huddersfield
Oct 29th

Dear Elsie,

Here is the desired reference. I haven't said very much, but you know I think very highly of you and will do anything further that I could to help you get a good post.

I haven't had any word from Barrow House, but I suppose you are home now; it will feel nice to be with them all again. Did you have nice weather after I left; it was quite decent in Hudds.

I got home quite quickly and it felt very nice to be with mother and father. I can hardly believe I have been here a week; the time has gone very fast and I've found plenty to do. As you know, I intended to take them away somewhere for a holiday, but can't persuade mother to go just now. She thinks home is best. They are both fairly well, but I think father's heart must be in a bad state. He is very soon tired, and mother looks very thin and frail.

I shall be interested to hear what you decide to do.

Remember me to you mother.

Yours very sincerely,

E. Kettlewell.

Barrow House

Keswick

Oct 21st 1930

Elsie Corbett has been with me for 2 ½ years, and has only left Barrow House now because it is closed for the winter months.

She has done pantry work, bedrooms and dining room work, and is very capable, always bright and cheerful and willing.

I shall be glad to give any further reference.

E. Kettlewell.

Manageress.

A reference for Elsie Corbett, helping her to get work over the winter.

Melbury

Oak Hill

Surbiton

Oct 2nd

Dear Elsie,

You will remember my sister and I stayed at Barrow House 3 weeks ago – we were in room No. 14. Today my house maid has given me notice wanting to do daily work, and I am wondering if you have any friends who would care to take a situation near London. There are 3 of us in family and I keep a cook – bedroom alone – and good outings given – very little entertaining done and few visitors – occasionally one of my married sisters comes for a few days. I was very much impressed with the way you all got through your work at Barrow House. I want someone responsible and trustworthy – do any of the other staff want a situation during the winter – we could discuss wages later.

Yours truly,

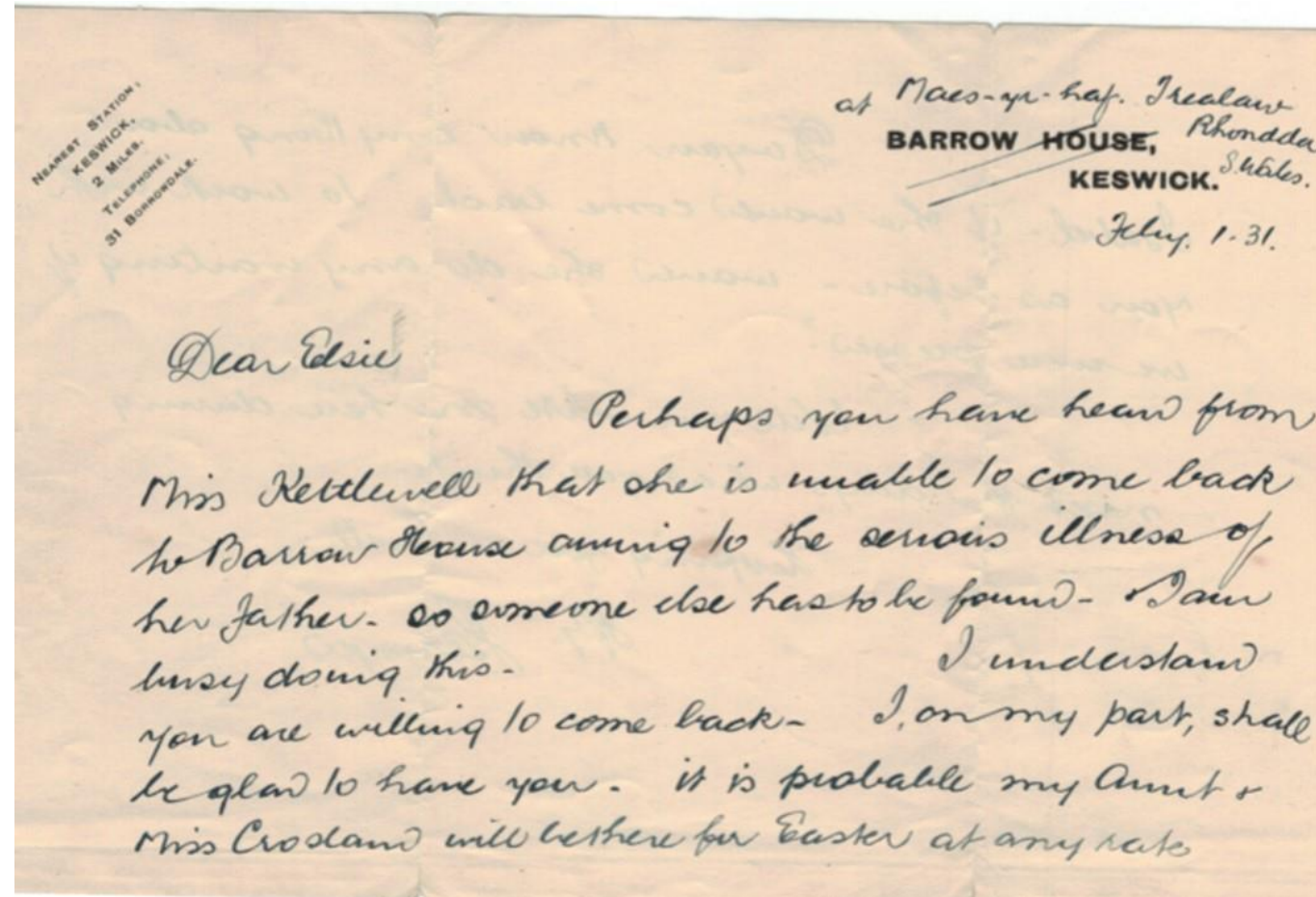
G. Butlin.

