

Season's Greetings

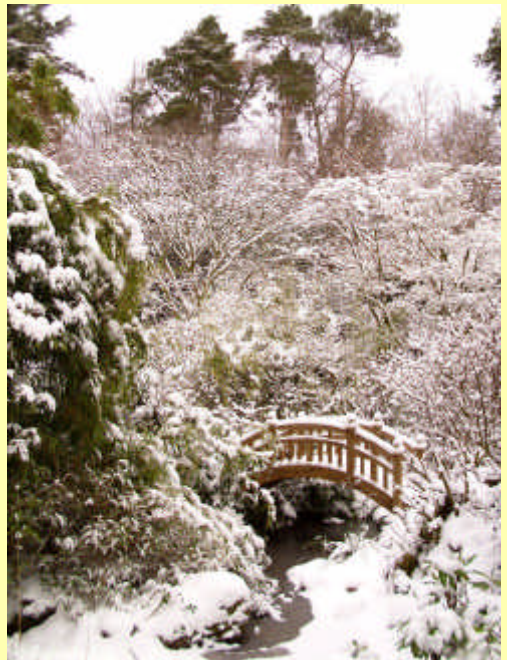
First of all may I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year from the CLHF committee, and me. I feel I should add that the committee members still hope that someone will volunteer to help as the Secretary, not too arduous a task as Valerie Halsall shoulders all the work of dealing with memberships, just a little light minute-taking and agenda sorting. All offers very kindly received and we're such a friendly bunch to join – so come on! Give it a try! Contact any committee member for more info and we'll promise not to coerce you into anything.

A few seasonally-inspired thoughts are presented for your consideration: I recently gave a talk on *Local Christmas Past* to Workington LH Society – and many thanks for your very warm welcome! – looking at aspects of Christmas presented through newspapers, how Christmas celebrations have been reported and how they have changed over the years. Not least noticeable is that Christmas hardly featured in the newspapers until **well** into December, often well into Christmas week, unlike more recent times where the cards and tinsel can be found displayed before the Hallowe'en bats and rats appear. I also find fascinating the very public displays of Christmas charity with the donors of coals or blankets, bread or even, occasionally, baccy, to the deserving poor named prominently and with the recipients' gratitude firmly emphasised sometimes with cheers that we hope were spontaneous!

The reports of festive occasions can sometimes shed little rays of light on the social life of the time. For example those attending the Grand Ball at Cockermouth's Assembly Rooms in 1865 took return tickets from Workington – outward on Thursday's **last** train, returning by the first train of the following morning. It would be interesting to know what sort of people attended and to research those train times! Another little sidelight is found in the 1877 letter from a disgruntled Keswick resident who complains bitterly of the "half-inebriated" ruffians who on Christmas Eve set off cheap gunpowder in lieu of fireworks and race up and down Main Street

from midnight to daybreak. The free availability of gunpowder is unlike today, and suggests our grumpy correspondent had no fears about its use other than its nuisance value. It's fascinating to note the little snippets we find tucked into the frolics – and fights. The "fracas" between rival fife bands, with instruments smashed "as usual", tells us of a deeper cause than seasonal alcoholic overindulgence for this is Cleator Moor in 1882 and sectarian strife overrules goodwill to all men. Perhaps you have your own similarly telling snippets? I would love to hear them and meanwhile I wish you the Compliments of the Season.

Jenni Lister, Chairman



Appleby Archaeology Group Cumbria loses a Roman Signal Station...



In May this year the investigation of a possible Roman signal station site on Brackenber Moor near Appleby-in-Westmorland in Cumbria produced some very unexpected results. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken jointly by volunteers of the Pennines AONB Altogether Archaeology Project, members of Appleby Archaeology Group, and staff from NP Archaeology Ltd, as part of a wider investigation of the archaeology of the North Pennines. The evaluation site comprised a circular earth-

work enclosure, with entrances on the north and south sides, which is recorded in the Cumbria Historic Environment Record as the site of a possible Roman signal station. The interpretation of the site changed significantly when a cluster of pits at the centre of the enclosure, contained deposits of burnt bone and pottery, were revealed. This including the decorated rim of an inverted Bronze Age collared urn (c. -1750 cal BC) and two accessory vessels, was also clear evidence of a



Lower pictures: **Swarthmoor**. *Left*: exposing the walls; *Right*: mullion window sill

burning episode across the whole of the monument, after which it appears to have been 'closed' by the construction of a stone cairn over the central platform. The centre of this cairn was subsequently removed and many of the cremation pits were truncated, probably as a result of antiquarian investigation. Immediately to the west of the enclosure was another oval ditched feature, which is believed to be associated, but requires further investigation.

The ongoing research being undertaken by Appleby Archaeology Group is slowly revealing an important and well-preserved prehistoric landscape, which includes other Bronze Age barrows and an Iron Age defended farmstead, known as The Druidical Judgement Seat.

The Altogether Archaeology Project is a community-based project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage.

*Martin Railton, Fieldwork Officer
m.railton@nparchaeology.co.uk*

Welcome to CLHF Bulletin 58

There's so much to fit in this issue that I've just dived in at the deep end. The theme is "highlights and achievements of the past year" ...
David Bradbury, editor

Swarthmoor Hall History Group

Festival of British Archaeology Excavations at Swarthmoor Hall

Over an extended weekend (Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July 2011) a brief excavation was carried out under the auspices of the Swarthmoor Hall History Group and supervision of Greenlane Archaeology. In remarkably sunny weather, except for the last hour of the first day, a large group of enthusiastic volunteers experienced a remarkable event: actually finding what was hoped would be there!

