



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 80 – Summer 2019



What is this? It is not what you think. © Jean Cowgill

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I have good news for you.

Firstly, our application to the Charity Commission for the award of charitable status has been successful. There is little doubt that this will strengthen our financial position, enabling us more confidently to seek grant-aid in pressing ahead with our plans. Our Treasurer, John Poland, masterminded the application and we thank him mightily for his efforts on our behalf.

Secondly, the Cluster Meetings which we held in Warwick Bridge, Cockermouth, Appleby and Ulverston during four consecutive days in June (11th – 14th) were a distinct success. The process was hectic but very worthwhile. As you will see from the Report below, the meetings were well-attended and lively affairs: as promised, we are now following up those discussions in various ways, paying particular heed to members' suggestions. The meetings will shape our strategy for some time to come. I congratulate my colleagues on the Committee for organising them and I thank all those who attended for their active participation.

If you have not already done so, please note the date - Saturday 5th October - of our forthcoming Convention on a coastal and maritime theme, 'All at Sea'. As you know, our policy is to move our Convention around the county and this year we are in Workington. The Helena Thompson Museum has many interesting exhibits and is a fine venue with, you will be glad to hear, free car parking.

Under our new Constitution we are able to expand our Committee and I invite anyone interested in helping to steer the Federation to put their name forward. Having along with my wife experienced some health issues during this year, I shall be relinquishing the chairmanship: but I hope to continue to be involved in some way in the Federation's activities.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in October.

Peter Roebuck, CLHF Chairman

CLHF Events

Report of the Cluster Meetings Held in June 2019

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>CLHF</u>	<u>Groups</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
Downagate Centre, Warwick Bridge	5	11	13
Friends' Meeting House, Cockermouth	5	7	9
The Hub, Appleby	6	9	12
Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston	4	13	23
	20	40	57

Attendance was substantial (representing coverage of c. 80% of our members) and participation lively with a positive mood throughout. There was general satisfaction with the outcomes, and at the final meeting there was a call for a repeat in future, perhaps sub-regionally but with Committee co-ordination and leadership. It was generally agreed that pre-circulated papers facilitated discussion.

PROCEEDINGS

Speakers

One nominated person should deal with Speakers throughout, from initial contact until the close of the meeting at which their talk took place.

The 'Guide to Good Practice in Booking Speakers' had proved useful. However, as with some Groups currently, it should be supplemented by a pro forma listing the matters agreed between the Speaker and the Group (location, date, time, title of talk, contact details, equipment required, details of the Speaker's background for purposes of introduction, and a brief summary of the talk for publicity purposes). A copy of the pro forma should be kept by both parties as an aide memoir. Particular care should be taken over equipment and its suitability, and this should be carefully checked between both parties prior to the meeting.

Groups should be encouraged to offer some refreshment to Speakers on arrival and before departure, particularly if the Speaker had travelled some distance. Venues should be sufficiently well-lit and, if possible, the hard-of-hearing should be catered for by a microphone, a limited loop system or in other ways.

The role of the Chairman was important: welcoming the audience, introducing the Speaker, ensuring the Speaker kept to the agreed timetable, managing the Q. & A. session (including repeating the questions), and arranging a vote of thanks.

Groups are advised to have a fall back arrangement in the event of a late cancellation by a Speaker, e.g. a commentary on a set of slides by one of its members. In such circumstances Groups are invited to contact a member of the Committee, through whom every effort would be made to find a substitute Speaker.

To complement the 'Guide' written advice and suggestions should also be provided for Speakers, e.g. talks should usually last for no longer than an hour, Speakers should face the audience continuously, maintain good eye-contact, speak clearly etc. etc. This advice would have to be couched tactfully but in the light of experience was thought to be necessary.

Groups should not hesitate to act if, outside their routine business, they hear of or experience a good speaker on a topic likely to prove of interest to Federation members. The Committee is always ready to suggest to someone that they provide an entry for our 'Directory of Speakers'. The Directory needs to be refreshed regularly and expanded where possible and, under our new Website arrangements, this can now be done quickly.

Communication

Difficulties encountered by the Committee often arise because of the lack of effective communication with Member Groups. Groups are urged to vest TWO of their colleagues with responsibility for contact (especially, but not necessarily exclusively, by e-mail) with members of the Federation Committee. Business will not be onerous and will deal mainly with subscriptions, the Bulletin and the Website. How business is divided

between the two contacts is a matter for each individual Group to decide, but two contacts are desirable to cope with holidays, possible illness and other unpredictable eventualities.

It was agreed that responsibility for updating the addresses, e-mail addresses and other details of Members should remain with the Groups.

Committee members want each member of the Federation to be able to read the Bulletin. Groups are strongly urged to arrange for the effective circulation of both their electronic copy of the Bulletin and their paper copy.

Volunteers were invited to supply information/ideas/copy from their part of the county to the Bulletin Editor (rather like 'stringers' do for newspapers). If there were 7-8 volunteers from across the county acting as Sub-Editors, the Bulletin would provide a fuller and possibly more balanced treatment of developments. This would also complement the proposed division of responsibilities between a Deputy Editor (the collation of material) and the Editor (the process of production).

It should be clearly indicated to Groups that appropriate items, however short, for the Bulletin from their members were warmly welcomed.

CLHF Member Groups are numerous and immensely varied in nature. There is a need to articulate and demonstrate this, possibly but not only via the Website, by outlining their individual arrangements and activities. At the moment we hide our light under a bushel by providing merely an alphabetical list of Group titles on the Website. Among other things, we need a Map of their locations.

In addition to details of annual programmes on the Website, we should highlight Group and other Special Events. A 'News Page' would be welcomed.

Groups should be encouraged to suggest additions to the Website and proposals for links between Group Websites and the CLHF Website were welcome.

