

CLHF Convention 2011



Landscape and the Local Historian

The venue for the 2011 Cumbria Local History Federation Convention is well suited to its theme. Higham Hall, between Cockermouth and the foot of Bassenthwaite Lake, is a mansion built for a local businessman around 1828, and set in beautifully landscaped grounds. The interior retains most of its original features- and the catering has a high reputation!

Following the Federation's AGM (which this year will include some fairly radical proposals), one of the North-West's best known historians, Dr. Alan Crosby, will launch the theme with a look at maps as a basis for landscape history. Ian Tyler of the Keswick Mining Museum then shows us a very valuable piece of the Cumbrian landscape: Caldbeck Fells, "worth all England else".

After lunch there will, as usual, be options. Two workshops are led by another distinguished local historian, Dr. Michael Winstanley (on the amazing "Edwardian Domesday Book"- the 1910 Land Tax survey) and by conference organiser June Hall (on reconstructing landscape history). Alternatively, there are two series of four short member presentations/ discussions, each focusing on the historical significance of one landscape feature. The afternoon is rounded off by botanist and ecologist Dr. Richard Gulliver, who looks at trees and the historic landscape.

Places are limited, so hasten to the centre pages of the Bulletin, and make your booking!

✓ 226 ✓	476				
✓ 429 ✓	057				
✓ 430 ✓	373				
✓ 427 ✓	4-800 Road				
✓ 506 ✓	2-139				
✓ 502 ✓	262				
✓ 508 ✓	689				
✓ 498 ✓	617				
✓ 494 ✓	1-731				
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✓ 509 ✓	2-319				
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4	HULL	BYRE	
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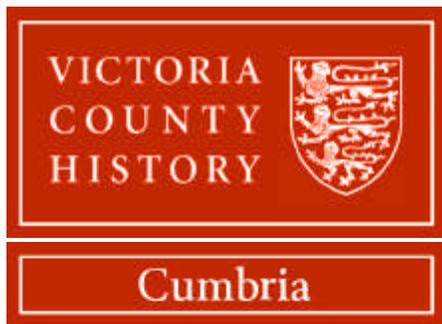
COVERED	DUNG	HEAD
ANNEX		

W. H.	C. H.	WEN HOUSE	DAG HOUSE
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BARN OVER	ALONG THE
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OLD BARN

A small sample of the 1910 Land Tax information on Eskdale's Woolpack Inn [from the National Archives]



The project is now under way, and the first year's programme of research has been agreed. The intention is to concentrate on some 9 townships, chosen at large across the county, for completion within 12 months to demonstrate both our resolve, and how it should be done. The research will be done by identified teams of volunteers, each with a team leader who will do much of the preliminary drafting, acting under the guidance of Dr Angus Winchester and Dr Sarah Rose our Volunteer Coordinator (now half-time on the VCH project).

The new CCHT website:

www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

is up and running and worth a look. You will find the details of the first year's research programme and also Angus Winchester's pioneer article on Mosser. Keep an eye on this web-site: it will develop rapidly. Ideas for its

use, and possible material for addition to Sarah Rose please. If you have problems with it, please let me know.

My thanks to all societies who have responded to my round robin letter earlier this year about the involvement of Local History Societies in the project. There are still several societies who have not responded, and I do ask you all to give serious consideration to my offer to come and talk about the project with your members or your committee. CLHF has been right behind this project from its inception, and our support has been and continues to be a critical factor. Even the smallest societies, unable to help in any other way, can demonstrate support by showing interest and helping to spread the word.

Richard Brockington, CCHT Secretary

CUMBRIA PAST **(News from CWAAS)**

Our latest book was launched on June 3rd at Kendal Parish Church - *The Church Notes of Sir Stephen Glynne (1833-1872)* - and has been very well received. Lawrence Butler was the Editor and went to great pains to acquire illustrations of 50 Cumbrian churches made at about the time when Glynne visited, i.e. between 1833 and 1872, and covering Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness.



*The iron tank at Castle Head
(see pages 3-4)*



Our previous book, *The Making of Carlisle*, published with financial support from English Heritage, has likewise enjoyed a very favourable reception.

Another 20,658 entries (1940-1959) have been added to the Transactions Index on our website, www.cumbriapast.com

Our webmaster John Steel has posted a very informative article, outlining how the Index has come about from its earliest forms.

As I write this note, well over 50 members are looking forward to our annual Summer Evening event. This year, by the kind invitation of Tim and Margaret Fetherstonhaugh, it will be held at The College, Kirkoswald, and arranged by Charles Blackett-Ord. Naturally we're hoping for good weather!

Mike and Kate Lea, our joint Newsletter Editors, are having to miss the Kirkoswald treat - they will be in Iceland, continuing their researches in preparation for our planned 2012 Collingwood Icelandic Pilgrimage.

Our Facebook page continues to provide prompt news: notes and photos of other societies' dates and events (yes, your Federation Autumn Convention has been advertised on FB and the website) and general news and queries relating to archaeology, history and family history matters.

Margaret Edwards

Cartmel Fell & District Local History Society

The John Wilkinson Iron Boat Project

Introduction

It is an accepted fact that John Wilkinson the ironmaster was responsible for the creation of the first viable iron boat capable of carrying a commercial cargo. This boat was named Trial, was launched at Willey Wharf on the river Severn on July 6th 1787. It was some 70 ft. in length. In essence, this was a sailing barge and was followed by others of similar dimensions. They demonstrated the benefits of iron as a major part of a ship's fabric, rather than a local reinforcing member such as a hanging 'Knee'.