A letter from a guest to Elsie, praising the staff at Barrow House and letting her know about a housemaid vacancy in their household.



Miss Elizabeth Kettlewell, the Barrow House housekeeper, 1928.

Miss Kettlewell was the housekeeper when Elsie started working at Barrow House. However, a letter from Joseph Glaiyser to Elsie in 1931 reveals that Miss Kettlewell was unable to return for the 1931 season owing to the serious illness of her father.



Maes-yr-haf

Rhondda

S. Wales

February 1st 1931

Dear Elsie,

Perhaps you have heard from Miss Kettlewell that she is unable to come back to Barrow House owing to the serious illness of her father. So someone else has to be found. I am busy doing this. I understand you are willing to come back. I, on my part, shall be glad to have you. It is probable my aunt and Miss Crosland will be here for Easter at any rate.

Do you know anything about Isabel – if she would come back to work with you as before – would she do any waiting if we were pressed?

Will you write me here during the next few days what you think.

Hoping you are well,

Mr Glaiyser.

Letter from Joseph Glaiyser to Elsie, 1931, telling her that Miss Kettlewell is unable to return to Barrow House, and discussing their staffing for the new season. He seems keen to include Elsie in his preparations for the season.

Barrow House

Keswick

February 21st 1931

Dear Elsie,

I arrived back last night. Whilst talking with Mrs Davidson about staff she stated that Miss K. and you both agreed that it would take 6 weeks to clean down. I thought a month. It is evident it takes longer, so I should be glad if you would come now, as soon as possible, and get a start. I am asking Mrs. D. to write to the girl she knows to get her to come too – she could then help you. My cousin, a Miss M. Glaiyser, comes to stay for 2 weeks next Monday, Mrs and Miss Crosland, I hope, a little later. They are trying to obtain a girl they know to help you in front.

Today your name was sent on to me from Workington as wanting a place so I have told them I have engaged you! Also they sent on the name of a girl who wants a place as kitchen maid. I see she comes from Billington Quay. How far is this from you and would it be possible for you to see her? If it is not too far I should be glad if you would go and see what sort of a girl she is and if she would come (tell her what sort of a place it is etc etc). I am...to get somebody to help Mrs D. – they are not easy to procure. I will go to 12/6 per week... (same as Ethel) and pay fares if she stops.

I believe your fares are paid by insurance. Let me know as soon as possible if you can do this or not, and what day you can come.

