



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 79 – Spring 2019



Crown Fingerpost at Maulds Meaburn © June Hill

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

In this issue you will find Derek Denman's celebration of 25 years of the Lorton & Derwentfells Local History Society. It encapsulates what has been achieved by a talented and committed group of local historians working together. We commend their example and congratulate them. Nor do we forget the personal contribution Derek has made to the Federation as a whole, not least through his assistance with the development of our website.

Having organised a valuable series of visits to Museums and a Central Library in recent months, which we hope to build on, your Committee is currently focused on the Cluster Meetings, scheduled to take place at locations across the county in May. We need to consult you. We have matters, relating to archives and other practical issues, to raise and discuss with you; and you have the opportunity, in advance or on the day, to air your views about any aspect of our activities. We hope to meet your needs more effectively after listening carefully. Please make sure that your Society is represented at one of these meetings.

We were surprised to learn that the Charity Commission has turned back our application for charitable status. We felt that we had followed their advice carefully but, in terms of the layout of our Constitution, they judged otherwise. We can, and will, review and re-submit.

There is mixed news about our efforts to support the county's archive service. In the midst of fierce competition the application for special funding to create a single catalogue of the Musgrave archives was unsuccessful. Volunteers are making good progress with the Jim Templeton photographic collection. A paper-based index to all the materials lodged there will soon be placed in the Search Rooms at Carlisle. In addition two new projects for volunteers are advertised below: one on the Cumberland Militia Ballot Lists 1797-1831, and another on the records of the Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital 1932-51. Family historians and others will benefit from their successful completion. We were disappointed not to be consulted about recent changes to arrangements for searchers at the Kendal archives and we are currently in dialogue with managers about them.

We look forward to meeting representatives at one of our Cluster meetings.

Peter Roebuck

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## CLHF Events

### **Report on CLHF Museum visits, 2018.**

Three visits to museums in Cumbria, were arranged in 2018. The idea was to explore the contents of three widely differing collections in three very different areas of our rich and varied county, while meeting with CLHF members from other groups. The theme of Biographies was used as a means of introduction.

The first visit was to the **Ruskin Museum at Coniston**, (opened in 1901, by WG Collingwood) with Ruskin himself, in the 200<sup>th</sup> year since his birth, as the subject. We were not able to have a dedicated space for the talk, as work was in progress, preparing for the displays in advance of the arrival of the speedboat Bluebird, but we were able to see the extensive memorabilia in the Ruskin gallery. The whole Museum reflects the life and work of Ruskin, as he made many visits to the Lake District throughout his life, and spent the last twenty years of his life living at Brantwood, his home across Coniston Water. He promoted local culture, particularly the Arts and Crafts, which he was hugely influential in developing into a movement, and which ultimately led to the foundation of the Pre-Raphaelites and the National Trust.

There was an opportunity to walk to the parish churchyard, to see his grave, and the cross designed by his secretary and Viking-age scholar, W G Collingwood. The motifs depict Ruskin's life.

The second visit was to **Dent. The Museum and Heritage Centre** houses a collection which reflects the whole valley and the life and work of the people who have farmed and extracted stone over the centuries. Before 1974, Dent was part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and culturally, it is part of the Yorkshire Dales. Dent is the main settlement in the dale, and contains the parish church and former Grammar School. Although still

feeling remote, it has had links with some surprising places for many years. The subject of the biography was Adam Sedgwick, son of the local vicar, born in the parsonage on the Green. (See the blue plaque) After attending the Grammar School, and Sedbergh School, he went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he became professor of geology. His research led to his reputation as the Father of English Geology.

Dr Alan Smith, of Keswick, geologist, who has written many books on the geology of Cumbria and elsewhere, gave a thoughtful, illustrated talk on Sedgwick's life and influence, in the village hall.

The third and final visit was to the **Helena Thompson Museum at Workington**. We were there around the time that a blue plaque was installed, to commemorate the woman who gave the lovely house to the community. It is more than a museum, offering a wide range of opportunities for people to meet, hold regular meetings and to volunteer in its running.

The collections reflect the past of Workington, and we were there to hear about John Christian Curwen, a major figure in its development. He married the Curwen heiress to Workington Hall, and took her surname, having been born Christian. He was a great influence not only on the area, but more widely, being an MP, and a prime mover in agricultural improvements of the time. He founded Workington Agricultural Society, an early example of what was to become a country-wide movement. This was the era of revolutions – agricultural, industrial and in transport. He was at the forefront of them all. Coal extraction led to the expansion of Workington as a port. The Curwen room at the Museum contains a model of the once magnificent Workington Hall, now a ruin, as it was in John Christian's time. He engaged John Carr of York to renovate the building. After a talk on his life and work, we were free to examine the collections and enjoy refreshments.

In 2019, the only definite museum visit so far, will be to the Armit, at Ambleside, on 28 March. Others can be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Over to you.

June Hill

## Visit to Central Library, Carlisle.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Carlisle Library welcomed a group of 18 CLHF members to view its local studies collection. Peter Roebuck, introducing the day, emphasised the richness of the collection we would see.

