# CUMBRIA HISTORY LOCAL FEDERATION

# Bulletin 73 Spring 2017



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#### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT [NO. 1.]

Having taken over from Jenni Lister as your Chairman, I express gratitude to her on your behalf. She has served the Federation well and we are delighted that, by staying on the Committee, her experience and wise counsel will remain available to us. After also serving us excellently, Robert Baxter and David Bradbury have left the Committee. We thank them warmly and wish them well with whatever fresh challenge they now turn to. Lyn Cole from Askham joins us as Secretary with much experience of our kind of business, and is enthusiastically welcomed.

Among the rest of your Committee, Liz Kerrey, the Membership Secretary, is currently also Acting Treasurer. She is doing a great job and I am glad to say that our financial situation is stable. A double load, however, is not fair on her, and I urge anyone interested in joining us as Treasurer to contact me or any other Committee member. Our business is moderate in size and uncomplicated, with scope for development in a number of directions.

A bit about myself. A Yorkshireman, I have visited Cumbria regularly for many years and have lived here for a decade. I spent all my career as an economic historian in universities at home and abroad, and so I know how remote they can be from grassroots activity. Much of my own work has been in local history and I have always been involved with groups like those who belong to this Federation. My personal conviction of the value of local history is simply this: if you do not know where you have come from, you may have some difficulty in deciding where to go.

Contact me about any aspect of local history or of Federation business. My role is to serve the interests of members. And cheer up: the dark nights and (I hope) the cold wet days are nearly over.

Peter Roebuck 016974 73741 peter.roebuck3@gmail.com

#### From the Editor.

Just a few words from me this time. As you will see you are saved from a never ending supply of my images of Pounds and Pinfolds in Cumbria by a couple of you taking up the challenge I set in the last Bulletin. However I could do with more please.

I hope you find the usual mix of news and articles in this edition of the Bulletin interesting so as you read them from cover to cover, as I am sure you will, please send me your reaction and comments as soon as you can. Thank you.

Nigel Mills

#### CLHF Members News.

### Every Building Tells a Story: Cockermouth's Tweed Mill

All that remains today of Cockermouth's former tweed mill is a street sign, Tweedmill Lane, harking back to the days of a splendid Victorian mill building, which, by the time it closed, had played its part in the production of confectionery, and the establishment of a fledgling car industry, as well as its original purpose to produce tweed cloth. The substantial five-storey building was constructed between 1872-4, at a cost of £36,000 for the Cockermouth Tweed Company. Bernard Bradbury in his 'History of Cockermouth', describes it thus:

"The ground floor was the warehouse and above it were fulling, scouring and drying machines, a hydraulic press and carding and twisting rooms, with 40 looms in the weaving room on the top floor. Other features were a Glover's gas meter for 200 lights, a lift with a patent safety brake, steam piping for winter heating and a patent coal economiser ...
There were also a dyehouse and a scouring house. Water was brought by a 315 feet drift from the Cocker to a reservoir measuring 100 x 48 x 12 feet."



Sadly, such hopeful beginnings did not develop into a successful venture. The mill had been producing rugs and blankets, but in 1883 the mill was sold on to William Brown of Selkirk for £6,000. Official documents for

1889 mention the Cockermouth Woollen Manufacturing Company Ltd., suggesting that it was no longer known as the Cockermouth Tweed Company. Kelly's Directory of 1897 refers to the building as the Atlas Works, where A & H Rea were manufacturers of confectionery. A later document of 1905 details a conveyance by the Liquidators of the Cockermouth Woollen Manufacturing Company Ltd. to a George Graham. It may be that part of the land had been sold off, whilst the main building nearby continued to be used by the confectionery works. It is not clear how long the Atlas Works was in operation, but the Atlas Sweet Mill is mentioned in Bulmer's Directory for 1901: wholesale confectioners, 'employing a number of young people of both sexes'.

1913 saw the start of the final chapter in the history of the Tweed Mill, when the premises were leased to a syndicate for the manufacture of cycle cars. An article in the 'Cyclecar' magazine (23.8.1913) describes the venture:

"Far away in the little town of Cockermouth, Cumberland an old tweedmill has been converted into an up-to-date cyclecar manufacturing works, and is now engaged in producing two 'Cyclecars' of very interesting design. The first is chain-driven with an 8/10 h.p. J.A.P. engine driving the gearbox by a Coventry silent chain, and thence to a rear axle. The large chains are fitted with a cushioning device which allows the engine to rotate one complete revolution and this arrangement is claimed to give a very 'silky' drive. The gearbox provides three speeds forward and one reverse. The layshaft is arranged to remain idle when on direct drive and the reverse pinion is also disengaged when not required. The back axle is carried in an aluminium casing and is fitted with a differential. All the road wheels are fitted with ball bearing journals, whilst those at the rear are fitted on the outside axle tubing,

which carries the weight, the shaft only transmitting the drive. The frame is ashlined with steel plates and is well braced with steel cross members. It is suspended from the wheels by inverted grasshopper springs. The clutch is that of the internal cone type lined with Ferodo and it is fitted on the primary shaft. The brakes are of the external band type, one being operated by side lever and the other by foot pedal; both are applied to the rear wheels. The petrol tank, which is fitted inside the scuttle dash of the body, has a capacity of 2 1/4 gallons and the whole machine, complete with two side lamps, generator, tail lamp, horn and tool kit, sells for 122 guineas."

The second model was cheaper at 97 guineas. Its gearbox had been designed by Messrs. Sturmey Archer Ltd., giving three speeds. It had an unusual design feature, enabling the drive belt to drive either wheel, 'providing a compensating movement equal to a differential'.

