



# Cumbria Local History Federation

*Bulletin 76 – Spring 2018*



An Ulverston Bank – See David Fellows article on page 6

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## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT [No 4]**

Since the end of last summer members of your Committee have been out and about in the county seeking feedback from our constituents. My first task is to thank all those members of local groups who have been helping us to review our operations and lay plans for the future. Our deliberations over the results of our visits began at a recent Committee Meeting and are as yet incomplete. But we found the exercise extremely useful and I'm glad to be able to share some matters with you right now.

We want our members to experience regional facilities with which they are currently unfamiliar. So we plan to offer three museum visits in Cumbria between now and the year end, and we also have a major Library visit in mind – both as part of a continuing series. Certain groups requested specific advice about Data Protection Issues in the light of pending legislation, and about opportunities for obtaining grants to further their work. Once we have formulated this we will make it available in the Bulletin and on the website. Given the demise of certain courses at Lancaster University, there is a demand for training in facets of local history. After deciding on priorities and feasibility, we will endeavour to commission individuals skilled in delivering such training. We are looking carefully at possible ways of further developing our *Bulletin*. For the future, as in this issue, we will be publishing reviews, especially of works of particular significance for local historians. We want to provide value for money in whatever we do. So we

will keep any costs to our members as low as possible, and seek alternative income as we expand the services we offer.

One other matter. Richard Brockington and I recently held discussions with two senior representatives of CWAAS. We are two very different and independent organisations: but we have various interests in common and we will continue to explore them together, to everyone's benefit.

I should be glad to hear from you about any or all of this.

Peter Roebuck,

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## **CLHF Members News.**

**Bernard Bradbury Memorial  
Lecture 2017 – delivered by  
Eric Cass.**

**Cockermouth's relationship  
with the railways**

Medieval Cockermouth is visible to us not only in maps or via Google Earth, but in what we see around us as we walk along Main Street or down South Street to the river. The bowed shape of Main Street and the many narrow passageways leading off it toward the Derwent were visible to people 800 years ago, as was the gentle slope down to the Cocker from South Street's junction with Station Street. We have to look much harder for traces of the railway which served this part of West Cumbria until 50 or so years ago. Dog walkers and children on their way to school pass along the old railway line

beside the cemetery, but before long new housing will obliterate the section which led on to Embleton and from there to Bassenthwaite, Braithwaite, Keswick and beyond.



Cockermouth Station early 1900's and after closure in 1966. Images from Eric Cass.

Similarly, while the site of the old railway station is still just about detectable near the building that used to have fire engines in it, before long even its fading footprint will have vanished, covered over by the new Lidl supermarket the town can expect in the next year or two. Nevertheless, railways and their contribution to the economic and social life of communities are still compelling story tellers. Eric Cass gave his audience proof of this in the 6th Bradbury Memorial Lecture on 13th October at the Kirkgate Centre.

Knowledgeable and very obviously in love with his subject, he took his audience through the conception, planning and construction of the railways which brought West Cumbria,

and particularly Cockermouth, up to speed with the country's industrial revolution in the middle of the nineteenth century. The incentives were very great - the economy could profit from local mining, mainly of coal and limestone, exporting them south via the Penrith to Euston line and east to the industrial cities across the Pennines. Fortunes were made, and lives enhanced as the passenger traffic grew, taking people to work and providing them with opportunities for travel. Morecambe was an especially popular destination for family days out. The trains would also bring tourists and their spending power direct from London on the handsome Lakes Express.

The engineering was immensely complex. There were eleven bridges across the Derwent and its tributaries along the eight and a half mile route from Workington to Cockermouth and very severe gradients to contend with in the journey from Keswick to Penrith. Motorists today using the A66 alongside Bassenthwaite Lake would recognise the prolonged difficulties they had then in making the railway safe in that part of the journey to Keswick. (It was very prone to flooding and alarmingly unstable.) Initial plans would have seen the route follow the north-eastern side of the lake, but these were vetoed by the landowner's immovable opposition. He did not wish to have his lifestyle disturbed.

A very large part of the lecture's appeal lay in the sense it gave us of Cockermouth's physical history. Railways were - to use the jargon of the post dotcom era - disruptive. The first station, on the site of the Lakes retail park, was replaced by a newer, much

more imposing one above the town to allow better access to the Keswick line and provide facilities in keeping with an ambitious town's self-respect - the new station provided refreshments and a First Class Ladies' waiting room. One unfortunate homeowner on Main Street had his home demolished to make way for access to it via Station Street but the town, with its smart, handsome new station probably thought it a sacrifice worth making now that the journey to Keswick and Penrith was so much easier. For railways were an embodiment of Victorian optimism, as well as a tangible sign of its ingenuity and capacity for innovation. Many in the audience responded to the lecture's final slide - a photograph of the forlorn remnants of Cockermouth's railway station in 1966 after its closure - with a sense that something had been lost, perhaps that the confident optimism which brought the railway into being had gone with it.

Tim Stanley-Clamp.

Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS.

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## Brampton Local History Group

### An Introduction

Brampton Local History Group has now been going for 12 years. We meet each month September to May in the Community Centre at Brampton and have an average attendance of 35 at our meetings. Our main interests are - not surprisingly local history; particularly of North Cumbria and the Scottish Borders but also including the wider Cumbrian and Northumbrian counties.

Research that we have completed is: Publication: "Life in Brampton with 63 Public Houses" which identifies where each of the public houses were and what is there now, but more importantly the social history and impact upon the community of so many pubs, the introduction of the Temperance Movement and the amusing and scandalous stories of the events which took place.

