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Chairman's Chat

Well this is my final appearance in the Chairman's Chat slot as I am standing down at the AGM at the end of this month. I must thank you all for friendly welcomes when I've visited your societies, and cheerful acknowledgements when we've met at other historical or social occasions – I don't always remember people's names but I really appreciate being hailed & talked to as a familiar face. And thank you to all the committee members and officers over these past few years, you've made it interesting and fun.

I shall stay with the committee as I've acquired a couple of new liaison roles: CLHF rep to the CWAAS Outreach Committee: and also representing the Federation and Cumbrian interests on the steering group (if that's the correct term!) for the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. Lots of interesting possibilities there! I'm also working with the Oral history project Paul Jenkins wrote about in our last Bulletin about people who have moved to Cumbria in historical times and recently. A fascinating perspective on where we all come from – speaking as an incomer myself!

So thank you all for everything – I'm looking forward to catching up with quite a few of you at the Convention (a runaway success for numbers!), but if I look a bit glassy-eyed don't attribute it to drink! I'm having a cataract operation in a few days but with luck I'll be bright-eyed and seeing you all in a new light! Cheerio for now, I'll see you around, I'm sure.

Jenni Lister



From the Editor.

I am, with this cover image, setting Bulletin readers the challenge of providing me with an image featuring an aspect of Cumbrian history for the cover of each Bulletin. I have provided the first image and as I have a vast collection of these images of Pounds and Pinfolds in Cumbria, which you will want to avoid seeing, I invite you to send me a jpg image of something a bit more interesting, if that is actually possible! A few words of explanation would also be appreciated. Over to you.

Nigel Mills

CLHF Members News.

The Appleby Archive – Key to your Heritage.

It has come to my attention that many people in Appleby, including some Society members, do not know about the Appleby Archive, which keeps some of us very busy, trying to preserve the heritage of the old town. Some five or six years ago, The Appleby-in-Westmorland Society came to grips with the reality that a great deal of material of considerable interest to Applebeians and other local history researchers was scattered around the town, in cupboards and under beds, in dusty files or just lying in a corner, despite previous sterling efforts to collect it in one place, collate it, list it and safeguard it. So we began another sterling effort which has resulted in the creation of the Appleby Archive. This has become a collection of some 2,500 documents, pictures and artefacts (and is still growing) which is stored in the Market Hall in the most expensive rented broom-cupboard in Cumbria and which is run on a shoestring. Most of the collection is now listed on a computer programme (the computer is 20 years old but still able to list things!) - we are slowly catching up, but it is a slow and meticulous task to get the registration right. The collection is mainly stored in labelled files and boxes in the Archive. Digitisation is mooted, but the stumbling block is the registration and tying it into the digital record. While we are far from providing a 'click and see' IT facility, we are approaching the stage where we will be

able to welcome people into the Archive, at first by appointment only, to be shown around it and guided to the area of your special interest. We are restricted by our limited staff (all volunteers), but maybe we can recruit more people in the near future. We are also hampered by the small size of our accommodation – despite a lot of effort in the past years, we cannot find a suitable, affordable and available room(s). The empty old Library room above the NFU would be ideal, but approaches to the County Council have hitherto fallen on deaf ears. A listing of groupings of files is on our website, (www.appleby-in-westmorland-society.org.uk) very shortly to be replaced by a detailed listing of the files. Another factor has recently come into play with the reduction in availability and service provided by the County Archive Service. Our Archive has been deliberately restricted to very local matters to support the County Archive, not to supersede it, but we feel that it is up to every area in the county to preserve our local heritage even more diligently, lest it be eroded to vanishing point. A great deal of effort has been expended on this project, and we are very keen to make it more available to users, but we do need more workers to achieve this, as well as the continual plea for a decent venue for the Archive – and, if possible: more cash! We are always on the lookout for documents and pictures that show aspects of Appleby past, or even Appleby present; so, if you have any material that would be of interest,

please contact me, Ian Campbell on 51139, or any committee member.

Ian Campbell

Their recent Newsletter reported that since Ian submitted this update on the sterling work of the archive they have received some good news. At a recent meeting in the Public Hall, Appleby-in-Westmorland Society members were told by President Davina Osman that, thanks to the efforts of Treasurer Rosemary Spence a grant had been obtained from the Town Council's Flood Restoration Appeal Fund to conserve the pictures in the Appleby Archive.

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## Duddon Valley Local History Group - Update



### Longhouse Excavation

As mentioned in the September issue of CLHF News, small pieces of charcoal were found under the crosswall of the excavated longhouse at Tongue House Close, Seathwaite and on the last day of the dig, in a drainage ditch which ran directly outside the west 'entrance'.

This indicating that the floor of the longhouse may have been swept clean.

The charcoal was of oak and was subjected to Carbon14 dating. Unfortunately oak has a wide dating range and at this stage all that can be said is that it was of medieval origin. Further wood samples extracted by sifting the removed soil have also been sent for C14 dating which should give a more specific indication as to the origins of the site. It is expected that the full results of the excavation will be revealed by the archaeologists at a presentation event to be held at 7pm on 22 November at the Victory Hall, Broughton-in-Furness, to which there is an open invitation.

Plans are now well advanced for next year's excavation of what is believed to be a Norse settlement at the aptly named Longhouse Close, also in Seathwaite. There is to be a training day for volunteers on 3 June with the dig taking place from 10 - 25 June. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the History Group on [duddondig@gmail.com](mailto:duddondig@gmail.com)

The History Group is also embarking on a programme of recording the oral history of people in the Duddon Valley and surrounding areas. Training for those conducting the interviews is being arranged through Ambleside Library organised by Jane Renouf who is compiling a central archive of the oral history of Cumbria.

