



Cumbria Local History Federation



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Chairman's Chat.

Well we have managed to have a face to face convention and AGM and a very successful day was had by all those who attended. A report of the proceedings appears later in this Bulletin. As a speaker at the convention I must say there is a great difference to giving a talk in front of an audience rather than over the internet via Zoom. It would appear that more and more of you are starting to hold face to face meetings. Can I please ask you to let Liz know your programmes and she can then publicise them both on our website and also via our regular email newsletters. (Contact details at end of Bulletin)

Before Covid we were planning a large project to look at the archives that are held by our member societies and their care and access. This was to be funded by an HLF grant. Most of you will be aware that when Covid started the HLF stopped considering all grant applications, and so we lost our funding. The good news is due to generous anonymous donation to the Federation and a grant from C & WAAS we are now in a position to revive the project although in a reduced form. We have contracted an independent Archive consultant Kevin Bolton who will work with the Cumbria Archive Services to run two, two day courses one at Carlisle and the other at Kendal. There will then be a number of follow up visits by Kevin to view group's archives and advise them independently. These meetings are planned to take place in spring 2022. If you signed up to the original programme you should have received an email from Lyn. Can you please reply as soon as possible so we can plan the project.

The Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society has offered to host the 2022 convention and the date and subject will be publicised when it is finalised.

The AGM attracted 2 new members to the committee but we really do need a few more people especially with a bit more youth. We are still looking for a Bulletin editor. I have edited this edition and I will admit it is relatively easy with all the content being supplied and just needing putting in place. If you fancy giving it a go please get in touch.

Graham Brooks. Chair.

Federation's Treasurers Report to the AGM October 2021.

The meeting was asked to approve 2 years accounts i.e. year ended 30th June 2020 and 2021.

1. Year ended 30th June 2020

The year ended with a surplus of £249.98 compared to a surplus of £139.69 in the previous year. Subscriptions from individual members showed an increase for the 3rd year. The Convention realised a surplus of £207.00 compared to £174.67 in the previous year. Events had to be curtailed in view of COVID 19. We appreciated donations from individuals, which HMRC has allowed us to claim Gift Aid for the first time.

Cost per bulletin increased over the previous year, but careful management in reducing the numbers printed, resulted in a decrease of costs for the bulletin. Other costs were broadly in line with expectations. The closing balance is adequate and in line with best practice guidelines.

The biggest disappointment was our application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund after making good progress including a face to face meeting in Carlisle was stopped. The application was deemed to be closed and withdrawn to allow focus on critical sites, which had lost their total income overnight. We appreciate the help and support of so many with this project.

The accounts were approved.

2. Year ended 30th June 2021

The year ended with a surplus of £278.09 compared to a surplus of £249.98 in the previous year. A great result as there was no income from a Convention or Events.

The Committee had made a decision not to charge subscriptions, but to invite donations to ensure the Federation remained viable. The situation was greatly helped by HMRC allowing Gift Aid to be claimed on individual donations. We are grateful to individuals and Societies for their

generosity, which exceeded the previous year's subscriptions. Cost per bulletin rose by 4%, but pagination increased by 32% to an average of 44 pages. Other costs were broadly in line, except website costs, which are for 2 years. The closing balance is adequate and in line with best practice guidelines.

Following the disappointment of our application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the Committee were advised not to submit a new application as our membership did not meet their criteria of sufficient diversity. The committee has been exploring how to take this project forward, following great support from our members. A significant anonymous donation has been received in the current year, which is helping us to focus on a smaller project.

The accounts were approved.

3. HMRC Gift Aid

We have received HMRC approval to claim Gift Aid on individual donations;

4. Lazonby History Society

Following the decision of Lazonby History Society to close an agreement was reached between the Federation and the Society for the remaining funds to be handed over to the Federation. These funds will be ring fenced until 9th July 2026. If during this 5 year period the Society starts up again the funds will be handed over to their Officers. After 5 years the Federation will decide on the outcome of the funds with a hope that a project linked to Lazonby could make use of these funds.

Adrian Allan has worked hard to ensure the Lazonby archives were handed over to the Archive Service.

This agreement could be used if other societies were closing down. We would like to place on record our thanks to the Officers of the Lazonby Society, particularly Sheila Fletcher for helping to bring about this satisfactory conclusion. All parties appear to be very satisfied with this outcome.

5. Election of Auditor

The existing Auditor Mr Michael Coen has indicated his willingness to continue.

Mr Michael Coen was approved to continue in office.

6. Subscriptions

It has been the practice for subscriptions to follow the calendar year and not our financial year, which is 1st July to 30th June. It has been agreed to bring the subscription year in line and accordingly subscriptions will run from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022. Subscription rates will remain the same at £15.00 for Societies and £10.00 for individuals. Donations from individuals accompanied by the correct form are eligible for Gift Aid.

John H. Poland Treasurer

CLHF Convention and AGM, 2021.

Melmerby Village Hall, a fine, well-appointed building of 2004, provided a welcoming venue for the Federation's Annual Convention and AGM on Saturday, 23 October. With social distancing and other measures in place, with recorded risk assessments carried out the previous day and before the Convention opened such that it was believed all reasonable precautions had been taken, some 57 members and other attendees were pleased to be able to meet together, in person, again, after an interval of two years, to enjoy four engaging talks on the theme of transport history in Cumbria.

