



Bulletin 74 - Summer 2017

Cumbria Local
History Federation
TALKING HISTORY

CLHF Convention & AGM

Aspects of Furness History

Saturday 14th October 2017

09.30 – 17.00 The Band Hall,

Sandy Lane, Askam-in-Furness, LA16 7BE

Hosted by Askam & Ireleth and Kirkby History Groups.

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT [No. 2]

Last time I suggested that 'the cold wet days' were 'nearly over' – a fine example of misplaced climatological optimism if ever there was one. What I can now say with conviction, however, is that since then we have been grafting on your behalf.

Having invested in professional assistance, we are well on the way to completing a thorough refurbishment of our website. We are confident that when it is launched you will find it attractive and of real practical help to anyone interested in and organising events/programmes on the local history of Cumbria. It will provide several direct electronic links to members of your Committee. We will also ensure that it is readily accessible via social media – among our key endeavours is to engage younger people in the history of our region.

We have also reviewed and refreshed what we used to call the A-Z of Speakers, giving it the more accurate title of Directory of Speakers, Walks/Tours, and Research Assistance. We still feel it could be extended and I encourage anyone who would like to feature in it to contact us.

We decided some time ago to build on the considerable success of last year's Convention at Shap by collaborating with other local societies in organising for this year. We have been working with Charles Rowntree and his colleagues in Kirkby & Askam & Ireleth in arranging the event, which is scheduled for Saturday 14 October. We are very grateful to them. This date should enable us to avoid adverse weather conditions and the venue, the Band Hall at Askam, is even larger than last year's, so we can accommodate a larger Convention.

I urge you to read the article about a new project by Derek Denman, for long a valued member of the Federation Committee. The current Committee believes that the project is very timely and wishes it every success.

We have also been joined by a new Committee member. Adrian Allan is well-known to many lovers of history throughout the region and, as a retired but still very active archivist, will bring a wealth of experience to our efforts.. We hope to be in a position soon to announce a further addition, as we strive to make our organisation fitter for purpose.

Finally, this year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Federation. More about that at the Convention. Meanwhile, we are not going to make a great fuss, but on 3rd August your committee will hold a (self-financing) dinner at the Stonybeck Inn, Penrith, at which our guest will be Jill Wishart, who was chiefly instrumental in our foundation a quarter of a century ago.

Best wishes to everyone.

Peter Roebuck 01697473741 peter.roebuck3@gmail.com

CLHF Members News.

Industrial History



Cumbria Industrial History Society Spring Conference 22nd April 2017 Shap Wells Hotel

As is so often the case, it was a lovely spring day, and had the speakers not been so interesting we would have been tempted to abandon the blacked out conference room for the sunshine outdoors.

The first speaker was our Chairman, Geoff Brambles talking about How Water Shaped a Town (Kendal). Starting from the local geology, Geoff discussed the early growth of the town to the west of the river, and the building of the various bridges as the mills and the canal led to development on the eastern river bank and on the flood plains.

Professor George Aggidis of Lancaster explained how he came to work in Kendal for Gilkes as a young engineer. He now heads the Department of Energy Engineering at the University, specialising in tidal energy research and developing projects as far afield as South Korea as well as down the west coast of Britain from the Solway, via Morecambe Bay, to the Swansea lagoon scheme.

Image is from Graham Brooks talk and shows the Engine Shaft at Coniston.

After lunch, and an opportunity to browse the book stalls, Graham Brooks outlined the many uses for water in the Cumbrian metal mines. From washing to hushing, for waterwheels and turbines for pumping and crushing, water was an important resource, collected and channelled to where it was needed.

Finally, Charles Rowntree gave a copiously illustrated talk about watermill engineering, explaining how the cogs and wheels inside a mill could convert the power of a waterwheel rotating at 6 revolutions per minute to a millstone rotating at 90rpm.

Helen Caldwell

**Cumbrian
Railways
Association**

AGM AND SPRING CONFERENCE IN KENDAL

The Cumbrian Railways Association (CRA) held its Spring Conference on

Saturday 18th of March 2017 at the Carus Green Golf Club near Kendal. Additional publicity for the event meant that there was another extremely good attendance of over 60 people. Whilst some attendees had not pre-booked, we were delighted to see them and they were most welcome at what turned out to be another enjoyable and interesting day of presentations, discussions and friendly fellowship. It was good to see some new faces and we even recruited two more members on the day!

The Annual General Meeting was held as part of the conference. Apart from the re-confirmation of the Trustees and approval of the Accounts, a key event was that Philip Tuer was formally confirmed as our new Chairman. Philip is a long-standing Trustee of the CRA and former Secretary. He succeeds Les Gilpin who stood down last year.

The first speaker of the day was CRA member Dick Smith. Dick's talk was entitled "**The Isolation of Windermere**" or "How Windermere came close to NOT being the end of the line." – as it is today. Dick showed us a facsimile of the front page of the 'Kendal Mercury' of a day in 1845. The whole front page of the newspaper was taken up by railway orders relating to new lines. We were also reminded via some maps how important a knowledge or even a basic understanding of geography is when planning new railways. It is all too easy to plot a proposed route on a flat page. The reality of the terrain can be vastly different. There were proposals for railways well beyond Windermere. Some even to mount Dunmail Raise and go on into Keswick. Another proposal was to link the quarries in Langdale with Windermere.

One thing that all the proposals had in common was opposition. Not unlike today's HS2 project, many people did not want a railway running close to their property. The opposition was not just local, it was publicised on a national scale. Perhaps the best known opposer was the poet William Wordsworth. Dick went on to explain that as late as 1994 there had been a proposal for an extension to deal with Lake District traffic problems, linking Windermere with Keswick, Cockermouth and Maryport. It came to nothing.

