

Nearly there...

Opening date announced for Carlisle Archives Centre

It's official! According to the County Council website, the new Archives Centre at Petteril Bank in the south of Carlisle "will open to the public for archival research on 1st June 2011." Further announcements will follow online and in the media, giving details of opening hours for the main archive facility and the opening arrangements for Lady Gillford's House, the historic mansion which forms part of the complex and will be used for exhibitions etc.

As you can see from the Events listing in this Bulletin, some groups are visiting the Centre in advance of the opening, and there will be various "taster" sessions running in May, to check the effectiveness of service arrangements in the searchrooms. The new facility contains over a million documents; not just the archives formerly held at Carlisle Castle, but also many more which were for years, frustratingly, held in separate storage units, available only by prior request. Another obvious benefit will be the sheer space available for researchers- it will no longer be necessary to crawl under a table to access some of the reference books!

Finally, it's worth mentioning that although the Archive Centre is some distance from the heart of the city, it does have very good access. Petteril Bank Road is off London Road, the main route into Carlisle from the south, and there is ample parking. Also, bus services 60 & 63 stop near the main entrance, and for those who want to keep healthy, paths in the Petteril valley are being improved.





Cumbria County History Trust now has 86 founder members (including societies), a guaranteed income of over £22,500 for 5 years, and preliminary research for the Victoria County History project has commenced. The first Heritage Lottery Fund bid did not succeed but the financial position of the Trust is already strong enough to continue to develop the project whilst continuing the search for funding.

The Trustees meet on 14th April. Please keep an eye on the CCHT temporary website

www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

for news updates, continue to spread the news that the project is under way, and (if you have not already done so) consider what you personally, and your local history society, can do to support it.

Richard Brockington
Secretary, CCHT

EARLY WARNING

CLHF Annual Convention

Saturday 1 October 2011
Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake

Following the pattern of last year's Convention, we have planned the 2011 programme around a theme, which will be Landscape and the Local Historian.

A major change will be the venue. We are privileged to have the use of Higham Hall, Cumbria's residential adult education college. This beautiful neo-Gothic building, set in lovely grounds, was built around 1840.

Our speakers are no less impressive than the setting: renowned local history specialist Alan Crosby will open the Convention by talking about landscape history and maps; Ian Tyler, Cumbrian authority on mines and quarries, will relate landscape to the extractive industries; and Richard Gulliver, botanist and historian, will discuss the part that trees have played in landscape evolution.

As last year, there will be options and the opportunity to make a presentation. Two practical workshops related to the theme will take place, while members will give ten-minute talks on a significant landscape feature from their own corner of Cumbria. Please contact Jenni Lister (see contacts list on back page of this Bulletin) before 15 June 2011 if you wish to offer a presentation to be included in the programme.

As there will be less room for exhibitions this year, the booking form will contain details of availability; forms will be sent out with the next Bulletin in summer, and will be available on our website. As space is limited, early applications are advised.

June Hall

Treasurer wanted!

At present, the post of Treasurer for the Cumbria Local History Federation is being filled on a temporary basis by Membership Secretary Valerie Halsall. Although this makes some sense, as the majority of the Federation's income is processed by her, the various other functions associated with her main role do demand quite a lot of her time. We would therefore prefer to find somebody else to serve as Treasurer, keeping an eye on the Federation's cash flow and making sure that our (very few) bills are paid on time. If any reader would like to help out with this, please contact Jenni Lister (details on back page of this Bulletin).

CUMBRIA PAST (News from CWAAS)

We now offer a full modern information service, from informal to learned, through our Facebook page, website, Newsletter and Transactions.

On January 22nd 2011, the new HOME PAGE of www.cumbriapast.com went live, offering more photos, which change frequently on an automatic rotation system, so that site visitors are likely to see something different whenever they visit.

A new feature is Focus on Heritage, presenting a photo of an object or building of interest in relation to Cumbria's past. The Early Days feature is more prominent now. I've written about twenty new E.D. snippets to join the half dozen already on this page; they will be automatically rotated soon.

These snippets give interesting glimpses of getting about modern 'Cumbria' (trains, open carriages, Shanks's pony!) - the women as intrepid as the men, and

prepared to 'rough it'. I've written about visits in very different parts of the territory, so Federation members will probably recognise places they know if they visit our website.