Ken Day

Chairman  
Duddon Valley Local History Group

**The Duddon Valley LHG also organises walks and welcome others who wish to join them but please contact the leader if you are interested. Editor.**

### **WALKS PROGRAMME – 2017**

A series of archaeological and historical walks for the season. Please contact the walk leader for more information or if the weather is bad. Some leisurely, some moderate, all very friendly, with information given at visited sites. All need suitable footwear and clothing plus packed lunch, apart from Ken Day's walk.

Meet 10am Broughton Sq unless otherwise stated.

4 Feb 17: **Bob Bell. (01229 716435)**  
Hampsfell and Cartmel Priory. 5 miles, moderate. 10am Broughton Sq, 10.15 Greenodd Village Hall 11am Cartmel Racecourse car park.

18 Feb 17 **Mervyn Cooper. (01229 582379)** The Hawk and Stephenson Ground, Scale, visiting Romano British settlement, Bronze Age round houses, Viking Longhouse and medieval sites. 4.5 miles 5 hours, moderate. 10am Broughton Sq or 10.15 The Hawk Car Park.

4 Mar 17 **Peter Greenwood. (01229 583319)** Bardsea to Urswick via Sunbrick, taking in Quaker burial ground, a double stone circle, Iron Age fort megalithic burial site and Civil War history. 5 miles, 4 hours, easy. 10am Broughton or 10.30 opposite the toilets at Bardsea beach.

18 Mar 17 **Gail Batten. (01229 716840)**  
Stone circle find or not? Wallabarrow, Grassguards, Nettleslack. 5 miles 4

hours, moderate, 10am Broughton or 10.30 Seathwaite Parish Rooms car park.

1 Apr 17 **Alan Westall. (01229 827955)**  
A Satterthwaite Circular, Force Mills, Force Farm, bloomery. Refs Grizedale Visitor Centre. 10 am Broughton or 10.30 Blind Lane car park 643911. 8 miles, moderate.

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.

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Lazonby and District History Society.

In 2017 Lazonby and District History Society is celebrating its twentieth year. The group was formed after two stimulating village history walks with the nucleus of a committee gathered. Since then we have had so many interesting talks and visits to local places of historical interest. The membership of the Society has remained fairly constant, with new members and visitors each year and a

loyal, diligent committee.

To mark this special anniversary we have planned two events. Firstly, at the end of April (29th and 30th) we are holding an exhibition of local history projects and archives in the Village Hall. Other nearby history societies will be invited to provide their own displays. The next day, there will be two guided history walks around the village, morning and afternoon. Secondly, we are producing a booklet of Lazonby memories to mark significant changes in village life over a hundred years. The booklet is being produced for us by a member of the society but it has been a joint committee task in deciding what to include. We are using oral memories, newspaper extracts and other written extracts from local sources, illustrated with photos of past scenes and events. The booklet will be printed and bound locally and we hope a nominal charge will cover costs of production. Our aim is to keep the interest in our village history alive, possibly for another twenty years, adding to our knowledge as we go along!

Sheila Fletcher, Chairman

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## Cumbria Family History Society. (CLHS)



Cumbria Family History Society have just embarked on a major project to transcribe an enormous volume of historic legal documents originating

from several firms of solicitors in Cumbria of the seventeenth to twentieth century era, including wills, mortgages, assignments and many other legal papers. These documents were being offered for sale by auction until contact was made with the vendor and an agreement to purchase the entire container load was satisfactorily secured. The nature of the documents reflects the 'pen and ink' period of record keeping and gives way to an absolutely fascinating insight into the methods inherent in our historic legal system.

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been able to make this substantial capital acquisition to preserve, index and ultimately digitise the documentation for the benefit of Cumbrians worldwide and to deposit with the Cumbria Archives for perpetuity. The data produced so far illustrates names, addresses, dates, property details, values, some court proceedings throughout the county and much more yet to be discovered, and will be of serious interest to our membership and the general public alike. The publication of any of this collected information, however, is going to take some time such is the volume of data to be sifted through and should there be any interest from the membership of CLHF we would dearly like to hear from them.

CFHS continue to hold meetings in the West Cumbria area as well as our annual events in and around the Kendal area and we would invite interested people to review our activities in the website [www.cumbriafhfs.com](http://www.cumbriafhfs.com) where the connectivity of family and local history is clearly there to be seen.  
Ian White

## Aspects of Oral History.

This is an ever present, ongoing and vital part of building a local history archive and of interest to many members who are developing OH. To help inform others I have included here a couple of perspectives from members.  
Editor

### Cartmel Peninsula LHS “Developing Oral History at a local level”.

During the last couple of years, several people in Cartmel have been actively working on various aspects of creating an Oral History archive for both the village and the area. Most of us started as amateurs, with steep learning curves, but we recognised a common interest and recently agreed to form the Cartmel Oral History Group.

The recent burst of Oral History activity in Cartmel was started by members of the Cartmel Village Society (CVS), who had decided to record audio interviews with elderly residents. After promising their interviewees copies of their interviews, they found that they did not have the capacity to make the transcripts as quickly as they wished so they asked the Cartmel Peninsula History Society (CPLHS) for help, which resulted in the identification of two volunteers to make the transcripts.

That also resulted in the CPLHS asking the volunteer to transcribe some old cassettes, recorded in 1993, which had long laid forgotten in their archives. Those cassettes have now almost all been transcribed, and include fascinating stories of life in Cartmel

before mains electricity came in 1926, memories of going to school wearing clogs, memories of finding local unexploded incendiary bombs during World War II, etc. etc.

Meanwhile, the CVS has collected another eight audio interviews, and recently added some video interviews to its collection too.