Stephen White, Local Studies Librarian, led the morning session. He explained that the basis of the holdings is the Bibliotheca Jacksoniana. It is named after William Jackson, who died in 1890 leaving directions that his private library should be given to what was then the Carlisle Free Library. The collection goes back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and covers every subject to do with the Lake Counties, from political science to portraits. There are about 18,000 items, including not only books but also pamphlets, especially on parish history, and manuscript ephemera, since the collection pre-dates the Archive Service where one might otherwise expect to find such material. The catalogue of the original collection can be consulted at the main desk. A card index of this and the numerous subsequent additions is available in the library, as well as the digital catalogue. Jackson made a number of stipulations about his bequest, including the requirement to include his bookplate in every volume. It features a heraldic rebus, consisting of the legend APOLLO JACTAT LUCEM ('Apollo casts light') around a depiction of the sun over a fish. The sun represents Apollo, classical god of light and leader of the nine Muses. The fish is a young pike, known locally as a jack. The conceit, therefore, is that heaven casts the light of learning and the arts on to Jackson; Apollo is Jack's-sun. Jack's-sun/Jackson in turn may be considered to cast light on those who enjoy his literary bequest.

Stephen White went on to describe other resources historians can consult at the Library. It possesses a large collection of newspapers and journals going back to the earliest, *The Cumberland Pacquet* of 1774. These are on microfilm, preferred for its durability to the digital medium. There is public access to the reels and the images on screen can be freely photographed. There is also free access, via the Net-Loan links page at the Library, to a range of sites for which it holds a general licence. These include 'Ancestry' for data on, for example, the English census up to 1911, the 1939 Register, WW1 service records, the Scottish census,

probate records; also 'Find My Past' for similar data bases. The British Newspaper Archive can be accessed and an advanced search will take you to material going back to the 1700s, e.g. the *Penrith Observer*; facsimiles can be saved for study at home. For illustrations, the Cumbria Image Bank holds 47,000 images, also maps, videos, posters and railway plans; maps can be provided digitally or as an A3 print.

Examples of interesting and unusual books were passed around and generated questions and discussion. The morning concluded with a tour of the back rooms where Stephen White pointed out some of the treasures and curiosities not housed in the main library, for example, early editions of the OS 6" and 25" maps, and a collection of historic bus tickets. Members of the group browsed in this area at will.

In the afternoon we were privileged to see and handle a few of the Library's most precious volumes, the donations of benefactors. These included a pristine 13<sup>th</sup> century manuscript of the Epistles of St Augustine from Conishead Priory at Furness; a copy of John Postlethwaite's 'Mines and Mining in the Lake District' formerly owned by W.H. Auden and with Auden's signature and annotations; and one of a small, privately printed run of T.E. Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, containing a wealth of original art work by Paul Nash and other distinguished artists of the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century, with hand-written emendations to the text by Lawrence himself.

To complete the day, Peter Roebuck demonstrated the use and importance of newspaper evidence in local history research, using the subject of cattle droving between Scotland and England from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several factors explain the rise and fall of the droving industry: the brief period of union between Scotland and England established by Oliver Cromwell after 1653; the population growth of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; the huge demand for beef in the army and navy during the Napoleonic wars; the drop in demand and prices after those wars; the start of steamship transport. These key elements can be tracked in detail using newspapers such as the *Carlisle Journal*. The importance of the newspapers as evidence is that they have a precise chronology and that each has its own standard layout, making it straightforward to create an

information series from similar news item. Additionally, of course, the examples they offer bring vitality and colour to the topic.

As a general principle, Peter Roebuck advised looking in historic newspapers not so much for main news, which would be syndicated and drawn from larger papers, but for local items and advertisements. Carlisle tended to look to its larger neighbour Newcastle for many specialised goods, since there was more shipping down the east rather than the west coast of England. Considerable information can be compiled from items that have nothing to do with the politics of the day but simply relate to people going about their daily business. A useful approach is to look for a major news event which the paper is bound to have reported, become familiar with its style, and work from there.

Our expectations of finding a rich collection of local history material were fulfilled by the day's visit: the local studies department at Carlisle Library does indeed compare favourably with those in the municipal libraries of far larger cities. Furthermore, we discovered free access to up to date online resources and encountered extremely helpful and well informed staff. It is worth travelling the length of the county to use this library.

Jane Penman

Chair, Lowther & Askham History and Archaeology Society

The 2019 CLHF Convention will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>  
October at the Helena Thompson Museum in  
Workington. Further details to follow.

## From your CLHF Membership Secretary

I'd like to extend a welcome to our new members and just a reminder to existing members that subscriptions for 2019 are due! A membership form may be downloaded from the About Us page on our website [www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-about-us/](http://www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-about-us/)

Thanks to those of you who send me fliers about special events and I do hope you all enjoy circulation of these by email. If anyone would rather **not** receive these emails, please let me know as I can remove you from the 'news' list.

Also if any Society or Group members would like to receive the news emails directly from me rather than wait for them to be passed on, please let me know – <mailto:membership@clhf.org.uk> - I can easily add you to my list! Of course, you can also check the information out on the Events page of our website! That reminds me - please remember to use our new website address [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk) as our previous website address is no longer in our control to update.

Best wishes to all! Liz

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CLHF Members News.

An Introduction from new CLHF members the Furness Family History Society

We are a small friendly group based in Barrow in Furness, and since starting in 1993 we have supported many people in their Family research. We meet the first Monday each month (apart from Bank Holidays), at Barrow Island Primary School, Island Road, Barrow Island, at 7.30. Admission £2 including refreshments.

