

The CLHF Convention, 2 November 2013

Going With the Flow

The theme of this year's CLHF Convention is "Running Water," featuring presentations on water supply (with a visit to some local wells and springs), water power, and land drainage. For details and a booking form, see pages 14-15 of this Bulletin. First, though, a few bullet points from organiser June Hall:

- **Invitation to all member societies and individuals to be represented at the Convention.** The value of this annual event depends on your participation. It is the one opportunity to meet with fellow local historians from all parts of Cumbria, to offer to serve on the committee and to make your suggestions for improving role of CLHF.
- **Invitation to present your own exhibition** (water-related if possible).
Please book a free display space. Sales welcome. Tables available.
- **Invitation to offer a Soap Box presentation.** Already offered – Keswick's drinking fountains (philanthropy and public health); lantry troughs (cottage textile industry).
Suggestions for more: flax-retting ponds; monastic fish ponds; rainwater goods.
- **This is your organisation. Please support it.**



Grange in Borrowdale, c1910

Chairman's Chat

Well here we are, it's August and slap-bang in the middle of the summer holidays, and (whisper it) actually quite warm & not raining very much. I spent a few days away enjoying non-local history at the start of the very hot spell and still managed a Dorset hill-fort, Offa's Dyke, 3 castles, several ancient churches, a fortified manor house and a stately home in 5 days, but it was so much cooler inside than out! It set me wondering how the workers on the archaeological excavations at Maryport Roman site were coping with the heat, and I wondered if any of you had volunteered there.

Perhaps you're saving yourselves for the Ravenglass dig beginning in September? It promises a rich feast with "opportunities for archaeological investigation, geophysical survey, field walking and we also need tour guides to talk about the area", according to the Lake District National Parks's archaeology officer. If any of you take part we'd love to hear about it. I did a bit of domestic archaeology, sadly not tidying the attic rooms, the other day – I was in the angle of our house, (Edwardian terraced) outside the kitchen & I realised I was looking at where the original doors and windows were. I've seen them before, but never really looked at the bricked-in arches, the traces of old pipe-work, and much to my surprise the old stone

threshold is still there, next to the lovely salt-glazed stoneware ventilation grille. Not quite at the exalted level of our splendid vernacular buildings outings at last September's Convention, but an interesting little discovery. I'll save the story of the concreted-over air raid shelter under yard for another time.

Speaking of Convention I'd like to encourage as many as possible of you to come this year – we'll have lots of room at Newbiggin, including space for exhibits and it promises to be great fun. However we have to get through the AGM first, and I'm afraid we shall be asking for people to step forward to help with the Bulletin and the Website. As you will have read elsewhere in this Bulletin, David has decided it's time to hang up his editor's eyeshade. We are grateful for his hard work in producing a very attractive publication and if we're to keep it going the Committee will need help!

We are a remarkably friendly bunch, so do roll up your sleeves & join us, and help to keep the news flowing. Don't be shy & hide your light under a bushel -we look forward to seeing eager faces with lots of new ideas!

Jenni Lister



Old fish traps at Ravenglass

ALL CHANGE

This is the last-but-one edition of the CLHF Bulletin under the current editor, David Bradbury. I will not be standing for re-election at the AGM, and I hope to use the December issue as a training exercise for my successor.

For that to be possible, it will be necessary to appoint the successor at the AGM, which will be taking place a month before the Bulletin is due to go to the printers. I therefore ask all societies to canvass their members, in their meetings up to the end of October, to find candidates for the job; and similarly I would like all individual members to consider putting themselves forward.

Although I have implied above that there is a single post to be filled, that need not be the case, because the job can be broken down into a variety of functions:

A) Soliciting and gathering material (this does not include entries for the What's On section, which are notifiable to the Membership Secretary, who collates them on a spreadsheet)

B) Creating the digital artwork for the complete Bulletin and emailing it to the printers (provided the cost per copy is not outrageously high, any firm capable of producing high-quality instant colour print can be used)

C1) Collecting the printed Bulletins from the printers

C2) Distributing the printed Bulletins, based on an address spreadsheet supplied by the Membership Secretary (this was formerly treated as a separate task from C1, but such an arrangement is only practical if the people doing C2 can easily meet up with the person doing C1)

D) Converting the high-quality digital artwork file to a medium-quality version and adding it to the Website

E) Other updates to the Website

F) From 2015 onward, producing the *A-Z of Speakers* booklet (this task can also be broken down into similar stages as above)

Please forward contact details of any candidates for any or all of the above tasks to me at pastpresented@tesco.net

David Bradbury

THE BEACON

Our lovely Manager of the Beacon Museum & Art Gallery in Whitehaven, Susan Palmer, aged 44, suffered a heart attack on 27 June and died on 2 July in the West Cumberland Hospital. Sue was a Carlisle lady and has been associated with The Whitehaven Museum firstly in the 1990s as Asst. to the then Curator Mr Harry Fancy, then in 2004 coming back to Whitehaven as full time Manager of The Beacon, which is the HQ. of The Friends of Whitehaven Museum. Her cremation was held at Carlisle, some of our members attended. We had just signed up for a partnership with 'Sellafield Ltd.'. She will be sadly missed by us all.