Overall the collections of the CPLHS and the CVS now comprise over 20 interviews. It did not take long for the people involved to recognise the common interest of both organisations. At a meeting in August 2016, it was agreed that the CPLHS and the CVS would share their Oral History records, and that members from each would form a new Cartmel Oral History Group, with a view to publishing the consolidated collection.

Several more interviewees have already been identified as appropriate subjects for a recording of their Oral History, and through the new Cartmel Oral History Group, co-operation between the CPLHS and the CVS is working well in establishing contacts, sharing recording equipment, and sharing experience of preparing for interviews and actually doing the interviews.

The recently formed Cartmel Oral History Group already has work in progress for publishing the combined Oral History collection of the CVS and CPLHS, and we hope to be able to report further progress in due course.

Peter Roden

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Oral History and the Victoria County History (VCH).

I am no expert on oral history, although I have for a long time seen the importance of recording the memories of the old before they are lost forever. The whole issue has, for me, been brought into sharp focus by the VCH project.

A VCH township article aims to give a full account, based on authentic primary sources, of the history of that township from earliest recorded times to the present day. I have found that there is really no substitute for tapping the memories of the old when describing the very important changes - in economic, social and religious activity - which have been unfolding since 1945. Such inquiries not infrequently reveal the survival in private hands of (for example) formal records of the activities of sporting clubs, or notices of public events such as musical concerts. Government records probably contain good and accurate information about changes in agriculture, but talking to the farmers themselves makes it much easier for the historian to understand both the changes - size of farms, tenure, crops and breeds - and the reasons for change.

Those of you who have taken the time to read the draft article on Kirkoswald on the Cumbria VCH website* will have noticed how heavily, when writing about social history, I depended on an unsigned paper called *Memories of Kirkoswald*. It is eight pages long and contains a wealth of information about growing up in Kirkoswald between 1900

and 1914. From internal evidence Ann Roberts of the Kirkoswald and Renwick History Group has been able to identify the author as Maurice John Tiffin (1897-1967). I don't know why and for whom Maurice Tiffin wrote it, but I do see the strong desirability of local history societies and local historians throughout Cumbria using it as a precedent for collecting the memories of the mid to late 1900s.

Ambleside Oral History Society have given us a lead on this, and some societies - Warwick Bridge LHS for one - are already actively collecting such material. Most old people do like to be asked, and many have gold for us.

Richard Brockington

*www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk;
use the map to go to Leath Ward, then Kirkoswald, then "full article".

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## North Lonsdale History Society - Walter Johnston - Fifty Five Years of Lectures.

Our North Lonsdale History Society here in Ulverston has several outstanding speakers who have featured regularly in our programme for several years, attracting around seventy or more members each time. Sadly at our first meeting of the season we were saying farewell to one of these speakers, Walter Johnston, on account of his failing sight. Walter had been saying for several years that he was giving up but we'd managed to tempt him to share a few more gems from his vast knowledge and collections of slides on every settlement in the Furness area so

that his final lecture on his favourite area, the Duddon Valley, was a special one for all of us.



Jack Rice with Walter Johnston

He was born in Barrow eighty years ago and developed an interest in local history, literature, music and had also started collecting antiques by the early age of eleven. Theatre was his first love and he trained at the Guildhall School of music and drama then appeared in many productions. It was his love of antiques though, especially ceramics and literature which led him into a career as a lecturer both at Higham Hall for Cumbria County Council and at Alston Hall near Preston, Lancashire County Council's residential centre. This became his part time base for over 30 years. For many years he was also a guest lecturer, down in Oxford and other centres, on John Ruskin, one of our "Lakeland Greats" (*or should I put, "most famous sons"*).

By 1994 he fulfilled another ambition, to have a house with a garden. Although theatre was his first love gardening was a close second. Walter had hoped to get a job in Barrow Park but there was no money then for college fees. In the last few years he has

been able to pay tribute to Thomas Mawson and the gardens round Cumbria that he designed. One talk I particularly remember was on a local builder James Garden based in Dalton whose distinctive work I can now see all over Ulverston and Furness. Our September meeting finished by awarding Walter with the honour of life membership of our Society and the happy knowledge that in his usual efficient manner he has already made arrangements for archiving the many resources used through his long career.

David Fellows

North Lonsdale History Society

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Cumbrian Railways Association Continues 40th Birthday Celebrations.

Following our successful Spring Conference (reported in a previous issue of CLHF Bulletin) the Cumbrian Railways Association (CRA) has carried on celebrating its 40th birthday.



Work has continued on producing a photographic "benchmark" survey of railway lines in Cumbria to provide a snapshot of how the trains, stations and structures look in the second decade of the millennium. This aims to provide an archive reference for future generations.

The CRA has offered support and input based on our archives and knowledge to historical initiatives in Carlisle and West Cumbria.

We have continued to attend Model Railway exhibitions and other events not only to display our historical train models, but also to enable us to interact with other people, share knowledge, such as helping them trace relatives who may have worked on the railways in Cumbria. We are very much looking forward to attending the CLHF Annual Conference in November.

Work continues on further publications relating to the history of the railways of Cumbria and the associated economic and social impacts. These will add to our already extensive list of books. (see www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk)

Finally, we have continued to offer speakers to Clubs and other organisations to further increase understanding of the CRA and what we have to offer. For more information on this contact: Don Jary, CRA Publicity Officer at publicity@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

The CRA will be holding a further conference in November and welcomes both members and non-members to attend. The CRA actively welcomes new members, the number of which has recently increased to over 450. For further information, go to the CRA website at:
www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk

Don Jary

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## Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group.