'Just passing through or are you stopping? Linking Cumbria with the rest of the country, 1600 – 1900' provided the title of Dr Alan Crosby's keynote talk. For centuries people had tended to avoid visiting Cumbria, the depiction of mountains on Christopher Saxton's map of Westmorland and Cumberland, 1576, suggesting they were impassable, with travellers' accounts expressing a sense of horror and fears of insecurity in an unpopulated area of the country; besides, as Lieut. Francis Hammond noted in his travel diary in 1634 (*A Relation of A Short Survey of 26 Counties*, edited by Leopold G Wickham Legg, 1904, and available online

at archive.org/details/relationofshorts00capt/page/n25/mode/2up) there seemed to be few monuments of note worth visiting. Even as late as the 1720s, Daniel Defoe was still peddling the old view, though conceding that the area had some pleasant market towns but not himself venturing into the heart of the Lake District. By contrast to the reports of the elite traveller who journeyed to specific places, there was the far less well documented everyday use of a dense network of droving routes. Key dates in encouraging a change of view were the union of the crowns in 1603, ending the hostility between England and Scotland, the removal of customs barriers in 1707 and, in particular, the creation of a network of turnpike routes in the mid-18th century. Through the publication of the first edition of Father Thomas West's *A Guide to the Lakes* in 1778 and later accounts, Cumbria was now becoming attractive as a destination in its own right. In the early 19th century, secondary roads were also improved by turnpike trusts, the gradient of roads (including that over Shap) being also significantly improved. Alternative proposals for the development of railways in the 1820s and 1830s were to lead to Joseph Locke's plan for a line through Shap being preferred to that of George Stevenson for a route on the west coast; and by 1848 Cumbria was integrated into the national transport network.

Drawing on the archives of Network Rail at York and those of the Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust, of which he is chairman, Bryan Gray spoke on 'Building the Settle – Carlisle Railway'. An Act of 1866 granted the Derby-based Midland Railway compulsory purchase powers to construct the line, Seventy –two miles in length. A complex process of land assembly resulted in the drafting of a large number of legal agreements. Of the four contracts for the line's construction, the north end contract was awarded in 1870 to Carlisle-based Messrs Eckersley & Bayliss, with a completion date of 1872, though in the event it was not completed until 1875, at increased cost; goods were transported from 1875, passengers from 1876. At one stage, 106 horses and 1,000 men were engaged in construction, photographs showing the construction of the Ribbleshead viaduct (and nearby brickworks, also navy camp), Ormside viaduct, and Garsdale Head's Moorcroft Cottages (for the workers). With access to

such photographs and other records, including most recently a station master's diary, Bryan Gray spoke in particular about his research into the history of Little Salkeld Station, one of the twenty-eight 'Midland Gothic' stations on the line. In 1970, all stations except Settle and Appleby were closed by British Railways who in 1983 announced that the line was to be closed, a proposal which the government finally in 1989 refused to sanction. Thanks to the work of the Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust, further historic railway buildings along the line, which was re-opened for both freight and passenger traffic, are being cared for. (see the Trust's website : <https://settlecarlisletrust.org.uk>)

The morning session closed with the Federation's AGM at which Mrs Jill Wishart, the Federation's founder, was re-elected as one of the independent Trustees; Graham Brooks, currently Acting Chairman in succession to Professor Peter Roebuck, was elected Chairman; and the other officers and committee members re-elected, with Alastair Robertson and Sheila Fletcher welcomed to fill two of the four vacancies on the committee. Graham Brooks expressed the Federation's indebtedness to Peter Roebuck for his leadership of the Federation and reported that the committee was now seeking to raise the necessary funds so that the planned archive project, in support of Federation groups holding archives, might be launched next year. Though two member groups had been obliged to close, he was pleased to welcome the U3A Skiddaw Group as a new member. The Federation's accounts for the years ending 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021 were accepted.

An excellent buffet lunch provided by The Windmill Cafe of Priest's Mill, Caldbeck, was enjoyed, also the opportunity to view the various Society displays and bookstalls (including a demonstration of the archive resources of the Alston Moor Historical Society which can be explored through the online catalogue on the Society's website).



JUNE HILL INTRODUCING MAKS LOTH-HILL.

Maks Loth-Hill took us back almost two millennia for 'A journey across the Roman Empire : Rome to Carlisle in 31 days', the journey time one might expect during the Summer months, referring us to Orbis, the interactive map created by Stanford University to help you navigate yourself around the Roman World of c. 200 AD (www.easyvoyage.co.uk/travel-headlines/navigate-your-way-around-ancient-rome-with-this-tool-88462). Journeying out of Rome, along the Via Ostia, to Rome's port of Ostia, our traveller would have negotiated transport on a galley sailing to the south of France, thence travelling by road to Boulogne and across the Channel to Dubris (Dover, whose Roman lighthouse, close to Dover Castle, still stands). The journey proceeded along Watling Street to Londinium and then, per Ermine Street, to Eboracum (York), the well constructed roads, with drainage ditches, being used by a wide variety of persons, including the Cursus Publicus (the postal system), its staff and their horses being accommodated en route at mansios, every 20 – 25 kilometres, whereas our traveller would probably seek accommodation in a taverna. The journey from York, via Dere Street, passed through Corbridge, to Luguvalium (Carlisle), our attention being drawn to one of the Roman milestones now housed at Tullie House Museum which bears inscriptions of both Carausius at one end and of the later Roman emperor, Constantinus Chlorus (father of the future

Constantine the Great) at the reused other end. In discussion, it was noted that the reverse journey, as later witnessed by St Wilfrid in his travels to Rome in the mid-7th century, was somewhat more difficult.

