

The CLHF Convention, 29 September 2012

LOCAL HISTORY AND TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

The day began with the AGM of the Federation, ably chaired by Jenni Lister. After the AGM business and coffee, Jenni read out a paper by Dr R W Brunskill written specially for this Convention on *Vernacular Architecture Studies and Local History, the story so far*. One of the prime movers of vernacular architectural studies in the UK, Dr Brunskill was too old and frail to attend in person but his paper set out a very useful overview of the literature of the subject [see page 3]. He began with H. S. Cooper's *Hawkshead* and Williams' article in the CWAAS Transactions of 1955 before discussing the influence of Professor Fred Kniffen in his 1936 study of North American folk houses. He then moved on to Susan Denyer's 1991 book *Traditional Buildings and Life in the Lake District* and Tim Whittaker's work *The Bank Barns of Cumbria*. He modestly omitted to mention his own seminal work in the area in publications including *Traditional Buildings of Britain* and *Vernacular Architecture: An Illustrated Handbook*.

This reading was followed by a slide presentation by Sarah Woodcock, the National Trust Curator in the Lake District, on *Traditional Buildings in Cumbria*. When looking at vernacular buildings she stressed the need to begin with their landscape and surroundings, before moving on to examine historical evidence such as that collected by The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), the body formerly responsible for documenting the records of English historical monuments, which merged with English Heritage on 1 April 1999. She then discussed plan forms, such as the common cross-passage arrangement of long houses in the area, and briefly also mentioned the Furniture History Society.



2012 saw the demolition of a sizeable collection of vernacular buildings off Albion Street in Whitehaven, which will be replaced by an office development

CLHF Convention *continued*

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Dr Rob David then gave a talk on *Documents and Traditional Buildings*. These documents include the Hearth Tax (1662-1689), which was collected twice yearly. Poorer houses were exempt so we need to be aware that lists such as *The Westmorland Hearth Tax* by Phillips, Ferguson and Wareham only list the wealthier houses. Names and hearths are listed, but not buildings, so cross-referencing with William Farrer's *Records of Kendal* could be helpful. Dr David recommended The Na-



St. Bridget, Beckermet

Dr Brunskill's paper: Recording Vernacular Buildings in Cumbria

I must apologise for providing a text rather than a presence but Higham Hall is too far away from Wilmslow, Cheshire for someone of my age and general infirmity.

I will be writing about vernacular architecture, the buildings of the ordinary people, included in everyday activities as distinct from the polite architecture of the buildings of the select few intended for the activities or special purposes where advanced designs of chosen aesthetical have been selected and can be afforded.

We are concerned primarily with fieldwork though set in the context of documentary records. We shall move from the observations of travellers in the past by way of developing techniques of recording plans, materials and construction and architectural details. We shall be concerned with regional recording principally of Cumbria, but set in the context of recording by various methods in distant locations.

Until some three or four hundred years ago our knowledge of vernacular buildings depended on the publications of such as West, 1779, & William Wordsworth in his "Guide for the Use of Tourists and Residents" originally of 1810, but with later editions.

Most regions of Great Britain have such publications, but Wales is rather different: Architects North and Hughes, who together published books on the minor houses and churches in Snowdonia, 1908 and 1924. These were to help them and other architects to design in sympathy with buildings providing their setting. However Iorwerth Peate, first curator of the Welsh Folk Museum, published in 1940 *THE WELSH HOUSE AS RELATED TO FOLK LIFE*.

Rather later came selective studies incorporating field work. Studies of villages and hamlets began to appear in the *TRANSACTIONS* of the CWAAS. H.S.Cooper published a survey

of Hawkshead in 1898. WN Williams published a more thorough study of "The Farm-houses of South West Cumberland.. a preliminary survey" in *TRANSACTIONS* of 1955, based on the village of Gosforth with measured drawings and details of domestic life. Williams was a pioneer in expanding the survey to introduce the use of clay construction and thatched roofing, supporting by A-frame crucks.

At the same time, there were discussions in this country and elsewhere of how to collect limited information about the external appearance of houses in large numbers. The most ambitious of these studies was guided by Prof. Fred Kniffen of Louisiana State University in USA. He employed graduates to drive up and down the endless roads of the state with a companion to tick off boxes about plans, timber frames and constructional materials generally. Some 80,000 field sheets were assembled. After having been turned down by fellow geographers, Kniffen was able to publish the results in a journal of 1936.