CWAAS was at the centre of heritage matters in England - it wasn't just a 'North West fringe' set-up. It was invited to become a 'Society in Union' when the Society of Antiquaries of London was feeling its way towards establishing a responsible system for looking after the country's heritage. S.A.L. cared about the safe-keeping of archaeology, publication of Parish Registers and responsible guardianship of Court Rolls and Manorial Records. CLHF members might well like to read about such matters, and how CWAAS responded.

Our Facebook page had been on trial, but in January the Council agreed it should remain as a permanent part of the Society's website. Even if you haven't your own Facebook page, you can read our page by going to our website and clicking on the Facebook link at the top left corner of Home page. If you do have your own FB page, you can visit then 'Like' our page, then post your own bits and pieces. The Society's FB page is where members can share news, heritage photos, ideas and views in a friendly and informal way.

The Facebook feature has proved to be a useful extra facility - the promptness it allows for putting out important information is a strong feature of the service - and it has made available an interesting range of archaeological and historical topics and photos.

The main recent (mid-February) development of the website itself is the introduction of a new Home Page.

Things to look out for:

◆ the main photograph, presenting a view of Cumbrian landscape or of

Cumbria Local History Federation

a Cumbrian heritage site, and changing weekly;

◆ a new publications feature highlighting two of our wide and interesting range of books, one of which remains on view for a period, while the other is changed weekly;

◆ a totally new feature - FOCUS ON HERITAGE - a photograph, changed weekly, showing an object or building forming part of the county's heritage;

◆ the Early Days panel, offering a brief 'taster', with photograph, of an article in the series reached through a link; this, too, changes weekly;

◆ the Activities section, headed by a photograph (changed weekly) of a place visited by the Society.

In addition all the usual contents are available and we are extremely grateful to our webmaster, John Steel, who has done a huge amount of work to develop our site in this lively way.

Have a look at us! Hope to hear from you!

Margaret Edwards
CWAAS Communications Officer

Thoughts from the Archives

Thank you to everyone who responded to Cumbria County Council's recent public consultation on priorities for the future of services. The Council has had very difficult decisions to make to identify substantial savings, but has now published its budget for 2011-12. The Council has decided to undertake reviews of the archive and library services over the coming year to determine the best models for future service delivery. Public finances present challenging times ahead for all of us, but let's not lose sight of the many opportunities we also have. We want to continue to provide quality services to

researchers and also improve electronic service delivery, services for schools, and our relevance to local communities. We may need to change the way we operate in the future to achieve all of this in the most cost-effective way. We look forward to discussions with CLHF and its members, and other interested organisations to draw up proposals for a future cost-effective and quality archive service delivery.

Anne Rowe
Archive Service Manager

Themed reports: getting help!

In the last Bulletin I indicated that in issue 56 I would like to focus on the topic of getting help from outside sources, and various member societies have provided contributions on this theme.

Before you move on to their articles, I'll just throw in one obvious suggestion, the Heritagelink funding directory at:

<http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php>

(you'll need to join those last three lines together, or navigate from the Heritagelink home page, which forms the top line of the address above).

Cumbria Industrial History Society

The CIHS has raised some £14,500 from a variety of sources in the past year for our project to catalogue and digitise Mike Davies-Shiel's photographic collection. It would be easier to write a book about it than to write a short article! Also the project is out of the ordinary,

and problems we faced would not apply for a typical Local History Group project.

I will make a few general points from our experience:

- Have a specific project in mind.
- Work out exactly what the project is going to do, how it will be done, who will benefit and why it is important.
- Appoint one (literate) person to make grant applications. They should know all the background and the details of the project and they must be committed and enthusiastic about it in order to write persuasive applications.
- Don't hesitate to apply to various sources. Most will expect to provide only part of your funding.
- Consider whether your project would be of interest to a local company or wealthy individual.
- Most grant-giving bodies have a web-site. Study it carefully and note the requirements. Many grant-giving Trusts will not consider your application if you are not a registered charity - don't waste your time trying to persuade them, it will be in their constitution.
- Take note of required timescales - do you have to complete the project by a certain date? Can you comply?
- Do you have to have all the funding in place before starting the project? If so, you could regret overestimating the cost.
- Talking to the administrator on the phone before making an application is often useful. You can test the water and angle your application accordingly. They may, for instance, favour certain geographical areas or certain age groups. Some only pay for equipment, others specifically exclude computers.
- Emphasise the amount of volunteer time and effort which will be involved in the project.
- Remember to acknowledge the sources of your funding in any publicity etc.