It is known from Wilkinson's own correspondence that he had been experimenting with an iron boat for use on the canal at Bradely prior to his visit to France in 1786 and, according to Stockdale in his *Annals of Cartmel*, had already produced a small iron boat for use on the river Winster to bring peat for experimental smelting to Wilson House, Lindale. Stockdale quotes one Nicholas Atkinson, who said in 1870 he remembered seeing this craft near Helton Tarn about seventy years ago. John Wilkinson had peat mosses bordering the tarn and 'Mr. Wilkinson's road' is shown on the 1797 Enclosures map, leading to the tarn.

This would imply that what is described as a 'diminutive' boat had served its experimental purpose and was then abandoned. It may have been created much earlier even than 1786, as reports in *The York Courant* and the *Gentleman's Magazine* recorded that an iron boat of 12ft. in length and with a 6ft beam had been launched on the Fosse in May 1777, some ten years before Trial.

Wilkinson may have been spurred on by such a report, but in any case, it adds credence to the idea that a very small boat, perhaps even shorter than 12 ft could have been made or used from Wilson House, before the launch of Trial. It is difficult to believe that Wilkinson would have proceeded to a full-size canal boat in a new material before proving the principle with more modest prototypes. Wilson House had the manufacturing facilities, a river on the doorstep and privacy to experiment.

Field Searches

Accordingly, numerous attempts have been made over the last twenty years or so to search Helton Tarn and its environs. One was initiated by the late Michael Berry, his son Tim and this Society, scanning the tarn and environs with electronic equipment. A hopeful sounding turned out to be a roll of sheep netting. It was decided that the tarn was not the last resting place and the river was searched to Blea Crag Bridge. In 2008, the 200th anniversary of Wilkinson's death, Wilson House was kindly made available for another scan by the owner, Mike Dixon. This

proved abortive because of all the structural steel in the target area.

The Iron Tank (pictures on page 2)

John Wilkinson built himself an imposing residence at Castle Head, just down river from Wilson House. This is now a field Study Centre, once directed by the late Frank Dawson, a Wilkinson expert. I asked him if any of Wilkinson's iron tanks were still in existence, as it might bring us nearer to a possible method of construction. He promptly led the way to the old walled garden, high on the hill. Here was a magnificent iron tank, cast in one piece, 97.25" long and 43" deep and wide. Frank thought it had been installed in 1783, i.e. four years before the launch of Trial. Until we can be certain where or when it was cast, we cannot seriously consider it 'A diminutive boat', but it may be a clue.

The next stage

Although there are large tracts of land to be explored electronically in the lower Winster Valley, the re-discovery of the Castlehead tank suggests that an 'above ground' search from Helton Tarn to the high-tide line of Morecambe Bay may reveal the object of our quest. Even if not, we will have eliminated the possibility that it has been put to other uses by the local community. It could be a water tank, a rodent-free grain store, even an oil tank, but originally it would have to have been drawn by a horse and cart on rough roads. We propose to search 1 km squares, i.e. 4x4 cm squares on O.S. 1:25000 maps.

Jennifer Forsyth

Themed reports: History in its Place

The Wilkinson boat is, in a sense, the opposite of this issue's theme- an object which is definitely not in its place! On the other hand, the project to find it is absolutely in tune with our theme. This will be explored further, by well-known experts, in the CLHF Convention, but on the following pages we present some more examples of work by our member groups which puts historical study firmly into its real-world context.

Crosby Ravensworth Local History Society

For the past two years one or two meetings have been held in the Parish Archive in Crosby Ravensworth.

Members have used the parish registers and census transcripts deposited there, to trace the history of residents and owners of houses, cottages and farms in the parish. The photographic record made in 1999 is updated when extensions, conversions or new build occur. The completed histories are gradually being added to the Archive collection as a reference for future visitors. In the past two years members have also taken photographs of local field barns which have been digitised and deposited. This collection provided an interesting presentation at one of our meetings.

Eileen Risk, CRLHS secretary

Shap Local History Society

Ten amazing years celebrated at Shap

Back in April 2001 a group of ten individuals took the brave step of forming Shap Local History Society. This was not an easy step, since there was no money, and the few early subscriptions were soon eaten up by hiring a hall and speakers fees. Those first members could not have envisaged that ten years on, not only would the Society be celebrating their anniversary, they would be in a comfortable financial position and would own one of the most historic buildings in Shap!

There was therefore a happy atmosphere as members and guests gathered in the Memorial hall for the Annual general Meeting and 10th Anniversary celebrations on 18 April 2011. As they entered the hall, members were presented with a copy of an anniversary book telling the story of the Society; the book was also available for guests to purchase for a small fee. A raffle for some valuable prizes was held to defray costs.

The evening was opened by the Society's

Shap Market House, c1900



Chairman Jean Jackson, who gave her annual report. This included the summer exhibition on *Mardale Homesteads* that had proved very popular with some artefacts from the valley being donated to the Society. A project on date stones had now been completed, and a small display of this work will go on show in Shap Library during May. A box of deeds relating to a family from *Wet Sleddale* had been given to the Society, but still needed to be explored fully. A book about *Mardale* is in the final stages of production, and this had involved a lot of hard work for a small number of members. Mrs Jackson ended by thanking Liz Amos, the Secretary and Treasurer, the Vice Chairman, Jean Scott-Smith and all the committee members for their work.

