



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 81 – Winter 2019



Tower House, Ravenstonedale - See Members News pages

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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Contrary to what I said in the last *Bulletin*, and following the recent AGM, I am still your Chairman, for one more year – which I hope will prove as successful as the last one, and which with your help it will.

We continue to grow and, besides around 40 individual members, we have just been joined by our 60th local history Society. I am also glad to be able to tell you that some of our endeavours have caught the eye of the British Association for Local History. Dr. Jane Howells, Editor of *Local History News*, has asked for an article summarising the proceedings and outcomes of our Cluster Meetings; and, once its updating has been completed, our 'Guide' relating to Speakers will be placed on their website as an example of good practice. It's nice to be noticed.

Many of you will know that, together with some of your fellow members, your Committee has been actively involved in the Cumbria Archive Service's consultation about the changes the Service made earlier this year to access arrangements at Kendal. Although the outcome of the consultation has yet to be implemented, it seems likely that some of the previous severe restrictions on access will be ameliorated. We would welcome some relaxation and remain committed to assisting the CAS in any way we can as it grapples with the effects of the sharp reductions in its finance and staffing under the policy of 'austerity'.

Our AGM in Workington adopted the model Constitution recommended to us by the Charity Commission. This is essentially the same as that agreed last year at Newbiggin, except that it is a good deal longer, as you will see from our website. Currently, members of your Committee are steadily working through the outcomes of the Cluster Meetings. Allow me to remind you of our agreement that each local Society would nominate two of its members as contact points for the Committee. Please forward their names to me or any other member of the Committee. Many of you will be waiting for news of our efforts to provide assistance with the management of your own group's archives. We are making good progress and hope to make an announcement in the New Year.

Peter Roebuck, Chairman, CLHF

CLHF Events

The 2019 Annual CLHF Convention “All at Sea”

Helena Thompson Museum, Workington.

The theme for this year’s Convention was the coastal history of Cumbria. A wide range of subjects and speakers made for a lively and varied day’s programme, after the business of the Federation was concluded. From Norse

sculpture to haaf net salmon fishing on the Solway; from wreckage of eighteenth century ships to seaside donkeys at Silloth; from a family from Maryport, with both famous and notorious members, to medieval

monastic connections across the Irish Sea and Cumbria’s ventures into the Arctic; we hope there was something to interest everyone. Members of local societies and individual members of the Federation had the chance to meet, chat, see the displays and buy publications. Everyone could enjoy looking round the fascinating museum, where we were provided with a very warm welcome.

June Hall



Talks given at CLHF Convention:

Bruce Bennison - Chasing Shadows:

The programme opened with a talk by Field Archaeologist & Museum Curator, Bruce Bennison, on ‘Chasing Shadows: Between Roman & Norman in Early Medieval West Cumbria’. Beginning with pre-Roman tribes, this ranged across the experience of the Romans, the Romano-British, the Welsh, the Picts & Scots, the Irish, the Anglo-Saxons, the Scandinavians, and the Normans. Using copious illustrations (maps and

photographs of sites and buildings) and demonstrating the results of modern technology such as laser imagery, Bruce was at pains to stress the elements of continuity in the history of this long and complex period. Notably, for example, Roman sites frequently became the focal points of early Christian activity.

Harry Hawkins, 'Cumbrian Monasteries and the Irish Sea Province Connections'

In a wide-ranging illustrated talk, Harry Hawkins clearly established that the Irish Sea has never been a physical barrier, not least, despite the perils of the sea, as regards the many links established between religious foundations on both sides of the Sea in the Middle Ages; also of significance were the religious links in the Border area between Cumbria and the south west of Scotland, notably in the case of Holm Cultram Abbey (itself founded from Melrose Abbey) which held property in Dumfriesshire and Galloway. During a vacancy in the see of Carlisle, 1157-1203, the bishop of Whithorn provided a role in the new diocese.

Following the Anglo-Norman invasions of Ireland in the late 12th century, John de Courcy gave church lands in Ulster to St Bees Priory, his wife founding Grey Abbey as a daughter house of Holm Cultram; a Prior of St Thomas's Priory (which he established at Downpatrick), was recruited from Carlisle Cathedral Priory. Furness Abbey had a number of daughter houses in Ireland, also the extensive estates of Rushen Abbey in the Isle of Man. St Bees Priory held several manors in the IOM and its Prior is said to have had a seat in the Manx parliament.

Parallel with these monastic family ties were various trade ties between the east of Ireland and NW Britain which Professor Keith Stringer had explored in his Whithorn Lecture in 2002. Even in the case of Calder Abbey, which had no overseas possessions, it is presumed it must have imported grain from Ireland and may have exported wool.

Providing the means of getting about on the Irish Sea were for many centuries the currach, later the long-ships, and then the carrack, developed in the 14th and 15th centuries. The role of Skinburness as a port was noted: in 1299 two ships were unloaded there and between 1320

and 1360 there are records of six ships that sailed from Drogheda to Skinburness.

June Hill, The Seaside

The pursuit of health and pleasure beside the sea, is a relatively recent phenomenon. From medieval times and before, people have sought cures for ills at sacred springs or holy wells. This turned into “taking the waters” at mineral springs

and wells, by first the aristocracy and nobility in Tudor times. Spa towns, named after a famous resort in Belgium, grew up in England to exploit mineral spring, as science began to take over from superstition. Gradually, drinking sea water, and



eventually sea bathing, became popular. Resorts developed along the coast of Cumbria, for example at Seascale and Allonby, where sea-water baths were built, first attracting genteel folk, and later, as transport improved, the habit of visiting the seaside reached all levels of society. As the railway provided a quick and cheap means of reaching the coast, Silloth, planned as a leisure resort, grew to provide holidays and day trips for thousands of working people from Carlisle. Golf, boat trips to Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Galloway coast, boarding houses, donkeys on the beach, and amusements, were some of the delights provided.

