

Season's Greetings from the Chairman

Well I've said it before, but I'll still say it again: those of you who missed the Convention certainly missed a treat. There's more about the various sessions elsewhere in this Bulletin but I thought I'd wax lyrical about the venue – easily accessible from the M6 and A66, good parking, and really lovely facilities – Newbiggin's new Village Hall did us proud. And the buffet was delicious too. So next time – why not join us and see (and taste!) for yourself?

We had our AGM at the start of the Convention, and as we feared, there were no nominations for Bulletin Editor – not even a squeak. Since this is the last edition that David, our current editor, will prepare we are faced with rather a problem. We have a nice lady who has volunteered to collect and collate items and information but no-one to put the thing together! If we have no response to this last appeal then the next issue may contain a reasonable amount of stuff – but may also look very different from the splendid issues David has produced. And if you have secret aspirations to editorial greatness but are not confident about the technical side – have no fear! Just get in touch and we can provide help and support.



You may think this last point is unnecessary, but it's something that concerns me rather a lot. You, the person reading this, do you make sure as many of your members as possible see the Bulletin? Do you read out the tasty bits? And the notices? I've heard some horror stories about the person who gets the Bulletin and just hands it over to their chairman, or secretary, and it's never seen again. Please remember your Society's CLHF membership includes all your members and who knows but the next Editor may be in the wings just waiting to know that we need them! Spread the word! And spread these words too from the committee and me: we all wish you a very Happy 2014!

Jenni Lister

First World War memorial: school project

Mrs Claire Hensman, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Cumbria has announced the launch of a Resource Pack aimed at providing subject teachers in Primary Schools with 'research hints' and a range of other materials which can be used at different interest levels to remember the First World War during 2014.

Participating schools will be encouraged to seek out and research their local War Memorial—and perhaps try to find out more about the men and women named there. Do any of the children have grand-parents whose grand-fathers did not come back from the war - or who can share the memories their grandparents told them?

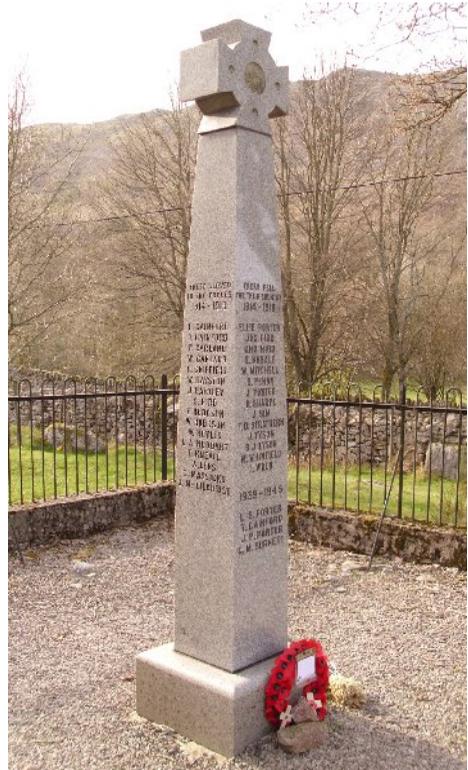
The pack will provide ideas and guidance, with links to websites and other sources. There will be a list of people who could be invited to school to share their knowledge, and answer questions. There will be opportunities for visits to Archive Centres and Libraries to find out more about the background to the war, and how it affected your local area. The local churches, in whose grounds so many of the memorials are to be found, will be encouraged to help too. But above all, we want the children to find out for themselves about the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the war which began one hundred years ago.

The project is sponsored by CWAAS and the Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT). Outputs, in the form of posters, displays, oral records and photos, will be posted to the CCHT website, alongside the township histories which are being written as part of the Victoria County History of Cumbria project.

The Resource Packs are now available from http://cumbriapast.com/ms/pdf/1384273045_memorial_resources_pack_final_version.pdf and further details can be found at http://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/ms/main.pl?action=news&rec_id=463

Since the project was launched, there have been concerns that some schools are taking a "short cut" approach and simply asking local resource providers (notably the Border Regiment Museum) to provide them with biographical information about the people named on their local war memorials.

Given that this project has been started precisely because there is a severe lack of collated biographical information about most people who served in the forces a century ago, there is a fairly urgent need to help hard-pressed teachers without placing a huge burden on equally hard-pressed museum curators etc. It would therefore probably be a good idea for local history societies around the county to contact their community schools to offer help.



Eskdale's war memorial

Hesket and the First World War

Hesket Local History Group in conjunction with the Cumbria Branch of the Western Front Association is holding, in September, a day of exploration in to Cumbria's contribution to the Great War. There will be 4 speakers which will be advertised later in the year but we hope also to display articles which have been researched by members of local history groups. The articles may be of places, industries, social or any other activity which is relevant to Cumbria during the First World War.

If you are interested in contributing an article which will add interest and another dimension to our day of exploration please contact rjp.penrem@gmail.com or 016974 75923. Thank you.

Richard Preston
Chairman Hesket Local History Group

Cumbria Family History Society

Cumbria Family History Society is holding a Family History Fair (Country Cousins Fair) at the South Lakeland Leisure Centre, Burton Road, Kendal, Cumbria on Saturday 30th August 2014. We will be having stall for both family and local history societies, plus commercial family history companies, we hope to get a good mix of exhibitors to attract visitors who are interested in family or local history or both.