An MP of the time, Sir Leo Chiozza Money, had suggested that there was a growing need for a lightweight vehicle:

"...the cyclecar manufacturer will do well to concentrate on simplicity and resist the temptation to make the machine big and costly to run. What is wanted in perhaps 100 out of every 1,000 cases, and for which there is a growing market, is a light and simple vehicle which does not pretend to be a swell motor car. Dimensions should not exceed 7 ft. long and 3 ft. wide, and maximum weight should be six or seven cwt. These are the desirable points which I hope will be kept in mind at Cockermouth."

The Cockermouth-built cyclecar seemed to fit the bill. It had been well tested on Lakeland roads and had proved itself equal to the task. Cockermouth's cars were to be sold from a depot in Coventry (then at the heart of the developing car industry) rather than direct from the manufacturers. The cars had been designed by Captain C H

Hodgson, Lord Leconfield's architect at the Castle. Mr A J Forrester, the son of the owner of local firm Forrester's Coachworks, was one of those brought in to manage the venture, and another member of the syndicate was Norman Mitchell (of the auctioneering family). It is not clear how many cars were sold, although some were sold locally; Jimmy Cockton, who owned a footwear shop on Main Street, bought two of them.

Unfortunately, with the advent of World War I, this promising industry came to a halt, as it did in many northern towns where such small-scale innovation and production of cars had taken off (e.g. in Clitheroe, Batley, Beverley, Stockport), and most of the former tweed mill was demolished in 1918. Sadly. there seems not a trace of any of the Cockermouth-produced cars, although it was reported in a newspaper article (WCT, 20.6.1970) that a Mr Coulthard of County Garage had the last remaining wire-spoked wheel from a 'Cumbria' car. It would be encouraging to know there may be a complete vehicle somewhere, locked away in an abandoned garage, waiting to see the light of day and be photographed for posterity.

One block of single-storey buildings was saved from demolition and was used for storage by a number of firms; the Anglo-American Oil Co. and the Shell Oil Co. had petrol stores in the grounds, with a railway siding for tanker wagons. After their departure, coal merchants, builders and agricultural machinery suppliers moved in. More recent years have seen the development of a small housing estate on the site, and thus ends the history of the Cockermouth tweed mill.

# Gloria Edwards Cockermouth Heritage Group (With thanks to Eric Cass of the Heritage Group for additional information)

### History of Kirkby Group.

St Cuthbert's Parish Church chests: One of the friends of our History Group very kindly funded a dating exercise of the two old chests in the parish church St Cuthbert's using dendrochronology. A copy of the full report is available. They were made in the early 17<sup>th</sup>century and the single oak tree from which they were both made was an acorn in about 1300.



Bronze Age Axe. Found in a local field by Stuart Flett whilst on a metal detecting outing with the History Group of Kirkby and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme local officer Stuart Noon. A copy of the PAS report is available.



**Buildings Research**. We have taken a walk around Grizebeck with a view to publishing some research on the various buildings, houses and so on as we have already done for most other parts of the village. We have covered Soutergate, Sandside, Beckside, Askew Gate, Head Cragg, Marsh Side, Wallend,

Chappels and intend to deal with Four Lane Ends this year which will just leave the outlying farms to research, probably next year. The results are usually published in one of our 50penny Dreadfuls which is an A3 sheet folded to give 4 sides at A4, in some cases there have been 3 or even 4 issues to cover a particular area. We may eventually publish them all in a Kirkby Fragment, an A5 booklet usually of 60 or so pages of which we have published 13 so far.

Also we have recently had produced by the Burlington Slate Quarry (Burlington Stone) a panorama of the Lakeland Mountains as seen from Wallend. They have engraved the outline and the names and heights of the various Peaks. We hope that it will be erected in the Spring when the weather improves a bit. This is a follow on from the War Memorial Interpretation Panel that we erected in the Churchyard in 2014. We are adding more detailed information on Kirkby's war dead to the web site at www.history-of-kirkby.org as their anniversaries come round.

Charles Rowntree.

### **Lowther & Askham HAS**

Over the past two years LAHAS has given a high profile to archaeology. We are grateful to professional archaeologists Lindsay Allason-Jones, Rachel Newman, Jamie Quartermaine and Jamie Lund for agreeing to speak to the society. In addition, members have undertaken a small excavation in Askham village and recently a project using Lidar data to survey the local area.

LAHAS excavation of a 19th century footbridge at Lowermost Green, **Askham.** The bridge had a timber footway between two limestone foundation blocks with a cobbled approach on each side. It allowed people to cross Askham beck to reach the mill down on the west bank of the River Lowther. The beck was put underground in the early 20th century and the bridge would then have fallen into disrepair. When we started work in June 2015 the memory of the bridge had been lost and the two limestone blocks were all that could be seen. LAHAS decided to excavate in order to discover why they were there. Members who took part in the dig were Audrey and Chris Battersby, Jane Brimmer, Joe Cann, Lyn Cole, Chris Craghill, Alan Irving, Jane Penman, Joe Ridley, Bob Scott and Juliet Wright.

A 'footbridge' is marked in this place on the first Ordnance Survey map of Askham, surveyed 1859. After we had finished the 2015 excavation a postcard was found that used a photograph from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in which you can just discern a footbridge with a tall handrail exactly where the site is, with a trackway on each side.

We plan to complete the excavation in summer 2017. A detailed report on the work so far, with plan and photographs, has been written by Joe Cann and is available from the Secretary.

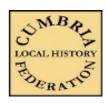
# LAHAS archaeology project using Lidar data to survey the local area.