There was strong support from some Groups for the development of a social media presence on the CLHF Website as a means of attracting younger members. There were instances where this had been achieved and proved fruitful.

Archives

A significant number of Groups had asked for Archives to be included in the agenda for the Cluster Meetings. It was already known and quickly became even clearer at the Meetings that the situation regarding the archives held by Groups was extremely varied. A pro forma, designed to elicit precise information per Group, had been pre-circulated. Many completed forms were handed in and several others were promised shortly. Analysis of these by Adrian Allan, the professional archivist on the Committee, in consultation with the CAS and other organisations, would underpin future policy and action.

At the Meetings AA briefly addressed several key topics: the role of local Societies vis a vis archives; the need for an acquisition policy; plans for cataloguing and listing; the imperative of succession and disaster planning; and arrangements for public access. He also indicated that the CAS was keen to offer advice, and had already assisted some local Groups (as the Groups were keen to testify). Backing this up, Robert Baxter (at Cockermouth and on behalf of the CAS) specifically recommended Excel for cataloguing: some free versions were available. AA recommended the website of the national Community Archives & Heritage Group, which provided up-to-date advice on a range of relevant and related topics.

The Alston Moor Group had won support not just from the CAS but from the local Council and other bodies. Other Groups were pessimistic about their ability to do likewise, but were keen to counter this by sharing experiences.

Nigel Mills outlined the policy of his Group in Cartmel. Partly to solve problems of storage, they did not retain original items but digitised them, prior to returning them to source or handing them to the CAS or to local libraries, though both options posed some difficulties.

PR briefly outlined the Federation's aim to achieve charitable status, which would enhance its chances of obtaining external funding. If successful, this could be used, among other things, to help local Groups to deal more effectively with their archives – by organising workshops and possibly appointing a field archivist.

There was strong support for the organisation of workshops to assist Group members in adopting appropriate strategies and tactics in regard to archives. Whether these were regionally based or county-wide would depend on analysis of the pro formas; perhaps there would be a blend of the two approaches.

The opportunity was taken to outline CLHF's engagement with the CAS in schemes to assist them in the midst of their current difficulties: collaborating in a major grant application, advertising volunteer opportunities in the Bulletin, and facilitating a publicly available print-out of an index of the copious material on the shelves of the Search Rooms. The Committee has also been sharply critical of the recent changes to arrangements at CAS (Kendal), particularly but by no means only of the lack of prior consultation. Many Group members indicated that they too were dismayed and had already submitted responses to the consultation which will inform the review of these arrangements in September. Others were strongly encouraged to do so.

Other Matters.

The representative of one Group asked for the provision of a model Constitution which might be elaborated to suit particular circumstances, but which would avoid the need to re-invent the wheel.

Another member maintained that joint meetings of the kind from which we had all just benefited were essential if best practice was to be generated and disseminated throughout the Federation.

COMMITTEE DECISIONS

At a Committee Meeting on 26th June it was agreed to carry this business forward as follows:

The Committee would design a pro forma for use by Groups in booking Speakers. This would be sent to Groups with the advice that, once negotiated and completed, a copy be retained by each party as an aide memoire. Advice to Speakers would be drafted.

These two items would be incorporated in the current 'Guide to Good Practice.....' which would need to be re-titled. Revisions would include further points arising from the discussions about the booking of Speakers. The amended and revised document would be transmitted to the Groups and placed on the Website.

The 'Directory of Speakers' on the Website would be refreshed and expanded in two ways. Firstly, a Committee Member would scrutinise programmes of speakers of other county organisations to identify speakers on Cumbrian topics not included in the Directory and contact them with an offer to include them. And secondly, Groups would be encouraged to recommend inclusion for anyone not currently listed who they thought worthy of inclusion. In each case the Website listing would be updated forthwith.

Groups would be asked to provide details of TWO members who would act as contacts with members of the Federation Committee, the division of responsibility between them being decided by their Group.

Those who volunteered during the Cluster Meetings to act as regional Sub-Editors of the Bulletin would be contacted to confirm the arrangement and other volunteers, if required, would be solicited.

A News Page would be developed on the Website.

Re: Archives, further, more formal contact would be sought with representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund with a view to the submission of an application for the funding of Workshops, among other things; the submitted pro formas would be analysed; professional external assistance would be investigated; and the CAS would be consulted as to their possible role in forward developments. The objective would be to plan and then launch means whereby Groups

might be expertly assisted in this tricky matter. It would be necessary to proceed carefully and systematically to achieve an optimal outcome.

The Group which requested assistance with the development of their Constitution would be assisted by the Treasurer.

These matters will be the subject of a first phase of response to the Cluster Meetings. A later, second phase will include actions to publicise the variety, scope and activities of all our Groups and, thereby, of the Federation as a whole, including the provision of a Map on the Website illustrating the locations of our Groups. Following further enquiries, it will also include consideration of how best to incorporate a social media presence on our Website. And it will also deal with any further feedback we receive following the Cluster Meetings.

The Cluster Meetings were so valuable that there is no doubt that, in some form, they will feature in the future programme of the Federation.

Peter Roebuck, Chairman, CLHF

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## Charity Commission Approval

Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Charity number 1183924.



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

I am delighted to report that on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 we received approval of our submission for charity status. You may recall at the 2018 Convention the Members approved a revised Constitution and a submission to the Charity Commission for Charity status as a C.I.O. Our initial application was turned down as we had not followed one of the Charity Commission's model Constitutions and had omitted clauses that we considered unnecessary for the Federation.

After due consideration and advice we re-submitted using an appropriate model Constitution and have received approval.

The delays since the Convention, apart from the preparatory work, have arisen as there was an increase in submissions and a lack of qualified and experienced staff to process submissions in a timely way.

