



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 82 – Spring 2020



Mah-jong set made by POW Harry Dressler at Moota Camp. See page 35.

Chairman's Chat – Peter Roebuck	2
Introducing our CLHF Trustees Jill Wishart and Jane Platt	3
CLHF Convention – Calling for contributions from Members	6
Members News: - Duddon Valley LHG, CRA, Shap LHS, Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, South West Cumbria History & Archaeological Society, Drigg LHG, Cockermouth Heritage Group, Ulverston & District Civic Society, Lazonby History Society, Asby HG.	7
Looking for a good home – Adrian Allan	19
Cumbria's Museums - Solway Aviation Museum	21
Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme	22
An Introduction To Lidar for Historians – Joe Ridley	23
Warwick Bridge Corn Mill	24
Local History Publications	26
Websites of interest	31
Ravenstonedale PHG – Use of local archives	32
Dr Ron Davie	34
Contributions to the Bulletin	36

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

In recent months, led by our Treasurer, we have been involved in arrangements in support of our bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund. In response to the Cluster Meetings last June, we want to finance a project on 'Managing Local Archives'. We submitted our application in mid-February and expect to know the outcome by mid-April. Three workshops, led by our Consultant in three different locations, will follow: all groups are free to join these if they so wish. Groups holding archives will then receive an individual visit from the Consultant. The project will benefit all participants and we are grateful for the support of many individuals and groups, including the Cumbria Archive Service.

There are several other events to look forward to. Later, during the last week in June, we plan to hold two further Cluster Meetings, one in the north of the county and the other in the south. We are discussing possible topics for these: if you have one to raise for discussion, let us know. This year our Annual General Meeting and Convention will be held at the Village Hall in Melmerby on Saturday 24 October. The theme for the Convention will be the history of transport in Cumbria and, as last year, members will be able to present short papers on any aspect of this topic. We are delighted that Dr. Alan Crosby, Editor of *The Local Historian*, will be our keynote speaker. You will receive further details of all these events.

I am confident that you will enjoy reading the rest of this *Bulletin*. Nigel Mills and his growing band of sub-editors have gathered a particularly valuable set of contributions. These vividly illustrate the sheer variety of activities in which our member groups are actively engaged. Power to their elbows!

Peter Roebuck, Chairman, CLHF.

In view of the coronavirus pandemic affecting or about to affect all our lives we will update you by e-mail of any changes or postponements of CLHF events. Please keep safe. Nigel Mills, Editor

Introducing our CLHF Trustees

The CLHF Constitution states that: *There shall be three Trustees of the Federation. They shall be the Chair, ex-officio, and two other members appointed as Trustees by the membership at AGM, who will hold office for three years and may be re-elected three times.*

Our Chair is of course Peter Roebuck, who you will already know from the Bulletin and our Annual Convention, so let me introduce the other two appointees: Jill Wishart and Jane Platt.

Jill Wishart

Educated in the 1960s at Whitehaven County Grammar School, and graduated from University of Keele with Joint Hons. in Geography and English. I have worked in the past for Oxford University Archives in the Bodleian Library, at Kendal Record Office as search room supervisor and obtained a Local History Diploma from CNWRS at Lancaster University. My



interest in LH came in the 1980s when living in a small rural parish near Oxford, and researched its past. I helped reinstate the Bicester Local History Society, and took part in field walking for Oxford Archaeology Unit. I have been fortunate to attend many lectures, courses and events over the years, which have helped to consolidate my knowledge of many aspects of Local History.

It is some time since I was actively involved with CLHF, but after co-founding and subsequently holding the Chair through the first half of its existence, I have been extremely grateful to watch it continue and thrive under Richard Brockington, Jenny Lister, Peter Roebuck and the various committee members bringing new expertise. CLHF has embraced social media. This has given a connectivity between members which far

outreaches the scope of any of our early advertising on radio, by post or in the local press. I am glad that the Directory of Speakers and Events Diary are still fulfilling their original functions of communication and as an information source between members and societies. In these days of world uncertainty, it is important to understand how our own communities survive, because this can provide a continuous and reassuring link with our past. And CLHF continues to foster this.

So, although now widowed and living in Caton, Lancaster to be near my family, I am still very much a Cumbrian Local Historian and will continue to give advice and support when asked hopefully this also makes me a useful Trustee!!

Jane Platt

I was born and brought up in the Eden Valley – in the village of Armathwaite – attending the Carlisle and County High School for Girls before taking up a career in primary teaching. Like many Cumbrians, I loved my home village, and after organising the ‘Armathwaite Historical Pageant’ in my early twenties, I fell in love with local history too. After a number of years teaching in local schools, I decided to emulate my own children by studying for a series of degrees: first with the Open University and then at Lancaster University, where I achieved a distinction in the MA on Historical research and various history prizes, including the AHRC Postgraduate Awards Doctoral Competition, the M.F. Howson Prize for the best essay on a subject of local history and The Queen’s Studentship in History (best qualified candidate for a graduate course or a research degree in History). After two years as a post-graduate associate of Lancaster, during which I organised a series of local-history seminars, I



became a visiting fellow and archivist at the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, Oxford Brookes University. I am also a fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS).

My books include *Subscribing to Faith? The Anglican Parish Magazine 1859-1929* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), *The Diocese of Carlisle 1814-1855: Chancellor Walter Fletcher's 'Diocesan Book' with additional material from Bishop Percy's Parish Notebooks* (Surtees Society and CWAAS, 2015), and *Making their Mark: Learning to read and write in nineteenth-century Cumberland* (Bookcase, 2019). I have also contributed articles and book reviews, mainly on 19th-century English religious history, to *The Local Historian* magazine and other historical journals. I am part of the editorial team of CWAAS *Transactions* and a member of the CWAAS Council. My husband and I have recently been privileged to move into a cottage in Carlisle Cathedral Close, where local history continually presses on the heart and mind.

Like many historians, I enjoy contextualising local history through weaving it into national and international events and themes. I am currently editing the six volumes of late-17th-century notes on the history of Westmorland written by the antiquarian, Thomas Machell, to be published as a two-volume work by CWAAS. While this undertaking will make Machell's notes more widely available to local scholars, it will also place Machell where he belongs in the pantheon of 17th-century European antiquaries.