Mark Messenger, ‘Haaf net fishing on the Solway, past, present and future’

As chairman of the Solway Haaf Netters Association, Mark Messenger delivered an impassioned address on haaf net fishing which in origin he thought predated the Vikings citing Neolithic age timber associated with fishing found during excavations for the Carlisle bypass. Norse words continue to be used to describe the open sea (‘haaf’) , a slope (‘breest’),

etc. The rectangular wooden frame and the net from which it is suspended, which are hand-made locally using traditional methods, are virtually the same equipment as that used a thousand years ago. The traditions and knowledge of such fishing have been passed down generations of fishers, of whom there are now just forty on both sides of the Solway. Given the dangers of the estuary's waters, at least two years are spent in company before a fisherman fishes on his own and then always carries a compass so that he can find his place should fog suddenly descend.

The reduction in the number of haaf net fishermen he attributed to the restrictions imposed by the Environment Agency which licenses the fishermen, such that salmon caught have to be returned to the sea. The decline in numbers of salmon which led to these restrictions he felt could not be attributed to haaf net fishing but to other factors; nowadays he had observed that salmon stocks were back in abundance. Though no young people were coming forward to engage in such hard and potentially very dangerous work, next season the Association plans to take people out haaf net fishing on the Solway, its new website advertising its work.

Sailing North The Port of Whitehaven – Dr Rob David

The programme closed with a talk by Dr. Rob David, President of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society, on 'Sailing North: Cumbria, the Port of Whitehaven and the Arctic'. There were three elements. Firstly, an outline of the career of Skeffington Lutwidge, who in 1773 was Captain of the sloop *Carcass* and second-in-command of an expedition which attempted to sail across the North Pole to the Pacific. Also involved in this inevitably unsuccessful foray was sixteen-year-old Midshipman Horatio Nelson. Although Lutwidge went on to become an admiral, his achievements have been almost forgotten in comparison with those of his young midshipman. Secondly, there was an outline of Whitehaven's brief involvement in whaling during the 1770s and 1780s; and finally treatment of its subsequent building of ships for the whaling industry. (PR)

Following a plentiful lunch two CLHF members gave two shorter talks linked to this year's Convention theme:

Alan Bell, ' The rise and fall of Cumbria's maritime coast : 200 years of wrecks'

Ship beams found on Drigg beach in January 2018 provided the second example of furring in modern times, archaeologists from London and York dating these beams as of the late 1700s or very early 1800s. Documentary evidence reveals that in 1516 wharfage fees were collected at a creek of the sea called Whitehaven; in 1566, a survey for the Crown added eight further ports in Cumbria, including Skinburness. The development of Whitehaven as a port was noted; with a population of 1,000 by 1686 and with drift mines nearby, by 1750 Whitehaven was exporting 100,700 tons of coal and London 180,000 tons. In 1707, Whitehaven had been the second biggest importer of tobacco after London. The dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII had released large areas of land; the coal to be found near the surface was exploited on a large scale by the Lowther family as entrepreneurs.

Sarah Lee, ' The Bragg family : a story of murder, love, court rooms, shipwrecks, cannibalism and Nobel Prizes'

Sarah Lee, whose MA thesis was on the population of Whitehaven, treated us to an account of the genealogical research she had undertaken into the Bragg family, to whom she is related. While reference was found to a William Bragg, a cooper, who had a plot at Maryport early on, her research in The National Archives and elsewhere had revealed the circumstances leading to the death of Sibson Bragg, a ship's master, in 1829, murdered by his crew, off Australia, a volume of Admiralty reports revealing what led his crew finally to take their revenge for the ill treatment and death of his ship's servant for which he was held responsible. By way of contrast, a later generation of the family was uniquely to produce two Nobel Prize winners, Sir William Bragg (1862 - 1942), born at Westward, who in 1915 was jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics with his son, Sir Lawrence Bragg (1890 - 1971), for their work on X-ray crystallography. Of another eminent Cumbrian, Melvyn

Bragg, Lord Bragg of Wigton, she believed her Bragg family was unrelated.

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I hope that members who attended this year's Convention found the talks both interesting and stimulating. If you have any ideas for future Conventions please let me know. The tables displaying members books for sale and society interests as well as a raffle added to the enjoyment of the day. Editor.



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The 2020 CLHF Convention

Please note your diaries for

Saturday 24th October

Melmerby, near Penrith

Theme to be announced

From your CLHF Membership Secretary

Hello everyone, We'd like welcome Drigg Local History Society and Waberthwaite History Group who have joined us in the last month or so (as well as new individual members). I'd also like to remind member groups that they can expand their presence on our website <http://www.clhf.org.uk> by adding in more information about themselves - up to 250 words? - and also that we would like contact details for two members of each group where possible to help us improve communication! Do send me your annual programmes and details of any one-off events for inclusion on the website. Finally - it's that time of year again.... membership now due for 2020! Hope to hear from you all soon! All best wishes for the New Year!

Liz

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## Welcome to Chris Craghill – new CLHF Committee Member

Nottingham born, ex RAF wife, and adopted Cumbrian, Chris Craghill, is a qualified local historian with particular interests in vernacular buildings, the history of Cumbrian farming communities, and family history, and has researched several branches of Cumbrian families for overseas descendants. In this field she has a particular interest in Quaker families who were early migrants to America and she has also researched and spoken in the USA.



Chris lived for some years in the Northern Fells village of Uldale before spending some time in N.E. Essex helping with family and returned to Cumbria in 2015 settling in the village of Askham.

During her time in Uldale Chris began running house history courses for the LEA, was a member of Caldbeck History Society and became a local history speaker and has been on the CLHF speakers list for over ten years.

She is a member of the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, the West Cumbria Archaeology Society, a VCH volunteer and is a committee

member of Lowther and Askham History and Archaeological Society and has several ongoing private house history projects.

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CLHF Members News.

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

Tower House - The history and mystery of a loved and respected house.