- Remember to complete feedback or monitoring forms at the required intervals during your project.

Helen Caldwell

Cumbria Industrial History Society

Orton and Tebay Local History Society

From September 2009 until July 2010 (end of the academic year) we were involved with a living history project focused around Tebay.

Tebay is a village full of history - particularly concerning its railway heritage. St. Jame's Church, Tebay is known as the 'Railway Church' and as the congregation there began to dwindle other ways of revitalising the Church were being looked at. The idea of an exhibition about the local community was decided upon and our Society was approached to see what support could be given to this. The idea was for local primary school children to learn more about the way of life in their village - not just featuring the railway but also village life in general. The History Society applied for and received a grant from the National Lottery for £2.800 which covered the cost of cameras, dictaphones, drama costumes, craft materials, and setting up the exhibition itself. We were able to take children from Tebay school to interview local long term residents to get their memories on tape. They also produced a drama in three parts in which the children acted out 'family life' in years gone by from what they had learnt from speaking to these people - this presentation was in Church and accompanied by slides of the area. Volunteers came into school to teach children crafts like proddy rug-ging, knitting and cooking from old recipes.

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The memories and a collection of old photographs were eventually produced into 'exhibition' form and were set up in Tebay church - this has engendered many extra visitors to the church and resulted in a greater body of people prepared to work to keep the church open and operational, both as a worship centre and an exhibition centre. There are plans afoot to extend the facilities at the church too.

It was thought that all this work carried out by the children should be written up into book form and published. We had used all the money given by the Lottery fund with an overspend of £14.67p (covered by Society funds!) so further funding was needed - the Lottery said we could not apply for a grant to publish and sell this book even though all proceeds were to be shared between Tebay church and school. So we looked elsewhere and found "The Hadfield Trust" who funded the professional printing of the book, the cost of which is £6. a copy (plus p & p) - all proceeds are shared equally between church and school and so far each have received a cheque for £200 with more to come.

We had no problems at all with applying for these grants and The Hadfield Trust were particularly helpful with their advice and support.

Copies of the book - "Taking Stock" are available from me at
marypjenkin@aol.com
or phone: 015396 24410

Mary Jenkin
OTLHS Treasurer

Caldbeck & District Local History Society

Here is a short account of how the Caldbeck & District Local History Society set

about getting funding for the above book and for developments spinning off its publication. The book, the Society's latest publication, largely comprises the edited summaries of nearly 30 interviews with local people, grouped into four broad topics: Childhood Memories; Rural Life in the Second World War; Rural Schooling; and Farming and Other Local Industries. Our aim from the start was not just to get the book published but to use it to increase awareness of local heritage in the community. We applied in 2008 for a grant of £1,000 from our local Neighbourhood Forum within Allerdale Borough Council, making clear our wider, community aims, which included having a well-publicised launch of the book in Caldbeck Parish Hall, distributing complimentary copies to local schools, and later holding a Heritage Exhibition in the Parish Hall. The Society's Secretary and I went along to a meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum to speak to our application and respond to questions.

The Forum gave us a grant of £500, which was to cover the expenses of the launch, the book distribution to schools and (in October 2011) the Heritage Exhibition. It was also to help meet the costs of publication. We sold the book at a reduced price to the overwhelmingly local audience at the launch in late November, 2008. This event was a great success, both in community terms and also 'commercially': of the 1,000 copies printed, 800 were sold at the launch or before Christmas. Furthermore, coverage in the local press and television, which was quite extensive, helped to reinforce the central, social element of the project. Last year the book was accepted by the Imperial War Museum for their Printed Book Section, and Prince Charles was also delighted to receive a copy.















