



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 86 –Summer 2021



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Chairman's Chat.

Again I am writing this just before the Government announces the next set of relaxations in the Covid restrictions and so I am guessing what will happen! I know a few Societies have started meeting again in small groups outside for visits which must be a welcome and hopefully more meetings will be able to go ahead in the remains of the summer. We are planning to hold our Convention at Melmerby in October and booking details are enclosed with this Bulletin.

A lot of groups are now planning their winter talk programme and can I remind you to look at the speakers list on the Federation's website under resources. This is updated regularly as with both new talks and speakers. New additions are highlighted for easy reference. If you would like to be included on the list please let me know.

The partial easing of lockdown has meant that access to local study libraries and the archives has become possible for some. The County Council has recently undergone a reorganisation of the library and archive service and we are hoping to get a meeting with them shortly to discuss the future of these services which are so important to our members.

We are still trying to progress the project on the members archives but I am afraid it is a slow job at present.

Finally, we are looking for some new members of the committee. None of the jobs that we have available are too onerous, if you would like to discuss this feel free to contact me.

Graham Brooks, Acting Chairman.

CLHF Annual Convention and AGM 2021

"Transport History in Cumbria"

Will be held on Saturday 23 October 9.15am – 4.00pm in

Melmerby Village Hall £15.00 to include lunch.

See flyer for booking form

Archives: A Crisis of Access.

Pandemic restrictions hindered the pursuit of Cumbrian local history, although some compensation accrued from new technologies such as ZOOM. Yet it was some years earlier that alterations began to be made to arrangements in record offices. Curtailing access, these intensified during the pandemic and originated in the policy of 'austerity' whereby central government drastically reduced local government expenditure. During the 2010s the circumstances in which historical research could be conducted were profoundly altered for the worse. Access had to be heavily restricted during the pandemic and there is no indication that, as we try to get back to normal, some of the facilities previously enjoyed by searchers will be re-instated.

Although arrangements vary by county, often from one repository to another, opening hours are much less extensive than they were a decade ago. Any growth in the time reserved purely for administration makes it difficult to achieve regular engagement with the evidence. Further restrictions exacerbate this. In some locations few places are available for either regular or casual researchers. Documents must always be ordered in advance and by e-mail. Changes of approach in the light of current findings are generally out of the question. Anyone undertaking research will find it almost impossible to spend enough time to achieve depth of understanding. The pace of work has been substantially reduced. The thrill of the chase will disappear.

No-one would argue that change was unnecessary in the face of a financial tsunami. Nevertheless, digitisation is a very partial solution: what about the thousands of documents which remain uncatalogued (and cannot be digitised) and even unlisted? What about the owners who deposited them, who must feel short-changed by recent developments; students working with limited time and finance; and our group members who, unused to the re-arrangements, will need guidance but must maximise the outcome of their archival visits.

The solution? We must engage, individually, collectively and vigorously, with those who allocate resources to CAS and who, therefore, set the context in which the archivists must operate. The sooner an active Consultative Group is formed, the better. The Cumbria Archive Service

must listen. What is the point of having a splendidly administered service, acquiring and conserving documents, but which otherwise hamstrings customers who are among its keenest supporters? The CAS Annual Report for 2012-13 proclaimed that 'archives are for everyone, and our key aim is to engage as many people as possible'. Is that aim now redundant?

Peter Roebuck

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## A Thank you from your CLHF Treasurer.

Graham Brooks as Acting Chairman wrote to all Members, both societies and individuals advising that we had decided not to charge subscriptions for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. He requested both groups of Members to consider making a donation to ensure your Federation remained viable and able to move forward as opportunities arose. Individual Members may wish to consider signing a gift aid form to enable Gift Aid to be claimed. I am delighted and grateful that the response has been brilliant. Total income received from donations plus Gift Aid claimed means we have exceeded the subscriptions received over the previous year by a generous margin. Thank you.

You may recall that our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding an Archives project was stopped when in view of Covid-19 all funding except emergency funding ceased with immediate effect. Since our application had passed through their officers with favourable indications it was a disappointment. Funding has re-started with new applications being invited, subject to new criteria. The new criterion among other things focuses on diversity of membership. We have been told strongly that our membership does not meet the new criteria of diversity.

Strengthened financially by the generous donations, your Committee continues to explore ways to still implement this project and to look for other sources of finance.

Thank you again and kind regards

John H. Poland, Treasurer

## RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

### The ingenious and sophisticated story of dry stone walls

The last Spring Zoom lecture, presented by Ravenstonedale Parish History Group was attended by around 50 members and guests, including members of the Upper Eden History Society and attendees of the first Cumbria Blue Badge Guide course to be held in the County for 10 years. The subject that drew in this broad audience was Maurice Hall's talk on Dry Stone Walls.



Familiar across our Westmorland landscape, Maurice presented on the history of dry stone walls, the different types and functions of them and shared personal anecdotes from his childhood working alongside his Uncle learning the ingenious and sophisticated craft of dry stone wall construction.

Featuring illustrations including photographs from Maurice's collection, the talk commenced with an overview of history, drawing upon a number of references including 'Dry Stone Walls, History and Heritage' published in 2016 by the renowned historian, Angus Winchester, Emeritus Professor at Lancaster University. Professor Winchester's book is a brief and heavily illustrated introduction to the history of dry stone walls in Britain, with particular focus on northern England. For those interested in more information, Maurice recommended the book which draws on published works as well as hitherto unpublished primary research and provides an historical survey of the evolution of dry stone walls and a field guide to 'reading' walls themselves as historical documents.

The historical introduction took the audience to Peru, where Machu Picchu, the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Inca Citadel was constructed with polished dry stone walls. The journey continued to Canada, Iceland, Zimbabwe and

then back to UK shores including Wales, Cornwall and Yorkshire. Eight thousand kilometres of dry stone walls are reported to be in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP), and notably this estimate is prior to the addition of the Westmorland Dales into YDNP, so that figure will be much increased. Although most walls (and the many Barns built similarly without mortar) were constructed after the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, as a consequence of the acts of enclosure, Maurice shared evidence of Romano-British (after AD43) dry stone field boundaries and other pictorial records of ancient walls.

A wide range of terms and definitions were confirmed, For example there are 1.5 tonnes of stone per metre of wall. The wall builders described themselves as Stone Masons. The role that Walls played in separating the hillside grazing land from the cultivated improved land was presented in a number of dramatic landscape photographs including an explanation of the difference between the head dyke and the ring garth. A head dyke is a dry stone wall which encloses a crofting township, separating it from the common grazing (shared grazing) or another township. The ring garth separated the in bye land (land close to the farm) and fell side, which prevented animals from trampling and eating the crops.