Mrs Amos presented the financial statement which showed the funds to be in a healthy position. She said that taking on the duties of Treasurer in addition to those of Secretary had gone well, partly due to the fact that Jean Scott-Smith lightened her load by taking on some of the administrative duties.

Officers elected: Chairman, Jean Jackson, Vice Chairman, Jean Scott-Smith, Secretary/Treasurer Liz Amos; Committee: Wendy Fairer, Liz Kerrey, Ken Noble, and Patrick Neaves. The Auditor is Dennis Hale.

Once the business meeting was out of the way, Mrs Jackson welcomed the special guest, her son Joseph dressed in the uniform of a Roman soldier. Mr Jackson works for the *Vindolanda Trust* as an education officer in the Roman Army Museum, which is a sister site to *Vindolanda Roman fort*.

He went on to describe the history of *Vindolanda*, a site with a great wealth of history and heritage. As excavations go on, the site changes on a regular basis. The first (wooden) fort dates from around 71AD and was sited on the *Stanegate*, it predates *Hadrian's Wall* by around 50 years. During the heyday of the Roman Wall, *Vindolanda* was kept as a supply base, and continued in use until around 213AD. There were images of the fort and maps to show where all the key sites were. He then spoke about the involvement of the *Birley family* who have owned the site since around 1929; Eric Birley was a notable Roman historian and archaeologist, in 1968-9 the current excavations began under the leadership of Eric's son Robin.

The *Vindolanda Trust* was formed in 1970, and in 1973 the first of the famous *Vindolanda* writing tablets were discovered. In 1981 the Roman Army Museum was set up. In 1973 the Trust received a grant of six million pounds from the *Heritage Lottery Fund* and this has enabled the paths to be upgraded and the Museums to be brought up to date, to the same standard of the *British Museum*. Some of the writing tablets have now been returned by the *British Museum* for display in specially controlled conditions and great security. The tablets are described as Britain's most important treasure, with the earliest examples of female handwriting in Western Europe. The items on display in the Museums have all been discovered on site, and this makes the museums unique.

Vindolanda Trust is not funded by any Government organisation, its income being from entry fees. It welcomes volunteers to take part in excavations, anyone can apply to take part, and some important finds have been discovered by amateurs.

There were stories of the discovery of hand and foot prints surviving in hardened mud, and more amazing, the preservation of bracken and horse dung in the stables. The conditions on site have preserved wood, leather and textiles as well as the more usual finds of pottery and metal. There were pictures of the lovely glassware, and jewellery that had been found, and an interesting calendar. One image showed all the layers under

Cumbria Local History Federation

excavation, whilst another showed a large altar weighing four tons. Among the buildings discovered was an extremely early Christian church within the commanding officer's impressive large house.

A sad tale came next of the discovery of a skeleton under a barrack room floor, this was discovered to be human, and that of a girl aged between eight and twelve years, possibly a slave; her hands had been bound and it is believed that she had been murdered. National Geographic have recently made a film about the girl's life, and chose Mr Jackson's daughter to take the role of the slave girl.

A griffon had been found last year, and when the pictures of the Crosby Garrett helmet appeared, it was evident that the Vindolanda Griffon was identical to the one of the helmet; a search of the storerooms revealed several pieces of hair and face from an almost identical helmet.

Mr Jackson was thanked for adding colour to the evening by Vice Chairman Jean Scott-Smith, who heartily recommended a visit to Vindolanda.

The evening concluded with a buffet supper and the celebration cake made and iced by Mrs Scott-Smith was cut by Mrs Jackson and a toast to the Society was proposed by Mr Neaves.

Cockermouth Museum Group

Cockermouth Museum Group has for some time been undertaking a project to record headstones in Cockermouth Cemetery, and to make these available online, along with other headstone inscriptions in the locality. Earlier in the year we set up our website

www.cockermouthmuseumgroup.org.uk where people can learn about different aspects of Cockermouth's history, and view collections of headstone inscriptions. We have always believed that local history resources ought to be freely available to everyone interested, and headstone inscriptions provide an amazing amount of intriguing information, both for family

historians and local historians alike.

A look at some of the Cockermouth Cemetery headstones reveals many people who played a prominent role in the life of the town: the Wyndhams (Cockermouth Castle), Robinson Mitchell (founder of the Auction Mart), George Freeman Biddall (a travelling showman and friend of Buffalo Bill), Thomas Williamson (ship-builder), John Steel (MP for Cockermouth in the early 19th century), Humphrey Patricius Senhouse (a well-known local landowner who lived at The Fitz), and James Bleasdale (also known as 'Cousin Charley', who instigated the children's May Day parade, the precursor of Cockermouth Carnival). We can find too the Head Schoolmaster of the County Industrial School (William Clement Brodie), and the Governor of the Cockermouth Union Workhouse (William Davidson), and members of the Grave family (associated with Graves's Mill). All aspects of town life are reflected.