Florence Sibson

KESWICK HISTORY GROUP

Sadly we have to report that the Keswick History Group has closed. The Group was established in 2009 as the successor to the Keswick Historical Society which had organised a programme of lectures and excursions since 1977. Since the turn of the millennium, large donations of Keswick historical records have been received and the main purpose of the Group has been to index and catalogue these records to make them available to researchers and this has been achieved. Last year they were handed to the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery to be kept safe and to complement its records.

During the past four years members of the Group have made other notable contributions to Keswick's historical records such as the preparation and publication of the third volume of "Keswick Characters" and other researched subjects, slide shows in association with the Friends of Keswick Museum and the "100 Objects" project. The re-opening of the museum next year will enable individual researchers and archive volunteers to assist in promoting its historical research facilities, and so the need for an independent Group is no longer there.

Dorothy Hind, for the Keswick Reminder

Cumbrian Railways Association

The Cumbrian Railways Association is organising a major Educational event looking at the History of Railways in Carlisle over the weekend of 11-13 October 2013. It is being supported in this venture by a number of other railway groups and organisations including: - Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, Transport & Salaried Staffs' Association, Caledonian Railways Association, London & North Western Railway Society, Midland Railway Society, North British Railway Study Group, North Eastern Railway Association, Cumbria County Council Community Rail Partnerships and Carlisle City Council.

The event starts on the Friday afternoon with visits 'behind the scenes' to see items of railway interest not normally available to the public at Tullie House, Carlisle Library and the County Archive Centre. In the evening the two local model railway clubs, Border Railway Society and Carlisle and District 'O' Gauge Group (CDOGG), will be opening their doors to welcome visitors in their respective clubrooms situated within the railway station.

The major event of the weekend is a full day Conference being held in the Hallmark Hotel adjacent to the railway station. With doors opening at 10.00 am for coffee. A formal welcome to the Great Border City will be made by the Mayor of Carlisle, Ray Bloxham. The first speaker of the day will be Eric Martlew, a former Labour MP for Carlisle, who during his time served on the Parliamentary Transport Group and campaigned hard for the upgrading of the West Coast mainline. Bill Fawcett will outline the coming of the very first railway to arrive in Carlisle from Newcastle. Peter W Robinson will explain how the present Citadel station came about and how the different railway companies were involved with it. Roger Pigeon covers the three Scottish companies that had lines into Carlisle being the Caledonian, Glasgow & South Western and North British. The Midland Railway arrived in Carlisle and had a big impact which will be explained by David Joy. Finally Allan McLean will talk

about the Railway Races to Scotland which had and still do impact on the City!

To end the day a dinner will take place in the hotel, the reception is sponsored by the City Council, and the after dinner speaker is no less than Chris Green who is very well known within railway circles not least for his time spent as Chief Executive of Virgin Trains.

Sunday morning will see local historian Dennis Perriam leading a walk around the station and its environs pointing out items of interest but also adding to and bringing to life the history as discussed the during previous day. A visit to the Power Signal Box in its 40th anniversary year has also been arranged where a photographic display of all the signal boxes around Carlisle that it replaced will be available to view. Finally for anybody who could not visit the CDOGG clubrooms on the Friday a further opportunity will be available and models of Maryport & Carlisle Railway locomotives and rolling stock will be running on their 'O' gauge layout.

Bookings are now being taken and the number of places is limited. Friday and Sunday events are free with the exception of the visit to the Archive Centre for which a small charge will be made. The Saturday Conference costs £25.00 per person and includes all refreshments and lunch as well as a free souvenir programme. Evening meal is £26.00.

Full details are available at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or by contacting: - Philip T Tuer, 24 Carlton Gardens, Stanwix, Carlisle, CA3 9NR. Tel. 01228-522118.

Further sponsorship is still being sought and advertising space is still available in the programme, all enquiries to Philip as above.

Philip T Tuer

2013 national Peace History Conference:

The Peace and Anti-War Movement on the eve of the First World War – lessons for today

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st September
at the Friends Meeting House,
Mount Street, Manchester



NEXT STEPS

The Conference starts with a film *Benjamin Britten – Peace and Conflict* marking the 100th anniversary of the composer's birth. The Saturday will be introduced by war reporter and former independent MP, Martin Bell and features talks on peace activist and suffragist, Isabella Ford, the centenary of the Northern Friends Peace Board and the View of Two Communities on the eve of WWI in Germany and England. A Q&A panel discussion on the lessons for today completes the programme.