There are no significant differences between the Constitution approved at the 2018 Convention and the approved revised Constitution. Continuity is still provided through 3 Trustees, who whilst retaining responsibility, delegate to a Committee that is elected annually. 2 of the 3 Trustees are elected directly at the Convention. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trustee is the Chair of the Committee, who is ex-officio a Trustee. Trustees will be elected for 3 years, however to avoid both Trustees standing down together one will stand for 2 years and the other for 3 years initially.

The Trustees are currently Doctor Jane Platt and Mrs Jill Wishart, who have provided great support in our submission and have indicated that they are prepared to continue as Trustees. Peter Roebuck as Chair of the Committee is the other Trustee and has provided great support and encouragement in this submission.

The Committee will continue to be elected annually and will consist of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and may elect up to 10 additional members. There are currently 6 members in addition to the Officers. The new Constitution is on the website and will be circulated to members prior to the 2019 Convention.

The Charity status will help as we look to negotiate with Funders to secure our future financial requirements and to explore opportunities to take the Federation forward.

I wish to thank everyone, who has helped and supported us in this work.

John H. Poland, Treasurer

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CLHF Visit to the Armitt Library and Museum, Ambleside

In March 2019 fourteen CLHF members were privileged to gain an insight into the origins and workings of this unique resource for local historians, where one can research in peaceful and comfortable surroundings, amongst thousands of volumes.

The collections grew from a bequest of a reference collection, by Louisa Armitt, one of three scholarly sisters living at Rydal. The sisters settled there when Ambleside had become a fashionable resort for high-minded, scholarly people, in the wake of William Wordsworth and the Romantic movement. After many vicissitudes, the library achieved its present form in 1974, with help from the County Council, lottery funding and trustees, although its origins reach back to 1828. One condition was that it should be open to the public. The Armitt is one of a few reference-only libraries and contains around



14,500 volumes on the history, culture and topography of Cumbria, with the focus over the last 20 years being on the central Lakes area, and old Westmorland. Sections include: the library of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club; The Gentleman's magazine, from about 1723 to 1820; the Mining Society Library (CATMAS); CWAAS Transactions; Historic guides to the Lake District, from around 1772; manuscripts relating to Ruskin, Gilpin and others; parish magazines; maps, 1902 OS maps and others much older; the Dawson collection of deeds relating to Troutbeck and covering a period of 300 years; Westmorland election posters from 1820 to the end of the nineteenth century; original LDNP listings of buildings; and much relating to Beatrix Potter, including a large collection of her watercolours.

Added to that richness, are around 26,000 images, including a wonderful collection of some 6,000 glass negatives by the Brunskill Brothers of Sedbergh, who set up a studio in Bowness, 1865 – 1925, where they photographed local people and many visitors. All are named and show a wide social mix. Also, another 2,000 or so pictures by Joseph Hardman, photographer for the Westmorland Gazette, and many other collections and donated albums, are included.

All this, and much, much more can be consulted for an initial £5.00 which gives a whole year's entry, from 10.00 am till 5.00 pm, Tuesday to Saturday. The catalogue is on the library's website. Amazingly, the Library and museum are administered by a part-time curator and a part-time

assistant, with the help of volunteers.

Later, we heard from Ambleside Oral History Group about the evolution of their work and the wide range of subject matter covered. Cynthia Thompson, librarian, realised in 1976 that times were rapidly changing, believed that old people with memories should be recorded and set out to transcribe every interview. An example of the sort of information which might otherwise have gone for ever, was of a 99 year -old who recalled going to school in the 1880s.

By 1984, the group needed a computer, which the local Rotary Club helped them to buy, and subsequent funds from the LDPNA, HLF and elsewhere, have allowed them to put on exhibitions, run the website, etc. The work is shared amongst volunteers and much has been learned, enabling them to help other projects to start. Complete transcripts of all interviews are available on line, and hard copies are deposited in Ambleside library and CAS, Kendal. The group has a series of presentations available.

The whole visit was so valuable to those present, and we are grateful for the opportunities offered.

June Hill

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## Richard Brockington

Earlier this year, Richard Brockington resigned from the Committee of Cumbria Local History Federation. We extend our thanks to him for many years of service, from 2006, both as a committee member and as chairman. Richard took a fundamental role in the foundation of Cumbria County History Trust, the body responsible for the Victoria County History of Cumbria project. He also served as a Trustee, representing CLHF.



We congratulate him on the recent publication of *Kirkoswald and Renwick*, a landmark in the VCH project and the first of the VCH 'shorts', the outcome of much research. The book can be obtained for £12 from Bookends, Carlisle, Ravensbridge Stores in Kirkoswald, or online (+£3p&p) from Lancaster University.

## The 2019 CLHF Convention

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Helena Thompson Museum, Workington

“All At Sea” -The Local History of the Cumbrian Coast.

The programme and the booking form are enclosed with this Bulletin, available on website [www.clhf.org.uk](http://www.clhf.org.uk) or from Liz by e-mail : [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)

### From your CLHF Membership Secretary

I'd like to extend a welcome to our new members; Ulverston Civic Society and Dalton Local History Society and three individual members. You are all invited to introduce yourself or your group by sending Nigel a short piece for the next Bulletin. e-mail [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

Membership forms are available on our website if any readers wish to join as a group or as an individual. [www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-about-us/](http://www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-about-us/)

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CLHF Members News.