New CDs (£8.70 each, post paid):

Burton in Kendal Parish Registers 1837 – 1950;

Monumental Inscriptions of the churches of Asby, Orton and Tebay

Contact: Miss D Spencer, 2 Burton Park, Burton in Kendal, Carnforth, Lancs. LA6 1JB.
Tel: 01524 781540,
email: dspencer263@btinternet.com

Short courses

INTRODUCTION TO RECORDING VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

Tutor, JUNE HALL (Chairman, Cumbria Vernacular Buildings group)

Sessions will cover –

1. What is vernacular building? Cumbrian examples through the ages.
2. Why record buildings, and what to record.
3. The history of buildings and documentary evidence.
4. How to make a record of a building.

BRAMPTON Moot Hall
Wednesdays, 5 & 12 February, 2.00 – 4.00pm

WHITEHAVEN Library
Thursdays, 6 & 13 February, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Must be booked. £6.00 per session, or £20 for all four sessions.

Enquiries and bookings:

E mail – junelennahall@hotmail.com
Tel. 07547 081631

The Beacon, Whitehaven

It's been 5 months since The Beacon's Laura Tonks left the UK to take up the trip of a lifetime in the Peruvian jungle. Laura was granted a sabbatical by Copeland to take up an artist's residency, and will return to The Beacon in February – no doubt full of ideas and inspiration to share with the many children she works with as part of her Learning Officer role.

As well as being a full-time Learning Officer at Copeland's museum, Laura, who hails from Shropshire, is also a very talented artist. If you have visited The Beacon's Ice Age exhibition and admired the beautiful mountain range backdrop that she created, you will understand. Her trip to Peru will see her honing her artistic skills and having an amazing and surreal adventure.

Although she only has limited access to the internet (she doesn't even have a kettle!) Laura has been doing her best to send updates back home to share her experiences. To keep up to date with Laura's adventure, The Beacon have created a dedicated page on their website
www.thebeacon-whitehaven.co.uk/latest-news/lauras-adventures-in-peru.html

She can also be found on the website of the hosting Sachaqa eco art centre in Peru:
www.sachaqacentrodearte.com/artists.html

Kirkoswald and Renwick Local History Group

We write to share our problems with other members in the Federation. We live from month to month a precarious existence. We need a more youthful secretary to carry the group on into the future. We have a good core of about 12 really interested people and our audiences sometimes reach 30 in number.

We have had some outstandingly good meetings: a trip to Long Meg with Paul Frodsham of North Pennines AONB; a beautifully illustrated talk by Bob Price on the Acorn Bank flour mill (highly recommended); a lovely reminiscent talk by our own Hardy Greenop on the old days in Renwick. Part of our wobbly existence is due to a reluctance to charge more than a pound a head for entrance to meetings; this is compounded by the expense of outside speakers, who now commonly ask for £40 or £50. The result is that our financial state is borderline.

Another factor is the lack of a good meeting place in Kirkoswald: there are meeting rooms but they are either too big or too expensive. We eye the community centre in Gamblesby with envy and wish that we had something like that. We meet as a rule in the school room of the chapel at Renwick, a friendly place with a bit of an echo. We have some active and scholarly members who have done some good work in researching our local area, with ongoing work on the local war

memorials and on the Victoria County History. We hope to continue into the New Year with a promised re-visit from Paul Frodsham and an outing to nearby Newbiggin Hall. We hope that we shall still be here in a year's time to write a more buoyant and positive report.

Bill Roberts, Secretary

Caldbeck LHS

Copies of the popular *Memories of Lakeland*, published by the Caldbeck and District Local History Society in 2008, are still available at £8.99 (includes postage). Please send a cheque made out to the Society to
The Treasurer, The Croft, Caldbeck, Wigton
CA7 8EU

Duddon Valley Local History Group

The Group has just published a second report on its surveys of the Duddon Valley. Following on from the successful R2R publication, which detailed finding over 3000 items of interest to be included in the Historic and Environmental Record, 'Longhouses in the Duddon Valley' reports on the survey of 37 structures noted in the earlier survey, which had the potential for being Norse Longhouses.

Initial fieldwork involving Level 1 surveys of the sites allowed for decisions to be made about which ones were most suitable for further examination, with 16 being selected. Level 2 techniques were then employed using tape and offset methods, mapping grade GPS surveys of surrounding areas and aerial photography using a model aircraft of most of the chosen sites. In addition intensive archive searches were made for any historical documents concerning the origins of the sites.

From the work undertaken it appears that most, if not all of the structures date from the mid-late medieval period, and were probably abandoned by the mid- 19th century. Three well-preserved structures conform to the two-

cell longhouse design. Two single celled structures in good condition may have been occupied shielings while others are grouped together in small settlements. Most of the sites are surrounded by traces of early agricultural activity with evidence of low walls and clearance cairns, suggesting the occupants were primarily pastoralists.

The report concludes with recommendations to preserve the buildings and proposals for excavations to shed further light on the ways of life of medieval upland farmers.