We hold an archive of records and local information. Our website (including a Members only area) and quarterly newsletter keeps in touch with Members worldwide. Monthly meetings have talks on various subjects on local and research interests, and occasionally we have a meeting elsewhere i.e. the local Archive office or somewhere of local interest.

Carol Collinge, General Secretary FFHS

Kendal Oral History Group - creating a community archive

The Kendal Oral History Group was formed in 1987 with the aim of compiling a detailed picture of life and work in Kendal and the surrounding area through the recorded memories of people who have spent all, or a part of, their lives in the local area. Oral history provides an insight into areas of life which are not easily found in more traditional historical sources, and our respondents are leaving a valuable legacy to the people of the region.

Our small group of committed volunteers record the interviews, transcribe them, create CDs, index them and undertake many other administrative tasks to turn the raw recordings into part of a fully searchable archive. All materials are deposited for safe-keeping in the Cumbria Archive Service office in Kendal with copies for public use kept in the Kendal Local Studies Library. Our website also contains the index and other materials.



We are largely self-funding through the presentations members give using material from the archive. These include talks to local community groups and organisations, including history groups. Using modern technology we are able to bring the voices of local people to life within the presentations, making the past seem so much more alive than mere text could ever do. However, there are occasions when we need to secure funding, for example when we undertook the programme of digitisation in 2007-8, and later when we created the 'Kendal Flood of December 2015' oral history archive. We continue to work to keep abreast of new technological developments to ensure the archive's long-term accessibility and survival.

Our archive currently contains more than 370 interviews, almost all of which are indexed by place and subject. It is used by a wide range of people, including researchers, students and schoolchildren – as well as local people who want to learn more about the history of their local area.

The archive contains the memories of people born from the late nineteenth century to the 1990s and demonstrates the wide diversity of life experiences of those people who lived in Kendal and the surrounding countryside over the past century. The range of subjects covered is wide and includes family life, childhood, health, religion, work, wartime, shopping, transport, leisure activities and much more.

So where do we go from here? We know that there is more to be done. We also want to find ways of encouraging more individuals and groups to use the archive. But the progress we have made to date demonstrates that long-standing community projects such as ours can be very successful – but only as long as they are able to attract members with the necessary skills. So if you feel that you would like to learn more about what we do, or even consider joining us (there are always jobs to be done - particularly with the transcription of interviews), do contact us via our website at <https://kendaloralhistory.com/> or pay a visit to the archive in Kendal Oral History Group Archive at Kendal Local Studies Library. If you look through the index you are sure to find something of interest!

Jean Turnbull, Kendal Oral History Group,

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## Cumbria Vernacular Building Group - Recent activities

The year 2019 promises to be another interesting year for CVBG, with at least one event arranged for each month. We will be cooperating with several other organisations, to bring in expertise and the varying aspects of our research. These include some initiatives which will take place in certain areas of Cumbria – the Heritage Action Zone project in Appleby, (Sat. 30 March), and the Fell Foot Forward project, organised by the Historic Environment Group of the North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This latter stretches across several northern counties, and encompasses the Fellside part of Cumbria, reaching down as far as Melmerby. Our event on 3 May will be part of the development phase of the project, looking at Kirkowsald Castle ruin. This was an important focus in the middle ages, for the Dacres, Howards and other influential families. Parts of the castle were installed in other notable buildings in Cumbria. For instance, an elaborate ceiling, installed in Naworth Castle,

home of our Patron, the Hon. Philip Howard, started its life in Kirkoswald Castle, only to be replaced in turn, by Salvin, during his renovations following a disastrous fire. We shall also visit The College, Kirkoswald, home of one of our members, Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, and the principal house in the parish.

Another collaboration will be with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. (RSPB). They have a lease on Swindale and the Naddle Valley, between Shap and Haweswater, where a number of remote farmhouses and barns are situated.

In June, we look forward to what has become a regular feature of our annual programme – a joint event with the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group, (SVBWG). Their president, Niall Logan, is another CVBG member, along with Alex Gibbons, who will be organising a day in June, looking at the Vernacular buildings of the Debatable Lands.

There is plenty more to look forward to in the coming year. New members always welcome. [www.cvbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbg.co.uk)

June Hill, Chairman

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25 Years of the Lorton & Derwentfells LHS

It was October 1993 when the Society had its inaugural meeting. October 2018 marked the 25th Anniversary, and it seems opportune to offer a short report of the life and times of the Society, writing as one of the twelve full members who have been members in every year so far. I will spare you the long list of office holders and others who have contributed, in favour of just two original names. Firstly, the founder, the late Ron George, (see image) who on moving to Lorton, became interested in his old house, and then in the parochial chapelry of St Cuthbert's, and then in some formal education, and then in writing a parish history, and then in founding a local history society. He was our Chair for the first six years. A familiar story, and one for which we are most grateful.



The other name to be mentioned is Angus Winchester, recently Professor of Landscape History and Director of the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University, but in those early days teaching history there, and already the author of the essential *Landscape and Society in Medieval Cumbria*. Angus was invited to be Honorary President and has continued and contributed in that role ever since. We are delighted that Angus has will give our 25th Anniversary Lecture on 11th April 2019.