In this country, Royal Commissions were set up in 1908, in England, Scotland and Wales, to publish inventories of buildings of importance, erected up to 1715. The inventory for Westmoreland, was published in 1936. The process of "Listing" makes one wonder what records of buildings remain to be recorded. The Royal Commissions often collect more in quantity and sometimes more in quality. The Lists are of buildings of "Special Architectural or Historic Importance" and also include, information on scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Initially in 1930's and 1940's Architectural and Archaeological societies, assembled material, collected from their localities. They were mostly of "polite architecture." During World War Two as part of existing planning provisions, those buildings of vulnerable locations and those subject to early damage, were recorded and the recording could help in the repair or replacement.

After 1948, the 1944 Planning Act brought these provisions into the planning procedures. However, finance for recording was

limited and the lists were rather slowly updated. A re-survey was instituted, lasting from 1966 to 1992 and with more staff, backed-up with training courses etc. All buildings were inspected again and re-assessed. Cumbria added 148 Grade One and 8386 Grade Two and Grade Two * (star) to its total.

Altogether the lists expanded to some 350,000 but it might be more than that, to 500,000. No longer was 1715 the cut-off date, and in fact, some post-war buildings (such as the Royal Festival Hall of 1951) were added to the list. Some computerisation was undertaken but the authorities were adamant that listing was for statutory purposes and academic interest had to be limited.

Aware of the plentiful vernacular properties in the Lake District owned by the National Trust, it was decided to make a survey to add to knowledge of this holding and help in conservation of these rather elderly farmsteads. A vernacular survey team was set up by Susan Denyer, Historic Buildings Representative in the North West. The team operated from 1983 – 88 and was supported by the Manpower Services commission. Archival information was collected by Janet Martin.

The results of the survey were published by Susan Denyer entitled, *TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS AND LIFE IN THE LAKE DISTRICT* in 1991. The National Trust hoped this would be the first of a series of volumes, based on similar surveys, but so far, the current book, stands alone.

By comparison, an extensive survey of Vernacular Houses in Scotland was begun in 1973 under the auspices of the Scottish Countryside Commission and under the direction of Sir Frank Mears and partners. Some 23,500 examples were visited and recorded at a rate of 1:10 of houses seen. As well as the usual records, building elevations were included. All Scotland except for inaccessible islands, were included. Prof Cordingley's survey methods were used. The studies were presented as maps showing regional character for academic study, but more particularly, as a guide to architects working in Scotland.

Until recently studies of minor buildings in the countryside have been confined to houses, but it is now recognised that in a typical farmstead, there were more farm buildings than houses or cottages, making farm buildings worthy of study. I have prepared a recording system similar to that of Prof Cordingley and it has been used by Dr Eurwyn Wiliam in his study *TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS IN NORTH EAST WALES* (1982) and its sequel *THE HISTORICAL FARM BUILDINGS OF WALES* (1986).

There is one type of Barn which is well represented in Cumbria. The two-level Barn, now given the name Bank Barn, which I have imported from USA where they are plentiful. At the upper level is a threshing floor with storage bays at each side. At the lower level are stables and Cow-byres. The upper level is reached from the fields. The lower from the farmyard. The barn usually being sighted along a slope. Tim Whittaker has published the results of a survey of such buildings.

A book by C.F. Stell lists *CHAPELS AND MEETING HOUSES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND* (1994). About 75 are to be found in Cumberland and 32 in Westmoreland. Most have a vernacular domestic look.

CONCLUSION

For the study of Vernacular Architecture in the future a book has been written, edited by Sarah Pearson and Bob Meeson, *Vernacular Buildings in a Changing World*, published in 2001. It is based on the papers read at a conference held at Oxford in 1998. Contributors are especially concerned with currently developing technology – tree-ring dating for instance has revolutionised dating of constructional timbers. Computerised recording in the field, and storage and retrieval of records will no doubt develop soon.

RW BRUNSKILL

Author of TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS OF CUMBRIA (2002)

Editor's note:

Our thanks to Dr. Brunsell for allowing us to publish his Convention paper in the Bulletin.



Vernacular Buildings in Cumbria: the future

While many vernacular buildings in Cumbria have been described, illustrated and published, there has not been a systematic means of recording traditional structures in the county. Many areas of Britain have had dedicated recording groups for years, resulting in deposited records of thousands of buildings. Now, it seems like an appropriate time to form a group to record some of Cumbria's architectural heritage, for several reasons.

As in every region of the British Isles, Cumbria's old buildings are unique to its geology and customs. Perhaps Cumbria's buildings show more variety than most, and span a long period, from the defensive towers of medieval Border country to bank barns and water mills of the nineteenth century. In our villages and scattered farmsteads, plenty of discoveries remain to be recorded.