Duddon Valley Local History Group – The Duddon Dig

In 2006 The Lake District National Park archaeologists along with a DVLHG steering group instigated an archaeological survey of the Duddon Valley with a training programme for volunteers. Over three years more than 3000 new features were recorded by the volunteers and subsequently a number of monuments were designated for a more detailed survey and research. Three of these structures were chosen for excavation with the suggestion they could be Norse longhouses. Funding was applied for, from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and, along with other donations the project was able to go ahead. Oxford Archaeology North

(OAN) was employed to undertake the work. The three sites were scheduled into the National Park's bracken bashing programme so that surveying equipment could produce data and the sites were all clear for excavation.

The three structures, Tonguehouse A, Tonguehouse B and Longhouse Close were all situated above Seathwaite and were excavated over three years. A two-week programme each year organised by Stepha Cove, timetabled a number of volunteers from across the country to excavate each structure in all kinds of weather but it did not dampen their enthusiasm. Old friendships were renewed and new friends made. The main problem facing everyone was bracken. The rhizomes twisted in all directions, requiring sheer brute force and determination to remove.



A Presentation evening was held in Broughton-in-Furness in November when the site archaeologist, Jamie Quartermaine, explained the results to date. Tonguehouse A produced carbon 14 dating from charcoal which dated the building between 16th and 17th centuries and was likely to be a summer shieling, but with field systems suggesting longer settlement. Tonguehouse B produced no dating evidence but its structure and setting suggested it was also probably a shieling.

Longhouse Close was a more complicated site with more than one structure within enclosures walls which created much excitement and speculation. One structure appeared to be inside another, but it was difficult to relate one wall to another within the same building. On excavation three floors with hearths were uncovered, the third level having a cobbled floor which appeared to extend out to the outer walls of the larger structure. There were several finds of metal objects encased in rust, including nails and the remains of a knife. Pieces of pottery were dated to 16th century, disappointingly not Norse. Three pieces of charcoal from the hearth in the lowest floor were sent off for C14 dating and caused much surprise by being dated to around 1300 BC, Bronze Age,

not the Norse date we were expecting. Speculation now arose; could this third layer have been a bronze age ring cairn (13 have been recorded around Seathwaite Tarn and one was excavated in 2007)?



On further investigation it was suggested that a curve of large stones and revetment on the west side seemed to create a level platform with the cobbled floor on which to construct a ring cairn. Subsequently, a late medieval settlement has been built on the obvious site for a dwelling. There are many questions still unanswered and it is hoped that more survey work could take place to finally explain this complicated site.

Sue Lydon

Directory of Speakers : New Speakers sought

The CLHF website hosts a list of local speakers and is currently being updated. If you are a speaker who would like your details included or have heard a speaker you think should be included, please contact me for a letter of invitation and entry form. ruthlawley@hotmail.com

The Directory is an excellent resource for locating speakers for local groups and is available on our website. www.clhf.org.uk/resources/clhf-directory together with our Guide to Good Practice when booking a speaker.

Ruth Lawley.

(Ruth joined the CLHF Committee at our Committee meeting on 19th June 2019 and is most welcome. Editor.)

Shap Local History Society

August in Shap is Railway Month

The exhibition in the Market Cross marks the 175th anniversary of starting construction on the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway over Shap. The route was designed by Joseph Locke and Thomas Brassey was the contractor in charge of up to 10,000 navvies. The first sod was cut on Shap Fell in July 1844, and first permanent rail laid in the November.



A navvies village of sod huts was built. Shap parish registers record baptisms, marriages and burials for the period and there is a memorial in the churchyard to those who lost their lives during the construction.

The railway was opened on 15th December 1846 at an expenditure of one million two hundred thousand pounds. The 70 mile section having been constructed in less than two and a half years. The coming of the railway affected Shap, the coaching and droving trades suffered, but it brought new businesses opportunities and tourism.

Displays feature a large scale map dated 1847, many iconic images of steam locomotives on Shap bank, the station, some railway workers and DVD footage of the railway in the 1960s.

The exhibition is open Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 1 – 4p.m. Admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

Other events include an Exhibition of Railway Art and Photography from 10th August, A talk by Jean Scott-Smith entitled “Steam over Shap” and other talks and walks. See <http://www.shaplocalhistorysociety.com>
www.shaplocalhistorysociety.com

Jean Scott-Smith

Parish Archives – some thoughts from Ravenstonedale

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG) was established in 2010 to look after a collection of documents, photographs and books of local interest offered to the Parish. Fortunately the Grade II listed former Ravenstonedale High Chapel had just been bought by the Parish Council for future use as a Community and Heritage Centre. It was decided to store the collection there, with the aim of making it available to the public. RPHG began opening the collection for two hours once a week

and at other times by appointment. An annual two-day themed exhibition of items from the archive is also held. (See image; a 1950's lino cut of St Oswald's church by headmaster of Ravenstonedale school Mr Denny).



Recently we mounted a small display about the history of Newbiggin-on-Lune for the Friends of the Lake District Open Day and AGM held there – the only problem being what to leave out! We began a programme of monthly evening talks on local history topics for six months each year – currently four are held in Ravenstonedale village and two in Newbiggin-on-Lune, the other village in the Parish. Sometimes one of our members will give a talk, drawing inspiration for their topic from the archive. We do rely heavily on a small core of volunteers to run all the activities of the Group.

At the outset, the method of cataloguing the collection had to be decided – a local archivist was approached for advice who suggested which broad topics would be useful as a framework – Domestic Buildings, Public Buildings, Agriculture, Education etc. Spreadsheets were designed as an easy method of collating searchable information on each topic, with column headings to reflect the date of acquisition, the content of the material and its provenance. Meanwhile word got around locally and people began to offer one-off photographs or albums (either as gifts or to

be digitally scanned), scrapbooks, maps, books, Sales Prospectuses of local farms and estates, ephemera and also artefacts – but that’s another story!