The majority membership of most local history societies is a group of interested people who pay subscriptions, and who wish to attend talks and participate in outings, both for education and for social entertainment. The reason that such groups are strong in Cumbria, particularly in rural areas, is probably due to the large numbers of offcomers. We come in later life, attracted by the environment, but develop a curiosity about a strange residual culture of earlier times, which remains here so visibly while being generally overwritten elsewhere. Our Society has provided a regular annual programme of six bi-monthly talks and regular outings, which have formed the basic programme. There has been the additional dimension of research, publications, local events, exhibitions, and engagement in wider projects, which has varied according to the interests, abilities, and resources of the society members.

The development of a local history society into active study and research, and the ability to maintain a level of creative work, depends on having a core of engaged people, and on refreshing that core with unsuspecting initiates from time to time. Our Society first addressed this issue soon after 2000, by extending its area of study to include some places previously deprived of a society, such as Loweswater, Embleton, and even parts of Dean Parish and Mosser. Over the following years membership grew to peak at 200, providing people and resources to support a significant programme of local history activities, both within the locality and as part of county projects. One lasting result is the series of sixty *Journals*, and previous *Newsletters*, which combined to form a comprehensive resource on the history of our area, available to all at www.derwentfells.com/journal.

In recent years it has become more difficult for the Society to maintain the previous high level of projects, primarily because fewer members wish to participate in active research. Consequently, the Society has adjusted its projects and publications, and reduced its subscriptions, to provide a sustainable programme for a stable membership of over 150. We have a full committee, a busy and varied programme, and we have been very pleased to have recently published *They Lie in Foreign Fields: remembering the men from Butteremere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mosser and Wythop who lost their lives in World War One*. This can be found at <http://derwentfells.com/publications.html> You can now also follow our activities on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Lortonlocalhistorysociety> .

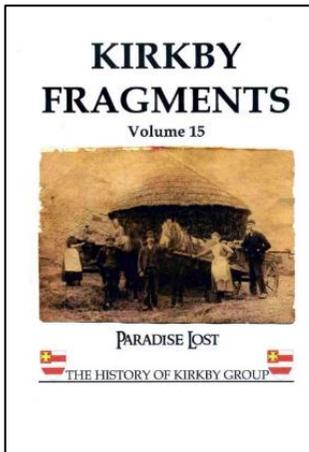
While local societies tend to be parochial, almost by definition, we should remember that no Local History Society is an island, entire of itself. One of the first actions of the Lorton Society was to join the recently formed CLHF. A little later the BALH, whose insurance for our activities has retained our membership. Much later, the Society was a founding member of CCHT, and a contributor to the VCH Jubilee Digests. However, the primary linkage would have to be with CLHF, as an organisation which exists to support and connect local historians and societies.

Considering the changes in the general support environment over those 25 years, it seems to me that the most disadvantageous change for our society is that loss of educational and training opportunities which allowed so many to make that move from a general interest to a practical engagement in the practice of local history. If I look to the future, I would say that the key to an active future for our society, and possibly for many, might depend on reinstating some of the further education opportunities that we once enjoyed. Probably CLHF is the county-wide organisation which has both the mandate and the motivation to facilitate or provide this missing ingredient, needed for a successful and productive future societies.

Derek Denman, Secretary, L&DWLHS

Local History Publications

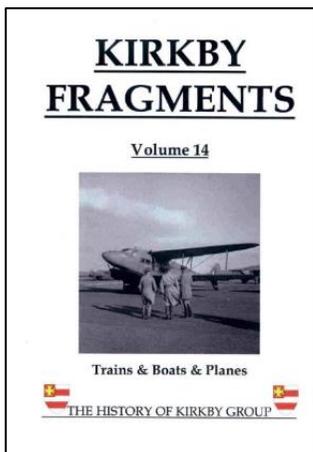
Kirkby Fragments – The History of Kirkby Group.



Lex Ward ed. *Trains & Boats & Planes* and *Paradise Lost*, vols. 14 & 15 of *Kirkby Fragments*, History of Kirkby Group, 2018, 58pp & 78pp. £3.50 ea.

The appearance of these titles provides an opportunity to applaud a long-standing, successful and continuing research and publishing venture. This series on the history of the village of Kirkby in Furness began in 2005 and is still going strong. These publications list all their predecessors: individual volumes may be acquired via alaric42@sky.com with 1-9 being available on

CD. Copiously and splendidly illustrated, both volumes are a fine example of what can be achieved by a committed group of local historians working with a supportive local printer. *Paradise Lost* deals with the 'Lost Places, Names, Practices & Traditions' of Kirkby parish: a host of homes, business



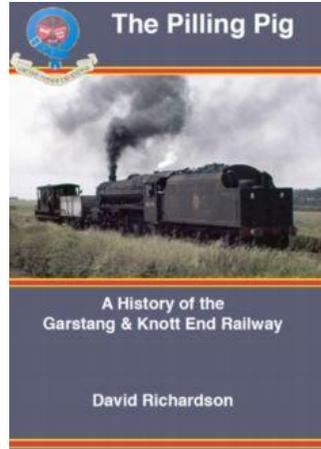
premises, delivery vehicles, events, and industrial and sporting activities. In addition to shorter pieces, vol. 14 deals substantially with the crash of a de Havilland Rapide on Kirkby Moor in 1939 and illustrates how local history can illustrate a national development. Two senior RAF officers were on board – W.S. Douglas, later Lord Douglas of Kirtleside, and Air Chief Marshall Sir Christopher Courtney, who broke a knee-cap. But for this, he would have taken over as C. in C. Fighter Command from Hugh Dowding during the Battle of Britain. In fact

it was Douglas who succeeded Dowding in time to fight the Blitz.

