

Rickerby Park

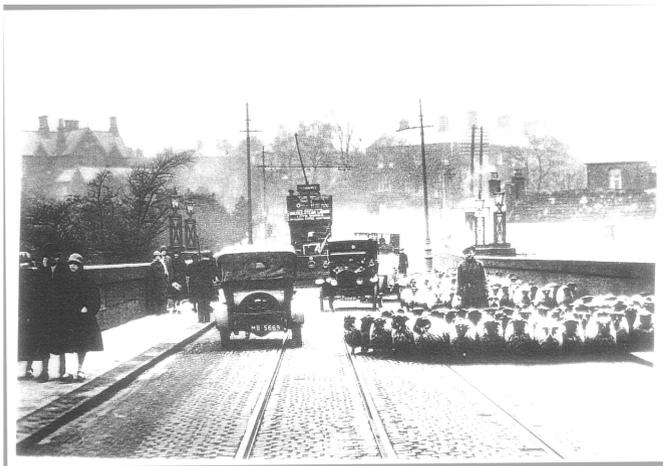
Entrance Gardens and Eden Bridge

Rickerby is a place name first recorded in 1246. It means 'Richard's farmstead' and he may be the same Richard for whom Rickergate was named.

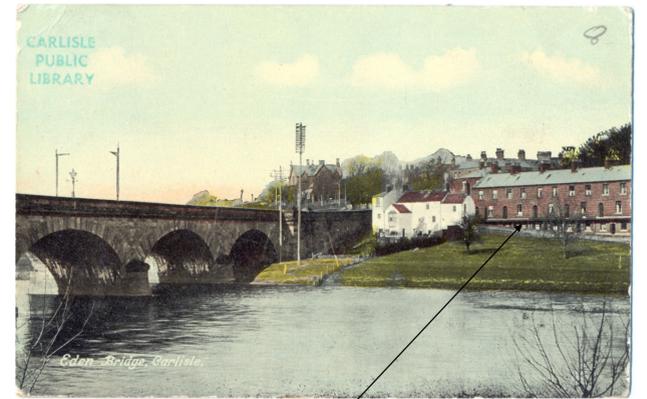
The park and gardens are dedicated in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War.

The garden entrance was opened by the Mayor on 21st December 1933 following the widening of Eden Bridges in 1932. A terrace of houses had to be demolished in connection with the widening of the bridge and this opened up a space for the new entrance.

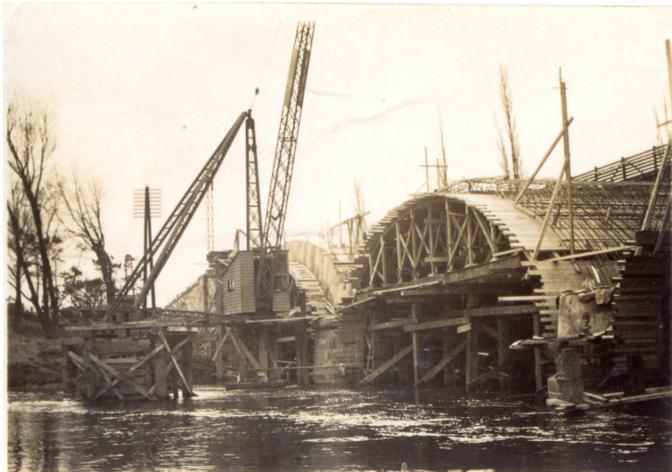
The making of the gardens provided jobs for the unemployed in a period of world depression. Much material was recycled in the construction of the ornamental gardens: the Eden Bridge parapets which were taken down in its widening were used to build the two rest houses, and sandstone slabs from the recently demolished old Greystone buildings off London Road and from an old Caldbeck barn were used for their roofs. The white concrete from the bridge pavements was laid down for the crazy paving walks. Red sandstone from the recently demolished County Gaol was used in building the supporting walls for the upper walk between the rest houses. The whole scheme was under the direction of the famous Kendal firm of landscape gardeners, Mawson.



The 1812-1815 bridge was not built to accommodate cars and trams.



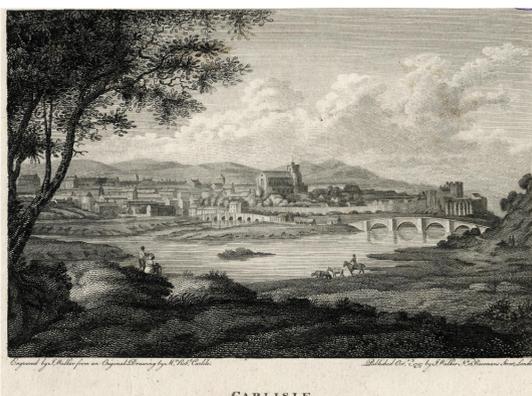
Eden Terrace was demolished to allow for the widening of Eden Bridge. This was the site of the new ornamental gardens.



The widening of Eden Bridge in 1932



A feature of the upper level gardens is an ornamental pond with a fountain figure of a boy holding a goose [figure now vanished].



The Priestbeck Bridge of 1601, lengthened in 1743. The Eden split into two channels below Stanwix Bank. The 1812-15 Bridge works included blocking off the southern channel, allowing the river to run along its present course.



Following dredging of the river in 1951 a pier of the old Priestbeck Bridge was uncovered.



In 1953 the pier for the old Priestbeck Bridge was excavated and rebuilt on the northern bank where you can see it today. Upon examination you can see the mason's mark AI on each stone.