Our current research now completed and ready for the publisher is

1. "Life in Brampton with Lizzie the Witch" which includes detail of witchcraft throughout Cumbria;
  2. "The Battle of Hellbeck" which collects together for the first time most of the archival information of this battle and tells the story of duplicity, betrayal, espionage and Tudor warfare tactics.
  3. "Life in Brampton with a Dandy" which tells the history of why Brampton does not have a railway station but was given a horse drawn service instead
  4. "Life in Tindale with the Spelter works " explores the impact upon a remote village of the influx of 400 workers and an ore smelting plant to produce zinc in the Victorian period
- Our on-going research is: "Life in Brampton with a hospital", "Life in Brampton with a Moot Hall" and "Life in Brampton with 104 shops"

David Moorat

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## Newland Furnace Trust

### Archaeological Investigation of the Furnace Blowing Chamber Floor

In an earlier Bulletin we said we would report on the results so far of the Trusts investigation of the Blowing Chamber and Furnace Stack floors.

Prior to starting the work there was no indication of where the floors of the Blowing Chamber and Furnace Stack should be and we wanted to find out. Informal discussions were held with Historic England who were supportive of the work, with the proviso that the project was supervised by a professional archaeologist. Greenlane Archaeology agreed to do this work and show us the proper procedure for the project. A successful scheduled monument consent application subsequently gave permission to dig a number of test pits.

The path was now clear to set a date for the work and 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November were chosen to dig. Word was put out for volunteers and thankfully seven people armed with picks and shovels turned up bright and breezy at nine o'clock on the Friday morning.

Plots (1m<sup>2</sup>) were marked out and the digging and surveying began. The excavated material was put into one ton bags.

After two days of hard labour this is what we found.

#### Pit 1

Against the back wall of the blowing chamber showed that the wall is built on bedrock but the bedrock then falls away steeply. A clay pipe, glass, pottery, metal objects and pieces of wood were found. These and other finds are being

dated and identified by Dan Elsworth (Greenlane Archaeology)

#### Pit 3

Investigated a crudely built wall across the blowing arch. It was agreed that this was of a late date and probably not archaeologically significant.

#### Pit 5

This was dug to find the other end of the wall in Pit three but no sign of the wall was found despite digging to a considerable depth.

#### Pit 6

This was dug in the centre of the stack in the hope of finding the hearth. There was no hearth and the hearthstone had been removed. Beneath a layer of hard packed sand there was the remains of a vent which protected the furnace from water ingress.

#### Pits 2, 4 and 7

These were all dug in line with the now missing waterwheel axle. Pit 2 was against the internal bearing blocks and was through 15cm of clay and then at least 60cm of slag in various forms. Underneath this were large stone blocks but nothing that made sense i.e. no floor could be found. Pit 4 was dug 1 meter further south from and in line with Pit 2. This was chosen because big stones protruded next to the internal buttresses. This again had a layer of clay and slag but revealed fire bricks and building bricks which made interesting shapes but no sense. Further down we eventually found huge flat worked blocks with hold-down bolts protruding but also a vertical block. At this point it was decided to join the two pits together (Pit 7) and this showed that the flat blocks continued through Pit 7 just below the floor in Pit 2.

Throughout the dig Dan Elsworth constantly took measurements and made a laser survey of the many levels



exposed.

Following the dig we met with Andrew Davison of Historic England to show him what we found and he agreed that further excavation of the Pits 2,4 and 7 could take place.

At the December work meet Pits 3, 5 and 6 were backfilled with their original spoil. This is a requirement of the scheduled monument consent for the dig.

Excavation of Pits 2, 4 and 7 has since been continued and the exposed area is shown below. We believe this shows part of the original floor with the hold down bolts for the blowing cylinders.

What happens next?

We await the completion of the Greenlane Archaeology report and then plan to have further discussions with Historic England about further excavation work with a view to leaving the resulting area on show.

David Robson

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## Ulverston Or...The Changing Face of our Towns

Back in the early eighties I'd come to love my adopted town, Ulverston with its interesting street patterns and a wide range of buildings in many styles, dating back over three centuries. I was encouraged to put together a set of slides to aid student teachers' awareness of the interesting clues and stories that the details in the buildings could tell. Many of the most imposing buildings dated back to the Georgian period when the height of luxury was to have a town house where one could come in from the rural surrounding and enjoy a winter season with theatres and the warmth of company. Then there were the mills that followed the route of the beck through the town, little shops and larger ones supplying everything one needed and the four big banks indicating the size and relative importance of our town as a commercial hub.

The coming of Asda to Barrow in the mid seventies was a marker of the changes in shopping habits to come. Cheaper petrol at the supermarket and more families with cars meant it was cheaper to travel in to Barrow than shop in Ulverston. There was even a slight gain in time as a week's shopping could be done under one roof rather than going from shop to shop. Now, again, we are watching another major change gathering pace. We also got used to collecting our spending money from an ATM rather than queuing up in the bank or building society.

In my slide show the four major banks have prominent position. All have many

distinguishing features. Two, NatWest and Lloyds, are constructed with local limestone, one, HSBC, with a yellower, probably Capernwray sandstone and Barclays with red probably St Bees or perhaps Hawcoat sandstone. All are relatively large imposing buildings. Lloyds is topped off with the town clock and lettering over its entrance porch stating "BANK FOR SAVINGS" hinting back to its more humbling origins. The HSBC previously MIDLAND and the NatWest both have the word "BANK" boldly topping out their frontage emphasising the solidity of their premises and to assure investors of the safety of their money. Barclays is also substantial but with a very individual rather ornate exterior, a mixture of Dutch gable ends and tall Elizabethan chimneys. Less obvious but of special interest to me is a little carving of a bird, the rather special one, the Liver Bird. The owners at the time of construction were the Liverpool Bank, "Martins" which was the bank my father had his wages paid into, itself a sign that he had moved up the social ladder!



In the last few months NatWest and HSBC have both closed and foot traffic into the other two has declined. In several towns banks have been converted into Wetherspoon eateries but there must be a limit to the uses that banks can be converted into

especially as they are such significant buildings that will require deep pockets.

We can't be surprised for nearly all our family banking is done on line and with the rapid roll out of contactless cards even ATMs for paper cash are losing some trade. Our elegant main 1914 Post Office is also in danger of being moved into smaller premises to cut costs. So, at least let's be aware of what's happening, record what we've enjoyed and consider what we most want our towns of the future to offer us.