The second speaker was Bryan Parker who gave a talk entitled "**Carlisle Power Signal Box 1985 – 2017**". Bryan has spent over 30 years working in this important railway signalling centre which controls the West Coast Main Line tracks and trains from Milnthorpe in the South to Quintinshill, north of Carlisle. This was a journey through time and through virtual space. With the aid of the actual track diagram from the signalling centre he took us on a journey from Carnforth through to Carlisle showing us all the various signalling systems and track layouts on the route. It was fascinating to see how at the touch of a button route for a train can be set automatically for many miles. This "journey" was interspersed with fascinating facts and anecdotes from Bryan's long experience.

The final speaker of the day was by CRA member and journalist, Bill Myers. Ominously titled "**Horrible History of Cumbrian Railways**". Bill had compiled a catalogue of disastrous and amusing events which had taken place on Cumbrian railways over many years. We learned about a 'Furness Ghost Train', a Dean who hated steam whistles, a footbridge knocked down by a train, a wrecked signal box, a woman who died

saving a dog's life on a level crossing, an exploding train, a tragic suicide and many more! It was a lively end to a great day.

CRA Autumn Meeting 11th November 2017 – a date for your diary

The Cumbrian Railways Association Autumn Meeting will be held at the Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 0PA on Saturday 11th November 2017, commencing at 10.30. We have a great day in store.

If you are a connoisseur of high-class railway photographs, one presentation will feature a portfolio of images by one of the best-known and respected railway photographers in the country.

For those interested in the heritage side of railways, there will be an illustrated talk on the restoration of carriages and wagons.

Finally, fascinating reminiscences by a footplateman, will complete what should be a very interesting programme.

Further information and booking details will be available on the CRA website www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk

CRA Expands Photographic Collections

A key activity and purpose of the CRA is to preserve documentary and photographic history, mainly of the railways of Cumbria, and make them accessible, for posterity, to members and non-members alike.

Here is an update on new photographic collections which have recently been received.

Tony Freschini Collection: This consists of approximately 2000 images of railway engineering projects across

North West England taken between the 1960s and the 1990s. There is a significant amount of Cumbrian material and much of this features the Settle and Carlisle line.

Ken Armstrong Collection: Another new collection is a large donation of images from the estate of this former CRA member. There are approximately 2,000 photos which are currently being catalogued. The collection includes a wide range of railway subjects, taken mostly in the 60's and 70's with a lot of Cumbrian material included.

Duncan Hagan Collection: Another large collection of a late CRA member. The number of prints and negatives fill 18 boxes. The whole collection is meticulously catalogued and documented and we are now planning how these will be scanned into our photographic library to make them available for viewing.

For further information on these collections and our existing extensive photographic portfolio, go to www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or contact our Photo Archivist, Dave Richardson on photofficer@cumbrianrailways.org.uk.

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### **The Early Days of Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society.**

In 1995 I enquired at Grange library if there was a local history society. The librarian said there were none at present although people had from time to time talked about establishing one. A few months later the librarian gave me Stewart Allen's phone number and said that he was trying to organise a

local history society if there were enough people interested.



A number of people were interested and the first committee meeting took place on 13 January 1996 at Fairfield, Cartmel, Stewart Allen's home. Stewart had already organised a programme of lectures for 1996 with the help of John Slater from Grange.



Cartmel Village Institute today

The original committee were as follows:  
Officers: Chair – Stewart Allen Vice-chair-Dr.Malcolm Arthurton  
Treasurer/Membership secretary – John Slater Committee: Barbara Copeland, Janet Niepokjzyoka, Peter Wain, Tom Sweeney volunteered to look after the projection. The venue was to be Cartmel Institute but deciding on a date was fraught with difficulties – as Fridays were already booked, Wednesday was too noisy (bell practice), Thursday was not popular with the committee,

Tuesday there were lots of other events so Monday it had to be. Summer field events were to be organised. Refreshments were served at the end of each lecture.

The name of the society was originally Grange and District LHS, then Cartmel and District LHS and then Peter Wain suggested Cartmel Peninsula LHS which has proved successful. Stewart suggested putting the society on the internet as it "might turn up something interesting". The membership annual subscription was £5 per year with non-members paying £1.50 for each meeting. The society was hoping to attract 50 definite members for a healthy society.

20 years on and the society could be said to be in excellent health with over 100 members. Over those years the committee has had a number of enthusiastic, hardworking and informative members who have supported the society and moved it forward into the thriving society it is today.

The lectures and field trips continue as originally envisaged, and the internet has proved to be an informative tool with the society's website attracting global enquiries. Communication to members is done mainly now through email. Financially the society is doing well and has been able to purchase equipment such as the new projector.

As the society grew, Cartmel Institute proved to be too small and not easily accessible for some members. The lectures were held in different venues including the United Reformed church building in Grange until Cartmel village hall proved to be the most convenient venue. Monday evenings changed to

Thursday evenings but the refreshments are now provided only at the AGM.

New initiatives include a newsletter, published 3 times a year and growing with each edition. The society is also building an accessible archive of old photographs, recent photographs and historical manuscripts to support local history research. Oral history is also starting to support our knowledge of local history.

Working alongside and with the support of other groups such as Cartmel Village Society and Morecambe Bay Partnership local people are throwing a light on our more recent past.

In 1996 Stewart Allen envisaged the society would pursue local history research, hoping that "Once we have a research programme underway others might join." One or two members did pursue their own local research but probably the most exciting development in recent years has been the undertaking of a growing number of research projects for the local villages. More members are now undertaking diverse research projects and the society, with an expanding knowledge and archive, is able to support these projects.

The original committee would have been and are delighted to see the society thriving and growing and learning so much about the local history in the Cartmel Peninsula.

Barbara Copeland

A Founding Member of the CPLHS.