The excavation initially comprised a single trench of approximately 4m square, targeting a postulated extension to the north end of the 'Great Barn', which was demolished in the 1960s but seems to have formed an early part of the complex of buildings at Swarthmoor

Hall. Photographs and other sources suggest that the north end had a domestic function, although it was later converted into an animal house, but a large projecting chimney breast with a corbelled stack hinted at a further section to the north of this, which had been demolished prior to the earliest known (at the time) maps of the site being produced. More recently, in the late 1990s, a new building was constructed on the footprint of the Great Barn, as it had been in the 1960s. Excavation carried out in advance of this revealed the demolition had been quite extensive and only shallow truncated features were identified. However, the area to the north, where this possible extension was thought to have been situated, had remained virtually untouched.

It had originally been intended to excavate closer to the new building but the presence of a recently dug service trench prevented this so it was moved to the north. Work in this initial trench soon began to prove fruitful, however, with a series of walls exposed a short distance below the topsoil. It was apparent that some of these corresponded with field boundaries shown on the available maps of the site, although they evidently survived to a remarkable height. Amongst them was a much more substantial east/west wall bonded with gritty lime mortar with an 'alcove' in one side. It soon became apparent that this represented the wall of a substantial building, with the alcove apparently representing a small window. This was further confirmed when the wall was found to extend to the east, albeit much more truncated, with the remains of another window discovered with the dressed sill for a mullion window still in situ! The depth of this window suggests that it must have been for a cellar; the wall in which it was contained appearing to have been largely demolished although the better preserved section to the west was incorporated into field boundary. Remarkably, a possibly matching piece of mullion window sill was also found in one of the nearby garden walls. To cope with the numbers on site a second small trench was excavated a small distance to the north to examine a break of slope, and it too was found to contain the remains of a well-preserved probable field boundary.

The purpose of the structure represented by the substantial building uncovered is uncertain, although there are suggestions that the estate had a brewhouse, which it might represent. Dating is also difficult; although thousands of finds were made most are remarkably late, suggesting that although not shown on the maps this building appears to have been being actively buried in the late 19th century at least. However, the architectural style of the mullion window and the photographs of the great barn perhaps suggest a 17th century date. The earliest finds are pottery of late 17th century date, although the finds have yet to be fully assessed.

The possibility of further work being carried out next year is already being discussed.

Stop Press!

Recent investigation by Martin Riley in the archives at Friends House in London have revealed a wealth of previously unseen information about Swarthmoor Hall, in particular the sale of the estate in the 18th century. Of particular interest is an estate plan of c1760, which shows the Great Barn and, with the eye of faith, a small extension at the north end seemingly corresponding with what was found during the excavation. The plan also shows what appears to be some sort of star-shaped formal garden to the south-west of the hall, of which nothing now remains. Details of the map and an image, as well as more information about the group's activities, can be found at: www.swarthmoor.blogspot.com

*Dan Elsworth, Greenlane Archaeology,
with thanks to Ian Lewis and Martin Riley*

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society was formed 15 years ago and the membership has grown to around 100 members at present. The core business of the society is putting on 6-7 lectures a week with 2-3 field trips every year. This year the trip to Kendal Record Office was oversubscribed and a second trip had to be organised. Similarly a walking history of Kendal with Trevor Hughes was well attended.

In addition small research groups are being formed such as the Villages History Group which meets about 4 times each year with members of the group focussing on the individual villages which are of interest to them. The Villages History group have commenced research on Allithwaite, Kents Bank, Field Broughton, Grange-over-Sands, Ravenstow and schools in the area. Research topics are varied, for instance some have general histories such as Field Broughton and Allithwaite in addition to house and employment history research. The development of Ravenstow describes how it was built for staff who were employed at the airship station at Winder Moor, Flookburgh. Kents Bank history describes the development of housing and includes histories of two prominent people involved with Abott Hall - Mary Lambert and James Young. The comprehensive Grange history considers the development of Grange as a tourist town and includes a building register from 1876. One of our members is also researching the many small, private, 'dame' schools and others that flourished in the area, particularly in Grange and Kents Bank. Research is ongoing on the above areas and other villages in the area and almost all the above articles can be found on the website.

The House Histories Group meets on a regular basis and is focussed on the area around Field Broughton at present but is hoping to expand into other villages in the near future. The House History fanatics meet about once a quarter to compare notes and generally chat about previous residents and latest discoveries. Inevitably there is much discussion on the challenges of linking small snippets of information found in archives, old newspapers, census records etc to a particular property. Old deeds and the 1910 Finance Act records have helped and have shown us that the Hibbert Estate owned a considerable number of properties in the Field Broughton and Wood Broughton area. Examination of these documents has given us a snapshot of the residents at the time. What has been especially helpful with the history of the larger houses has been the link between the Hibbert family and the St Peter's Chapel and Church history. However questions like why

was part of the Vicarage used as a carpenters shop? Why did Aynsome laboratories rent part of a property, why was the property known as The Parish Rooms sold by the Hibbert Estate to the Church only to rent it back again? Names of a few central village houses indicate they were farms but name changes over the years present a further puzzle and here local knowledge from the "Elders" of the village is proving invaluable. As the phrase goes "No one said it would be easy" but the alcoholic refreshment that appears at the meetings is a great help!

