



Can you identify this building for the CIHS? Suggestions to CIHS or the Editor please.

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Chairman's Chat

This is my penultimate appearance as your Chatty Chairman, so I hope you are all thinking hard about replacement officers and additional committee members to propose at our AGM on 26th November – I hate to say it, but it isn't that far away so book the date now!

Recent weather seems to suggest that Autumn is advancing apace, but let's hope for some more summery days (or weeks) before the back end. I recently enjoyed a day trip with the Solway History Society to the Heritage Centre at Carnforth Railway Station, and then to Heysham village. We successfully dodged the rain altogether! An excellent day and both places boasted informed and enthusiastic volunteers who clearly loved their local history and put time and effort into making the places interesting and welcoming.

It made me think that perhaps our local groups need to blow their own trumpets a bit louder when they organise opportunities for visitors, and locals, to learn more about the people and history of the locality. I know some groups produce leaflets, organise guided walks or print them out for individuals to use, some organise events or man heritage information points. Perhaps we can share these good ideas among our members, both to encourage other societies to visit and participate, and to inspire different groups to try something new. It needs only the passion and commitment of a few to start, as at Carnforth, and look what they have now! Remember - Great oaks from little acorns grow!

Jenni Lister



CLHF Members Info.

I like to think I am tidy and methodical in my research and what I do and have tried to apply this thought to my editorship of each Bulletin so far. However the content I have received for this Bulletin, for which I am very grateful, is so varied that despite my best efforts to "tidy" it I think I have failed. So I present it as you now find it. Here it is and as they say, and I wish they wouldn't, "Enjoy".

Editor.



History of Kirkby Group

That is Kirkby in Furness or Kirkby Ireleth in old money. Our interest as a group and for most of the individual members is in the history of our village. As this goes back to Viking times and possibly Saxon or even Roman, we have quite a lot to go at. Documentation is held at TNA in Kew, Chatsworth House (Devonshire/Cavendish Archives), and Barrow & Kendal Record Offices to name a few.

We are at present transcribing a number of annual diaries made by Hugh

Jones who was the Manager of Burlington Slate Quarries from 1903 to 1938. Unfortunately we do not have a full run but we do have about 10 years worth. There are also half a dozen Parish Council books of Minutes, Road repairs, Overseers Accounts, Rate Books and so on. The Tythe Schedule has been transcribed but awaits the insertion of modern names before publication, probably on our web site. We hope to bring the BMD records up to date from 1837 from the Church Registers.

The group also produces a wide range of archive pdf's and is interested in a gathering of groups along the lines of the Shap meeting held last year.

Charles Rowntree.

Editor's note: At our CLHF Convention we will have the opportunity to discuss a further Group Meeting perhaps in the south of the County.

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## The Duddon Valley Local History Group –The Duddon Dig. Ken Day and Sue Lydon.

There has been excitement in the Duddon Valley as excavations of a medieval longhouse began to reveal its secrets.

For sixteen days in June and July, members of the Duddon Valley Local History Group and over eighty volunteers had been working under the supervision of Jamie Quartermaine and archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology, to unearth the remains of what might be a Norse longhouse that

had remained hidden in the Valley near Seathwaite Tarn. The site was discovered by members of the History Group while conducting archaeological surveys of the Duddon Valley on behalf of the Lake District National Park.

This was one of about twenty such structures recorded by the Group and as a consequence of having an article on their finds published in Cumberland and Westmoreland Transactions, encouragement was given to carrying out the excavation of a number of sites.

Following successful bids for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Copeland Community Fund, Copeland Council, CGP Group, Sir John Fisher Foundation, Mick Aston Archaeology Fund, The Robert Kiln Trust and LDNPA, work was able to commence.

Ken Day, Chairman of the History Group said, "This has been a major achievement for a small group of keen but amateur archaeologists. We were very excited at being able to contribute to this important historic aspect of the Lake District. Particular thanks must go to Eleanor Kingston, the National Park archaeologist who has advised us every step of the way.



Stephe Cove, one of our members did a magnificent job in coordinating all the volunteer activity."

Over 150 children from local schools visited the site and had demonstrations on archaeology. Some were able to take part in the dig. In addition an open day attracted 60 visitors with dozens more passing walkers going to see what was happening.

The dig yielded evidence that the structure had been modified several times over the course of its use with two cobbled floor layers being uncovered and walls replaced. Early indications are that it is likely to be early medieval and carbon deposits found on the very last day of the excavations may provide dating evidence.

