



Fig. 6 Dalemain House: View of the Garden Front

## Friday 1 July Dalemain House

We gathered in the large, cobbled yard at the back of Dalemain house, where the masonry of the house in its various stages of building, from the medieval pele tower to 18th- and 19th-century additions, dominated one corner, a range of stone farm buildings including a long 17th-century barn enclosed the space on three sides and a small cottage, the estate manager's house, was nestled next to the gateway. From this angle one had no sense of the main aspect of the house, the 18th-century classical front, but really this back view was the more revealing.

The owner, Mrs Hasell-McCosh, welcomed us over tea in the servants' hall, where she gave us a brief history: the house had been in the Hasell family since 1679. The pele tower was 12th century and de Moorville Layton had added a medieval hall and two Tudor wings. Sir Edward Hasell had developed this into a manor house in the 1680s and his son, also Edward, had the Georgian front built in 1744. There had been few changes since then.

Our tour of the house began with a walk round to the front, which was an impressive sight, and in through the front door to a surprisingly small hall with a rather wonderful cantilevered wood stair. The ground floor rooms were panelled and well furnished with a lovely mixture of furniture, ornaments and paintings, mainly 18th century, all very mellow and relaxed in an English country house



Fig. 7 Some garden furniture





Fig. 8 The strongly contrasting stable and granary yard

way. There were a number of Gillow pieces, including a dresser in the hall and in the dining room a table and chairs, a teapoy, cellarets, knife boxes and plate carriers. The invoices survive for some of these, for example the 24 dining chairs were supplied in 1774. The wonderfully hand painted Chinese wallpaper in the Chinese Room is

recorded as having been supplied in 1756 at a total cost of £14 3s 6d. There was a square piano by Clementi of London, c. 1680. Further into the house we were going back in time, to the Tudor structure with smaller rooms, winding passages, oak panelling and decorative plaster ceilings, and into the pele tower, with a circular chamber and a curious mixture of furniture, and finally down to the quaintly furnished Housekeeper's rooms of the late Victorian and Edwardian period.

Many of us were tempted into the shop by the array of winning jars of the World's Original Marmalade Festival and Awards, begun by Mrs Hasell-McCosh eleven years ago and which now attract entries from all around the world. The gardens rising up the slope to the back of the house were superb and delightful, with a lovely Georgian stone summerhouse at the top, complete with its oak garden seat.

*David Dewing*



Fig. 9 Some of the group with our host, Mrs Hasell-McCosh