Photographs also illustrated the differences between professionally planned or surveyed walls, such as the tall straight walls that were constructed for the Lords of Manors, compared to those built by tenant farmers. Maurice presented the 'A' shape of dry stone walls and the components of their construction including through stones, caps or top stones and the use of graded tiers of stones (graded by size). During discussion an audience member contributed the interesting detail, that the walls constructed as boundaries for the deer park (such as on the Lonsdale Estates in Westmorland) did not have through stones as these would have been used by deer to climb the walls and escape the hunting enclosure.

The talk was followed by an extensive discussion, with questions for Maurice and contributions from other members of the audience with knowledge and recollection to add to the understanding of the majority

who attended who were novices in their study of dry stone walls. A number of audience members have confirmed that their walks now include looking for the landscape clues of head dykes and ring garths. As spring and summer draws the local historians outside for entertainment, Zooms and (as was fervently expressed by the attendees) the resumption of 'live' meetings will now resume in the Autumn. RPHG will be collaborating with the Westmorland Dales Partnership on historical walks around Ravenstonedale – details of timing will be announced on the RPHG website - [www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk](http://www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk) Steve Fermer

Steve Fermer

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St Anne's Hospital, Appleby - Past and Present

The Spring Bulletin contained Valerie Kendal's research on St Anne's Hospital in Appleby and at the end she posed three intriguing questions. Here Valerie supplies the answers:

- **Why did Lady Anne Clifford's father disinherit her?**

George, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, was Governor of the East India Company and one of the Queen's Champions. In the latter role, along with his more famous contemporaries Drake, Hawkins and Frobisher he roamed the seas, seizing and looting the galleons of other nations, notably Spain whose cargoes of riches from the New World would have offered rich pickings. Not too surprisingly, the monarchs of the nations thus plundered made representations to Queen Elizabeth I who, it is said, defended her Champions so long as some of the booty came her way. What with spending long periods at sea interspersed with chasing the ladies for which he was well-known, the Earl didn't have much time to manage his estates and castles properly. It is likely that he thought it would thus be too much of a task for his daughter to take on after his death. What is subsequently known about the character of Lady Anne and her strength of purpose somewhat belies how much the Earl underestimated his daughter.

- **What did the Sisters at St Anne's say in the 1950s when offered electricity for their cottages?**

‘Oh no, Lady Anne wouldn’t have liked it’. From what we now know of Lady Anne Clifford’s character, it seems more likely that she would not only have welcomed electricity but if around today would have wholeheartedly embraced IT as well.

- **Why until recently did local people not want to live at St Anne’s Hospital?**

One of the early rules was that the main entrance was locked at 8pm in the summer and 9pm in the winter. This custom ceased years ago and the gate is never locked now, even during the annual Horse Fair. The rule was briefly revived by someone who was the Mother some 15 years ago. Local people didn’t want to be locked in at night and until recently saw a social stigma in living in accommodation provided rent-free and getting hand-outs from the Trustees, i.e. accepting charity. Rent, albeit a modest amount, has been paid since 2010 and the £6.00 per annum (£8.00 for the Mother) annual allowance is long gone. Although some local people still believe the above, latterly more of them have been willing to join the other Licensees, from all parts of the country, in living at St Anne’s.

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## **Lazonby and District Local History Society**

Although the history society has now closed, it is necessary to preserve the important collection of material which has been accumulated over the past 24 years of its life. In order to keep its archives and make them available to interested locals and historians, Lazonby History Society has bought a new filing cabinet which has been placed in the basement of the Village Hall.

The contents are fully itemised and divided into Lazonby Parish research; memorabilia; and research projects of the society. The former Chair of the History Society, Village Hall Chair and Parish Council Chair hold keys to the cabinet, but access in the first instance will be through the former committee of the History Society and a system for searching and possible borrowing of material devised.



It is hoped that new items of historic interest may be added to the archive from further research, recording of new events in the village, or other historic documents from village life.

For more information contact:-

Sheila Fletcher 01768 898 804 or [sheila@merciful.plus.com](mailto:sheila@merciful.plus.com)

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Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group



Once again, I have to report that the continuation of Covid restrictions has prevented normal activity for the group. Like every other society, we have relied on Zoom for a workshop and lectures. Secretary Mike Turner has regularly circulated information about other available talks from appropriate groups, including BALH, Vernacular Architecture Group and the Westmorland Dales area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

We have acquired several new members during the last year and welcome them.

In the absence of reports on visits and events, we have relied on the members to submit material for the quarterly newsletters. The latest edition features two main themes, medieval towers and fire windows.

The photograph is of The Old Pele at Croglin. It was formerly the rectory. The right hand part of the building is what remains of a medieval tower.



Contributions have come from most areas of Cumbria and demonstrate the great variety of building materials there are in the county. All past issues of the newsletters are posted on our website (www.cvbg.co.uk). We hope that we shall be able to hold

our AGM in September as planned, in Finsthwaite village, to be followed

by a visit to Stott Park Bobbin Mill (English Heritage). Industrial buildings are of great interest to the group and we have previously visited the remains of the bobbin mill at The Howk, Caldbeck.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NPAONB), is running a programme of projects and events in that part of Cumbria within the AONB and members of CVBG are involved. Bruce Bennison, Ruth Lawley and June Hill led a living history trail in Croglin on 11 July, as part of the 'Uncovering the Past' project. This is part of the Fellfoot Forward scheme, which will run for five years. CVBG will work on interpreting the buildings of Cumrew, Newbiggin and Croglin, as part of this project as soon as circumstances allow.

June Hill

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## Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

### Recent projects and initiatives of the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

Alan Cleaver's talk on corpse roads of Cumbria was well received and Dr Fiona Edmonds who spoke about "Saints and Vikings" gave an impressive overview of the history of our region from 500-900 AD. Very recently Dr Alan Crosbie delivered a fascinating talk entitled 'Bastardy in Cumbria before 1834.' The online format via Zoom has worked well for us with high attendances and to our surprise a significant increase in membership. It seems that being able to 'attend' without having to travel to Lorton has encouraged people to join the Society who might otherwise have seen little point. In time, this different membership profile may influence decisions we make about our programme as more and more members join us from further afield.