The report of 131 pages of A4 size, printed on high quality paper is a limited publication of 100 copies. It contains 48 photographs, 32 GPS site plans as well as comparative charts. It explains how protocols for the surveys were established and teams appointed. As well as adding to the history of the area, this publication will be of value to those groups considering undertaking archaeological surveys in their localities.

Copies of 'Longhouses in the Duddon Valley' may be obtained at £20 plus £2.60 p&p from: Ken Day, Chairman Duddon Valley Local History Group, Jaywood House, Sandgap, Foxfield, Broughton-in-Furness, LA20 6BX email ken_jeanday@yahoo.com.

Mr Garden the Builder!

In our studies of interesting buildings both old and new we often see the name of the architect celebrated either for the unique design, style or vision he has overseen. It could be argued that there are often so many other skilled people involved in the final product that it makes sense to celebrate the "creator". However here in Low Furness we have James Garden, a builder who deserves celebrating. Walter Johnston, our local historian has just done that and has spent twelve years putting this research into what he claims is his last new lecture on facets of Cumbria and especially Furness.

James Garden came down from Scotland, married a Lancashire girl and settled down in

Dalton working for Barrow's major builder William Gradwell at the time that the area was becoming the "Iron Klondyke" as more and more deposits of high grade iron ore were being discovered. In his early restoration work on Dalton Castle he discovered that he enjoyed working with stone whereas Gradwell specialised in brick.

Locally he had access to a very pure band of Limestone in Baycliffe Quarry, which is still working, and similarly good quality St. Bees Sandstone from Barrow's Hawcoat Quarry, now transformed into a wildlife reserve and haven for geologists. From 1854-7 he was employed by the well known Lancaster architect Paley to build the grand mansion Abbotswood for James Ramsden, Barrow's leading citizen. By the mid 60's James was employing 70 men and recognised as a Master Builder: that is a builder who understands the strength and other qualities of a wide range of timbers and stones that he would be working with.

Walter spoke for almost an hour reeling off a litany of major buildings in Furness and beyond that were built in his "trade mark" style of a mixture of sandstone and limestone, followed by a set of slides underlining the range of his buildings and civil structures that are still standing and in use, including many in Barrow, Ulverston and his home town of Dalton. This first lecture was given at his home base, the Barrow Civic Society this September. Walter is still planning to retire from speaking very soon but the energy he put into this research needs to be shared with a wider audience and, we feel, also deserves a book (or e-book!). As we drove back to Ulverston we were able to appreciate just how many of the buildings we regard as the having a "local" style that we enjoy. The combination of limestone and red sandstone are down to the prolific output of James Garden, Master Builder.

Any errors in this information can be attributed to misreading the copious notes taken at the lecture and not Walter Johnston.

*David and Janet Fellows
North Lonsdale History Society, Ulverston*

North Lonsdale visitors in a Kendal yard



North Lonsdale H.S. History First Hand

Our Society used to have a short walk each year after the AGM, led by our local historian member, Jennifer Snell. Not only is she a good speaker with a lifetime's experience of the time but she has a wealth of interesting and frequently very amusing stories. Apart from running short of places we could reach in the immediate vicinity of our venue we felt we should extend our meetings so as to explore some of the many interesting villages nearby.

This year's season finished a little further from Furness with a morning walk around part of Kendal. We couldn't have asked for a better finale. Although we all felt we knew the town well our guides, Trevor Hughes and Pat Hovey, had so many fascinating facts, tales from a rather grim past and places to show us that we didn't know. Time just flew by. Our winter illustrated lectures are nearly always of a high standard but to learn more, first hand, with the evidence right in front of you and

from two very good guides is so much more memorable.

We've already decided that we must continue our discovery trail again next summer. I should add that for many of us we were able to take advantage of the bus service from Ulverston and that the promised showers also held off. Thanks too must go to the CLHF speakers' guide who had Trevor on the list. Well done all round!

*David Fellows
North Lonsdale History Society, Ulverston*

Lake District Archaeology Conference 2013

As usual, the National Park Authority's annual archaeology conference was held in autumn (3 November) at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. What was different this year was the extent to which the topics strayed beyond the National Park boundary, in pursuit of a dominant theme- the Roman occupation of what is now Cumbria.

Another significant novelty mentioned by Vivienne Rees in her introduction was that, every project featured has depended to a greater or lesser extent on volunteers (and, in many cases, local societies benefiting from Lottery funding). Special mention was made of the new Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network.

John Hodgson, in his summary of the year's work, also promoted the Network, and the training opportunities it provides. As in 2012, he raised the topic of bracken, which is now being fought more effectively in the third year of a concerted effort, thanks to the use of strimmers. In addition, a temporary relaxation of an official ban on the use of Asulox weedkiller has made it possible to spray bracken across three sites. There was further good news from the Heritage Lottery Fund including cash for the third phase of the "Reflections on History" project and for the **continues page 10**

EVENTS DIARY

Area indicators: North **N** South **S** East **E** West **W** Central **C**

Meetings start at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated

JANUARY 2014

- E** 27 Orton & Tebay Local History Soc. Orton Market Hall
Folklore, Traditions, Customs of Cumbria - Jean Scott-Smith 015396 24410
- E** 27 Shap Local History Soc. Green Room, Shap Memorial Hall
Over Shap by Track, Road and Rail- Jean Scott-Smith 01931 716386
- S** 28 Duddon Valley Local History Soc. Broughton Victory Hall
Sir James Ramsden- Robert Wheatley 01229 861511