The 2020 CLHF Convention

Saturday 24th October 2020

Melmerby Village Hall, near Penrith

Transport History in Cumbria

Keynote Speaker Dr Alan Crosby

CLHF Annual Convention and AGM 2020

Calling for contributions from Members

Date : Saturday 24 October, 9.30 – 4.00. Venue : Melmerby Village Hall

Theme : Transport History in Cumbria

Following the favourable reception of short contributions to the programme by members of CLHF, we plan to increase the number of contributions and the time allowed for each speaker. We are aware that a great deal of good research is being done all over the county, and this is your chance to share the results.

Three contributions of half an hour each are invited. Below are a few ideas of the sort of subject, but the list is only the tip of the iceberg. Please send your offer **before 15 May**, to – June Hill, Howe Top House, Maulds Meaburn, Penrith, CA10 3HR or e-mail, junehill224@gmail.com

A decision of which offers to accept will be made by the committee, and a programme and booking form issued with the next Bulletin. Meanwhile, please come forward and remember to note the Convention date in your diary.

All forms of transport are eligible – land, water and air. The list of possibilities is endless, but a few suggestions follow.

Turnpike roads (building, traffic, survival of features)

Early aircraft in Cumbria, (wartime, airfields, incidents)

Packhorse routes (horses, loads, bridges)

Animals on the move (over-wintering sheep, droving, geese, cattle shoes)

Stage coaches (inns, timetables, diaries, coach builders, gentry coaches)

Canal & river traffic (canal building, grand openings, routes, cargo, boats)

Railways (steam, disused lines, mineral lines, excursions, engineers)

Motorways (building the M6, workers, controversies)

Blacksmiths – keeping the wheels turning.

The Grand Tour and the beginnings of tourism.

June Hill

CLHF Members News.



Community Archaeology Volunteers receive Award

The Duddon Valley Local History Group has been named the Community Archaeology Group of the Year by the Council for British Archaeology. Chairman Ken Day and Stephe Cove travelled to London to receive the award from Dr Mike Heywood, Director of the Council, in the iconic halls of the Society of Antiquaries on behalf of the History Group.

The award of a certificate and a monetary cheque was given for its work in the excavations of three potential Norse longhouses in the Duddon Valley near Seathwaite. This was the culmination of over ten years work, providing detailed surveys of the valley for the Lake District National Park, during which a number of structural remains of similar size possibly of Norse origin were identified. Three of these were chosen for excavation. Mr Day said "This award came as a complete surprise. To actually win is a real credit to the teamwork that went into putting this project together. There are many people to thank but without the support of the National Heritage Lottery Fund it is unlikely that the excavation would have taken place".

Also at the ceremony Eleanor Kingston, Lake District National Park archaeologist, won her award for Community Archaeologist of the Year for going above and beyond her role to support, encourage and contribute to Community Archaeology. Eleanor was involved in Coniston Copper, Rusland Horizons and Duddon Dig.

Sue Lydon

Congratulations to the Duddon Valley Local History Group for their award.
Editor

Cumbrian Railways Association

The CRA held their bi-annual meeting at the Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster on 9th November 2019. The event was a great success with 60 members present, many of whom had travelled considerable distances to attend.

CRA Chairman Philip Tuer introduced the first speaker of the day. It had been 21 years since a representative of the Furness Railway Trust (FRT) had last spoken to the Association and so FRT Chairman Tim Owen was given a particularly warm welcome.

Tim gave a fascinating account of Furness Railway Locomotive No 20 which is now the oldest working steam locomotive in the country, dating back to 1863. After a brief history of the loco Tim went on to describe the restoration process. No 20 had originally been equipped with a tender but had been converted to a saddle tank in 1870 for use on Barrow Steelworks.

The aim of the restoration was to reinstate the tender and a successful application was made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £97,500 in 1996. During shot-blasting the frame number revealed that the loco was not FR No 18 as originally thought but was actually No 20. It was apparent that the Lottery had granted funds for a locomotive (No 18) which didn't actually exist - but they were very understanding and didn't ask for the return of their money!

Tim went on to list the numerous Heritage Railways upon which No 20 had operated and mentioned the very lucrative side-line of film work. Film makers in need of a Victorian locomotive have limited options and so No 20 has appeared on the Silver Screen alongside Gwyneth Paltrow and Ralph Fiennes. After lunch Alan Young explained the construction and workings of the fascinating 'Disused Stations' web-site which is well worth a visit. Using Bassenthwaite Lake as an example the audience was able to view a potted history of the station along with maps, photographs, tickets and sample timetables.

Tom Heavyside the renowned railway author and photographer was the final speaker of the day, being introduced by CRA stalwart Ron Herbert who had known Tom for 60 years. Under the heading 'Lancashire Steam' Tom presented an extensive number of superb photographs not only of steam traction in the Red Rose county but also rare shots of the numerous locomotive works and builders who plied their trade in the county.

~~~~~



## Shap Local History Society

Shap Local History Society owns the Market Cross in Shap, a Grade 2\* building, that dates from 1687, the year that a Market Charter was granted to Shap by Philip Lord Wharton who was the Lord of the Manor. It is built in part from Shap Abbey stone and would have had open arches to provide a covered area where stalls could be set up. During the 19th century the arches were filled in with stone and semi-circular windows were installed. The building has unique windows, three of these on the south side are now in a poor state, with some broken and missing panes of glass and rotting frames. Unfortunately the three windows facing east had some work carried out under previous ownership, and this resulted in two being replaced with flat leaded panes. Therefore the Society is determined to preserve the remaining originals.

The Society has consulted Andrew Lowe, who is an expert in vernacular architecture for advice about the windows. He has told them that the windows at Shap and those at St. Peter's church, Askham are the only examples of this particular style of window he knows of anywhere. He



can date the Askham windows to 1832, the time when Sir Robert Smirke was working on Lowther Castle and redesigned the church at Askham.

The windows can be described thus: Semi-circular windows of a unique design, these are made of individual leaded diamond panes in blown glass, each being set at an angle so that the light from outside is reflected. The glazing is supported by iron rods on the inside to which the leaded sections are attached by wires making them extremely strong. The link between the two examples of this style of window would be due to the fact that the Earls of Lonsdale were Lords of the Manor of Shap at that time. It is therefore likely that the Shap examples date from the same time as those at Askham. There is no known architectural term for this style, and Mr Lowe refers to it as 'harlequin glass'.

As readers will realise, the Society has had to engage experts in leaded glass and bespoke joiners to carry out the work. During this year the Society are undertaking some extensive refurbishment work on the building and this will include redecoration of the interior and restoration of the windows and replacement of the frames.

Following the infilling of the arches, it is known that the building was used as a Dame school during the third quarter of the 19th century. It later became the Parish Rooms where meetings were held. In the 1970s the Shap branch of the county library was housed there. When the library moved to the former magistrates court now known as The Old Courthouse, the Market Cross building was first rented and then purchased by Shap Local History Society in 2006 with the aid of a Lottery grant as an archive and exhibition centre. The Society still makes the building available to the Parish Council as an office and meeting space.

Jean Scott-Smith

**CLHF Website: Don't forget we can make any changes to your group's events already included on our website very quickly. Please just e-mail [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)**

# Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group



The CVBG has had a lively start in 2020. Around one fifth of our members have engaged with a new project, the results of which we hope to publish in due course.

**Along the Lines** aims to relate the geology of Cumbria and the vernacular buildings found in the area. One of our members, Dr Alan Smith, has drawn two lines through the map of the county, from west to east (St Bees to Stainmore) and from roughly north to south, (Silloth to Milnthorpe). Following meetings in January, members have gone out with cameras and notebooks, to their chosen section of the “lines”, and recorded what they have discovered. They all agreed that this has been a most rewarding exercise, exploring both new and familiar places, and looking closely at the buildings and the materials used in building them.

Alan Smith's recently published book, **Lakeland Rocks**, The Crowood Press, 2019, £16.99, is invaluable to us and indeed to anyone interested in the topography of Cumbria. It is lavishly illustrated with clearly understood photographs and diagrams of the rocks, the scenery and buildings.

The results they brought to the February meeting showed just how much time and commitment members had given to the project. Now, we are forming an editorial group to take it to the next stage.

Watch this space!

June Hill