This project is led by Joe Ridley, who works as a volunteer archaeologist for the LDNP. Lidar data is now freely

available from the Environment Agency. Joe has written his own program to visualise the data and is skilled in interpreting the images. He held several training sessions during 2016 in which LAHAS members and visitors were shown how to use the program. The group studied the data for Helton and Setterah and later explored the area on the ground by kind permission of Norman and Mary Westgarth of Setterah Farm. We put the Lidar data together with information from two 13th century documents that refer to possessions in Helton and Setterah: the result was an interesting and surprising interpretation of the features visible in the landscape.

A different group, inspired by this work and again instructed by Joe Ridley, has started to study prehistoric features on the Eastern Fellside, many of which are not reported and recorded.

We have found that the availability online, not only of Lidar data, but also of the CWAAS transactions and of most of the medieval Inquisitiones Post Mortem, nowadays makes a much easier task of desk-work to complement archaeology and reach historical conclusions. If you would like to take part in either of our archaeology projects, please contact the LAHAS secretary: 01931 712448 / info@hallinbank.co.uk



### Newland Furnace Trust, Ulverston.

Having joined the CLHF late in 2016 we thought it would be good to let you know a little bit about ourselves. Our aim is the preservation of the water powered charcoal blast furnace at Newland near Ulverston. The Newland Company was formed by Michael Knott and Richard Ford in 1747 and the furnace was working in the same year. It eventually became a niche part of the Harrison Ainslie Company and continued until 1891. All iron work was removed from the buildings in 1903 and the remaining buildings were used for other purposes until most became unsafe.

After a period of agitation by Dr John Marshall and others, work practically started on saving the furnace in 1989. The Trust was formed in 1998 and until recently our efforts have been directed at stopping the building from falling down.



The only known photograph of Newland Furnace in 1903 just after closure being used as a joiner's shop.

After 26 years of work trying to stop the furnace buildings from falling down the furnace area is almost free of building work and we feel able to concentrate on studying what we have saved.

The photographs below show the tap hole arch of the furnace before and after restoration.





We usually open to the public on the last Saturday afternoon of the month and Heritage Open Weekend. Group visits can be arranged by appointment via the Trust Secretary.

We have been excavating the Blowing Chamber floor and we will let you see the results of this activity if the Editor so allows.

David Robson.

I will, in the next Bulletin! Editor.

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## Cumbria Railways Association Rounds Up 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Year Autumn Conference in Bowness

The Cumbrian Railways Association (CRA) held its Autumn Conference on Saturday 12th of November 2016 at the Hydro Hotel, Bowness. Around 60 people attended and enjoyed an interesting day of presentations, discussions and friendly fellowship. It was good to see some new people attending for the first time.

The meeting was opened by Philip Tuer, Acting Chairman, outlining all the activities and events that had taken place to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup>anniversary of the CRA and the successes and achievements of the past 40 years. These included:

- regular meetings with guest speakers and fieldtrips
- establishing huge archives of documents and photographs acquired by the CRA
- producing a large number of authoritative publications and CDs – which is still growing
- our website and "Chatline"
- the large number of railway modelling exhibitions attended each year.

One particular success of 2016 had been the special Lakes Express beer brewed specially for the anniversary and which had completely sold out! The programme for the day was provided entirely by "in house" CRA members, showcasing the knowledge and capabilities of the Association's membership.

Mike Peascod, founder member of the CRA and editor of the Association's

"Journal" magazine gave the audience an insight into how the CRA was formed back in 1976 following a recognition by himself and fellow co-founder, the late Peter Robinson, that existing railway line societies only covered specific routes or times periods of the overall Cumbrian rail network, both past and present. They therefore decided to set up an organisation that would cover all the railway companies and lines within the Cumbrian boundary, irrespective of time period, to include the modern-day railway. The CRA was born!

The current membership of around 450 is a far cry from the 40 who had "signed up" following the first meeting in 1976 and the professionally printed current full colour Journal a far cry from the "home produced" sheets of the early days.

Andrew Naylor, member and accomplished railway photographer, gave a presentation of railway photographs covering the 1960's,1970's and current times.

Finally, the meeting was treated to a film of the 1969 "Furnessman" railtour. This was presented by member David Gibson, who was the sound recordist on the day. The film depicts a special train of locomotive and brakevans that travelled a number of lines in West Cumbria that were then only open to freight trains and which have now largely disappeared. These included the line up to Lowca via the steep gradient of Copperas Hill and to Sellafield via Moor Row.

The CRA will be holding a further conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Barrow and welcomes both members and non-members to attend. (The CRA actively welcomes new members. For

further information, go to the CRA website at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk).

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### **Duddon Valley History Group:**

# "Duddon Bank - A chance encounter with archaeology".

Gilbert Scurrah lives at Duddon Bank on the main road from Duddon Bridge towards Millom. A high stone wall rose directly from the road with a line of ancient hawthorns masking the view of traffic travelling up and down the hill and making the exit from his drive into the traffic flow rather hazardous. The old wall is now down, and a beautiful higher wall is set back from the road and the sight lines are great. But the building work exposed the remains of a bloomery hidden below the surface that might have remained undiscovered.



(Ken sieving the scrapings)

Gilbert had used a digger to scoop out a trench for the footings of the new wall. At the end of the day as he was inspecting the trench, he noticed there were obvious dark markings across part of the excavation and closer inspection revealed the side walls had clearly exposed deposits of charcoal and slag. He contacted the Duddon Valley History Group and asked us to come and look. The digger had destroyed a lot of the site but it was possible to see the outline in the base of the trench and clear indications of a layer in the side facing the road under the trees.