The CVBG met in May when Dan Elsworth led 25 CVBG members on a walk around Cartmel. The settlement is focussed on the medieval priory, traces of which remain in the village, the main structures being the priory church and gatehouse. Fragments of the precinct wall remain, some now embodied in house walls. The market square and cross, numerous seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings and a watermill, combine to show how the resulting harmonious village evolved. In June the Group spent an evening visiting Newby Hall, a beautifully restored manor house, which achieved its present plan in 1685, as witnessed by the date stone. The present owners removed modern room divisions and fittings to reveal a number of features such as the painted plaster in the hall. The house consists of a great hall and two cross wings, between which is a paved courtyard, leading to the main entrance.

July saw the group in the Duddon Valley, where the Local History Society is working on surveys of longhouses, in cooperation with Oxford Archaeology North. In August as a complete contrast to earlier events, CVBG members toured houses of the Vernacular Revival, around Windermere. The luxurious lifestyle of the period, c 1880 – 1910, lived by wealthy industrialists from Lancashire, is reflected in the

buildings, an eclectic mixture of features from earlier periods, combined with the best materials and superb craftsmanship. After a visit to Blackwell, perhaps the most perfect example, open to visitors, we met in Cragwood, now a hotel, to hear Val Corbett speak about how she took the photographs for the book, *Arts and Crafts Houses of the Lake District*. (Matthew Hyde and Esme Whittaker, published by Frances Lincoln, 2014.)

The Annual General meeting was held at Millbeck, on the lower slopes of Skiddaw, in glorious sunshine. The officers and committee were re-elected, and we enter our fourth year. The rest of the day was spent in the village hall – which has Arts and Crafts elements - hearing about the woollen industry of the village and the processes which turn fleece into useful products. The Dover family created mills for carding wool, weaving blankets and fulling them. The buildings which remain have been converted into houses.



After lunch, we walked round the

village, currently divided by the beck, as the bridge is closed, due to damage in last winter's floods. A row of cottages used to be the fulling mill, with large windows in the top storey, admitting maximum light for weavers. The former carding mill has been transformed into a turreted confection called Millbeck Towers – and it dominates the village.

Brugh by Sands was the venue for the event held jointly with CWAAS as part of their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year programme. The village on the Solway coast was chosen for its rich variety of building materials, the subject of the day's conference. Despite the fact that building stone and timber were scarce commodities, builders of the past have shown their ingenuity in using what was available to great effect. After an appreciation by Marion McClintock, of Dr Ronald Brunskill, who died last year, and who had been first patron of CVBG as well as a former president of CWAAS, the presentations described local resources available for vernacular buildings in terms of mineral (Dr Alan Smith), vegetable (Peter Messenger) and animal (June Hall). An "instant museum" of examples of materials caused interest and conversation, and a walk to look at the use of materials in standing buildings included thatch and clay walls (Lamonby Farm), clay dabbins walls (Leigh Cottage), stone, and a defensive iron "yett" in St Michael's church, and brick, clay and crucks at Cross Farm. Water-worn cobbles, boulder plinths, brick bonds, and other features were noted.

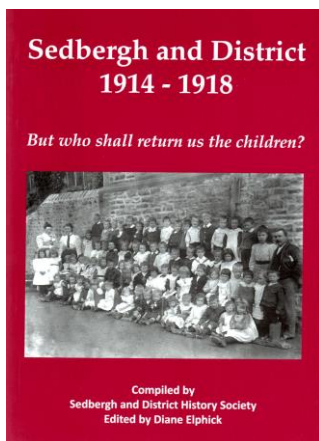
June Hall

## Members Publications. Sedbergh and District 1914 – 1918 Centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The book shown below, details of which were in Bulletin 71, has been produced by Sedbergh and District History Society through the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Applications for copies may be made by to email

[sedberghistsoc@aol.com](mailto:sedberghistsoc@aol.com)

Richard Brockington has kindly agreed to review it for us:



100 years after the Battle of the Somme, local historians and local history societies throughout Cumbria are giving priority to rediscovering the identities of the men who fell in that conflict. It's right that we should. Trying to understand why things happened is the hardest part of historical research - and the causes of the First World War remain (and always will remain) hotly debated. But we can at least look carefully at what it meant to those who experienced it, the endless and

appalling loss, devastation to families and intensified poverty for thousands. We can look too at the attitudes of those days towards patriotic duty, conscientious objection, charitable giving, and the contribution women could make to sustain the effort at home - for how could rural Cumbria increase the supply of food (to replace the cargoes of torpedoed freighters) if farmhands were fighting at the front?

All these things, and much more, have been systematically addressed in this splendid book published by Sedbergh LHS, perhaps the strongest and most successful local history society in Cumbria (although some of its members still yearn for their Yorkshire past, this book is firmly directed towards the Lake Counties). The authors have attempted to trace every man from Sedbergh and Dent who died in action, who they were, their parents and their home, where they died and in what battle; and to place each in a wider context of what was happening at the time both on the battle fronts and at home.

And it's all still so relevant to us. I was born in 1941. My generation is the first in a thousand years of the history of these islands not to experience war in western Europe (either direct attack or the threat of it), and we must try to remember that. The Sedbergh book also poignantly reminds us that young men from Cumbria went abroad to die in many places, some now completely forgotten by most of us. I particularly noticed that they fought at a place called Doiran, a small village (with lake) on the northern frontier of Greece. I've been there and seen the untouched

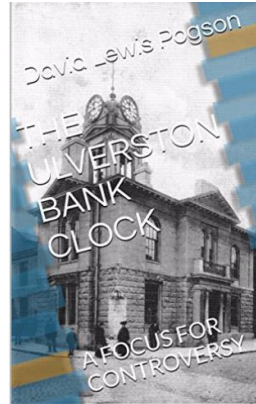
landscape of trenches, populated by nightingales and tortoises: it still is the northern frontier of Greece and there's a British Imperial War Cemetery on a hill between the border posts of Greece and Macedonia. There are young men from Cumbria buried there, and with them a young man called David Farmer, a blacksmith from Stourbridge in the West Midlands, who was killed in action while serving with the Worcestershires at Doiran in 1917. He was my wife Eileen's grandfather. So who were they fighting and why? The Bulgarians actually - and it mattered because it was through Bulgaria that German industry could supply their Turkish allies, and it was no coincidence that the collapse of Bulgaria in September 1918 was followed within eight weeks by the collapse of Turkey and Austria-Hungary, and (at last) Germany. All these nations are our friends now: long may they remain so.