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group welcomed an audience of over 40 members and visitors, to the first talk of the Groups 2019/2020 season of talks. Diana Fothergill presented 'Tower House, History, Mysteries and Stories', her summary of her very detailed and thorough research into the history of her home, Tower House in Ravenstonedale and the interwoven connections with her namesake, the Brownber Fothergill family.



The history was drawn from a multitude of resources, including Manorial Records, Local Tax records (Hearth Tax and Manorial Fines), pertinent reference books including some 17th century books, Fothergill family history archives, census data, local newspaper archives and local recollection. One of the books written by Anthony Fothergill in 1755, was a vigorous assertion of reverence and respect for the strict observation of the Ten Commandments. A paragraph, from this ancient text was read to the audience.

The presentation was chronological and based around the families who had direct residential connection with Tower House or who had a connection linked to family ownership of the property, along with

neighbouring properties. The group of properties which Tower House is surrounded by, were at one time under single ownership, with Brownber Hall at the centre of a number of cottages, farm buildings and Tower House itself.

Early Fothergill residents of Tower House were traced back to 1570s (although these Fothergill residents are unrelated to Diana, whose Ravenstonedale roots are traced back to 1784 at Fell End). In 1685 Elizabeth Gaunt (nee Fothergill in Tower House in 1621) was the last woman to be burnt at the stake for treason, for providing assistance to the rebel Burton. Her testimony was quoted by Diana, 'I did but relieve a poor family and lo! I must die for it'.

The talk demonstrated the wealth of historical information that can be discovered by cross referencing a wide range of archival resources, which, during the development of the talk had formed a carpet of documents in the barn of Tower House.

Interspersing the passage of time and identities of Tower House residents were a selection of fascinating mysteries. These mysteries included tales of secret passages, a 1689 date stone, which today has the date erased and a disaster at sea resulting in the survival and consequent inheritance by 'sailor Jack Fothergill' of Tower House.

The presentation included original letters, from across the span of history covered by Diana, including an 1837 letter appealing for the railway to follow a certain route (the railway passed close by Tower House). The Tower, which is a distinctive architectural feature of Tower House is first mentioned as a warning beacon to gather in livestock, during the time of the Reiver border raids. That said the Tower is confirmed as not being a Pele Tower, and the current construction results from rebuilding, using the same stone, in 1800s.

In more recent times, Tower House was a constituent of an inheritance, passing the Brownber properties to John Fothergill (1829-1904), a respected local landowner, breeder of shorthorn cattle who built Brownber Hall, then to his son John William who was the High Sheriff of Westmorland in 1911. Photographs of John in his formal regalia, en route to the Assizes in Appleby were presented. The story of his sons continued

with the founding a creamery business, established in 1912, but it ended in bankruptcy of John Hugh Fothergill and then auction of the Brownber estate in 1930. John Hugh, wife Marjorie and their young family were allowed to stay on in Tower House for a peppercorn rent.

The Second World War introduced a change of financial fortune, as reported in a letter, detailing the welcome income derived from providing board and lodging to some of the students of an evacuated school, while the classrooms were located at Newbiggin Public Hall. Shelter had become a source of income for Tower House before the war, as press advertisements were discovered and presented, promoting Tower House as a Country House Hotel, from 1933 – 1946.

From the 1950's to 1988, Tower House remained the residence of Marjorie and son John W.H Fothergill, and during this time the garden was commercially operated as a market garden. Tower House was listed in 1987 and today continues to be a loved and respected house and home.

Steve Fermer, Ravenstonedale Parish History Group.

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## **Ships and Sailors – Research into Crew Lists**

Earlier this year I attended a lunchtime lecture at Lancashire Archives, Preston given by Jacquie Crosby about using crew lists for family history. From 1835 the Merchant Shipping Act required merchant ships to provide to the General Register Office crew lists and each individual crew members signed agreements for each trip. The reason for the act was to enable the Admiralty to quickly gather together experienced sailors if war threatened.

The crew agreements provide particulars of the vessel, including the port of registry, tonnage, form of propulsion, owner and intended voyage. The information relating to the individual crew members includes the person's name, year and place of birth, capacity, previous vessels served on, and date signing on and off the vessel.

The records were stored at the National Archive, but in 1966, they decided to dispose of them. The decision met with considerable opposition as these records were considered to be a valuable and largely untapped source of information on seafaring labour and the shipping industry in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Eventually an agreement was reached meaning that these records are now scattered across the world. Some, relating to famous ships, have been retained by The National Archives; a sample went to the National Maritime Museum; local archives took some that were relevant to their area but very surprisingly the majority went to the Memorial University Maritime History Archive at St John, Newfoundland, Canada for their studies of the maritime history of Canada. They did not restrict what they took as they were prepared to accept everything.

Masters and Mates from 1850 to 1927 have been indexed and are available online at Ancestry website. Findmypast has the National Archive crew lists. Lloyds Register of ships is online. At Preston a team of volunteers has been working on transcribing the lists they hold and these cover the period 1863 – 1914 and contain about 82,000 entries, which give details of the crew members of ships registered in Lancashire – at the ports of Preston, Fleetwood and Lancaster. Seamen from across the United Kingdom, and beyond, are recorded in these records. The information can be accessed in the electronic catalogue LANCAT. I suggest that these records could also be very useful in local history research. Does anyone have any information on what is available in the Cumbria Archives?

A general guide produced by the National Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/crew-lists-agreements-log-books-merchant-ships-1861/>

Maritime History Archive information

<https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/crewlist.php> <https://www.mun.ca/mha/holdings/crewlist.php>

About the Crew list Index Project (CLIP)

<https://www.crewlist.org.uk>

Pat Rowland, Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society



## Shap Local History Society

### **Summer Exhibition - How the railway affected Shap**

Shap Local History Society exhibition in the Market Cross marked 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.