We duly turned out a group with planning frame and permatrace and set ourselves up to plan what we could see. We set up a string level and took gps readings at either end. We trowelled the face to get a reasonably vertical surface and sieved the material finding lots of slag and quite large pieces of charcoal. Once we cleared the site we began drawing and then took some samples for investigation. Some of the objects were very magnetic and may well be encrusted nails but some of the slags samples could be lifted on the end of the magnet as well which surprised us. One piece of charcoal was clearly a part of a branch about 6cm long and thicker than a broom handle. That was chosen to go away for radio-carbon dating. We also found two pieces of worked flint in the sievings from the floor and some pottery shards which looked more recent but they were amonst the digger waste and not in any secure context.

Unfortunately, we were in the middle of our dig at the longhouse in the valley and all heavily committed up the valley. By the time we could get back to the site, the digger had been back to take out the tree stumps. Our markers and line were gone, the face was unrecognizeable and any thoughts of levelling the surface and excavating down through the pile were gone. I

made some exploratory diggings and found that the heap dipped back to the road and we had seen the highest point on our original drawings. The heap also tapered off to the east and our lowest point only went back a few centimetres so we could add that information to our observations that the heap had extended most of the way acrosss the base of the trench in an eliptical shape.



The wall is nearly finished now and the trench filled in. You can match the latest photo to the ones of us digging by the position of the telegraph pole. The sample date has come back indicating that the charcoal dates the site to several hundred years before production started at the Duddon Furnace in 1736. I wonder what the bloomery workers would have made of the heavy articulated lorries speeding within a metre of their ancient workplace.



#### "What's On in Cumbria?"

# Lazonby History Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On April 29th and 30th we have two special events to mark our anniversary;

Saturday 29th 10 am-4 pm display in Lazonby Village Hall of archive material, local maps and aerial photographs.
Refreshments provided by the WI.

Sunday 30th Two guided walks around the village looking at its history and buildings 11 am and 2.30 pm from the Swimming Pool, Lazonby.

Sheila Fletcher 01768 898 804 j.c.fletcher@btinternet.com

### **Duddon Valley Walks.**

For more details please contact the leader.

15 Apr 17 Alison Matthews. (01539 441343) Above Coniston- 'More Questions than Answers'. Lowfield mill remains, old hydro electric scheme, mill pond (Alisons house), Heathwaite Farm, medieval enclosure, slate quarry and mystery building. Easy to moderate, one steep section 4.5- 5 hours.

6 May 17 Sue Batten. (01229 889016) Kirkby Moor from the railway station. Moderate, TBA

13 May 17 Ken Day. (01229 716113) Broughton Mills circular via Haws, Picthall Ground and Croglinghurst. An easy 4 mile end of season stroll with get-together at Blacksmiths Arms for late lunch.

# Cumbria Industrial History Society.

The Spring Conference is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 at The Shap Wells Hotel, Shap, Penrith

THE POWER OF WATER: - Speakers are -How water shaped a town : Geoff Brambles: Hydro goes marine : Prof. George Aggidis: Water power in metal mining : Graham Brooks: The Solway Energy Gateway : Nigel Catterson

A place at the conference costs £24.00 per person, which includes lunch. Nonmembers are welcome.

Further details and an application form are available from the society's web site at www.cumbria-industries.org.uk., by phone on 01524 762312 or by e-mail at cihscon@btinternet.com

#### Epiacum at Alston.

Elaine Edgar writes "I was recently described as the "powerhouse" behind Epiacum, and a few years ago as a "townie who married a farmer with a roman fort on his land"! I am not sure which description fits the best, but until 2006, Epiacum was only regarded as part of the agricultural holding, an interesting yet confusing earthwork sited just off the Pennine Way and something which gave our farm its name - Castle Nook. Having spent twenty years in Primary education. I suddenly had an "Eureka" moment and realised the potential for education, engagement and as a source of interest and enjoyment for visitors. And so began a journey in promoting the site and building a team of fantastic and enthusiastic volunteers as part of "Epiacum Heritage Ltd"

Coincidentally in 2009, Prof Stewart
Ainsworth, best known for his
appearances on Channel 4's Time
Team led an eighteen research project
on the fort and surrounding landscape,
uncovering evidence of 3000 years of
human habitation on our land, He
describes Epiacum as "arguably the
best preserved roman fort in the Roman
Empire"



A roman altar at Epiacum

You can keep up with our news by following us on Facebook – Epiacum(Whitley Castle) or by visiting our website at <a href="https://www.epiacumheritage.org">www.epiacumheritage.org</a> to find out more about the site. We also have an active Friends of Epiacum group, which costs £10 a year,

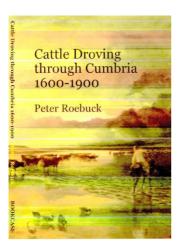
You can visit the site individually, or as part of a group. We have a small car park and a site trail leaflet. We do ask for a small donation to assist us with our work as a Not for Profit Company.

Alastair Robertson informs us of the Epiacum Diamond Anniversary Conference which is on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Alston Town Hall. Further details from Elaine Edgar 01434 382080

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#### Members Publications.

## Cattle Droving through Cumbria 1600 – 1900 by Peter Roebuck



This book analyses the scale of cattle droving in Cumbria and demonstrates that till now it has been seriously underestimated. The text emphasizes the trade's major contribution to regional and economic development through stimulating agriculture, industry and the services, particularly transport and banking. It is well illustrated and has a comprehensive bibliography. The price is £12 and the book can be purchased at Bookcase in Keswick or Carlisle or direct from Peter. His e-mail is:

Peter.roebuck3@gmail.com

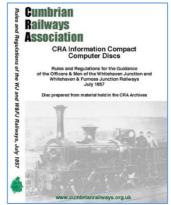
#### **Cumbria Railways Association**

The CRA has acquired the WHITEHAVEN JUNCTION AND WHITEHAVEN & FURNESS JUNCTION RAILWAY RULE

**BOOK** of 1857. The original routes of these companies form part of what is now the West Cumbria line from Carlisle to Barrow.