Ron Davie

EVENTS DIARY

Area indicators: North  South  East  West  Central 

Meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated











APRIL

-  9 Cumbria Industrial History Society Rheged, Penrith 9.30am to 4.00pm
Conference: Country House Technology
Prof Marilyn Palmer, Dr Ian West et al. Tel. 015395 68428
-  11 Cartmel Fell & District LHS Parish Hall by St Anthony's Church at 8.00pm
Bertha Newcombe, illustrator of national and local fame
- Jeff Cowton of the Wordsworth Trust
-  11 CWAAS Penrith Group Penrith Conservative Club
The Yellow Earl's Arctic Journey 1888-89 Tel. 01768 867581
-  12 Appleby Archaeology Group Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby.
The Records of North Westmorland - David Bowcock (Carlisle Record Office)
Tel. 01768 353463
-  12 Staveley and District HS Staveley School
AGM and Members Evening Tel. 01539 822229
-  14 Orton and Tebay LHS Orton Market Hall
Local Myths and Mysteries - Alan Cleaver Tel. 015396 24780
-  15 CWAAS Carlisle Group Tullie House Museum at 7.15pm
Bells and Bellringing - Ronald East, Diocesan Bells Advisor, Carlisle Diocese
-  16 CWAAS Kendal Regional Group Meet at the Square Broughton in Furness, 10.30
Dunnerdale Fell Walk - Barbara Blatchford Tel. 01539 722439
-  16 Sedbergh & District HS Settlebeck High School
Victorian Naturalists and the heyday of natural history - Dr Trevor Pearce
Tel. 015396 22505
-  18 Holme and District LHS Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
Seynt George...On whom alle England hath beleve: St George as a patron saint in
late medievel England - Dr. Sam Riches Tel. 01524 782121
-  18 Shap LHS Memorial Hall
Short AGM and SLHS 10th Anniverary celebration Tel. 01931 716244
-  18 Upper Eden History Society Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
AGM and Diaries of Parson Williamson of Crosby Ravensworth, 1749-1782
- Ted Relp Tel. 017683 41007
-  18 Whitehaven LHS United Reform Church Hall
Mary Queen of Scots - Pat Martin Tel. 01946 695698
-  19 Sedbergh & District HS Settlebeck High School
AGM followed by The District in Times Past - Richard Cann and Diane Elphick
and a Jacob's Join Tel. 015396 22505




Cumbria Local History Federation

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|---|-------------------|--|--|
|  | 20 | Caldbeck and District LHS
Stone Circles of Cumbria - Gabriel Blamires | Parish Hall, Caldbeck
Tel. 016974 78270 |
|  | 21 | Brampton Local History Group
Old Cinemas of Carlisle and Brampton - Stephen White, Carlisle Library | Community Centre, Brampton
Tel. 016977 2484 |
|  | 21 | Levens Local History Group
Kendal Treasures - Trevor Hughes | Levens Village Institute
Tel. 01539 560318 |
|  | 22 - 25 | Duddon Valley LHG
Easter Exhibition | Seathwaite Parish Room
Tel. 01229 716196 |
|  | 22 April to 2 May | Staveley and District HS
20th Anniversary Exhibition at the Roundhouse | Staveley School
Tel. 01539 822229 |
|  | 26 | Duddon Valley LHG
The Bobbin Mills at Force (Satterthwaite) - Suzanne Tiplady | Seathwaite Parish Room
Tel. 01229 716196 |
|  | 28 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Charcoal burning - John Allonby | Lamplugh WI Hall
Tel. 01946 861493 |

MAY

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|---|----|--|---|
|  | 3 | Bampton and District LHS
Visit to Greenside Lead Mines, Glenridding - led by Warren Allison | (Ring for details of meeting place & time)
Tel. 01931 713645 |
|  | 9 | CWAAS Penrith Group
AGM followed by Rose Castle - Rev'd Canon Dr David Weston | Penrith Conservative Club
Tel. 01768 867581 |
|  | 9 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group
Visit - The Restored Garden of Monk Coniston with National Trust Ranger | Leave County Hall at 6.10pm and meet at
Monk Coniston Car Park off B5285 at 6.50pm
Tel. 01539 722439 |
|  | 10 | Brampton Local History Group
Field Trip to New Records Office, Carlisle with David Bowcock | (Ring for details of meeting place & time)
Tel. 016977 2484 |
|  | 10 | Staveley and District HS
A Tour of Windemere Town - Leaders Dorothy Wearden and Pat Campbell | Meet at St Mary's Church, Windemere at
6.30pm or at 6.15 at Abbey Square to car share
Tel. 01539 822229 |
|  | 11 | Sedbergh & District History Society
Holme Through History - A conducted tour of the village | Meet at Loftus Hill Car Park at 1.30pm or
Lime Street Stores in Holme at 2.30pm
Tel. 015396 20726 |
|  | 12 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS
From Peasant to Estatesman - Chris Craghill | Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
Tel. 01900 85482 |
|  | 16 | Shap LHS
Pub Signs and Tales of Cumbrian Inns - Diana Stewart | Memorial Hall
Tel. 01931 716244 |
|  | 18 | Caldbeck and District LHS
Cumberland Food and Folk - John Crouch | Parish Hall, Caldbeck
Tel. 016974 78270 |
|  | 19 | Cartmel Peninsula LHS
The History of Kendal - Trevor Hughes | Cartmel Village Hall
Tel. 015395 36603 |