In his account of 'Early mineral transport', Graham Brooks observed that gravity played a major role in moving minerals downhill. As evidenced by sledge tracks down to Hartside, sledges were employed to move slates, as also other minerals, downhill. Coal was cheap to mine, women and children engaged in carrying coals. Besides wheelbarrows, packhorses (which could carry about two cwt in weight), and two-wheel carts, later four-wheel carts' (for transporting stone blocks) were used. Documentary evidence reveals that the Musgrave family of Edenhall were incurring expenditure on improving roads servicing their mines at Hartley in the 1770s; complaints about road maintenance are a constant theme amongst the records of Quarter Sessions. In the 1790s, the Earl of Carlisle paid for roads to transport coal worked in his mines in the Talkin / Brampton area, in 1799 introducing wagonways (the rails of timber) to his collieries. In the columns of the *Cumberland Pacquet*, thanks were expressed in 1786 for the introduction of a wagonway into Maryport. From the 1780s onwards, cast iron plates were used, with Lord Carlisle one of the first to use wrought iron rails. Already by 1586, the Caldbeck mines had been using rails to transport iron ore. Steam transport is evidenced by 1816, with the first steam engine in Cumbria; Lord Carlisle was himself to buy and employ 'the Rocket' steam engine for some years to transport coal from his mines.

A debt of gratitude is owed to members of the Federation's Committee, family members, and members of the Alston Moor Historical Society for helping to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Adrian Allan

Renwick and Kirkoswald History group



A treat greeted the Renwick and Kirkoswald History group at their first post Covid meeting. Dr Martin Johns gave a practical demonstration and talk on **“British Cavalry Sabres through the ages”**. The meeting was held in a barn with hay bales available for members to test the weapons themselves. Martin has a collection of over 200 sabres and brought over 50 for his demonstration. There is not usually such a practical component to a history lecture and during the meeting the Chairman and Treasurer demonstrated the art of fencing without wiping out the entire committee of the group! One take home message from the talk was that there are three sword strokes; stab, slash and carve. Any sword is only capable of delivering two out of the three and some swords like a rapier are only for stabbing. A highlight was a sword which had been used in the 1745 battle at Clifton near Penrith.



Fellfoot Forward

Led by the North Pennines AONB Partnership, the Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme is a major project to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of a special part of the Eden Valley. It is funded mainly through the Heritage Lottery Fund and runs from 2020 to 2024. For more information go to [www.northpennines.org.uk/what we do/fellfoot-forward](http://www.northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward)

Fellfoot Forward's Uncovering the Past project started on October 27th, 2021 with a short, 8 part, practical course, delivered by Dig Ventures. Using historic sources, maps and archaeological evidence we will investigate and tell the story of the villages and parishes of Croglin, Cumwhitton and Hayton. Together we will work towards three 'Village Atlases' that can be used to share and present the history gathered. Information about the free course and how to book will appear on the North Pennines website – Fellfoot Forward

[www.northpennines.org.uk/what we do/fellfoot-forward/uncovering-the-past](http://www.northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/fellfoot-forward/uncovering-the-past)

Recent events from Fellfoot Forward have included:

- Nana Bainbridge's Pockets. the launch of a series of workshops at Melmerby focussing on 'hand me down heritage'.
- Conservation work at Kirkoswald Castle including public tours and hands on conservation techniques for consolidating heritage buildings.
- Guided walk at Long Meg with Bruce Benison
- History trail around Croglin Village with Ruth Lawley, Bruce Benison and June Hill.



The Summer visit to Kirkoswald Castle.

© Tom Speight

Coming up we will be working with you on the Village Atlases and early next year Oral Histories. Following this through 2022 and 2023 we have a series of small archaeological projects at several sites in the scheme area.

To find out more get in touch with

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## Castle Hill (Maryport) Local History Group

### Local History in the Age of Social Media

David Malcolm, October 2021

Davidj.malcolm@btoopenworld.com

First, until getting involved in this Group I have never been a member of a local history society. I have always imagined a local history society as a small group of nerds like me, people who really wanted to know about their local environment, beetling away on their own, collecting stuff, memories and documents, always working to a high level of detail and occasionally publishing a pamphlet or doing a piece for the local paper. The society would meet every few months to exchange notes and perhaps publish a newsletter. Surrounding the nerdy core would be group who really wanted to hear about the town but for whatever reason are not involved in research. The two groups would come together at occasional exhibitions and talks.

Now, two things have changed in this world; the emergence of the internet; and the huge growth in people wanting to trace their families. In many respects these factors have blown the world of local history apart. Initially, local history societies embraced the internet, creating their own web sites, largely as a replacement for the society newsletter and much better for photographs. The internet also allowed single interest societies to grow and thrive – check out sites on industrial history, local railways, buses and public transport. Then social media came along, specifically Facebook. Facebook is not a research tool and it's not a place to publish lengthy documents, or even newsletters. Facebook is current, it's in the minute ... "... this is where I am today"; "... this is what I'm doing today"; "... do you like this or agree with that", and worst of all "... does anyone remember ..."?

Facebook is not a local history archive. It is a communication medium and as such it's one that generates new and additional information for the

local historian every week. It would be foolish not to monitor this resource and catalogue the findings.

I suppose what I am saying is that the Facebook sites cater for the person who wishes to see how things have changed, remember people and places, but not actually do the research. Not a criticism at all, but does this really mean that the local history society needs to fulfil this role?

