



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 89: Summer 2022



Ravenstonedale signal box in the 1940s, when the signalman had a sideline as the local barber...photo from the RPHG Parish archive

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Chairman's Chat

Well, we have delivered the first part of the Archives Management Project, with a degree of success by those who attended either of the two courses. This success has been tempered by the sudden death of committee member Adrian Allan who did most of the organisation behind the course.

The 2022 convention is now fully organised on the subject of Agricultural history and the full details are on the enclosed flyer. With Angus Winchester as the keynote speaker this promises to be a notable convention. I hope to see many of you at the convention and don't forget the Federation's AGM.

The AGM will be important this year as we will be looking to replace a number of members of the committee. John Poland our treasurer has indicated he wishes to leave the committee after the AGM so we will need a new treasurer. John joined the committee as treasurer in 2017 and he has steered the Federation through its application for charity status, changing our bank account and setting up gift aid as well as keeping us in a financially sound position. On behalf of the members of the Federation I would like to thank John for all his hard work. It will be difficult to follow John, but I am sure there is somebody out there who can take the job on. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to discuss the place.

We are working on ideas for the future of the Federation. These include repeating the cluster meeting to allow neighbouring groups to get together and discuss mutual problems and hopefully co-operation, courses in how to carry out basic research in local history, and how to present your findings as talks or papers. If you have anything you would like to see the Federation do please get in touch.

I hope to see many of you at the convention in October.

Graham Brooks Chair CLHF

MANAGING LOCAL ARCHIVES COURSE

A collaboration between CLHF, Cumbria Archive Service and Archivist Kevin Bolton have delivered two 2-day training programmes from Carlisle and Kendal Archives to representatives of 14 different local history groups.

The CLHF view

3 years ago in June 2019 the Federation undertook a number of Cluster meetings across the county to meet societies and to listen to their needs and their ideas about the Federation and its future role. Over 40 member societies took part and arising from this work came a Revision of the Directory of Speakers, an editorial team to support the Bulletin Editor and a request for help in managing local archives. In the same month the Federation achieved Charity status.

A small committee led by Peter Roebuck and Adrian Allan produced a paper for the Federation, which met all the requests for Managing Local Archives. It was envisaged there would be a series of workshops led by a suitably qualified consultant, who would follow up after the workshops by visiting members to discuss how to look after their archives. The Archive service agreed to give their professional support. The project was costed around £20,000. An application for funding was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in February 2020 after a considerable number of telephone conversations, emails and a face to face meeting in Carlisle. Sadly as COVID spread and lockdowns were starting, NLHF suspended all applications on 1st April 2020 and deemed them to be all withdrawn. When applications opened up in December 2020 the Federation were advised that the demographic profile of our membership did not meet their new criteria.

The Federation decided that they still wished to go ahead with the almost completed Managing Archives project on a smaller scale. The revised cost was estimated at £7,000. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society kindly donated £2,000. Applications to other

fundes were not successful, until the late Adrian Allan anonymously agreed to generously meet any shortfall in the funding.

The Workshops in Carlisle and Kendal have gone ahead and were deemed to be very successful by all the delegates. Funding was 28% from C.W.A.A.S., 23% from Adrian and 49% from the Members subscriptions and donations. Finance remains tight, but the Federation has almost completed, apart from visits to member societies, the demand from the Cluster meetings 3 years ago. Thank you to Adrian for all his support, enthusiasm and funding, which has taken the Federation forward in helping to support the Members.

John H. Poland. Treasurer

The Archivist view

In late May and early June Cumbria Archive Service worked with an Archive Consultant, Kevin Bolton, to deliver a series of workshops for local history groups throughout Cumbria. The two, two-day workshops attracted over 35 representatives from groups in every corner of the County.

The workshops, held at Carlisle and Kendal Archive Centres, provided delegates with a comprehensive overview of the awesome responsibility involved in caring for our written heritage. In particular Kevin, Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist, Erika Freyr and Fay Humphreys, Senior Conservator and Conservator, gave delegates a comprehensive overview of collections management, from accessioning to cataloguing, access, digital access, Copyright in Archives, care and preservation and digital preservation.

Cumbria Local History Federation represents 62 groups and have identified a need to support groups by providing advice about the care and access to collections in their custody. The groups vary in size as do the arrangements for collecting, preserving and sharing access to their collections. The workshops gave us an opportunity to share professional advice on working to national and international standards and provided an opportunity for networking and sharing ideas and experience in caring for collections.



Attendees at the Kendal Archive training, June 2022

The Archive Service is committed to working with partners in the community and this project offered the opportunity to assist in mapping the location and nature of archive collections held by local groups or by individuals connected with these groups.

We also felt that there are potential benefits to Cumbria Archive Service to have more of a presence in local communities. This would assist us in advising researchers on the location of these collections and improve our knowledge of archive collections held by community groups.

The workshops gave us an opportunity to raise awareness of Cumbria Archive Service and its services among local groups and communities, and building better relationships between Cumbria Archive Service and these stakeholders.

There is potential for local history groups to be the eyes and ears of Cumbria Archive Service to secure collections of importance when groups are no longer able to maintain these. The Archive Service is very committed to supporting volunteering opportunities and our partnership would be a valuable way to support such opportunities.

Above all we hope that these sessions will build on our enduring relationship with Cumbria Local History Federation and its member groups. The project offered an opportunity to follow up the workshops with visit to local groups by Kevin giving us a better understanding of archives in the local community.