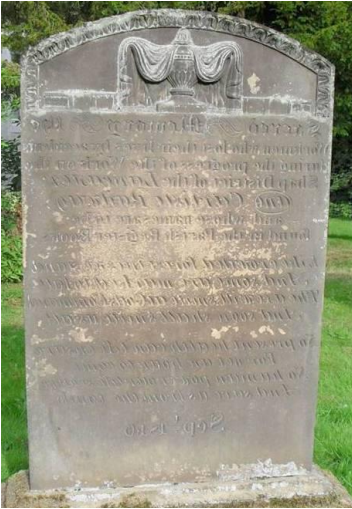
A navvies village of sod huts was built. Shap parish registers record baptisms, marriages and burials for the period and there is a memorial in the churchyard to those who lost their lives during the construction. (See below)

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 featured 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.

During August the Railway Heritage at Shap also featured in event at the Old Courthouse in with an exhibition of railway art, photography and model engines; lectures an evening of reminisces, a model railway exhibition and guided walk to railway sites. The month ended with a railway themed concert in the Old Courthouse featuring musicians Bill Lloyd and Karen Grandal-Park, and members of the Local History Society.



**Sacred to the memory of the**

**Workmen who lost their lives by accidents  
during the progress of the Work on the Shap  
District of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway  
and whose names are to be found in the  
parish Register Books.**

*Like crowded forest trees we stand  
And some are marked to fall  
The axe will smite at God's Command  
And soon shall smite us all  
No present health can life ensure  
For yet an hour to come  
No human power our life secure  
And save us from the tomb*

Sept. 1846

Jean Scott-Smith

*Note. The stanza is attributed to William Cowper (1731-1800) a prolific poet and composer of hymns. This stanza is sometimes listed under the genre "The Uncertainty of Life". Editor.*

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Speaker Recommendations

Diana Fotheringill spoke about the history and mystery of Tower House, Ravenstonedale to the Ravenstonedale History Group. Steve Farmer tells me that: This was a very entertaining talk, by a member of our History Group, who had not given a talk to our group previously, but bravely volunteered to research and prepare the talk to launch our 2019/2020 season of talks. In her career as a respected physician, Diana had given many lectures in her own medical field and she brought that experience of research and presentation into the talk. The talk drew together historical content from these very different sources and was compiled into a chronological story, peppered with anecdotes.

Directory of Speakers

The Speakers Directory has recently had four new speakers added. These are shown in *Italics* on the website. A few speakers have indicated that they would be available to societies at short notice if they had a cancellation. These are indicated with a red star next to their name. If anyone else feels they can provide this service they can contact me (solwaypast@yahoo.com) and also if they would like to have an entry in the directory or their entry altered they can also contact me. Graham Brooks.

Ruth Lawley (ruthlawley@hotmail.com) and Adrian Allan (adrianallan61@yahoo.co.uk), both members of the Federation's Committee, have been charged with seeking to refresh the Directory and accordingly have been contacting speakers known to them or brought to their attention inviting them to submit entries.

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This past year has been an important one for CCHT and Victoria County History, VCH Cumbria. The project's first printed publication, *The Victoria History of Cumberland: Kirkoswald and Renwick*, which is a fully illustrated paperback known as a VCH Short, was published in March. A launch event held in May was attended by over 80 guests and the first print run sold out in just a few months. We have welcomed several new volunteers to the project this year, one of whom, Alan Clegg, kindly led an excursion around the ancient parish of Waberthwaite, which was the destination for our annual volunteers' field trip in August. If you haven't already seen, the CCHT website has had several new resources added to it in recent months, including a compilation of historical data for



Cumberland and Westmorland going back to 1563. This year has also been a busy one in terms of fundraising and planning the next phase of the VCH Cumbria project. Three-years-worth of funding has been raised (with a generous contribution from CWAAS), some of which will be used to fund a new historical skills training programme, most likely in the Furness area. We also intend to focus on our long-held aim to produce a 'Big Red Book' covering the 13 townships that make up Lonsdale ward. Work is already underway the nine townships of Kirkby Lonsdale ancient parish, but we would be interested in hearing from anyone who might be able to help with work on Burton-in-Kendal, Dalton, Dillicar and Holme.

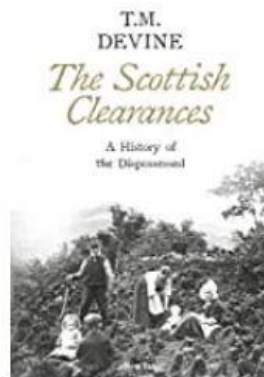
Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor VCH Cumbria, [s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk)

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Local History Publications

The Scottish Clearances by T.M.Devine

Once in a while it seems important to notice a major historical work which deals not with Cumbria but with a large area adjacent to it with which it had manifold interconnections. Professor Sir Tom Devine's *The Scottish Clearances: A History of the Dispossessed* (Allen Lane, London, 2018), xvii + 463, £25 merits close attention for several reasons. It is the first book to examine clearances in both parts of Scotland, the Highlands and Islands, and the Lowlands. Its conclusions run clean counter to previously received wisdom. And methodologically it handles a very wide range of source material (manuscript and printed) with great deftness. The evidence is not merely adduced, but is displayed, interrogated and analysed in detail and with great clarity.



In the author's carefully considered view much of the copious literature on clearances in the far north either avoids or downplays the intrinsic difficulties of the situation in the Highlands and Islands, falling back on unrepresentative examples and on explanations emphasising human wickedness. This does not, he steadfastly maintains, fit with the historical evidence. Whereas, in Lowland rural society, which has 'long been the Cinderella subject of Scottish history', clearance has been neglected or gone unnoticed. It began, and ended, earlier, often leaving little or no physical trace. It first manifested itself in the eastern and central borders to facilitate extensive sheep farming. In Galloway and surrounding areas clearance enabled land to be 'parked' for the intensive rearing of cattle for the burgeoning droving trade with England, provoking large 'Leveller' disturbances in the early 1720s. Elsewhere in the Lowlands agricultural improvement, industrialisation and urbanisation steadily eroded the cottar families previously dominant in rural areas. The numbers involved were very substantial, though the process was largely silent, partly due to emigration, but mainly because alternative employment was available in the region's growing villages and towns.