Registration for the Conference is now open by emailing gmdcnd@gn.apc.org, or phoning 0161 273 8283.

Steve Roman

People of Northern England 1216-1286

A new online database www.pone.ac.uk has been created to index information in 13th-century Pipe Rolls and Plea Rolls for Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumberland. Original entries have been translated and analysed for names, places and topics. This is a companion to the earlier *People of Medieval Scotland* database, and forms part of a larger project about the Anglo-Scottish conflicts of the period, called "The Breaking of Britain".

As is usual with interpretive resources, the database should preferably be used with caution, as an index to the original materials. For example, I think it likely that the "Alan de Peyton" connected with Muncaster had a mark in the manuscript indicating a letter "n" between the "e" and "y". *David Bradbury*

The 'Next Steps' programme of volunteer activities was launched back in May in order to develop the online 'Resource bank'. The aim is to add material to the page for each parish or township, including: links to relevant websites; a place-specific bibliography; and further research on particular aspects of the history of the place in question. Many volunteers who attended the launch meeting have agreed to help in these tasks, focusing on the places for which they wrote Jubilee Digests.

We would like to gather links to other websites which contain historical information relevant to the place for which a digest has been produced. One task that volunteers might undertake is to search the internet for these websites.

Place-specific bibliography. The aim here is to begin to compile a bibliography of published work specifically relating to the township/parish in question. Some volunteers began to do this in 2011, but not many places were covered.

The digests offer a useful starting point for further research which could build towards a VCH article in future. Volunteers are invited to pursue research into a particular aspect of the history of a place, perhaps a place of worship or other institution.

If you would like to be involved, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Rose. Further information at:
[www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/Next Steps.pdf](http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/Next%20Steps.pdf)

(single space between "Next" and "Steps")

Crosby Ravensworth Time 1879 Style

In 1879 the parish church of St Lawrence, Crosby Ravensworth, had four churchwardens, one representing each of the four townships: Crosby, Maulds Meaburn, Reagill and Birkbeck Fells. In three of the townships the warden was nominated and approved at the annual Parish Vestry meeting, but in Maulds Meaburn a different procedure had been followed since before living memory. Here the warden was chosen by the residents first selecting two nominees at a township meeting. These names were then taken to the subsequent Parish Vestry meeting where the vicar, Revd George Weston, chose one of the two nominees to serve.

Although Weston had tolerated this procedure for 30 years, his relations with his Maulds Meaburn parishioners had deteriorated after confrontations with the 'village lawyer' William Cockburn and his supporters over rental income from Maulds Meaburn Green after the Inclosure Award of 1858. He came to the view that the whole parish should be involved in the nomination and in early 1879 posted notices throughout the parish notifying parishioners that churchwardens (and overseers) could only be appointed at a Vestry meeting. For the first time he decided to attend the township meeting in Maulds Meaburn called for 17th April at 1 o'clock. If he could not immediately stop the meeting, he could at least take control of the proceedings and ensure acceptable nominations.

The Meaburn party, clearly intent on outwitting the vicar, contrived to arrive early and elected William Richardson as chairman and selected their two nominees, William and Thomas Moss. When Weston and his supporters arrived, at three minutes before 1 o'clock by his watch, Cockburn told him that their business had been transacted and the meeting was over. An argument about the correct time ensued. This was clearly a variable concept in Crosby in 1879. There was Greenwich time, railway time, St Lawrence's clock time, Weston's watch time, Penrith time and Bay Horse Inn time (kept 15 minutes fast to help in clear-

ing late drinkers). Weston claimed that he had sent his watch to London 'purposely to have the right time' and declared himself chairman, ignoring the previous proceedings. With his supporters he conducted a second meeting and declared George Winter and Jonathan Holme as the Meaburn nominations for churchwarden. However, in the confusion it was not clear to all parties that the correct procedure had been followed in obtaining these nominations. This was to have serious consequences for Weston.

Following the subsequent Vestry meeting Weston presented the names of the four elected churchwardens at the Diocesan Chancellor's Visitation to Penrith. Cockburn, on behalf of the Maulds Meaburn villagers, challenged the procedure. Canon Butler, the Deputy Chancellor who presided, decided to refer the dispute to the Consistory Court in Carlisle. Thus it was that Weston found himself in court challenged by some of his own parishioners.