Our intention currently is to open up to live talks from September on, but we will want to ask members about the best way forward now that a new

variant has changed people's thinking about how to manage their own safety. We can see advantages in offering 'hybrid' talks. Members who are reluctant to attend live meetings will be able to participate while those who wish to enjoy them in the traditional way can attend in person. The technical issues of transmitting a live talk online will need to be addressed though we are reasonably confident that we will be able to provide a fair level of broadcasting quality without having to spend too much on new equipment,.

We are interested in hearing about how other societies are thinking about these issues and how they see the way forward.

Tim Stanley-Clamp

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Following on from the most successful 'lockdown' posts from Stan Aspinall old photos continued to be submitted to the History Group. The tale of one such photo epitomises the importance of local history and what happened is summarised below. We are fortunate here in the small town of Broughton-in-Furness, pop. c.600, in that we have a very active Facebook page, to which most residents and others in the vicinity, log into on a regular basis. It has become the ideal forum for disseminating local history information and requests.

Another activity involves a small team from the History Group working on creating a nine mile walk from Broughton to Coniston aligning it with the historical features of the old railway line. Our archaeology team has recently had a walk over fields in an effort to identify a Bronze Age 'ring ditch', while others are preparing for a summer survey of a possible Medieval settlement on the fells above the Duddon Valley. With a slow return to normality there is plenty to keep us busy and interested.

During the current lockdown, Stan Aspinall, a member of our group, utilised the Broughton-in-Furness Locals, Facebook page, to post daily photos from the History Group's archives. The response was phenomenal, with requests that a book be published to encapsulate all the stories that had unfolded. Stan duly obliged (See Spring 2020 Bulletin); his efforts being recognised in a BALH Award.

Since that time, photos have continued to pour in, including many, the subjects of which have been lost in time.



One such photo depicted a Victorian family in their 'Sunday Best' posing in what appeared to be somewhere in the Duddon Valley but there were no clues as to their identity. Stan sought help by placing the photo on the Broughton Facebook page. Almost immediately, a local resident Lex Ward, recognised the family as his ancestors and was able to name them.

Broughton researcher, Colin Spendlove, then rose to the challenge of finding out more about the people in the photo. He was able to trace their occupations and descendants, as well as military records and final resting places in the local churchyard. From that single photo a comprehensive account of a local family's fortunes were uncovered. When the final tale was told, dozens of plaudits were received, including many from outside the area. One in particular is worthy of mention. It sums up how important local history can affect people, even those not directly involved. Nigel Pattinson said:

"I love this story! Despite having any interest in history drummed out of me at school, these local history tales really captivate. A photo, a moment in time, a family celebrating their lives together and all the future events as yet completely unknown. I'm full of admiration for the detective work which has brought this story to life. It gives respect and significance to the lives of those photographed and their time in the community. It's hugely touching"

Ken Day

Kendal Oral History Group

Kendal's House of Correction

Readers of the CLHF will remember when Windermere Road in Kendal was more commonly known as "House of Correction Hill." The "House" was the town's prison, a very large building on the left going out of town just before the crossroads.

The regime was a great deal stricter than the present day. Local newspaper reports of November 1879 listed details of the prisoners' day. At six a.m. the bell was sounded and the officers muster. At 6.05am prisoners rise and clean cells. At 6.30am they commence labour. At 7.45am labour ceases and breakfast follows, labour recommencing at 8.45am. At 11.15am the bell rings for prayers, which begin ten minutes later. At twelve the prisoners have their dinner and at 1.30pm again set to work, leaving off at 5.45pm when they have their supper. At 6.15pm labour is again commenced and ceases for the day at eight o'clock when the watchmen go on duty. At 8.10pm lock-up and at 8.30pm lights out.

According to a Governor's report, the prisoners committed for hard labour were kept at wool or oakum picking for ten hours a day (except Saturday – only five hours.) As a general rule, if your ancestor was sentenced to hard labour then they would have either picked oakum or spent time on the treadmill. Oakum picking was the teasing apart the fibres of old ship rigging, which was then sold back to shipbuilders and used as caulking between the wooden planks, making it watertight.



They were set a quantity to pick and could earn five pence (about a £1 in today's money) for a bale of wool. However, if they didn't meet their quota by six o'clock they didn't get any supper.

You would wonder that anyone would want to enter such a place but regulations earlier in the century insisted “that no persons, whatsoever, except prisoners, shall lodge or continue during the night in the prison unless by special permission of the Marshall.”

The introduction of a treadmill in 1822 “for the prisoners’ use” was thought would also act as a deterrent but in 1833 the visiting magistrates felt it necessary to bring to the attention of the authorities that prisoners were allowed to read newspapers while on the treadmill and “the propriety of such a custom should be reconsidered.”

Thompson Webster was a well-known local poacher with 76 convictions who was found guilty in his absence, at one court hearing, of being in unlawful possession of some rabbits. He was fined £3 and costs, with the alternative of two month’s imprisonment. Although he did not feel the need to attend court he got to hear of the sentence handed down and turned up at the prison gate asking to be let in. However the decision of the magistrates had not arrived and so Webster had to hang around outside the jail until a police constable arrived with the necessary paperwork to let him in.

In 1894 the last person to be incarcerated in the building for breaking the law (drunk and disorderly) was James Quirk.

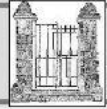
The House of Correction eventually closed in August 1900. The last few years of its life was as a prison for over 400 deserters from the Second Boer War and it was sold in 1907 to Mr Robert T. Pennington for £1,000 (£57,500 in today’s money). It was opened to the public in July of that year for two days when, to raise money for “The Workmen’s Hospital Fund, the public could look round the cells for 2d.

The building was sold to R T Pennington in 1907 and he demolished most of it and built five houses on the grounds, the first one being occupied by 1914.

Peter Holme

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# Cockermouth Heritage Group



## The Airfields of Cumbria in the Second World War

At the beginning of the Second World War the modern-day Cumbria was made up of Cumberland, Westmorland and parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire. This remained the case until the nationwide boundary changes of 1974. For simplicity I will refer to the area as Cumbria.



Construction work began on Cumbria's two biggest maintenance units in 1938. The first maintenance unit (MU) was number 12 at Kirkbride and the second was number 22 at Silloth. The two units opened on the same day 5th June 1939. Both units were civilian- manned, employing up to 750 skilled staff, many from the local area. Up to 300 aircraft were stored on the airfields, officially known as aircraft storage units (ASU) during wartime.