Peter Roebuck

The Pilling Pig – Cumbria Railways Association.

This new book tells the history of the Garstang and Knott End Railway – which ran from Garstang, north of Preston, to Knott End on the Wyre estuary opposite Fleetwood. Researched and written by CRA member Dave Richardson, this fascinating and detailed book covers the whole history of this charismatic line and its train nicknamed “The Pilling Pig”. Starting from the origins and construction in the latter half of the 19th century, through the days of independent operation, Grouping, Nationalisation and up until final complete closure in 1965, this book provides a highly comprehensive and detailed history of this less well-known line. As well as covering the general history of the railway, there are separate detailed chapters on the infrastructure and signalling, the goods and passenger services, the locomotives and rolling stock. As a bonus, it also covers the Preesall salt industry. The book contains numerous illustrations, some previously unpublished photographs and a wide range of detailed layout maps showing the development of the line and the stations.



The book is 112 pages, soft backed and priced £15.00 and can be purchased from: Cumbrian Railways Association, 01793 692588 or e-mail: sales@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

Don Jary, CRA

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## The Gate - A living History of Shaddongate in Carlisle.

Shaddongate is a district in Carlisle, Cumbria in North West England. It sits beneath and outside the walls of the old city and is an area with a rich historical past. Predominantly working class, the area was known for its industrial mills and poor settlements occupied by migrant Scots and Irish labourers and weavers; the site of Dixon's Chimney, once the tallest in

Europe; the home of Shaddongate United, the forerunner of Football league club, Carlisle United; a long lost canal basin, where ships brought cargo into the city from the Solway Firth; the conflation of 2 Rivers, the Caldew and the Eden which have caused the area to flood, most recently in 2015; the site of the Old Brewery, the brewing home of Carlisle State Management Scheme – that nationalised and regulated alcohol consumption in the city.... and more local and personal histories.

The Gate project will involve volunteers drawn from the local area who will research key historical points in the district, primarily using the Cumbria Archive at Carlisle and will seek out, speak and record the voices and reminiscences of residents. They will then work with creative writers and other artists to create audio, visual and text based material that will form the basis of items for exhibitions and publications. Exhibition activity, lectures and talks will take place in the heart of Shaddongate at the Shaddongate Community Resource Centre, where a permanent exhibition will be set up and a short film will be produced by volunteers working in conjunction with local film makers, recording both on-going activity and creating a visual record of the area's historical landmarks which will be available across social media platforms as well as shown as part of the exhibition. Furthermore, key sites will be transposed onto a map of the area which will be used for walking tours that celebrate the living history of Shaddongate today. Initial walking for health walks will be delivered by volunteer walk leaders.

For further information please contact Mark Costello on 07864080593 or [markc@cumbriacvs.org](mailto:markc@cumbriacvs.org)

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Cumbrian Lives

a.k.a. The Dictionary of Cumbrian Biography

In September 2004, the new Oxford Dictionary of National Biography [O.D.N.B.] was published by Oxford University Press, containing 60,000 biographies. This massive project, largely generated in the 1990s, involved the re-writing of the lives included in the volumes of the original Dictionary of National Biography [1885 to 1900], and the inclusion of the lives of those written up in supplements [1912-1996]. The O.D.N.B. also

included the lives of those who had been excluded or omitted from the earlier volumes, particularly those of prominent women and members of ethnic minority groups. There is a full sequence of the O.D.N.B. volumes in Carlisle Library and also online.

In anticipation of this publication and in collaboration with the editors of the O.D.N.B., in June 1999, almost twenty years ago, David Cross, a Cumbrian art historian, (www.davidcross.org.uk) called a meeting at Charlotte Mason College to establish a county wide project, initially entitled the Dictionary of Cumbrian Biography [D.C.B.]. The initial aim was to identify and research the names and biographies of significant Cumbrian figures who had not, at that date, been included in the O.D.N.B. survey. William Rollinson, Robert Woof, Michael Wheeler, Keith Hanley and others were unable to attend. Apart from David Cross, those attending the first meeting included Les Shore, the engineering historian [chair]; Angus Winchester, the historian; Rob David, the historian; Alan Hankinson, the journalist and obituarist; Richard Hall, the archivist; Jackie Fay, the librarian and Christine Parker, the original secretary of the project. Soon afterwards, the D.C.B. was re-named, more succinctly, Cumbrian Lives. Its ultimate goal was to be an online source of Cumbrian biographies. There followed some ten planning meetings at Kendal Archive Centre from 1999-2000 and the committee members set about listing suitable names and accumulating bibliographical details.

For 2018-19: an exhibition of Cumbrian portraits, both paintings and photographs, is being planned to be shown in Carlisle Library demonstrating the range of figures so far included in the ODNB and in Cumbrian Lives.

Much has been achieved already, but there is still a great deal to encompass. David Cross, whose publications include writing on Cumbrian artists, including George Romney, Sawrey Gilpin and Percy Kelly, in addition to his recent volume on Cumbrian public sculpture, is keen in his semi-retirement to assemble a new team to carry the project forward. The current plan for 2019, the 20th anniversary year, is to meet in Carlisle for several hours once a month. There will be scope for more frequent meetings, if the new members are keen.

If anyone would like to join the project, please let David know via: dcrossart@gmail.com.