The Family History section now includes three scarce volumes of local family histories written and self-published by family members, as well as ongoing research by others and texts of talks by a member. Many enquiries and visits continue to come from all over the world from folk tracing their ancestors in the Parish. These contacts have been facilitated by the setting-up in 2015 of the History Group website <https://www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk> where comment forms allow direct contact to be made with the Group. We see this two-way connection with family history researchers as an important and essential function of holding such an archive.

So...what next? Two members of the committee were pleased to meet representatives of other local History Groups at the recent CLHF cluster meeting in Appleby, and to learn that further advice could be available on the ongoing problem of what to keep and how to keep it safely in the less than ideal conditions of a partly-refurbished 300-year-old building. We purchase museum-standard archive boxes and transparent sleeves as funds allow. We currently have two major projects – one to cross-reference former Parish families with their dwellings, and the other to record local field names against field numbers from Sales Prospectuses and the original OS maps of the Parish – not always the same! Thus we can see how - and perhaps learn some of the reasons why - our Parish has changed over time. We feel that what we are doing is of immense importance – but we are aware that of course not everyone agrees!

We are keen to involve younger people in the archive – not easy - although our exhibition in 2016 on all the local schools which have existed over the years was perhaps our most successful attempt to publicise content relevant to younger people. Meanwhile, we would like to add to our (very small) Oral History collection, maybe expand storage somehow into Newbiggin-on-Lune, work more closely with the Parish Council – and attract some more volunteers!

Jackie Wedd

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group

Over the last few months, attendance at our regular events has been consistently in the region of thirty members. Meetings have been held around Cumbria, ensuring that wherever members live, they are within reach of a venue. In April, we met in Flookburgh, to hear about a “great fire” in the seventeenth century, which destroyed buildings in the central area of this once-busy street on a through route across



Morecambe Bay. Now that it has been by-passed by the railway, its importance has diminished and the market has ceased. However, either side of the site of the fire are hints of fine early buildings, of which one, Braithwaite Hall, is intact. The April event, in Kirkoswald was a contrast, as we concentrated on two properties, the Castle, now a ruin, and The College, very much lived in, and both, high-status gentry houses. We had guided visits to both buildings after hearing their histories.

May saw us at Rosgill, in Shap parish, (See image of Toathmain Hall by Mike Turner) on a hot sunny day, to look at three former farmhouses and their barns. All three barns were detached from the houses, two set at right angles to them. In June, the group met on the Scottish Border, to see the buildings of the Debatable Lands, basically two parishes, Kirkoswald on Esk, now in Cumbria, and Canonbie, in the present Dumfries and Galloway. Defendable towers are all that remain from the strife-ridden years of the late middle ages.

An assessment of the pre-c.1750 houses in Maulds Meaburn brings us up to date with events. An exhibition of the findings is planned, after more documentary research has been carried out.

The AGM will be held in September, and new members of the committee are being sought. Also, the 2020 programme is in preparation, so ideas and suggestions are welcome.

June Hill, Chairman, July 2019.

Cumbria Archive Service

Accessing Archives at Kendal Archive Centre

On learning of the changes at Kendal Committee representatives (your Chairman, PR, and Committee Member Adrian Allan) joined Chester Forster (Chairman of FOCAS) in correspondence and meetings with managers of the Archive Service. We deeply regretted the lack of prior consultation which we had been led to believe would take place before major changes were introduced. Some will seriously hamper searchers: e.g. certain items cannot easily be pre-ordered because they are not identified in sufficient detail on the Service's website; sight of particular records often leads to searches for others which, under the new arrangements, cannot be consulted without giving further notice of at least one working week; where there is not a detailed catalogue of a collection, a maximum of two boxes per day may be produced; anyone coming from a distance faces a bleak prospect. When added to earlier reductions in opening hours, the changes overall constitute a very serious reduction in the service. We argued that feedback from users should be sought immediately instead of waiting for 6 and 12-monthly reviews.

A modicum of progress has been made. In future, we are told, prior consultation will be arranged, immediate feedback is being sought, and some restrictions on pre-ordered material ('items' have been clarified to note they can be volumes or bundles) have been relaxed. The new arrangements at Kendal, however, are regarded as a 'trial'. They may be introduced at the other Centres. Accordingly, we strongly encourage our members to communicate their experiences and views to the Service soon, prior to the review in September.

To register your views please access:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/contact/fform.asp> .

Details of the new arrangements can be found at:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/archivecentres/kendalaccess.asp

We know that these changes originated in central government's policy of austerity and wherever we can we endeavour to support our archivists. We cannot sit idly by while the Archive Service is severely curtailed.

CLHF Committee.

The resources of Cumbria Archive Centres' research library collections

On the shelves of the search rooms of Cumbria's Archive Centres are to be found a wealth of publications and other resources which can materially assist the researcher. Besides copies of county histories and local directories and the publications of local societies (including CWAAS and CLHF), there are the many publications covering such subjects as Architecture, Archaeology, Education, Health, Cumbria People and Families, Trade and Industry, and Transport, as also publications (including parish histories) on individual places; transcripts of parish registers, monumental inscriptions, and census enumerators' schedules, and other family history-related resources; copies of dissertations and theses concerning aspects of Cumbria's history which their authors have kindly made available; and dictionaries and guides to archive sources, their reading and interpretation.