This fascinating document gives an insight into the rules and regulations that employees of these railway companies were required to abide by and gives insight into the conditions under which they worked during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

"Engine-drivers, Stokers, Guards, Pointsmen, Porters, and Gatemen are recommended to insure, in the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, against the risks of accident while in the execution of their duty, and the Company will pay half the annual premium."



"This will appeal not only to those interested in these two companies but also rail enthusiasts and historians wishing to gain a further insight into how railways were run in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It can also be used to draw parallels with and trace the origins of the regulations that apply to modern day train operations" says CRA Archivist. Guy Wilson.

The Rule Book is available in PDF format on a Compact Disc - Price: £5.00 (postage inc).

Copies of the discs are available from: Cumbrian Railways Association CD, 50 Tattershall, Toothill, Swindon, SN5 8BX. (or contact

<u>sales@cumbrianrailways.org.uk</u> for more details).

Payment by cheque payable to the **Cumbrian Railways Association.** 

#### Members Newsletters.

I receive an occasional Newsletter or the equivalent from member societies and groups (I would be pleased to receive more) and spotted this unusual approach to sources of local history:

# Appleby-in-Westmorland Newsletter

Barry Mckay tells us in the Appleby in Westmorland Society's newsletter that JMW Turner visited Appleby in 1851 and made 3 small pencil drawings. The first shows simple representations of three principal buildings of the town: the Castle, the bridge over the River Eden. and St Lawrence's Church: together with the gable end of a building that may be what is now the hairdresser's overlooking the river on the south side of Bridge Street; a building that also carries a Latin inscription stone. The second shows a view of the town from the north, albeit with the relative positions of the Church, Castle and bridge being slightly out of skew. The final sketch is a rather feint perspective of a row of arches and may be the socalled 'Cloisters' built in front of the church by John Smirke in 1811. If so, then his viewpoint would appear to have been from in front of the Crown &

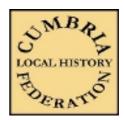
Cushion. Then again a man who could move the sun to make a better composition of his famous painting The Fighting Temeraire, would presumably experience little difficulty in similarly shifting Appleby's bridge.

These images can be viewed online:

http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-appleby-in-westmorland-d25553 http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-appleby-in-westmorland-d25554 http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/turner-appleby-in-westmorland-d25556

Fascinating! If you wish to know more please contact the Appleby in Westmorland Society.

Has your society used art to research your local history? Please let me know. Fditor.



### **CLHF Membership News.**

A brief note from me this time! Firstly, I'd like to give a warm welcome to the new individuals and to the Morecambe Bay Archaeological Society who have joined the Federation this year!

Speaking of member groups, do remember that I am also Events
Secretary, so if you want your events publicised on the website, please email or post them to me - there is no set date for this, just send them as you finalise them, whatever time of

year. Those events sent to me also (should!) get passed on to Nigel for the Bulletin so you won't miss out!

Finally, a reminder to any of you who haven't yet renewed your subscription for 2017 – please do so soon if you can, last year we did have some renewing in July and August! I know they say 'Better Late than Never!' - but it does put you at risk of missing out on news and not receiving a Bulletin! Thanks all, and hope to see you later in the year!

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#### **CLHF 2016 Convention Report**

Well, thank you all so much for coming to our Annual AGM & Convention!

Despite my misgivings about people travelling to the wilds of Shap, you all showed how adventurous you are, some even waiting for me when I arrived to open the hall at 08.30!



The AGM was surprisingly well attended given the 09.30 start. It is a time of change. Jenni Lister gave a lively speech thanking all for the support received during her years as Chair, and much gratitude was expressed to Robert Baxter who regretfully has to leave us. New Chair Prof Peter Roebuck was officially welcomed to the Federation and Lyn Cole bravely stepped forward to replace Robert as

Secretary. It was noted that although one or two societies had closed, new groups had formed and we had gained new members. As finances are stable it was proposed that funds be made available for updating the website and we were reminded that e-versions of the Bulletin were available for secretaries to forward directly to their own members. The CLHE archive minutes and Bulletins – is now held at Carlisle Archives. Probably the main theme emerging from the AGM was that our local history world is changing: the way people like to engage is changing with the use of the internet and social media and the Federation will need to keep pace.



Thanks to Dr Alan Crosby for setting the tone with his talk of Shap as 'the wildest, most barren and frightful country' (!), and to Harry Hawkins, Jean Jackson, Jean Scott-Smith, Liz Amos and Patrick Neaves for their extensive coverage of the last 5000 years, contributing to an informative yet most enjoyable day. Thanks too to those Societies who provided displays of their work, giving wonderful scope for a good 'ratch' amongst the various treasures! I went home with several books and a railway DVD and I had had extremely limited time to look! Overall then, a

good day and happy opportunities to catch up with old friends and meet new. Thank you all again for coming and making it such a nice day!

#### Liz Kerrey

Thank you Patrick for the photos.

Despite what my selection of the images show the lunch was not the main attraction! Editor.

### 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 they have enjoyed listening to.

I have received the following responses to my request. Contributors' names have been withheld.