Overall, this profile of dispossession is very different from that provided in earlier studies, both in its shape and its colour, and in its comprehensiveness across such a long period. The book delivers a major re-interpretation of how economy and society in Scotland were modernised.

Peter Roebuck

The Cumbrian Industrialist

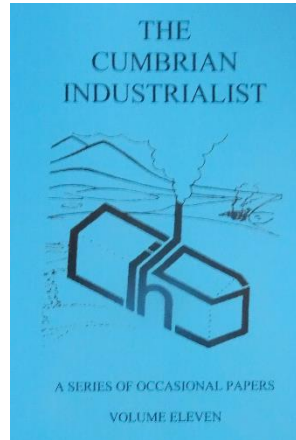
The CIHS has just published their 11th volume of occasional papers. This volume contains four papers of a very wide range of subjects.

The woollen mills at Millbeck near Keswick have been examined as part of a survey of the site for the National Trust and the article covers both the history and a description of the remains as are visible today.

Brewing of beer has always been an important part of Cumbrian life and every town had numerous breweries and a lot of villages had their own. It was often that breweries were passed own through families and they

moved around the county. This article looks at the role of some the major brewing families in Cumbria and the breweries they ran.

The next articles looks at a business that has morphed and changed over the years but is still in the same family being run by the 5th generation. William Coulthard and Co. was established in Carlisle in 1880 as mill and mine furnishers. As a side line they slowly developed as plumbers merchants selling bathroom fittings etc. and builders merchants selling a wide range of products. Due to the acquisition of a competitor they moved into the mechanical lubricator industry originally importing them and finally making them in Carlisle. When the American company that they bought the lubricators from started making die casting machines they moved into that industry both producing castings for other companies and also the machines.

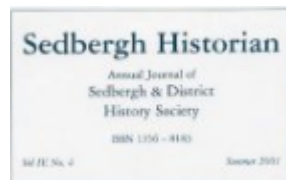


The final paper looks at the effect of asbestos on the death rate in the barrow area in comparison to the region and national death rates from asbestosis.

Copies are available from Graham Brooks solwaypast@yahoo.com cost £5.00 plus postage.

The Sedbergh Historian

The Sedbergh & District History Society is to be congratulated on producing another excellent annual journal (Vol. VII, No. 2, Summer 2019: £5+£1.10 postage). Three articles strike this reviewer as particularly significant. In 'The Poor Law in Sedbergh 1813-40' Michael Winstanley describes 'major transformations' in Sedbergh during the early 19th century. This demonstrates that the 'old poor law' was far from a rigid, unchanging system. The Act of 1834 which established a new system was unpopular there, though



local officials eventually decided that they had more to lose by resisting it. In correcting a national website database and providing additional biographical information, Richard Cann's diligent research reveals that Rev. John Moore was not Vicar of Sedbergh but 'Master of Leeds School'. And Karen Bruce Lockhart provides a substantial and fascinating article on 'Wartime Sedbergh' in 1944. This supplies the wealth of local detail so far only readily available via Mass Observation diarists.

The journal is well produced, finely illustrated, and contains a comprehensive list of the Society's previous publications from their inception over three decades ago.

Peter Roebuck

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## Future Bulletin Production

I mentioned in the Summer Bulletin that we were looking for CLHF members to act as Bulletin sub-editors located in all “corners” of Cumbria. The plan being that living closer to local societies and groups they could more easily gather relevant and interesting ideas and contributions for the Bulletin.

I have several volunteers from the centre and north of Cumbria but do need 1 or 2 more volunteers from the south and south west so please think about helping me and get in touch if you wish to discuss. It will not be an onerous task as “many hands make light work” as the adage goes. I would welcome interest from individual members of CLHF and from individuals belonging to member groups.

I will shortly be arranging meetings to discuss how we move forward with this development which in part comes from several comments at the Cluster meeting that the Bulletin needs to be more relevant to the area the reader lives in.

Nigel Mills [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

## Websites of Interest

I noticed a paragraph in the Autumn edition of the Cumbria Railways Association electronic newsletter, kindly sent to me by said society, a small paragraph that caught my attention.

I spent some of my teenage years living alongside one of the many inclines tackled by engines on the Somerset & Dorset line (known locally as the Slow and Dirty) and at the first sound of the 3.45 as it left Chilcompton station, sometimes double headed, I was out of the house to take in the sounds and smells as it steamed past..... but enough of that.

The article recommends a look at this website which has with other features historical information about the area and buildings on or near the Settle to Carlisle line.

<https://settlecarlisle.exploremoresettlecarlisle.co.uk/map/#!/>

I think this idea could be used by societies in Cumbria, probably in a simpler form, to highlight historic features in their area with images and historical information about the buildings and other features and done on a Cumbria wide scale might make it more affordable. It could also help increase the number of LHS members actually contributing to local research, something that was raised at the Cluster Meetings. *Interested in exploring the possibilities?* Then please get in touch.

Nigel Mills

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Grants to support research and writing in the history of Cumbria

Are you researching an aspect of the history of Cumbria and require some financial assistance? If so, the Friends of Cumbria Archives (FoCAS) may be able to help you.

FoCAS offers research grants, normally amounting severally to a total sum of £250 p.a., to support research and writing on an aspect of the history of

Cumbria. No limit is placed on the periodisation of research or the field of history being pursued, though applications to conduct family history research will be considered only if the fruits of such work can be shown to have a wider historical interest.

Normally, funded research will be undertaken in one or other of the four branches of the Cumbria Archive Service (Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, and Whitehaven) and / or in local studies libraries in the county. The costs of a project might include travel and photography. Successful applicants will be encouraged to publish outcomes of their work and will be expected to contribute a summary to FoCAS's Newsletter; single copies of published work will be deposited with the Archive Service. To be eligible for your application to be considered, you have to be a member of FoCAS.