Plans are now being made to excavate two other potential Norse longhouse sites over coming seasons.

A daily blog of the excavations can be found at [duddondig.wordpress.com](http://duddondig.wordpress.com)

For further information contact Stephe Cove on 01229 773965 or Ken Day on 01229 716113 email

[ken\\_jeanday@yahoo.com](mailto:ken_jeanday@yahoo.com)

Editor's Note. The blog is worth looking at and Sue has said that they are always happy to take a group to see the longhouses. However she warns that you should bear in mind that they are about half a mile up a rough track and then a short distance across some boggy ground. Go on, give Duddon a ring !

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CUMBRIAN RAILWAYS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES 40TH BIRTHDAY BY "RAISING A GLASS" AT SPRING CONFERENCE IN CARLISLE

The Cumbrian Railways Association (CRA) held its Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting on Saturday 19th March 2016 at the Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle. The CRA was delighted to be able to launch the 40th birthday celebrations in the "Great Border City", especially as the December floods had prevented us going to our original city venue of the Old Fire Station. Around 70 Association members and guests made the journey to Carlisle and attended the full day event.



To launch this landmark year for the Association, the conference was marked with the launch of a celebratory beer brewed especially for us, in Cumbria, by the Carlisle Brewing Company. The beer has been named "Lakes Express" after the Association's regular members' newsletter. The picture below shows Committee members celebrating the pulling of the first pint!

The conference itself lived up to the previous successes of the Association in presenting a wide variety of subjects

and speakers to both inform and encourage discussion. It also provided time for members and others to meet up again and join in on lively discussions relating to the railways of Cumbria and other subjects of mutual interest.

Guest speaker Geoff Holme provided a fascinating insight into Edwardian period rail tours in Cumbria. The conference heard how in the early 1900's – when mass car ownership was still a thing of the future – day tours were arranged by railway companies to encourage people to travel out and about by train for leisure. Geoff detailed one trip that involved going by ship from Fleetwood to south Cumbria, train to Lakeside, Windermere steamer, road coach to Coniston, another train to Barrow and then, finally, a return by ship to Fleetwood. This was all in one day and for the then princely sum of seven shillings and sixpence per head! Geoff illustrated his absorbing talk with extensive photographs and postcards from the period.



(Geoff Holme talking to CRA delegates)

The second speaker, Mark Keefe from the Stainmore Railway Co., re-lived the early 1960's Beeching period closure and "demolition" of the Stainmore Line section between Barnard Castle and Tebay. Mark showed pictures and talked of the last trains to run over the

route and the work undertaken, somewhat rapidly, after closure to remove many of the spectacular viaducts, bridges, signal boxes, station buildings and the track itself. This demolition and removal caused some fine architectural and engineering features to be lost forever. Members also heard and saw how Mark and other colleagues have captured photos of the remaining evidence of the route and undertaken archaeological style "digs" of some of the demolished signal boxes.

Finally, Peter van Zeller rounded up the day and entertained the conference with an outline of the history of L'al Ratty, the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway, since it converted to a 15 inch gauge passenger railway in 1916. One hundred years ago this year!

Supplemented by a highly knowledgeable and entertaining commentary, Peter showed photographs of the railway charting the changes, milestones, successes and challenges that have shaped this famous Cumbrian railway line and tourist attraction over of the last one hundred years.

The CRA will be holding a conference on 12th November 2016 at Hydro Hotel, Bowness-on-Windermere. The programme will include a retrospective on the 40 years of the Cumbrian Railways Association. This will be followed in the afternoon by a photographic review of locomotive traction changes in Cumbria over the past 40 years, plus a showing of the film "The Furnessman" - a 1979 film produced by the Border Railway Society in 1979. There will also be a field trip on Sunday 13th - details to be confirmed. Booking details will be

available on the CRA website from October.

Don Jary

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## **Bampton & District LHS. Rainfall Recording in Swindale 1980 to 2013**

My husband and I moved to the very isolated farmhouse in Swindale in 1976 (see image). Swindale is a valley between Shap and Haweswater with only three habitable houses, Swindale Head being the last and highest one at a height of nearly 1000 feet. It is a glaciated valley with many distinctive features such as drumlins, hanging valley, glacial erratics and a dry lake bed and several fine water falls at the valley head.