David Fellows  
North Lonsdale History Society,  
Ulverston

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## The Greenwood Inheritance Cartmel Fell to Grange over Sands.

We had lived on Cartmel Fell for nearly thirty years and were very involved in its local history. We knew that a Miss Lucie Carr was the landlady of several farms in the district and that she had visited her tenants on an annual basis until she was extremely old, chauffeured by her agent.

As we were about to move to Grange over Sands, our neighbour, who had been able to purchase their farm when Miss Carr died said to us "You knew that Miss Carr owned your cottage too did you?" We did not, and so began the detective work.

I checked Lucie on the 1911 census and found that she was the daughter of the curate of Newlands near Keswick, who

was born of a Yorkshire farming family, but her mother Alice, nee Greenwood, had roots in Cartmel Fell and through the default of male heirs, Alice inherited a number of properties, three in Cartmel Fell, three in Grange and others on Walney Island, including the golf course. There must be a connection between the Greenwoods of Carmel Fell and Witherslack and those of Walney but it has been hard to trace.

Alice's grandmother, Susannah Greenwood of Cartmel Fell did not need to change her surname when she married William of Walney Island in June 1821 at Cartmel Fell. The couple then settled in North Scales, Walney where there is a house called Turner Hill, an echo of a Susannah's uncle's property in Witherslack.

Alice Carr, born in 1862 was the daughter of Robert Greenwood who had been born in Walney in 1822. After his marriage, he lived in Lancaster where Alice was educated, but she sometimes stayed with her Aunt Mary in Rose Cottage, Grange. Mary, Robert's only sibling was born in 1826 and never married. She lived here in Grange after parents died with her cousin Elizabeth Kinnish, and also owned the adjoining Fern Cottage, which is very much older.

The puzzle is whether Mary Greenwood actually built Rose Cottage or if her father William did. It is grade two listed and has pretensions of grandeur, with marble fireplaces in all the front rooms and a row of bells for servants in what was the kitchen. This, all in a tiny dolls house of a cottage, four up and four down. Whilst searching for clues as to

the age of Rose Cottage, I came across the plans drawn up for a small two storey wing at the back, dated 1891. This was to accommodate the latest amenity, a W.C. upstairs but no bath and a sort of scullery underneath. I imagine that this was perhaps when mains water and drainage came to Grange. Miss Greenwood also installed a W. C. in Fern cottage for her tenant, Mrs. Just.

We still have no date for Rose Cottage as we only have abstract of title going back to Miss Greenwood's death in 1906, probably because none of the family's holdings had ever been sold before. Lucie, the heiress to so many valuable properties was the little Lucie, heroine of the Tale of Mrs.

Tiggywinkle, and the farm which Beatrix Potter painted was at Newlands where Lucie was born in 1900. She died aged 102 in Oxford, where her father later in his career became promoted to canon.

Jennifer Forsyth

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## Cartmel Peninsula LHS William Fields's Log Book.

In 2013 the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society acquired a handwritten book entitled 'A Copy of the Late William Fields Log Book' that records events in the area between 1754 and the 1890s. The book is very delicate and we decided to transcribe the entries to preserve them. The initial entries are one line per year from 1754 to 1780; between 1780-1788 the entries expand to 2 lines; 1788-1810 there are several entries per month.

These have been copied from an earlier book written by William Field who died in 1810. In 1810 the handwriting changes and the style of the entries change as another member of the family continues to use the book. The entries become more narrative but do not record events regularly. However by 1824 they return to factual, concise entries for several dates per month. Events included some marriages and deaths, alterations to properties, journeys undertaken by the writer, results of sales of land and estates, trials, weather events and news items about the area. Some years have more entries than others. From 1858-1869 there are very few entries. The next entry, in a different handwriting, is for 1869. Another writer began recording information in September 1870 when a near daily diary was upto the early 1890s.

The content of the later diary does include a lot of local births, marriages and deaths but there is much interesting detail about visitors, family matters and outings. Weather reports also feature extensively. The book also contains a few newspaper cuttings for 1879, the 1880s and 1890s. No emotion or comments are expressed in the entries, they are purely factual.

James Stockdale in his book *Annals of Cartmel* paid tribute to William Field following his death in 1860, at the age of 90, and described him as the 'father of Cartmel'. Amongst his many roles according to Stockdale

*'He was grocer, ironmonger, tallow chandler, high constable, bridge*

*master, post master, stamp distributor, savings bank clerk and treasurer, manager of the parish charities, vestry clerk, clerk and writer at all sales, will maker, lease and agreement maker, general arbitrator, trustee under numerous wills, and agent for five of the principal owners of estates in the parish. He was an excellent antiquarian and numismatist, and so to him we owe the preservation of what remains of the ancient Headless Cross and several of the other still remaining antiquities of the parish.'*

We think he was the copier and keeper of the log book between 1810 and the entries upto 1858.

The people who have transcribed it all consider that it is a gem that must be made available to a wider audience and we are discussing how to make this happen. Our current thoughts are to make a digitised version available online for researchers to use and produce themed booklets which will contain researched information suggested by entries in the book.

Pat Rowland

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## Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group Report 2017.

As we approach the start of the fifth year since our foundation, it is time to review what we have achieved. Membership has grown from the thirty original members to over 160. The subscription has remained unchanged, at £10 for an individual, and we propose to keep the same rate for the next year

at least. We are maintaining an annual programme of monthly events, all of which have been well subscribed up to the present. There has been one exception in the first year, and that was a trip outside Cumbria, which did not raise enough interest. Since then, members have been braver, and ventured over the borders, this year, even into Scotland, to join with the Scottish Vernacular buildings Working Group, to look at bastle sites, visit Biggar museum and have tea at the home of two of our Scottish members, Charles and May Mc Kerrell. We are planning another visit outside the county for 2018. This will help to compare and contrast Cumbria's buildings with those in another region. In addition to the quarterly paper newsletter and the e mail updates in between, our members have received copies of the first Occasional Paper (Yanwath Hall, by peter Messenger and Mike Turner), a calendar for 2017 and a bibliography of Brunskill's publications, prepared by CWAAS for a joint study day held with them last year.