The dispute came up in the Consistory Court on 25th June before Chancellor Burton. Weston was represented by counsel, Mr Hough, whilst William Cockburn acted for the Maulds Meaburn objectors who were present in force. Mr Hough opened the case and took Weston through his account of the meeting of 17th April. Cockburn's cross examination of Weston followed. He reminded Weston that he was on oath, for which 'offensive' and 'unbecoming' remark he was rebuked by the Chancellor. The proceedings were dominated by discussions of time. William Burton, the post messenger between Shap and Maulds Meaburn, claimed that his watch which he loaned to the vicar was set to railway time and Greenwich time. Weston using this found St Lawrence's clock 3 minutes slow and his own watch 2 minutes slower so he ran part of the way to Maulds Meaburn in order to be early. Cockburn claimed that the church clock was 10 minutes slow and that 'they went by Mr Nichol's [the Bay Horse landlord] clock in the village, that he was a respectable man, and went by Greenwich time'.










Continues on page 11

EVENTS DIARY









Area indicators: North  South  East  West  Central 

Meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated

SEPTEMBER 2013

- | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--------------|
|  | 9 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall | |
| | | Viking Cumbria - Rachel Newman | | 015395 68389 |
|  | 10 | North Lonsdale HS | Ulverston Methodist Church | |
| | | Flan Sports and Victorian Ulverston - Peter Wilde | | 01229 869229 |
|  | 12 | Hesket LHS | Low Hesket Village Hall | |
| | | C20th Defence Architecture in Cumbria - Russell Barnes | | 016974 75923 |
|  | 12 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS | The Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton | |
| | | The Bobbin Mills at Force Satterthwaite 1826 - 1923 - Dr Suzanne Tiplady | | 01900 85482 |
|  | 16 | Whitehaven LHS | United Reformed Church Hall, James St. | |
| | | AGM + Wordsworth in Cumbria - Stephen Miller | | 01946 695698 |
|  | 16 | Holme & District LHS | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton | |
| | | "Historical Pageants in the North West" - Dr M Winstanley | | 01524 782198 |
|  | 19 | Levens LHG | Levens Village Hall | |
| | | Viking Cumbria - Rachel Newman | | 01539 560318 |
|  | 19 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS | Cartmel Village Hall | |
| | | Building on Tradition (Lake District Vernacular Buildings) - Andy Lowe | | 015395 32234 |
|  | 19 | Orton & Tebay LHS | Orton Market Hall | |
| | | The Goodwins of Orton Hall - Lyndi Dambrumenil | | 015396 24410 |

OCTOBER 2013

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|---|----|---|----------------------------------|--------------|
|  | 1 | Bampton & District LHS | Bampton Memorial Hall | |
| | | AGM followed by "Here and There - Man's impact on the Local Landscape" - Ron Scholes | | 01931 713645 |
|  | 2 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick | |
| | | "An Oriental Mirage - eastern influences in Cumbria": Dr Rob David | | 017687 73801 |
|  | 2 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | "By the Sword Divided" - Eric Matthews | | 015396 22505 |
|  | 8 | North Lonsdale HS | Ulverston Methodist Church | |
| | | A Career in Ruins - Andy Lowe | | 01229 869229 |
|  | 10 | Hesket LHS | Low Hesket Village Hall | |
| | | The Splendours of the Carlisle Settle Railway - David Alison | | 016974 75923 |
|  | 14 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall | |
| | | The Life Of Dorothy Wordsworth - Stephen Miller | | 015395 68389 |
|  | 16 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | "Sarah Losh and Wreay Church" - Raymond Whittaker | | 015396 22505 |
|  | 17 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS | Cartmel Village Hall | |
| | | "Only half a story: historical letters with an emphasis on local material" - Professor Brian Wilson | | 015395 32234 |

OCTOBER continued

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|---|----|---|---|--------------|
|  | 17 | Levens Local History Group | Levens Village Hall | |
| | | The Kendal Home Guard - Margaret Owen | | 01539 560318 |
|  | 18 | Orton & Tebay LHS | Orton Market Hall | |
| | | St Mary's, Mallerstang - Ian Murray | | 015396 24410 |
|  | 19 | Cumbria Industrial History Society | The People's Hall, Sedbergh, 9.30 am - 4 pm | |
| | | Industries of the Sedbergh Area including Textile Mills and Marble Quarrying
(see www.cumbria-industries.org.uk for booking form) | | 015395 68428 |
|  | 21 | Whitehaven LHS | United Reformed Church Hall, James St. | |
| | | The Workington Steel Company - John Lawson | | 01946 695698 |
|  | 21 | Holme & District LHS | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton | |
| | | Inn Signs - Peter Marshall | | 01524 782198 |
|  | 21 | Upper Eden History Society | Kirby Stephen Grammar School | |
| | | Politics, Rivalry and Hunting in Late Medieval Mallerstang:
recent work at Lammerside - Erik Matthews | | 017683 51021 |
|  | 29 | Bampton & District LHS | Bampton Memorial Hall | |
| | | "Canons and Abbots of Shap Abbey": Harry Hawkins | | 01931 713645 |