In the last week, a chap called Guy Broster did a piece on YouTube, basically showing off the town – really good – which suddenly prompted me to check what else was on YouTube about Maryport. To my surprise there is quite a bit, and almost all of it recycles the same old photographs and tells the same story of Humphrey Senhouse founding the town and naming it after his wife etc. Facebook and YouTube essentially keep recycling this story, it's not a false story, but it's not adding any new layers or characters into the story.

Once again, social media highlights what I see as the role of a local history society, not to keep retelling the same old story, but to add those new layers, to improve the depth and understanding of the history of the town and its people: to explore and record a range of histories that drive a pride in the town. Not the negative pride, by which I mean the snarling pride in being able to complain that things were always better in the past. But a quiet pride that says that yes for every bad period, the town, and more importantly its people have worked and looked forward to good times. And that those good times didn't involve the town being frozen in the past. Good times come with change – change can be uncomfortable. I am always hearing what a tragedy it was that Netherhall was demolished, but why was it demolished, what arguments were put forward to retain it, what was the view of the town at that time, how prosperous was the town, what else was happening etc?

Family history is different, in that it involves local history and active research: it's how I got into local history. There seem to be two schools of family history research one that focusses entirely on creating the family tree and going back as far as can be imagined, preferably to some long-lost monarch. And another that wants to discover where the family were

living, what were they doing, why? What was happening around them, what were living conditions like etc.? Either way the immense popularity of “doing the family history” is a good thing.

Now we have not set out to be a “family history society”, but it really would be good if members were prepared to share a) their family history and b) the issues and problems that they came up against during research and c) any findings that their family history has thrown up about the wider local history. I suppose the cross-over points are – again facebook – those entries that say “... I remember yer Dad, he had a shop on’t corner ...” Genuine social history, we identify a family, a shop, a location, a point in time, and can tell a story. We can weave that story into the wider history of the area and the town, stitch in other families and other stories.

Social Media then is either a threat to local history in that:

- It exposes local history as a prompt and as fragments
- It makes no attempt to evaluate or connect the fragments
- It fails to record that history.
- It provides the person with a casual interest in local history with a fix that doesn’t require membership of a local history society
- It recycles and reinforces standard stories and opinions

Or it is a huge strength in that it provides historians with a lot of knowledge, comment and social history that may not otherwise become available, allowing local historians to validate or dispute their research? I think as a local historian, I like to see it as the latter.

Here is an example. During lockdown last summer I wrote a series of articles on the Down Street area of Maryport and posted them on the three relevant Facebook groups – Maryport Past and Present; Old Maryport; and Maryport Genealogy and Ancestry. Between them these groups have over 10,000 members all over the world. I got an enormous amount of feedback from people whose families were from Down Street and have had to revise the article twice. One particular gentleman - Damian O’Flaherty – who now now lives in Surrey, sent me a photo from

his collection, because the address on the wagon was John Miller, 113 King Street, Maryport. He is not related to the Millers.



The photo, probably taken at Appleby Horse Fair in the 1950s, shows a traveller family, now based in Maryport, whose forbears ran a travelling boxing booth around the Cumberland Fairs. I was loath to post this on the Fb Group as there was the usual abuse of travellers in the papers at that time. Then someone else posted a landscape photo from Castle Hill, looking out across the docks in the 1990s. In the view is a scrap yard, where the Wave Centre is now. Suddenly there are comments being posted about Johnny Miller's yard, about how everyone that moved house in Maryport in the 1950s-70s knew Johnny as he was the only removal man in town; about how the children used to feed the ponies that he kept; of the dog that was supposed to protect the yard – but just played with the children. Not a bad word was said about the Millers.



So, I posted the photo, and the feedback multiplied. The Miller family had never seen this photo and were so pleased with it – but they had an argument between themselves as to who exactly was in the photo. I was able to write something of a family history of the Millers and recorded it in the Maryport Family History Archive.

Now, moving onto the Family History Festival that we held at the end of June 2021. It ran over 3 days, and a different group of the Miller family came each day – 8 came on the Sunday morning - to discuss the picture and the family history and to express their appreciation to everyone involved. Not quite finished yet! At the end of August, whilst I was doing my shift at the Maritime Museum, another Miller family – this time a mother and daughter from Annan – called in to see me and add further to the family history.

None of this would have been revealed without Facebook, and none would have been recorded without the Local History Group. Which is not to warn that capturing and recording all this material really quite a lot of work.

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## Foxfield Station Display

On 24 August a display celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inauguration of the Furness Railway, was unveiled at Foxfield Station.

The idea to have a memorial to recognise the event came from David Hughes, a member of the Duddon Valley Local History Group. Fellow member Stephe Cove then set about designing and producing the display. which also includes a QR code for local walks.

The unveiling was conducted by Dr Ian Davidson of Broughton Mills, who in the early 1950s was both porter and signalman at Broughton before he left for University. In unveiling the display, which depicts life at Foxfield Station for over 100 years, Dr Davidson said ' I often reflect on what I learned while on the railway, and conclude that it was of more worldly use than all my years at college that succeeded it'.



There were over twenty people at the ceremony who was warmly welcomed by Ken Day, Chairman of the History Group. Network Rail were represented by Foxfield Signaller Richard Wilson and Crossing Keeper Steve Evans, who also attended on behalf of The Friends of Foxfield Station.

Area Operations Managers Wendy Potter and Wayne Steele attended on behalf of Northern Railways and Claire Bradshaw of Community Rail photographed the event.