A closer look at some of the headstones reveals many sad stories, such as James and Ann Black who lost their son Frank (aged 19), another son Stanley (aged 23 and missing in the Great War), their daughter Annie (aged 38), and grand-daughter Isabel (aged 3 ½), all within their life-time. The Barwise family lost their son Private Ernest Barwise of the ASC, killed in action on October 8th, 1918 (a little more than one month before the end of hostilities), and who was buried in Beaufort, France. There are tragic incidents, such as James Barnes who drowned in the River Eamont 1878, aged 16 years, and Arthur Bell, who died at St. Bee's School in November 1918, aged 15 years. Some headstones mention occupations of the deceased, some trades that no longer exist, such as John Bowe (churn-maker) who died in 1915, Edward Sancton (woollen manufacturer), and William Scurr (saddler) who died in 1866. There is also a memorial mentioning someone who drowned on the Lusitania (May 7th 1915), and Captain Joseph Hamilton, who was lost at sea with his ship (the 'Lady Bentinck') on 28th October, 1843, together with his brother. Arthur Brigg, a missionary in South Africa for 25 years before his death in 1890, is also to be found in the Cemetery.

EVENTS DIARY

Area indicators: North  South  East  West  Central 

Meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated

AUGUST

-  1 CWAAS Kendal Regional Group Leave County Hall at 6.00pm and meet and
park at Warcop Hall at 6.55pm
Visit – Warcop Hall with Mark Blackett-Ord of Warcop Hall 01539 722439
-  2 Orton and Tebay LHS Orton Market Hall
Orton Manor Court Records – Wendy Higgins 015396 24410
-  22 Shap LHS Meet at Great Asby Village Hall at 6.45pm
A Walk around Great Asby with Asby History Society 01931 716244
-  23 Duddon Valley LHG Seathwaite Parish Room
The OTHER Wallace Collection - Joseph Ritson Wallace – Harry and Margaret
Fancy 01229 861511

SEPTEMBER

-  8 Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
Mardale: the drowned valley – John Falshaw 01900 85482
-  12 Orton and Tebay LHS Meet at Tebay 9.00am or at Orton 9.10am
Day Trip to Beamish Museum 015396 24410
-  13 Appleby Archaeology Group Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby.
2010 Excavations at Papcastle, Cockermouth –
Mark Graham, Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd. 01768 353463
-  13 CWAAS SW Group- Contact the Secretary (Mr Len Watson) if you wish to attend
Guided visit to sites in Workington (jointly with the Helena Thompson Museum-
part of the Festival of British Archaeology) 019467 24634
-  13 North Lonsdale HS Ulverston Methodist Church
Crusaders and Byzantines - Jack Rice 01229 583565
-  15 Levens Local History Group Levens Village Institute
The Newland Iron Furnace – History and Preservation –
John Helme 01539 560318
-  21 Caldbeck and District LHS Parish Hall, Caldbeck 2000
Years of Carlisle History – Anton Hodge 016974 78270
-  21 Lazonby and District LHS Lazonby Village Hall
AGM followed by Reminiscence Box provided by Penrith Museum 01786 898046
-  22 Lamplugh and District Heritage Society Lamplugh WI Hall
The Wellington Pit Disaster – Jenni Lister 01946 861493
-  24 CWAAS SW Group Supper room, Egremont Market Hall at 2.00pm
AGM followed by a talk on the St Bees Priory medieval burials –
Chris Robson and Ian Hunter (in support of funds towards repairs to the Priory
tower) 019467 24634

SEPTEMBER continued

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|---|----|--|--|
|  | 24 | Orton and Tebay LHS
Enclosure in the Upper Eden and Lune Valleys – Dr Ian Whyte | Orton Market Hall
015396 24410 |
|  | 26 | Shap LHS
The Past, Present and Future of the Lancaster Canal Trust | Memorial Hall
01931 716244 |
|  | 27 | Duddon Valley LHG
Pack Horse Days – Janet Niepokojczka | Seathwaite Parish Room
01229 861511 |
|  | 28 | Mourholme LHS
Personal Names and Local History – Dr Angus Winchester | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |

OCTOBER

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|---|----|--|--|
|  | 4 | Bampton and District LHS
AGM, followed by: The Nobles and other families
(at Beckfoot, courtesy of Lesley and David White) | Beckfoot
01931 713645 |
|  | 5 | Friends of Keswick Museum
Slides of Old Keswick, and more, from the archives –
Brian Wilkinson, Stuart Cresswell and Dorothy Hind | Crossthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 11 | Appleby Archaeology Group
Hornby Castle, Recent Excavations – Erik Matthews | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby
01768 353463 |
|  | 11 | Staveley and District HS
Then and Now in Ravenstonedale – Caroline Morris | Staveley School
01539 822229 |
|  | 11 | North Lonsdale HS
Roadside heritage - Andy Lowe | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 583565 |
|  | 17 | Upper Eden History Society
Victorian Costume – Lynn Hopwood | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 19 | Caldbeck and District LHS
Supper followed (c8.15) by AGM | Denton House, Heskett Newmarket
016974 78270 |
|  | 19 | Lazonby and District LHS
Glaciation in the Region – John Rodgers | Lazonby Methodist Chapel
01786 898046 |
|  | 20 | Levens Local History Group
Where are we now? – Members Evening | Levens Village Institute
01539 560318 |
|  | 24 | Orton and Tebay LHS
Enclosure in the Upper Eden and Lune Valleys – Dr Ian Whyte | Orton Market Hall
015396 24410 |
|  | 25 | Duddon Valley LHG
Woodland Crafts and Industries – Andy Lowe | Seathwaite Parish Room
01229 861511 |
|  | 26 | Mourholme LHS
A History of Milnthorpe – Christopher Robson | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |
|  | 27 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Boggles, Fairies and Spectres – a look at the legends and folklore of West
Cumbria - Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park | Lamplugh WI Hall
01946 861493 |
|  | 31 | Shap LHS
Inside a Lakeland Farmhouse – Andy Lowe | Memorial Hall
01931 716244 |

LANDSCAPE AND THE LOCAL HISTORIAN

Cumbria Local History Federation Annual Convention 2011

Higham Hall, near Cockermouth
Saturday 1 October 09.30 - 16.00hrs

For this year's Convention, we are privileged to have the use of Higham Hall, a splendid early 19th century mansion on the edge of the Lake District

To give members the opportunity to explore the historic, architectural and landscape interest of Higham Hall, its grounds and library, there will not be an exhibition this year.