We would like more members from the south west of Cumbria – Furness and the coast. We know that there are vernacular treasures to be seen in that area. To raise awareness and interest we hope to include sessions at the archive centres in Barrow and Whitehaven, as well as at Carlisle and Kendal. They will concentrate on using documents to research house history, and will take place in January and February. We have decided that it is too cold to continue with site visits for recording purposes at that time of year. Apart from that change, the annual programme of monthly events will carry on as usual, with study days, workshops and visits to individual buildings and

villages. If you are interested in joining, either for professional reasons or general interest, then take a look at our website, [www.cvbgb.co.uk](http://www.cvbgb.co.uk)



Swarthmoor Hall – Mike Turner

If you or your society would like a talk from one of our committee, or would like to use our display panels at one of your meetings or exhibitions, please ask.

June Hill, Chairman.

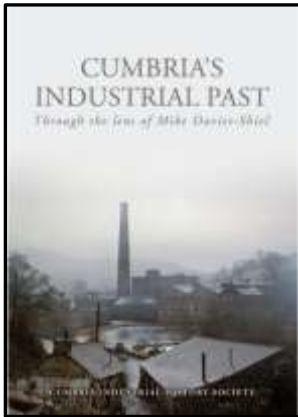
### Membership Fees 2018

If you have not renewed your membership for 2018 please do so as soon as possible if you wish to continue receiving the Bulletin. If you have any membership questions please contact Liz on [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)

### Local History Books Cumbria's Industrial Past through the Lens of Mike Davies-Shiel,

Currently economic history seems to have fallen out of favour and become less fashionable than was once the case. For a half century after the Second World War the opposite was

the case. Then the subject enjoyed a golden age when many fundamental works, still regarded as authoritative, were produced. These included studies of the major British industries – cotton, wool, coal, iron and steel, and shipbuilding. Simultaneously, there was fundamental research on agriculture which, apart from individual works, eventually appeared in the multi-volume *Agrarian History of England and Wales*; and there were studies of the services – among others, banking, insurance, shipping and retailing. In due course there followed a plethora of books on the process of industrialisation and economic development from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.



One criticism which might justifiably be levelled at the literature on industrial history is that, by dealing so authoritatively with the giants, it tended to neglect the sheer variety of other industrial processes. Not one branch of manufacturing, however arcane, escaped the influences of the forces of change. This book goes a long way towards remedying this deficiency

as far as Cumbria is concerned and is welcome for this alone. In addition to dealing with Mining, Textiles, Iron and Steel and Transport, it also covers Quarrying, Water Power, Corn Milling and Brewing, Snuff and Woodland and Associated Industries, including Coppicing, Basket-Making, Clog-Making, Bobbin Mills and Wood Turning, Brush-Making, Tanning, and Charcoal. It demonstrates that revolutionary change permeated the whole of Cumbrian industrial life; reveals stages of the process whereby this occurred; and, most valuably, outlines the diversification which occurred when competition made some processes unprofitable.

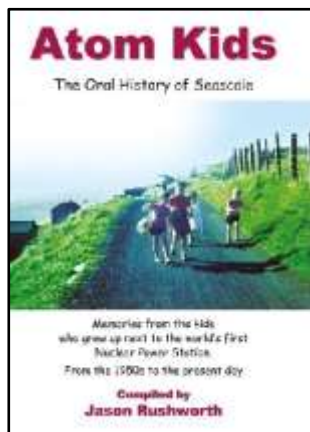
The book is beautifully made and sumptuously illustrated, the A4 size providing a perfect vehicle for a careful selection of some of Davis-Shiel's magnificent coloured photographs. Mike left around 20,000 slides and negatives, some 18,000 of which have been digitised. There are clear instructions here as to how these can be accessed.

The book is not cheap. Nor, in view of its physical quality, could it have been. The Industrial History Society must be congratulated on publishing a work which deserves to be on the shelves of anyone seriously interested in Cumbria's past. If you cannot afford it, get someone to give it to you for Christmas, an anniversary or your birthday! Cumbria Industrial History Society, 2017, 128pp, £25 + £5 p & p payable to CIHS-MDS Project.

Peter Roebuck

[This book is also on sale at Suttons in Ulverston, Heaths in Barrow, Holdsworths in Ambleside, and Bookends in Carlisle]

## Atom Kids compiled by Jason Rushworth



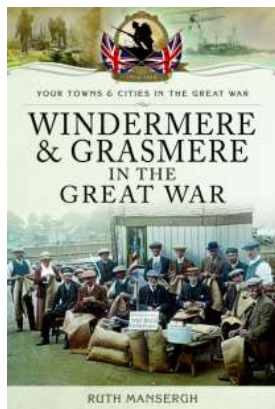
Writer and Broadcaster Jason Rushworth, has published Atom Kids, an oral history compiled from the Seascale Primary School reunion Facebook page, the first book of its kind anywhere to be made up of 100% social media contributions. For details see [www.jasonrushworth.com](http://www.jasonrushworth.com)

*Thank you to Mike Warhurst for bringing this unique book to my attention. Ed.*

## Windermere and Grasmere in the Great War by Ruth Mansergh

This account is of these Lake District town's fascinating contributions to the Great War effort from the outbreak of war in 1914, to the long-awaited Allied victory in 1918. The book is designed to be accessible to all, and for this reason

it includes the history of the South Lakes area of Cumbria, where the scarcity of visitors was felt during the Great War



Interesting stories include Lake Windermere's setting as a watery runway, rumours that a German airship was operating from a secret base near Grasmere, the double life of Arthur Ransome, and Cumberland Wrestling's post-war boom. (Description from [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk))

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## Help Requested.

*If you can help with these requests please reply direct or through me. Thank you. Editor.*

**The Melbourne Womans Walking Group** have contacted CLHF asking if we could, during their Coast to Coast walk in June 2018, provide a speaker to talk on the areas they are walking through, suggesting that the Patterdale Hotel may be a suitable venue for such a talk. Can anyone help please? Editor.