Richard Brockington.

## Ulverston Bank Clock by David Lewis Pogson.

The clock turret above the Lloyds TSB Bank has looked down upon Ulverston since 1845. From its very beginning there were differences concerning its construction between the Bank and the renowned Architect George Webster. From then onwards, at roughly fifty-year intervals, the Clock has been at the centre of public controversy. On two occasions its very existence has been threatened. The story traces the history of this controversial structure from the completion of its construction, through

the 1901 transfer of the maintenance liability to the Council, the fire of 1924 and the major battle over repairs in the 1950s, up to the great silencing dispute and the invasion of the pigeons in modern times, with other minor skirmishes in between.



In all that time the original clock mechanism has ticked away relentlessly whilst the residents of Ulverston have remained blissfully unaware that in their midst may well be a device so unique as to be the only one of its kind in the world, with connections to the man described as one of the greatest mechanical inventors of the nineteenth century.

The work includes 24 appendices containing photographs and previously unpublished extracts from original documents.

David Lewis Pogson

David won the CLHF Scott prize in 2004 for his paper on the Ulverston Bank Clock and developed it into a book. It is now available on Amazon Kindle @£3.95. Editor.

## Register of Research Interests?

Your Committee is searching for new ways to service members. To compile a register of research interests, and periodically to update it, might be one way.

The register, created from individual responses to a short questionnaire, would reveal the range of research currently underway, both thematically and chronologically. Members could then discover who had similar interests and contact them with queries, to share material and (possibly) to collaborate.

Is this a good idea? Please send your views to the Editor.

Peter Roebuck.

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“Preserving Remnants of History”- Accessing lists of the archives of CWAAS and its members

‘The triumphs of past antiquaries lay in collecting, cataloguing, recording and hence preserving the “remnants of history”’, writes Professor Angus Winchester in Michael Winstanley, ed., *Revealing Cumbria’s Past : 150 Years of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* (CWAAS, 2016). Amongst those who joined the CWAAS on its foundation in 1866 was William Jackson, FSA, (1823 – 90), of St Bees, a distinguished antiquarian, who left his very extensive collection of books, prints, genealogical and heraldic manuscripts, autographs, etc., concerning what is now Cumbria, to Carlisle City Council, now forming

the nucleus of the Local Studies collection of Carlisle Library. In the last issue of this *Bulletin*, Professor Peter Roebuck emphasized the major importance of the Jackson Library as a resource.

Though James P Hinds’s *Bibliotheca Jacksoniana : Catalogue* (1909), forms a summary catalogue index of the majority of the original holdings of the Jackson Library, I have more recently produced a calendar of the contents of the nine volumes which form the ‘autograph’ element : the individual letters, deeds, engravings, etc. relating to families and individual persons hailing from or connected with Cumberland and Westmorland which William Jackson assembled through gift and purchase. This calendar (which seeks to describe each individual letter, etc.) forms part of the list of the archives of the CWAAS, its affiliated regional groups, and many of its members which, thanks to the labours of John Steel, the Society’s Webmaster, has since June has been made available on the Society’s website, cumbriapast.com (click on ‘Our Publications’ and follow the link that you will find in a panel on the left hand side of the page), this list being freely accessible to all.

Besides William Jackson, the list of the archives of CWAAS and its members – recording archives held by a number of individual record offices, libraries and museums in Cumbria and elsewhere – includes entries for other prominent members, all of whom contributed a large number of articles to the Society’s *Transactions*. They include Chancellor Richard Ferguson (1837 – 1900) whose extensive papers are principally held by Carlisle Library; W G Collingwood and his son Professor R G Collingwood

(successively Presidents of CWAAS, 1920 – 38) whose archaeological and other papers are to be found in a number of record offices, libraries and galleries in this country and also overseas ; Mary Fair (1874 – 1955) of Eskdale, whose photographic and other papers are to be found principally in Carlisle Library and Tullie House Museum; and Roy Hudleston (1905 – 92), editor of the Society's *Transactions* 1956 – 74, and joint author of *An Armorial for Westmorland and Lonsdale* (CWAAS, 1975) and *Cumberland Families and Heraldry* (CWAAS, 1978), the majority of whose very extensive manuscript, printed and photographic materials are held by the Archives and Special Collections Department of the University of Durham's Palace Green Library.

As further archives come to light and are listed, so the online list of archives will be periodically updated. The most recent update includes descriptions of photographs and papers of the Revd W Slater Calverley (1847 – 98), latterly Vicar of Aspatria, concerning early sculptured crosses, held by Carlisle Library and further of Mary Fair's photographs held by Tullie House Museum. Though researchers increasingly expect that lists of archives, as also their digital images, be accessible online, such archives, held by museums and libraries as well as by record offices, may not as yet appear on webpages. I would particularly welcome information about the holdings of such papers so that an entry for them might be included on the CWAAS's website.

Adrian Allan,
Hon.Membership Secretary CWAAS.
adrianallan61@yahoo.co.uk

Ted Relph Reminisces.

Our Parish archive began as a 4'6" high heavy steel 'cupboard'/safe which had obviously been built into a wall, with a panelled door painted to imitate wood!!