The main wartime role of the two MU's was the preparation of the aircraft for frontline squadrons, as well as modification and some repair work. After manufacture of the aircraft the next step was the MU, and it was units like 12 and 22 MU that kept the flow of operational aircraft going.

An Air Observer School (AOS) was established at Millom in 1939. Millom was close to the coast in the south of Cumbria and was perfect for housing a Bombing and Gunnery school also. In June 1940, the Elementary Flying Training School moved from the South of England to the pre-war airport at Kingstown. The unit at Kingstown gained a relief landing ground (RLG) at Burnfoot,



and the sight and sound of pilots learning their trade in the ubiquitous Tiger Moth around Carlisle continued until December 1947.

Fighter pilot training in Cumbria began when 59 Operational Training Unit (OTU) took over a new airfield at Crosby on Eden in 1941 (see image). Longtown was also used by the unit, which flew the Hawker hurricane until it moved across the border to Millfield in Northumberland.

In April 1942 a Hurricane unit took over Longtown as a satellite. Coastal Command training was based at Silloth, and its predominant aircraft type was the Lockheed Hudson (see image), of which an alarming number were lost in training accidents. Coastal Command also used Kirkbride as a relief landing ground, and Longtown for night flying.

Aircraft of the Royal Navy were not an uncommon sight from the beginning of the Second World War. Both Silloth and Kirkbride were handling Fleet Air Arm types, such as the Fairy Sea Fox, Blackburn Shark, Fairey Swordfish. The Admiralty needed an airfield in a remote yet accessible location that could handle a large throughput of aircraft. A site was chosen on the northern shore of Morecambe Bay for a brand-new, purpose-built airfield to accommodate an aircraft receipt and dispatch unit. Anthorn was ready for occupation by the summer of 1944. RNAS Anthorn, or HMS Nuthatch, was commissioned on 7 September, 1944. This site continued its work until the last aircraft departed in 1957.

There were a number of other satellite landing grounds (SLG's) not previously mentioned above. The purpose of the satellite landing grounds was the dispersal of aircraft from their parent unit.

Brayton Park 39 (SLG) and Wath Head (10SLG) were satellites to 14 MU at Kirkbride.

Hornby Hall (9SLG) was originally intended for the sole use of 22 MU Silloth, but it was also used by 18MU at Dumfries and 12MU at Kirkbride.

Hutton in the Forest (8SLG) was a satellite landing ground for 22MU at Silloth.

Great Orton (also known locally as Wiggonby) was built as a satellite landing ground to 22MU at Silloth.



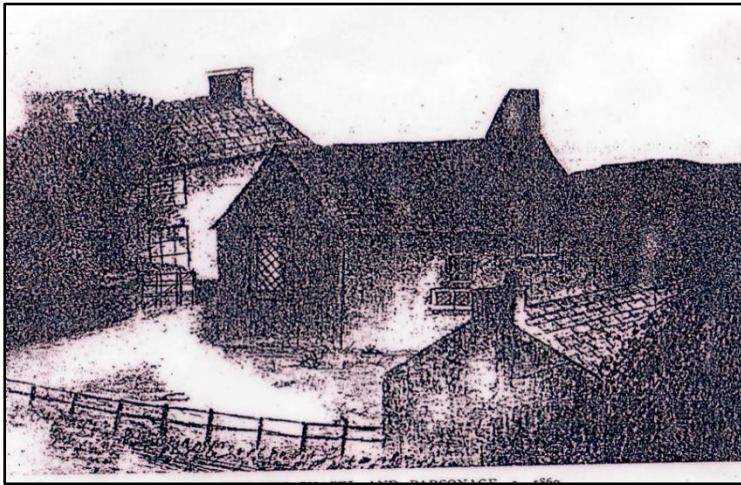
The SLG's were built larger than Silloth, with a three-runway layout, built to accommodate four engine bombers as standard.

Eric Cass

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Askam & Ireleth Local History Group

A Tailor's Legacy



(from a photograph of a pencil sketch by the late Miss Sharpe of Bank Field, Ireleth).

The building of the school and the payment of a school master was made by Giles Brownrigg in 1608. Giles Brownrigg was a tailor, carrying out his business and living in London. It is noted in a paper by J. L. Hobbs dated 10th April 1948, that on 31st January 1607 Giles Brownrigg a tailor of St. Clement Danes, London, purchased for £160 the remainder of a lease which had been granted on 15th August 1579, for a term of 300 years, on land in Fitchett's Field, London. An under-lease for 295 years, granted on 1st February 1588 (as from Christmas 1581), for tenements built thereon, first known as Lincoln's Inn Grange and afterwards as the Grange Inn, Carey Street, was held by one Thomas Hitchcock; the complications of these grants were most involved, and later caused much legal argument.

Giles Brownrigg, whose birthplace was Ireleth, now determined to build and endow a school there, and its foundations are recorded on an oak panel from the old school building, preserved in the present St Peter's School, Ireleth. The Tenants of Ireleth for their part agreed to make further provisions as follows;

a) to fence and enclose a piece of land adjoining the schoolhouse known as Hobkins Garth, and another plot in the common Town Fields, for the sole use of the master;

b) to grant him pasturage and feeding for his 'nagge' in the Moor Close, along with pasturage for two cows, one with the tenants' kine (cows) on the Marsh, the other similarly in the Cow Close,

c) every tenant for each 13s 4d rent shall provide and deliver once a year one cartload of good peat from Angerton Moss if the weather be seasonable for that purpose,

d) the tenants shall also whenever needful provide necessary materials to keep the school in good repair and

e) they would take to the building of the school house "as soon as required" whereupon Giles Brownrigg promised to erect a "handsome porch and sufficient before the door of the house ".

At this time there was no church or chapel in Ireleth, the community had to travel to St Mary's Church, Dalton in Furness to worship. Within a few years it seems to have occurred to some of the villagers that the school might also serve as a chapel (*an early example of a multi-functional building*). In 1637 Christopher Brownrigg (son of Giles Brownrigg) undertook to pay £10 yearly towards the maintenance of a residential curate, permission was given to pull down the upper loft of the school, and enlarge and beautify the building to the satisfaction of the Vicars of Dalton, Urswick, Pennington and Aldingham, after which it might be used as a chapel. With the establishment of the chapel, a residence for the incumbent was needed, and on 27th July 1639 articles were signed between the tenants and inhabitants of Ireleth and James Waller, Clerk,

the Minister and Schoolmaster, wherein it was agreed that the latter should be permitted to build a house at his own cost.