**Stan Buck of Lamplugh says:** The attached picture is of a fallen door lintel at a derelict property in Lamplugh. This was called "Holedale" and is marked on the 1:25,000 OS map on the public footpath from the Dickinson Memorial Cottages through to Mockerkin. The map reference is NY 094 217.



As you can see the letters and date are in mirror writing - JBJ 1765(?) - and this is not a photographic error, it really was like that. The picture was taken several years ago so I don't know if it is still visible.

Several suggestions for this have been made, the most plausible perhaps that it was a pattern for raised lettering - but that would surely be unusual and would have been easier done in timber rather than stone?

Anyhow the questions are

1. Why is it like this
2. Are there any other examples?

Stan Buck  
Lamplugh & District Heritage Group.

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## Other News from our Members

Cumbria Industrial History Societies Spring Conference will be held at the North Lakes Hotel, Penrith on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018 with the theme of "Industry and

Society" looking at the impact of the nuclear industry, workers housing and alcohol regulation in Carlisle and district. Further information from [www.cumbria-industries.org.uk](http://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk)

## Local History Society Traditions; The Memorial Lecture

Traditionally local history groups and societies provide a programme of talks and trips (or lectures and outings) which both entertain and educate their members. The task of finding appropriate speakers and arranging lectures is in itself quite a task for the "volunteer" and they have my respect for doing this. But did you know that some groups go one step further and present a memorial lecture? The Cockermouth Civic Trust, Cockermouth Heritage Group and the Lorton and Derwent Fells LHS take turns to play a lead role in the organisation of The Bernard Bradbury Memorial Lecture.

Bernard Bradbury was local school teacher with an interest in local history and wrote "A History of Cockermouth" first published in 1981 and a number of other local history publications. The first lecture was held in 2006 when Professor Angus Winchester addressed a packed Kirkgate Centre on the subject of Medieval Cockermouth. The sixth lecture was held in October last year and a summary may be found in this Bulletin. I wish to thank Tim Stanley-Clamp for the summary and Sandra Shaw for the background to this memorial lecture. I wonder if any other society in Cumbria does anything similar. Please let me know.

Nigel Mills

## The 2018 CLHF Convention

**Saturday 6 October 2018**

**Newbiggin Village Hall, Stainton,  
Penrith [Free Parking]**

**9 am to 5 pm.**

**AGM 9.30 followed by Coffee.**

**Cost £12.00**

For this year's Convention we have invited four speakers who are involved with the project VCH, Cumbria, each of whom will present findings relating to the local communities which they have been studying, giving members a taste of some of the freshest local historical research. **Richard Brockington** will speak on 'KO is OK: Researching Kirkoswald, a former market township east of Eden; **Jane Penman** on 'The Pastures, Flocks and Pastures of Martindale'; **Jane Platt** on 'How to Write a Local History: Advice from the Revd. Thomas Machell of Kirkby Thorse'; and **Bill Shannon** on 'Researching Angerton Moss in the Duddon Valley'.

In each of the last two years tickets have sold very quickly, which is why we are publicising early: so book early to avoid disappointment.

## Reflections from the archives – complementing existing deposits?

In an era which has seen a reduction in the professional staffing of local record offices, the scope for hard-pressed archivists to undertake field work, to identify and survey records in the field

which might be acquired to supplement and complement existing deposits, is severely limited, such that all the help that interested individuals, local history societies, and community archives can give must be welcomed. Generally receiving over 200 new accessions a year since 2011, Carlisle Archive Centre is not untypical in receiving deposits which supplement and complement the principal classes of record one might expect to be deposited by local government, ecclesiastical and civil parishes, businesses, and solicitors. In the course of my work in listing more recent deposits, it has been heartening to alight on deposits which fill in gaps in one's knowledge as evidenced by the more official records.



Carlisle Archive Office

Complementing a fine series of catalogues and photographs of the many various cranes manufactured by Cowans Sheldon & Co. Ltd., Carlisle, a scrapbook deposited by a private individual throws light on the life of those who worked for the firm. In attending a local auction of antiquarian and other books, by chance I sat next to the successful bidder for a collection of receipted invoices and correspondence of the steward of the Musgrave of Edenhall estate, 1696 – 1894, which filled in gaps in the extensive sequence

of the correspondence in the estate's archives held by the archive centre which I had listed some years ago; generously, the purchaser agreed to the Archive Centre copying all these records. In another recent instance, a loan was made of an important series of letters from the Earl and Countess of Cumberland to the Earl of Shrewsbury in the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and also of the will (later cancelled) of Lady Anne Clifford, 1670, so that copies might be made for the archives.

The product of relatively short-lived community initiatives, the Cumwhitton Heritage Group deposited records relating to an educational charity as also records it had itself created in documenting the area's heritage; photographs, photocopies and notes relating to the history of Hesket Newmarket, compiled in 2000 – 06, were also deposited; and the written records and photographs produced by the Friends of St Michael's Church Stanwix Churchyard, 2002 – 10, provided vital information which otherwise would have been lost. In the instance of the Solway History Society (a member of CLHF), their deposit included two well captioned scrapbooks of press cuttings, photographs, sports and other programmes which the Headmaster of the Thomlinson Junior School, Wigton, compiled, 1959 – 80; though one might expect the deposit of the official records of a school to include admission registers and log books, such products as scrapbooks cannot be expected except as a result of a personal initiative and the hope that they may eventually be offered to a record office.

As the eyes and ears of local communities, conscious of their inheritance and keen to maintain it, such societies and individuals have a vital role to play, one recognised by the Federation as also by such bodies as the Community Archives and Heritage Group (itself now a Special Interest Group of the Archives and Records Association of the UK and Ireland) which offers advice and guidance supplementing that which can be given by local record offices. Though obviously record offices have to be selective in what they acquire, do let your local archive centre know if you are aware of records whose future might be endangered. As I have sadly found out, it is not always sufficient to record the existence of records in a particular location; a change in management (perhaps of a local charity or society) can sometimes lead to the loss or disposal of records without the local archive centre being aware or being contacted.