For about 60 years after it was set up, the Parish Council had the use of the former Girls' Schoolroom for its meetings and the safe just stood in there. When the room was required to other purposes I arranged for said safe to be moved to the Village Hall basement, together with the parish set of first edition OS maps. Unfortunately the basement proved very wet, so I moved it all into my garage and dried it out. then we moved it again into the Church and got a more presentable safe. The Church wasn't ideal either.

Around 1760 the Charity trustees had invested the 'Old Poor Stock' in a [very] smallholding, which is still let and the income distributed annually to the poor of the parish. In their wisdom the Trustees a hundred years later built a blacksmiths shop [smithy] to go with the cottage, and when it became redundant we converted it into our Parish archive. So all our local records are now in one place. The Parish Council pay the rent to the Trustees [£5 a week]

Fortunately there was a very fragile list of "The documents in this safe", which I checked from time to time , so we now have a useful resting place for local records, though we still have a lot of stuff in the Kendal Record Office.

Ted Relph.

The setting up of an archive is something I am particularly engaged

with at the moment with the Cartmel Peninsula LHS so it was good to hear from Ted. Is anyone else involved with local archive creation and if so any advice to share please?

Editor.

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## CLHF Membership News.

We're coming to the end of 2016 and we would like to welcome three new members, Morecambe Bay Partnership, Barrow-in-Furness Civic and Local History Society, and Newland Furnace Trust. Membership is proving robust, with 49 groups now (and many additional individuals) who have paid subscriptions for 2016. Which reminds me – people get busy or move away, we gain new members, people swap roles - when your contact person changes (or you change your email!), **please let us know**. It's so easy to forget and it can be quite hard for us to trace your new secretary – and our Bulletin may be lying on someone else's doorstep!

We had an enormous response of well over 100 people wanting to come to our Convention - sadly we could not accommodate you all but I will try and improve the booking system for next year – and we may be looking for an even larger hall??! Recommendations, please!

Societies - please do let me know your membership numbers – this is not a contest or disciplinary procedure (!), it just gives me baseline info for statistics. We obviously want to see what we can do to promote interest in our local history and if we don't know where we

are now, we can't see if we are being successful.

Finally, we're coming up to a new year, 2017 subscriptions are due soon so keep in touch! Best wishes, all!

Liz Kerrey



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Museum Column.

Would you, as readers of the CLHF Bulletin, be interested in a column devoted to the offerings of the Museums of Cumbria?

I am thinking especially of those who focus on and celebrate the local history of our County with talks, displays and events.

An example which springs to mind is that gem of a place, the Keswick Museum.

Keswick Museum. This museum is offering the following free 30 minute lunchtime talks:

Thursday 5th January 2017 at 1pm
Cumbrian Folk Stories: *The What and Why A Talk* by Ros Earthy

Thursday 2nd February 2017 at 1pm
The Maid of Buttermere A Talk by Brian Martland

Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 1pm The KSIA Collection at Keswick Museum .An Illustrated Talk by Sue Mackay

Thursday 6th April 2017 at 1pm *Rusty Westmorland OBE* An Illustrated Talk by Frank Grant

Thursday 4th May 2017 at 1pm *From Deep Ocean to Supervolcano - the Geology of the Northern Lake District* A Illustrated Talk by John Rodgers
Cumberland Geological Society.

Can you recommend any other museums well worth a visit?

Editor.

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## Cumbria's Speakers Corner.

Yes I know not a very original title but it caught your eye!

I am seeking 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.

In the Spring Bulletin I mentioned the lecture being given by Trevor Purnell entitled *The Devils Porridge* and wondered the lecture was about. Those of you at Lamplugh will now know but for those further away like me in deepest Cartmel Trevor wrote to me to enlighten me:-

Since moving to Cumbria in 1956 to work I have been intrigued upon hearing snippets of information over the years about a large explosive factory built during WW1 just over the border in Dumfries, but asking

Cumbrians for more information just drew blank looks, so I am not surprised you did not know about the origin of the title, or of the factory.

I was talking to Myrna Cook about it just before she died last year and she encouraged me to do some research and work it up into a talk. The more I learned the more I became more intrigued by the ramifications of Lloyd George's decision to build the largest factory in the world (at that time) near Gretna making Nitroglycerine.

10,000 Irish navvies built the factory and accommodation in record time, 10,000 girls 19 years old and younger made the explosive (as all the men had gone off to war). Conan Doyle visited the plant in 1916, and saw the girls mixing the gun cotton and nitroglycerine by hand in large earthenware vats and called it Devil's Porridge (Geddit!) He also said that the girls were under just as much danger as the troops and was of the opinion that women should get the vote (so helping the suffragette cause)

Due to the very high wages the Irish were earning there was a lot of drunkenness. Lloyd George said "drunkenness and nitroglycerine could do more damage than all the German submarines" so all the local breweries were nationalised and the strength of the beer reduced. (He was also worried about what was happening at the time on the streets of Dublin and was keen to dampen any revolutionary fervour over here). "Spit and sawdust pubs" were scrapped pubs were improved by an "Arts and Crafts" architect and tables, chairs, darts, billiards and where possible bowling greens introduced all

to try to slow down the rate of drinking. The State Brewery outlasted WW1 AND WW2 and was not de-nationalised until 1972.

Last year a new museum, The Devil's Porridge Museum, opened at Eastriggs just west of Gretna, which is well worth a visit. I do hope this brief resume has whetted your appetite to visit the Museum sometime.

Trevor Purnell.

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Speakers – Who can you recommend?

Dorothy Hind attended the recent LDNP Archaeology Conference and has recommended Jeremy Rowan-Robinson who gave a very interesting talk entitled *Great Grandads' army and the archaeology firing ranges in the Lake District*.

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## Visits – Where can you recommend?