~~~~~

South West Cumbria History & Archaeology Society

A New Era for Eskdale Mill

Over time there would have been many dozens of water powered mills in the Lake District carrying out the more onerous and monotonous tasks of various sorts ranging through mining machinery, clothing material manufacture, metal working and most of all, flour and animal feed production.

Eskdale Mill is the oldest working corn mill remaining in the Lake District and a programme of conservation works has recently been completed and a subsequent first year of receiving visitors again. The cost of the project was c. £1M, the major part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund plus contributions from Copeland Community Fund and The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

It is most likely to be the mill referred to in a Percy Survey of 1547 as both a fulling mill (the cleaning of woven cloth) and a corn mill and it may even have been the mill in Eskdale mentioned in King Edward I Calendar of Close Rolls of 1294.

The buildings are set into the side of Boot Bank on the north side of middle Eskdale where the water from Burnmoor Tarn tumbles down the Whillan Beck, under the packhorse bridge in Boot and then on to join the River Esk at Beckfoot. There are two waterwheels, one for powering the shelling and grinding of oats and the other that would have produced wheat flour. There is evidence in an 1842 miller's accounts that pearl barley, shelled and polished was also produced.



All the associated machinery was sensitively restored to safe working order by millwrights. A new European larch launder was constructed to guide some of the water from the Whillan Beck to two waterwheels. In addition the Mill Cottage was thoroughly refurbished and the old cart shed/garage converted to

reception, toilet and small shop area. Three slated roofs were replaced, lime mortar pointing of stonework, a mains water supply installed, a new sewerage system, an exhibition space and signage designed and created. Many artefacts were catalogued and conserved for future displays. Considerable information has been brought together covering aspects of mill and valley history which is gradually being presented in the exhibition space and a new, revised guide book has been produced.

A separately funded project was the construction of another waterwheel, remote from the mill buildings, to use a further supply of water to drive a generator that can supply up to 4kW of electricity to the national grid. This renewable energy feature earns a Feed-in Tariff income for the mill and demonstrates to visitors how the energy of falling water can produce both electrical energy or do purely mechanical work as in the grinding of grain to produce flour.

Information about opening times, prices and volunteering opportunities can be found on the website at eskdalemill.co.uk

Len Watson

~~~~~

## Drigg Local History Group

### Ancient Timbers on Drigg Beach

2018

When Storm *Fionn* hit the beaches around Drigg during January 2018 five ship's frame timbers were washed ashore. Drigg Local History Group committee member Alan Bell discovered them and investigated their age and construction further.



In some examples, the planking was over 6 metres in length, and the timbers were fixed using Trenails, (a hard wooden pin used in ship building for centuries). Alan contacted Gustav Milne of the CiTIZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) project at the Museum of London who sent two Archaeologists from York to record, photograph and measure the timbers as well as to take samples.

It was later discovered that a further 21 timbers had been brought to the surface and deposited near the low tide mark in February 2018. When further details and measurements were sent to CiTIZAN a stronger team were despatched. This consisted of the two York archaeologists, a marine archaeologist and English Heritage dendrologists. (See picture 3).

The expanded team set off from Drigg beach car park in the dark to give maximum time on the low tide wrecks. Many samples were taken from the both sets of timbers and planks and sent to Lampeter University for dendrochronological analysis.

There was a possibility that the timbers could have dated from Tudor times which would have been a rare discovery. The 5 Timbers on the beach showed a rare example of 'furring'. The 'Gresham Ship' built in 1574 and discovered in the Thames in 2003 is the only other example of 'furring' to be seen in modern times. 'Furring' is a shipbuilding process which involves taking off the outer planking in order to increase the breadth of a ship by doubling the frames and then re-planking, so increasing the buoyancy. This corrects the poor design of a ships which are difficult to sail.

Sadly, this 21 plank wreck turned out to be a much later example of correcting a poor ship design to improve the handling of a so called 'cranked ship'. The timbers were dated late 1700 to early 1800 (1775 - 1825) as no growth rings near the bark were found. Such old ship wreck timbers are still rare, 96% of wrecks are post 1840. Remnants of these wrecks can still be found on Drigg beach although they have been moved up and along the high water mark.

Alan Bell and Chris Gigg

~~~~~

Cockermouth Heritage Group



We have a display coming up at the Kirkgate Centre over the weekend of 4th and 5th April, commemorating the birth 250 years ago of William Wordsworth. The display looks at Wordsworth's early years spent in Cockermouth. It will describe the Georgian town that William would have known, exploring just how much of the town would still be recognisable to him today. Additionally, we have photographs of local schoolchildren involved in the 1950 and 1970 commemorations.

To tie in with this event, there will be a book ('Wordsworth's Cockermouth'), hopefully available in April from local bookshops or directly from ourselves.