Giles Brownrigg died on 20th December 1633, his son Christopher died in 1660 both were buried at St Mary's Churchyard, Dalton in Furness.

The wording on the plaque

GILES BROWNRIG
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JAMES ANO 1608 AND
GAVE A YEARLY SALARI
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A new school was built in 1862, St Peter's (Church of England) School, Ireleth, with many new additions, it is still an active and integral part of village life. The old school and chapel building were demolished a



number of years ago. The Parsonage and a barn at the rear is all that remains, the barn having recently been converted into a stylish home. The Parsonage is still a beautiful residential home and a listed building in a conservation area.

On 29th June 1865, a new church was consecrated at Ireleth, in a prominent position over-looking the sea, St Peter's Church, Ireleth, the Patron being the 5th Duke of Buccleuch, 7th Duke of Queensbury, on land given by Mr John Todd of Guards, Kirkby Ireleth. The church was built by Mr James Garden, Master Builder of Dalton in Furness, the architect was Mr Paley of Lancaster. This church was known locally as the 'Iron Church' as it was built from the proceeds of the iron ore industry which dominated and brought prosperity to the area.



A Sundial is located near the entrance to St Peter's Church, Ireleth, it is believed to have been relocated from the 17th Century School and Chapel, Sun Street, Ireleth

The Kennedy family of Ulverston donated the church bell and a plaque in remembrance of Myles Kennedy can be seen in St Peter's Church. The Kennedys owned iron ore mines at Roanhead. One of the largest finds of iron ore was made by Henry Schneider and his partner Robert Hannay at Park Mines, Askam in Furness. A steel works was built in Askam in 1866. During this time, a whole community grew quickly in Askam, with shops, banks, businesses, new houses, a gas works, a cinema, library, Methodist chapels, and a temperance hall. From a marshland with a few fishing huts, Askam soon had a population of 4-5,000 inhabitants, earning its name as a 'Boom Town'. People came from all over Britain to live and work in Askam.

Janice Cumming

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## Shap Local History Society

### The Shepherd-Rae Fountain, Shap.

This ornate Victorian drinking fountain stands beside the A6 just south of the Greyhound Hotel. This part of the village was a separate settlement called Brackenber Township until the late 19th century. The fountain was fed by a spring in the grounds of the house behind it; this would have been a main water supply for the little hamlet.



Shap Local History Society holds a copy of the correspondence between James Shepherd-Rae who had strong Shap connections, and William Atkinson who owned the house where the spring is situated about the former's plan to erect a fountain. In 1896 the spring was topped by the ornate Shap Granite drinking fountain in memory of James Shepherd-Rae's little daughter Mary Agnes who died in St Lucia, West Indies. Her image is incorporated into the design with a text from Psalm 72 v. 16 *'There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains'*.

The appearance has changed since the early photographs; the ball on top has been changed for one of a more elliptical shape, the plinth below it has been changed and an additional section of granite has been



inserted below the main tablet. The drinking bowl once had a tap operated by pressure, and a chained cup. Some years ago piped water was reinstated to the fountain, but this no longer operates. Down steps to the side behind railings the water is open and still flows. Most notable is the change in the road level that is now much higher.

Jean Scott-Smith

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Croglin Living History Trail – Uncovering the Past through Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme.



On Sunday 11 July a team of volunteers and staff from the North Pennines AONB Partnership and DigVentures came together to present a living history trail. Croglin residents and people of all ages from North East Cumbria stepped into the village's past and viewed the 'Sacred Landscape' from a vantage point on the fell above. This launch event marked the beginning of Uncovering the Past, a

history and archaeology programme to train volunteers and offer communities in the Fellfoot Forward area a chance to discover more about its people and past.

Starting at Croglin Village Hall, over thirty people walked between the church and a high point on the fell, to understand how early people interacted with the landscape and its geology, then back to the Old Pele with June Hill the chair of Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group. The church in Croglin is a beautiful building and resident historian, Ruth Lawley, gave visitors a peek into the lives of some earlier villagers who are buried in its graveyard, like Rachel Gill from Townhead Farm who sadly died due to childbirth. June regaled everyone about the history of the old Pele Tower, a notable building in the village and now grade II*listed. It has changed its guise many times over the years; a fascinating structure, giving testimony to the village's need for defence at one time. Bruce Bennison (pictured) demonstrated a Neolithic hand axe while walkers enjoyed the beauty of the surrounding Fellfoot landscape, re-imagining how communities have evolved over thousands of years.



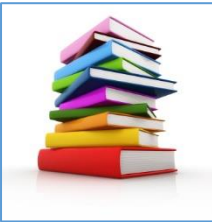
The Uncovering the Past project will use an 'historic village atlas' approach to uncover Roman, medieval and industrial history, linking to research already being done by local historians as part of the nationwide Victoria Counties History (VCH) project. Uncovering the Past will build on VCH research, focussing on villages not already studied in the Fellfoot Forward area or building on what is already known, allowing volunteers to pursue their own areas of interest. Alongside the village atlas work, oral histories of past times and current issues will be collected, shared, and lodged with Cumbria archives. Recordings will be available to listen to, from the Fellfoot Forward website. In 2022 archaeological surveys of the 'Sacred Landscape' will begin, using a range of techniques, all deliverable by local people who will be given in the field training and

support throughout. Look out for the online launch on Wednesday 13 October for the village atlas and oral histories training, go to northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward/

Sam Tranter & Kate Stacey

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## CLHF Reviews Editor



The CLHF Bulletin endeavours to review books and smaller publications that make a significant contribution to the local history of Cumbria. To this end it encourages authors to submit their publications for review, which should be sent to the Reviews Editor, Christine Craghill at 'Touchwood', Hethersgill, CARLISLE, CA6 6EH. In recent years the

number of such publications has increased to the point where the Bulletin does not have the capacity to review all of them. However, details of each publication sent to us, but not reviewed, will be listed in the Bulletin as they are received.