Hitherto, through the absence of publicly available online catalogues of such resources, researchers have not always been aware of the riches to be found on the shelves which might well assist their work. Now, on its website, the Archive Service has made available spreadsheets providing searchable catalogues of these resources held by Carlisle and Kendal Archive Centres. In the case of Carlisle, the catalogue covers everything to be found on the shelves in its Map Room with catalogue entries for the remaining resources to be found in its Search Room continuing to be added; catalogue entries are also gradually being added to the online Cumbria Libraries Interactive Catalogue. To access the online catalogues, visit the website of the Cumbria Archive Service (<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/default.asp>) and on the home pages of the Carlisle and Kendal Archive Centres, under the heading of 'Related Links', click on 'Carlisle Archive Centre : Library books and other printed resources (Excel, 460 KB)' and 'Kendal Archive Centre : Searchroom Library Books (Excel, 137 KB)' respectively. In the case of Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Whitehaven, details of their holdings of publications can be found recorded on the Cumbria Libraries

Interactive Catalogue (this Catalogue noting that copies are to be found at 'Whitehaven Record Office').

Additionally, to assist researchers visiting Carlisle Archive Centre, CLHF has funded the production of a print-out of the on-line catalogue of the Centre's publications, etc. (*It looks like this but A4 size of course. Editor*)

Cumbria Archive Centre: searchroom library

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	DATE	CATEGORY	SHELF	LOCATION	NOTES
A History of the Cocker mouth Keswick and Penrith Railway	McGowan Gradon, W	no isbn	1972	Transport (Aviation, Canals, Roads, Railways and Shipping)	106	Map room	
A History of the Highmoors of Cumberland	Rhodes, H. W.		1994	Family History Guides	142		Margaret Russell Library
A history of the Knowe (Bewcastle) Presbyterian Meeting House and it's Ministers 1788-1891, Mike Jackson, 2005		Pamphlet		Religious History		Box File - Religious History Box 1	Red box title
A History of the Parish of Heskett in the Forest	Wilson, Tom	no isbn	1949	Cumbria Places	69	Map room	
A History of the parishes of Wetheral and Warwick	Lofie, A.G.	no isbn	1923	Cumbria Places	69	Map room	
A History of the Wallas Family	Wallas, Thomas	850221684	1985	Cumbrian People and Families	102	Map room	
A History of Thwaites and District	Sherwin, Rev. W.S.		1999	Pamphlets. Places	134		Margaret Russell Library
A History of Wigton School 1815-1915		952008904	1992	Cumbria Places	70	Map room	
A History of Windermere Parish Church		Pamphlet		Windermere		Westmorland & Lancashire	Red box title
A History of Wreay Hall 1623-1919	McNamra, Roy	no isbn	2010	Cumbrian People and Families	102	Map room	

The print-out is kept in a folder publicly available above the shelves of the archive lists in the Map Room. Given that new entries are continuously being made to the on-line catalogue, updated print-outs will be provided periodically in due course. And FoCAS has agreed to take turns with CLHF in funding them.

Adrian Allan

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## Museum News

**Kendal Museum** has changed its opening days which are now Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00 am to 4.00pm. Entry prices are now Adults£5, 5-18 years £2. Under 5's free.

**Keswick Museum's** exhibition "Dive into Derwentwater" explores what makes the lake special through the eyes of the people who use it: past and present. It runs until 31<sup>st</sup> December open 10.00 am until 4.00pm daily.

## CLHF Register of Research Interests

In case you missed this piece in the Spring Bulletin it is repeated here. Your Committee is always looking for new ways to service members which is why, some time ago now, we raised with you the possibility of creating a Register of Research Interests. After giving the matter further thought in the light of your comments, we have decided to go ahead with this. We will publish the Register in the Bulletin and on our Website and we will periodically update it. The register, created from individual responses to a short questionnaire (see below), would reveal the range of research currently underway, both thematically and chronologically. Members could then discover who had similar or related interests and contact them with queries, to share material and (possibly) to collaborate.

You will find below a list of the information required in order to compile the register. If you wish to be included in it, please send your completed list to Lyn Cole, Secretary of the Federation Committee at:

[lyncole1804@gmail.com](mailto:lyncole1804@gmail.com)

### CLHF Register of Interests

Name of Researcher

E-Mail address, phone number and/or other contact details

Name of Local Society

Titles of Topics of Research (up to four): e.g. 'The Great 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Cattle Plague'

Geographical Area concerned: e.g. The Old County of Cumberland)

Chronological Span of the research: e.g. 1745-57

Related Topics about which you are keen to hear/learn from other researchers: e.g. Cow Doctors; Pinfolds; Involvement of J.P.s

Any further comments: e.g. work underway or completed

## What do Local History Societies and Groups do best?

I attended three out of the four Cluster Meetings held by CLHF in June with Warwick Bridge near Carlisle being the one that did not have the pleasure of my company. (Look at the map of Cumbria and you would have difficulty finding two places further apart in the county than my village near Cartmel and Warwick Bridge!) Nevertheless I talked to my colleagues who did attend and the answer to the question I posed in the title to this piece is....."it is impossible to say!"

*Why is it impossible?* Because local history groups in Cumbria seem to come in all shapes and sizes with the number of members varying from a handful to several hundred and they handle their interests and activities in many different ways.

I exaggerate of course but the differences between groups became obvious in listening the discussion at the meetings: some organise talks only, some carry out research only, some just meet up for a chatter. They may also go on trips to historical sights, wander the fells looking for piles of stones that mean something, get lost looking at old houses and in their spare time sit for hours in an archive office poring over old documents. My personal pastime is that I examine old OS maps for village pounds and pinfolds and then visit the village. Or try to. I confess that I recently visited the wrong village. How was I to know there are two Brampton's in Cumbria?

The point of this ramble is that I would like to hear what local groups do to encourage their members to be more active in local history research, attend lectures and trips or anything else.

A suggestion made at the recent meetings of cluster groups was to publicise their own local interesting features to other groups, through the Bulletin of course, and invite them to visit. Another suggestion was that one group could host a walk around an ancient site or village as several societies have produced their own walk leaflets. Just a thought.