Mr Glaiyser.

Letter from Joseph Glaiyser to Elsie, discussing his preparations for the new season. He asks her to meet a prospective kitchen maid, and discusses other staffing matters. Elsie has 6 weeks of cleaning down the house in store!



Daisy the cow, in front of Barrow House. Thank you to Judith Vincent (née Stanley) for this picture.

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NOTES.

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KESWICK is reached via Penrith on the L.M.S. main line.

BARROW HOUSE is nearly two-and-a-half miles from Keswick Station. Conveyances for Borrowdale meet most of the trains and pass the lodge gates, but there is no regular service. Guests desiring to be met specially should send a post card to the Secretary, Barrow House, Keswick.

LUGGAGE sent in advance can be brought out by car on advice being sent.

GARAGE. There is accommodation for motor cars. Parking 5/- per week; minimum, 1/-.

BOATING. A Boat belonging to the House is available for Excursions on the Lake at any time, a small charge being made for its use.

TENNIS. There is a tennis court in the grounds. Players should bring their own rackets and balls.

PHOTOGRAPHY. There is a well-equipped dark room for the use of photographers.

MUSIC. Guests who play or sing are asked to bring music.

VEGETARIANS are specially catered for. Notice should be given when booking.

NO INTOXICANTS ALLOWED.



Photo by

J. Glaisyer.

BARROW HOUSE, KESWICK.

OPEN FROM MARCH TO NOVEMBER.

JOSEPH GLAISYER,

Resident Proprietor.

Thank you to Judith Vincent (née Stanley) for showing us this pamphlet from 1931.

There are not many woodlands in the Lake Country that show their foliage to more exquisite advantage than those which spread upwards from Barrow Bay, enveloping the cataract of that name to the foot of the noble ridge of grey cliffs which find their summits in Walla and Falcon Crags.

A. G. Bradley, in "Highways and Byways
in the Lake District."

© © ©

BARROW HOUSE

STANDS above the Borrowdale Road, two miles from Keswick. It commands lovely views of Derwentwater and the mountains, while behind it the woods rise to the base of the ridge which culminates in the imposing Walla and Falcon crags. The grounds slope down to the lake-side, where are a private landing stage, bathing place, camping ground and tennis court. Immediately behind the house is the Barrow Fall, the second highest waterfall in the Lake District. In the grounds there are many shady nooks and paths, and guests have access to the adjoining woods which extend to many hundreds of acres. Most of the finest scenery in the district can be visited in the day, and nearly all the well-known climbs are accessible.

Walking, motoring and climbing excursions are arranged at any time, special arrangements being made during the summer months and in bank holiday weeks. At all times guests are at liberty to take part or not as they wish. Coaches for Honister Pass and Buttermere pass the gates. For a restful holiday the immediate surroundings of the house are ideal.

© ©

NOTE.—The Proprietor of Barrow House begs to say that it is not an Hotel nor an ordinary Boarding House, but a House where Paying Guests form one large Party.

TERMS.

Easter and Whitsuntide	3½ Guineas.
June to September	3½ and 4 Guineas.
October to May	3 Guineas.

For periods of less than a week the charge is slightly increased. Weeks usually begin on a Saturday.

The Terms cover board and residence from dinner on the evening of arrival to breakfast on the corresponding day of the following week. Most of the bedrooms contain two or more single beds. Separate (single-bedded) rooms, when available, are charged 10/6 per week extra.

Summer Schools, Conferences, &c.—Barrow House is an ideal place for groups of this nature and special terms could be arranged in spring or autumn.

No gratuities are expected by members of the staff.

BOOKING.

Intending guests should send a deposit of 10/- per person for each week or part of a week when booking. In case of non-fulfilment of the engagement the deposit will be retained. The house accommodates about thirty guests. Early Booking is desirable

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Correspondence and Bookings should be addressed
to

THE SECRETARY, BARROW HOUSE,
KESWICK.

Telegrams: "BARROW HOUSE, KESWICK."
Telephone: BORROWDALE 31.

*The middle pages of the Barrow
House pamphlet*

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