## Lazonby & District LHS

Lazonby and District Society held a very successful weekend in May, celebrating its twentieth anniversary.



An exhibition in the Village Hall showed much local research undertaken by society members and official documents. Visitors were interested in collections of photos, postcards and maps and some good information was shared about local families and events. Two guided walks around the lower half of the village demonstrated its development from C11th onwards, its local trades and commerce and several historic buildings. Judging by the amount of interest in this event, the history society will continue to serve Lazonby's growing population's desire to learn more about its past. A very worthwhile event and thanks to everyone involved.

Sheila Fletcher

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Members Newsletters - An offer from the Committee.

The Cumbria Railways Association has kindly sent me a copy of their first "Electronic Newsletter", which is to be issued to CRA members on a regular basis, and asked if we could forward a copy by email to members of the CLHF.

As an experiment the Committee have agreed to do this and to extend an invitation to other local history societies and groups that cover an interest that is Cumbrian wide provided that members support this initiative.

Please let me know if this facility is a welcome addition to our offering to you our members.

Editor.

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### Dr Juliet Frankland



Juliet Frankland nee Brown (1929-2013) had considerable expertise in mycology, the study of fungi. She came to Merlewood, Grange-over-Sands, in 1956 as a research assistant. Merlewood was run by the Nature Conservancy. Juliet had a first class Honours degree in Botany from Royal Holloway College, University of London. For her doctorate she had compared the soil fungi of some British sand dunes and had held a scholarship from the Nature Conservancy. At this time Helga Frankland was in charge of the Nature Conservancy in the north-west. Juliet had to ask Helga's permission to

study the fungi in the local Nature Conservancy woods. Helga had a bungalow in Grange-over-Sands. It was there that Juliet met Helga's, brother, Raven. He farmed at Ravenstonedale and had considerable land in the area.

The couple were married on 3 June 1959 at Juliet's home church at Effingham, near Dorking, Surrey. They lived at Bowberhead, a farm house a few miles from Ravenstonedale.

Once married, Juliet could no longer hold a salaried civil service post. She continued her research as a self-employed mycologist. She usually came into Merlewood once a week. Juliet and her team set up several long-term investigations on fungi. She concentrated on *Mycena galopus*, a small Basidiomycete. In the autumn she did weekly surveys of its distribution. The toadstools were marked with paint and the data analysed. On the basis of her numerous publications Juliet was elected President of the British Mycological Society in 1985. She edited several volumes of the Symposia held by the British Mycological Society.



Raven Frankland owned Pendragon Castle, a 12<sup>th</sup> century building associated with Uther Pendragon, the

father of King Arthur. Juliet and Raven organised the repair of the castle and for several summers there were archaeological digs. The couple also worked hard to preserve the stone walls on their land. Juliet was keen to establish wild flower meadows, one of which was named Coronation Meadow by Prince Charles.

Raven died suddenly in 1997 and Juliet had to manage the estate. Her sister, Dame Gillian Brown, a retired diplomat came to help her. Gillian died suddenly at Bowberhead in 1999. Juliet suffered from depression and after a slight stroke moved into Stobars Hall, a care home in Kirkby Stephen. She died there on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Catharine M.C. Haines.

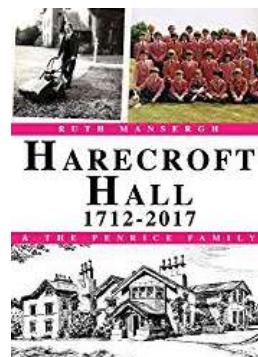
The above synopsis of the life of Juliet Frankland is from Catharine who is one of our many “individual” members of CLHF. I would welcome more contributions from individual members please. Editor.

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Local History Books about Cumbria & Cumbrians

I am introducing this occasional column as an experiment so I would appreciate feedback on how interesting or useful you find it. I intend to include any publications that feature aspects of Cumbrian local history written by non-members of CLHF and hopefully of interest to members. If you hear of any worth mentioning please let me know. Editor.

Harecroft Hall by Ruth Mansergh



This is the first book to be published about Harecroft Hall – JS Ainsworth’s mansion in 1881 – and Harecroft Hall School with the embarrassingly bright pink “HH” blazers, not ideal for boys walking around Whitehaven and Workington, pink ties and much-respected and arguably much-loved Penrices.

The school, whose old boys include Tam Dalyell and singer Tom Morley, was opened by Roy Vallance and Mary Farish Brown in 1926 as a preparatory school for boys destined to elite public schools. All boys were taught to ride by a resident riding mistress on ponies maintained on the premises.

It went bankrupt, but was revived by Tom McClelland, as much marketing guy as headteacher. Children’s author Geoffrey Trease was a teacher at the school and wrote of his time there, and some boys had piano lessons from Eileen Joyce and cricket coaching at the hands of Greg Matthews. Tom Penrice, who bought the business from William Dunlop, was headmaster from 1965 to 1992. Sadly, Harecroft Hall School,

which had strong links with St Bees School, closed in 2008.

Interesting snippets include the Hare family, the Pack Horse inn, slave emancipation money, the Bolton connection, a staff member who worked on the Burma-Thailand railway line, “the few who were left behind”, the extraordinary Major Brewin and elusive “Mary” Brewin, Harecroft as a bulwark of bachelordom, Mr Howell’s tree top adventure, Mr Penrice’s goose rearing, pupils’ memories, head boy and scholarship boards, and Mr Penrice’s famous Black Book that listed HH attendees from 1948 to 2002 (and with some entries going back to 1927).

I’ve written a book about Harecroft (HH) in west Cumbria. It is available as an e-book for a very reasonable £7 on Amazon. It includes the history of the land HH was built on and information about the Senhouse and Ainsworth family, for example. The history of the school is detailed.