The last Convention of the Federation on the subject of Vernacular Architecture, raised a significant amount of interest and will be followed up by short courses in March and April, around the county. (See notice). All are wel-

come.

In 2015, the annual conference of the national Vernacular Architecture Group, (VAG), will be held in Cumbria, and a recording group would be a good basis for this event.

Moreover, the person who has done more than anyone else to promote the study and recording of vernacular buildings, especially in Cumbria, his "ancestral home", is Dr. R W Brunskill. Now elderly and in indifferent health, it would be a splendid tribute to him, to further the good work he encouraged.

Please contact me if you would like further information, or have an interest in researching and recording particular buildings.

*June Hall, CLHF
junelennahall@hotmail.com*

RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS IN CUMBRIA

Short Courses led by JUNE L. HALL MA
(Cumbria Woman of the Year, 2012)

Courses will be held as follows -

Swarthmoor Hall

Tuesdays, 12, 19, 26 March and 2 April.

Hesket Newmarket, Free Church room,

Weds, 13, 20, March & 3, 10 April

Newbiggin (Stainton) Village Hall,

Thurs, 14, 21 March & 4, 11 April.

All sessions 2pm - 4pm

Week 1 : What is Vernacular Architecture?
Why record examples? What to record?

Week 2 : How to record a building.

Elevations, plans, descriptions.

Week 3 : Interpreting the evidence.

Documentary sources.

Week 4 : Practical session, recording a building.

All welcome. No experience needed.

Fees: £5.00 per session, or £18 for all four.

For application - Tel 01768 480286 or
Email junelennahall@hotmail.com

The Carlisle Railway History Conference 2013

**Put the date in your diary now.
Weekending 11, 12, 13 October 2013.**

Friday afternoon we hope to offer the chance to visit either Tullie House or the Archives Centre. In the evening visits to the Carlisle & District O Gauge Group or Border Railway Society clubrooms or just an informal gathering for a natter.

Saturday is the formal event to be held in the Cumbria Ballroom, Hallmark Hotel adjacent to the railway station. The provisional programme is planned to include: -

Developments getting us here – Eric Martlew
The First Railway into Carlisle – Bill Fawcett
Citadel Station – Peter W Robinson
Scottish Companies into Carlisle – tbc
The arrival of the Midland – David Joy
The Railway Races to Scotland – Allan MacLean

A range of displays from societies and possibly model layouts.

In the evening will be a formal dinner with Chris Green as the guest speaker.

Sunday will offer a guided tour of Carlisle station or visit to the Power signal box and possibly visits to the model railway clubrooms if requested.

Cost for Saturday daytime is expected to be around £25 maximum to include refreshments and buffet lunch. Evening meal £26.00.

A full colour A4 souvenir programme will be included.

Numbers will be limited.

Expressions of interest to: Philip T Tuer.
01228-522118. Philip.tuer@virgin.net

The Wordsworth Trust

now has a new Arts Council funded Community Outreach Officer, Stephen Miller, from whom we will hear more in future Bulletins.

THE KESWICK HISTORY GROUP'S ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

In July, the Keswick History Group (KHG) handed over its archival collection to the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery (KMAG). It was the end of an era which began in 2001 when the former Keswick Historical Society (KHS) decided to accept and look after the photographic and other records which had been recovered from the home of Joe Brownrigg (1921-2001). Joe was a popular and well respected local man. He and his wife were loyal and dedicated workers for Crosthwaite Church and accomplished bell ringers who successfully promoted the art in and around Keswick; Joe was an excellent and imaginative photographer who understood the historical importance of photographic records and whose numerous slide shows with old local photographs were always well attended and enjoyed.

In 2001, responsibility for an important local collection was a completely new venture for the KHS, but our guiding principle was that it should be stored safely and should be made available locally, in one form or another, to anyone who was interested. The Keswick Museum and Art Gallery (KMAG) seemed to be the obvious place to approach for assistance with storage, but at the time was facing threats of closure. Fortunately, through the efforts of the newly formed Friends of Keswick Museum and a group of museum supporters who became known as The Steering Group, Allerdale Borough Council decided to back a plan to secure the future of the museum through a bid for Heritage Lottery funding. Thus in 2005, we were able to have the lease of a room in the museum and Joe Brownrigg's collection was transferred from a member's attic to the museum.