Graham Brooks recommends a visit to **Nenthead Mines**. Since the demise of the North Pennine Heritage Trust the Scheduled Monument at Nenthead has been managed by a voluntary group on behalf of the County Council the land owners. They have moved operations from the buildings near the main car park which were originally the works wood yard to the buildings that are next to the remains of the smelt mill.

The group run a number of open days during the year (see web site

<http://www.nentheadmines.com/>) or visits can be arranged for groups at their convenience.

The main attraction to the site is a visit to the show mine, Carrs level, These are guided tours of a real mine and the very knowledgeable guides discuss varying aspects of mining, geology and the life of miners as demonstrated in the mine. A number of artefacts and mineral samples are used to demonstrate these. The tour usually takes between 1 and 2 hours depending on the number of questions asked etc.

The mine is usually dry underfoot with odd areas of mud, some areas have low roofs which require some bending but helmets and lights are provided. The full tour does require the climbing of three short sections of companion way (near vertical ladders with wide steps and handrails) and a number of wooden steps.

On the surface a number of buildings have been conserved and are used to display a wide range of artefacts from various mines in the area as well as an extensive mineral collection. Tours of the various surface remains can be arranged and with the smelt mill remains, mine adits and shafts, mine shops, powder stores, dressing floors and a very extensive water management system with reservoirs, leats and waterwheel pits. The range and length of walks around the site can be organised to fit the groups interests and ability and time available.

Hot drinks are provided as required and there is indoor shelter for lunch etc.

To discuss your requirements or for further details phone 07519836019. Or email [admin@nentheadmines.com](mailto:admin@nentheadmines.com)

## Minutes of Cumbria Local History Federation Committee Meeting - 28 September 2016

The most important development from our last Committee meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at Newbiggin was that Dr Peter Roebuck has not only agreed to be co-opted on to our Committee but has also accepted nomination to be our next Chairman. Peter is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Ulster and his latest book *Cattle Droving Through Cumbria 1600 – 1900* won the The Bill Rollinson Prize for Landscape and Tradition in the Lakeland Book of the Year awards 2016. The Committee are delighted and look forward to presenting Peter for election at our forthcoming AGM. Our outgoing Chairman Jenni Lister was thanked for her previous six years of service and we are also delighted to note that she will stay on the Committee and will represent the Federation on the Outreach Committee of the CWAAS.

We are investigating possibilities for some excursions to be organised by the Federation

Our current balance was £3055.47 (accounting for bulletin expenses). This is a healthy balance healthy but slightly declining. We may need to increase subscriptions at some point but we agreed we should try to offer additional services if possible. We shall be revising the Speaker's List next year for a new published edition but in the meantime we are looking to mount a version on our website to which we can add new speakers in between print editions. We are also considering ways in which we can receive feedback on speakers from our members and also registering members' research interests.

All preparations are now in hand for our Convention on 26 November and it is full steam ahead for what should be a hugely enjoyable and interesting day, with talks, displays, lunch and refreshments all thrown in. Our next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017; please let me have any issues you would like raising.

I am stepping down from the post of Secretary and Committee after serving my three year term (I am also doing some work on the Federation's archive which will be deposited in due course at Carlisle Archive Centre). It has been a pleasure to act as Secretary for the Federation and I hope we shall find my successor soon. In my daytime job as Senior Archivist with the Cumbria Archive Service I shall continue to act as a link between the Archives and the Federation, and I also continue as Chairman of the South West Group of the CWAAS, a member of the CWAAS Council and the County Council's representative on the Cumbria County History Trust.

Robert Baxter Secretary

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Regional Heritage Centre Lancaster University.

On Saturday 21 January 2017 we welcome back Dr Alan Crosby for his annual study day. This year his topic is Voices from the past: diaries, autobiographies and local history in North West England. Again, full details are on our website. Alan's days are always extremely popular, and early booking is strongly recommended.

We also have some staffing changes to report. Many readers will be aware that Professor Angus Winchester formally retired from Lancaster University at the end of September. Angus served as Director of the RHC during the transition from the Centre for North West Regional Studies, and its establishment as part of the History Department, and he played a key role in ensuring the ongoing viability of the Centre. He officially stepped down as Director a year ago – though he has stayed closely involved with the Centre’s work – and the role of Director has been filled *pro tem* by Professor Mike Hughes, Head of the History Department. We are delighted to announce that we now have a new permanent Director in post, Dr Fiona Edmonds, who introduces herself below. We wish Angus every happiness in his retirement – and we hope that he will still be willing to contribute to the programme of study days and other projects when he can spare the time!

Fiona writes: I was born and brought up in Lancashire, and I have family connections across north-west England. I hold an

MA (Hons), MSt and D.Phil. degrees in History from Oxford University, and Cert HE in Gaelic from the University of the Highlands & Islands. I was the Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Celtic History in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic at the University of Cambridge from 2006 until 2016, and a Fellow of Clare College. I am also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. I have now taken up a Lectureship in Regional History at Lancaster

University and am delighted to have become the Director of the Regional Heritage Centre. My research spans the period from the seventh to the thirteenth century and encompasses northern England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the Isle of Man. I’m also interested in later periods, especially in the place-names and dialects of northern England and southern Scotland.

Fiona is looking forward to meeting many of RHC’s Patrons, Friends and supporters at events through the year; she is also taking a leading role in organising the April 2017 study day, which focuses on one of her particular areas of interest: the Irish Sea nexus in the Early Medieval period.

Sam Riches.