NOVEMBER 2013

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|---|----|--|--|---------------|
|  | 6 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick | |
| | | What's hidden under Carlisle's new northern bypass - mesolithic, neolithic and
bronze age finds from recent excavations -
Fraser Brown, Oxford Archaeology North | | 017687 73801 |
|  | 6 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | The Angkor Temple Complex - Dr Raynor Shaw | | 015396 22505 |
|  | 9 | Upper Eden History Society | St Michael's church hall, Brough | |
| | | Local History Day. "Migration in and out of Cumbria". Details later: 017683 51021 | | |
|  | 11 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall | |
| | | Early Mapping in the North West - Dr. Ian Saunders | | 015395 68389 |
|  | 12 | North Lonsdale HS | Ulverston Methodist Church | |
| | | Lady Anne Clifford - Trevor Hughes | | 01229 869229 |
|  | 14 | Cumbria Industrial History Society | Greenodd Village Hall | |
| | | Askam Brickworks video | | 015395 68428 |
|  | 14 | Hesket LHS | Low Hesket Village Hall | |
| | | Walls in the Landscape - Harry Hawkins | | 016974 75923 |
|  | 14 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS | The Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton | |
| | | Cumbrian Ice Houses and the International Trade in Ice - Dr Rob David | | 01900 85482 |
|  | 14 | Orton & Tebay LHS | Tebay Methodist Church | |
| | | A Career in Ruins - Andy Lowe | | 015396 24410 |
|  | 18 | Holme & District LHS | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton | |
| | | "Turnpike Roads in Westmorland" - Dr Jean Turnbull | | 01524 782198 |
|  | 18 | Whitehaven LHS | United Reformed Church Hall, James St. | |
| | | The History of Cooperative Societies | Bill Myers | 01946 695698 |
|  | 18 | Upper Eden History Society | Kirby Stephen Grammar School | |
| | | Oxen & 100 years of farming | | 017683 51021 |
|  | 20 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Memorial Hall, Dent | |
| | | "From Engine Cleaner to Main Line Fireman" - Bill Kitchen | | 015396 22505 |
|  | 24 | Crosby Ravensworth LHS | Methodist Chapel Community Room | |
| | | Parish Archive - House History Research | | 01931 715 359 |
|  | 21 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS | Cartmel Village Hall | |
| | | AGM | | 015395 32234 |










Cumbria Local History Federation

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|---|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | 21 Levens Local History Group
Sizergh castle: Dig in the Park 2013 - Jamie Lund | Levens Village Hall
01539 560318 |
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DECEMBER 2013

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|---|--|---|
|  | 3 Bampton & District LHS
Quiz | Crown & Mitre [<i>note venue</i>]
01931 713645 |
|  | 4 Friends of Keswick Museum
Dorothy Wordsworth: Wonders of the Everyday-
Jeff Cowton (Curator, Wordsworth Trust) | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 7 Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining HS
AGM & Annual Dinner (advance payment required: see website)
<i>Please note that CATMHS runs numerous events throughout the year, but they are nearly all held "on site", requiring appropriate clothing / equipment and a British Caving Association insurance card.</i> | Rydal Hall
www.catmhs.org.uk |
|  | 9 Cartmel Fell & District LHS
The History Of Quakers - Ian Lewis (Curator, Swarthmoor Hall);
followed by a Jacob's Join to celebrate Christmas | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
015395 68389 |
|  | 9 Upper Eden History Society
Members' evening. History of Bolton. Evacuees to Cumbria in WWII -
Tony Dent & John Gowling | Kirby Stephen Grammar School
017683 51021 |
|  | 10 North Lonsdale HS
Christmas Special including Supper | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 869229 |
|  | 12 Hesketh LHS
Chairman's night with Christmas social | Low Hesketh Village Hall
016974 75923 |
|  | 16 Holme & District LHS
Christmas Function | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton
01524 782198 |

JANUARY 2014

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|---|--|--|
|  | 8 Friends of Keswick Museum
The Restoration of Lowther Castle & Gardens - Martin Ogle | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 13 Cartmel Fell & District LHS
AGM + Society Members' Presentations | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall
015395 68389 |
|  | 14 North Lonsdale HS
All Roads Lead to Millom - Bill Myers | Ulverston Methodist Church
01229 869229 |
|  | 15 Sedbergh & District History Society
"Wordsworth in Cumbria" - Stephen Miller | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
|  | 15 Crosby Ravensworth LHS
Parish Archive - House History Research | Methodist Chapel Community Room
01931 715 359 |
|  | 20 Whitehaven LHS
People of Whitehaven: Mid 20th Century - Dave Banks | United Reformed Church Hall, James St.
01946 695698 |
|  | 20 Holme & District LHS
"A Fox in the Fell": The Quaker Journey - Janice Wilson | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton
01524 782198 |
|  | 20 Upper Eden History Society
W G Collingwood's Letters from Iceland - Prof. Mike Lea | Kirby Stephen Grammar School
017683 51021 |
|  | 27 Orton & Tebay LHS
Folklore, Traditions, Customs of Cumbria - Jean Scott-Smith | Orton Market Hall
015396 24410 |