CLHF Register of Research Interests

Your Committee is always looking for new ways to service members which is why, some time ago now, we raised with you the possibility of creating a Register of Research Interests. After giving the matter further thought in the light of your comments, we have decided to go ahead with this. We will publish the Register in the Bulletin and on our Website and we will periodically update it. The register, created from individual responses to a short questionnaire (see below), would reveal the range of research currently underway, both thematically and chronologically. Members could then discover who had similar or related interests and contact them with queries, to share material and (possibly) to collaborate.

You will find below a list of the information required in order to compile the register. If you wish to be included in it, please send your completed list to Lyn Cole, Secretary of the Federation Committee at:
lyncole1804@gmail.com

CLHF Register of Interests

Required Information:-

Name of Researcher

E-Mail address, phone number and/or other contact details

Name of Local Society

Titles of Topics of Research (up to four): e.g. 'The Great 18th-Century Cattle Plague'

Geographical Area concerned: e.g. The Old County of Cumberland)

Chronological Span of the research: e.g. 1745-57

Related Topics about which you are keen to hear/learn from other researchers: e.g. Cow Doctors; Pinfolds; Involvement of J.P.s

Any further comments: e.g. work underway or completed

Cluster Meetings with CLHF Member Groups

Your CLHF Committee has invited 2 members of each member group of the CLHF to meet with them in June 2019 to discuss common interests such as local archives, best practice and communications. It is also an opportunity for us to receive feedback on how the CLHF can serve the local history groups in Cumbria. We will also in due course be seeking the views of individual members of CLHF. The meetings will be held in 4 different venues to reduce travelling, hence the name of the meetings, and we hope all groups will be represented. Your own Committee has full details of the dates and venues and may well be asking for your views.

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## Help Requested.

**From Cartmel Peninsula LHS.** The Cartmel Peninsula LHS's Research and Archive Group has been examining 18<sup>th</sup> century deeds and conveyances that relate to property in the northern part of the Cartmel Peninsula and have come across the terms *Annual fee farm rent*, *annual composition rent in lieu of tythe* and *annual knowing rent*. The fee farm rent and composition rent are familiar but a clear definition or purpose of *knowing rent* could not be found. Can anyone help them please? Editor.

**Bulletin:** As agreed at the AGM from this issue each group and individual member of CLHF will receive 1 paper copy of the Bulletin, issued three times a year, sent by post to the contact named on your membership renewal form.

An electronic pdf copy will follow shortly afterwards via email to groups, again to the contact name, asking them to send a copy on to their members. A copy will also be placed on our website [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk)

If any CLHF member group wishes more than 1 copy of the Bulletin these are available at £6 for the year (3 Bulletins) but need to be ordered in advance through [membership@clhf.org](mailto:membership@clhf.org).

## Cumbria Archives Volunteer Opportunities

### **Further Volunteering opportunities at Carlisle Archive Centre commencing Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

We are looking for volunteers to work on the following collections.

**Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital – 2 volunteers.** The project involves the creation of a searchable database (to be made available on the Archive Service website) of patient case notes, 1932-1951. Although the collection is closed due to sensitive personal data, the database will provide an initial inroad for researchers looking to access this name-rich resource. There is an example of a hospital index that has already been created for Garlands Mental Asylum

[https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/online\\_catalogues/genindexes/indexes.asp](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/online_catalogues/genindexes/indexes.asp)

**Quarter Sessions – Up to 6 volunteers. The Cumberland Militia Ballot Lists 1797-1831.** The project involves the indexing of the militia ballot lists from which the Cumberland militia ( a defensive force of able-bodied men aged 18 – 45 years) was compiled annually; the returns survive for three of the five wards of Cumberland, giving names, age, occupation and number of dependent children, and occasionally further information (on physical infirmities and poverty). Each parish had several township lists. Such lists survive in only six counties in England, Cumberland's lists being the most extensive series. Indexing the lists would allow remote access to the collection whose current existence is relatively unknown and so underused. There is an example of the information available in the family history indexes at

[https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/online\\_catalogues/genindexes/indexes.asp](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/online_catalogues/genindexes/indexes.asp)

**Skills.** We are looking for volunteers who have good IT skills (including the ability to use Microsoft Excel), appreciate the need for accuracy and attention to detail, and commitment to the project; for the Cumberland Militia Ballot Lists project, it would be an advantage to possess basic skills in reading old text. For further information please contact: [carlisle.archives@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:carlisle.archives@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Cumbria Archive News.

### Detailed annual lists of additions to catalogues

Do you want to know what is new to Cumbria Archive Service catalogue? Each archive centre now produces a detailed list of all the new catalogue entries for each calendar year. These can be accessed from the CASCAT home page. These are very extensive detailed lists but very useful since the documents can be downloaded and also searched by word.

The latest list (for 2017) for Barrow runs to 202 pages, that for Kendal 294, Carlisle 661 and Whitehaven 765 (!). These are very useful if you have already searched the catalogue in the past but want to see if anything new has been added. They are pdf documents which can be browsed so you do not need to continually move between headings and subheadings, as you do on the CASCAT catalogue itself. You can get a very good feel of what a whole collection contains and in what detail. Many thanks to the archives for making such a useful resource available. See below for the link to new additions to catalogue:

<https://archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/calmview/showcase>.