Wordsworth House will be playing its own part in commemorations, including an exhibition entitled 'The Child is Father of the Man' (14th March to 8th November 2020, 11-4 daily).



May 2020 sees another commemoration; that of Victory in Europe Day, and our group will be putting on a display (venue to be confirmed); topics to include: evacuees to the town, the Moota prisoner-of-war camp, the Broughton Moor Royal Naval Armaments Depot and explosion, and a local connection to the D Day landings. The latter came about as the result of a request for local memories concerning WWII, and we have subsequently recorded several people. As the result of Lottery funding for a WWI recording project towards the end of 2018/early 2019, we were able to buy recorders and training sessions in oral history. We went into residential homes in Cockermouth and recorded several residents in each home, all with interesting memories to pass on. We continue recording local people and add their stories to our archive.

Gloria Edwards

Ulverston and District Civic Society

In addition to commenting on planning applications affecting the historic core and Conservation Area and managing reorganising the archive of the former Ulverston Heritage Centre, the Society is also involved in various more hands-on activities. One of these is the repairing of the iconic wall alongside one of the main footpaths up to Hoad Hill and the Sir John Barrow Monument. Known locally as the 'Great Wall of China' the wall runs along both sides and contains the footpath, but had become badly damaged, particularly on one side.



Working alongside the Cumbria Drystone Walling Association this section of the wall was fully repaired over several years. Members of the Civic Society supported the skilled drystone wall builders by moving stone and helping with supplies and equipment and the end result has greatly improved the experience of an important local landmark.

More recently our members have been involved in attempts to improve the condition of the pound, a pin fold on the north side of town which has become badly neglected, overgrown with vegetation, and accumulating litter in the last few years. It is hoped that this will enable a new use to be found for this Grade II Listed structure, which stands next to a children's playground. It is thought to date from the early 19th century, it was certainly in existence in 1832, and was associated with the local livestock markets that were probably held nearby in the Gill. It later had a small structure added on one side of the interior and was at one point used as a small allotment.

The Civic Society has now spent two sessions, the second dodging the worst of Storm Ciara, clearing brambles, removing rubbish, and separating piles of rubble for removal and stone for reuse in any repairs that might be necessary. The interior is already vastly improved and

finished to a raked surface ready for new uses: discussions are already in progress with Ulverston in Bloom and the Town Council with the local BID (Business Improvement District) a possible source of funding.

Dan Elsworth

~~~~~

## Lazonby History Society

The history society was formed in 1997 after villagers joined in two village walks, looking at buildings and the history of the village. There was sufficient interest to suggest the formation of a society to promote information gathering and sharing of the history of the village and surrounding area, covering all aspects of local history.

For more than twenty years the society has grown in membership and had a variety of interesting talks by speakers on wide-ranging topics. The society has also undertaken numerous research projects, including a Cumbria -wide oral history project in 2000. A survey of pre-war housing in the village promoted by John Moores University, Liverpool was undertaken by 19 villages in the Eden Valley including Lazonby. (1999-2000). Other projects included Eden River Crossings; Lazonby Bridge; Settle-Carlisle railway; Employment in the village 2010; Local families and buildings and others of very local interest. A village history leaflet was produced in 2011 and a booklet of oral history in 2017.



Recently, as older members were not able to attend and younger villagers not forthcoming, the membership has dwindled, although some speakers attracted bigger audiences of visitors. The present committee consists of three. The secretary and treasurer/acting chair have served since the society's formation. With much regret the decision was taken to close the society after the meeting in March 2020. Some local history-connected work will continue, with visits to the school and guided walks for villagers.

The Cumbria Local History Federation is providing support and guidance with archive material developed by the society over the years and it is hoped that this will be made accessible to all interested people in the future.

Sheila Fletcher and Valerie Halsall, Acting Chairman

~~~~~

Manor Court Books at Asby

Few records survive for the three manors which made up most of what is now the parish of Asby, which also contains part of a fourth manor, Gaythorne. However, three manor court books for one manor, Asby Winderswath, are in the Kendal Record Office (WDX/424; WDHH/105; WDHH/106). Like many manor courts, that for Asby Winderswath, from 1735 onwards, was dealing principally with changes in the holding of customary tenancies and the occasional enfranchisement. But the first court book, from the early 18th century (WDX/424), contains a transcript of 'paines' (by-laws) from now lost court records of the mid and late 17th century, as well as cases involving the enforcing of these by-laws – although with increasingly infrequency – until as late as 1886. The transcriptions can be seen as an echo of a period of greater court activity and responsibility in the organisation of agricultural practice which, at the date of transcription, was already slipping away, as parcels of communally farmed 'town-fields' began to be grouped and enclosed. Very few court cases or new 'paines' deal with the work of the fields. Instead, we begin to see, for example, those community and economic tensions surrounding access to grazing, which have been chronicled by historians of the region, such as Charles Searle and Angus Winchester.

In this first court book, we get additional glimpses of life in the manor in the 17th to 19th centuries: of what Winchester has described as "the perennial challenge" to the community's responsibility to keep the water away from roads and fields; the gradual exhaustion of sources of peat – also detailed in regional studies – sees the court making 'paines' to control the places where it could be dug; piecemeal enclosure of the

town-fields leading to disputes over rights of way to access to parcels of land, which had to be resolved within the manor court; as well as other details of daily life, including the rights of the miller, control of fishing in the mill-pool, control of bracken-cutting, and the prevention of 'foreigners' becoming a burden on the township.

Keith H Cooper, Asby History Group

Keith will be talking about 'Community tensions and responsibilities in 17th and 18th century Asby: the role of Asby Winderswath Manor Court', at Asby History Group's Wednesday, May 6th meeting in Great Asby Village Hall, starting at 8pm. Editor

Looking for a good home

Following an approach which Mrs Jill Wesson - about to move home - made to the Federation chairman, Professor Peter Roebuck, seeking help, a good home has recently been found in the Local History section of Kendal Library for fourteen volumes of publications, including local pamphlets, concerning Westmorland, which Mrs Wesson's father, Mr W P Dobson, had collected and had devotedly had bound up.

Mr William Percival Dobson (1906 – 76), who for many years owned and ran the Bela Comb Mill at Milnthorpe, devoted a lifetime of service to the community as a member of both Westmorland County Council (as Vice-Chairman) and South Westmorland Rural District Council (serving three terms as chairman). Throughout his life, Mr Dobson built up a collection of records relating to Milnthorpe and Kendal and to local government in Westmorland which have been deposited with Kendal Archive Centre.