An Oral History Group is about to be launched in the new year with an Oral Historian taking the lead on this. The Society is also getting involved with the Cumbria County History Trust and Richard Brockington has spoken to the members about the research that requires to be done. A small number of members are willing to become involved with this research in the villages linking it with the Villages History Group.

To keep all members informed of activities and lectures 2 Newsletters are sent out to members each year and the Website is updated with information, notes from past lectures and research on the villages in the peninsula. The 2012 lecture programme is almost complete with field trips and will be published towards the end of the year.

Barbara Copeland, committee member

Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society

Our highlights this year have been two visits arranged by John Macfarlane to properties in the area of Setmurthy. The second arranged after the initial visit had been over-subscribed. On both occasions we began at Dunthwaite House dating to 1785. The house and historic barn are owned by the National Trust but usually leased out and not open to the public. Although there was much of interest to see in the house, the real highlight was the barn which still retains its iron-framed water wheel and its threshing machine. Our second stop was at Higham Hall built about 1827 by Thomas Hoskins, now owned by an independent Educational Trust which provides short courses for adults.

On our June outing we then visited Isel Hall, a property of great antiquity where the Pele Tower is known to have been rebuilt following destruction in 1388. It is still in private ownership and is regularly open to the public by guided tour through the summer months. On our second outing in September, the afternoon destinations were different. We started at the isolated church dedicated to St Barnabas, dating from 1794. It has connections to all the other properties on our tour; the du Huthwaites and Swynburns of Hewthwaite Hall, the Harrisons of Dunthwaite and the



Lorton group members entering the barn at Dunthwaite. The House can be seen in the background.

Photo by John Macfarlane.

Fishers and Hoskins of Higham. Finally by kind permission of the current owners, we visited the outside of Hewthwaite Hall, rebuilt as an Elizabethan Mansion in 1581 with its famous inscription above the front door.

Sandra Shaw

North Lonsdale History Society

The society continues to thrive and grow with over 50 members at the monthly meetings.

In November we had our first coach outing for some years visiting Leeds for its several museums including the Royal Armouries and the Thackeray Medical one, and shopping for non-historians! We have a similar visit planned for next Summer to Chester. Coach costs are lower in November but our visit was almost cancelled because it's also the time of year when winter illnesses take home. Of the first 22 members who had booked only 10 came on the day. Fortunately, as our meetings are held in the Methodist church hall we have close links with the church and advertise monthly through their "Grapevine" magazine and found enough participants to cover our costs.

Plans are afoot to produce a new booklet of members' memories and we have also discovered a new local historian, Peter Wilde. He has always been a keen photographer and in the last two years has produced several photographic essays for us, mixtures of words and pictures. His latest on the two major Furness ironmasters shed light on the rapid change of landowners after the dissolution of Furness Abbey and Conishead Priory and the results which can still be seen in our local landscape. There was a keen demand for the DVD and these are now on sale at our local Hospice with all money going to their valuable work.

David Fellows, programme organiser

Kirkoswald and Renwick Local History Group

The Kirkoswald and Renwick Local History Group is a small group of about 30 like-minded members (average meeting attendance 15), holding monthly meetings about subjects of local interest. We specialise in in-house re-

search by our own members on such subjects as local mills, local clockmakers, local houses, the local school (a printed history produced), and the local war memorials. One member has produced a very painstaking and interesting historical study of the Renwick area, a work still in progress. We have had a group meeting to the new Record Office in Carlisle (very successful and informative) and we do have the occasional outside speaker and an annual outing (to Whitley Castle, for instance). We keep our entrance fee down to the minimum, in order to encourage attendance from a wider public, but this does mean that we do not have a strong financial base. We are quite isolated, specially on winter evenings, and also find it difficult to find a meeting place that is totally satisfactory, particularly in Kirkoswald. Nevertheless, we do enjoy keen and friendly support from a core of talented members and hope to grow as a society.

Bill Roberts, acting secretary

williamroberts101@btinternet.com

The Keswick History Group

Highlights of 2010 – 2011

Members enjoyed a spring visit to Mirehouse where we were shown round the House by a volunteer guide who is also a member of the Group, and in July, we followed up an evening slide show given by Louise Smith of the Carlisle Archive Centre with a tour of the new building.











During the year, the archive was at last able to come into its own and contribute to a number of events including the exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Century Theatre Company in Keswick. Our film of "The Keswick Take Down" of 1965 was returned as a DVD from the North West Film Archive and it and the Keswick Museum's DVD of "The Jewel of Lakeland" were shown with much enthusiastic, spontaneous commentary after our AGM in October. Two members got their research findings into print. Our "History of Keswick in 100 Objects" project has been supported by a few dedicated members, but we have had little response from the non-historians who we had