### An Unexpected Deposit

Our chairman, Professor Peter Roebuck, was the recent recipient of a packet of deeds which the sender thought were of interest, requesting that they be passed on 'to the most appropriate organisation'. On inspection, it was found that these are deeds of 74 King St. and 7 Strand St., Whitehaven, dating from 1815 – 76. Of particular interest is the conveyance of 16 and 17 March 1815, which reveals that the property, consisting of three houses and a shop, ran six yards along King St. and extended back seventy-two feet to 'East Strand'; it was sold for £650. Besides naming the occupiers of the property and of the adjoining tenements, what is especially interesting is the identity of the vendor, James Shepherd, mariner, of Whitehaven, who describes himself as the only brother and heir of the late Edward Shepherd, who was the eldest son and heir of the late James Shepherd, shipbuilder, of Whitehaven.

Could this be James Shepherd, the Whitehaven shipbuilder, about whom little is apparently known, the website of the parish of Whitehaven recording that he died on 30 May 1803, aged 58, at his house in King St. and was buried at Holy Trinity Church? Though he evidently did not leave a will, The National Archives at Kew hold an abstract of the administration [of his estate] dated 11 June 1803.

Appropriately, a good home for these deeds has now been found at Whitehaven Archive Centre, where they may be viewed by researchers. Should other readers be the recipients, expected or unexpected, of other records which they feel should be retained for posterity, hopefully they will contact the Cumbria Archive Service to enquire whether they would be interested in acquiring them, to add to the Service's resources available to researchers.

Adrian Allan

## Directory of Speakers, Walks/Tours

The CLHF have produced a booklet "A – Z of speakers" and it is now in the 9<sup>th</sup> printed edition. Because of the increased usage of the internet and the ease with which it is now possible to update websites, the CLHF will now maintain the list only on the website with no further specific printed editions being produced. (Printed copies of the database can be supplied if necessary at a charge.)

The speakers on the list are mostly there by their own request and their inclusion is in no way a recommendation by the Federation as to the quality of the speaker or of the contents of the talks.

If you would like including on the list, or know, or have heard a speaker who you feel should be on the list please contact us. Recently added speakers and/or talks are given in italics. If speakers have been listed in the Federation's programme of events in the last 2 years this is shown next to the talk given.

The Federation produces a GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE WHEN BOOKING A SPEAKER. The use of this guide can help organise a successful meeting. The guide is available here. [GUIDE-TO-GOOD-PRACTICE.pdf](#)

## **Contributions to CLHF Events Diary and Bulletin.**

Any entries for the CLHF Events Diary may be submitted at any time to Liz Kerrey <mailto:membership@clhf.org.uk> who will add them on the website.

Articles or other contributions or suggestions for the Bulletin also may be sent at any time to [nigelmillsp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillsp@gmail.com) but the formal best before dates are:

end Feb for the Bulletin due out on April 1st  
end June for the Bulletin due out on August 1st and  
end October for the Bulletin due out on December 1st.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Conferences and Other Events of Interest**

**Cumbria Industrial History Society's Spring Conference** will be held at the North Lakes Hotel, Penrith on **Saturday 27th April**. The theme "Out of the Ground" will be illustrated by talks on the development of mechanical excavators, the history of Tilberthwaite Copper Mine, Shap Pink Granite past and future, and lead smelting in Cumbria. Further information and a booking form can be found on <http://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk> or obtained by phoning 015395 68428. Non-members very welcome.

**The History of Christianity in Penrith on Saturday May 11th**. A talk by Professor Emeritus Michael Mullett in St Catherine's Catholic Church, Penrith. To make a booking, though entrance is free, contact the organiser, Christopher Robson 01524 62465, [glospurrblack7@talktalk.net](mailto:glospurrblack7@talktalk.net)

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A Bit of Fun – The Submissions.



I asked for suggested words in the last Bulletin and I was by no means disappointed. The best are:

Richard to audience *“Your Society needs you....”*

Angus to Richard *“That’s not what I meant when I asked for Powerpoint”.*

Richard to Angus *“Look Angus, the last member of the audience has escaped!”*

These comments were received from Lydia Gray, Bryan Gray and Peter Mc William but not necessarily in that order!

Editor.

Cover Image – A Cumbria Fingerpost.

In the Eden Valley, a number of cast iron fingerposts, topped by painted crowns, stand at road junctions. They have been researched by Michael and Katherine Lea, of Little Musgrave, who kindly allowed me to refer to their material. Some posts have been restored to excellent condition by David Gosling, (Signpost Restoration, The Forge, Brampton, CA8 2HQ), and new crowns cast in the original mould (Stalker Bros., Castle Forge, Penrith, probably 1911), by Gideon Booth of Kings Meaburn, in the 1980s.

The crowned fingerposts are only found in the West Ward of the old county of Westmorland. They occur in Martindale (and Barton, where two modern ones can be seen), near Ullswater; Askham and Knipe, in the

Lowther valley; and the villages of Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn, in the Lyvennet valley, Great Strickland and Newby.

They vary in detail and date, and their origins are the subject of local speculation, much of it associated with the Lonsdale family. The earliest were probably made to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897. It is thought that some were made for the coronation of George V in 1911, or, less likely, for that of Edward VIII, 1902. It has even been suggested that they commemorate the visits of Kaiser Willhelm II ("Kaiser Bill") to Lowther, 1895 and 1902. The crowns most nearly resemble the one used in coronations since 1065, (except for that of Edward VII, 1902), St Edward's crown.