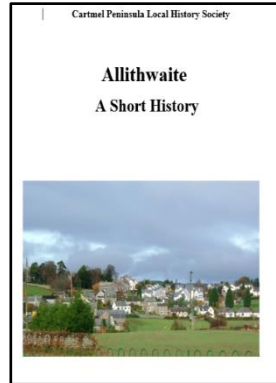
I am happy to include invitations and contact details in the Bulletin but would like a brief report, if it went well!

Nigel Mills, Editor



## Local History Publications

I have not received any information on new book publications by any members for this Summer Bulletin. Perhaps everyone is “researched out”. However I would like to encourage you to let me know of any publications no matter how specific they are. Cartmel Peninsula LHS recently published an A5 30 page booklet about the village of Allithwaite using small research articles produced over recent years. It was launched at a lecture and was very popular. Selling spare copies at local shops has raised funds and attracted new members to the society. Thank you to Pat and Phil Rowland of CPLHS for this update.



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Help Requested / Received

The Cartmel Peninsula LHS asked in the last Bulletin for the meaning of “Knowing Rent” found in several local deeds. Peter Messenger responded saying *“A knowing rent was a recognition payment made by a tenant to the lord of the manor every two, three or five years, described as being in the form of a running 'gressom' (a fixed fine). One of the various rents applicable to Cumbria's tenant-right. In the north of the county in Holme Cultram manor they were simply called running gressoms and were still being paid at the beginning of the last century c. 1910.* Thank you Peter.

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## Feedback requested from the Cluster Meetings

The CLHF Committee members who attended the Cluster Meetings felt that they learned a lot from the discussions that took place and gained a better understanding of the activities undertaken by you the members of Local History Groups in Cumbria. I will be emailing those that attended asking for feedback on how successful you felt the cluster meetings were and whether you felt that the discussion of the three areas selected was useful.

Meanwhile while it is fresh in your mind, and if you have not already emailed me, I would be pleased to hear what those attended gained from the cluster events and any other comments about the need for future get togethers. Please e-mail as soon as possible [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

At the Cluster Meeting at Swarthmoor meeting we discussed about meeting with neighbouring local history groups. I have heard that the Cartmel Peninsula LHS is already arranging both to host a walk looking at evidence of the flax industry in the Cartmel area for Mourholme LHS has been invited to a walking tour of Broughton -in - Furness by the Duddon Valley History Group.

If anyone else has any news of closer liaison or anything else that directly arose from meeting together at the events please let me know.

Nigel Mills

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Future Bulletin Production

Your CLHF Committee has had a bright idea!

As you may know I have been editor of the Bulletin for the last 15 Bulletins and it has never been difficult to fill the 28 or so pages with news and information from our members and other like-minded organisations. However we feel that there is potential to increase the variety and source of contributions to reflect all parts of our membership across the whole county. To do this we are looking for a handful of people to be “sub-editors” and keep their ears and eyes open and to seek items of interest to the local history community for inclusion in the Bulletin. Could you be one of these people? If so please get in touch with me. nigelmillspp@gmail.com

Nigel Mills (again)

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## Attention of CLHF Individual Members

The CLHF, as you will have noticed, has been somewhat pre-occupied in organising and conducting the 4 Cluster Meetings with group members throughout the County but we have not forgotten the over 45 individual members of CLHF who also support the CLHF. If you are one of these individual members please let any Committee member or myself me know what the CLHF can do for you.

Nigel [Millspp@gmail.com](mailto:Millspp@gmail.com)

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Contributions to CLHF Events Diary and Bulletin.

Any entries for the CLHF Events Diary may be submitted at any time to Liz Kerrey lizkerrey@gmail.com for inclusion on the website.

Articles or other contributions or suggestions for the Bulletin may also be sent at any time to nigelmillspp@gmail.com but the formal best before dates are:

end October for the Bulletin due out on December 1st.

end Feb for the Bulletin due out on April 1st

end June for the Bulletin due out on August 1st and

We look forward to hearing from you!

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## Finally - Something a little different “Old Cow and Peep Hole” by Jean Cowgill

Lindal sits astride the turnpike road  
between Duddon sands and Conishead Priory.  
The Duke of Buccleuch ruled red-stained men.  
Immigrant Schneider, washed up in Furness,  
was appalled by simple horse-gin workings.  
Much drilling went on in the hunt for iron,  
a boring operation broken by sweet success.  
Church land remained sacrosanct and ore free.  
Mines metamorphosed from numbers to poetry:  
Henning Wood Pot, Margaret Mine, Pickshaft Cove,  
Old Cow, Belle Hill Cave, Peephole and Ding Dong.  
After a three hundred and fifty feet ascent from hell  
miners, homeward bound, glimpsed Morecambe Bay;  
only in Summer though, in Winter lamps lit the way.  
Change House at Parrot Hill ensured cleaner sheets  
a poor version of pit head baths post World War Two.  
In all directions ghostly lines and slag heaps abound,  
past mine workings indicated by slumped ground.  
Mine captains paid their gang out monthly  
when bankers came to ‘Yorkshire House’ .

Jean tells me:

*For fifteen years I have been a member of Furness u3a industrial history group and now the Dalton-in-Furness LHS. We have visited Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire sites of interest. This poem based on a*

*visit to Lindal in Furness consisted of a short talk in the church room followed by an exploration of the iron ore workings to the west and north of the village.*

*When I came to Dalton, just over twenty years ago, these workings were clearly defined. Nowadays a lot have been 'tidied away'. I was particularly taken by the amazing names, also replicated near the Duddon estuary four miles away. 'Yorkshire House' in the centre of the village was where remuneration took place.*

Thank you to Kathleen Miller, Secretary of Dalton-in-Furness LHS for sending me this contribution.

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Events Diary 2019 - 2020

Please see www.clhf.org.uk for contacts and further event dates.