EVENTS DIARY






Area indicators: North  South  East  West  Central 

Meetings start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated






DECEMBER

- | | | | | |
|---|----|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|  | 5 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group | Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal | |
| | | The Dorothy Charlesworth Archaeological Lecture. The Carlisle Defences:
in the footsteps of Dorothy Charlesworth – Rachel Newman | | 01539 722439 |
|  | 5 | Orton and Tebay LHS | Orton Market Hall | |
| | | Christmas Past – Members' Contributions | | 015396 24410 |
|  | 6 | Bampton and District LHS | Memorial Hall, Bampton | |
| | | Local History Quiz/Social Evening | | 01931 713645 |
|  | 7 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick | |
| | | Cumbrian Ice Houses and the international trade in Ice – Dr Rob David | | 017687 73801 |
|  | 8 | Mourholme LHS | Yealand Village Hall | |
| | | Members' Evening with Refreshments | | 01524 701491 |
|  | 12 | Cartmel Fell & District History Society | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm | |
| | | Festive Cookery from the Past – June Hall | | 015395 68389 |
|  | 12 | Upper Eden History Society | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School | |
| | | The Archaeology of Mallerstang – Annie Hamilton-Gibney | | 017683 41007 |
|  | 13 | Appleby Archaeology Group | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby. | |
| | | 'Cumbrian Connections: Lithic analysis in the Upper Eden Valley' an update on
Living among the Monuments – Annie Hamilton-Gibney | | 01768 353463 |
|  | 13 | Staveley and District HS | Staveley School | |
| | | The Keswick Footpath Preservation Association and the Trespasses of 1887 –
Roy Ellis | | 01539 822229 |
|  | 18 | Sedbergh & District HS | Settlebeck High School | |
| | | Stone Circles and Burial Mounds – Tom Clare | | 015396 22505 |











JANUARY 2012

- | | | | | |
|---|----|---|--|--------------|
|  | 4 | Friends of Keswick Museum | Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick | |
| | | John Ruskin: Polymath – David Cross | | 017687 73801 |
|  | 9 | Cartmel Fell & District History Society | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm | |
| | | AGM and Members' Research | | 015395 68389 |
|  | 9 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group | Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal | |
| | | Windermere's Lake Villas – Diane Mathews | | 01539 722439 |
|  | 10 | Appleby Archaeology Group | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby, at 7.00pm | |
| | | AGM and Members evening. More on Abbeytown – an outlying chapel of Holme
St. Cuthbert / Altogether Archaeology on Brackenber Moor – the results of the
2011 Excavations – Richard Stevens and Martin Raiton | | 01768 353463 |
|  | 10 | Staveley and District HS | Staveley School | |
| | | The Gunpowder History of Cumbria – Ian Tyler | | 01539 822229 |







JANUARY 2012 continued

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|
|  | 12 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS
The Building of Keswick – Dr Alan Smith | Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
01900 85482 |
|  | 16 | Holme and District LHS
Cumbrian Icehouses and the International Trade in Ice – Dr Rob David | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |
|  | 16 | Upper Eden History Society
25th Anniversary Celebration, Recollections and a Buffet | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 18 | Lazonby and District LHS
Local Topics Evening with wine and nibbles | Lazonby Village Hall
01786 898046 |
|  | 19 | Levens Local History Group
AGM and The Strickland Arms – Stephen Read | Levens Village Institute
01539 560318 |
|  | 21 | CWAAS South West Group
Developments at Senhouse Roman Museum – Jane Laskey | Egremont Market Hall Supper Room, at 2.00pm
019467 24634 |
|  | 24 | Duddon Valley LHG
Bluebirds over Coniston – Vicky Slowe | Broughton Victory Hall
01229 861511 |
|  | 25 | Mourholme LHS
Markets to Supermarkets: Retailing in the North West since 1800 –
Dr Michael Winstanley | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |
|  | 26 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
The Railway comes to Lamplugh – Matt Shield | Lamplugh WI Hall
01946 861493 |













FEBRUARY

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|
|  | 1 | Friends of Keswick Museum
Cumbrian Church Curiosities – Brian Martland | Crossthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 1 | Sedbergh & District HS
Railway Navvies of Mallerstang – Ian Murray | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
|  | 6 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group
Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Road improvements in Westmorland from 1815
– Jean Turnbull | Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal
01539 722439 |
|  | 7 | Bampton and District LHS
Lady Anne Clifford – a remarkable life 1590-1676 – June Hall | Memorial Hall, Bampton
01931 713645 |
|  | 13 | Cartmel Fell & District History Society
Charlotte Mason – John Thorley | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm
015395 68389 |
|  | 14 | Appleby Archaeology Group
Great Langdale Axe Factories – Gabriel Blamires | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby.
01768 353463 |
|  | 14 | Staveley and District HS
The Life and Times of a Village Blacksmith – Tommy Bland | Staveley School
01539 822229 |
|  | 15 | Lazonby and District LHS
The Ancient Woodlands of Cumbria – Mike Winn | Lazonby Village Hall
01786 898046 |
|  | 16 | Levens Local History Group
From Blacksmiths to Bypasses: the impact of motor transport in Westmorland
c. 1900-1970 – Jean Turnbull | Levens Village Institute
01539 560318 |
|  | 20 | Holme and District LHS
AGM and Lady Anne Clifford – Mr Trevor Hughes | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |





CLHF Bulletin 58, Winter 2011-12

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|
|  | 20 | Upper Eden History Society
The Angkor Wat Temple Complex – Raynor Shaw | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 22 | Mourholme LHS
Child Migrants in the British Empire, an illustrated talk – Dr Stephen Constantine | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |
|  | 22 | Sedbergh & District HS
Packhorse ways, Packhorse days – Janet Niekpokozyeka | Dentdale Memorial Hall
015396 22505 |
|  | 23 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Some High Sheriffs of West Cumbria – Maureen Fisher | Lamplugh WI Hall
01946 861493 |
|  | 25 | CWAAS South West Group
A talk and demonstration of some antique musical instruments
– Albert Waterhouse | Egremont Market Hall Supper Room, at 2.00pm
019467 24634 |
|  | 28 | Duddon Valley LHG
Historic Plants and their Uses – Ian McNicholl | Broughton Victory Hall
01229 861511 |