It can be downloaded on tablets/laptops/Kindles, etc. Any future updates can be downloaded by the reader free of charge.

Ruth Mansergh

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## Museums in Cumbria.

I know we have some excellent Museums in Cumbria but few of them feature in this local history Bulletin. To quote a modern much used and misused source:

*A museum is an institution that cares for (conserves) a collection of artifacts*

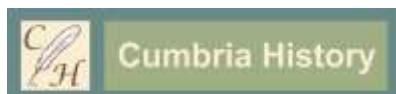
*and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance.*

Do our Cumbrian museums do this well? Do they recognise and promote our local history? How can we help them do this? Please visit one or two and tell me about them.

If you are a museum “Friend” or work in one or just enjoy them please tell me about your museum so I can encourage visits and the use of the collections for local history research.

Editor.

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**Announcing *Cumbria History* –
a new online journal.
Derek Denman**

I would like to share with CLHF members the plans I have for *Cumbria History*, which will be an open-access online Journal for articles about the local and regional history of Cumbria. It is expected to be live by the end of 2017, on the domain name *CumbriaHistory.com*. It will be free to use as a contributor or a reader, and will have no paid advertising or other commercial dimension. It will be fully searchable. For similar examples of hosting articles, please see the journals within the Public Library of Science, www.plos.org/.

Although *Cumbria History* will be a journal, there will be no printed version. It will have no volumes, nor limits on

numbers of articles. Articles can be contributed for consideration at any time, and can be new, existing, or previously published elsewhere if the rights are available. When live, articles can be accessed and read by anyone. The purpose is to provide a growing and accessible body of work, to allow the historians of Cumbria to reach a general readership, and to provide a resource to support other studies.

Cumbria History and C&WA&AS Transactions

Cumbria already has one journal of excellence. The *Transactions of C&WA&AS* are freely available at libraries and now fully online and searchable. *Transactions* will remain the annual journal-of-record for history articles which meet academic standards, and which are peer-reviewed for value and quality. *Cumbria History* has a different primary role; to provide an accessible publishing opportunity for good and improving historians. These may not be academically qualified, but can create good quality work of interest and value, and they might wish to develop further their practice and skills. *Cumbria History* will also be a journal for some work of academic quality, such as suitable new and existing MA dissertations, which would otherwise not be visible.

VCH Cumbria

We are fortunate to have a successful Victoria County History project in Cumbria, in which local historians can be involved. *Cumbria History* will not publish articles or part-works proper to the Cumbria VCH project, but searches

may produce links to articles on the CumbriaCountyHistoryTrust website. On that website, a valuable online databank of factual information about VCH places is being created. *Cumbria History* will aim to be a complementary resource for the VCH Cumbria project.

Licensing

Authors and other rights holders will retain their copyright to articles, and will not be restricted in publishing articles in any other ways. Articles in copyright on *Cumbria History* are expected to be licenced, to protect authors and other rights holders, through a creative commons licence. These freely available ready-made licences are suited to open-access online publishing. For more information see

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>.

Standards

While *Cumbria History* will be accessible for local historians, it cannot work without standards. It will establish a minimum set of standards for content and quality, which all articles must meet. There will be an editorial role, not only to assess articles against the journal's standards, but also, where appropriate, to offer mentoring to authors who wish to develop their practice. The intention is that editorial privileges will be granted to a number of people, probably with a post-graduate qualification in historical research. Each editor would work to the standards on assigned article contributions, making the decision on content and quality personally, subject only to a 'legal' check.

Status

Cumbria History will not be part of any existing organisation, and therefore will be freely available for use by any organisation or individual. The creation of the site, and its running, can be managed within family skills and resources. In the longer term, if the journal grows successfully, the ownership may be transferred in a way consistent with its ethos of non-commercial open access.

Individuals and societies

This announcement is placed first in the *CLHF Bulletin*, because the individual and society membership of CLHF contains many of the anticipated contributors and readers. Some societies maintain a regular journal of good quality articles, but if that is printed and distributed, then the cost may be high. Societies may choose to use *Cumbria History* as a form of online society journal, but at no cost and with the articles available for all to read. Articles, meeting the standards, can be linked to a sponsoring society, by means of searchable data. All registered readers can choose to be alerted by email when a relevant new article becomes available.

Consultation

Cumbria History can be successful only if it meets the needs of users and fits into a perceived gap in existing provision. In parallel with the development of the website, there will be a need to establish standards of content and quality, which would meet the aims of the Journal and be

acceptable to individuals and organisations. A draft for comment is expected to appear on the site during August, and views will be welcomed.

Introducing Derek Denman.

I hope you will agree that Derek's idea for an on-line journal should provide further opportunities to explore and then publish the local history of Cumbria. For those of you who have not met Derek this resume will be of interest:



Dr Derek Denman, MA, Ph.D, C.Eng., MIET, was, by profession, an engineer and manager in mobile telecomms, who escaped to Lorton, Cumbria, in 1993. After developing an interest in local history, he received an MA in Regional and Local History, and a PhD in history from Lancaster University in 2012. He was Chair of Lorton & Derwent Fells 2000-6 and editor of its *Journal* 2006-17 <http://derwentfells.com/journal.html>, Secretary of CLHF from 2006-10, a trustee of C&WA&AS in 2008-9, and a founding member of the VCH Cumbria Working Group in 2008-9. He lives in Cockermouth.

Editor

CLHF Membership News

What a busy year! Firstly, a very warm welcome to the Askam & Ireleth Local History Group, and the several people who have newly joined as individual members. There is a surge of interest and optimism in the world of Cumbrian Local History and the increase in membership is very positive.