Afterwards a numbers of visitors adjourned for light refreshments at the Old King's Head in Broughton, where on the same date in 1850, the Directors of the Furness Railway held a banquet to celebrate the arrival of the first passenger train on the line.

Ken Day

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RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

An uplifting insight into the history of graveyards

Bev Brummitt opened her talk to the October 2021 meeting of the Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG), by explaining the title of her talk, 'Musings of a Taphophile'. Taphophile describes someone who is an enthusiastic explorer of graveyards, which for Bev are uplifting places to visit and learn from.

The talk covered the history of formal burials, headstone design and headstone wording. At the outset Bev shared the origins of her interest including early memories of regular visits to family graves in the Churchyard in North Staffordshire and exploring the graves in the graveyard opposite her childhood home. The experience was educational and fascinating and has remained an everyday interest which informed the October lecture.

The history spanned early references to formal burial, beginning in 3000 BC, with the first gravestones or grave markers placed by both Roman and Celtic cultures. By exploring definitions, Bev shared the distinctions between graveyards, cemeteries and burial grounds, including the early origin for the word 'cemetery' which derives from the Greek word 'koimeterion', meaning 'a sleeping place'. The Greeks also influence another important aspect of a graveyard, as they are credited with the founding of the tradition of flowers as a form of remembrance.

Working along a timeline, Bev covered key events in the evolving story of graveyards, from 3000 BC to the 7th and 10th Centuries and then in more recent history from the 1600s to 1800s, arriving in an era which introduced many of our more familiar traditions and graveyard customs associated with the Victorians, including the emergence of the first cemeteries. The largest, Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey, which was accessed via a dedicated railway for the transport of coffins and included three classes of carriage for the transport of passengers.

In introducing headstone design, Bev began with definitions, initially categorised by date, to confirm the evolving styles of gravestones from the early 18th Century onwards and the point at which familiar designs including double headstones and box tombs appear. Bev also explained the reasons for the modern dominance of granite over marble and the historical context of the trend towards reduction in size of memorial stones over time.

Finally an introduction to inscriptions formed the last section of the presentation. The influence of regulations, for example those in use in Churchyards, to ensure inscriptions are reverent and the information is

distinct on war graves. Examples of adornments (inevitably unregulated) were illustrated including that adorning the grave of a famous rock musician. Piles of drumsticks were among examples shown as being left by respectful fans as simple testament to the former Led Zeppelin drummer, John Bonham.

An entertaining dimension to the talk was the inclusion of quiz questions at regular intervals during the talk, to provide an opportunity for audience participation and to reinforce the insight learned up to that point. Laughter also emerged as an important aspect of the talk, with slides on interesting 'trivia' notes and grave inscriptions that offered a witty epitaph in memory of the departed occupant.

The talk concluded with confirmation of the many reference sources interrogated to bring the talk together, including churchyard diocesan regulations, maps, vestry minutes, burial board minutes, burial registers, local newspapers and seventeen separate Burial Acts spanning from 1847 to 1981.

RPHG warmly applauded Bev, who joins the local parish faculty of enthusiastic speakers, who bring former experience of public speaking along with a passion for historical topics to support the group by volunteering to develop and prepare these monthly lectures.

November's RPHG talk (17th November) will be given at Ravenstonedale Community and Heritage Centre by another regular and popular speaker. Diana Fothergill will speak to a live audience on the subject of 'More Famous Fothergills', a sequel to her earlier talk on Famous Fothergills that entertained the group by Zoom in March 2020. For more information go to www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk.

Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

The Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society has been preparing itself for a return to more normal delivery of its talks and no doubt the booster vaccination will give further reassurance. However, the lockdown has had the unexpected effect of broadening our geographical appeal and quite a large number of new members have joined who would have been thought well outside our catchment area before Covid struck. To accommodate these, and perhaps other members who cannot attend meetings 'live' we are planning to broadcast online as well as re-open in Lorton's Yew Tree Hall. Comments and advice from other societies would be welcome and of course we will be happy to share our experience of this very new development.

James Lusher has organised two guided walks for the membership. Both proved very popular, because of their content of course, but also because they provided an opportunity after nearly two years to engage in a communal activity once more. On August 15th Derek Denman led a walk in Lorton which related its early origins and the ways in which the local economy evolved over the centuries. It was extremely well attended, bolstered by some members who had not booked but were most welcome, and it was favoured with good weather after a damp start. Then on September 12th, Mark Hatton of CATMHS took a group on a guided walk round the mines of Coppermines Valley, Coniston. This was a notable success with the intrepid walkers who attended. It was not for the fainthearted – James' advice when advertising the walk spoke of six hours exploring hostile mountain terrain. However, Mark Hatton's expertise and extensive Knowledge made it very worthwhile for those lucky enough to have attended.

Our September talk was a highlight. Dick O'Brien gave us a very interesting account of the pilgrimage of Grace in Cumbria, full of details and insight into the broader historical context. Our next talk, on

November 11, also promises to be very stimulating – Professor Matthew Townend, author of the *Vikings and Victorian Lakeland: the Norse medievalism of W.G. Collingwood and his contemporaries* will be speaking on Cumbrian dialect in the Victorian period. (For those interested, a BBC podcast of professor Townend in discussion with Melvyn Bragg in a programme called *The Matter of the North* can be found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p045n4qs/p045n4k3>)

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## LAMPLUGH & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Our meeting programme restarted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September – the first since February 2020, with a well attended members' evening on the theme "What I found out during lockdown". Subjects ranged from the experience of a Quaker ambulance driver – including a collision with a Cairo tram, through the history of a former miner's cottage, to the range of heritage musical recordings ore-Edison, and helping an American writer unravel the mystery of "Penrith Pudding" – which turned out to be a sort of C18th. Apple crumble – and very tasty the sample was too!