The volumes of publications which have now found a home at Kendal Library include those entitled 'Westmorland Tracts', 'Westmorland Booklets Education etc', 'Westmorland Dialect', and 'Lakeland Pamphlets'.

Whether or not readers are moving home, it is to be hoped that they might consider making provisions such that records of potential long-

term historical value that they hold are identified and arrangements perhaps made for their appropriate deposit so that future generations of local historians will be in their debt.

Adrian Allan

Bulletin Distribution

Did you know that each Individual member and each member Society or Group's main contact receives a paper and pdf copy of each Bulletin. If you wish to receive a pdf copy direct to your email address just let me know please. Editor

~~~~~

## **A note from your Membership Secretary.**

A reminder that Subscriptions are due for 2020 and for those member groups who have not yet sent me a second email contact to get in touch please! Don't forget to send me your annual programmes for the website and of course if you have some interesting local history news or a special event pass that on too! For membership enquiries please contact me at [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)

~~~~~

The CLHF & the Regional Heritage Centre

We are pleased to announce that committee member Adrian Allan will represent CLHF on the Advisory Board of the Regional Heritage Centre.

~~~~~

### ***Note:***

*Did you spot CLHF Chairman Peter Roebuck's article on the CLHF Cluster Meetings 2019 in the BALH Local History News? Editor*

## Solway Aviation Museum

As the Cumbria Local History Federation's chosen theme for the 2020 Convention is 'Transport in Cumbria' we thought it fitting to include a short piece on the 'Solway Aviation Museum', which is situated alongside Carlisle Lake District Airport at Crosby on Eden but totally independent of it. The museum, whose primary objective is the preservation of the UK's aviation heritage, is run entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers from the Solway Aviation Society and holds a growing collection of historic military and civilian aircraft, as well as aviation artefacts and displays reflecting Britain's position as a leader in aircraft design and innovation at the dawn of the jet age. Also held at the museum is information on the various flight schools that have operated from Carlisle Airport in the past. The connection to the region is strengthened by the fact that some of the jet aircraft at the museum will have at some time used nearby Spadeadam Range for electronic warfare training, as well as using the varied terrain of Cumbria for flying training exercises.



Most of the aircraft are on display outside and include ex RAF Phantom, Canberra and Meteor jets. Indoors there is an ex RAF

Vampire jet trainer where visitors can view inside the cockpit. The star of the aircraft collection however is the Avro Vulcan bomber, which at one time formed part of the RAF's formidable tripartite V Force at the height of the Cold War. (see image of a Vulcan flypast in 2015)

The museum reopens after the winter break on April 3rd. Please see website <https://www.solway-aviation-museum.co.uk/>

Chris Craghill

*Members of CLHF and Cumbrian Museums are invited to provide me with a short introduction to their local museum for publication in future Bulletins.*

## Bulletin sub-editors

*I am pleased to say that I now have 4 sub editors to help with me with encouraging CLHF members and others to let me have news and items of interest for the Bulletin. They will each have a number of members to contact so when you hear from one of them please help them to help me. Thank you. Editor.*

## Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme

Many of you will be aware that the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, grant funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is up and running. A programme of 21 projects is being delivered, aimed at engaging people in revealing the hidden heritage of the Westmorland Dales. They will provide opportunities for volunteers to help with work on cultural heritage projects throughout the Westmorland Dales:

The survey of traditional farm buildings throughout the area is currently underway:

- For anyone with an interest in oral history, there will be a chance to get involved in a 'Common Heritage' project, looking at the history of commoning in the area.
- Later in the year a project on Little Asby Common will commence, involving keyhole excavations to try to discover more detail about the area's rich heritage.
- There will be some great opportunities to train in a particular area of expertise and to help uncover the area's heritage. To find out more, contact the scheme's cultural heritage officer, Hannah Kingsbury on 01539 756620 or email Hannah-Kingsbury@fld.org.uk

Further information about the scheme can be found on the scheme's website at: [www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk](http://www.thewestmorlanddales.org.uk) where you can also sign-up to a quarterly newsletter for volunteering updates.

Chris James

## An Introduction to Lidar for Historians

This is not intended to be an article on the history of Helton, but merely an illustration of the potential of lidar data, using Helton as an archaeologically rich example. Zoom-in to see computer images in greater detail.

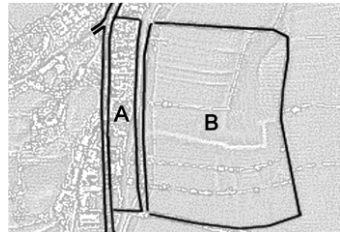
Lidar is similar to radar but uses light instead of radio waves. Ground elevations can be measured accurately by an aircraft sweeping the ground below with a lidar device. The Environment Agency have used this technique to map some of the country for flood protection purposes, making their data freely available on the internet. They intend to map the whole country by the mid 2020s.

This is a local relief lidar image for part of Helton. In it, areas lighter than mid-grey are locally elevated, darker areas are locally depressed. North is upwards. Two banks meet just south east of 'a'. These banks are continuous with extant field boundaries to the north and west. They suggest that the group of fields to the north west of 'a' once extended southwards, with a corner at 'a'.



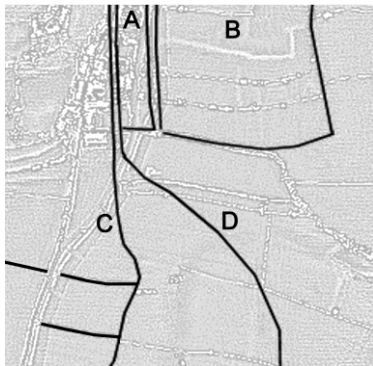
Banks just to the east of 'c' and 'd' are collinear with the road at 'b', suggesting that this road may once have run from 'b' to 'c' to 'd'. Also in this image, a bank to the south west of 'e', together with the bank at 'd', seem to form a structure called an 'outgang'. Outgangs guided livestock through enclosed land, between a village and its open grazing.

My interpretation is that this part of Helton was established later than 1092, following the standard plan. There would have been a row of tofts in 'A', each a standard 22 yards wide. There would have been a main road to the west of 'A', and a back lane to the east of 'A', separating 'A' from its back field, 'B'. The E-W dimension of 'B' is close to the standard furlong. The N-S dimension



of 'B' is close to 15 x 22 yards, suggesting that there were 15 tenements in this phase of this part of Helton's development.

At a later stage, land to the west of 'C' and to the east of 'D' was enclosed, with an outgang between 'C' and 'D'. The land formerly occupied by the outgang and parts of its adjacent fields became part of the first phase of Setterah Park, before 1289.



At the time of writing, further information on lidar and lidar imaging software can be downloaded from <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/using-airborne-lidar-in-archaeological-survey/>. The Environment Agency's data can be downloaded from <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>.

Alternatively, I am willing to email to members, free of charge, a range of images derived from the Environment Agency's data for their area of interest. Members must be prepared to do their own interpretations. I may be contacted at [joeforking@gmail.com](mailto:joeforking@gmail.com).

Joe Ridley