Secondly, as indicated elsewhere, we've been working on a new website so - apologies - it's not been possible to update information over the past few months, but it soon will be. Thanks for your patience. **Please will member groups review their contact details**, if they haven't already done so, so that we (and everyone else) can find you! I appreciate that not all of you have contact email addresses and I will soon be in touch to see what we can arrange.

Thirdly, the **AGM & Convention**, which this year will be in SW Cumbria, at Askam-in-Furness, on **Saturday 14th October**. For those without a car, there are local bus services and Askam is on the Cumbrian Coast Railway Line, which links Carlisle and Lancaster. At least two trains arrive in time for the start of the Convention; and the venue, the Askam Band Hall, is only 5 minutes walk away!

<https://www.visitcumbria.com/the-cumbrian-coast-railway>.

As at Shap, there will be room for several display tables, so please do think of promoting your projects and inspiring us by showing us what you've all been up to!

Finally, last year several of you left it late to book and were disappointed when we ran out of places, so this year I am restricting seats to **paid up members and member groups ONLY** until September 14th. This is your chance to get a place! I will be taking bookings from **July 10th** – so do make sure you book early!!

Please find enclosed with this Bulletin a Convention Booking Form and Agenda for the day both of which will be available on our website.

Liz Kerrey

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## CLHF Convention & AGM

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
2017**

**09.30 – 17.00**

**Aspects of Furness  
History**

**Hosted by Askam &  
Ireleth and Kirkby History  
Groups.**

**The Band Hall, Sandy  
Lane, Askam-in-Furness  
LA16 7BE**

**Display Tables available**

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Our New CLHF Website Completely Revised and Renewed.



As announced in the last Bulletin, we have been devoting a lot of effort to a fundamental re-development of our website. We thank Charles Rowntree for recommending that we engage Claire Steele of the Lil' Creative Studio as our designer: her work with us has been of the highest quality. Our task is not yet quite complete but we will let you know as soon as it is. Meanwhile, progress may be summarised as follows.

There will be no change in the website address: www.clhf.org.uk

We have worked through Wordpress, which will allow various Committee members to upload and download material, and thus enable regular refreshment.

The layout and typeface are more modern; together with maps, there are many period illustrations of aspects of local history; and the site is accessible via social media.

Besides information about the purpose and objectives of the Federation and its

Committee, there is a copy of the Constitution, Minutes of the last AGM, details of the forthcoming Convention, and a list of members of the Committee and their responsibilities. I would particularly highlight a new facility which will enable you to communicate directly from the site with your Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary and/or Bulletin Editor.

There are details of all Member Groups; an Events Section divided into General and Member Groups; the Directory of Speakers, Walks/Tours. & Research Assistance; the Bulletin; and a final section which sets out to provide a guide to the many institutions and organisations (local, regional and national) which anyone interested in the local history of Cumbria might wish to have dealings with.

We have also asked Claire Steele to design a new logo for the Federation.

We hope that these developments, together with our Bulletin, will generate a more dynamic relationship between and among our Members and the Committee. It will also serve as a practical introduction for anyone embarking on a local history project: by providing relevant information it will ease their path.

The new site will be up and running very shortly. Visit it, regularly. Tell us what you think about it. Above all, tell your family, friends, colleagues and other organisations that it has been reborn.

Peter Roebuck

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## Introducing our new CLHF Committee member

Adrian Allan, who retired as University Archivist at the University of Liverpool in 2008, has recently joined the Committee. Following studies at Durham and Liverpool Universities, Adrian served as Assistant Archivist at the Bury St Edmunds and West Suffolk Record Office before joining Liverpool University's staff in 1970. Joint author of short bibliographies of Suffolk and Cheshire local history, he served as a member of the Suffolk Local History Council and later of the Cheshire Local History Council. He ran courses on sources for local history at both Bury St Edmunds and Liverpool. He organised a MSC-funded survey of hospital archives in Merseyside and Cheshire. Since retirement, as a volunteer, he has devoted an afternoon a week to listing accessions at Carlisle Archive Centre. A member of the Committee of the Friends of Cumbria Archives and Hon. Secretary of CWAAS's Outreach Committee, he served as Hon. Membership Secretary of the CWAAS, 2013 – 17, contributing a list of the archives of the Society and its members to the Society's webpages at cumbriapast.com. His more recent publications include articles on aspects of the history of Wreay contributed to the Sarah Losh Journal.

I wish to welcome Adrian to the Committee. He has already been looking at the CLHF Bulletin collection in Carlisle Archives and as a result is making the following appeal.

Editor.

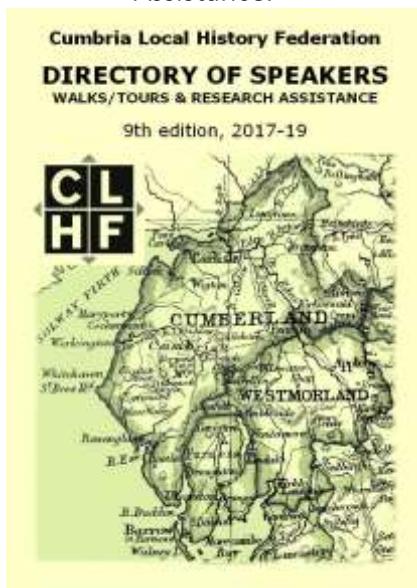
## The CLHF's archives – an appeal for 'missing' publications

Shortly before he retired as Secretary of the Federation last November, Robert Baxter (Senior Archivist, Cumbria Archive Service) arranged the deposit with Carlisle Archive Centre of the Federation's archives (Carlisle A C, ref. DSO 406). As one would expect, they provide a well-ordered, comprehensive archive documenting the history of the Federation since its formal inauguration in 1992. Unfortunately, the inherited archives lack one or two of its early publications, in particular *Bulletin* nos. 1 and 2, also 55. I would be pleased to hear from Federation members who might have retained copies which they would be happy to part with, to fill in this gap. (On checking Carlisle Library's holdings of Federation publications, it was found that their sequence of copies of the *Bulletin* is that principally running from no. 20 to no. 63 and from no. 66 onwards.)