Cumbria: Historical Gazetteer is edited by Angus Winchester is due to be published on 20 November by Lancaster University’s Regional Heritage Centre in association with the Cumbria County History Trust. It contains “short, pithy summaries of historical information about every community in Cumbria large and small”. The book draws on the groundwork carried out for the VCH for Cumbria project as part of the Jubilee digest’s project and contains 348 separate articles, one for each of the Civil parishes as they existed in the 1890’s. The Gazetteer will be an indispensable work of reference for all with an interest in Cumbria’s past.

It can be ordered through Lancaster University’s online store via the Regional Heritage Centre’s website.

Tiffany Hunt CCHT

Events Diary 2016 Please see www.clhf.org.uk for member group contact details

December 2016

7 th	Friends of Keswick Museum Cumbrian Artists Past & Present in Tullie House	Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick Melanie Gardner
12 th	Upper Eden HS "Who do you think you were?"	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Prof Richard McGregor
13 th	North Lonsdale History Society "From the Mountains to the Sea" plus Christmas refreshments	Ulverston Methodist Church Ruth Sutton
16 th	CWAAS Anniversary Display Commences	The Beacon, Whitehaven & The Dock Museum Barrow.
19 th	Holme & District LHS Christmas Betsy Entertainment	Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall Joanne Halliwell
20 th	Mourholme LHS Flush and Forget in Silverdale	Yealand Village Hall Geoff Wood

January 2017

4 th	Friends of Keswick Museum The Remarkable Literary History of Mirehouse	Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick John Spedding
10 th	Staveley & District HS A History of Kentmere Hall	Staveley School John Trippier
10 th	North Lonsdale History Society Medieval Ulverston	Ulverston Methodist Church Dan Elsworth
16 th	Upper Eden HS Promoting access to Historical Resources; CWAAS and Digitisation	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Prof Patricia Garside & Michael Winstanley
18 th	Lazonby & District LHS Vernacular Architecture	Lazonby Village Hall June Hall
25 th	Mourholme LHS Religious Reformation in the NW	Yealand Village Hall James Maundsley

February 2017

1 st	Friends of Keswick Museum Drystone Walls & Landscape History	Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick Dr Angus Winchester
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2 nd	Cartmel Peninsula LHS Lindale Cave Excavation	Cartmel Village Hall Claire Asplin
14 th	Staveley & District HS 20th Century Lakeland Press Photography	Staveley School Paul Branham
14 th	North Lonsdale History Society “Graveyard Tales” The Stories Behind The Stones	Ulverston Methodist Church Rod White
15 th	Lazonby & District LHS Local Topics Evening – Appleby Horse Fair	Lazonby Village Hall Andy Connell
16 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Weather Lore	Orton Chapel Jean Scott-Smith
21 st	Upper Eden HS The Ravenstonedale Crash of 1913	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Val Fermer
22 nd	Mourholme LHS Civil Wars in Lancashire	Yealand Village Hall David Casserley

March 2017

1 st	Friends of Keswick Museum From Markets to Supermarkets:200 years of shopping	Crosthwaite Parish Room, Keswick Dr Mike Winstanley
2 nd	Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cumbria’s Vernacular Buildings	Cartmel Village Hall June Hall CVBG
4 th	Upper Eden HS Local History Day on local houses and other buildings	Brough Memorial Hall Full day of talks
14 th	Staveley & District HS Shap Wells Hotel, a history – 350 million and a few odd years	Staveley School Stephen Simpson
14 th	North Lonsdale History Society Backbarrow Blue Mills...the movie!	Ulverston Methodist Church Rick Sanderson
15 th	Lazonby & District LHS “What did they eat in the trenches”	Lazonby Village Hall Stuart Eastwood
16 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Display of Artefacts	Tebay Chapel Alan Head
20 th	Upper Eden HS Cumberland and Westmorland Historic Food	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Ivan Day

22 nd	Mourholme LHS The Railways of Carnforth	Yealand Village Hall Clive Holden
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April 2017

6 th	Cartmel Peninsula LHS Matchless Disaster of 1894-Morecambe Bay's worst boating disaster	Cartmel Village Hall Simon Williams
11 th	North Lonsdale History Society "A Mansion Fit for Demolition"	Ulverston Methodist Church Dr. Suzanne Tiplady
19 th	Staveley & District H.S. AGM	Staveley School
20 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Hiring Fairs in the North West 1890 – 1939	Orton Chapel Stephen Caunce
24 th	Upper Eden HS Medieval Forgers? The Nuns of Armathwaite Priory	Brough Memorial Hall Harry Hawkins
26 th	Mourholme LHS Postcard Messages –Silverdale 1900 – 1950	Yealand Village Hall Dr Awena Carter

May 2017

4 th	Cartmel Peninsula LHS The Hidden Heritage of Fell Foot	Cartmel Priory Church Kelley Sproston-Heath
9 th	North Lonsdale History Society Short AGM and "Gondola Coniston Water	Ulverston Methodist Church Bill King
18 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Visit to Kendal Archives	Kendal Archives

June 2017

15 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Stone Circles and Burial Mounds	Tebay Chapel Tom Clare
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July 2017

20 th	Orton and Tebay LHS Log Boats to Steam Launches	Orton Chapel Diana Matthews
17 th	Orton and Tebay LHS History of Burneside Mill	Tebay Chapel Sir James Cropper

Editors Final Thoughts.

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 31st March 2017. How time flies!

Just after or more likely just before you receive this Bulletin we will have held our 2016 Convention at Shap. If you were there I hope you enjoyed it and even if you did not I would be pleased to hear from you. We are already thinking about our 2017 Convention so any ideas please to me or any member of our Committee.

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With this Bulletin I enclose a membership form for 2017 and would ask you to renew your membership for 2017 as soon as possible please. This year, for member groups, we are also asking for contact details of the person who wishes to receive copies of the Bulletin as this is often different from the person who pays the membership fee.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from me and from all the CLHF Committee.

Nigel Mills, Editor.

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