In the meantime, George Bott, the Society's President and long term source of inspiration and knowledge, had died leaving an immense collection of research papers and

Continues on Page 11

EVENTS DIARY

Area indicators: North  South  East  West  Central 

Meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated

FEBRUARY 2013

	6	Friends of Keswick Museum Inside a Lakeland Farmhouse – Andrew Lowe	Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick 017687 73801
	6	Sedbergh & District HS Schools, children and work – Dr Elizabeth Roberts	Settlebeck High School 015396 22505
	11	Cartmel Fell & District LHS Pubs and Breweries of Cumbria – Bill Myers	Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm 015395 68389
	12	Appleby Archaeology Group The Silverdale and Furness Viking hoards and other finds from Lancashire and Cumbria – Dot Boughton (Lancs and Cumbria PAS)	Public Hall, Appleby 01228 558794
	12	Staveley and District HS Between a rock and a hard place – road improvements in Westmorland from 1815 – Jean Turnbull	Staveley School 01539 822229
	12	North Lonsdale HS Ice Houses and the international Trade in Ice – Rob David	Ulverston Methodist Church 01229 869229
	18	Holme and District LHS AGM followed by Local Surgeons in the 19th Century – Bryan Rhodes FRCS	Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall 01524 782198
	18	Upper Eden HS Chapmen, Pedlars and Hawkers in Cumbria C17-C19 – Barry McKay	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School 017683 41007
	20	Lazonby and District LHS Reminiscences of many years spent in photographing people and events in the Eden Valley – Fred Wilson	Lazonby Village Hall 01786 898046
	20	Sedbergh & District HS Killington through the ages.....houses, harpies and hedgerows – Maureen Lamb	Settlebeck High School 015396 22505
	25	Shap LHS Heritage of the Hills – Judy Dunford	Memorial Hall 01931 716244
	26	Duddon Valley LHG A History of Coniston Foxhounds – Neil Salisbury	Broughton Victory Hall 01229 861511

MARCH 2013

	4	Kendal H&AS Cumbrians and the Arctic – Rob David	Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal 01539 722439
	5	Bampton and District LHS From Blacksmith to Bypass – Jean Turnbull	Memorial Hall, Bampton 01931 713645

MARCH 2013 ctd.

	6	Friends of Keswick Museum Writing "The river Greta" – Keith Richardson	Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick 017687 73801
	6	Sedbergh & District HS The diaries of Thomas Fenwick(nee Wilson) – Jennifer Holt	Settlebeck High School 015396 22505
	11	Cartmel Fell & District LHS The underground world of Coniston Copper Mine - Cumbria Amenities Trust Mining Committee	Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm 015395 68389
	12	Appleby Archaeology Group Prehistoric features on Fylingdales Moor, North Yorkshire: Moorland surveys and parallels with Cumbria – Blaise Viner (Blaise Viner Consultancy)	Public Hall, Appleby 01228 558794
	12	Staveley and District HS Treasures of Kendal – Trevor Hughes	Staveley School 01539 822229
	12	North Lonsdale HS Stone Circles and the Appearance of Farming – Tom Clare	Ulverston Methodist Church 01229 869229
	16	Cumbria Libraries & Archives THE 2013 LOCAL HISTORY DAY	Moorclose Centre, Workington WATCH PRESS FOR DETAILS
	18	Holme and District LHS The Holme Archive – Geoff Pegg	Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall 01524 782198
	18	Upper Eden HS Lammerside – Erik Matthews	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School 017683 41007
	20	Lazonby and District LHS The History of Mardale – Jean Scott Smith	Lazonby Village Hall 01786 898046
	20	Caldbeck & District LHS The Picts – Sheena Gemmel	Millhouse Village Hall 016974 78270
	20	Sedbergh & District HS The Cattledroving Birthwhistles of Craven and Galloway – Dr Tony Stephens	Settlebeck High School 015396 22505
	23	Sedbergh & District HS AGM	Settlebeck High School 015396 22505
	25	Shap LHS Milestones and Toll Roads of Cumbria – Colin Smith	Memorial Hall 01931 716244
	26	Duddon Valley LHG Duddon Valley – Walter Johnson	Broughton Victory Hall 01229 861511

APRIL 2013

	2	Bampton and District LHS History of Gregg's Bakery – Ian Gregg	Memorial Hall, Bampton 01931 713645
	7	Cartmel Fell & District LHS The Yellow Earl (Lonsdale) – Bob Matthews	Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm 015395 68389
	8	Kendal H&AS AGM Bells and Bell Ringing – Ron East	Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal 01539 722439

APRIL 2013 ctd.