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Local history Publications

Sedbergh and District – Heritage in the Western Dales

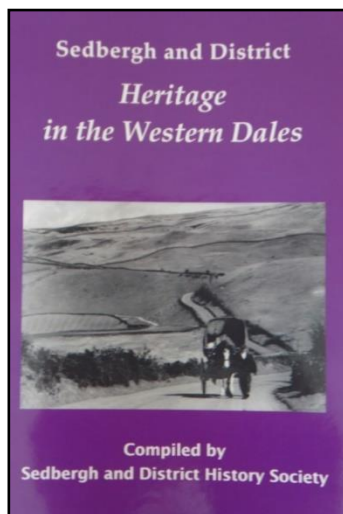
Published by Sedbergh and District History Society, this excellent book is a joy to read and will be an indispensable aid to the explorer of the Western Dales, especially those on foot or travelling by cycle as the detail can then be used to obtain a thorough insight into the social, light industrial, educational and religious development of this lovely part of our county. Those travelling by car will be encouraged to park at frequent intervals to appreciate the detail given in the book and the armchair explorer will soon share the joys and the hardships of days gone-by.

The Sedbergh Society, led by Graham Dalton (whose death was, sadly, reported in the Spring Bulletin) has produced this volume which follows one published in 2009 containing photographs in and about Sedbergh itself.

The sketch maps by Mike Beecroft include details of the locations where the photographs were taken, the photographs covering the period from the late 1800s to recent times. The images, coupled with the well-researched narrative, enable the reader to see the vernacular houses, many now changed and modernised, and the numerous chapels and meeting houses, many no more as modern transport enables us all to meet for worship further afield. The final chapter of the book shows several houses that are now no more, having been destroyed by fire, neglected or simply demolished.

A highly-recommended addition to the library of local historians of whatever interest.

Stuart Harling



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## Coming Soon!

Ken Day, Chairman of the Duddon Valley History Group, informs me that "Angerton Moss" by Bill Shannon and Lex Ward published by the Duddon Valley History Group is due to be published soon. Details will be in in the CLHF Winter Bulletin. Editor





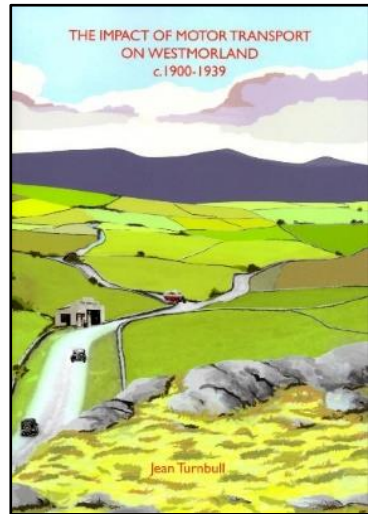
## The Impact Of Motor Transport On Westmorland c.1900-1939 By Jean Turnbull

Published by CWAAS - Extra Series No.

51 ISBN: 978-1-87-312488-8 £20.

copies can be purchased from Bookends, Carlisle & Keswick. Ian Caruana, CWAAS Librarian, or Sam Read, Bookseller, Grasmere, in store or online.

Retired Lancaster University academic, Dr Jean Turnbull, has written a unique piece of Cumbrian motor transport history centred on the former county of Westmorland, of which she is a native.



During the years 1900-1939 (which was a time of national radical social and economic change) the low population of Westmorland remained stable and was one of the most sparsely populated counties in England. However, the volume of motor traffic increased dramatically across the county during this period due largely to the presence of two major trunk roads, the A6 and A66, which connected Westmorland to the rest of the country's main highway network, bringing a rise in trade and tourism that in turn brought diverse business and employment opportunities to the largely rural population.

Early chapters cover infrastructure and the role of Westmorland County Council, particularly its struggle to come to terms with the growing volume of motor traffic, the demands of both the motor lobby and conservation groups, plus the cost of maintenance of its largely rural and rugged road system. The financial strain on WCC was lifted somewhat once government funding became available.

Further chapters focus on the opportunities motor transport provided for goods distribution and passenger transport (up to this point both largely conveyed by rail) and roadside businesses, particularly those offering

fuel, maintenance and hospitality. Alongside this was the opportunity for reasonably priced bus services for the local population making affordable coach excursions possible.

A time line is drawn through the First World War with the most rapid growth in national social and economic conditions happening post 1918, driven by access to technical advances, new forms of transport and improved working conditions.

The author is an enthusiastic advocate of oral history and has used this in her narrative, invoking, perhaps, memories that other natives of the county might recall, as will the many photographs, diagrams and maps that are included in this book.

Chris Craghill

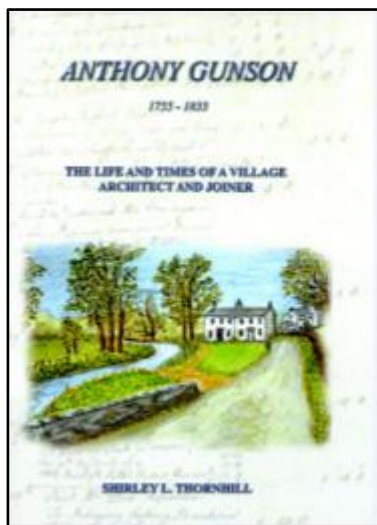
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Anthony Gunson 1755 -1833: The Life and Times of a Village Architect and Joiner by Shirley L. Thornhill.

P3 Publications (Carlisle, 2021), 176 pp. £15.00. [Available from the Publisher, Bookends & Amazon]

This book is largely, though not exclusively, based on a single, remarkable document (now deposited in the Carlisle Archive Centre) – the account book of

Anthony Gunson of Baggraw in the parish of All Hallows in north-west Cumbria, who meticulously itemised the work he carried out between 1795 and 1833.



Elsewhere, economic activity is only rarely recorded in such detail, and still less over a nearly forty-year period. It was the work throughout his

locality of a man who was primarily a joiner and carpenter, but who also turned his hand to building, decorating and all manner of repair work. He did much of this himself but also employed many others depending on the nature of the commission.

Wage rates and payments, estimates, the cost of raw materials and their transport, and the price of finished products were all listed in copious detail. Moreover, the period includes both the hectic growth of the war years down to 1815 and the subsequent post-war recession, facilitating comparison of the two.

Gunson created a bewildering array of items for both domestic and commercial use, reminding us that specialisation was often slow to develop even when much industry was growing apace. Still more startling perhaps is the frequency with which payments were made in kind, with the product of one person's work being paid for in the product of another. Cash changed hands only when necessary and yet, when payments were delayed, interest was invariably charged on the outstanding sums. The economy was modernising but, especially in relatively remote rural areas, at a pace that can all too easily be exaggerated.

The author provides useful details of some of Gunson's major customers, and pp. 133-172 contain an index of all of them. Although there is no map, the text is otherwise well-illustrated, though it would have benefited from much greater editorial care.