~~~~~

Warwick Bridge Corn Mill

After being on Historic England's Properties at Risk register for nearly two decades Warwick Bridge Corn Mill is set to be removed shortly. Situated just off the A69 in the village of Warwick Bridge the mill, which is on the site of the local manorial mill dating back to the thirteenth century, has stood empty for nearly 30 years after the last miller walked



out on a working mill in 1989. The mill passed through a number of owners with a variety of proposed projects that came to nothing until eventually in 2015 Cultura Trust (formerly The North of England Civic Trust) acquired the mill with grants from a large number of bodies.

They have spent the last three years painstakingly repairing both the fabric of the mainly 19th century building and the nearly complete set of corn grinding machinery still in the mill.

The situation of the mill means that it is not possible to open the mill to the general public on a daily basis. However there have already been a number of successful open days with booked tours and visits from various local history groups. The mill provides an ideal focus for a visit to the village in general which also has a Pugin designed church, a large cotton mill, the bridge from which the village is named and a full day visit can be arranged.

The plan for the future of the mill is to run it as a commercial corn mill producing up to two tonnes of various forms of stone ground flour. There are also plans to fit out a bakery in the old cart shed to produce a range of products and also to allow the running of courses on different aspects of baking. To run both the milling operations and to promote the history of the mill and milling a Community Benefit Society (Warwick Bridge Corn Mill Ltd) has been formed and shares will be on sale in November/December.

If you are interested in visiting the corn mill or in purchasing shares in the society either for yourself or as a Christmas present for somebody with an interest in milling please consult the Societies website www.warwickbridgecornmill.co.uk.

Graham Brooks. Image courtesy of Cultura Trust

~~~~~

## Local History Publications

### Derwentwater - In the Lap of the Gods by Ian Hall

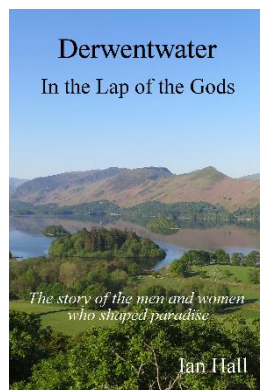
Ian Hall has an intimate knowledge of the landscape and locality over several decades. This book tells the story of Derwentwater, the lake, its islands and surroundings. A mainly human history, it has been published partly to celebrate the tourist industry in and around Keswick. The book is divided into sections covering three of the main islands, the east and west shores and a final section covering the role of the National Trust and the most recent history.

Many fascinating stories including the impact of German copper miners in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the role of St Herbert's Island in the English civil war are told. The role that characters such as the flamboyant Joseph Pocklington, the Wordsworths and their good friends the Marshalls, who were Yorkshire Industrialists, played in developing the area is cleverly interwoven into the history of the area.

Spanning the centuries, as well as the stories of the 'great and the good', is information about local walks. Curiosities such as a salt well on the Southern shores of the lake brings the book to a close with some final data on recent boat usage and comments on the impact of increasing human foot-fall.

Ian Hall's book is very readable with informative illustrations. Disappointingly a few of the maps and illustrations have lost some clarity in their reproduction. This book should appeal to anyone who has an interest in the area whether a local or a visitor.

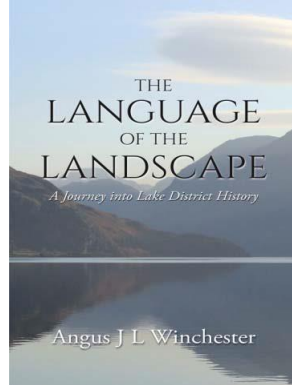
Ruth Lawley



~~~~~

THE LANGUAGE OF THE LANDSCAPE A Journey into Lake District History by *Angus J L Winchester.*

On a journey from Cockermouth through the Vale of Lorton, to Crummock Water and Buttermere, part of the Lake District he has known intimately since childhood, Angus Winchester shows how clues to the evolution, history and culture of the Lakeland landscape may be found in the names given to its farms, becks, villages, fields and boundaries. The language of the landscape can speak to us, not only in place-names but also in tangible features and through layers of memory and



meaning built up across the centuries. A book which inspires us to look at landscape afresh and through a deeper understanding of its history appreciate it all the more.

A personal journey in search of the essential spirit of a Lakeland valley. A carefully researched and detailed analysis of the elements in the landscape which penetrate our sense of place and its importance in our lives.

An important contribution to the literature of landscape from Angus Winchester, Emeritus Professor of Local and Landscape History at Lancaster University. ISBN: 9780957660977 Price £10.

~~~~~

### KIRKBY STEPHEN PAST: People, Places and Plague.

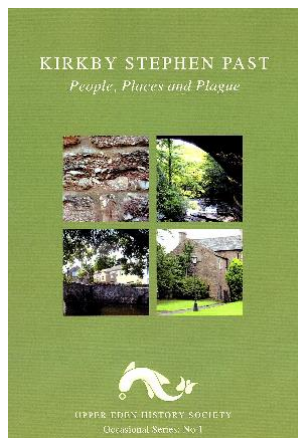
Upper Eden History Society ISBN 978-0-9553980-1-8 Price £9.50 pp 176.

This is a collection of papers written by members. The book is split into three sections: 'People' containing 4 papers, 'Places' with 3 papers and 'Plague' with 2 papers.

They cover a very wide variety of subjects, ranging from an article on 'Egbo' – an African boy who is buried in Kirkby Stephen cemetery, to one

article looking at the curfew bell that is still rung at Kirkby Stephen and why it is locally called the Taggy bell.

The articles are of varying length from 6 to 40 pages and, although the title of the book is Kirkby Stephen, many of the articles cover both the immediate area as well as a wider view. The three longest articles are all well written. The article on Kirkby Stephen Workhouse looks at the reasons why they were introduced on a national basis as well as the effect locally. The transport article looks, in a different way for me, as to why routes go where they do, by considering the geology around Kirkby Stephen. The final long article looks at the death rate due to the plague in 16<sup>th</sup> century Cumbrian towns. It discusses what the probable cause of the plague were, how it spread and the way in which deaths due to it are recorded.



Overall this is an excellent collection of papers, no matter what your interest in local history. Some papers will probably educate you and others may set you off in new directions. The publication shows what is possible by local historians doing research in their local area and, in some cases, linking it to the national picture. Upper Eden History Society should be commended for publishing this collection and I look forward to their second book.

Graham Brooks

~~~~~

The Corpse Roads of Cumbria by

Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park.