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| | 9 | Appleby Archaeology Group
The archaeology of the Carlisle Northern Distributor Road: Evidence for some of the earliest Cumbrians - Fraser Brown (Oxford Arch. North) | Public Hall, Appleby
01228 558794 |
| | 9 | Staveley and District HS
AGM and Members' Evening | Staveley School
01539 822229 |
| | 9 | North Lonsdale HS
The Industries of Barrow in Furness – Bill Myers | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 869229 |
| | 15 | Holme and District LHS
Boundaries in the North West Landscape – Professor Ian Whyte | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |
| | 15 | Upper Eden HS
AGM and: Mardale – a lost Lakeland Community – Jean Scott-Smith | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
| | 17 | Caldbeck & District LHS
Cumbrian Place Names – Jean Scott-Smith | Caldbeck Parish Hall
016974 78270 |
| | 20 | Cumbria Industrial HS
Annual Spring Conference, theme :Bridges – various speakers | Shap Wells Hotel. CA10 3QU
01524 762312 |
| | 22 | Shap LHS
Short Annual General meeting followed by Bank Barns, Boskins and Bee-boles – Andy Lowe | Memorial Hall
01931 716244 |
| | 26 | Duddon Valley LHG
Lewis Casson, a Son of the Valley – Dr Diana Devlin | Seathwaite Parish Rooms
01229 861511 |

MAY 2013

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| | 12 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS
Visit to Lowther Castle/Isel Hall | meeting point tba
015395 68389 |
| | 14 | North Lonsdale HS
Three Ulverston Stations and....? – David Fellows & Jennifer Snell, + AGM | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 869229 |
| | 15 | Caldbeck & District LHS
Lord Carlisle's Railway & its associated Railways – Graham Brooks | Caldbeck Parish Hall
016974 78270 |
| | 20 | Shap LHS
The Viponds (de Veteriponts) a great Border family – Alastair Robertson | Memorial Hall
01931 716244 |

Events Diary Entries

Dont forget that we now have a new Membership Secretary, to whom all entries for the Events Diary should be submitted:

Sally Newton

Email: sally@raynewton.plus.com

Tel: 017687 72297

Duddon History Group

We've had a quiet year this year, mostly bracken cutting various sites and completing detailed surveys of some longhouses. Our Longhouse project can now be finished so there may be an update next year [2013].

Sue Lydon

www.clhf.org.uk



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Let me begin this Chairman's Chat with an apology for the delayed appearance of this edition of the Bulletin. Changes in the committee, health problems and family bereavements have all taken their toll – however we're back and can introduce you to our new Treasurer, and to our new Membership Secretary who will also be co-ordinating the Events Diary (and thus following in Val Halsall's footsteps). We are fortunate to have Ray and Sally Newton forming a Dream Team so subs and forthcoming events to them please, contact details in this Bulletin. Those of you who made it to the Convention (thoroughly enjoyable – read the account and kick yourselves if you weren't there!) will know that we bade farewell to Val Halsall from the committee after many years' service. We presented her with our heartiest thanks and a bottle of champagne to console her for no longer having to chase up all those laggardly subscriptions.

This Chairman's bit often has a seasonal flavour, so having missed the Yuletide wishes I was pondering spring and its customs, thinking that some weather lore appears to be spot on as I cuddled the Aga making marmalade today and watched the wind whisking snowflakes past the window – Candlemas Day **was** fair and bright, and winter's back again, for

now. Local weather sayings and local customs are fascinating – has any society ever researched them in their part of Cumbria? It would be interesting to know what still survives (or has been revived!) around the county. I hope to be inundated with emails recounting a wealth of fascinating or fabricated lore – we'll print a selection if we have enough. Meanwhile Happy Late Winter wishes from us all.

Jenni Lister, Chairman, CLHF

EDITOR'S NOTE

I must add one more reason to the explanation given by the Chairman for the late appearance of this Bulletin. You will notice that it contains a few very random photographs. These have been inserted because, as also happened in issue 59, the number of articles received from members fell far short of what I deemed appropriate to make an interesting, varied Bulletin.

I do not want to have to resort to "fillers" (or even long personal articles like the Archaeology Conference one) in future Bulletins. If members feel that the purpose of this Bulletin is not the sharing of information and ideas generated at county level (as magazines like "Local Historian" do at national level), we will need to discuss the matter at the next AGM.

KESWICK LHG ctd.

documents. Everyone agreed that this too should be transferred to the care of the KHS and the room at the museum was rapidly filled with the George Bott archival collection.