Our next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October will be "A Short History of Alchemy" by Terry Harvey-Chadwick – a presentation I've personally been looking forward to as a chemist myself, and which has twice been postponed. This meeting will again be in "The Gather" in Ennerdale Bridge, as will all our meetings until Lamplugh's new village hall is finished next Spring.

Our next publication has the working title "An Edwardian Childhood – memories of a Lamplugh schoolboy". This is based on the memories of Viv Hales, born in Lamplugh in 1902 and which he was encouraged to record for his family. His descendants have now passed on a transcript of this to LDHS with a view to publication and we are now working on this. I'm not sure when it will be finished, but sadly don't think we'll catch the Christmas trade!

Viv Hales was the son of Charlie Hales, headmaster of the village school and who was involved in most village activities, especially musical ones! Viv Hales himself became a headmaster and the document is very well written. It may largely concern the years before WW1, but in rural West Cumberland, as probably most of the county, many things were unchanged for years thereafter – for example no tractors were in regular use in Lamplugh until the later 1940s and mains electricity didn't arrive until 1958. There are therefore many older folks still with us who remember the lifestyle he wrote about.

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The Rails Which Circled The World

Workington railway station has been transformed into an outdoor exhibition space celebrating the area's industrial past. Inspired by the town's proud history of rail-making the exhibition also tells the story of the local steel, coal, shipping and railway industries. Reminiscences about Workington during two world wars are included together with memories of 'the way we were'.

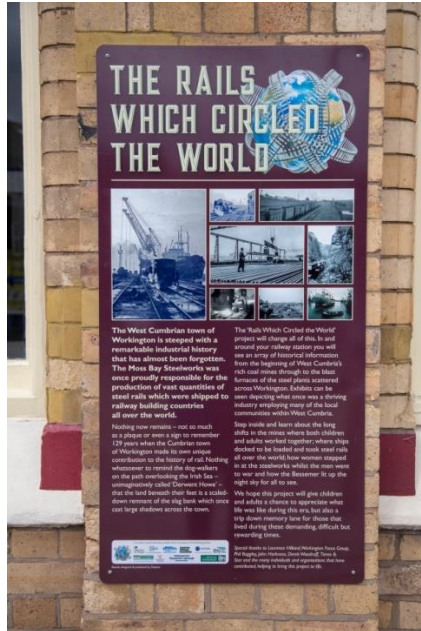
A series of illustrated, full colour display boards, 17 in total, have been installed into the brickwork recesses on the northbound platform. Each board is approximately 2m square and is dedicated to some aspect of the area's industrial or historical past. Several additional display boards have been mounted in the waiting rooms.

In addition a 21 minute rolling video presentation plays on a loop in the waiting rooms on each platform. This video includes archive footage of local industries and interviews with veterans of the local steel and rail industries recollecting the 'good old days'. The video may be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/503775049/17dd49a4f7>

The project was co-ordinated by Community Rail and several local groups were invited to provide suitable content for their allocated boards. These groups included Workington Transport Heritage Group, Direct Rail Services, Helena Thompson museum, Cumbria County Council and

Cumbrian Railways Association. The design of the boards was produced by local printers Firpress.

The exhibition was opened officially on 26th May 2021 by Cumbria County Councillor Keith Little, Cabinet Member for Highways and



THE INTRODUCTORY PANEL credit Adamedia of Whitehaven

Transport. The project was due to be delivered in the spring of 2020 but the pandemic put paid to those ambitions. Following the granting of Planning Permission a tribute sculpture and plaque will be erected outside the railway station. This sculpture of local Tendley carboniferous limestone includes a carving of a Bessemer converter which had its last 'blow' in 1974.

No charge is made to view this permanent exhibition which is accessible to all during station opening hours.

Brian Quayle

Lancaster University.

The revamped distance learning Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History recruited to capacity for 2021-22, and is now well underway with an enthusiastic and committed cohort of students. They are currently studying 'The Northerners: the making of a region, 1000-1500', accessing an impressive range of teaching materials compiled by RHC Director Dr Fiona Edmonds, and also participating in online discussions. One new feature of the course is the opportunity to 'meet' other students and the tutors in real time when we hold an RHC study event that is relevant to the term's taught module.

We are now accepting applications for the next offering, which is due to start in October 2022, and we encourage you to find out more on the applications website

at <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/regional-and-local-history-distance-learning-pgcert/#overview>

If you want to find out more, please feel free to register for one of our online taster events, which are being held on Tuesday 7 December (2-3pm) and Wednesday 8 December (3-4pm) as part of the university's Postgraduate Open Week. Just click on the relevant link to access the booking process:

7th December, 2-3 pm

[Introduction to PG Certificate in Regional and Local History \(Distance Learning\), Tuesday 7 December, 2:00pm | Lancaster University](#)

8th December, 3-4 pm

[Introduction to PG Certificate in Regional and Local History \(Distance Learning\), Wednesday 8 December, 3:00pm | Lancaster University](#)

Ann-Marie Michel | Regional Heritage Centre Administrator

History| Lancaster University

Bowland Main B116

+44 (0)1524 593770

www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritage-centre/

Tues/Thurs/Fri 0930-1530

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## Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS)