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-  19 Levens Local History Group Levens Village Institute
1910 Land Tax and 1911 Census study evening - Dr Mike Winstanley
Tel. 01539 560318
-  24 Duddon Valley LHG Seathwaite Parish Room
AGM Tel. 01229 716196
-  26 Lamplugh and District Heritage Society Lamplugh WI Hall
The Making of Whitehaven Harbour 1600-1900 - Alan Routledge
Tel. 01946 861493

JUNE

-  2 Sedbergh & District History Society Meet at Loftus Hill Car Park at 12.30pm or
outside the Castle at 2.00pm
Skipton Castle and the Leeds - Liverpool Canal. A guided visit to the castle
followed by a canal trip Tel. 015396 20726
-  6 CWAAS Kendal Regional Group Leave County Hall at 6.35pm; site is
reached after half hour walk up steep hillside over rough ground
Visit - A Mill Site in Longsleddale with Eleanor Kingston Tel. 01539 722439
-  7 Bampton and District LHS Memorial Hall, Bampton
Grocers' Daughters - Marion Drinkwater and Pat Garside Tel. 01931 713645
-  9 Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
AGM - Speaker to be announced Tel. 01900 85482
-  14 Staveley and District HS Meet at Bryce Institute Burneside at 6.30pm
or take the 6.20pm train from Staveley
Burneside to Cowan Head - A walk along the track of the former tramway
- leader Mike Houston Tel. 01539 822229
-  15 Caldbeck and District LHS Parish Hall, Caldbeck
The Men who built Carlisle Cathedral - Thirlie Grundy Tel. 016974 78270
-  15 Sedbergh & District History Society Meet at Loftus Hill Car Park at 6.15pm or at
Tearnside lay-by, just off A65 at 7.00pm
An Introduction to Tearsnside - On a walk Mike Kinsbury will talk about its history,
geology, transport, farming, archaeology and architecture Tel. 015396 20726
-  16 Brampton Local History Group (Ring for details of meeting place & time)
Field Trip to Castle Carrock Reservoir with Thomas Speight Tel. 016977 2484
-  16 Levens Local History Group (Ring for details of meeting place & time)
Walk to Heaves Farm and Sizergh Fell Side (provisional) - Larry Walling
Tel. 01539 560318
-  23 Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cartmel Village Hall
The Industries of Barrow-in-Furness - Bill Myers Tel. 015395 36603
-  27 Shap LHS Yanwath Hall at 7.30pm
Visit to Yanwath Hall, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs D Altham Tel. 01931 716244
-  28 Duddon Valley LHG Seathwaite Parish Room
Romans in Furness - Daniel Elsworth Tel. 01229 861511

JULY overleaf

JULY

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|---|----|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
|  | 4 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group | Leave County Hall at 6.10pm and meet and park in village centre , near shop at 6.55pm
A Walk Around Levens led by Stephen Read | Tel. 01539 722439 |
|  | 6 | Sedbergh & District History Society | Meet at Loftus Hill Car Park at 5.00pm or Grasmere Drive Car Park in High Bentham at 6.00pm
Bentham - David Johnson will introduce members to interesting sites in High and Low Bentham | Tel. 015396 20726 |
|  | 12 | Bampton and District LHS | Memorial Hall, Bampton
Annual BBQ at Aragon, Naddle Gate - courtesy of Chizzer Childs | Tel. 01931 713645 |
|  | 14 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS | Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
Carlisle Records Office and its relevance to local History - David Bowcock | Tel. 01900 85482 |
|  | 14 | Staveley and District HS | (Ring for details of meeting place & time)
An Afternoon at Sunderland Point, Lancaster - Leader Peter Noble | Tel. 01539 822229 |
|  | 20 | Caldbeck and District LHS | Parish Hall, Caldbeck
The Life of George Moore of Whitehall - Jean Scott Smith | Tel. 016974 78270 |
|  | 26 | Duddon Valley LHG | Seathwaite Parish Room
The History of Millom Castle - Tom McCafferty | Tel. 01229 861511 |



A thing of the past:
Workington North
railway station.