Having got this far, the Society needed money and equipment for archival storage and professional help on what and how to store it. Initially the professional help came from members of staff at the Carlisle Record Office who gave us advice and encouragement and said we could do it. And so we set off. We were fortunate in having on the spot guidance and support from the museum staff and it gradually became apparent that between us we were more able to find answers to some of the questions posed by local researchers.

The money came partly from the Society but also from two substantial grants from the County Council's Neighbourhood Forum. Thus we gained archival storage boxes, envelopes and photographic equipment and the loan of office furniture and a computer from Allerdale Borough Council.

"The Archive Group", as we came to be known, comprised a collection of complete amateurs – dedicated and enthusiastic, but with no previous experience of setting up an archive. So we learned as we went along – sometimes creating more work for ourselves than was necessary – but gradually finding a way of coping with masses of material. One early memorable experience was when we took over the museum's art gallery during the winter closure and in the cold made our first attempt at indexing. All of George Bott's material was "re-shuffled" into broad subject order in piles on the floor. By the end of the week, we had some 40 box files brimming full of booklets and papers, but each relating to a specific subject and labelled. Gradually the index became more detailed and easier to develop.

An early decision was to establish the geographical extent of the Keswick archive. This is roughly CA12, or the five valleys linked with Keswick, together with the Buttermere to Lorton area. But a lot of George Bott's material related to other areas of the County and there

were a lot of national reports and policy documents which had no specific relevance to Keswick and could probably be found elsewhere. So a lot has gone to organisations like the Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England, Friends of the Lake District, County Archives, out of our area local history societies, libraries and museums to fill gaps in their records. As we became familiar with his records, we realised the value of George's contribution to research in a variety of areas of study, and in order not to lose the image of this important Keswick character, we have listed everything that was given away to other organisations.

George was not without his irritating side! He understood the value of press reports as contemporary records and kept probably thousands of newspaper cuttings covering important local events, but although those 8.3 Keswick) and from a literary perspective they are at least a valuable collection of Lake District writing. George, of course, was a long term member and president of the Cumbria Literary Group. We have now sorted this material into geographical sections, keeping and filing that which is relevant to our area, sending the out-of-area papers to the appropriate area and donating anything which seems to be literature rather than history to the CLG.

While we have spent most time on George Bott's material, we have also attended to the records we have had from other donors, principally Joe Brownrigg, Lindsay Temple and Ken Bond. In 2010, two members offered to tackle Joe Brownrigg's photographic collection. This consists of 100s of prints and probably 1000s of slides. Again, we have sent out-of-area prints and slides to other organisations, but the local prints have now been listed, scanned and catalogued, using the equipment bought with the Neighbourhood Forum grant, and these are now combined into the museum's collection. Work on the slides will continue during the museum's closure.

Lindsay Temple was another local man who was passionately involved in keeping alive and promoting theatre in Keswick from the

1960s to the early 1990s during times of constant crises and alternating hopes and fears for the creation of a permanent theatre. He was intimately involved in the Century Theatre's summer season productions, for a time was chairman of the Century Theatre Board, and singlehandedly organised a range of out-of-season entertainments by visiting theatre and ballet companies. After his death, an almost complete collection of play bills and programmes of Century Theatre's productions in Keswick, together with Lindsay's correspondence, contracts and financial records during this period were found. These are now listed and stored in the archive.

Ken Bond was known as the Keswick Weatherman. He kept the weather records from 1976 until his death in 2007, but the archive includes records which have been kept locally since the mid nineteenth century. Unfortunately, Ken's detailed statistical material has flummoxed those of us who have tried to get a grip of the data and organise it into a helpful form, and this remains to be tackled, hopefully by a statistically minded weather enthusiast.

The aim of the KHS and since 2009, of the Keswick History Group has been to put the records of these important Keswick characters into a form where they can be easily accessed by local researchers with either personal or professional interests. We have greatly appreciated our link with the KMAG, not only in having a room to work in, but also the help and interest from the Board and the staff. The transfer of the archive to the ownership of the KMAG has been achieved, I think, to the satisfaction of both parties, and it will be possible gradually to merge our respective records and thus extend both the range and the availability of material for researchers.

Dorothy Hind

PS: If there is a researcher who would like a photocopied version of the Lonsdale Magazine for their personal use, please get in touch. (George Bott did the photocopying). Phone Dorothy Hind on 01768772771.

The Lake District Archaeology Conference 21 October 2012

As usual, the National Park Authority's autumn conference was held at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake, which was almost full for a varied line-up of expert presentations.