The subjects of research for which research grants have been awarded in the past include political dissent in Westmorland; the history of the pleasure gardens at Netherhall, Maryport; farming in Cumberland during the First World War; the histories of Burneside and of Cockermouth during the Second World War; a history of Cleator Moor; the diaries of a Cumbrian woman dating from 1888 – 1909; and the legal action taken by the administrators of the estate of William Wordsworth's father against the Earl of Lonsdale in the late 18th century.

Further details, including an application form, may be found on the website of FoCAS : www.friendsofcumbriaarchives.org.uk . Applications for research funding may be accepted throughout the year and will be considered at the next FoCAS Committee meeting after the receipt of an application.

Adrian Allen CLHF

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## **Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University e-newsletter.**

Here is an extract from the RHC e-newsletter which I thoroughly recommend. Although perhaps some way to travel I know that CLHF members travel from the far reaches of Cumbria and always find these events worthwhile. The RHC website is [www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc)

Then on **Saturday 25 January, 2020** we'll be off-campus at the Storey Institute in Lancaster looking at North West Antiquaries and the development of historical writing (c. 1650-1850). Speakers including Lancaster University's Dr Sarah Rose and Dr Chris Donaldson, as well as RHC stalwart Dr Bill Shannon, will be examining the impact that antiquarian interests have had in shaping our understandings of the history of this region. We'll also hear Robert Parker about his forebear, the antiquary Thomas Lister Parker of Browsholme, and Dr Jane Platt on Thomas Machell.

In February, Dr Alan Crosby will be back for another of his popular one-man Study Days, looking at the Lancashire way of death. If the Christmas holidays featured too much over-indulgence and you're determined to go on a health kick in the new year, **The End is Nigh** on **Saturday 22 February** might be just what the doctor ordered.

Then on the first Saturday in March it is time for the **Annual Archaeology Forum** – this year it is the 47th in an unbroken sequence. We will be advertising the full running order before the end of this year, but please get the date in your diary now: **Saturday 7 March**.

Programme cards with dates and titles of all our public events are now available – we are sending out a copy to all our 'snail mail' contacts, and they will also be available through local history societies, archaeology groups and other heritage organisations that are on our mailing list. And of course you can pick up a copy at any RHC event!

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CLHF Treasurers Report.

Overall accounts show a steady trend.

The audited accounts to 30th June 2019 showed a surplus of £139.69 was generated in the year. The result compares favourably with the 2 previous years. The year to June 30th 2018, after excluding the website set up costs, was a deficit of £105.56. The previous year was a surplus of £85.73.

It is encouraging that following the increase in subscriptions approved at the 2018 AGM, we have an increase in numbers of Members as well as value. The 2018 Convention generated surplus of £174.67 in comparison to a surplus of £116.30 in the previous year. Events generated a deficit, but proved there was an interest in this type of activity and we look forward to at least a breakeven in future years. We are grateful for an increase in donations. Surpluses from the Convention, Events and donations help us to maintain the level of subscriptions at a reasonable level and not to have to repeatedly seek further increases. I would request your support for these activities to boost further interest in the future direction of the Federation as well as generating welcome income.

The main costs are the bulletins. It is pleasing to report that despite an increase in print costs, through careful management by the Bulletin Editor, the cost per bulletin decreased. Other costs were broadly in line with previous years.

The closing balance is adequate, when taking account of best practice guidelines.

Charitable Status has been achieved. Registration number 1183924

In June 2019 we achieved Charity status. The 2018 AGM approved a constitution, based on advice from a number of sources. The Charity Commission turned down the submission and invited re-submission using their preferred model constitution. The new constitution is not significantly different, but contains many more clauses. The 2019 AGM approved the new constitution. Approval has now been received from HMRC allowing us to claim Gift Aid on individual donations. The AGM was delighted that 4 of the Committee had been deemed by HMRC to be 'fit and proper'.

Funding for CLHF Members Archive Project.

Discussions have been taking place with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The basis of these discussions has centred on the information and discussions arising from the 4 Cluster meetings. On behalf of the Committee, Adrian Allan produced an important summary of the status of our Member societies. This information was used in discussions with NLHF. It was agreed to initially focus on archives held by Member societies taking in to account acquisition policy, location of

archives and suitability of the storage area, catalogues and their timely updating, access arrangements and advice on preservation.

We are currently finalising quotations from suitably qualified individuals/associates. It is envisaged that the successful party will carry out an online survey, host 2 workshop days and carry out a number of Member society visits. There will be advice/discussion on conservation materials. Finally there will be a report which should help to determine any further or follow up training needs across Cumbria.

This is a big project for the Federation and will require some careful cash management. Member societies will be requested to timely complete an online survey and to make representatives available for visits to ensure the work can be completed within an acceptable timeframe. Whilst a claim can be submitted for a part payment after 50% of the work is complete, it is important to everyone involved that timeframes are maintained. The successful consultant would expect to be paid in a timely manner.

CLHF Membership Numbers.

The Federation across Member societies and individual Members now exceeds 5,000 in total. It is in our interest to ensure we make the first project with the NLHF a success.

Hidden among official adverts are often notices from Trustees seeking applications for projects to finance often within a defined geographical area. Whilst some have very specific areas they want to help, often there are catch-up clauses stating that projects that may benefit the local community will be considered. Should the advancement of education of the public in all aspect of local history not meet these criteria?

John H. Poland, CLHF Treasurer

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**From your CLHF Secretary**

The CLHF committee is made up of ten members, at present, and meets approximately every two months. The meetings are lively and productive gatherings at which the committee get through a substantial amount of business including monitoring of current CLHF activities, discussion about

matters which may affect local history groups and individual members of the Federation, and exploring the best ways in which the Federation can support those interested in local history in Cumbria in the future.

A large proportion of the present committee members live in the north and east of the county and one in the south. While we try to cover a wide area when organising events such as the annual convention, cluster meetings, museum visits and workshops, it would be beneficial to have some committee representation from other areas such as West Cumbria. There is currently space for up to two more committee members (from anywhere in Cumbria) so do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel you may be interested in helping to maintain and develop the increasingly dynamic organisation that is Cumbria Local History Federation.