(Photo 9 Jan 2010)

Lazonby and District History Society

L & D Hist Soc have recently been successful in obtaining a grant to produce a short history leaflet about the history of Lazonby Village.

This came about through a visit to the village by two people from a company called Lingonet, based in Finland. This company produces computer programmes for language teaching and they were interested in developing one such programme associated with a village history.

Consequently, they agreed to help produce a leaflet for Lazonby and all the layout was put onto computer for us with text added by our society chairman.

A grant was procured through our local Neighbourhood Forum, based in Alston, which covers the cost of 1000 leaflets, to be printed by Reeds of Penrith.

It was very easy to apply for the grant. The application form was short and requested bank details, current bank statement, a copy of our constitution and a statement about our equal opportunity policy.

The request for the grant was answered very quickly and efficiently and we now have the cheque in the bank waiting to pay for printing.

The leaflets will be ready on Feb. 11th for distribution to local people, visitors, school children, shops, TIC, guesthouses, on the Settle -Carlisle line and Fellrunner bus.

Altogether, an exciting development for our history society and one that came with relative ease.

Sheila Fletcher
Chairman, L & D Hist. Soc

Friends of Whitehaven Museum

I have just filled in the Charity Commission form on behalf of the FWM. It gave me great pleasure to tell them FWM helped our elderly citizens by installing two speakers & a tie pin microphone £400. The Committee decided last year to restore items from our reserve collection and chose an inscribed glass loving cup DCD from the 'Douglas' family of Whitehaven, jewellers & engravers, denoted by Hazel Douglas, restoration at Preston and paid for by the FWM. It has been on display in a glass case in the Foyer of The Beacon for eight weeks. We also donated £300 for the Young Archeologists for 2011.

Florence Sibson
Treasurer & Membership Sec.

Staveley & District History Society 20 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

It is some 20 years since Staveley and District started their Local History Society. At an inaugural meeting in October 1990 the current President, Clare Brockbank, and the late Joe Scott started with a small committee and a long list of projects. By 1995 they had produced what has become a standard historical reference book for the area, *A Lakeland Valley Through Time*. Membership flourished, and the reference book was joined by an edited transcript and tape of oral history recordings and by a series of 'Occasional Papers', now numbering 26. A standard pattern of winter talks and summer walks was established and still continues.

In 2004 a web site was set up and a

thrice annually *Journal* introduced - now into issue 21. The web site brought in a number of Staveley 'exiles' to swell the membership to over 150. These 'exiles', in places such as Canada and New Zealand have added to the knowledge bank of the Society by their stories and by some of the memorabilia they (or their ancestors) had taken with them.

2006 saw a successful Local History Exhibition celebrating 15 years of the Society, and this coming Easter another exhibition is planned to celebrate 20 years. The theme this time is *200 years of change* and will show how the Staveley area has developed since 1811. There will also be an opportunity to hear some of the oral history recordings and to view the restored 'Corn Rent' maps of 1836. It is also hoped to show a digitised film of the working of the wood mill, first shot in 8mm in the 1950s. The sale of publications will be enhanced by a new *History Trail* leaflet for the village.

The exhibition runs from April 22nd to May 2nd in the Staveley Roundhouse on Main Street.

John Berry, General Secretary

Cumbrian Railways Association

The Cumbrian Railways Association has entered the realm of CD publishing. This follows the success of the DVD *Cumbria Railways: A Golden Age*, issued in September 2010 in conjunction with Andrew Leitch. Now the CRA has started publishing material in digital form on compact discs.