VIVIENNE REES, a senior member of the National Park Authority, welcomed delegates and began by emphasising the importance of partnerships to conservation in the Lake District. She then went on outline some developments during the past year. Although the National Park budget is shrinking, positive action continues to be taken in numerous areas. Conservation work planning has focused on Listed structures deemed to be "at risk". Conservation Areas have been reviewed, and a brand new one created in the village of Windermere. Work programmes are ongoing in the Ravenglass and Broughton Conservation Areas. The Volunteer Service has been reorganised, to link volunteers more closely with particular specialist services. Perhaps the most notable piece of bad news was that the technical evaluation for the Lake District's World Heritage Site status, which had been submitted in April, was rejected, with specific changes requested,

ELEANOR KINGSTON, of the National Park Authority, reported that redevelopment at Backbarrow Iron Works should begin soon, but currently more archaeological work is being done. Over a 2-year period, volunteers conducted a survey of all 275 Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the National Park. 79 were found to be "at risk"- particularly from bracken infestation and other plant growth. Such problems are being tackled by volunteer clearance, and ameliorated in the long term by agri-environmental schemes. The National Park Authority now has four strimmers, bought with grant funding, plus a number of volunteers trained to use them. By autumn 2012, the number of S.A.M's "at risk" had been reduced to 67.

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Increasing use is being made of Environmental Stewardship Schemes, including, in the past year, at two mining sites in the Caldbeck Fells. Potentially, £300,000 is available for Coniston Copper Mines and Penny Rigg Mill. Following on from last year's work around Ravenglass Roman Fort (geophysical survey data from which showed a "vicus" community north of the fort, and suggested that the famous bath-house was part of a "mansio" for travellers), community-based fieldwork is proposed to start in 2013. The Windermere Reflections partnership, which aims to improve the environmental quality of the lake and its water catchment area, includes an archaeological component.

JAMIE LUND of the National Trust discussed one aspect of Windermere Reflections (which, although led by the Environment Agency, has received almost £1,000,000 of Heritage Lottery funding). A four-week project surveyed five apparent fulling mill sites near Grasmere, using over 50 volunteers with professional support from the National Park, the National Trust, and Oxford Archaeology North. A mix of traditional and modern techniques was used, including the building of 3-D terrain models from low level aerial photographs- some images taken from a mini-helicopter, some from the top of a very long pole. The project's first job, of course, had been to get rid of the bracken. Documentary and historical sources were checked at local libraries and the Archive Office in Kendal.

At Sourmilk Gill, a mill-race, divert channel, wheel pit, launder platform, possible washing pits, etc. have been found; however the evidence suggests open-air fulling, or at most a basic timber shelter (the tenter field has not been identified). There is also, in the Gill, what may be a made ford or even a bridge footing. Documents imply that this mill could originally have served both Grasmere and Langdale.

At Loughrigg Terrace, a stone dam, headrace and divert channel were all identified, but the location of the wheel and fulling stocks can only be inferred (a rectangular depression was found, which may be an infilled wheel pit). Also found was a raised platform with a ramp.

Documents suggest a date of around 1500 for this site.

At Stickle Gill there is a rectangular ruin, which may be the remains of the mill (an infilled hole in the wall can be seen, probably where the wheel axle passed through). Unfortunately, visitor erosion has made it difficult to identify the water source for the headrace, although, as at the previous two sites, the head of the divert channel has been identified. Documents suggest this may have been the first mill to break the monopoly of the original Grasmere manorial fulling mill.

PS: Jamie was able to find potash kiln sites in the area, as recorded years ago by the late Mike Davies-Shiel; CWAAS hopes soon to publish Mike's work.

JOHN HODGSON of the National Park Authority reported on the Graythwaite woodland survey, west of Windermere. He began with charcoal manufacture, showing images of the process as still practised, both from Lakeland and Romania, plus earlier drawings by A. Heaton Cooper and others. He explained the place of charcoal within the local economy, and the role of industries utilising other woodland products such as tanning, basket-making and potash manufacture- noting that up to the First World War, Ordnance Survey maps show an increase in woodland area locally.

The survey itself was conducted by volunteers, with training and supervision from National Park and Oxford Archaeology North staff. Seven areas within the Graythwaite Estate, totalling 314 hectares, were examined, and 456 sites, including hundreds of charcoal burning platforms, were found. Some of these were significant constructions, with revetments up to a metre high. John reported that the project, which took four weeks, "was really good fun to do as well".

FRASER BROWN of Oxford Archaeology North reported on finds along a pipeline route. Some of the sites are "sensitive" so location details were not given. Little was expected from this watching brief, as the pipeline was being laid in the valley bottom,

not the traditionally site-rich uplands. Although surface study had identified many clearance cairns, these were not ancient. In some areas where finds seemed likely, the stripping of the topsoil was carried out to full archaeological standards; elsewhere it was merely subject to observation.