Lyn Cole

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Bulletin Distribution.

Did you know that each Individual members and each member Society or Group main contact receives a paper copy of each Bulletin followed by an electronic copy in the form of a pdf file. A complimentary paper copy also goes to the Archive offices in Cumbria and the CLHF Trustees.

If you as a member of a society also wish to receive a pdf copy direct by e-mail just let me or Liz know please.

Nigel Mills nigelmillspp@gmail.com

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## CLHF Register of Interests

Lydia Gray an individual member of CLHF has submitted the following: Research interests include The Parish of Addingham, Cumbria, 1800 – 1945, especially with reference to illegitimacy and/or Methodism, the Penrith and Kirkoswald Wesleyan Methodist Circuits from 1800 and is also keen to hear from members researching Cow Doctors, Pinfolds and Involvement of JP's. She can be contacted on [lydiachapel@gmail.com](mailto:lydiachapel@gmail.com)

## Contributions to CLHF Events Diary and Bulletin.

**Events Diary.** Any entries should be submitted at any time to Liz Kerrey [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com) for inclusion on the website.

**Bulletin Contributions.** Articles or other contributions or suggestions for the Bulletin should be sent at any time to [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com) . 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

Liz and I look forward to hearing from you!

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Trips and Walks

I occasionally include a short report on trips or walks organised by local groups especially when the group is developing its offering to their members:

Trips: Pat Newman, Secretary of Warwick Bridge & District Local History Group writes:

After a very stimulating talk about saving the Carlisle – Settle by Stan Abbott members decided to embark on an excursion, First Thursday in July we traveled by train with blue skies and sunlight dappling the recently cut hay meadows and field barns of Mallerstang. One group enjoyed exploring Settle while the remainder of the party travelled on to Skipton. We did not get quite as far as the Castle but enjoyed a wander along the canal and some of the best fish and chips, hallmark of a great day out.

I can't argue with that! Editor.

Walks: If you fancy stretching your legs over the coming months I would recommend you look at the website of the Duddon Valley LHG who run an impressive number and variety of walks. Details can be found at duddonhistory.org.uk/

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### **Editors Final Thoughts.**

The next Bulletin is due on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and is usually an optimistic edition with many individuals and groups looking forward to their summer trips, lectures and research projects. So please make a note to let me know what you are planning and also what you got up to during the winter months.

A couple of issues have been raised with me to which no-one to my knowledge has yet come up with good advice or a practical solution. They are:

How do we avoid a clash of dates for the Conventions, Conferences, Day schools and other significant events that occur in Cumbria so that we can attend them and not have to make a choice? and

How much should we pay speakers especially those who do not specify an amount or those who deliver an excellent well-presented and informed lecture for just a small amount of cash?

Please let me know what you think so that ideas can be shared in the Bulletin.

Have a good Christmas and thank you for your contributions to the CLHF Bulletin throughout 2019. I hope you have found something of interest when browsing these pages.

Nigel Mills

Editor

## Events Diary 2019 - 2020

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

### December

|    |                                                                                              |                                                          |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Furness FHS<br>Barrow & Docks 150 years                                                      | Barrow Island Primary School<br>Sue Benson               |
| 2  | Kendal H&AS<br>Depicting the Dead                                                            | Shakespeare Centre Highgate Kendal<br>Caroline Wilkinson |
| 4  | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>Rock Art in the Lake District                                   | Crosthwaite Parish Room<br>Dr Kate Sharpe                |
| 5  | Warwick Bridge & District LHG<br>Brampton 130 years ago                                      | Down-a Gate Centre, Warwick Bridge<br>David Moorat       |
| 10 | Lowther & Askham H&AS<br>Social Evening Archive Film and<br>Photographs                      | Askham Village Hall<br>Andrew Leach & Jim Bowness        |
| 10 | North Lonsdale HS<br>History of Ulverston Outsiders                                          | Methodist Church Neville St Ulverston<br>Pat Timewell    |
| 11 | Sedbergh & District Society<br>Some areas have stone circles some<br>like the Howgills don't | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>Tom Clare                  |
| 16 | Upper Eden HS<br>Around the Farmhouse Fireplace                                              | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School<br>Christine Craghill      |
| 18 | Mourholme LHS<br>The Cumbria Coast Railway                                                   | YeaInD Village Hall<br>David Hindle                      |
| 18 | Holme & District LHS<br>Lancashire Memories at Christmas                                     | Memorial Hall Burton-in Kendal<br>Jimmy O'Donnell        |
| 19 | Cartmel Fell & District LHS<br>Pubs and Breweries in South Cumbria                           | Parish Hall Cartmel Fell<br>Bill Myers                   |

### January 20

|   |                                                                                                            |                                                             |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | Kendal H&AS<br>The Glories of the Mine: Whitehaven<br>and perceptions of the Energy Coast<br>in the 1700's | Shakespeare Centre Highgate Kendal<br>Christopher Donaldson |
| 8 | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>A Hotbed of Communist Activity:<br>summer of 1940 in Howtown                  | Crosthwaite Parish Rooms<br>Dr Rob David                    |

