

**Talks currently offered to local societies and organisations
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Cumbrian List

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These are talks I have given to local societies and groups across Lancashire and Cumbria over the last 10 years. All are based on original research and all, bar two, use illustrations from the North West. I am always researching and working other subjects up; please ask for further details.

Fee depends on distance and includes all expenses and a (£25) donation to charity www.reverserett.org.uk

I can provide laptop and projector if required but need screen and stand.

Artists and Prints

Lancashire AND/OR Cumbria Illustrated: early 19th century prints (including local examples)

I can offer this for Lancashire or Cumbria or both. It illustrates the counties from the profusion of prints which appeared in the early decades of the 19th century and discusses the artists behind them why so many were produced at that period and what they can tell us about life in the region at the time.

Thomas Allom (1804-1872): artist and architect

Not a household name today but once renowned for his work as an artist, architect and draughtsman. This looks at his some of his nearly **200 published prints of Lancashire and Cumbria** made in the 1830s (many for sale today in antique shops and on the web) and his fascinating life and work as an artist and architect.

'Fake or Fortune' revisited: the old master and Renaissance stained glass in Tunstall church

In July 2015 the BBC explored the provenance of a painting by an 'old master' in Tunstall church in the Lune Valley near Kirkby Lonsdale. This talk reassesses the evidence for the provenance they gave it and also explores how the church acquired its exceptional early European stained glass and some fine examples of early 19th century English painted glass.

Markets and Shops

Markets to Supermarkets: 200 years of shopping:... North West's distinctive developments. Can be tailored to different parts of the region

Looks at the development of markets, shops, chain stores, co-ops and supermarkets over the last 200 years, focusing in particular on the distinctive experiences of much of the North West. Guaranteed to bring back memories!

Lonsdale and the West Indies

For Tortola:Quakers,(Lonsdale) merchants and West Indies c.1750-1850

This explores some of the remarkable trading, personal and religious connections between the Morecambe Bay area and the tiny, often neglected but important Caribbean Virgin Islands. It expands on the context for a book on *Abram*, a Lancaster-built ship named after a plantation owner which sailed to the islands and which later became an arctic whaler! M Winstanley and R David, *The West Indies and the Arctic in the Age of Sail: Voyages of Abram 1802-1862* (CNWRS Lancaster University 2013)

Mike Winstanley, talks

The Lune Valley and the West Indies: sugar, cotton and the slave economy

An exploration of the multi-faceted connections between farming and yeomen families in the Lune Valley and Britain's sugar colonies in the West Indies.

Lune Valley Studies)***The Fosters of Hornby Castle and Black Dyke Mills***

A study of the Yorkshire textile family, and founders of the famous Black Dyke Mills Brass Band, who bought Hornby Castle in the Lune Valley near Kirkby Lonsdale in 1860 and their influence on the area. This also covers the activities of other members of the family who settled elsewhere in England, including their church building activities.

West Indian money and Rigmaden Hall: the strange case of John Satterthwaite's will

Rigmaden Hall, just north of Kirkby Lonsdale, was sold in 1822 to the Wilson family of Abbot Hall. But its sale required its previous owners to obtain an Act of Parliament. They were descendants of an important West Indian merchant. This is a story of how commercial wealth led to landed status, but also the legal and family problems of inheritance which prompted the estate's executor to write a biting *A Vindication* of his actions.

Lancaster and Lancaster Castle (see also Lonsdale and the West Indies)***Delinquents and Debtors: Lancaster Castle as 19th century prison***

An exploration of how a medieval castle was converted into a 19th century prison and how the prisoners and debtors were treated during the course of the 19th century.

'A somewhat noisy tavern and tea garden?' The debtors' prison in Lancaster Castle

Until 1869 people who could not, or would not, pay their debts could be detained in prison; such people were not bankrupts as such, they were just insolvent. However, since they had committed no crime they could not be 'punished' in the same way as felons. Some accounts, therefore, suggest that their life in the castle was very pleasant. Was this so? Just who were these debtors? And how did they manage to get out of debtors' prison.

Historical Pageants***Historical Pageants in the North West***

During the first half of the 20th century, many towns and villages (inc Carlisle, Lancaster, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, etc) mounted elaborate historical pageants, often with casts of thousands, which depicted their areas' local histories. This talk illustrates some of these pageants and discusses why they were mounted, what they contained and who participated.

Rural Society c1780-1920 (Lancashire and Cumbria) -

The first four can be tailored to focus on Cumbria or Lancashire as required. How different were the experiences here to the story usually told in popular national history books.

Feeding the Industrial Revolution c 1780-1850

What did the rapidly expanding population of the country, and particularly the industrial North west, eat and where did their food come from? The answers are quite surprising!

Landowners and farmers

Mike Winstanley, talks

An exploration of the families who owned and farmed the land in C19 North West and some sources for studying them. (can be split into two lectures)

c) ***Work on the Land in the NW***

A discussion of the workforce – men, women and children - how it changed over the course of the century and how it differed up and down the country and region.

d) ***Enclosures and Commons***

The drive towards Parliamentary Enclosure but also the survival and value of common land, especially in the North West. (can be split into two lectures – ‘The Age of Enclosure’)

e) ***Ireland: Potatoes, Famine and Emigration OR ‘The Great Hunger: 1845-51’***

Why did the Irish eat potatoes and why did so many die in the Great Famine of the 1840s or leave the country?

f) ***The Highland Clearances***

What were they? How ‘cruel’ were they? What did they achieve?

Victorian and Edwardian Society in Cumbria:

Charity, the Poor Law and Workhouse – when all else failed

An exploration of the ways in which people sought to ‘make ends meet’ and get through hard times including the poor law and the increasingly dreaded workhouse

Muck, Medicine and Mortality: Health and Housing

Water, sewerage, housing, hospitals, medicine – an exploration of the ways in which Victorians coped, or tried to cope with squalor and disease

Happy Days? Educating the Masses

Elementary schooling, 1818-1918 in the North West. This talk looks at the sorts of schools which existed in the C19 and what did taught. It also explores the huge regional difference in experiences which existed and the differences between boys’ and girls’ education

Child Labour in the 19th century

What were contemporary attitudes towards it? Child labour was, and remains, an emotive issue, but just how extensive was in the C19 and was it always as bad as its critics made out? This talk explores the variety of work which children undertook, the differences across the region and the campaigns to end child labour.

Outside the Law: crime and policing

This talk looks at patterns of crime across the 19th century and the forces raised to tackle it. It uses local examples.

Roughs and Respectables: the pleasures and problems of leisure

Life in Victorian North West was not all work. This explores some of the various ways in which people entertained themselves – or were entertained – and authorities’ responses to them

Getting Away from it all: seaside resorts and the Lakes (can just focus on seaside if preferred)

An exploration of the seaside resorts on the North West coast which emerged in the 19th century, who they catered for, and how they differed in both size and prosperity. The growth of the day trip, seaside holiday and Lakeland tour.