Catering at Higham Hall has a deservedly excellent reputation. Home baking accompanies coffee and tea breaks, and a tasty lunch will be provided.

Places are strictly limited, so early booking is advised. Allocation will be on a first come, first served basis.

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS:

A LANDSCAPE FEATURE AND ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

After the positive reception of last year's short talks on objects, offers are invited for ten-minute contributions to a members' session, on the topic of *a single landscape feature and its historical significance*.

The greater the variety of subjects, the more interesting the session will be. There is almost endless choice, from holy wells to milk stands, from field boundaries to deer parks and from milestones to railway stations, to mention a few possibilities.

The emphasis is on **one** feature and its **significance**.

Slides and/or other visual material are welcome.

All volunteers who complete Form 2 (see centre pages) will be notified by 7 September whether or not they have been chosen.

Cumbria Local History Federation Annual Convention 2011

PROGRAMME

9.00 Arrive and register

9.30 **CLHF Annual General Meeting**

10.00 coffee

10.20 Dr. Alan Crosby - *Maps as a Basis for Landscape History*

11.10 Ian Tyler - *Landscape History and the Extractive Industries; The example of the Caldbeck Fells*

12.00 lunch

13.00 **THE AFTERNOON OPTIONS**

(Choose one from each pair of options A or B, Y or Z)

THE WORKSHOPS

Option A 13.00 - 13.45

Dr. Michael Winstanley - *Cumbria 100 years ago : local history from the "Edwardian Domesday" property survey*

Option Y 13:45 - 14:30

June Hall - *"Three Miles Round" - reconstructing landscape history from maps*

THE SHORT PRESENTATIONS

One Landscape Feature and its Historical Significance

Option B 13.00 - 13.45

The first four short presentations

Option Z 13:45 - 14:30

Four more short presentations

14.30 tea

15.00 Dr. Richard Gulliver - *Trees and the Historic Landscape*

15.45 Closing Remarks

16.00 close



Form 2: Volunteer presenters for "One landscape feature and its historical significance"

NAME: _____ SOCIETY if applicable: _____

or

LANDSCAPE FEATURE: _____

in PARISH: _____ ILLUSTRATIONS (delete as applicable): None / Slides / Digital

We will advise volunteers by 7 September whether or not they have been picked



Form 1: CONVENTION BOOKING, for CLHF, Higham Hall, 1 Oct 2011

Each application will be acknowledged. Bookings will receive directions to Higham Hall and a suggested reading list.

Please reserveplaces @ £20.00.

Now please choose for each person attending, one option each out of the pairs A or B, Y or Z, as shown in the programme.

Name(s) & options.....

Address.....

Post code..... Tel. No..... email.....

Member ofSociety OR tick Individual.....

Enclosed, cheque for £..... Signed..... Date.....

Please complete and return this form, with payment, before 22 August, to -
Valerie Halsall, Fox How, Townhead, Lazonby CA10 1AT

NOVEMBER

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|---|----|--|---|--------------|
|  | 1 | Bampton and District LHS
Remembering Slavery: Cumbria's connection with the slave trade –
Dr Rob David | Memorial Hall, Bampton | 01931 713645 |
|  | 2 | Friends of Keswick Museum
The Power of Manuscripts: Meaning beyond Words –
Jeff Cowton MBE | Crossthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick | 017687 73801 |
|  | 2 | North Lonsdale History Society
Full day coach outing to Leeds | Details and bookings at September meeting | 01229 583565 |
|  | 8 | Appleby Archaeology Group
Archaeological Landscape Survey of the Sizergh Estate –
Jamie Lund, National Trust North West Region | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby | 01768 353463 |
|  | 8 | Staveley and District HS
Gillows in Cumbria – Susan Stuart | Staveley School | 01539 822229 |
|  | 8 | North Lonsdale HS
A Body in the Bay: Ironmasters of Furness - Peter Wilde | Ulverston Methodist Church | 01229 583565 |
|  | 10 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS
Lorton as it was 200 years ago: updating John Bolton's lecture of 1891 –
Derek Denman | Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton | 01900 85482 |
|  | 16 | Lazonby and District LHS
Cumbria in the Dark Ages – Sheena Gemmell | Lazonby Methodist Chapel | 01786 898046 |
|  | 17 | Levens Local History Group
Coastal Shipping in the North West in the late eighteenth century | Levens Village Institute | 01539 560318 |
|  | 17 | Orton and Tebay LHS
History of Westmorland Show - Jim Dewhurst | Tebay Methodist Chapel | 015396 24410 |
|  | 19 | Shap LHS
An Evening with Ivan Day (food historian) followed by supper | Memorial Hall 7.for 7.30pm | 01931 716244 |
|  | 21 | Upper Eden History Society
Brough-under-Stainmore: Life on the Edge – Margaret Gowling | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School | 017683 41007 |
|  | 22 | Duddon Valley LHG
Industrial History of South Ulverston – Rob McKeever | Broughton Victory Hall | 01229 861511 |
|  | 23 | Mourholme LHS
Maritime Recollections: extracts from the oral history archive of the
Maritime Museum – Michelle Cooper | Yealand Village Hall | 01524 701491 |
|  | 24 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Sheep and Wool in History – June Hall | Lamplugh WI Hall | 01946 861493 |