MARCH

- | | | | |
|---|----|---|--|
|  | 5 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group
Cumbria to Cambria: the Archaeological Landscapes of Two Distinct Regions
– Jamie Quartermaine | Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal
01539 722439 |
|  | 6 | Bampton and District LHS
10th Anniversary Celebration | Memorial Hall, Bampton
01931 713645 |
|  | 7 | Friends of Keswick Museum
The Story of Burnbanks, Manchester Corporation's Model Village at Haweswater
– Professor Patricia Garside | Crossthwaite Parish Rooms, Keswick
017687 73801 |
|  | 7 | Sedbergh & District HS
Curiosities of Cumbrian Churches – Trevor Hughes | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
|  | 8 | Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS
The History of Alston Moor – Alastair Robertson | Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton
01900 85482 |
|  | 12 | Cartmel Fell & District History Society
Villas of Windermere – Diane Matthews | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm
015395 68389 |
|  | 13 | Appleby Archaeology Group
The Northumberland and Durham Rock Art Project
– Dr Ken Fairless and Jeff Lynn | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby.
01768 353463 |
|  | 13 | Staveley and District HS
Royal Windermere Yacht Club – Ian Jones | Staveley School
01539 822229 |
|  | 15 | Levens Local History Group
Remembering Slavery: Cumbria's connections to the trans-Atlantic slave trade
through surviving evidence – Dr Rob David | Levens Village Institute
01539 560318 |
|  | 17 | Cumbria Railways Association
One day conference with Kit Spackman talking about the Advanced Passenger
Train developed by British Railways, and several other speakers tbc. <i>AND:</i> | County Hotel, Carnforth. 10.45 - 17.15. |
|  | 18 | Guided walk to look at and interpret local railway history in the Northeast of the
county. Check out www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk for full details or
contact the secretary Philip T Tuer | 01228 522118 |
|  | 19 | Holme and District LHS
Cumbria in the 40's and 50's – Mr R Freethy | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |

MARCH 2012 continued

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|---|
|  | 19 | Upper Eden History Society
Mining in the Yorkshire Dales | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 21 | Lazonby and District LHS
The History of Alston Moor – Alastair Robertson | Lazonby Village Hall
01786 898046 |
|  | 21 | Sedbergh & District HS
The Ancient Kingdom of Northumbria – Sheena Gemmell | Settlebeck High School
015396 22505 |
|  | 23 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Millom Castle – Tom McCafferty | Lamplugh WI Hall
01946 861493 |
|  | 24 | CWAAS South West Group
Seaton Priory and revelations from recently discovered documents
– Robert Baxter, Whitehaven Records Office | Captain Shaw's school, Main St., Bootle at 2.00pm
019467 24634 |
|  | 24 | Sedbergh & District HS
AGM followed by a presentation and Jacob's Join | Settlebeck High School at 7.00pm
015396 22505 |
|  | 27 | Duddon Valley LHG
Dalton Castle – Angela McCreath | Broughton Victory Hall
01229 861511 |
|  | 28 | Mourholme LHS
Romans in Lancaster, a talk with slides by Dr David Shotter | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |

APRIL

- | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|
|  | 2 | CWAAS Kendal Regional Group
AGM and: Back to the Stone Age – Young Archaeologists Club; The Castle Dairy
Restoration – John Davies; The Longsleddale Survey – Barbara Blatchford | Shakespeare Centre, Highgate, Kendal
01539 722439 |
|  | 3 | Bampton and District LHS
Archaeological Discoveries in the Duddon Valley – John Hogget | Memorial Hall, Bampton
01931 713645 |
|  | 10 | Appleby Archaeology Group
Update on "Altogether Archaeology" – Paul Frodsham, Historic Environment
Officer, North Pennines AONB Partnership | Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby.
01768 353463 |
|  | 10 | Staveley and District HS
AGM and Members Evening | Staveley School
01539 822229 |
|  | 16 | Cartmel Fell & District History Society
Medieval Deer Parks of Cumbria – Harry Hawkins | Cartmel Fell Parish Hall at 8.00pm
015395 68389 |
|  | 16 | Holme and District LHS
Witherslack and the Winster Valley – Mr W Johnston | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall
01524 782198 |
|  | 16 | Upper Eden History Society
AGM. Hefted Swaledale Sheep and the Northern Landscape – Susan Haywood | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
017683 41007 |
|  | 19 | Levens Local History Group
Sedgwick House – Katharine Pottinger | Levens Village Institute
01539 560318 |
|  | 25 | Mourholme LHS
AGM followed by There is no Spring without St George.: England's Patron Saint In
European Folk Tradition - Dr Sam Riches | Yealand Village Hall
01524 701491 |
|  | 26 | Lamplugh and District Heritage Society
Harrington – An Industrial History – Philip Ashforth | Lamplugh WI Hall
01946 861493 |

hoped would share their knowledge of the area's history. We are now up to Object number 47.

Our best highlight of the year came in October when three members gave a presentation to the Friends of the Keswick Museum in a crowded lecture hall. They had selected slides, printed photos and recorded hand bell music from the collection of Joe Brownrigg who was a well-known and respected local photographer, local history lecturer and bell ringer, and whose collection is now in the Group's archive. The enthusiastic reception indicated that there is plenty of local interest for future events of this sort.