Published by Chitty Mouse Press 2019. 3rd edition full colour ISBN 978-1-9996718-0-8 pp 222 price £10.00

This book turned out to be a revelation, I was aware that Cumbria had so called corpse roads with the two most famous being the Mardale to Shap and the Ambleside to Grasmere paths which are well signposted and well walked. However, this book shows that the whole county is covered by these paths which in ancient times people used to carry their dead to the local church for burial.

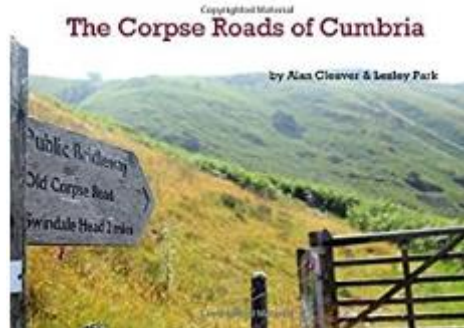
Cumbria is fairly unique in the country for having very large parishes and although chapels of ease were built to allow local people to worship without travelling great distances to their parish church, the parish church kept the rights for burial and the attached fees. So when

a relative died the coffin had to be carried across in some cases mountain passes, to be buried at the local parish church. As the book shows these routes were not only used to carry coffins but also by bridal parties when the parish church kept the right for marriage services.

The book describes the route presumably all the known corpse roads in Cumbria, covering both the fells and the lowlands and allows the reader to happily follow the route on the ground. As well as the description of the route the book also gives an insight into both the customs and practice of death and burial in different parts of the county and specific folklore and features along each route.

For an investment of £10 this book gives both a great amount of information on a subject that we will all face one day, but hopefully our relatives won't have to carry the coffin over the corpse roads. It also allows numerous days out in the country exploring the routes and giving a greater understanding to some of the lanes in the county. I can't wait to get out and start following some of these tracks.

Graham Brooks

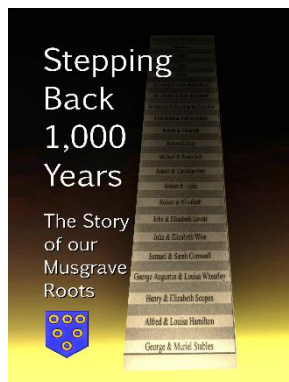


Stepping Back 1000 Years - the Story of Our Musgrave Roots by Andrew Musgrave

This book traces one family tree back 25 generations to their Norman roots. The pictorial lay-out of the book helps place each generation in its historical context within a double-page spread.

It covers the derivation of the Musgrave family name, their settlement in Cumbria following the Norman Conquest, the establishment of the Musgrave manors in the Eden Valley, and their roles as Knights of the realm, as well as more recent historical events.

This book is written to help children learn about their family origins, but is equally of interest to any adult researching their family history. Available as a Print-on-Demand book from Amazon.



Andrew Musgrave.

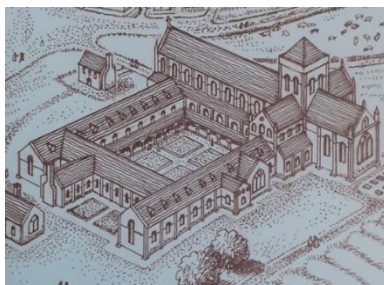
A fascinating book with many illustrations to stimulate an inquisitive mind. See more pages on Amazon. Editor

~~~~~

## West Cumbria Archaeology Society

### Holme Cultram Abbey – An Archaeological and Historic Guide

The society's guide to Holme Cultram Abbey produced as part of the recent project funded by the Heritage Lottery fund is now available. This 30+ page booklet covers both the history of the



Abbey and information about the archaeological work the society has done at the site. If you would like a copy we can send you a PDF version electronically or if you prefer - send us a stamped addressed envelope and we'll pop one in the post. Contact the society on [westcumbriaas@gmail.com](mailto:westcumbriaas@gmail.com) and we'll sort it.

Gill Goodfellow

*This document is well worth a read and I would encourage CLHF groups and individuals to offer summaries of their research as free pdf booklets to help foster an interest in research in others. Editor*