"Joe Ritson spoke recently on "A Remarkable Woman" and is a well versed person on all things Military. He has researched WWI and his knowledge is invaluable"

"Trevor Purnell speaks on the subject entitled "The Devil's Porridge" and is a well versed and excellent speaker"

"I have enjoyed John Butcher of United Utilities talking about the evolution of the Thirlmere pipeline"

"I recommend Adrian Davis-Johnston who talks about the evolution of nuclear power reactors"

Chris Craghill on Cumbrian Farmhouses was very well received and got a lot of discussion going"

Andy Connell on Appleby Horse Fair was also very informative"

Thank you to the members who contributed these comments whose names I have withheld. More recommendations and why you recommend the speaker would be appreciated. (and perhaps some female speakers to balance the above?)



We will shortly be updating our "Speakers A – Z".

Please let me know of any speakers with their contact details if you think they may wish to be included in the new A-Z. All comments are welcome, direct to me please, and if you have found the A-Z useful or have ideas on how it can be improved please let me know. Editor.



# Visits – Where can you recommend?

I have received no recommendations for visits this time but this is not a

problem as you will have been planning how to spend the wonderful weather we can expect throughout the Summer of 17. Editor.

### Your CLHF Committee: Priorities for Committee Business

It is probably a little early for me to be writing about priorities: but, at the risk of creating hostages to fortune, here are some of the matters which have featured recently and prominently in discussions among members of your Committee.

#### 1. The Website

There is general agreement that we need to refresh our Website, whilst simultaneously reviewing our policy in regard to it. Discussions are underway with parties who, at reasonable cost, are available to help us with this. We are contemplating working through Wordpress which is widely regarded as among the more flexible and less complicated systems: this will enable certain members of the Committee to upload new material and discard old, and thus cater for more regular refreshment. We are very conscious of the potential value of interaction with some social media, such as Facebook; and we want to ensure that a dynamic relationship exists between the Website and the Bulletin.

#### 2. The Convention

There is general agreement that the 2016 Convention at Shap was very

successful, though we attempted to cover rather too much in the time available - so we will look very carefully at the structure of the next Convention. We would like to continue with a Guest Speaker, and we must have a larger venue: last year we had to turn away some applicants due to lack of capacity, but never again. Also, we will aim for a date in Sept./Oct. to help those travelling from a distance. Above all, as last year, we should like to organise the Convention in close conjunction with a Local History Society in order to showcase some of the latest work being done in Cumbria.

#### 3. Fundraising

We are giving careful thought to ways in which we might boost our annual income. Some of our plans will involve heavier expenditure than has been common in the past and, while our finances are stable, it would be sensible to give ourselves some scope for judicious expansion - of the Bulletin, for example.

5. Tuesday 17 October will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation of the Federation. While we do not wish to make too much fuss about this, we do not want it to pass unnoticed. Watch this space.

Peter Roebuck, Chair of CLHF.

# An opportunity to help put Cumbria on the Map

My words, but you will see what I mean by reading on. This project was mentioned in the Local History News published by BALH. Editor.

#### GB1900 needs your help in Cumbria

The GB1900 project is looking for volunteers to computerise all the placenames of Britain, and you can do it all from home. The idea is volunteers use a specially designed website to transcribe text visible on Ordnance Survey County Series second edition six inch maps dating from around 1900. The project covers the whole of Great Britain and has been running since September. Volunteers choose the areas they wish to concentrate on, and much of rural Cumbria remains to be done. Some towns, like Penrith and Appleby, have a good number of initial transcriptions, but many still need confirming.

Volunteers register on the website via the sign up button on the login page:

#### http://www.gb1900.org

The transcription process is very simple. Click on the map just below the first letter of a text string and a box will appear to type in exactly what is visible on the map. Volunteers can also add comments, memories and alternate names to any transcription they make. This will create a record tied to the location identified on the map. Rather than give complicated instructions we ask for all text strings to be transcribed except for numbers where given as; spot heights (often preceded by "B.M."); areas (often preceded by "acres"), and distances to, plus names of, nearby towns where they appear next to milestones ("M.S."). This means we are assembling a vast number of locations: not just "place names", but other features such as coppices and mines, even individual wells.

To encourage accuracy each text string must be confirmed by a second volunteer clicking on the existing pin and typing in the text. Assuming the text typed matches the first transcription the pin is confirmed. If there is variation between the transcriptions a third volunteer will need to transcribe the text and a confirmation can be made with either of the existing transcriptions. Pin colours change, appearing brown for any transcription made by the volunteer themselves, green for transcriptions by others requiring confirmation and purple for confirmed pins. The website has a brief tutorial to help volunteers get started, and another more detailed one plus frequently asked questions are available on the support site:

## https://support.gb1900.org/portal/helpcenter/gb1900



Snapshots of pin creation progress are also visible on the dot map viewer:

#### http://geo.nls.uk/maps/gb1900/

This project is a collaboration between the Great Britain Historical GIS Project at the University of Portsmouth, The National Library of Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at the University of Wales, the National Library of Wales and the People's Collection Wales. When complete the gazetteer will provide a spinal gazetteer of historical place names for the whole of Great Britain, and is intended to be used as a tool to help historians identify places. It will be made available for anyone to use under a Creative Commons licence.

Paula Aucott, GB Historical GIS, University of Portsmouth.

Please let me know if you decide to help with this fascinating project or have any other comment. Editor.

# The Elizabethan Star Chamber Project,

This is hosted by AALT at the University of Houston, is putting county names on cases in TNA STAC 5 (Records of the Court of Star Chamber in the reign of Elizabeth).

There are now sufficient cases identified to make the web site interesting to local historians, and I would be grateful if you would inform your membership of our existence. Secretary hand is not for everybody, but the documents are all in English. Most of the cases are completely unknown to historians, and this is because of their method of storage at TNA (cases may have up to twenty different references) and the previous inadequacy of finding aids. All the cases are social history of one locality or another.