Dorothy Hind

Readers may also like to know that 2012 is the 60th anniversary of the first ever performance in the Century Theatre, in its native Leicestershire (whither it has now returned, to a graceful old age at Snibston Discovery Park).

Editor

The Beacon, Whitehaven

I think our most appropriate piece of news is our new Medieval Gallery which opens on February 11th 2012.

It will be called "New Horizons – Conflict & Change" and will look at how the conflicts of our medieval past have shaped the world we live in today. This new gallery will replace the current "Early Industries" display on the museum's 3rd floor.

The new gallery will be based around real objects from the Copeland Museum Collection. It will have a strong interactive element and focus on what life was like in Cumberland during medieval times. The gallery itself will be presented to look like the interior of a medieval castle, inspired by Egremont Castle, and will include its very own stained glass window. The flooring will incorporate a design taken from a medieval flooring tile that is in the museum collection found at Ravenglass. The gallery will also include medieval folklore, including the famous story of The Horn of Egremont.

Some of the interactive elements will include Build your own Gosforth cross. This will be a

replica Viking cross, modelled exactly on the stone cross that stands in the church yard of St Mary's Church, Gosforth and a Feudal Pyramid puzzle whereby visitors build a pyramid in illustrated wooden blocks which depict the feudal hierarchy that existed during medieval times. There will also be a model of an Anglo-Saxon warrior, complete with armour.

The aim of the gallery is create a clearer understanding and behaviour of how people see themselves today in modern society through the changes and impact from pre medieval times through to the late medieval period. The raiders and settlers, the attitudes of different cultures and religion, the change in dialect and language.

Beacon Manager Sue Palmer said "The really good thing about the new gallery is that it's the second new display that we've funded internally. A sinking fund was set up as part of The Beacon redevelopment grant conditions in 2007 and so it has been collecting any surplus income that we've been generating since then. These funds can only be used to enhance and refresh the Beacon's galleries. Early this year we were able to use some of the funds to create the Popular Culture gallery and we'll be doing the same again, opening the new Medieval Gallery in time for February half term school holidays 2012".

Claire Winter-Moore
Marketing & Promotions Officer

Claire also supplied a flyer for The Beacon's Christmas selling exhibition of art and crafts, in the Harbour Gallery from 12 November to 8 January, with free entry. *Editor*

History of Kirkby Group

Secretary Pen. McPherson reported that the History of Kirkby Group have been lent some old copies of the Church Magazine for transcription. The sample article she provided (about the local celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee) reminded me what a valuable source of really local information old parish magazines can be. I would urge all members to take a close look at their own parish magazines, to see what they reveal about local individuals and institutions. *Editor*

THE LAKE DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

The theme of the 10th Lake District Archaeology Conference, held at Keswick on 30 October, was "Surveying the High Ground," in celebration of the (almost-) completion of a project begun in 1982, to make a detailed survey of the Lake District's richest ancient landscapes. Rachel Newman of Oxford Archaeology North, the lead provider for the project, reported that 10,300 separate ancient features had been recorded, using Total Station surveying (no GPS in 1982!) with photography and detailed annotation. 98% of those features were cairns, most of which were probably created during clearance of the primeval forest. However, there are clear variations among the cairns, including some enlarged versions in locations with particularly attractive views, which were probably for funerary purposes. Another category of structure, stone banks, probably results from the combination of material from numerous cairns. Rachel also reported on the recognition of increasing numbers of platform sites, presumably once occupied by timber structures, and "burnt mounds".

Rachel's colleague Jamie Quartermaine then began to put the Lake District findings in a wider context by a comparison with finds in Snowdonia. Cairns are much rarer there, grouped in dozens rather than hundreds (Jamie clarified the "forest clearance" theory at this point, with reference to the Barnscar area west of Devoke Water, where excavation showed most of the cairns were created by piling stones in depressions in the ground, probably the sites of deracinated mature trees; analysis found that pollen beneath the stones was more likely to contain woodland varieties). Both Lakeland and Snowdonia have remains of prehistoric roundhouses, but overall, only the eastern fringe of the Lake District has much in common with the ancient landscape of North Wales. Jamie pointed to Skipwith Common in Yorkshire as an example of a particular type of settlement development where the fringes of otherwise unusable wetland nearby became burial sites. In western Lakeland, it seemed that population pressure had forced the abandonment of such distinctions, so that

in areas such as Burnmoor, farmland eventually encroached on sacred areas. Overall, a greater incidence of migration inland from the coast seems to be the key to the difference between the prehistoric landscapes of Lakeland and Snowdonia. In Cumbria, population pressure forced such migration back in the Stone Age, but in Snowdonia it did not occur to a significant extent until the Roman era, by which time land clearance techniques were more sophisticated than simply dumping unwanted stones into the holes left by removal of unwanted trees.

Archaeological consultant Phil Newman then extended the comparison to the famous ancient remains on Dartmoor, where structures such as dolmens began to appear around the 4th millennium BC, stone circles and rows somewhat later, in the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age. Some 4000 round house remains have been identified on Dartmoor; from about 2 to 14 metres in diameter, typically with two concentric walls, intended to have insulating infill between them. Finds of cooking pots associated with hut remains have been dated to around 1800 BC. The huts tend to be found within enclosures, which are often agglomerated so that one large enclosure is formed from several small ones. By the early Iron Age, the upland population was decreasing, and impressive forts were developing on high promontories around the edge of the moor- impressive, that is, from the direction of the main approach, but often rather perfunctory on their other sides.