FEBRUARY 2014

- S** 3 Kendal Historical & Archaeological Soc. Shakespeare Centre, Kendal
Hiring Fairs- Stephen Counce 01539 720217
- C** 4 Bampton & District Local History Soc. Bampton Memorial Hall
The History of Geology in the Bampton & Askham Area- Joe Cann
01931 713645 or 01931 713294
- C** 5 Friends of Keswick Museum Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick
What did you eat in the trenches Grandad? Feeding & Supplying the British Army in
WW1- Stuart Eastwood, Curator, Border Regiment Museum 017687 73801
- E** 5 Sedbergh & District History Soc. Settlebeck High School
Lakeland Architecture through the Centuries - Andrew Lowe 015396 22505
- W** 5 West Lakes U3A Drigg Village Hall, 10:15am
The Act of Union and the Borders- Anton Hodge 019468 41362
- S** 6 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall
Only half a story: historical letters with an emphasis on local material-
Professor Brian Wilson 015395 32234
- E** 10 CWAAS Penrith regional group Friends' Meeting House, Penrith (2pm)
Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Westmorland County Council and Road
Improvements 1889-1939- Dr Jean Turnbull 01768 867581
- S** 11 Staveley & District LHS Staveley School
History of Burneside Mills- James Cropper 01539 821224
- S** 11 North Lonsdale HS Ulverston Methodist Church
Walking Through History: Hadrian's Wall- Maurice Steele 01229 869229
- W** 15 SW Cumbria History & Archaeology Soc. Egremont Market Hall Supper room
Roman Frontiers in Their Landscape Settings - Professor David Breeze, President of
CWAAS 01946 825364 or 01946 724634
- S** 17 Holme & District Local History Soc. Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
AGM followed by The Bayeux Tapestry - Kathryn Smith 01524 782198
- W** 17 Whitehaven Local History Soc. United Reform Church Hall, Whitehaven
Postcard Memories of Old Whitehaven- Ralph Lewthwaite 01946 695698
- E** 19 Sedbergh & District History Soc. Memorial Hall, Dent
Treasure Trove of Memories - Anthea Boulton 015396 22505
- E** 19 Crosby Ravensworth Local History Soc. Methodist Chapel Community Room
Shap Fell in the old days- Jean Scott-Smith 01931 715 359
- E** 20 Orton & Tebay Local History Soc. Tebay Methodist Church
Tracing Your House History - Katy Iliffe 015396 24410

- 23 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Huddillburn: Another visit to North Waggonway and possibly Firestone Level - Warren Allison
- E** 24 Upper Eden History Soc. Kirby Stephen Grammar School
The Story of Ninekirks- Tony Greenwood 017683 51021
- E** 24 Shap Local History Soc. Green Room, Shap Memorial Hall
Members' night, inc. Recent local archaeological discoveries-Patrick Neaves
01931 716386
- S** 25 Duddon Valley Local History Soc. Broughton Victory Hall
Ashlack Hall- Mark Keegan 01229861511
- C** 28 Cumbria Industrial History Soc. Ambleside Parish Centre
Ambleside and Beyond - pictures from the Mike Davies-Shiel Collection
015395 68428

MARCH 2014

- S** 3 Kendal Historical & Archaeological Soc. Shakespeare Centre, Kendal
Anglo-Saxon settlement in the Ingleborough area - new research-
David Johnson 01539 720217
- C** 4 Bampton & District Local History Soc. Bampton Memorial Hall
Power from the Fells- Andrew Lowe 01931 713645 or 01931 713294
- C** 5 Friends of Keswick Museum Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick
Tyson & Todhunter, Mungo & Lancelot: personal names and local history in Cumbria-
Professor Angus Winchester, Lancaster University 017687 73801
- E** 5 Sedbergh & District History Soc. Settlebeck High School
Over Shap by Track, Road and Rail - Jean Scott-Smith 015396 22505
- W** 5 West Lakes U3A Drigg Village Hall, 10:15am
Suffocated Cities: the story of Pompeii and Herculaneum- Douglas Cook
019468 41362
- S** 6 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall
Holme, A Village History- Geoff Pegg 015395 32234
- 8 & 9 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Hosting trips to CAT members - details to be finalised - John Knowles
01484 860662
- S** 10 Cartmel Fell & District LHS Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
Games, Pastimes & Work: Childhood in S Lakeland in Early C20 -
Dr Jean Turnbull 015395 68389
- E** 10 CWAAS Penrith regional group Friends' Meeting House, Penrith (2pm)
Markets to Supermarkets- Dr Michael Winstanley 01768 867581
- S** 11 Staveley & District LHS Staveley School
The Early Development of the Port of Lancaster- Susan Stuart 01539 821224
- S** 11 North Lonsdale HS Ulverston Methodist Church
Peeling the Onion: recent research at Low Wood Gunpowder Works -
Rick Sanderson 01229 869229
- W** 13 Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
History of Coniston Mines- Ian Matheson 01900 829812
- W** 15 SW Cumbria History & Archaeology Soc. Egremont Market Hall Supper room
West Cumberland Shipping through the Ages - David Ramshaw
01946 825364 or 01946 724634
- S** 17 Holme & District Local History Soc. Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
Any Old Iron: Fingerposts and Foundries in Cumbria - Mike & Kate Lea
01524 782198

Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletin

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|----------|-------|--|--|
| E | 17 | Upper Eden History Soc.
On the Road to Blackpool. Traveller services Stainmore to Kirkby Lonsdale 1815-1970- Dr Jean Turnbull | Kirby Stephen Grammar School
017683 51021 |
| W | 17 | Whitehaven Local History Soc.
Dovenby Hospital- Maureen Fisher | United Reform Church Hall, Whitehaven
01946 695698 |
| E | 19 | Sedbergh & District History Soc.
High Bank House, Barbon- Mike Kingsbury | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
| E | 19 | Crosby Ravensworth Local History Soc.
Paupers and Lunatics of Crosby Parish in the 1800s- Peter Lewis | Methodist Chapel Community Room
01931 715 359 |
| N | 19 | Caldbeck & district LHS
Carlisle Canals- David Ramshaw | Millhouse Village Hall
016974 78270 |
| E | 20 | Orton & Tebay Local History Soc.
AGM | Orton Market Hall
015396 24410 |
| E | 22 | Sedbergh & District History Soc.
AGM (7 for 7.30 pm) | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
| E | 24 | Shap Local History Soc.
The battlefields of Northern France- David | Green Room, Shap Memorial Hall
Shackleton 01931 716386 |
| S | 25 | Duddon Valley Local History Soc.
Swarthmoor Hall- Ian Lewis | Broughton Vctory Hall
01229 861511 |
| S | 27 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS
Afternoon visit to Heron Corn Mill (details TBC) | (2pm)
015395 32234 |
| | 29-30 | Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Meet at Brothers' Water Hotel to explore Caudale Moor Quarries & Hartsop Hall - John Aird | 0208 9975985 |
| E | 31 | Upper Eden History Soc.
AGM + Henry Dent 19th century settler in Van Diemen's Lane- | Kirby Stephen Grammar School
Cathy Smith.
017683 51021 |

APRIL 2014

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|----------|----|---|--|
| C | 1 | Bampton & District Local History Soc.
Flour Power - The Restoration of Acorn Bank Mill- | Bampton Memorial Hall
Bob Price
01931 713645 or 01931 713294 |
| W | 2 | West Lakes U3A
The Sellafield Stories- Jenni Lister | Drigg Village Hall, 10:15am
019468 41362 |
| S | 3 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS
History of Lowther Castle and Gardens- | Cartmel Village Hall
Lowther Castle Gardens Trust speaker
015395 32234 |
| S | 7 | Kendal Historical & Archaeological Soc.
AGM + John Speed's Mapping of North-West England- | Shakespeare Centre, Kendal
Ian Saunders
01539 720217 |
| S | 8 | Staveley & District LHS
AGM and Members' Evening | Staveley School
01539 821224 |
| S | 8 | North Lonsdale HS
From Burlington Pit to Burlington Quarry- | Ulverston Methodist Church
Walter Johnson 01229 869229 |
| S | 14 | Holme & District Local History Soc.
The Story of the Ordnance Survey - John Parker | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |
| S | 14 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS
Sizergh Castle (and discoveries in the grounds)- David Butcher | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
015395 68389 |
| E | 14 | CWAAS Penrith regional group
Cumbria Ice Houses and the International Trade- | Friends' Meeting House, Penrith (2pm)
Dr Rob David 01768 867581 |
| | 16 | Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Meet at Carrock Fell Mine - Colin Woollard | 01900 823686 |

Cumbria Local History Federation Bulletin

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| E | 16 Crosby Ravensworth Local History Soc. Methodist Chapel Community Room
AGM followed by a short talk 01931 715 359 |
| N | 16 Caldbeck & district LHS Caldbeck Parish Hall
Life in the Borders in the Middle Ages- Max Loth-Hill 016974 78270 |
| E | 17 Orton & Tebay Local History Soc. Tebay Methodist Church
Bank Barns, Boskins & Bee Holes- Andy Lowe 015396 24410 |
| W | 21 Whitehaven Local History Soc. United Reform Church Hall, Whitehaven
01946 695698 |
| S | 22 Duddon Valley Local History Soc. Seathwaite Parish Room
The Big Lakes- Alan Smith 01229861511 |
| E | 26 Cumbria Industrial History Soc. Shap Wells Hotel (9.30am)
Spring Conference: Cumbria Goes to War 01524 762312 |
| E | 28 Shap Local History Soc. Green Room, Shap Memorial Hall
The prehistory of Shap- Tom Clare 01931 716386 |