Helen Good

http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/El izabethan Star Chamber Project

### Askham Village Laundry

A small barn-like building in the S-E angle of the central cross-roads in Askham has been identified by local residents as the village's former communal laundry. We should love to know more about it. Please let us know if you can tell us anything about village laundries or have one in your area. Lowther & Askham HAS info@hallinbank.co.uk

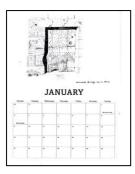
# An Idea for Fundraising. A Group Calendar?

It's that time of year – time to plan a group calendar for next year. Leaves are off the tress, special local buildings can be photographed in low light. Is there anyone in your group who can sketch the area's interesting buildings or perhaps just some windows, door knockers or surviving cast iron gates?

Are there old barn doors, unusual stiles or gates which would make a very local calendar to raise funds for the group? Has your group been trusted with local artefacts from long ago? Could a group member draw or photograph them? Could other members put together a paragraph about their history or how they have been conserved?

Do you have old maps which with a bit of explanation might make a calendar? Many groups are given old photographs

of the local area. Could you put together research information about the buildings or people in the photos to interest your community – and encourage more donations? Some illustrations may even end up framed on someone's wall.



Who would buy your calendars? Members, friends and family, local residents, visitors to your district, do you have a member with "Publisher" on their computer?

Where would you sell the calendar? Could you allow a percentage of the sale price to each outlet or agree to donate and amount to charity. Would local businesses pay to advertise in your calendar?

Calendars can travel the world. They become treasured pictures for local historians in many countries even encouraging a visit to your district.

#### Pat Newman.

Is fundraising something you need to do for your group? If so any advice, warnings or other ideas would be appreciated. Editor.



# CLHF Convention 2017 A date for your Diary.

Following on from last year's very successful event at Shap our CLHE Convention for 2017 will be on Saturday 14/10/2017, a little earlier than last year. The theme is: "Some History of the Furness Peninsula". The CLHF will cohost the event at Askam Band Hall with The History of Kirkby Group and the Askam History Group. Full details and booking arrangements will be included in the Summer Bulletin so please note your



diaries now.

# **Events Diary 2017** Please see <u>www.clhf.org.uk</u> for member group contact details April 2017

| April 20                         | April 2017                                                                              |                                                   |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>                  | Kendal H&AS Almshouses in the North West: Past and Present + AGM                        | Shakespeare Centre, Kendal<br>Jean Turnbull       |  |  |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS Matchless Disaster of 1894-Morecambe Bay's worst boating disaster | Cartmel Village Hall<br>Simon Williams            |  |  |  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | Hesket LHG Sheep and Wool in History                                                    | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>June Hall              |  |  |  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>                 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>Railway Workers and their families                       | Parish Hall<br>Jean Turnbull                      |  |  |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>                 | North Lonsdale History Society "A Mansion Fit for Demolition"                           | Ulverston Methodist Church<br>Dr. Suzanne Tiplady |  |  |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>                 | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum<br>Clints Quarry                                      | Museum, Workington<br>Rosemary Hunt               |  |  |  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>                 | Staveley & District H.S.<br>AGM                                                         | Staveley School                                   |  |  |  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                 | Levens LHG<br>Medieval Cumbria                                                          | Levens Village Hall<br>Caron Newman               |  |  |  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                 | Orton and Tebay LHS<br>Hiring Fairs in the North West 1890 – 1939                       | Orton Chapel<br>Stephen Caunce                    |  |  |  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                 | CWAAS Carlisle<br>Roman Cavalry Tombstones                                              | Tullie House<br>Lindsay Allason-Jones             |  |  |  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>                 | Upper Eden HS Medieval Forgers? The Nuns of                                             | Brough Memorial Hall<br>Harry Hawkins             |  |  |  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                 | Armathwaite Priory<br>Mourholme LHS<br>Postcard Messages –Silverdale 1900 – 1950        | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Awena Carter           |  |  |  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>                 | Lamplugh & District HS<br>The Workington – Penrith Railway                              | Lamplugh Village Hall<br>Allan Beck               |  |  |  |
|                                  |                                                                                         |                                                   |  |  |  |
| <b>May 20</b><br>4 <sup>th</sup> | <b>117</b><br>Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>The Hidden Heritage of Fell Foot                 | Cartmel Priory Church<br>Kelley Sproston-Heath    |  |  |  |