John Hodgson of the Lake District National Park spoke next, about the experience of using the new survey data. The survey had been linked to English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme, and resulted in the designation of significantly larger areas as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In practical terms, it also became easier to formulate strategies for the management of different areas. John gave the example of the stone axe "factories" around the Langdale Pikes and the Scafell range, where a negotiated reduction of sheep numbers allowed the increase of stabilising vegetation (although at Langdale in particular, more needs to be done to minimise the effects of human visi-

tors). Overall, there is a continuing struggle: 46 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the district are better placed for long-term survival in 2011 than they were five years earlier, but the number of "high risk" sites has increased over the same period. The greatest threat is bracken, the roots of which slowly tear up the ground over huge areas; at key sites such as Barnscar, this has been treated by helicopter spraying of weedkiller, but an EU ban relating to the chemical being used means that alternative approaches such as cattle grazing are being tried. Volunteers are also being used for "bracken bashing" in addition to their valuable work on large-scale surveying projects such as the Duddon and Lorton schemes. Overall, just 30% of the Lake District has been surveyed in detail by the various efforts since 1982, but lottery funding should permit more surveys combining local volunteer initiative with professional guidance.

The final comparative example was presented by Peter Topping of English Heritage, with the help of some superb aerial photographs. Tim Gates, heritage officer for Northumberland, had recognised that developments such as grants and tax breaks for forestry would pose a major threat to archaeological sites throughout the county, so he made a determined effort to identify as many sites as possible. Although there had been a strong archaeological interest in the area since the 19th-century, when the Duke of Northumberland commissioned surveys of sites such as Yeavinger Bell, the new photographic survey, conducted in stages at the end of each winter from 1984 to 1989, revealed an astonishing richness of ancient features. As on Dartmoor, Northumberland has a concentration of forts around the edge of the Cheviots. Peter focused on an area at Wether Hill to show more detailed similarities with Dartmoor- a promontory fort which shows real strength only when viewed from the main approach route, and which grew by stages over a long period, from humble beginnings as a cluster of houses round a cairn.

Overall, the conference was a most informative and interesting day, attracting an audience of around 300 to the Theatre by the Lake.

Editor

Centre for North-West Regional Studies

Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History: Sources and Approaches – 12-months part-time

This online course aims to stimulate awareness of the role of local and regional studies in our understanding of Britain's past. It explores different experiences across England and Wales in the century and a half before 1914, a period during which parts of the country were transformed from a largely rural economy to an urban, industrial powerhouse while others stagnated or declined, and discusses ways in which these developments affected people's work, home life and values. It introduces students to historians' changing interpretations of these tumultuous years, and some of the major sources which enable you to explore them further for yourself.

The course consists of two taught modules and an independent research project. In the taught modules you will be guided through some of the key literature on social, economic and political changes and some of the sources available to explore the topics further. You will have access to an extensive collection of e-books and articles in academic journals through the subscriptions services taken out by Lancaster University Library. The Library's subscription also provides access to a wide range of searchable original sources, such as Eighteenth-Century Collections Online which contains the text of over 200,000 books; 19th Century British Library Newspapers – 2 million pages from 49 newspapers; House of Commons Parliamentary Papers which document virtually every aspect of British life: poor law, child labour, infant mortality, drunkenness, horse racing, etc.; and much more.

The course runs from October to mid-September, with breaks between modules. The course is delivered through a virtual learning environment (VLE) which contains all the course documentation, links to books, articles and sources, spreadsheets and databases, web links, discussion space, and a personal learning log. It can be accessed 24/7.

The course author is Dr Michael Winstanley, who has experience of teaching regional and local history for over 30 years and was previously co-director of the Postgraduate Diploma and MA in Local and Regional History at Lancaster University. His publications include studies of farming and rural society, working children, the factory labour force, housing, policing, 19th-century local government, politics and the practice of History.

The standard entry requirement is a good honours degree in History or a related subject. We will also consider applicants with other qualifications who can demonstrate a proven interest in local/regional history.

For further details please contact:

Dr Sam Riches, Co-ordinator, Centre for North-West Regional Studies
sam.riches@lancaster.ac.uk

Cumbria Archive Service

Forthcoming opportunity to help shape the future of the service

Many members of CLHF undertake research in the Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centres in Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal and Whitehaven, and some help us out as volunteers. We appreciate everyone's interest and support, and would like as many people as possible to have their say about the future of the Archive Service in Cumbria. You may remember that this time last year, Cumbria County Council undertook a major public consultation exercise about its future priorities after the Comprehensive Spending Review earmarked a 28% reduction in local government finance. Taking account of the public response, the Council decided to defer decisions on the future of archive and library services to carry out more thorough reviews of the services, and more extensive consultation with the public.

Apart from the importance of providing sustainable services, there are a number of other reasons why now is a good time to be asking how we should operate in the future and whether there are ways we could improve. User expectations are changing. More people are accessing information about archives, and digital images of documents, on-line, and there

is an expectation that archive services will improve their 24/7 services. The service faces major challenges to improving the accessibility of the archive collections through reducing its backlogs of cataloguing and preservation work. We also know that many people (particularly young people) access the Archive Service via our outreach services and it is important to continue to develop these services. In a nutshell, the Archive Service needs to assess how it continues to provide the best possible front-line services, whilst improving its capacity to catalogue, preserve and digitise records for the public benefit – all in a financially challenging environment. We would like your help in determining the way forward.