DECEMBER on next page

DECEMBER

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|--|
|  | 5 | Orton and Tebay LHS
Christmas Past – Members Contributions | Orton Market Hall
015396 24410 |
|  | 6 | Bampton and District LHS
Local History Quiz/Social Evening | Memorial Hall, Bampton
01931 713645 |
|  | 7 | Friends of Keswick Museum
Cumbrian Ice Houses and the international trade in Ice – Dr Rob David | Crossthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 8 | Mourholme LHS
Members' Evening with Refreshments | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |
|  | 12 | Upper Eden History Society
The Archaeology of Mallerstang – Annie Hamilton-Gibney | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 13 | North Lonsdale HS
Christmas Special - Supper and members evening | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 583565 |
|  | 13 | Appleby Archaeology Group
Cumbrian Connections: Lithic analysis in the Upper Eden Valley (an update on Living among the Monuments) – Annie Hamilton-Gibney | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby
01768 353463 |
|  | 13 | Staveley and District HS
The Keswick Footpath Preservation Association and The Trespasses of 1887 – Roy Ellis | Staveley School
01539 822229 |

This Diary is compiled by Valerie Halsall. To feature your group's events here, please contact her via:
vhalsall@ktdbroadband.com (or tel. 01768 898046)



Birmingham University archaeology at "Tongue Scale", on the fells south of Eskdale, June 2011

Cockermouth Cemetery in its early days



Such inscriptions provide a wonderful resource for research, and we have been contacted by people from this country and abroad seeking help with family history research. In addition to Cockermouth Cemetery, our website also carries details of inscriptions at Bridekirk Churchyard (courtesy of the transcribing team there who kindly allowed us use their findings), All Saints' Churchyard (thanks to the Cumbria Family History Society), Quaker inscriptions (courtesy of West Cumbria Area Quaker Meeting), and Loweswater Church inscriptions, via a link to the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society. We have been greatly helped by the assistance of Allerdale Bereavement Services regarding Cockermouth Cemetery, and hope to complete transcriptions for the remaining part of the Cemetery shortly.

Gloria Edwards

Duddon Valley Local History Group

30 volunteers with DVLHG have completed the first stage of a project to identify and survey the remains of medieval longhouses in the Duddon and Lickle valleys. This farmhouse building style consisted of 2 single-storey 'rooms', one for people and one for livestock, often separated by a cross-passage. It was probably introduced to the area by Norse immigrants over 1000 years ago, but to date, no domestic archaeological sites have been found in Cumbria that can clearly be linked to these people. During spring 2011, 39 ancient building remains on 30 sites in and around the Duddon were photographed and measured at Level 1, and detailed records also made of associated land-use in the immediate surroundings.

The data are still being assessed, but it seems likely that about 14 of the 39 building remains are indeed medieval longhouses, and all are associated with ancient enclosures, trackways or field systems. Searches for documentary records of these buildings are being made. The condition of the longhouses varies considerably, but some appear not to have been badly disturbed since occupation ceased. The largest of these buildings measures 18 metres long by 7 metres wide, and some are arranged in groups of three around a central yard. It is now planned to conduct detailed Level 2 surveys of the best examples, including their agricultural context, in autumn and winter 2011/12, and this information will be used to assist decisions about possible excavation work which would be needed to uncover hard evidence of Norse occupation.

Prof. Peter Matthiessen

Caldbeck & District LHS Editor's apology!

On page 6 of issue 56, I omitted the title of the new book from Caldbeck LHS. It is called *Memories of Lakeland* and it is available in Caldbeck & large towns nearby for £6.99.

Caldbeck & District Local History Society

A Walk Round our Village of Caldbeck, Cumberland



*On the First Morning of the
Twentieth Century,
New Year's Day January 1 1901*

Richard Greenup

Including photographs and an Historic Trail Walk

Another new book from Caldbeck & District Local History Society reveals unique and fascinating insights into Lakeland village life, recorded by Caldbeck resident and local historian Richard Greenup in his account of a leisurely walk through the village in 1901.

Written up in a humble exercise book, rescued from a bonfire after his death, and gathering dust in a loft over many years, Greenup's original manuscript was eventually found and has been transcribed, word for word, under the title: 'A Walk Around Caldbeck in 1901'. Greenup's own title, reproduced on the front cover of the book, has both a more personal and a more period ring: 'A Walk Around Our Village of Caldbeck, Cumberland on the First Morning of the Twentieth Century, New Year's Day, January 1st 1901'.

A man of many parts, Greenup displays a keen

interest in and knowledge of local flora and of the properties he passes. In addition he mentions the people he meets and, for example, describes the local hunt gathering outside Oddfellows Inn on New Years Day. School-boy pranks also figure in his account, as do the poor "privvy and urinal arrangements" at the school! Beyond local matters, Greenup notes the threat to the nation from Napoleon a century earlier, and the then current Boer War.