MAY 2014

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| E | Orton & Tebay Local History Soc.
Appley Castle visit - Members only 015396 24410 |
| S | 1 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall
Cartmel Valley and the Great War- Howard Martin 015395 32234 |
| W | 7 West Lakes U3A Drigg Village Hall, 10:15am
Whitehaven Castle: The Hospital Years- Maureen Fisher 019468 41362 |
| W | 8 Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
Dry Stone Walls and Landscape History- Professor Angus Winchester
01900 829812 |
| S | 12 Cartmel Fell & District LHS
Visit to Sizergh Castle (inc. tour of archaeological sites) 015395 68389 |
| E | 12 CWAAS Penrith regional group Friends' Meeting House, Penrith (2pm)
AGM + George Leo Haydock of Penrith, Priest, Scholar and Peace Maker-
Professor Michael Mullett 01768 867581 |
| S | 13 North Lonsdale HS Ulverston Methodist Church
Short AGM and a surprise speaker! 01229 869229 |
| W | 14 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Woodhead Pit. Meet at Askham Pier - Peter Sandbach 01229 464892 |
| W | 19 Whitehaven Local History Soc. United Reform Church Hall, Whitehaven
World War One - members' family recollections 01946 695698 |
| E | 19 Shap Local History Soc. Green Room, Shap Memorial Hall
AGM + Northern English Hiring Fairs 1890-1939- Dr Stephen Counce
01931 716386 |
| N | 21 Caldbeck & district LHS Caldbeck Parish Hall
Viking Influence in Cumbria- James Relph 016974 78270 |
| S | 25 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Soc.
Sandbeds Mine, Potts Fill Mine & Medieval Lead Smelter. Meet at Calebreck -
Warren Allison 01228 523923 |

JUNE 2014

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|----------|---|
| C | 3 Bampton & District Local History Society
Visit to Newby Hall with kind permission of Mr & Mrs O Weaver - numbers will be
limited 01931 713645 or 01931 713294 |
| W | 4 West Lakes U3A Drigg Village Hall, 10:15am
George Moore of Whitehall, Merchant and Philanthropist- Nigel Entwistle
019468 41362 |

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new "Romans in Ravensglass" (which also gained funding from Copeland Borough Council). John also reported breaking news, regarding new funding for the Rusland Valley & Fells project, and updated the audience on the Lake District's submission of a revised technical evaluation in its bid for World Heritage Site status.

Jamie Lund of the National Trust reported on the latest phase in a major survey of metal mines in the fells around Grasmere, part of the Windermere area "Reflections" project. Over 50 volunteers joined professional archaeologists to make a detailed survey of the Greenhead Gill lead mine, using GPS, theodolites, aerial photography and detailed ground-level photography. The Providence and Fairfield mines were also surveyed.

Greenhead was established in Elizabethan times by the Keswick-based Company of Mines Royal, and the team were able to use documents including accounts and a 1586 inventory of the mine's facilities, which gives sufficient detail to match equipment designs with the classic illustrations in Georg Agricola's near-contemporary book "De Re Metallica". The survey established that stone buildings now seen on the site are likely to have been built for a failed attempt to re-open the mine some two centuries later (the underground works of which are distinguished by the use of explosives).

Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archaeology North then presented a brief oral history extract from Ted Bowness, whose father worked at Banks Slate Quarry in Langdale (where his grandfather had a quarrying lease) from about 1919. Slate used to be riven on site, then transported down to the valley road on sledges. This site too has been surveyed in 2013- unfortunately starting in the winter snow. A remote-controlled helicopter drone was used to make a detailed aerial survey of the complex site, from which a 3D virtual model was created, while two weeks of surveying provided drawings and plane table measurements. Documentary evidence showed that the quarry, probably established in 1829, was worked by around 17 separate

teams, in a "company" system- this can be seen on the ground, where in one case there are four separate working floors for processing the output from a single adit. Although an attempt was made to modernise working around 1932, by providing a compressor to power drills, the quarry closed in 1934.

After teabreak, Peter Matthiessen of the Duddon Valley Local History Group described the latest work on the area's numerous remains of longhouses. Again, dozens of volunteers worked alongside professionals from the National Park, National Trust etc. See the article on page 4 of this Bulletin for details of their printed report. This project, which identified 15 sites, mostly high up on the valley sides, also used a drone helicopter, and mapped large features with the aid of GPS. Bracken was a serious problem at many of the sites. Peter remarked on the ingenious way the builders had used natural rock outcrops as part of their enclosure walls wherever possible (the actual height of the walls suggests they were built to contain non-jumping cattle rather than sheep; there was also little sign of rig-and-furrow cultivation areas). It is hoped that at least one site will be excavated.

Warren Allison of the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society reported on some of their recent survey and restoration work. Following concerns that water was gathering within the sealed Carrock mine, CATMHS developed a system of lagoons to allow controlled release of the water, minimising pollution. The mine has now been opened up and surveyed. Within Tilberthwaite copper mine, prefabricated steel structures have been used to help repair collapsed sections, on which good progress is being made despite a flood which spread debris along about 40 metres of cleared tunnel. Also in the Coniston area, Kernal level and others are being surveyed and recorded, using techniques including 3D photography. It is hoped to re-open the Deep Level, and a Heritage Lottery Fund application has been made for conservation work at the coppermines.

CATMHS has also refurbished a tunnel entrance at Middlesceugh, Alston, and given financial help for Newlands Furnace. Work is about to begin at Force Crag Mine, near Keswick, which is causing serious pollution. Attempts are being made to identify the early workings at Silver Gill mine, Caldbeck, and funding is being sought for interpretation work at Greenside Lead Mine.



Holly Beavitt-Pike, project manager for “Romans in Ravenglass,” introduced a short film about the year’s work, featuring Peter Frost-Pennington of Muncaster Castle. Site director Kurt Hunter-Mann, of York Archaeological Trust, then described the last excavations at Ravenglass, in the 1970s, and the 2010-11 geophysical survey which inspired the current project (see CLHF Bulletin 55, page 16).