Peter Roebuck

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## A window into the past – Using local archives

A window into the lives of some of those less fortunate, who may not generally be represented in the surviving archives besides a bare entry in a parish register in the era before the successive Censuses, is provided in the sequence of 'petitions' addressed to Cumberland's Quarter Sessions held by Carlisle Archive Centre (reference Q / 11) . Quarterly meetings of

the Justices of the Peace were held each year at Christmas/ Epiphany, Easter, Midsummer, and Michaelmas at the County's principal towns in succession.

The sequence of petitions is dominated by those relating to the poor, both removal orders and

petitions. A Scotsman who had been discharged, with no pension, from the 47<sup>th</sup>

Regiment of Foot on account of lameness in a hand and was now, with a wife and three small children, employed as a cotton spinner at Dalston,



petitioned that his weekly wages were insufficient to procure bread meal alone; appearing at the Sessions held at Cockermouth in 1800, the Justices ordered that he be paid 2/6d weekly until further order and he be given 5/- for his journey to the Sessions. This is one of several petitions which reflected 'these very hard times' then facing the population. Less successful was the plea of a fellow Scotsman who had served as a substitute in the Cumberland Militia but now claimed that 3/- weekly from Wigton Township was insufficient for the maintenance of his Cockermouth-born wife and family of six children. Also in 1800, the 74 year old widow of the Clerk of Accounts of the parish of Stanwix sought support for her case that, by 'an ancient custom', the parish should continue her small weekly allowance rather than, adding to 'the severity of the times', she be sent to a poor house – an unsuccessful plea which reveals that in agreeing with a Crosby householder to support the poor of Stanwix, Stanwix was one of those parishes (which included Cockermouth and Hesketh) whose Overseers of the Poor were paying for their poor to be housed by individual householders rather than in a separate poor house.

Though the records of individual ships' captains and of local businesses may generally not survive, a petition of Anthony Thompson, fish curer, of

Whitehaven to the Epiphany Sessions of 1800, seeking the discharge of duty then payable on salt which had been lost at sea, reveals that over 1607 bushels of white salt from salt refiners at Northwich, Cheshire was shipped on a sloop from Liverpool to Whitehaven intended for the British Herring Fishery. Less fortunate was the schooner, *Lady Lowther*, which in 1814, nearly full of white salt, was wrecked off Flimby Point on her voyage from Liverpool to Carlisle; the petitioners, seeking recovery of the duty they had paid, comprised a number of individual grocers at Carlisle, Brampton, Penrith and Wigton, with one of the Carlisle grocers expecting no less than four tons of refined salt in forty of his sacks. As C M L Bouch and G P Jones note in their social and economic history, *The Lake Counties 1500 – 1830* (1961), John Christian Curwen of Workington Hall made strenuous efforts to get rid of the duties on salt which in 1818 amounted no less than £5 a ton on rock salt and £30 a ton on common salt, the duties adding to the cost of a proper diet for sheep and cattle and falling unjustly heavily on the working classes in their domestic use of salt (for preserving and flavouring food); the duties on salt were finally abolished in 1825.

Petitions of local coroners, seeking their fee and travelling expenses for taking inquests, reveal industrial accidents resulting in death – of a miner at West Bolton Colliery who in 1799 in being wound up in an empty basket was struck by a basket coming down such that he fell fifteen fathoms to the lofting (a joisted boarded ceiling) which he broke and fell a further seven yards into a sump; and a miner at Kirkland Colliery, Seaton, fatally injured when the roof of the coal mine fell on him. Accidental death by drowning was not infrequent; the dam race near the Dye House of the Dalston [cotton] manufactory of Messrs. Waldie & Co. in November 1813 was the scene of two fatalities, of Mary Asbridge, who fell into the water at about 8 p.m. on returning home from work, and of a unnamed boy of about five years found drowned.

The sequence of petitions to Quarter Sessions for Cumberland dates from 1686 – 1942 with calendars (providing the key information) of the individual documents up to the mid 1770s being found both in typescript volumes on the shelves of Carlisle Archive Centre's Map Room and online

(per CASCAT). It is to be hoped that in due course calendars of later petitions may be provided and made available online.

Adrian Allan

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Wordsworth Grasmere - 'Still glides the Stream' Wordsworth's Journey Down the River Duddon



Exhibition Image courtesy of Duddon Valley LHG

Over 30 contributors, ranging from local experts and artists to academics, have worked together over the last two years to create an exhibition that invites visitors to explore the valley and the sonnets through the perspectives of those that know them best.

Members of the **Duddon Valley Local History Group** have been key partners from the beginning of the project, providing wonderful insight into the valley itself and the specific locations explored in each sonnet. This invaluable local knowledge is captured within the exhibition as a map, which enables visitors to trace the river Duddon from source to sea and explore key sonnets along the route.

We are also very pleased to have worked with the Norman Nicholson Society, whose generous loans of Nicholson's typewriter and other artefacts have enabled us to explore a wonderful link between one poet and another, through the valley that meant so much to them both.

The exhibition walls are decorated with beautifully intricate and colourful textile artworks that represent all 33 sonnets; these pieces have been created by Flax, a group of south Cumbrian mixed media and textile artists. The sonnets, and the river itself, have also been explored by artists previously unfamiliar with the poems and the Duddon Valley: Amy Johnson and Katrin Joost, local digital artists, have created new artworks that invite us to see water in a new way, as have artists from Prism Arts, an inclusive arts organisation based in Carlisle.

We very much hope you'll be able to enjoy this special exhibition as part of our new, reimagined site here at Grasmere, open until 12th September 2021.

The Wordsworth Trust thanks Prof Phil Shaw and the University of Leicester for their inspiration and support, as well as the financial support of the NLHF and AHRC (<https://ahrc.ukri.org/>).

Jeff Cowton

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## Using *Google-Earth* to tell stories about landscapes.

Before COVID-19 restrictions interrupted working arrangements with another villager who has infinitely more technical expertise than me, I had begun to use *Google Earth* to construct and record journeys across the historic landscape of Asby Parish.

One of the prompts to its use grew out of musings about resurrecting the practice of 'beating the bounds' of the Parish. A train of thought which quickly reached an end with the realisation that the length of the boundary is more than a comfortable day's walk and that much of it is

now inaccessible to walkers. A second prompt was thinking about ways to illustrate the route and landmark features listed in 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century accounts of riding the boundaries of one of the four manors which are now contained within the parish.