Greenup's route around the village takes him past the house where John Peel, the renowned hunter lived, as well as the house where the subsequently famous 'D'ye Ken John Peel' was written. Another famous former Caldbeck resident, 'the Beauty of Buttermere' also figures in the book.

More than 60 photographs have been added to the original manuscript, many from the early part of that century, including village residents, for example, "widow Jane Cape for many years Landlady of the Oddfellows Arms who retired after a tenancy of 36 years".

In addition, the book's editors have written a separate 'Historic Trail Walk', which follows Greenup's footsteps. The book, under the title 'A Walk Around Caldbeck, 1901' is being sold in Caldbeck shops and in bookshops in Carlisle, Keswick and Penrith at £8.99, including the Trail Walk. The Trail Walk may also be purchased separately for £2.

Ron Davie

Keswick History Group Keswick's History in 100 Objects

Early in the New Year, members of the Keswick History Group and the Managers of the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery, inspired by the recent publications of The History of the World in a 100 Objects, agreed to try to raise awareness of the history of the Keswick area and of the Keswick Museum in the same way. It is known that apart from the museum collection, many local people, and indeed visitors, have in their homes objects which are reminders of the past and so we asked the editor of The Keswick Reminder if

the paper would participate in the project. She readily agreed and an article was prepared which it was hoped would encourage people to write a short piece about their Object and send it and a photo to the paper for publication.

Since then, there have been fortnightly entries in The Keswick Reminder illustrating "Keswick's Heritage in 100 Objects" but sadly, nearly all have been written by a member of the Management Team or members of the Group. We have tried hard to encourage other people to have a go, but with little success. It is particularly sad because those of us who have contributed have found it a really enjoyable experience. We are now planning an Open Day at the museum during the school holidays and will invite people to bring their object in to discuss its history and relevance to the history of the area and if they wish, to help them to write about it. In the meantime we are keeping a record in the museum of the entries to date, and if the object is small enough, it is displayed in one of the cases.

Dorothy Hind

Friends of Whitehaven Museum The Pearl

A member visited Mitchells Auction House six months ago & purchased a model of a cargo vessel. It was a house clearance sale. He brought it home & showed it to Donald Scarrot, a local keen model engine man. Donald offered to restore it & has made a good job of it. The Mayor will unveil it in September, at our Annual Cheese & wine.

This Pearl was a cargo vessel owned by William Robertson of Glasgow. He began small in 1852 but rapidly built up his 'GEM' line of coastal vessels, which were named after gem stones. He chose to paint the hull in black and the superstructure white. This annoyed the much larger 'Anchor' Line, which had the same livery, so William had a white band, about a foot thick and 9' long painted just below the bridge. 'Pearl' was about 180' long, and had a flat bottom, with no keel, so that it could be beached to unload cargoes like coal

or iron ore. It had one of these new fangled steam engines in an engine house at the stern, but still carried three masts, which could be rigged with sails. These boats visited the coastal towns of West Cumberland taking their cargoes to Ireland, Scotland, visiting the various Steel Works up and down the coast. The 'Pearl' will be on show at the Beacon, Whitehaven as another addition to the town's Maritime History. Information reference this fleet of cargo vessels was obtained by Donald Scarrot via the internet from Strathclyde University.

Florence Sibson

High Fell - the Cumbria landscape story

The Cumbria Wildlife Trust has supplied us with the following information about their own new history project, which we hope our members will support:

My name is Sarah Johnson; I am co-ordinating Cumbria Wildlife Trust's oral history project 'High Fell - the Cumbria landscape story.' This project is recording people's memories of the Cumbria High Fell landscape, wildlife and people's ways of life since WW2 to explore how these may have changed over the decades. The recordings of people's memories will be used to create audio podcasts to compliment a series of walks, an interactive website, as well as a countywide exhibition planned to launch April 2012. Currently the two main sides of the project are finding people to interview about their memories of the fell landscape and wildlife, and also finding sources of archive images, records or documents to research the stories that we collect.

I imagine your organisation has a wealth of knowledge about Cumbria and the people who live in it. I would like to ask if you know of anybody who would be good to record as part of the high fell project, or possibly who you have already interviewed yourself talking about the landscape, wildlife or past ways of life in the fells. I am looking to record the

Cumbria Local History Federation

memories of people from all walks of life who have lived, worked and spent significant amounts of time in the fells since World War Two. Due to the nature of the project we're looking for people at least 70 yrs old - i.e. people can remember back to WW2 or before.

I would also like to ask your advice about good sources of archive images, records or artefacts that would compliment the memories we collect, or if you have any that you would be willing to share. Perhaps you also have recommendations of locations or wildlife in the fells that you think would be good to illustrate the project?

A lot of the work of the High Fell project would be done by a team of volunteers, if you know of anybody who would be interested in getting involved, please do pass on my details.

I'd be very grateful for any advice. Thank you very much in advance,

Sarah Johnson
High Fell Project Officer
Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Plumgarths,
Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 8LX
Direct tel: 01539 816305

Sellafield Stories ***A report from our chairman***

On Thursday 14 July Sellafield Stories Oral History Project was launched at Egremont Market Hall in the presence of the great and the good – especially those who gave interviews! The exhibition, which will be available in different places over the next few months, not only has boards with pictures and quotations from the interviews, but also has the opportunity to see more photographs on dedicated screens, and listen to lots of audio tasters from the recordings on state of the art equipment!