We will shortly be organising some more in-depth consultation about these issues, and will be contacting CLHF, other groups and individuals to take part so that we can understand your requirements. Please watch out for further information in the Bulletin, or in the Archive Centres. Alternatively, please let me know if you would like us to contact you directly to get involved.

Anne Rowe, Archive Service Manager
anne.rowe@cumbria.gov.uk

Victoria County History

The Cumbria County History Trust held its second AGM on 19 November at Rheged. From the Chair, Bryan Gray reported that the project is financially healthy, and paying Lancaster University for the services of Director Angus Winchester, and part-time Volunteer Co-ordinator Sarah Rose. Good progress is being made with the planning for the volunteer training programme due to start in December, and with the website (well worth a look for CLHF members; among recent additions are guides to information sources on Cumbrian religious history, and manors & estates). The retiring Treasurer, Rob Matthews, gave further details on the financial position, including the good news that arrangements have been finalised for Gift Aid on membership subscriptions. Presentations from Angus Winchester and Margaret Gowling, volunteer team leader for Brough-under-Stainmoor, illustrated project progress.

Cumbrian Railways Association The CRA in 2011

Peter van Zeller describes the remains of the old granite crushing plant at Murthwaite, R&ER



The Cumbrian Railways Association has developed a presence both within the county and outside in recent years and 2011 has seen things go from good to great. The regular events in the Association's calendar are our two Member's Meetings and Field Trips, now developed to give members a good weekend's entertainment in Cumbria and attracting members from across the UK and occasionally overseas. March 2011 saw our AGM and Spring meeting at the Wave Centre at Maryport, our first visit there for over thirty years. Having been sat indoors with glorious sunshine outside, it was ironic that our Field Trip on the following day the weather gave participants a good West Cumberland drenching: Philip Ashforth gave the hardy participants a guided walk along the old Whitehaven, Cleator & Egremont Railway from Moor Row to Rowrah. A further Field Trip followed in June: a visit to the Boltonfell peat works railway, followed by examination of the remaining indications of the old Brampton Town station and the short walk along the long-closed trackbed up to Brampton Junction. More recently, our November meeting was held at our traditional venue in Bowness, followed by a Field Trip to Ravenglass where Peter van Zeller gave a guided tour of Ravenglass station, the old railway remains at Boot and the remains of Murthwaite stone crusher.

West. This proves a useful link both with members who cannot get to our Meetings and Field Trips and with the public who may have an interest in the railways of the county: potential new members.

The other highlight of the year has been the publication of our latest book, "A CUMBRIAN RAILWAY ALBUM from the cameras of Ian and Alan Pearsall". Many CLHF members may be familiar with the works on Lake District Natural History of Professor WH Pearsall, but his sons also had an interest in the beauty of the county from a somewhat different angle. This book, our first Hardback, is a good demonstration of how a society can pull a team together and produce something worthwhile, based on their assets. As well as myself supplying captions, the team also included our Archivist providing photographic editing skills, a member of our Publications team computer aided drawing skills, to produce the maps, as well as the Association's Editor laying out the finished work and liaising with the Printers. A little bit of detective work to recognise places in times past helped too. Thanks to the good publicity in the local and specialist press, arranged by our Publicity Officer and the organisational skills of our Sales Officer, of the 2000 copies were produced, with a third already in the shops, if not on bookshelves.

In summary it has been a busy but extremely fruitful year for the Cumbrian Railways Association and we are looking forward to 2012 being as good if not better!

*Les Gilpin, Chairman
(text and pictures)*



Peter van Zeller describes the refurbishment of Bassett-Lowke loco 'Synolda' at Ravenglass

Book Review

Surveying the High Ground: The Lake District National Park Survey

Lancaster Imprints 19
Published for Oxford Archaeology North, 2011
Approx. A4, colour throughout. £25



Results of the survey of the Lake District's key upland archaeological landscapes, begun in 1983 (and noted in our report of this year's Archaeology Conference) are available via the online Lake District Historic Environment Record. However, that resource is designed to provide details of individual monuments.

What this new and lavish book (to be published around the end of 2011) does in its several hundred large-format pages is to put those 10,300 ancient features into context, providing both a detailed atlas- which really benefits from high-quality modern colour printing- and a series of essays with many photographs, interpreting the landscapes.

Although it covers a relatively small percentage of the National Park area, this book will be essential for anybody seeking a deeper understanding of areas like the eerie cairn-dotted moorland round the famous "City of Barnscar".

Cumbria Local History Federation 2011 Conference report

I had planned to ask our outgoing Secretary, as a final favour, to write a report of the CLHF Conference at Higham Hall. However, as we don't have a new Secretary, I decided I might need other favours instead, so the report must wait. To volunteer for the post of secretary (we don't expect you to write that report!) please contact Jenni Lister, as seen in the list below.

CLHF CONTACTS

**Chair &
general contact**

Jenni Lister

jenni.lister@cumbriacc.gov.uk
016973 32907

Bulletin Editor

David Bradbury

pastpresented@tesco.net
01946 591524

Secretary

VACANT

**Membership Sec.
& Events Diary**

Valerie Halsall

vhalsall@ktdbroadband.com
01768 898046