The opportunity was taken to study in detail a known bloomery site along the route; however, the discovery of an early medieval (possibly 10th-century) settlement a couple of kilometres further down the valley was a surprise, which will be investigated further. Other finds included various of the enigmatic, probably Neolithic, "burnt mounds". An excavation into alluvial deposits alongside a beck was undertaken, with the intention of forming a timeline of changing conditions in the area. Finally, the survey team were tantalised by a mound beside the river, some distance from the pipeline route, which looks as if it ought to be natural, but is wrongly oriented for a glacial drumlin.

PETER STYLE, of the University of Central Lancashire, reported progress in the study of local rock art and prehistoric manufacturing, including a 2010 field survey in the vale of Rydal . He raised the puzzle of why some stone-axe quarries, famously sited near the summits of local fells (field study has recently identified possible prehistoric shelters high on Scafell Pike), actually produced stone of worse quality than lower, more accessible sites. He also showed how the distribution of the widely-exported Langdale-type (Group VI) axes shows a preference at the time for settlement in areas with light soils, such as the coastal plain and the Eden valley. Returning to Rydale, he explained that it had formerly been a hunting area, walled round in 1277 by Sir Roger de Lancaster, then showed pictures of a dyke running down from Buckstones Crag, possibly an "ettrick" designed to funnel deer down to the valley. Some 160 cairn-type features have been identified in upper Rydale, and both Rydale and neighbouring Scandale have enclosures associated with ring cairns. It seems likely that the area was occupied seasonally from the early Bronze Age.

Carved marks in stones have been studied by night photography, to ensure total control of

lighting. Cup and ring markings are particularly associated with areas overlooking lake heads, but they have been found more generally in association with sites of Neolithic activity. Peter described another enigmatic class of monument, identified only about 10 years ago: "boulder-cairns" consisting of a large boulder with a partial ring of stones abutting one side, like a capital D. These tend to be found in glacial moraine areas, at heights of around 500 to 550 metres, usually with the enclosure on the uphill side of the boulder. They are sometimes associated with ring cairns (which can also be found on hillsides, simply tilted with the slope rather than built on platforms or terraces). Finally, natural hummocks can sometimes be seen topped with "embanked circles".

STEVE THOMPSON of Wessex Archaeology reported on the filming of what seems to be one of the last ever episodes of *Time Team*, prefacing his presentation with the hint that Wessex Archaeology's reports for almost every episode of the series are available via their website. The visit to Coniston coppermines, screened on 3 February 2013, was, he reported "the first time Time Team used their Land Rovers for what they were meant to be used for". Viewers will observe that it rained quite a lot. The main aim was to find evidence of the 16th-century development of the mines, concentrating on Simon's Nick and the Low Works by Red Dell Beck. To save the fun for those of you who haven't seen the episode, all I'll report is that some in the Conference made a few pointed comments.

THE BEACON

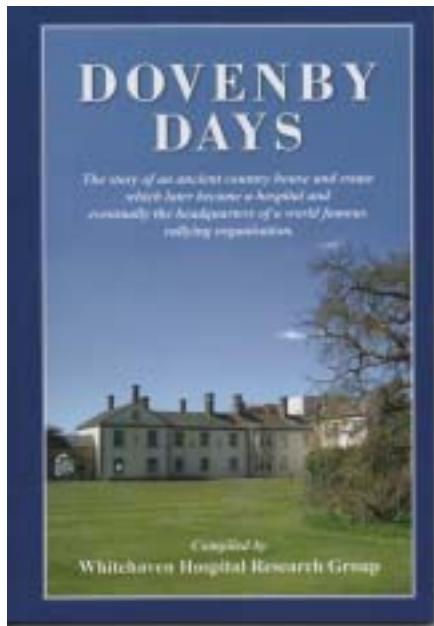
Copeland Council proposed closing Whitehaven's Beacon museum in 2014, *Florence Sibson* from the Friends of Whitehaven Museum reports the latest development: "Pat Graham an administrator for Copeland Borough Council announced to The Friends that negotiations are nearly finalised ref., sharing The Beacon with Sellafield. In other words from now on we shall include 'The Sellafield Story' in our Museum referring to the whole Borough of Copeland."



The coast north of Whitehaven has changed greatly since these photos were taken in 2009.



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It should be on sale soon at St Mary's hospice for just £5.00 or if it's easier you could e-mail me,

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