The house itself dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and there is no electricity supply or modern amenities so life there was not easy. I started taking unofficial records of rainfall in the 1980s with a cheap plastic cylinder attached to a stake and kept the data in inches. There was also a wind vane but that did not last long as the wind was too strong and it quickly broke. I kept the records in little note books along with notes on wind direction – before

the vane broke- and temperature each day but it was all very amateur.

As we had no electricity we tried various kinds of generators, none very successful until we met a local vicar who was also a keen amateur electrician. He set up a water wheel in the stream nearby, and along with low voltage light bulbs that originally came from buses, we had a lighting system of sorts. Incidentally, the water wheel was a real Heath Robinson affair made from a Flymo cutting blade and many soup ladles but it did work after a fashion except when the pipe got filled with stones or fish got trapped in there.

We also relied on Tilley lamps and old fashioned paraffin lamps. Eventually our friend devised a better water scheme that meant taking water from higher up the stream through a larger pipe and this involved obtaining permission from the Environment Agency. During the discussions with the EA man I happened to mention that I was keeping rainfall records and he asked me if I would be interested in becoming an official rainfall recorder as they were looking to increase the number of recorders in the area. I agreed and the gauge was installed in the field at the bottom of our property.

The gauge consisted of a copper cylinder that was sunk into the ground in a 1 metre square of gravel. Inside there was a little copper bucket to catch overflow water, a bottle to catch the regular rainfall and a funnel at the top to direct it to the container. The bottle was emptied every day at 9am (10am in the summer) as it would not have been possible to do it at Midnight, and the

rainfall was measured in a measuring cylinder that was calibrated to match the diameter of the gauge. I did this collecting of rainfall for over 20 years until I had to leave Swindale in 2013.



After I had read the amount of rainfall in the gauge I recorded it on a card which was posted at the end of the month to the EA and I also wrote the figures and a brief comment on the weather in a small blue diary which was provided by the agency so I now have a record of the weather for almost every day since 1990. It was 'almost every day' because we did occasionally go away and when that was the case the gauge was read when we returned and the amount put down for the whole missing period. The monthly totals were accurate though. When there was snow it was a bit more tricky as the snow that had accumulated in the funnel had to be carefully scraped out into a jug and gently warmed until it melted and the resulting water could be measured in the cylinder as normal.

This was obviously not as accurate a measurement. Once when there was a large amount of snow in the field the gauge was completely invisible in a drift and we had to guess its position and dig it out. I'm sure that the measurement that day was certainly not very accurate. It is very interesting to reread all the diaries now as it is generally not easy to remember exactly what the weather was at any particular time unless it related to particular events and I have found that people have false perceptions of what it was like.

I can say, and have proof in my records, that there was much more snow and frost in the winter when I began in the 1990s than there was in the next decade and there was often snow in March and even April. I noticed that the likeliest time for snow was the beginning of February (we often had difficulties getting out of Swindale for family celebrations then because of snow) although we did also have difficulties when going away for Christmas. The wettest year was 2008 with a total of 2847.9 mm with every month except April and May having over 100mm and it was quite closely followed by 2009 with 2807.6mm. The driest was 1996 with only 1594.7mm. The average for the whole period was 2245.0mm so 1996 was noticeably dry. I think that it was one of the years when the nearby Haweswater reservoir was extremely low. Other statistics that may be of interest;- the largest daily total was 105.8mm on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1996 –recorded as 'very windy, heavy rain pm onwards' in my diary. The whole of the rest of the month was very dry with the monthly total being only 159.5mm



so this heavy rain was certainly extraordinary.

(I wasn't still in Swindale last December when Storm Desmond struck so I have no records for then unfortunately although the gauge is still there.) The largest monthly total was for November 2009 when 667mm fell. Although every month varied quite widely there was a general pattern to the rainfall with the largest amounts in the winter months at the beginning of the year decreasing towards the middle of the year and then increasing again towards November and December. There were some very wet summers though and some dry winters so it was never predictable. When there was a very dry May in 1991 (only 8.4mm for the whole month) it was followed by a wet June and in 2009 February was the driest month but July and August were both very wet. The joys of weather rather than a climate!

It was a fascinating thing to have done, although it was sometimes a chore to have to trudge down the garden, often in the rain, to collect the precipitation and I am glad that I was able to do it for so long.

Marion Drinkwater

*Editors Note; Fascinating and history in the making. Has anyone else kept historical records of weather conditions?*

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The Cockermouth Heritage Group

The Cockermouth Heritage Group's summer exhibition this year is an eclectic mix, covering both the commemoration of the birth of Eaglesfield born scientist John Dalton, and the continuing story of World War I.