|             |                                                                                                       |                                                                |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14          | Lowther & Askham H&AS<br>Cumbria Farmhouse Odyssey                                                    | Askham Village Hall<br>Chris Craghill                          |
| 14          | North Lonsdale HS<br>Whaling from Whitehaven                                                          | Methodist Church Neville St Ulverston<br>Rob David             |
| 15          | Sedbergh & District Society<br>Icehouses and the international trade<br>in ice                        | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>Rob David                        |
| 18          | South West Cumbria H&AS<br>The RAF in Cumbrian 1939-1946                                              | Egremont Market Hall – <b>2.00 to 4.00pm</b><br>Ian Tyler      |
| 20          | Holme & District LHS<br>Early Maps of the North West                                                  | Memorial Hall Burton-in-Kendal<br>Dr Ian Saunders              |
| 20          | Upper Eden HS<br>Brough Sowerby over the last<br>century: Confiscated or Stolen?                      | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School<br>Stan Scott & Margaret Gowling |
| 29          | Mourholme LHS<br>The Lancaster Canal                                                                  | Yealand Village Hall<br>John Acres                             |
| February 20 |                                                                                                       |                                                                |
| 3           | Furness FHS<br>Lakeland Architecture through the<br>Centuries                                         | Barrow Island Primary School<br>Andy Lowe                      |
| 3           | Kendal H&AS<br>Hadrians Wall: Bruce, Clayton,<br>Richardson and the creation of the<br>modern wall    | Shakespeare Centre Highgate Kendal<br>David Breeze             |
| 5           | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>Between Roman and Norman: shining<br>a light on the Dark Ages in Cumbria | Crosthwaite Parish Rooms<br>Bruce Bennison                     |
| 5           | Sedbergh & District Society<br>Markets to Supermarkets 200 years<br>of shopping in the North West.    | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>Mike WINSTANLEY                  |
| 6           | Warwick Bridge & District LHG<br>The Military Road                                                    | Down-a Gate Centre, Warwick Bridge<br>John Mather              |
| 6           | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>History of Lancaster Castle                                                  | Cartmel Village Hall<br>Dr Colin Penny                         |
| 11          | Lowther & Askham H&AS<br>Monks, Shepherds and Wool                                                    | Askham Village Hall<br>Harry Hawkins                           |
| 11          | North Lonsdale HS<br>All Roads Lead To Ulverston                                                      | Methodist Church Neville St Ulverston<br>Bill Myers            |

|          |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15       | South West Cumbria H&AS<br>From Peasant to Estate the rise of the<br>Cumbrian yeoman farmer after the<br>dissolution of the monasteries | Egremont Market Hall – <b>2.00 to 4.00pm</b><br>Christine Carghill |
| 17       | Holme & District LHS<br>The History of Lancaster Castle +<br>AGM                                                                        | Memorial HALL Burton-in-Kendal<br>Dr Colin Penny                   |
| 19       | Sedbergh & District Society<br>A little of the history of our twin town<br>Zrece in Slovenia                                            | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>Gaham Dalton et al                   |
| 24       | Upper Eden HS<br>Border Raiding                                                                                                         | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School<br>David Mann                        |
| 26       | Duddon Valley LHG<br>The History of Stained Glass in South<br>Lakeland                                                                  | Victory Hall Broughton<br>Sarah Lace                               |
| 26       | Mourholme LHS<br>Sex and Sin in the 17 <sup>TH</sup> Century                                                                            | Yealand Village Hall<br>Alan Crosby                                |
| March 20 |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                    |
| 2        | Furness FHS<br>Games, Pastimes and Work                                                                                                 | Barrow Island Primary School<br>Jean Turnbull                      |
| 2        | Kendal H&AS<br>Copt Howe: excavating Neolithic rock<br>in Great Langdale                                                                | Shakespeare Centre Highgate Kendal<br>Aaron Watson                 |
| 4        | Friends of Keswick Museum<br>Frogs, Firearms and Flames:<br>unexpected hazards in museum<br>collections                                 | Crosthwaite Parish Rooms<br>Heather Davis                          |
| 4        | Sedbergh & District Society<br>Thorns, Ribbleshead: anatomy of a<br>deserted settlement                                                 | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>David Johnson                        |
| 5        | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>TBA                                                                                                            | Cartmel Village Hall<br>Dr Alan Crosby                             |
| 10       | North Lonsdale HS<br>Almshouses in NW England – past and<br>present                                                                     | Methodist Church Neville St Ulverston                              |
| 16       | Holme & District LHS<br>Cumbria's Cooperative Societies                                                                                 | Memorial Hall, Burton-in-Kendal<br>Bill Myers                      |
| 18       | Sedbergh & District Society<br>The Many Worlds of Adam Sedgwick                                                                         | St Andrews Church Sedbergh<br>Robert Fox                           |
| 21       | South West Cumbria H&AS<br>Cumbrian Coins, Tokens and<br>Commemorative Medals                                                           | Egremont Market Hall – <b>2.00 to 4.00pm</b><br>Bill Myers         |

|          |                                                                                     |                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 23       | Upper Eden HS<br>The Black and White Canal                                          | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School<br>Raynor Shaw              |
| 25       | Mourholme LHS<br>The North West and Slavery                                         | Yealand Village Hall<br>Dr Nick Radburn                   |
| April 20 |                                                                                     |                                                           |
| 2        | Cartmel Peninsula LHS<br>Rusland Horizons Field Names Project                       | Cartmel Village Hall<br>TBA                               |
| 2        | Warwick Bridge & District LHG<br>Cotton of Cumbria - the Stead<br>McAlpine Story    | Down-a Gate Centre, Warwick Bridge<br>Ros Downing         |
| 6        | Furness FHS<br>Rampside Church                                                      | Barrow Island Primary School<br>Rod White                 |
| 6        | Kendal H&AS<br>AGM & Neighbours and<br>Neighbourhoods                               | Shakespeare Centre Highgate Kendal<br>Elizabeth Roberts   |
| 14       | North Lonsdale HS<br>History of Muncaster Castle                                    | Memorial Hall, Burton-in-Kendal<br>Peter Frost Pennington |
| 20       | Holme & District LHS<br>Milestones, Mileposts and Finger<br>posts in Cumbria        | Memorial HALL Burton-in-Kendal<br>Terry Moore             |
| 20       | Upper Eden HS<br>John Robinson (1727 – 1802) The<br>Appleby boy who ran the country | Kirkby Stephen Grammar School<br>Andrew Connell           |
| 29       | Mourholme LHS<br>A Cumbria Colony in the South Pacific                              | Yealand Village Hall<br>David Fellows                     |

### CLHF Committee

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