Adrian Allan

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## CLHF 2017 Convention

The 2017 CLHF AGM and Convention on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Here is the final summary of talks presented to the 90 plus delegates in attendance:

"David Jackson spoke on Swarthmoor Hall and the people who lived there. The hall is near Ulverston and was the home of Judge Thomas Fell and his wife formerly Margaret, their children and servants. The visit of George Fox in 1652 led to the conversion of Margaret

Fell and her daughters and a number of the servants to the Quaker faith some years after the death of Judge Fell his widow Margaret married George Fox. Dr Jackson had used taxation records subsidy rolls and hearth tax to determine a probable date for the hall being built up to the present size. This lead to a period from 1641 the last subsidy roll and 1662 the first hearth tax for the transformation from a fairly small house to the present size. The ability to put George Fox up in 1652 when there were seven children and four servants suggests a date before 1652 a date stone TF 1651 JA 1716 in the hall but not in its original position implies the expansion took place in 1651. So the hall is Cromwellian"

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## Cumbria County History Trust Victoria County History

This is the second short piece from a volunteer researcher I have decided to include in the Bulletin to recognise their contribution to local history and to encourage others to become a CCHT Volunteer:

### James Underwood of Cliburn

In Alan Bennett's comedy *The History Boys*, dim-witted Rudge cheekily dismisses history as "just one \*\*\*\*ing thing after another".

Shamefully I confess that, as a science-oriented medical student and then as a busy young doctor, my attitude to the past was similar to Rudge's. The clinical immediacy of the here-and-now was far more compelling than accounts of a bygone age. But later my interest in the

historical foundations of modern medicine grew strong, both in the arduous quest for effective new treatments and in the origins of often harmful practices based on ancient beliefs about disease.



After many years at the University of Sheffield as Professor of Pathology and latterly Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, in 2010 my wife and I moved to Cumbria. We live in a converted barn next to a derelict watermill beside the River Lyvennet in Cliburn parish. Curious about the mill's long history, I had already started researching it when June Hall (now Hill) encouraged me to join the VCH project and thereby to extend my research to cover the whole parish.

Cliburn is a small rural parish about six miles south east of Penrith. The earliest records reveal that it was divided into two moieties — Cliburn Hervey and Cliburn Tailbois — but later held as one manor by the Francey family who subsequently adopted Cliburn as their surname. Cliburn Hall, now a modern farmhouse, is based on a 14th century Pele tower built by Robert Cliburn who represented Westmorland in Parliament in the 1380s. In 1667 Cliburn manor and demesne were bought by Sir John Lowther. The parish's fortunes were boosted in the 19th century by the arrival of the railway and the construction of Cliburn Station. The

increasing population necessitated the enlargement of St Cuthbert's church, which dates from the 12th century, during which inscribed Roman stonework was excavated. There was also a mediaeval chapel at Winderwath, a detached portion of Cliburn parish, but no trace of it remains.

In his *Westmorland Heritage* Alfred Wainwright described Cliburn as "the sort of place where nothing of more than local importance is expected to happen and nothing does". This may seem unpromising territory for a local historian, but thanks to much support and expert guidance from those leading the VCH project in Cumbria I have gathered a wealth of fascinating material about this tranquil parish which has become my home.

James Underwood

## Other CCHT News.

The Victoria County History Head Office at the University of London has confirmed that it will publish "Kirkoswald and Renwick" and that this will be the first printed product of the Cumbria VCH Project. An independent reviewer writes: *This account of the complex parish of Kirkoswald, which included three separate townships, is thoroughly and professionally researched to the highest academic standard. The author is totally at home with the sources and reveals a detailed knowledge of the place. A history is revealed of communities which in their economic foundations and social structure barely changed until the twentieth century.*

The author Richard Brockington points out that this research reflects the work not only of himself but also of the large number of people who have contributed to over the last 6 years and the high standard of editorial guidance given by Lancaster University.

Congratulations Richard.

## Funding for Local History.

The CLHF Committee has been talking about our finances and our plans to increase our offering to our members. This led on to discussing the possibility of applying to funding bodies for help. John Poland has experience of this and offers the following examples raised by funders themselves which need to be avoided.



### Funders Nightmares

1. We are a Fund dedicated to the promotion of inner city sport in Leeds?  
*Application was from a church council wanting to build a hall in Lancashire!*
2. Applications only on line.  
*Application for an art exhibition was in writing with photographs!*
3. Size of grant- a schedule of grants is on our website and is up to £1,000.  
*Application was for £5,000!*

4. Meetings are held quarterly, applications are accepted up to 2 weeks before the meeting and all applicants are advised within 2 weeks.

*Application arrived 3 days before the meeting, so was held over to the next meeting. The applicants phoned and emailed every 2 weeks looking for a decision!*

5. Application arrived with a first class stamp only.

*The Funder paid £7.80 !*

6. Thank You letters.

*80% sent Thank You in different formats, what about the 20%? One of the 20% attracted national media coverage, but no mention of the Funder?*

7. Unsuccessful Applications.

Frequently there are more applications than funding, so some priorities have to be agreed and those applications will be successful. Other applications were held over to the next meeting and were advised accordingly and asked to confirm acceptance.

*Several applications failed to confirm that they were happy to wait to the next meeting and were discarded?*

The above is based on feedback from a number of sources by Funders. Funders income over recent years has decreased and most have taken steps to make the best use of their reduced resource. Most Funders are run by busy people, who don't have time for frivolous applications, which can damage the reputation of different sectors.

We trust no applications from local history would fail to comply with

Funders criteria?