The 2013 excavations were somewhat hampered by rain. They were accompanied by fieldwalking to gather the latest material from the continual erosion of the seaward flank of the Roman fort, and to analyse the water supply system for the fort and community. Magnetometry surveying of a large area round the fort, and resistivity surveying in the vicinity of the fort, suggested that the civilian settlement was probably all to the north and north-east, as suggested in 2010. The surveys have also provided a tentative line for the road out of the east gate, heading south-east to skirt a small but steep-sided valley.

Trench 1, on the east-west main street of the

community, revealed very substantial stone foundations, built over an earlier ditch or pit. Trench 2, further uphill, contained two stony surfaces and lots of slag, suggesting a workshop. Trench 3 contained more stone walls (foundations for timber structures) and more industrial remains, including slag and a clay oven.

Wet acidic conditions have resulted in generally poor preservation of finds, but from the material available, it seems that the site was occupied into the 4th century. In all, around a hundred people took part in the 2013 investigations.

After lunch, the Roman theme continued, with the return of Jamie Lund to describe geophysical surveying in and around the Ambleside fort in March 2013, another part of the Windermere “Reflections” project (within a segment called “Romans by the Rivers”). There had already been much work on the fort remains, including some 3 years of volunteer effort to strip back turf and reveal the wall foundations, which were then, with help from the Direct Works Team, given protective toppings of mortared stone so that the outlines of the buildings will remain clearly visible in future.

Magnetometry carried out by volunteers revealed the outlines of further rectangular buildings within the fort, and confirmed the extent of defensive banks and ditches identified in the historic Collingwood excavations. A resistivity survey over a wider area showed the line of the road east of the fort, which turns east-south-east and is bordered by faint traces of buildings, presumably the *vicus*. Also, to the north of the fort is a structure with several compartments, possibly a bath-house.

The Roman theme now took us beyond the National Park boundary, as Stephen Rowland of Oxford Archaeology North described the first season of the Maryport Roman Settlement Project, summer 2013. Selected building plots identified in earlier geophysical surveys were examined with ground-penetrating radar, following which 3-metre square test pits were dug. The building plot

with the most interesting test pit was then excavated completely (with an additional strip trench going back into the seemingly undeveloped land behind). This work revealed a cobbled surface at the street front, and a large, complex main building which had developed in several phases; however, all significant buildings on the plot had a similar construction style, suggesting a carefully planned building scheme. The main compartment at the street end had a clay floor, with hints of internal divisions. Beyond the buildings at the back were pits and cisterns (nearly 2 metres deep) and a boundary ditch. Finds from the 2013 excavations suggest that this *vicus* continued to be occupied after the abandonment of the fort.

Staying (just) outside the National Park, Frank Giecco of Wardell Armstrong Archaeology described season 2 (of 4) in the lottery-funded Discovering Derventio Project at Papcastle near Cockermouth. This project had been inspired by the exposure of Roman-era walls in the great 2010 floods, and is heavily community-based, with great use of volunteers, and feedback through a website, displays of finds in Cockermouth Town Hall, etc.

Geophysical surveys had revealed a remarkably large community between the Papcastle fort and the River Derwent (which, according to old documents, was navigable as far as Cockermouth until the Middle Ages). A circular structure some 60 metres in diameter was subjected to test excavations which showed it to have substantial stone/cobble foundations; it was probably an amphitheatre. Also excavated was a mill-race, which included a pit suitable for housing a waterwheel up to about 2.5 metres in diameter.

Finds indicated that the settlement had been occupied until the 4th century. It was all sited to the south-east of the fort, with no apparent development on the road westward to the coast. The first season of the project (which has adopted a routine of geophysical surveying in winter, test pits in spring, and detailed excavations in summer) had found a

bath-house and numerous ovens, likely to be components of a *mansio* (accommodation for travellers on official business), development of which appears to have begun before the fort (numerous pre-Hadrianic items were found).

The 2012 excavations had found another bath-house, with an excellent hypocaust-however, the stoke-holes for the fire, though carefully sited to catch the prevailing wind, were partly clogged, suggesting poor maintenance. Finds from this high-status building included the first large Roman iron candelabra to be discovered in Britain, and in general indicated pre-Hadrianic occupation. This *mansio*, built round a courtyard some 35 metres square, fell out of use once the fort was built, and was subsequently demolished and built over.

Geophysical surveys in the winter of 2012-3 had established the line of a Roman road, heading north-east, with signs of adjacent buildings. Test trenches exposed the road structure (traversing a hillside, it has huge kerbstones on the downhill side to enable it to be level), and building foundations, then the summer excavations provided details. One building was a metalworking shop or smithy, another possibly a barn. Unfortunately, acidic soil has resulted in poor preservation of artefacts.

CLHF Convention 2013: Running Water

The 2013 CLHF Convention moved to a new venue, the recently-rebuilt Newbiggin Village Hall, west of Penrith.