~~~~~

Websites of Interest

The British Association of Local History, *Local History News*, in the Autumn 2019 edition gave news of the project “Your Local Lock-Up” a free-to-access, public engagement project which aims to locate any structures used for temporary imprisonment or restraint. Dr Rosalind Crowe of the Open University is working on a national database of such buildings which can be viewed on <http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/> If you know of a local lock up or want to know I recommend this website. Editor

~~~~~

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

*The following two articles from Steve Fermer demonstrate how this group made use of their local archives. Editor*

### The Rise and Fall of the Shorthorn Cattle Breed in Ravenstonedale

The March 2019 lecture at Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG) was intentionally developed to demonstrate the rich potential for local history researchers of the archive of local documents held at RPHG and available for public access and enquiry each Thursday afternoon.

At the outset, the history of the shorthorn breed, derived from records available on the internet, was presented to the audience. The introduction included confirmation of Beatrix Potter's reputation as a judge of shorthorn cattle, the typical size of herds, the genetic objective of shorthorn breeding, which began in the 1700s as a technique invented by



Bakewell, the first person to breed cattle with a specific objective. The talk then focused entirely upon local records, press cuttings and personal recollections to consider three research questions.

The first question explored the life and shorthorn career of Anthony Metcalfe-Gibson of Park House, Ravenstonedale. Described, in an obituary published in the late 1880s, as a true country gentleman, with expertise as a shorthorn breeder and consequently much in demand as a judge in prestigious agricultural shows all over the United Kingdom and beyond. His expertise as a breeder earned him a reputation as a noted international judge of shorthorn cattle. He achieved notoriety following a controversial speech in 1884, which was critical of Westmorland breeding competence in the 1880s, which he compared unfavourably with superior breeding techniques in the 1840s. The full text of the speech was tracked down by the RPHG researchers and was read in full, and in character, during the lecture. Another historical document, held by RPHG, confirmed that the rib of a famous prize bull, bred by the original breeder of Shorthorn cattle, Charles Colling of Ketton Hall, had been gifted to Anthony Metcalfe-Gibson and was proudly displayed at Park House.

The second research question explored butter production, which was a major output from the shorthorn dairy herds in Ravenstonedale. Butter was a consequence of the noted qualities in shorthorn milk, most suited to excellent butter, combined with the practical essential requirement to convert perishable milk into a product with a much longer shelf life.

The arrival in the late 1930s of vehicle milk collection, in Ravenstonedale, saw butter production diminish overnight to be replaced by revenue derived from fresh milk sales. The butter story was illustrated by analysis of the accounts of Greenside Farm, meticulously recorded by hand, from



1934 to the 1940s. The entries recording sales and expenditure brought to life the conduct of farming life and business at this time.

Finally, question 3 explored the reasons for the decline of the shorthorn breed and looked to the future for the breed. The specialist Northern Dairy Shorthorn is, according to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, an endangered breed, only 84 breeding females currently survive. Conversely the Beef Shorthorn has evolved recently to become the most commercially successful breed, with retail success in supermarkets and local farm retailers, as well as in Cumbrian dining pubs and restaurants focused on the preparation of fine local produce. Those attending the lecture were able to sample a small serving of local shorthorn beef, served immediately prior to the talk.

## Use of Local Archives provide support for the CLHF Heritage Fund Bid

The March 2020 Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG) talk by Val Fermer presented a local perspective based on recent television documentaries that explore the genealogical history of a house ('A House Through Time' – David Olusoga).



In 'Who Lived in Your House', Val presented a comprehensive, chronological journey for five Ravenstonedale houses. Alongside research drawn from sources used in the television programmes, such as census returns, Wills, National Newspaper archives and genealogical records, Val enhanced the talk with RPHG archive findings. Researched documents included the original ordnance survey map of the Parish, sales prospectus's, letters, Victorian books (published in 19<sup>th</sup> Century by local historians) and many photographs.

The OS map is precise about land and location when cross referencing incomplete census data. Sales prospectuses identify the owners and tenants, the value of the property and handwritten notes by the bidder

add further insight. The books, letters and photographs ensure a talk is illustrated and compelling.

Other RPHG speakers have developed talks that draw upon the archives. Jackie Wedd recently developed a talk from a document donated from the local school. The lecture evolved to be a comprehensive biography of an early 1900s childhood in the parish. Steve Fermer used agricultural records to report on the rise and fall of Shorthorn breed of cattle in Ravenstonedale. Diana Fothergill drew upon them for her Tower House talk.

Other CLHF groups will share the recent experience of RPHG, where provision of funding from the Parish Council is reviewed and in the process the value of maintaining an archive is subject to financial challenge. Hopefully the CLHF application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund will be a valuable and authoritative initiative which will overcome challenges to the cost of local archive curation and ensure talks, rich with local historical perspective, are researched and presented.

Steve Fermer.

*Image shows the home of the Ravenstonedale Archive.*

~~~~~

Dr Ron Davie

Dr Davie died at the Cumberland Infirmary on 31st December 2019 after a short illness. He had celebrated his 90th birthday only a month earlier.

Ron had a distinguished career as a child psychologist before retiring (from full-time work at least) to Caldbeck in 1995. From the start he and his wife Kathleen took on leading roles in the Caldbeck & District Local History Society and were also active in many other local societies and events. As President of the Society, Ron organised and often chaired monthly meetings at which invited speakers gave talks on local history issues. Ron may be best known among local historians for the collection of oral histories which he brought together for the Caldbeck & District Local History Society as *'Memories of Lakeland – Life and Work in the Caldbeck Area, 1914-2000'*. Ron was ambitious for the Society but

personally a very kind man, always encouraging others to step forward. He will be greatly missed, especially in Caldbeck where he was a well-known and admired figure who remained active almost to his last days.

Caldbeck & District LHS

CLHF Committee member Chris Craghill, one time member of Caldbeck & District Local History Society, remembers Ron from his early days on the committee for the group. "He was there at the heart of the society, always willing to help with a cheery smile and his passionate and penetrating interest in the history of his adopted area was obvious to all."

~~~~~

### **Bulletin Cover Image.**

This is a picture of a lovely mah-jong set made by a German prisoner-of-war from Moota Camp (we have this set in our store, along with other POW items). His name was Harry Dressler and he worked at Coalbeck Farm, Bassenthwaite (now the Lakeland District Wildlife Park).

The mah-jong set was made during his leisure hours from scraps of wood and any paint he could get hold of. He and the family (Mitchells) struck up a strong friendship that remained long after the war and his return home to Halle in Germany. He left the farm in 1947, returned to Germany, married Edithe and they had a little girl called Silvia born in 1949. This continuing friendship seems to be a constant theme in the story of Cumbria's POWs.

Gloria Edwards. Cockermouth Heritage Group.

## Contributions to the Bulletin.

**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

I look forward to hearing from you!

Nigel Mills, Editor

## CLHF Website.

In the CLHF Member Groups part of our website [www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-member-groups/](http://www.clhf.org.uk/clhf-member-groups/) there is an opportunity for you to “sell” your group or society in a few sentences by describing what you do or any special aspects of your research. If you wish to expand your current entry please send a paragraph to Liz using the e-mail address below.

## Are you looking for the Events Diary?

In order to create more space for member’s contributions, I will instead of including them here send them as an attachment to the e-mailed copy of the Bulletin. The events are of course also listed on our CLHF website <http://www.clhf.org.uk> Editor.

### CLHF Contacts

To contact the CLHF Committee please see our website  
[www.clhf.org.uk/events-diary/](http://www.clhf.org.uk/events-diary/)

For Bulletin Editor please e-mail [nigelmillspp@gmail.com](mailto:nigelmillspp@gmail.com)

For membership and events listing please e-mail [lizkerrey@gmail.com](mailto:lizkerrey@gmail.com)