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| 8 <sup>th</sup>                                                   | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>Visit to Dalston Castle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall                                                                                                                      |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 9 <sup>th</sup>                                                   | North Lonsdale History Society<br>Short AGM and "Gondola Coniston Water                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ulverston Methodist Church<br>Bill King                                                                                                       |  |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>Cumbria and the Caribbean: a history                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yew Tree Hall, Lorton<br>Dr Diane Rushworth                                                                                                   |  |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Hesket LHG<br>Aspects of Pre-history in Cumbria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Anthony Dixon                                                                                                      |  |  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum<br>The Railwaymen: George & Robert<br>Stephenson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Museum, Workington<br>Paul Heslop                                                                                                             |  |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Levens LHG Happy Days? Educating the Masses, Elemantary Schooling 1818-1918                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Levens Village Hall<br>Mike Winstanley                                                                                                        |  |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Orton and Tebay LHS Visit to Kendal Archives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Kendal Archives                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>                                                  | Lamplugh & District HS<br>Hound Trailing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lamplugh Village Hall<br>Bill Huddart                                                                                                         |  |  |
| June 2017                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| June 2                                                            | 017                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                               |  |  |
| June 2<br>8 <sup>th</sup>                                         | <b>017</b> Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Carina Leanne                                                                                                      |  |  |
|                                                                   | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town  Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM + Home Cultram Abbey: recent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 9                                                                                                                                             |  |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                                                   | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Carina Leanne Yew Tree Hall, Lorton                                                                                                           |  |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                                                   | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town  Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM + Home Cultram Abbey: recent archaeological work Levens LHG                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Carina Leanne  Yew Tree Hall, Lorton  Mark Graham                                                                                             |  |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup><br>8 <sup>th</sup>                                | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town  Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM + Home Cultram Abbey: recent archaeological work Levens LHG Walk around Cartmel  Orton and Tebay LHS                                                                                                                                                             | Carina Leanne  Yew Tree Hall, Lorton Mark Graham  Dan Elsworth Tebay Chapel                                                                   |  |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup>                  | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town  Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM + Home Cultram Abbey: recent archaeological work Levens LHG Walk around Cartmel  Orton and Tebay LHS Stone Circles and Burial Mounds  Askam & Ireleth Local History Group                                                                                        | Carina Leanne  Yew Tree Hall, Lorton Mark Graham  Dan Elsworth  Tebay Chapel Tom Clare                                                        |  |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> | Hesket LHG Penrith: Aspect of a Market Town  Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS AGM + Home Cultram Abbey: recent archaeological work Levens LHG Walk around Cartmel  Orton and Tebay LHS Stone Circles and Burial Mounds  Askam & Ireleth Local History Group Strathclyde, Cumbria and Furness.  Friends of Helena Thompson Museum The Theatre Royal | Carina Leanne  Yew Tree Hall, Lorton Mark Graham  Dan Elsworth  Tebay Chapel Tom Clare  Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness  Museum Workington |  |  |

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13<sup>th</sup> Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall, Lorton Cumbrian Minerals Ian Tyler  $20^{th}$ Askam & Ireleth Local History Group Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness Swarthmoor Hall Rev Dr David Jackson 20th Orton and Tebav LHS Orton Chapel Log Boats to Steam Launches Diana Matthews August 2017 17<sup>th</sup>Orton and Tebay LHS Tebay Chapel History of Burneside Mill Sir James Cropper 17<sup>th</sup>Askam & Ireleth Local History Group Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness The Kennedys of Stone Cross Robert Wheatley September 2017 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall Dr Kuerden's 1685 map and early maps of Dr Bill Shannon Cartmel Peninsula 14<sup>th</sup> Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall. Lorton A Passionate Sisterhood Kathleen Jones 14<sup>th</sup> Hesket LHG Low Hesket Village Hall Shap Granite Jean Scott-Smith 19<sup>th</sup> Friends of Helena Thompson Museum Museum, Workington The Wordsworths and black history Susan Allen 21st Levens LHG Levens Village Hall Great Grandad's Army: Rifle Ranges of the Jeremy Rowan-Robinson Lake District 21st Askam & Ireleth Local History Group Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness. The Barrow Archives Susan Benson 21st Orton and Tebay LHS Orton Chapel Thomas Mawson, the North Country Jean Turnbull Garden Designer October 2017 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall The Finds of Furness Stuart Noon 12<sup>tt</sup> Hesket LHG Low Hesket Village Hall Thomas Mawson and his garden designs in Vera Turnball Cumbria 13<sup>th</sup> Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth Sixth Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture TRA

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| 17 <sup>™</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                    |  |  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Lamplugh & District HS<br>Drove Roads of Cumbria                                                                   | Lamplugh Village Hall<br>Peter Roebuck           |  |  |
|                  | 1 2047                                                                                                             |                                                  |  |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | nber 2017<br>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 The RAF in Cumbria in World War Two                                                                     | Low Hesket Village Hall<br>Ian Tyler             |  |  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth Local History Group                                                                                | Duddon Rd Church, Askam in Furness.              |  |  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Memories & Memorabilia Night.<br>Orton and Tebay LHS<br>Inside a Lakeland Farmhouse                                | Orton Chapel<br>Andy Lowe                        |  |  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Levens LHG<br>Levens Park Dig                                                                                      | Levens Village Hall<br>Oxford Archaeology North  |  |  |
| 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            |  |  |
| December 2017    |                                                                                                                    |                                                  |  |  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Hesket LHG                                                                                                         | Village Hall, Hesket                             |  |  |
| ,                | ol I a series The                                                                                                  | vinage riall, riesket                            |  |  |

### **Editors Final Thoughts.**

Christmas Meeting TBA

You will see from our Chairman's piece on CLHF Committee Priorities that we will be busy in this our anniversary year considering various aspects of our role as the local history federation for Cumbria. It is perhaps an appropriate time to remind us all of the CLHF

Constitution which states that the objects of the Federation are:

- to promote and encourage educational interest in and knowledge of local history studies in Cumbria;
- to inform individuals and organisations about local history events and activities in the county;
- to provide a means for liaison between organisations interested in Cumbrian local history and a forum for exchange of ideas and information;
- 4. to develop a framework for mutual support and advice on matters such as sources, techniques, publication, research etc.;
- 5. to organise occasional conferences and exhibitions.

Please let me or Peter know how you think we are doing? For example your views on what you want on a revised website. Are we doing enough to inform and support you either as a group or individual? What do you think our priorities should be?

On a slightly different front: I have heard the view expressed that the current trend for using social media for local history which includes on-line comments, publishing images and discussing local history research is the way forward for LH societies and individuals. I have also overheard the comment that what is actually said and seen on the various social media platforms is "unsubstantiated rubbish". Which view do you take?

I hope you have found something of interest in this Bulletin and perhaps something you wish to comment on or submit for the next Bulletin which has a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June, although I would welcome your responses as soon as possible.

Nigel Mills, Editor.

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