One answer about how to tell the story of both journeys lay in *Google Earth*, which renders a representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery. It enabled me to view the landscape of the Parish 'from the air'. This is not the place to repeat the content of excellent online tutorial material about how to use *Google Earth* nor to describe the full range of its features. Many readers may already be familiar with the program and its functions, so this



short article will tell you little or nothing that is new. For those who aren't, what follows is a very rough and ready introduction to encourage you to explore more of the detail of using *Google Earth*.

After opening *Google Earth*, click the **Add Placemark** button above the area of the Earth's surface you have chosen to look at. You can use the window that opens to add local detail about the landscape you are looking down upon. It allows you to add: a minor place-name; a text-box about the place or landscape feature you have named; and, if you wish, a photograph showing detail of it viewed from the ground or a screenshot from a source such as a LiDAR map. You continue to open new **Placemark** windows for each feature or 'stopping-place' that you wish to include in your journey across your local landscape. Save each of these placemarks and arrange them in 'journey-order' in a *Google Earth* folder.

Then, using one of the available screen-recording software packages such as those available from Cyberlink, Apowersoft, and others you can move down the list of placemarks and across your landscape, recording each successive screen with narration.



One video about Byland Abbey's medieval grange in Asby Parish has been completed and is available at [The Byland Estate Lands](#). It's a rather 'rickety' first attempt and needs a partial remake because there is an error of interpretation of one detail in a 12<sup>th</sup> century charter. However, if you're not at all familiar with *Google Earth*, it gives an idea of what can be done. Next in the pipeline – after the corrective remake(!) – are a tour of Great Asby village and an attempt to display on screen the 'back-story' of some of the rediscovered field-names of the Parish.

Keith H Cooper

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Lamplugh & District Heritage Society

The Lamplugh & District Heritage Society have organised an Autumn programme of events at The Gather in Ennerdale (A community hub at Ennerdale Bridge www.thegatherennerdale.com/) **September 23rd** will take the form of a Members' Night, with contributions being sought from members responding to the question: 'What historical fact have I found out during lockdown?' The following month (**28th October**) will feature a talk on 'A Short History of Alchemy', and David Moorat will deliver his talk on 'Witches in Cumbria' on **25th November**. Each promises to be entertaining and enlightening. There is also the possibility at some point in the future of a presentation on Edwardian Lamplugh, but this is still a work in progress

Contact [Stan Buck e-mail](#)

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## Kirkby Lonsdale & District Civic Society

We have an exciting and wide-ranging programme of talks starting next month. These will take place from September to March on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lunesdale Hall, Bective Road, Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2BG. There is a small charge. The full programme is below and further details are on the Society's website.

**MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**NAVIGATING THE OLD ENGLISH POOR LAW: THE KIRKBY LONSDALE LETTERS**

**- Dr Peter Jones and Prof Steven King**

We are so fortunate to have Peter and Steven coming to talk to us about their book which is based on 600 letters written by or for the poor of Kirkby Lonsdale in the early 19th Century.

**MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021**

**AGM FOLLOWED BY A SHORT TALK**

**Speaker to be confirmed**

This will be an informal AGM meeting and wine and nibbles will be served.

**MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2021**

**AROUND MORECAMBE BAY - Dr Jean Turnbull**

Jean is a retired lecturer, historical geographer and author with a particular interest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In her talk, Jean will give us fascinating glimpse at one of the most beautiful, dangerous and constantly changing coastlines in our county.

**MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021**

**THE LOST INNS OF YORKSHIRE DALES**

**Dr David Johnson**

David, a well-known landscape archaeologist and historian based in Settle whose talk will focus on the lost inns of the Yorkshire Dales, the roles they served, and the reason for their decline.

Our website is [www.kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.org](http://www.kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.org)

EMAIL: [kldcschairman@gmail.com](mailto:kldcschairman@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: Kirkby-Lonsdale-District-Civic-Society

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CLHF Annual Convention and AGM 2021

“Transport History in Cumbria”

Will be held on Saturday 23 October 9.15am – 4.00pm in

Melmerby Village Hall £15.00 to include lunch.

See flyer for booking form or contact [Editor](#)

Can You Help?

The extensive Parish Registers of St. Mary and St. Michael, Cartmel are being pored over by Peter Roden of Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society with the aim of converting them to a digital resource which can be searched and sorted to simplify research by members of CPLHS. He has noticed that there are quite a few burial entries that have a suffix of “above gree” or “beneath gree” against the entry but cannot find the meaning of this annotation. If you can help please email nigelmillspp@gmail.com

From your Membership Secretary

Hello everyone. We're very sorry to have to report that after all this time, Orton and Tebay LHS have decided to close. However, a considerable amount of information about the area and its Manor Court remains on their website <http://www.otlhs.ukme.com/>.

Now that things are provisionally opening up again, please remember that you can send me your programs to put on the CLHF website Events pages, and also now to add to this newsletter. As usual, send basic details:

- * date, time, location (or Zoom registration link),
 - * title & brief summary, Speaker's name, any visitor fee, and,,,,
 - * as we are entering a rather unusual period..... Everyone's situation will vary so much, and it's so hard to predict what will be deemed acceptable but please let me know if you have any specific requests for visitors, such as wearing masks. Above all, please take great care and keep safe.
- Liz Kerrey

Cover Image

In 2000, Lazonby residents carried out a 16-mile Parish Boundary walk in two stages, with the permission of the appropriate landowner. The Parish boundary follows small water courses, but interestingly, does not follow the line of the A6. Photographs were taken of all the boundary stones, most of which were very overgrown, but after some clearance the inscriptions if any, were mostly visible. Although some recorded were

quite insignificant with no inscription, the stone between Lazonby and Great Salkeld Parish is Grade 11 listed, dated early C19th. The central inscription is not completely visible but may read *Scatterbeck Mill*, which is near by. On the wall of Scatterbeck Mill is the large drinking Trough its inscription. We found it well worth recording the stones, not only of the Parish, but also of field boundary stones which can have historical significance relating to land ownership.

Sheila Fletcher

From the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed reading this Summer 2021 Bulletin as much as I have enjoyed compiling it and each edition over the last 6 years. However all good things come to an end and this will be my last one as Editor, although I hope instead to contribute to future editions. The CLHF is therefore looking for an editor to continue producing and developing the Bulletin. It is a rewarding task, you will have the help of four sub-editors and a membership seldom shy about sending contributions. You need only Word IT skills, which I can help with if necessary, so please think about volunteering by contacting me direct [Nigel Mills](#) or our Acting Chairman [Graham Brooks](#). Thank you.

CLHF Contacts

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