It runs from 1st to 27th August inclusive at the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth (10-4 daily).



The John Dalton section of the exhibition will cover his life and work. It will also complement the Civic Trust's John Dalton 250 Weekend (8th-11th September), part of the Heritage Open Days weekend, when a detailed programme of events will be taking place, including a lecture on 'John Dalton, A Cumbrian Philosopher' by Thomas Fletcher Smith (Kirkgate Centre, 9th September). Full details of all the events are available on www.heritageopendays.org.uk. The second part of our summer exhibition looks at the continuing story of World War I as it affected Cockermouth – both those who went

away to fight, and those who remained at home. The afternoon of August 18th will include a visit by Stuart Eastwood of the Museum of Military Life in Carlisle. I gather Stuart will be bringing along a variety of artefacts to handle, inviting people to bring in old photographs/stories, as well as giving a talk on local connections with World War I.

Further details are available at www.thekirkgate.com. The exhibition will give special emphasis to the year 1916, and the events of the Battle of the Somme. We hope to see as many of you as possible at both the summer exhibition and the Heritage Open Days events. If you have any queries, contact us via our website (www.cockermouthheritagegroup.org.uk) or email us at cockermouthheritagegroup@outlook.com

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## Lamplugh and District Heritage Society

A report of the presentation and Exhibition of Memorabilia about Lamplugh Friendly Society from Kendall Bruce.

At our meeting Maureen Fisher explained why "Friendly Societies" came into being and talked about them in general. The societies helped people who were out of work or sick, members having paid in as a sort of insurance. They took various names, Oddfellows, Order of Druids, Buffaloes (Bufs), Forresters are but a few. Some societies had Juvenile members, and Girl's Friendly societies were formed. In the

early days apprenticeships could run for up to 14 years when they became "journeymen" plying their trade wherever there was work. Support for the family was needed as no one wanted to go the "work house" and nobody wanted a "pauper's" funeral. In 1802 the cost of a funeral was £6-12-0 (£6.60). All the societies had Banners and Sashes. These were made of the very best material by Toothill's of London.



Lamplugh Friendly Society with banner  
Circa 1920.

The "Rechabites" then formed Temperance Societies, The Good Templars in Frizington being another.

Lamplugh Friendly Society was formed in 1788 and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest. Betty Marshall, whose forebears were officers of the Society, then spoke about Lamplugh Friendly Society and its origins. In the late 1700s people were very poor and the average life expectancy in Lamplugh was 36yrs! Men would work 80 hrs per week mainly in agriculture. Poorhouses were built, one being in Fitz Wood near Fitz

Bridge. In 1788 a group formed The Lamplugh Friendly Society.

At this time penal colonies were opened in Australia while others emigrated voluntarily to Australia, as can be seen by viewing the headstones in Lamplugh Churchyard.

The Society met at Lamplugh Cross public house once every 4 weeks, 8 o'clock until 10 in the summer and 7 until 9 in winter. Very strict rules had to be adhered to and a subscription paid. The money was kept in a black metal box in the possession of the treasurer which he zealously guarded!

In Dickinson's Cumbriana the box is described as a "get black kist". During World War 11 attendances dropped and the society ceased in 1948.

Kendall Bruce, who like Betty had forebears who held office then read a passage in dialect from Cumbriana entitled "Lamplugh Club". Once a year the society had a "Club Day". Starting at Lamplugh Cross they marched behind Lamplugh Temperance band to St Michael's church led by the President for a service. Food and drink, sports, wrestling and hound trails followed.

A recollection of the 1808 Club day:  
"It was Wilson o' Mowerkin's turn to be President, an a grand leukan fellow he was as he marcht to t' church an' back ageann, wid a blue sash ower his shooders and a girt flag flappen abeun his heed."

Back at Lamplugh Cross the place was packed. "Fwok kept cumman in still fray o' parts. Lampla' an Loweswater,

lang men an' lean. Ho's, roags, an theeves, fray Branthet an' Dean". There are stories of fellows falling in "CrossYats" beck trying to get "Yam" and others "liggen on brackins in Murton lonnin".

And finally a gent who had too much to drink was put out of the Cross, he landed back with his "ax ower his shooder" an began to "hag his way throo t' deur, an' swearr he was nobbet carvan his cwot ov arms on't."

And a good time was had by all!