Devastating as the impact of Covid-19 has been on society and on the lives of individuals, it has increased our appreciation of the online services and resources on which we are increasingly reliant. In the instance of CWAAS, though all the visits and other events planned for April 2020 onwards had to be cancelled and meetings of the Society's Council and committees were thenceforward to be held online, for the first time the Society's large membership, scattered all over the country and abroad, was offered a series of four online lectures, delivered by members, in July and August this year : Dr Bill Shannon speaking on the Cumbrian maps, plans and antiquarian notes in King George III's vast topographical collection held by the British Library (also the subject of Dr Shannon's illustrated article in *CWAAS Transactions* 2021) ; Dr Jean Turnbull on the impact of road transport in Westmorland in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the subject of her latest book, published by CWAAS; Professor David Breeze placing Hadrian's Wall in a broader context in speaking on Roman frontiers in the landscape settings; and Dr Fiona Edmonds on 'The royal meeting of 927 and the Cumbrian kingdom'. Attracting audiences in excess of 100 members, a further series of evening online lectures for members is planned for January to April 2022, including on the subjects of the 17<sup>th</sup> century memoirs of Sir Daniel Fleming of Rydal Hall (published, in an edition by Scott Sowerby and Noah McCormack, by CWAAS in 2021) , England's Northern frontier in the 15th century, and Cumbrian field names.

Another online service which CWAAS has recently introduced is the provision on its website ([cumbriapast.com](http://cumbriapast.com)) of nearly 80 of the Society's

out-of-print publications dating from 1877 – 1973, where they can be freely downloaded and viewed; to access these publications, one has to click on ‘Publications / Publications List’ and scroll down to ‘Out of Print E-Books’.

The third online service that, thanks to the initiative of two of its members, the Society has been able to introduce is a CWAAS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/cumbriapast>). With a growing following, the regular postings include news of the Society’s activities (including the online lectures), links to the texts of articles in the Society’s past *Transactions* that relate to current issues, and the re-tweeting of items relevant to members such as talks about Cumbria from other historical societies , information from museums in Cumbria, pictures of various Cumbrian landmarks, and, more recently, photographs coming from the excavation of the Roman bathhouse at Carlisle Cricket Club, Stanwix. Readers will probably be aware that, per the Society’s website, one can search and download back issues of the Society’s *Transactions* (published since 1874); it should be added that one has to be a member of the Society to view the full contents of the last five years of *Transactions*.

With the gradual relaxation of the regulations concerning the pandemic and while still following guidance on social distancing, etc., it was possible for the May Walk from Appleby to Ormside led by Mark Blackett-Ord to take place this year, followed by a visit to the archaeological excavations at Birdoswald, a walk through Wigton led by Trevor Grahamslaw, assisted by members of the Solway History Society and , most recently, a visit to Johnby Hall (last visited by the Society in 1964). Plans for visits in 2022 include a guided urban walk of Brampton.

The latest bumper volume of the Society’s *Transactions*, mailed to members in early November, includes articles ranging in subject matter from excavations of an Iron Age settlement in the Lune Gorge to a tourist’s account of wartime Cumbria, 1941 – 42, and from a study of chantries at Hutton-in-the-Forest and Edenhall ( a study of a response to plague and economic change in the 14<sup>th</sup> century) to an account of early tourism in Borrowdale. Besides a full list (arranged in alphabetical order

of place) of projects representing archaeological work undertaken in Cumbria for which a report was received during 2019, the volume includes a separate invaluable bibliography of publications on Cumbrian history and archaeology, 2020 (with supplements for 2017 – 19) providing researchers with details under six sections : books, chapters in books, theses, journal articles, journals published by local societies and organisations (giving a flavour of the material they contain), and website publications (listing articles which are available online or downloadable, including, for instance, research papers of the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society). Also mailed to members in November was the twenty-page Autumn issue of the Society's *News* with articles on the western Stanegate Roman road from Carlisle to Kirkbride (drawing on and reproducing LiDAR imagery), on the Solway bog burst of 1771, book news and reviews, memories of the CWAAS in the late 1950s, and much else !

Adrian Allan

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CLHF Reviews Editor

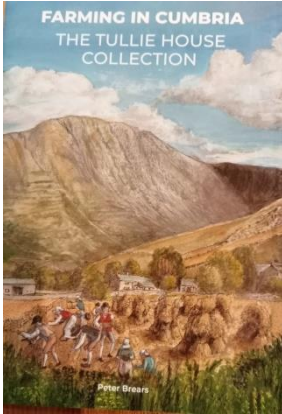


Please remember that if you have a publications for review, it should be sent to the Reviews Editor, Christine Craghill at 'Touchwood', Hethersgill, CARLISLE, CA6 6EH.

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Local history Publications

Peter Brears, *Farming in Cumbria: The Tullie House Collection* (The Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, 2020), 40 pp. £5.00 from the Museum.



Many readers will be familiar with some of the outstanding collections at Tullie House, Carlisle. The archaeological material relating to Hadrian's Wall has won accreditation from UNESCO, while the natural science collection has been accorded Designated status by Arts Council England. This title turns the spotlight on the Museum's farming collection which, hitherto and in comparison, has been somewhat neglected.

Of course, there has never been enough room at Tullie House to house large machines such as ploughs, reapers, threshing machines and carts. However, the smaller agricultural implements and other survivors catalogued here run to some 167 items. The introduction explains how the collection came together and goes on to outline who worked on the land and the manner in which they prepared it for use. The text then succinctly describes the cultivation of corn, hay, gorse, turnips, potatoes and peas before turning to animal husbandry and the rearing of sheep, cattle and pigs. The Bibliography and Notes to the text are then followed by a detailed catalogue per item, together (where known) with its geographical point of origin.