September

2	Furness Family History Society Cumbria & Lancashire Illustrated	Barrow Island Primary School Mike Winstanley
5	Cartmel Peninsula LHS The Corpse Roads of Cumbria	Village Hall Cartmel Alan Cleaver & Leslie Park
9	Cartmel Fell & District LHS A Close Look at Ulverston	Parish Hall Cartmel Fell 8.00pm David Fellows
10	Hesket LHG Woodland Industries of the Lake District	Village Hall Low Hesket Eleanor Kingston
12	Lorton & Derwent Fells The 1 st Battalion of the Border Regiment	Yew Tree Hall High Lorton Stuart Eastwood
16	Holme & District LHS The History of Kentmere	Memorial Hall Burton-in-Kendal Iain Johnston
17	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum Magical Wildlife of the Galapagos	Museum Workington Keith Snell
18	Caldbeck & District LHS "Now then Lad" Policing Memories	Caldbeck Parish Hall Norman Atkinson

19	Levens LHG Longhouses, Bloomeries & the Manor of Witherslack	Levens Institute Levens Jeremy Rowan Robinson
19	Askham & Ireleth LHG The Corpse Roads of Cumbria	Duddon Rd Church, Askham-in- Furness Alan Cleaver
23	Shap LHS Pubs and Inns of Westmorland	Shap Memorial Hall Val Fermer
25	Mourholme LHS Lanty Slee – A Smugglers Life	Yealand Village Hall Margaret Dickinson
25	Duddon Valley LHG Coniston Coppermines	Victory Hall Broughton Mark Hatton
26	Lamplugh & District HS D'Ken John Peel	Village Hall Lamplugh Dr Sue Allen
October		
3	Cartmel Peninsula LHS Cattle Droving Through Cumbria 1600-1900	Village Hall Cartmel Peter Roebuck
7	Furness FHS Ashlack Hall Visit	info@furnessfhs.co.uk
8	Lowther & Askham H&AS Open Evening	Askham Village Hall
10	Hesket LHG Coal Mining in the Northern Pennines	Village Hall Low Hesket Graham Brooks
14	Cartmel Fell & District LHS Tyson & Todhunters, Mungoe and Lancelot	Parish Hall Cartmel Fell Prof Angus Winchester
15	Friends of Helena Thompson Museum AGM Followed by slides "Problem Peeps"	Museum Workington
16	Caldbeck & District LHS MI5 Spies and Caldbeck	Caldbeck Village Hall Dr Rob David
17	Levens LHG Francis Strickland and the Jacobite Rebellions	Village Institute Levens Ian Hodkinson

21	Holme & District LHS Lakeland Architecture Through the Centuries	Memorial Hall Burton-in-Kendal Andy Lowe
23	Duddon Valley LHG Furness Abbey and the Fellowship	The Victoria Hall Broughton Gill Gepson
24	Lamplugh & District Heritage Society Get Lost in the Lonnings	Village Hall Lamplugh Alan Cleaver & Leslie Park
28	Shap LHS A Journey Through Time around Morecambe Bay	Memorial Hall Shap Dr Jean Turnbull
30	Mourholme LHS The Northumbrian Kingdom	Yealand Village Hall Dr Fiona Edmonds
November		
4	Furness FHS A Walk Around Whitehaven's Georgian Splendour	Barrow Island Primary School Mr Stephe Cove
7	Cartmel Peninsula LHS AGM & more	Village Hall Cartmel
11	Cartmel Fell & District Outside the Law: Crime and Punishment	Parish Hall Cartmel Fell Mike Winstanley
12	Lowther & Askham H&AS Lowther Mining Interests in Cumbria	Askham Village Hall Ian Tyler
14	Hesket LHG The Road over the Hill – A6	Village Hall Low Hesket Jean Scott-Smith
16	Shap LHS Social Evening & Discovering Lakeland Villages	Memorial Hall Shap Andy Lowe
18	Holme & District LHS The ReV Carus Wilson & The Poor Law in Kirkby Lonsdale	Memorial Hall Burton-in-Kendal Stuart Newstead
20	Caldbeck & District LHS Supper & AGM	Caldbeck Village Hall
21	Levens LHG Morecambe Bay in the earlt medieval period – a frontier zone	Village Institute Fiona Edmonds
21	Askham & Ireleth LHG Whaling from Whitehaven	Duddon Rd Church Askham Dr Rob David
27	Mourholme LHS The Pilgrimage of Grace	Yealand Village Hall Dick O'Brien

28	Lamplugh & District HS Waiter, Miner, Butcher, Spy: Germans and Austrians in Cumbria WW 1	Village Hall Lamplugh Dr Rob David
December		
2	Furness FHS Barrow & Docks 150 years	Barrow Island Primary School Sue Benson
10	Lowther & Askham H&AS Social Evening Archive Film and Photographs	Askham Village Hall Andrew Leach & Jim Bowness
18	Mourholme LHS The Cumbria Coast Railway	Yealnd Village Hall David Hindle
18	Holme & District LHS Lancashire Memories at Christmas	Memorial Hall Burton-in Kendal Jimmy O'Donnell
19	Cartmel Fell & District LHS Pubs and Breweries in South Cumbria	Parish Hall Cartmel Fell Bill Myers
January 2020		
14	Lowther & Askham H&AS Cumbria Farmhouse Odyssey	Askham Village Hall Chris Craghill
20	Holme & District LHS Early Maps of the North West	Memorial Hall Burton-in-Kendal Dr Ian Saunders
22	Duddon Valley LHG A Short History of Walking the Fells	Victory Hall Broughton Stephe Cove
29	Mourholme LHS The Lancaster Canal	Yealand Village Hall John Acres

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