Adrian Allan  
[\(adrianallan61@yahoo.co.uk\)](mailto:adrianallan61@yahoo.co.uk)



## Directory of Speakers, Walks/Tours, & Research Assistance.



We used to call this the *A-Z of Speakers*, but it was never simply that. We have changed the title to reflect the content more accurately, so it lists individuals who may be invited to provide any of the three elements – a talk, a guided walk/tour, or assistance with particular avenues of research.

The Directory has recently been revised and up-dated by David Bradbury who, though no longer a member of our Committee, very kindly agreed to undertake this onerous task. We are exceedingly grateful to him.

The entries are unamended from the versions submitted following his enquiries, and include not merely topics relating to Cumbria, but also broad

themes and talks on other regions, to add variety to programmes of meetings.

We firmly believe that the Directory could be more extensive, and that, for one reason or another, there are individuals out there who should also feature in it. Rather than waiting for the next complete revision, anyone wishing to feature in the Directory should contact us immediately so that they can be included in the on-line version of the Directory which will be available on the new CLHF website. Each local group will be sent one paper copy of the Directory: they and individual subscribers will be able to purchase further paper copies if they wish.

We would welcome your comments, and we trust that local societies/groups will find the Directory helpful in creating interesting and stimulating programmes. As always, tell us how you get on.

Peter Roebuck

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Cumbria's Speakers Corner.

I am still keen to encourage CLHF member groups and individuals to recommend to others, through the pages of the Bulletin, the lectures and lecturers that you have enjoyed listening to.

More recommendations and why you recommend the speaker would be appreciated and will be treated as confidential.

Editor.

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## What's on in Cumbria?

**Notice of an Exhibition.** The National Trust is holding an exhibition at Wordsworth House, Cockermouth. Entitled The Word-Hoard: a love letter to our land, it comprises images by Society members John and Rosamund Macfarlane. Curated by their son, the acclaimed author Robert Macfarlane, it celebrates the natural world and reclaims the language we once used to describe it. It is on until 3 September, runs Saturday to Thursday, 11am – 4pm. The event is free but standard admission charges to the venue apply.

Extracted from L&DFLHS The Wanderer edited by Sandra Shaw.

**Cockermouth Heritage Group** have an exhibition running until 26<sup>th</sup> August (10-4) at the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth called " Every Object Tells a Story". Free Admission and lots of history books for sale.

**Newland Furnace** is open for the Heritage Open Days on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. See [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) for details.



## The Victoria County History of Cumbria Project

Sarah Rose, assistant editor for the

project, is now on maternity leave. If all goes according to plan she will resume her position within the VCH Cumbria Project in a year's time.

In the meantime her function will be covered by James Bowen, working two and a half days a week, during which he will be based at Lancaster. James is (like Sarah) a young post-graduate historian, having studied both at Lancaster and at Leicester Universities and completed his doctorate. He already has significant experience in VCH work in both Shropshire (his home county) and Herefordshire. He therefore 'hits the ground running', and is very keen to learn as much (and as quickly) as possible about our county of Cumbria.

This means that the two academic editors of VCH Cumbria during its early years (Angus Winchester and Sarah Rose) have both moved on; and both have been very satisfactorily replaced - by Fiona Edmonds and James Bowen. Angus is now, for one year, director of the national VCH project, and in that capacity still very much involved. We hope during his year as director to secure the publication from London of a 'VCH short' entitled 'Kirkoswald'. If that happens it will be the first VCH township article for Cumbria ever to be published officially by the national VCH project.

VCH Cumbria is 'going places' and we would be delighted to hear from local history societies, and more local historians, willing to explore direct involvement. It's a tremendous opportunity, and also a challenge!

Richard Brockington



## BALH Local History News acknowledges the CLHF Bulletin

The *Bulletin* from Cumbria Local History Federation provides information, ideas and encouragement to their members - societies and individuals through the area. There is a regular events calendar of society meetings, reports of events and publications, profiles of groups, suggestions for fund raising and more, all contributing to the ways in which they meet the objectives set out in their Constitution. The cover picture of the Spring 2017 issue shows a Cumbria Cyclecar (see below) made in Cockermouth, the subject of an article from Cockermouth heritage Group. [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk)



Did you spot the paragraph in the magazine for the British Association for Local History about our Bulletin? The BALH as well as providing insurance for member societies, an essential if you meet and organise trips for your members, issues 2 Quaterley magazines well worth a browse.

Thank you for your contributions and well done Cockermouth. I think it is probable that the image on the front cover attracted the BALH Editors so can I have more images and short

explanations please for future issues of our Bulletin. Today the Local History News tomorrow who knows! Editor.



### The Case for E-books.

Having just typed that heading I realise that there is no need for a case (i.e. bookcase) for E-books because they are kept digitally on the hard drive or in the cloud. (Sorry, a poor example of my humour or an example of my poor humour).

On a serious note are there any advantages or disadvantages with having a local history book full of images and close written text in an electronic form rather than a physical book. Please let me have your biased and unbiased thoughts. Editor.