FEBRUARY 2014

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|---|--|---------------------------------------|
|  | 4 Bampton & District LHS
"The History of Geology in the Bampton & Askham Area" - Joe Cann | Bampton Memorial Hall
01931 713645 |
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FEBRUARY 2014 continued

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|---|----|--|--|--|
|  | 5 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick | |
| | | "What did you eat in the trenches Grandad?" Feeding & Supplying the British Army in WW1 - Stuart Eastwood (Curator, Border Regiment Museum) 017687 73801 | | |
|  | 5 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | Lakeland Architecture through the Centuries - Andrew Lowe 015396 22505 | | |
|  | 10 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall | |
| | | A Mansion Fit For Demolition: The Story of Grizedale Hall - Suzanne Tiplady
015395 68389 | | |
|  | 11 | North Lonsdale HS | Ulverston Methodist Church | |
| | | Walking Through History (Hadrian's Wall) - Maurice Steele 01229 869229 | | |
|  | 17 | Whitehaven LHS | United Reformed Church Hall, James St. | |
| | | Postcard Memories of Old Whitehaven Ralph Lewthwaite 01946 695698 | | |
|  | 17 | Holme & District LHS | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton | |
| | | AGM followed by The Bayeux Tapestry - Kathryn Smith 01524 782198 | | |
|  | 19 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Memorial Hall, Dent | |
| | | Treasure Trove of Memories - Anthea Boulton 015396 22505 | | |
|  | 19 | Crosby Ravensworth LHS | Methodist Chapel Community Room | |
| | | "Shap Fell in the old days": Jean Scott-Smith 01931 715 359 | | |
|  | 20 | Orton & Tebay LHS | Tebay Methodist Church | |
| | | Tracing Your House History - Katy Iliffe 015396 24410 | | |
|  | 24 | Upper Eden History Society | Kirby Stephen Grammar School | |
| | | "The Story of Ninekirks": Tony Greenwood 017683 51021 | | |

MARCH 2014

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|---|----|---|--|--|
|  | 4 | Bampton & District LHS | Bampton Memorial Hall | |
| | | "Power from the Fells": Andrew Lowe 01931 713645 | | |
|  | 5 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick | |
| | | "Tyson & Todhunter, Mungo & Lancelot: personal names and local history In Cumbria" - Prof. Angus Winchester (Lancaster University) 017687 73801 | | |
|  | 5 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | "Over Shap by Track, Road and Rail" - Jean Scott-Smith 015396 22505 | | |
|  | 10 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall | |
| | | Games, Pastimes & Work: Childhood in South Lakeland in Early C20 -
Dr. Jean Turnbull 015395 68389 | | |
|  | 11 | North Lonsdale HS | Ulverston Methodist Church | |
| | | Peeling the Onion: Recent Research at Low Wood Gunpowder Works -
Rick Sanderson 01229 869229 | | |
|  | 17 | Whitehaven LHS | United Reformed Church Hall, James St. | |
| | | Dovenby Hospital - Maureen Fisher 01946 695698 | | |
|  | 17 | Holme & District LHS | Kendal Memorial Hall, Burton | |
| | | Any Old Iron: Fingerposts and Foundries in Cumbria - Mike & Kate Lea
01524 782198 | | |
|  | 17 | Upper Eden History Society | Kirby Stephen Grammar School | |
| | | "On the Road to Blackpool". Traveller services Stainmore to Kirkby
Lonsdale 1815-1970: Dr Jean Turnbull 017683 51021 | | |
|  | 19 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | "High Bank House, Barbon": Mike Kingsbury 015396 22505 | | |
|  | 19 | Crosby Ravensworth Local History Society | Methodist Chapel Community Room | |
| | | Paupers and Lunatics of Crosby Parish in the 1800s - Peter Lewis 01931 715359 | | |
|  | 20 | Orton & Tebay Local History Society | Orton Market Hall | |
| | | AGM 015396 24410 | | |

Continued from page 6

The Chancellor delivered his verdict in writing just over a week later. On timing he noted: 'On the correctness of [time] I am inclined to think exactness was not altogether with the party that formed the first meeting. I am not going to charge any of the parties with falsehood ... [but] I regard the first meeting as worthless, and the proceedings at which the vicar presided as valid.'

David Risk, Crosby Ravensworth Local History Society

THE MUMMY

As improbable as it may seem, this is the story of a mummy with Cumbrian connections – or more precisely, the mummy of Pocahontas II of South America. Several hundred years after her death she could never have imagined that she would undertake an epic journey, leaving the sun-kissed land of her birth, hit the international news headlines, and finally would bequeath her withered hand to a museum display cabinet in Belgium of all places. This was, indeed, poor Pocahontas's fate, and a formidable lady from Cockermouth helped to determine it.