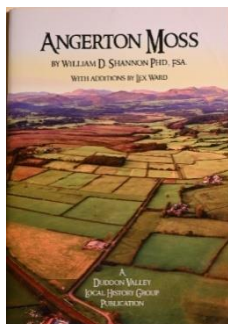
All this is precise and valuable, but it is not the most striking and impressive feature of this fine publication. Peter Brears is a man of many parts: a former Director of Leeds City Museums 1979-94, he is a writer, food historian and museum consultant. He is also a gifted artist, and the written material here is wonderfully enhanced by many beautiful illustrations – line drawings of the various implements and other items, and paintings of scenes from Cumbria's farming past. Taken together,

the various elements constitute something of a collector's item for anyone interested in this subject. It will be very useful for local historians and would make an excellent gift for anyone involved in farming in this part of Britain.

Peter Roebuck

"Angerton Moss" by Dr. William D. Shannon, with additions by Lex

Ward Published by The Duddon Valley Local History Group Price £5 or £6.50 if posted Contact Ken Day: chair@duddonhistory.org.uk



This excellent and most readable book is based on a history of Angerton Moss written by Bill Shannon, supplemented by an article by Lex Ward on peat moss litter and The Horse Bedding and Fire Light Co. Ltd, which operated the moss litter works at Foxfield on Angerton Moss. In conclusion there are church records and some census records for the area and brief supplemental notes.

Interestingly, Angerton Moss was an extra-parochial district until 1857. It is now part of Duddon parish within South Lakeland District Council.

The history of the Moss from the thirteenth century is portrayed by Bill Shannon with the assistance of maps (as to which readers will be aware Bill is an expert). The cutting of turf, both privately and commercially, is detailed as well as the ownership of the land. Bill's style of writing is not simply informative but entertaining such that the history of the Moss is brought to life in a most readable manner.

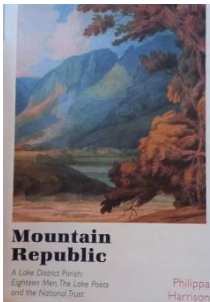
Lex then adds an article on the commercial extraction of peat moss litter as a covering for stable floors where it is superior to straw because of its antiseptic qualities and the Company set up for that purpose. Again, the style is relaxed and informative, covering the manufacture of peat moss litter from the mid-19th century and the infrastructure developed on the Moss.

The notes and records at the end of the book further assist in following the families who were involved in this private and, later, commercial enterprise.

The book (of 66 pages) is illustrated throughout with both early and recent photographs together with images showing the commercial developments through the years and can be recommended as an insight into the history of this little-known part of the Duddon Valley, its early industrial development and the local families involved.

Stuart Harling Chairman of the Cartmel Peninsula LHS

Mountain Republic – A Lake District Parish: Eighteen Men, The Lake Poets and the National Trust. By Philippa Harrison. Published by Head of Zeus Ltd ISBN (HB) 9781838931827, ISBN (E) 9781838931841, Cost £35



First and foremost this is an exceptionally well researched book with a narrative that flows smoothly from one context to another covering a span of over 1000 years. It is a parish history but one that is not just pertinent to the parish of Crosthwaite.

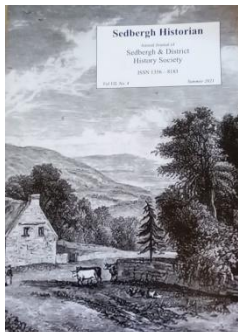
From the creation of the parish the author guides us through the major changes of this diverse community, introducing us to the people and families of influence and the prevailing local and national situations. The narrative glides smoothly through the different parts of the book in a very readable way, sparking interest at each turn of the page.

At its heart this is a history of the farming communities of the region and the author gives some attention to the subject of 'tenant right' and how changing national conditions affected these communities and their ancient customs and rights, not always in a uniform way. – and this is what makes it very much a 'local historians' book but with the ability to appeal to all those attracted to the region and not just the Lake district.

This is a large book and not always easy to handle but once you are into the pages it is a very difficult book to put down.

Chris Craghill

Sedbergh Historian – Annual Journal of Sedbergh & District History Society Summer 2021. ISSN 1356 – 8183, Cost £8 incl p&p. from Sedbergh & District History Society at 72A Main Street, Sedbergh. Cumbria, LA10 5AD



An eclectic mix of local history essays that will be of interest not just to the local Sedbergh community but to the wider readership of the region's local history.

Beginning with a piece titled *John Airey of Brigflatts* Enid Thompson not only engages with the life of an early follower of George Fox but touches on the early history of the Brigflatts Quaker community.

The Journal follows through with articles on the house history of Broad Raine, an old Killington mill house that spans from 1586/7 to the present day. A piece on the Dent childhood of John Gardner (1909 – 1991) written by his granddaughter, Lyn Clausen. Kevin Lancaster writes about the life of Miles Barret and his family, of Kilnbeck and we learn about the life of William Purdom, a little known plant hunter, born in 1880 and brought up on the Brathay estate on the shores of Windermere, near Ambleside. Purdom, who spent many years in China, where there is a museum and forest park named after him, is responsible, among other things, for bringing us the sweetly scented winter flowering *Viburnum fragrans*. The final essay is the engaging story of the purchase of a Green's motor mower at Sedbergh School. Chris Craghill

CLHF Contacts

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