### Do you like our new colour scheme and Logo?

## Events Diary 2017 Please see [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk) for member group contact details

### September 2017

|                  |                                                                                    |                                                     |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>Dr Kuerden's 1685 map and early maps of Cartmel Peninsula | Cartmel Village Hall<br>Dr Bill Shannon             |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>A Passionate Sisterhood                              | Yew Tree Hall, Lorton<br>Kathleen Jones             |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Hesket LHG<br>Shap Granite                                                         | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Jean Scott-Smith         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Holme & District LHS<br>The Gunpowder Mills of Cumbria                             | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>Ian Tyler         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum<br>The Wordsworths and black history             | Museum, Workington<br>Susan Allen                   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Levens LHG<br>Great Grandad's Army: Rifle Ranges of the Lake District              | Levens Village Hall<br>Jeremy Rowan-Robinson        |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Askam & Ireleth Local History Group<br>The Barrow Archives                         | Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness.<br>Susan Benson |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Orton and Tebay LHS<br>Thomas Mawson, the North Country<br>Garden Designer         | Orton Chapel<br>Jean Turnbull                       |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Shap LHS<br>Walking with St Michael Through Cumbria                                | St Michaels Church<br>Stella Jackson                |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Lakeland Churches                                             | Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness<br>Andy Lowe     |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Mourholme LHS<br>Debtors of Lancaster Prison                                       | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Graham Kemp              |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Lamplugh & District Heritage<br>TBA                                                | Village Hall                                        |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Barrow Civic and Local History Society<br>“So Where is Seldom Seen”                | Trinity Centre, Abbey Road<br>John Murphy           |

### October 2017

|                 |                                                                                      |                                                           |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>JMW Turner's 1768 Painting of Buttermere & Cromackwater | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick<br>Prof. John Macfarlane |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

|                  |                                                                               |                                                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>The Finds of Furness                                 | Cartmel Village Hall<br>Stuart Noon                  |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Warwick Bridge LHG<br>St Wilfreds Church                                      | Corby Hill Methodist Chapel<br>Jed Acton             |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | CWAAS Penrith Branch<br>Mary Powley of Langwathby                             | Friends Meeting House, Penrith<br>Robin Acland       |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Staveley & District HS<br>"Making a Grand Entrance"                           | Staveley School<br>Andy Lowe                         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Hesket LHG<br>Thomas Mawson and his garden designs in Cumbria                 | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Vera Turnball             |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>Sixth Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture         | Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth<br>TBA                  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Holme & District LHS<br>A Mansion Fit For Demolition - Grizedale Hall         | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>Dr Suzanne Tiplady |
| 17 <sup>TH</sup> | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum<br>AGM followed by slides: "Problem Peeps". | Museum, Workington                                   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Levens LHG<br>The Felt Hat Industry                                           | Levens Village Hall<br>Christine Workman             |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth Local History Group<br>Askam Town Silver Band                 | Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness<br>Peter Burt     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Orton and Tebay LHS<br>The History of Shap Abbey                              | Tebay Chapel<br>Harry Hawkins                        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Shap LHS<br>Weather Forecasting The Country Way                               | Memorial Hall<br>Jean Scott-Smith                    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Furness Abbey and the Fellowship                         | Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness<br>Gill Jepson    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Mourholme LHS<br>Mapping Morecambe Bay – The Early Days                       | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Bill Shannon              |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Lamplugh & District HS<br>Drove Roads of Cumbria                              | Lamplugh Village Hall<br>Peter Roebuck               |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Barrow Civic and Local History Society<br>"A Closer Look at Ulverston"        | Trinity Centre, Abbey Road<br>David Fellows          |

## November 2017

|                  |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>Music of Cumberland and Westmorland                                                        | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick<br>Ed Heslam                                                                            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>AGM plus TBA                                                                                   | Cartmel Village Hall                                                                                                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>From Barren Waste to National Treasure –<br>How we learned to love the Lake District      | Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth<br>Grevel Lindop                                                                            |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Hesket LHG<br>The RAF in Cumbria in World War Two                                                                       | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Ian Tyler                                                                                     |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Cumbrian Railways Association<br>Autumn Meet for Members & Non-members                                                  | Abbey House Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness<br>See <a href="http://www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk">www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk</a> |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | CWAAS Penrith Branch<br>Medieval Forgers? The Nuns of<br>Armathwaite Priory                                             | Friends Meeting House, Penrith<br>Harry Hawkins                                                                          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Staveley & District HS<br>The Yards of Kendal                                                                           | Staveley School<br>Trevor Hughes                                                                                         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Askam &amp; Ireleth Local History Group</b><br>Memories & Memorabilia Night.                                         | Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness.                                                                                      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Orton and Tebay LHS<br>Inside a Lakeland Farmhouse                                                                      | Orton Chapel<br>Andy Lowe                                                                                                |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Holme & District LHS<br>Katherine Parr                                                                                  | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>Dr Tom Clare                                                                           |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Mourholme LHS<br>Place Names and the Mediaeval Landscape<br>of NW England                                               | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Alan Crosby                                                                                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Levens LHG<br>Archaeology in the Lake District :Recent<br>projects and conservation.                                    | Levens Village Hall<br>Eleanor Kingston                                                                                  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Lamplugh & District HS<br>In search of Arctic Wonders: Cumbrians and<br>polar exploration                               | Lamplugh Village Hall<br>Dr Rob David                                                                                    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Barrow Civic and Local History Society<br>“The Name of the House was one time<br>famous” Furness Abbey before the Abbey | Trinity Centre, Abbey Road<br>Dan Elsworth                                                                               |