John H. Poland, Treasurer, CLHF

*Do you have any funding issues or stories you can share with other members. Please let me know. Ed.*

~~~~~

## Useful Websites and Opportunities

### **The National Library of Scotland**

has scanned 89,900 maps and they are freely available to view on their website. This is a fantastic resource and although you need to persevere to find the map you want it is worth it! Start at <https://maps.nls.uk/>

### **The Westmorland Dales Hidden Landscapes Partnership**

has some local history aspects which members may be able to benefit from or contribute to. It is worth a visit. [www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk](http://www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk)

### **Morecambe Bay Partnership Training Opportunities.**

The Morecambe Bay Partnership is offering training sessions on Old Maps by Dr Bill Shannon, Landscape History by Dr James Bowen and Morecambe Bay Place names by Dr Fiona Edmonds. They will be held in Grange-over-Sands in April and will be very popular. You can find details here: [Training opportunities](#)

### **Regional Heritage Centre**

**Lancaster.** On 28th April the RHC are holding the event 'Cymry in the North: the North Britons from the sixth century to the tenth' at the University of Cumbria in Carlisle. On 19th May they are holding an Oral History Conference to mark the launch of the Elizabeth

Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive. Details are on the RHC website <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/>

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## What makes a successful local history group?

Over the past few years I have noticed that a number of local history groups, some of which had been very productive, have become inactive and then ceased to exist due to falling membership.

There will be several reasons for this which we can discuss in later editions of the Bulletin but before we do I would like to try to identify “what makes a successful local history group”

In any successful local history group or society I think you will agree with me that there is a wide spread of expertise amongst the members. In my own society we have a member who seems to find information on the Internet at the click of a mouse while I am still typing words in the search box. Another seems to have every book on Cumbria that was ever published including an original copy of James Stockdale’s Annals of Cartmel while I make do with a Chinese photocopy with a dodgy index!

Other members are fundraisers, organisers, collectors of ephemera, website geeks and spreadsheet fanatics. There are also the members who remember every bit of research they ever did and those that have done no research at all but pay their subs and without fail attend every lecture.

Without doubt the members make a society so my question is really asking what supporting framework is needed to encourage and make a local history group “successful”.



Could I ask you the CLHF members (groups and individual members) to think about this and let me know please? What works for you as a group member or as an individual and what does not work but hinder you or your group becoming an active local history group?

Perhaps between us we can develop a recommended framework for local history groups which will provide useful guidance and encourage more groups in Cumbria.

Nigel Mills Editor.

*note: The CLHF Committee is actively discussing several requests made by members and developing initiatives which I think you will find helpful and stimulating, more of which you will hear later. The above paragraphs are my personal thoughts which will be discussed in Committee in due course.*

**Note: Please see enclosed flyers and website for the CLHF Museum visits and 2018 Convention.**

## Events Diary 2018

Please see [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk) for member group contacts and further event dates.

### April 2018

|                  |                                                                                                         |                                                      |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Warwick Bridge LHG<br>The Quintinshill Disaster                                                         | Corby Hill Methodist Chapel<br>Stephen White         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>If God Permits: Myths and Realities behind<br>the Stagecoach Era               | Village Hall, Cartmel<br>Mike and Kate Lea           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | CWAAS Penrith Group<br>First World War                                                                  | Friends Meeting House, Penrith 2.00pm<br>Rob David   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>"Jonas Barber, Clockmaker"                                               | Parish Hall, Cartmel Fell 8pm<br>Tim Sykes           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Kendal Historical & Archaeological Society<br>AGM & Guarding the Pass: Low Borrowdale<br>in Tebay Gorge | Shakespeare Centre, Yard 76, Kendal<br>Graham Hooley |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Staveley & District HS<br>AGM & Members Evening                                                         | Staveley School                                      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | North Lonsdale HS<br>The Harringtons of Gleaston Castle                                                 | Methodist Church, Ulverston<br>Isabel Sneesby        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Kirkoswald & Renwick HG<br>Pagans, Ranters, Quakers and other<br>Dissenters on Alston Moor              | Methodist Chapel, Renwick<br>Alastair Robertson      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Cumbria Family History Society                                                                          | One Day Conference at Seascale                       |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Holme & District LHS<br>The Cumbria Monastries                                                          | Burton in Kendal Memorial Hall<br>Harry Hawkins      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Upper Eden History Society<br>AGM & Evolution of Commercial Barnard<br>Castle                           | Kirby Stephen Grammar School<br>Carl Dougherty       |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of the Helena Thompson Museum<br>Boggles of Cumbria                                             | Workington<br>Alan Cleaver & Lesley Park             |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Levens Local History Group<br>The Boundaries of Beetham                                                 | Levens Village Institute<br>Peter Standing           |

|                  |                                                                                                   |                                                     |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Orton & Tebay LHS<br>A Horrible History of Cumbria Railways                                       | Orton/Tebay<br>Bill Myers                           |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>The Darker Side of Cumbria – Remembering Slavery                           | Duddon Rd Church, Askam<br>Rob David                |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | CWAAS Carlisle<br>The Penrith Workhouses and their connections.                                   | 7.15 Tullie House<br>Peter Lewis                    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Shap LHS<br>Smoke over Shap                                                                       | Memorial Hall, Shap<br>Jean Scott-Smith             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Unearthing the Past                                                          | Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness<br>Stuart Flett  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Mourholme LHS<br>AGM followed by 'If God Permits; Myths and Realities behind the Stagecoach Era'. | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Stephen Caunce           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Barrow in Furness Civic & HS<br>The Bobbin Mills at Force                                         | Trinity Church Centre, Barrow<br>Dr Suzanne Tiplady |

## May 2018

|                  |                                                                              |                                                       |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | North Lonsdale HS<br>Short AGN followed by The Families of Holker Hall       | Methodist Church, Ulverston<br>Janet Smith            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>Summer visit to High Lickbarrow Farm          | Parish Hall, Cartmel Fell                             |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of the Helena Thompson Museum<br>St Bees                             | Workington<br>Rosemary Hunt                           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>The Remarkable Literary History of Mirehouse   | Yew Tree Hall High Lorton<br>John Spedding            |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | CWAAS Penrith Group<br>AGM and The First Roman Map Of Britain                | Friends Meeting House, Penrith 2.00pm<br>Bill Shannon |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum<br>St Bees                                 | Museum, Workington 7.00pm<br>Rosemary Hutt            |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Levens Local History Group<br>The Families of Holker Hall                    | Levens Village Institute<br>Janet Smith               |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>A Life Downn The Drain – tales of a parish lengthsman | Duddon Rd Church, Askam<br>Archie Workman             |