Lamplugh & District Heritage Society  
Stan Buck, Kendall Bruce, Betty  
Marshall and Maureen Fisher with  
banner.



**CLHF Convention.  
November 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 at  
Shap.**

With this Bulletin you will receive a booking form both for your attendance and the opportunity to book a table/display space for the day to display your group's research and offer publications for sale.

It will be an enjoyable day so please tell your members about the Convention and book as soon as possible. Feel free to copy the Agenda and booking form to your members.

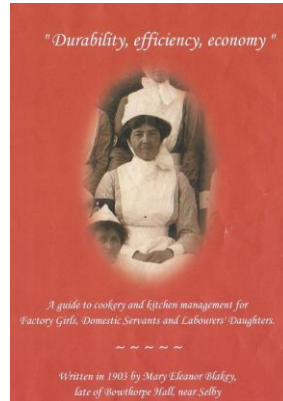
Liz Kerry & June Hall

**Members Publications.**

**"Durability, Efficiency Economy" by David Lewis**

Cockermouth Heritage Group recently contributed to a book written by David Lewis about the life of Mary Eleanor Blakey who was in charge of the Auxiliary Hospital in Cockermouth Castle during WWI. The following press release was issued on publication of the book:

'Durability, Efficiency, Economy' were the three words that Mary Eleanor Blakey used at the end of a 100-page notebook, compiled in marvellous copperplate script, to sum up her approach to work in the kitchen.



She began her notes in 1903, and added to them throughout the rest of her life until her death in 1939. The book then lay undisturbed for 75 years in the family's 18-room riverside mansion until discovered as part of a charity shop donation in Selby, Yorkshire.

Edited for publication by Selby historian David Lewis, the new book contains 80 of her recipes, Mary's kitchen management rules and a review of the modern way in which she taught her kitchencraft to miners' daughters in Rothwell near Leeds. It also contains a detailed biography - and this is where the book may be of interest to Cockermouth residents.

**The Cockermouth Connection.**

With the help of many groups, including the Cockermouth Heritage Group, and Mary's great niece in Yorkshire, David has managed to piece together Mary's life story. Born near Ripon in 1876 to a family of tenant farmers, in 1909 Mary became the second wife of noted

Cockermouth businessman, James William ('Willie') Hall of Evening Hill. The couple lived at Evening Hill for 28 years. Willie, described as a 'typical Cumberland farmer' was a renowned agriculturalist, sheep breeder and local businessman, being a partner in Smalls. Bros & Hall, clothiers, of 28 Main Street, Cockermouth. On his death in 1937 Willie's cortege included 66 cars and his obituary notice filled a column of the local broadsheet. Mary also played a vital role in the community, being Commandant of the Cockermouth Auxiliary Hospital in WW1, for which work she received an MBE.

Yet strangely, they were separated in death. Willie is buried in Cockermouth with many of his close family referred to on his headstone. Yet no mention is made of Mary, who is buried in isolation in Carlisle.

This book gives a chance to read about the life of an important figure in the life of Cockermouth a century ago, to realise what hard work it was to run a kitchen back then, and to enjoy wholesome old-fashioned recipes such as Moggy, Nettle Beer and a Roast with a good Yorkshire Pudding!

*The 112 page, A5, full-colour book costs £7.50 (inc p&p) from David at 32 Church End, Cawood, Selby YO8 3SN (dglmeb@gmail.com)*

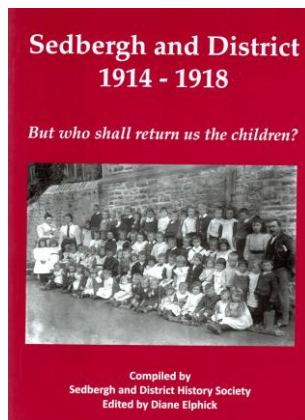
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Sedbergh and District 1914-1918

But who shall return us the children?

A book compiled by Sedbergh and District History Society, Edited by Diane Elphick.

This book aims to commemorate the sacrifices that the Sedbergh and District communities made in the "Great War".



Thanks to the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund a limited number of copies of this 368 page volume will be available FREE of CHARGE. (postage will be chargeable for those unable to collect from Sedbergh).

Precedence will be given to the families of those involved in the conflict.

To register your interest please send your contact details and relationship to sedberghhistsoc@aol.com or write to SDHS, 73A Main Street, Sedbergh Cumbria LA10 5AD.

Editor's note. A review of this excellent publication will be in the next Bulletin.