After a brisk AGM, the convention began with a presentation from Ted and Stella Davis, whose book "Draining the Cumbrian Landscape" (including a CD-ROM gazetteer of sites) was published by the CWAAS, ISBN 978 1 873124 63 5, price £18. They showed how the use of clay tiles for drainage, seen on a small scale in places like the Netherby estate (from c1819) had taken off after the lifting of a tile tax in 1826. They also explained different varieties of drainage system, with samples which were available for close inspection over the lunch-break.

The second presentation had a very local theme, the wells and springs of Newbiggin. Dr Alan Rich revealed how, in the absence of a local stream, wells and springs were responsible both for the existence of the village and its unusual form, with a long, narrow green following the line of springs by the road, so that the village became a stopping-place for cattle drovers, providing essential grazing and water. He showed old documents naming numerous locations, some of which are now sadly lost. A few, however, have been restored in recent years, with Lottery funding, a process which gave great pleasure to the craftsmen employed. After the talk, Dr Rich led a visit to some of the restored springs, enhanced by appropriate light rainfall.

After an excellent lunch, several members gave short "soap-box" presentations. Sheila Fletcher of Lazonby LHS led with a look at local crossings of the River Eden (backed up by a display which had been on view at lunchtime), then chairman Jenni Lister provided some unsavoury details of Whitehaven's water supply and sewerage system. Patricia Howell, from the Friends of Keswick Museum, told us about the town's hydro-electric power station (and, by way of background, about the water-powered operations of the Elizabethan Company of Mines Royal, in the same area centuries earlier). June Hall, who once again most efficiently organised the whole Convention, represented the Vernacular Buildings Group for an introduction to Lantry Troughs, used to collect urine for textile processing. Finally Richard Brockington invited members to contribute research for the Cumbria County History Trust's "Victoria History".

The last major talk of the day was given by Graham Brooks of Carleton, who has kindly provided a summary, given on the next page.

Although the number attending was not as large as we expected, the 2013 CLHF Convention, in its new venue, was a great success.



Visit to a restored spring

Convention Talk: Water Power in Mineral Mining

Some of the fells of Cumbria have been rich in minerals such as lead and copper ores that have been exploited by man over centuries. The extraction of the ore from the native rock, the moving of the ore and its further processing all can be done by hand. But to improve efficiency and increase productivity man has developed powered ways of doing it. Most of the mines and processing plants were situated away from the main coalfields of the county and those coal seams that did occur tended to be of poor quality and not suitable for steam power. However, Cumbria is blessed with an often over plentiful supply of rain. This water has been harnessed by man for many uses and its use in mining and ore processing is no different.

When you talk about water power most people immediately think of waterwheels and the first part of the talk dealt with waterwheel technology. The size both width and height, and the position on the circumference of the wheel at which the water enters and leaves the buckets all control the power from the wheel.

The remaining part of the talk dealt with the process in which water power had been used. These included:

Hushing – the use of water to extract ore from surface veins.

Ventilation – the use of water to carry air down a shaft and further developments to produce compressed air.

Pumping – the use of waterwheels to power pumps to drain mines.

Haulage – the use of water balance lifts and also waterwheels for drawing ore up shafts.

Crushing ore – the use of waterwheel powered stamps and crushers.

Separating ore – the use of specific gravity in hotching tubs both hand powered and waterwheel powered and also buddles.

Smelting – the use of waterwheels to power bellows.

And finally the **cleaning** of the smelt mill flues with water to recover the waste lead and also to increase the amount of lead vapour condensed.

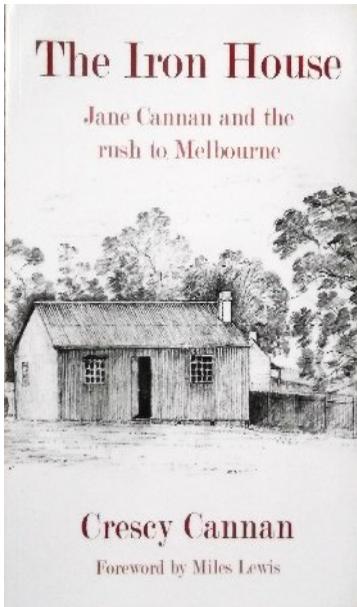
Each heading was illustrated with examples from Cumbrian mines or those in counties adjoining.

Graham Brooks



Old engine shaft wheel pit, Coniston copper mine

Book Review



The Iron House: Jane Cannan and the rush to Melbourne

Crescy Cannan

Bugloss Publishing

ISBN 978-0-9574046-0-1

Pbk, 184 pages, B/W illus, price £12.99

For our purposes, I suppose the most important thing about this book is where Jane rushed from. Both talented (as an artist) and energetic, Miss Jane Claude spent much of her young adulthood in early Victorian Ambleside, where she became a school teacher. Marrying in her 30s, she was taken to Australia by her engineer husband. The section on Jane's life in Ambleside is not long, but as she knew Harriet Martineau, it does have considerable value.

Jane's main historical interest is undoubtedly her work in the great Southern Land. Her precise and charming sketches are recognised in Australia as an important historical resource, enhanced by the survival of many family papers and letters. Crescy Cannan, a descendant living back in England, has done a magnificent job finding large quantities of family material, from which she has created a fascinating and intimate narrative.

Volunteers?

Although I have now "retired", I will be happy to introduce budding Bulletin editors and website editors to the job- see email address below. Please contact me or Jenni Lister if you think you could take on either role.

David Bradbury

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