|                  |                                                                               |                                              |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Orton & Tebay LHS<br>My National Service                                      | Orton/Tebay<br>John Falshaw                  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Shap LHS<br>AGM followed by Members Evening                                   | Memorial Hall, Shap                          |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Duddon Valley LHG<br>Carving in Cumbria                                       | Victory Hall, Broughton<br>Frank Wood        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS                                                    | Visit to Mirehouse                           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Maryport HS<br>The Centenary of Women's Suffrages                             | Library, Maryport<br>Jane Laskey             |
| <b>June 2018</b> |                                                                               |                                              |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Warwick Bridge LHG<br>Cumbrian Brick and Tile Works                           | Corby Hill Methodist Chapel<br>Graham Brooks |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>Cattle Droving Through Cumbria 1600-1900             | Village Hall, Cartmel<br>Prof. Peter Roebuck |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Cumbria Family History Society<br>One Day Conference and AGM                  | Burton in Kendal                             |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | North Lonsdale HS                                                             | Guided Visit to Holker Hall                  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>Summer visit to Fell Foot Park                 | Parish Hall, Cartmel Fell                    |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>AGM & Stone Circles of Cumbria                  | Yew Tree Hall High Lorton<br>Tom Clare       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of the Helena Thompson Museum<br>Northumberland Coast & Grace Darling | Workington<br>Paul Heslop                    |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Levens Local History Group                                                    | Walk the Yards of Kendal                     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Orton & Tebay LHS<br>Place Names                                              | Orton/Tebay<br>Jean Scott-Smith              |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>Memories & Memorabilia Night                           | Duddon Rd Church, Askam                      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Shap LHS                                                                      | Visit to Ambleside                           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Duddon Valley LHG<br>AGM                                                      | Victory Hall, Broughton                      |

## July 2018

|                  |                                                        |                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | North Lonsdale HS                                      | Visit to St Mary's Church, Ulverston       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>William Brownrigg MD,FRS | Yew Tree Hall High Lorton<br>Dr Phil Sykes |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of Helena Thompson Museum                      | Visit to Keswick museum                    |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Orton & Tebay LHS                                      | Visit to Newby Hall                        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>A Closer Look at Stone Walls    | Duddon Rd Church, Askam<br>Stephe Cove     |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Shap LHS                                               | Visit to Preston Patrick Hall              |

## August 2018

|                  |                                                           |                                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | North Lonsdale HS                                         | Guided Visit to Levens Hall                 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>The Harringtons of Gleaston Castle | Duddon Rd Church, Askam<br>Isobella Sneesby |

## September 2018

|                  |                                                                                                    |                                                     |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>Archaeology Projects around Morecambe Bay                                 | Village Hall, Cartmel<br>Louise Martin              |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>The Packhorse Trade, its Routes and Bridges                         | Parish Hall, Cartmel Fell 8pm<br>Margaret Dickinson |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Lorton & Derwent Fells LHS<br>Cumberland                                                           | Yew Tree Hall High Lorton<br>Dr Alan Crosby         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Friends of the Helena Thompson Museum<br>Cumbria On The Edge                                       | Workington<br>David & Mandy Thomason                |
| 20 <sup>TH</sup> | Levens Local History Group<br>Hubert at the Front – The WW1 Experiences of Sgt Hubert Simpson RAMC | Levens Village Institute<br>Margaret Owen           |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Orton & Tebay LHS<br>Agriculture in Cumbria WW1                                                    | Orton/Tebay<br>Richard Preston                      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Askam & Ireleth LHG<br>Memories & Memorabilia Night                                                | Duddon Rd Church, Askam                             |
| 24 <sup>yh</sup> | Shap LHG<br>The Border Reivers                                                                     | Memorial Hall, Shap<br>Christopher Robson           |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Barrow in Furness Civic & HS<br>Heath's - A Family Business                                        | Trinity Church Centre, Barrow<br>Philip Heath       |

## Editor's Final Thoughts.

Thank you for reading this far! If you have enjoyed this edition of the Bulletin but have not yet contributed please think about doing so. If you have contributed please do so again. Also please send me some more historical images for the Bulletin front cover.

I did not have any recommended speakers or visits submitted for this edition which is surprising and I would be very pleased to hear from members of groups as well as individual members. This Bulletin is issued in pdf form by email to my group contacts with the request to send it on to their own members if an email address is provided.

I am considering a few changes to the Bulletin and would appreciate the reader's response to the following: For example:-

Is the size of the Bulletin satisfactory? The A5 booklet size could be increased to an A4 Booklet, Are 24 pages sufficient or would you like more pages? Is the print large enough?

Is the content sufficiently interesting? Do you want more news from Museums and Archives, would lengthier and more in depth research articles be of interest, would you welcome more and larger images?

Your comments would be welcome and will help make the Bulletin "A Good Read" for people interested in the local history of Cumbria.

Best wishes  
Nigel Mills, Editor.

### CLHF Committee

Committee members may be contacted by e-mail via our website  
<http://www.clhf.org.uk>

|                       |                     |                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Secretary             | Lyn Cole            |                                                                                 |
| Treasurer             | John Poland         |                                                                                 |
| Bulletin Editor       | Nigel Mills         | <a href="mailto:nigelmills@btinternet.com">mailto:nigelmills@btinternet.com</a> |
| Membership Secretary  | Liz Kerrey          |                                                                                 |
| Website               | Vacancy             |                                                                                 |
| Event Organiser       | June Hill           |                                                                                 |
| CCHT Trustee for CLHF | Richard Brockington |                                                                                 |
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