Two discs are available so far. The first is the full set of the *Furness Railway Magazine*, published between 1920 and 1923 and containing an index. The magazine was principally intended as a staff journal, but soon reached a wider audience. The Furness Railway was established in 1846. It transformed Barrow from a small fishing hamlet into a major exporter of locally-mined minerals, a steel manufacturer and ship builder, a role it continues today, and also played a significant part in developing the South Lakes as a tourist destination. The Furness Railway was absorbed into the LMS in 1923.

The second disc is a collection of the



A thing of the past, part 2: A small part of the transformation of Carlisle Station for a TV advert, February 2010.

CRA's own Journal, *Cumbrian Railways*. Volumes 1 to 5 are included, covering the period from the Association's inception in 1976 to 1996. These Journals are a valuable source of study of changes to the railways of Cumbria in the post-Beeching era, the decline of freight traffic, the saving of the Settle and Carlisle line from closure and the growth of steam specials. An index is also included. Both discs can be searched for specific key words.

Copies of the discs are available from the Association at www.cumbrianrailwayassociation.org.uk. The cost of each is £11.50, including postage, and £10 to members of the Association.

Robin Smith
CRA Publicity Officer

HERITAGE SKILLS FAIR **3-5 June 2011**

As some of you may already be aware, NECT (North of England Civic Trust) is running a heritage skills fair at Carlisle Castle (in conjunction with English Heritage) on the 3rd, 4th and 5th June as part of its Heritage Skills Initiative.

The aim of the HSI is to raise awareness of traditional and heritage skills used to maintain and appropriately repair historic and traditional buildings and their surroundings. As well as the skills fair, we run a wide variety of courses for homeowners, professionals and contractors and deliver an annual conference (booking form and flier attached)

We expect in the region of 3500 people to visit our Cumbrian skills fair this year. This is the first skills fair in Cumbria, but this annual event had been run in the North East, very successfully, for several

years now. Over the three days, we will be running demonstrations and lectures and giving members of the public the opportunity to "have a go" at traditional skills. There will be guided tours, local food and drink, shopping for traditional hand made goods, children's entertainment, opportunities for people to speak to local architects, surveyors and contractors about their buildings etc. Entry to the event is free to members of the public.

I would like to invite you to take a stand at the event. If you are a not for profit organisation or a craftsperson demonstration and offering a "hands on" opportunity to the public, your stand will be free of charge. If you are a craftsperson exhibiting and selling only, or a business then the cost for the 3 days is £75. Please note, you must remain in attendance for all 3 days.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Lisa Rothwell-Young
Project Co-ordinator,
Cumbrian Heritage Skills Initiative
Tel: 07775028681
email: lisa.rothwell-young@nect.org.uk
www.nect.org.uk

Historical Expertise **in Action**

Recently Florence Sibson author of 'The History of the West Cumberland Potteries' (published Dec. 2009) was visited by Tony Calvin a local man, one time expert on the Whitehaven glass & breweries but after listening to a lecture by Mrs Sibson began to research and collect West Cumberland Pottery. Via 'the net' Tony has located two 200 hundred year old creamware plates made in Whitehaven which are reported on page

33 of her latest book, one is in the Victoria & Albert Museum & one he has managed to purchase from USA via Canada. He brought his plate to show Mrs Sibson and she told Tony it is not earthenware, it is creamware. Mrs Sibson wrote to the Ceramics Curator at the Victoria & Albert Museum, Mr Hilary Young who took their plate out of its case and has notified Mrs Sibson that he agrees with her; their plate marked as "earthenware" & dated 1819 is also creamware. The Curator of the Beacon, Whitehaven Miss Charlotte Stead is to put the plate now owned by Mr Tony Calvin on display in the Beacon Foyer very shortly. Mrs Sibson had reported the facts from Dr. G. Godden's 'Enclopaedia of British Pottery & Porcelain Marks published in 1966 (in the Appendix) re the mark 'Woodnorth & Co.'

And (almost) finally... The chairman's report *Local History Day, Workington, 19 March*

In this issue of the Bulletin the Chairman's message is all about the Local History day I organised recently while wearing my other hat as Local Studies Librarian based in Whitehaven at the Record Office there.

On Saturday 19 March 2011 we had our second Local History Day with Dr Alan Crosby, and we held it in Workington: **The Dark Side of Family Life ... in Cumbria 1700-1900.** Were you there? Yes? Wasn't it a great day? And if you weren't – just give yourself a quick kick and make a note not to miss out next year!