Mrs Aitken, born Annie Kay in Cockermouth in 1851, went out with her husband to Peru in the 1870s and quickly became assimilated into a thriving British community there. Two sons, Claude and Harold, were born in Lima and were eventually sent to a religious college in Melle, Belgium, for their continuing education. After their time there Mrs Aitken was keen to show her appreciation for the efforts made on her sons' behalf and decided that she would procure a mummy for the College museum. After a long wait, the British Consul in Tereca was able to offer her a mummy for this purpose and it set off on its journey, via England to Belgium.

All was going well until it reached London, care of the London and North Western Railway, where an inquisitive and unsuspecting porter opened the packing case to investigate the contents. It was the 15th of April 1901.

Imagine his horror when he discovered what he believed to be a corpse stuffed inside the packing case. His mistake was an easy one to make, since South American mummies are mummified in an upright position with their knees drawn up to their chest, unlike Egyptian mummies. Naturally, the police had to be summoned and the inevitable inquest followed. The coroner's jury returned its verdict:

"... this woman was found dead at the railway station ... and did die at some unknown date in some foreign country, probably South America, from some cause unknown. The jury are satisfied that this body does not show any sign of any recent crime, and that the deceased was unknown, and about 25 years of age."

Needless to say, the press, at home and abroad, had a field day.

Meanwhile, the mummy continued on its weary way, repackaged and duly despatched to Belgium. Unfortunately, by the time it reached its destination, decomposition had started to set in because it had been interfered with, and it no longer smelt as pleasant as it had done at the start of its journey. Having arrived at Melle, the order was given by the Belgian authorities for the mummy to be buried in the local cemetery.

As might be imagined, Mrs Aitken was rather put out that her generous gift, acquired after much negotiation of bureaucracy over many months, had been stopped short in its tracks. She decided that she would sue the railway company for the damage that had been caused, and the subsequent court case in London once again attracted the attention of both the national and international press. A booklet, running to some twenty-two pages, describes with some incredulity the investigations of the British police, their discussions with their Belgian counterparts, and conversations with the bemused staff of the religious college in Melle. It is fair to say that the British police investigators, who travelled to Melle, became the laughing stock of Europe with their pedantic questions regarding the crime that never was.

Cumbria Local History Federation

The 'Standard' newspaper described the discovery of the body thus:

"A horrible discovery was made on Monday morning at Broad Street Station. The body of a young woman was found in a chest which was addressed to a museum on the Continent ... The body was so to speak folded in two, but the only trace of violence was a slight wound on its neck. The station detectives were summoned immediately, and all the indications were that an abominable crime had been committed ..."

Meanwhile, Mrs Aitken had received a letter from Monsieur Ernest at the college in Melle, informing her of events:

"You will be moved by the lamentable end of your poor mummy. She arrived last Saturday. On Sunday, after a visit from the local authorities, I received a letter ordering me to have her buried without delay in the cemetery. One can only suppose that the sea air and atmosphere of England brought about her decomposition. I am deeply upset that your generosity and your kindness should have been thus rendered in vain ..."

Mrs Aitken's writ against the railway company came before the King's Bench on 9th December 1901. There was intense amusement that an inquest had been opened on a mummy, so much so that the Clerk of the court is reported to have upset his ink-pot in the general hilarity that ensued in the court room. Mr Kemp, acting on behalf of Mrs Aitken, asserted that she was entitled to claim not only the £45 that she had paid in shipping costs, but also an amount for the value of the mummy. A key point in the argument centred around whether a mummy could be owned: was it a piece of merchandise with a value, or was it a corpse that no-one could own? The Chairman of the Court pointed out that there was no right of ownership over a corpse. This created further puzzling questions: when does a mummy cease to be a corpse? (answer: uncertain), and isn't a corpse always a corpse? (no: but once a corpse has become a mummy, it is always a mummy!). The Chairman noted that the Belgian authorities had treated Pocahontas as a corpse, having had her buried in the cemetery, to which the plaintiff's counsel replied: "People do funny

things in Belgium." The Chairman declared that he would leave this question for the jury to ponder and he hoped that the case would determine statute law henceforth.

Mrs Aitken appeared before the Court herself to give evidence. She is described as being a lady of 'respectable age, with the beautiful grey hair of a marchioness'. She described how the mummy was in a perfect state of preservation when last she saw it in South America: "I watched over it myself. She was in a sitting position and it made me hope that she would arrive safely in that position ..." (cue much laughter in court). There was further laughter when Monsieur Ernest's letter was read out, in particular the sentence: "I shall never think of the mummy without thinking of you, madame."

The jury retired to consider its verdict and found in favour of Mrs Aitken. She was granted the sum of £75 damages and interest.