Guide posts are shown on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps, but their appearance is unknown. Significant roadside features such as these and mileposts, are vulnerable to neglect, road accidents and highways developments, and should not be overlooked. The Milestone Society researches and documents them, see www.milestone-society.co.uk and www.signpost-restoration.co.uk

June Hill, March 2019

Editor's Final Thoughts.

If you have read this far you are probably thinking that the Bulletin looks no different under the new editorship. That is because you still have the same editor, me! Unfortunately Mike Turner was unable to take up the role due to unforeseen personal circumstances.

Nigel Mills

<mailto:bulletin@clhf.co.uk>

Events Diary 2019

Please see www.clhf.org.uk for contacts and further event dates.

April

1 Kendal Historical & Arch. Society
AGM + Lighting up the town

Shakespeare Centre
Roger Baker

1	Furness Family HS Tracing the History of Barrow through its Buildings	Barrow Island Primary School D Laird
4	Warwick Bridge LHG Saving the Settle/Carlisle	Corby Chapel/Downagate Centre? Stan Abbott
5	Millom & District LHS Voice from the Archive – Poems, Diaries and Letters	Methodist Church Millom Susan Benson
8	Cartmel Fell & District LHS Cumbria's contribution to medical needs in WWI	Parish Hall Richard Preston
9	North Lonsdale HS Lancaster Canal	Methodist Church Ulverston John Acres
11	Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS 25 TH Anniv. Lecture. Lordship and Manor: the Norman imprint on the Society area	Yew Tree Hall High Lorton Professor Angus Winchester
15	Holme & District History Group Railways of South Cumbria	Memorial Hall Burton in Kendal John Bateson
16	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum Cotton of Cumbria – the Stead McAlpine Story	Museum Ros Downing
17	Caldbeck & District LHS The Bewleys of Cumberland	Parish Hall Bill Bewley
18	Askam & Ireleth LHG St Bees Man	Duddon Rd Church, Askam-in-Furness Chris Robson
18	Levens LHG Waiter, Miner, Butcher, Spy: Germans and Austrians in Cumbria during First WW.	Village Institute Rob David
18	Staveley & District HS AGM & Members evening	Ings Parish Hall
22	Shap LHS Holidaying in the Lake District 1940s & 1950s	Memorial Hall Dr Rob David
24	Duddon Valley LHG DVHG Longhouse Project	The Victory Hall Broughton Stephe Cove
May		
3/4	Millom & District LHS A Summer in Howtown in 1940 + walk and Field Study in Howtown	Methodist Church Dr Rob David

13	Furness Family HS The Islands of Barrow	Barrow Island Primary School John Murphy
14	North Lonsdale HS Short AGM Followed by The Families of Holker	Neville St Methodist Church Janet Smith
15	Caldbeck & District LHS Lumps and Bumps-Surveys in Caldbeck Area	Parish Hall Graham Brooks
16	Shap LHS Mardale –Echoes and reflections of a Lost Lakeland Community	Memorial Hall Jean Scott-Smith
20	Shap LHS AGM followed by Milestones, Mileposts and Finger Posts in Cumbria	Memorial Hall Terry Moore, Milestone Society
21	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum A Stained Glass Demonstration	Museum Sarah Jackson
22	Duddon Valley LHG Mills to Mosques along the Liverpool to Leeds Canal	The Victory Hall Broughton David Fellowes
22	Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS Spring Outing: Yanwith Hall and Penrith Museum	Yew Tree Hall High Lorton
23	Levens LHG Lancaster Castle	Village Institute Colin Penny

June

3	Furness Family HS The Barrow Blitz	Barrow Island Primary School Bill Myers
6	Warwick Bridge LHG Pagans! Ranters! Dissenters! Quakers! And more religion on Alston Moor	Corby Chapel/Downagate Centre? Alaister Robertson
13	Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM Tlaks and Exhibits	Yew Tree Hall High Lorton Dr Derek Denman
18	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum How Pa met Ma	Museum Anthony Payne
19	Caldbeck & District LHS The Building of the Newlands Mill	Parish Hall Ronnie Stobart
20	Levens LHG Visit Lancaster Castle	

20	Askam & Ireleth LHG Millom – growth of a Victorian Newtown 1860 - 1870	Duddon Rd Church, Askam-in-Furness Stephe Cove
24	Shap LHS Visit to Brougham Castle and fort	Joseph Jackson
26	Duddon Valley LHG AGM	The Victory Hall Broughton
July		
1	Furness Family HS Ulverston Cemetery	Barrow Island Primary School Rod White
11	Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS Cumbria's Explosive Coast	Yew Tree Hall High Lorton Bill Myers
16	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum Meal and Social Evening	Museum
17	Caldbeck & District LHS Horrible History of Cumbrian Railways	Parish Hall Bill Myers
18	Askam & Ireleth LHG The Bobbin Mill at Force	Duddon Rd Church, Askam-in-Furness Dr Suzanne Tiplady
22	Shap LHS Visit to Reagill Image Gardens	Please book
August		
15	Askam & Ireleth LHG Memories and Memorabilia Night	Duddon Rd Church, Askam-in-Furness
21	Caldbeck & District LHS Outing to be announced	Parish Hall

CLHF Committee
Committee members may be contacted by e-mail via our website
<http://www.clhf.org.uk>