As we have come to expect from Alan we enjoyed a fascinating tour through sources and records relating to our subjects for the day: *Bastards, Lunatics and*

Imbeciles. All a bit shocking to the modern ear, perhaps, but all terms in regular, official, use in earlier times.

We heard about poor relief records – the going rate for a bastard child was 6d in the early 19th century – and parish and magistrates' records as good sources of information. The notoriously high immorality rates for Cumberland and Westmorland were considered, and found to be all too true, and Alan's examination of the possible reasons and causes ended our morning session.

After lunch – and a huge thank you to those ladies who washed up all the cups ready for the afternoon break, you know who you are! – there were two sessions on mental health and local history. These could have been harrowing. And indeed we heard descriptions of the lives and sufferings of individuals that were sad. But however sober the subject it was deeply interesting to follow the changes in treatment of people with mental health difficulties as Alan described them from the records.

The final session on the former County Asylum, subsequently Garlands Hospital, was a fascinating insight into the enormous institution with its multitude of staff – medical, domestic and outdoors – as well as the care and treatment of patients. The records reveal a complex organisation with many avenues to explore.

Despite queues for the loos we all had a wonderful time, and there are a lot of people eager for the 2012 West Cumbria Local History Day. So raise your glasses please – next year we're investigating The Demon Drink!!

*Jenni Lister,
Chairman, CLHF*



Shirley Thornhill and friends from Solway Local History Society (right) at the Local History Study Day, Workington, 19 March 2011

.... and in other Shirley Thornhill-related news, CLHF is proud to announce that the new edition of our A-Z of speakers and guides on local history topics is now available, price £3inc. p&p- please send cheques to our Chairman, Jenni Lister, at 4 Hylton Terrace, Wigton Road, Silloth, Cumbria, CA7 4DZ

Book Reviews

Exploring the World of King Arthur

by Christopher Snyder
published by Thames & Hudson, £12.95
2011, ISBN 978-0-500-28904-4
Paperback, 192pp, illus.

Among the thousands of books and articles written about King Arthur, this

book by Christopher Snyder called *Exploring the World of King Arthur* (in a new paperback edition), does exactly that.

Not confining himself to reworkings of the myths in ever more fanciful ways, the author systematically covers all social, political and emotional aspects of the King Arthur period, in an accessible but well-researched manner.

The text is accompanied by evocative images, a glossary, a gazetteer, a bibliography and a comprehensive index. It also comes right up to date, with a section on films, TV and music inspired by the Arthur legends.

Sheila Fletcher
Chair of Lazonby History Society

Westmorland Dialogues

by Ann Wheeler & Leonard Smith

Published by Lensden Publishing,

63 Silverdale Road, Arnside, LA5 0DZ

2011, ISBN 978-0-9551992-7-1.

£7.00 from local bookshops (or send cheque to the above address, adding £2 p&p, payable to L. Smith)



WESTMORLAND DIALOGUES

Ann Wheeler of Arnsdale Tower

INTRODUCED AND INTERPRETED

by

Leonard Smith

When Jane Austen was still a young teenager, a Westmorland woman was going into print with a book that would be republished in an extended edition within her lifetime, and is still available in facsimile editions today (printed and online) thanks to Google Books. Although the author's name on the first edition, published in 1790 by James Ashburner of Kendal, was given only as "A.W." the surname, as revealed in the second edition twelve years later, was not Wainwright, but Wheeler. The first name, always hidden, was Ann.

"The Westmorland Dialect in Three Familiar Dialogues" (which became Four in the 1802 edition) did exactly what it said in the title- presented the local dialect through examples of conversation, with a glossary to help the reader translate into "standard" English. This arrangement rather threw readers in at the deep end, so now local historian Leonard Smith has created a brand new edition in which the dialogues are accompanied by his interpretations. He also provides an introduction, and sixteen illustrations.

David Bradbury
CLHF

CLHF CONTACTS

**Chair &
general contact**

Jenni Lister

jenni.lister@cumbriacc.gov.uk
016973 32907

Bulletin Editor

David Bradbury

pastpresented@tesco.net
01946 591524

Secretary

Richard Brockington

*Richard.brockington@
mypooffice.co.uk*
01768 870352

**Membership Sec.
& Events Diary**

Valerie Halsall

vhalsall@ktdbroadband.com
01768 898046