All was not lost, however: Pocahontas may have been buried in the cemetery at Melle (I was unable to track her down when I visited), but her brown and withered hand survives in a display cabinet in the college museum at Melle. Every object does, indeed, tell a story.

*Gloria Edwards
Cockermouth Museum Group*



Cut here

CONVENTION BOOKING, for CLHF, Newbiggin Village Hall, 2 Nov 2013

Each application will be acknowledged. Bookings will receive directions to Higham Hall and a suggested reading list.

Please reserveplaces @ £18.00.

Name(s)

Address.....

Post code..... Tel. No..... email.....

Member ofSociety OR tick Individual.....

Enclosed, cheque for £..... Signed..... Date.....

Please complete and return this form, with payment, before 16 October, to -
Ray Newton, CLHF Treasurer, 6 Lonscale View, Keswick, CA12 4LP

NB: Places are limited; so book now!

Cut here _____

To book display space and tables, or to volunteer a “soap box” talk, please contact
June Hall on junelennahall@hotmail.com

THE CONVENTION PROGRAMME

Saturday 2 November 2013
Newbiggin Village Hall, west of Penrith
(postcode CA11 0HT; grid reference NY 470 293)

£18.00 per person*

9.00 am Arrive and register
9.30 am AGM
10.00 am Coffee / view displays, etc.

Convention Theme – Running Water

10.30 am **‘Draining the Cumbrian Landscape’**
Ted and Stella Davis, Brampton
(Forthcoming book, same title, published by CWAAS)

11.15 am **‘Wells and Springs of Newbiggin’**
Dr Alan Rich, Newbiggin
History and restoration of the historic watering places of the village.
Talk followed by site visit, 5 minutes’ walk on paths

12.45 pm LUNCH

1.45 pm **‘Soap Box Sessions’**
5 – 10 minute presentations by members on water-related topics of their choice- offers to June Hall: junelennahall@hotmail.com

2.30 pm **‘Uses of water power wheels in Cumbria’**
Graham Brooks, Carleton

3.30 pm Closing remarks and discussion

3.45 pm Tea

4.00 pm Depart

*** Price reduction this year.**

Newbiggin Village Hall offers many advantages as a venue:

- 5 minutes’ drive from M6 J40/A66 intersection.
- Ample free parking
- Spacious. Large meeting room and two smaller rooms.
- Use of all facilities, including well-equipped kitchen.
- Plenty of space for exhibitions / displays / sales (*book via June Hall*)

Book Review

The Sedbergh Historian Vol. VI, No. 4, Summer 2013

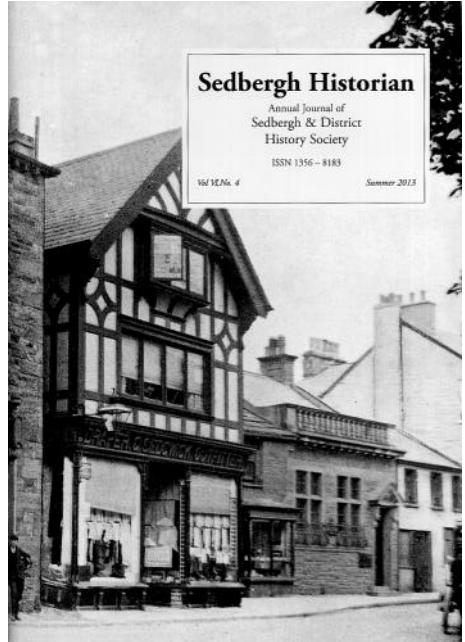
Sedbergh & District Local History Society
72a Main St., Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5AD
A4, 56 pages in fully illustrated card cover
£6 to non-members (*cheques to the society*)

Last year's issue of *The Sedbergh Historian* was featured in the Summer 2012 issue of this Bulletin. On that occasion, I concentrated on the overall concept of the journal, which is ambitious, well-produced and well supported by members. This year, I'd like to look at the six individual articles.

First up is a compilation of three articles about a Napoleonic-era dermatologist and his family, from the journal's 1980s predecessor, the SDHS *Newsletter*, written by a member who died last year. While I would not normally encourage societies to recycle their journal articles out of their original context, as a memorial to the writer it is most fitting.

The next article continues a family story begun in an earlier issue, very neatly blending information from personal journals and from newspapers. This is followed by a longer piece on the early years of the local Workhouses, which revisits a topic covered in those 1980s *Newsletters* and very properly provides both additional information and corrections.

The fourth article is another family history continuation, but it also serves to highlight valuable work done in transcribing some of the diary source material for publication. The fifth continues a transcript from another diary, and the last moves on a generation in a family history. While I would be cautious about letting continuations rule the journal, I think all these can be justified. The eight centre pages contain photographs, on special high-quality gloss paper.



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