## December 2017

|                 |                                                          |                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>Prehistoric Life in Cumbria | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick<br>Bruce Bennison |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>      | Hesket LHG<br>Christmas Meeting TBA                                                          | Village Hall, Hesket                                  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>      | Warwick Bridge LHG<br>The Evacuees                                                           | Corby Hill Methodist Chapel<br>David Moorat           |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>     | CWAAS Penrith Branch<br>Christmas Tea and Prize Local History Quiz                           | Friends Meeting House, Penrith                        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>     | Staveley & District HS<br>Around Windermere                                                  | Staveley School<br>Sue Jones                          |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>     | Holme & District LHS<br>Christmas Meeting                                                    | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>TBA                 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>     | Mourholme LHS<br>Local Surgeons of the 18 <sup>th</sup> and early 19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries | Yealand Village Hall<br>Brian Rhodes                  |
| <b>January 2018</b>  |                                                                                              |                                                       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>      | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>The Derwentwater Disaster of 1898                               | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick<br>Ray Greenhow      |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>      | CWAAS Penrith Branch<br>Jonas Barber, Clockmaker                                             | Friends Meeting House, Penrith<br>Tim Sykes           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>      | Staveley & District HS<br>How to study the history of your house                             | Staveley School<br>Rob David                          |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>     | Holme & District LHS<br>Railways and the growth of Arnside                                   | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>Dr Stephen Caunce   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>     | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Broughton Soldiers in the Great War 1917                                | Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness<br>Peter Greenwood |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>     | Mourholme LHS<br>Cumbrian Stone Circles                                                      | Yealand Village Hall<br>Tom Clare                     |
| <b>February 2018</b> |                                                                                              |                                                       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>     | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Carving in Cumbria                                                      | Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness<br>Frank Wood      |

## Editors Final Thoughts (or Editor's rant).

As mentioned in Peter's Chairman's Chat the CLHF is 25 years old this year. It is no doubt an achievement for any non-profit voluntary organisation to last that long but I want to look forward not back and ask you the question "Is the CLHF fit for purpose and what should it be doing for Local History research in Cumbria?"

I am a member of a local history society as well as Bulletin Editor and to be frank I know we don't do anything like as much as we could do to help stimulate individuals and groups to explore the fascinating history of Cumbria. I therefore ask you to email me, or ring me and tell me what you want the CLHF to do for you and your members. If you are a group please ask your members on my behalf and don't be afraid to "think outside the box" (ugh...). I have overheard the question "What have they (the CLHF) done for us?" so please let me know what you think we should do. Thank you.

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Rant over!

Nigel Mills, Editor.

### CLHF Contacts

|                                |               |                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                          | Peter Roebuck | <a href="mailto:peter.roebuck3@gmail.com">peter.roebuck3@gmail.com</a><br>016974 73741   |
| Secretary                      | Lyn Cole      | <a href="mailto:lyncole1804@gmail.com">lyncole1804@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Treasurer                      | Vacancy       | Liz Kerry pro tem                                                                        |
| Bulletin Editor                | Nigel Mills   | <a href="mailto:nigelmills@btinternet.com">nigelmills@btinternet.com</a><br>015395 36603 |
| Membership & Treasurer Website | Liz Kerrey    | <a href="mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com">lizkerrey@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Event Organiser                | Vacancy       | Peter Roebuck pro tem                                                                    |
| CCHT Trustee for CLHF          | June Hall     | <a href="mailto:junelennahall@hotmail.com">junelennahall@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| Committee                      | Jenni Lister  |                                                                                          |
| Committee                      | Adrian Allan  |                                                                                          |

This caught my eye from the Sedbergh Historian Vol VI No 8:

**Extracts from the Kendal Mercury, 4 August 1838**

*A report that the Methodist Society of Sedbergh, Dent and Garsdale held their annual camp meeting on Langstone Fell. The service concluded at an earlier hour than usual owing to the unfavourable weather.*

On the same page, there was an unsympathetic letter about the camp meeting.

Sir,—I observed an article in your last GAZETTE on "Cant and Fanaticism," which came so near the point of fact, that if anyone was inclined to doubt those statements, the display on Langstone Fell would serve to confirm them in the belief of every one unblinded by enthusiasm and prejudice. The road to the Fell assumed the appearance, of what in Doncaster would have been termed the "Great St. Leger Day," for amongst the groups that were wending their way, might be seen the old man leaning on the top of his stick, the young leaping as though it were the village feast or a country wake; and do not suppose, sir, that there was nothing but humble pedestrians to be met with, for there were "buggy, whiskey, curricles, dog cart and tandem," and many who had never been honoured with more than an ass and cart on former occasions, now flourished the twig of lancewood, seated in a vehicle that had once been a gig. When the muster had taken place it could not but bring to the mind of those who had visited Donnybrook, that they were now to behold in miniature the far-famed Irish fair. The service, for which the gathering took place, displayed far more want of ceremony than is observed in the Indian's hut, where only one individual at a time is allowed to address the audience. But let us speak more seriously, and see if there be any consistency in such gatherings. Have the Methodists any chapels in Sedbergh, Dent and Garsdale? I presume they have; and if that presumption be founded in fact, why do they adjourn to the borders of the common to worship. When they had but few chapels they repined, and now when they have abundance they turn out of doors. Away with such mummery, it is merely for a show and parade, and in such displays as these there appears to be as much consistency as devotion. But again, a many of these "Doctor Cantwells" were great advocates for the Sabbath Bill, and spoke volumes as to the good that would be effected, if only the bishops were kept out of their carriages, the grooms and horses could then have their lawful rest. And will you believe it, Mr. Editor, that some of these pharaonic worthies actually came from places ten or twelve miles from the camp, and did they walk think you? not they, in some conveyances there were six and in one tax-cart seven persons, which you will allow is a fair load for one horse: and further than this, some of those consistent gentlemen forgot to order the poor animals their feed until they were nearly ready to start home. I trust before any of these would-be puritans become dictators in future, they will peruse that commandment which give s rest to the horse as well as his master. Begging you will give this a place in your journal, "A HATER OF HUMBUG"

What a wealth of local history is to be found in the old newspapers. Fascinating even if I could not understand some of the references or even the words! Have you found any intriguing or humourous paragraphs in old newspapers for your area that you would care to share?