It's worth remembering that although the money for the staff and equipment to create and store this Oral Archive came from BNFL's legacy funding, the interviewing has been carried out with neither outside influence, nor favour to any viewpoint. We endeavour to present as best we can, an open and honest picture of Sellafield in its social and historical

context, through peoples' own experiences, and in their own words. Given the number of employees over Windscale/Sellafield's lifetime, plus the neighbours, local residents and opponents over the years, it is obvious that our one hundred interviews are barely even the tip of the iceberg despite being one of the largest oral history projects undertaken. What has also emerged is the wealth of information about social and community change in West Cumbria over the last 60 years that sits alongside the more specifically Sellafield information, making up a fascinating resource in its own right.

As a historian with a passion for both social and oral history I deem it a great privilege to have been part of creating the archive, and I have to say it was extremely hard not to be distracted from that primary purpose. The temptation to pursue enticing strands of information or to follow captivating themes had to be resisted throughout, and it wasn't easy. I was heard muttering regretfully "I am here to make it available, I am not here to do the research" on many occasions. So far I am very pleased with the response to our launch – it was very positive – and while I am sure that many people will feel their particular area of interest has received less attention than it deserved I feel that for the former BNFL Chief Executive, current Sellafield employees, opponents, and just plain interested persons all to say they found it really interesting` - well, we must have got something right!

Look out for the exhibition (full or tailored to fit) at a venue near, or at least accessible to, you in the coming months. Sellafield Stories' full recordings will be available to hear in the Local Studies Library at Cumbria Archive & Local Studies Centre in Whitehaven, and the full transcriptions are here too, for people to read. Some material will be available via the website,

www.sellafieldstories.org.uk
by early August, but to have the great pleasure of listening to someone telling you their story in person you'll need to make a trip to Whitehaven. I look forward to seeing some of you!

Jenni Lister

Cumbria County Council's head of culture, Jim Grisenthwaite, and CLHF committee member Robert Baxter, at the Sellafield Stories launch



From the editor's study

With this issue of the CLHF Bulletin, the transition to a new format is more-or-less completed. New technology means not just the benefit of full-colour, but also the ability to use lighter paper, which in turn means that we can print more pages while still remaining within the magic 100 gram weight limit for a typical society mailing. However, there is more to come. Over the next few months we will be turning our attention to the Federation's website, and attempting to use it more effectively.

We are aware in particular that individuals within societies which are members of the Federation do not have as much access to this Bulletin as they ought, unless the society subscribes to numerous additional copies. Under the new printing system, the economic basis for these extra subscriptions has changed, so from the beginning of 2012, a version of the Bulletin will appear on the website at the same time as it is published on paper. To do this, we are creating a special Members Only section

within the website, accessible with a secret password, which will be changed every few months.

The intention is that member societies will inform their individual members of the password- but please, don't do that by putting our password on your society website! To test the concept, we have put online versions of some previous Bulletins into the new private area. We have also moved the directory of individual CLHF members out of the public webspace, but the future of this listing is one of the topics for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

The first password for the Members Only area of the website is fencible. We recommend Society representatives to try it for themselves, report back to me, David Bradbury, if it doesn't work, or pass it on to their individual members at the earliest opportunity. Any suggestions for other content which could be presented in the same way will be welcomed.

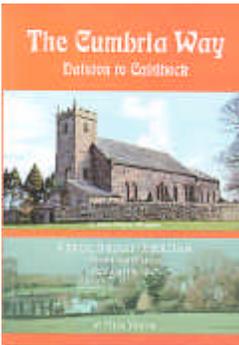
Book Reviews

The Cumbria Way, Dalston to Caldbeck: A Stroll Through Sebergham People and Places, Past and Present

by Peter Weston

Published by **Caldbeck & District Local
History Society, June 2011**

£8.00 ISBN 978 095260094 7



Caldbeck & District Local History Society is having a busy year (see pages 11-12). In the newest of their recent books, long-time local resident Peter Weston offers ramblers on the Cumbria Way long-distance footpath the chance to take a closer look at the section between

Dalston and Caldbeck, with a particular emphasis on the parish of Sebergham.

I use the word “ramblers” advisedly. This is a rambling book, in which the reader is led down many interesting byways of knowledge and lore. In addition to descriptive and historical information about the features encountered in the area, we are treated to many literary quota-

tions (including, of course, the words of William Wordsworth). There are also passages relating to the practicalities of rural life, and sub-headings within the chapters introduce, for example, short biographies of notable locals.

The book is in A5 paperback format, with just over 100 pages, and has numerous illustrations, most in black-and-white but some in colour.

The Making of Carlisle: From Romans to Railways

Edited by Mark Brennand & Keith J Stringer

Published by **Cumberland & Westmorland
Antiquarian & Archaeological Society
March 2011, £15, ISBN 978 187312450 5**

Carlisle is one of Britain's most historic cities, the site of a Roman fort and town, and much later one of the key junctions in our railway system. In this book, a wide variety of experts contribute essays on different topics from the city's long story.

The book brings together archaeological and textual sources to shed new light on, for example, Carlisle's development during the Middle Ages, a time of conflict but for this city also a time of opportunity.

This large-format paperback has just under 200 pages, heavily illustrated in colour and black & white.

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