Peter J Eyre, Archives Professional Lead

The Participants view

Two members of our group attended the Managing Local Archives training days that were held in Kendal on June 13th and 14th, an event organised by CLHF. The input on both days was considerable, making me realise just how much is actually involved in helping manage a community archive, without the benefit of professional training and back-up. Topics covered (accessioning, cataloguing, copyright and data protection, digitisation, digital access, digital preservation, and conservation) were thorough and, fortunately, accompanied by useful handouts to be digested gradually, with links to be followed up. One additional and welcome extra was the impromptu talk given by Tim Haldon of Alston Moor Historical Society about the online facility he has designed and set in place to list and search the Society's archive collection. This seemed so straightforward and easy to use for people without advanced computer skills. I am sure it will have taken many hours of input to develop, and it was interesting to learn about.

Thank you very much to all involved in the organisation and delivery of these training days, which were informative, practical and well worth attending – that's before I've even mentioned the excellent lunches on both days! We would certainly welcome additional sessions like this, should that be a possibility, particularly since some people in our group wanted to attend but were unable to this time. Speakers and hand-outs (with many additional links given) were excellent. I now realise I can never retire from being 'retired'!

Gloria Edwards

Cockermouth Heritage Group

Penrith Yards Revisited



Since the Spring bulletin, there has been many enquiries and much interest shown about the Yards of Penrith. Penrith Town Councillor, Mr Ron Kenyon, joined us for a walk discussing the Yards and we have since drawn up a walking route in and around Penrith, taking in many of the yards.

We hope that this might be published as a leaflet or booklet to attract locals and visitors to this fascinating part of town history. We would also like have the signs at the entrances to the yards improved or replaced where necessary. Illustrated talks are also being given to history societies and we have a comprehensive folder of information about past and present yards, which will eventually be placed at the museum.

Sheila Fletcher and Carol Mitchell June 2022

Follow up from Bulletin readers about the Williamsons yard sign

Very many thanks to all those who responded to the query about this sign in the Spring Bulletin. Most responses proposed that the symbols suggested the yard was occupied by those involved in wool related activities and was probably that of a wool stapler.

'I do not know what the circles might be, but the shears could be something to do with the textile industry or tailoring. These spring "scissors"/cutting shears were used by anyone who needed to cut with

"scissors" (eg. sheep shearing) until superseded by the pivoted/hinged scissors that we use today, which became in general use by the 18th century. Hinged scissors are known to have been used by the Romans, but it was the spring shears that were commonly used - and still are for topiary cutting and in Japan, especially for fine needlework and embroidery.' *Thanks to Susan Hinde, who denies any expertise on this topic but seems well informed to me! Ed.*

'Williamson Yard is well-known – by specialist Tourist Guides, at least! – for the right-hand symbol, which represents wool shears; and thereby (by focussing on the main tool of the trade) represents a wool-stapler. That's staple, not as 'stationery, ie attaching papers', but staple as 'staple goods'**.

The wool-stapler buys wool from the producer, sorts and grades it, and sells it on to manufacturers. I seem to remember finding out that wool came in (think of a number: try 7, as a starter!) grades, varying from the really soft stuff to the really coarse stuff. This would have mattered, back in the day when wool was traded commercially. Not any more of course, as it costs more to shear a sheep than the commercial worth of the fleece ... but that's a different story, and 21st Century geo-economics isn't a core topic for the CLHF Bulletin!

** You may be familiar with the motto of Kendal: '**pannus mihi panis**' – often interpreted as '**wool is my bread**' ... which underlines the importance of the industry which, for centuries, supported the people of this busy town. This motto nicely brings together the concept of wool as a staple, being the main commodity, which kept Kendal 'commercially afloat', and staple as in 'staple food'. *Thanks to Peter MacGowan.*

'.. the item on the right is a set of sheers for sheering sheep or finishing cloth so suggests a link to the textile industry. I wonder if the circles are actually 'daisy wheels' with the central detail missed when over painting? these were common apotropaic marks to ward off evil and the like, often found in buildings next to openings such as windows, fireplaces and doorways. Maybe a closer inspection would reveal the missing detail?' *Thanks to Dan Elsworth.*



And finally, one interesting and different thought- put forward somewhat diffidently suggested that

'as Halley's comet had appeared in 1682 and Halley himself published his results in 1696 The doorway is marked 1697. The image to the right reminds me of the image in the Bayeux tapestry. It is known that the comet appeared in 1066. There are definite similarities between the two I suggest.

*The other two symbols on the doorway could represent celestial objects.
Just a thought!'*

many thanks to this contributor.Ed.

The Development of Maryport

I think we'd call this out-sourcing!

In the story of the development of Maryport, perhaps the most successful industrial development is the creation of the Broughton Colliery Company in 1755. This consortium leased the coal reserves belonging to the Earl of Egremont beneath Broughton Moor and set out to aggressively export these via the new harbour at Maryport.

In 1759 a contract with one Joseph Jackson, a carpenter of Gilcrux, provided for the maintenance and operation of the Broughton collieries. It was for a term of 9 years from 25 March 1759. It is quite sophisticated

as it outsourced all the provision and maintenance of wagons, corves, coal baskets, miner's tools, etc., including spare parts and replacements, leaving the colliery manager to concentrate on underground works, shipping and commercial aspects of the operation. In the following I have paraphrased the contract, but a full transcription is available if wanted. The original document is held in Carlisle Archives ref DBEN/Box95 1751-1778.

Scope of the contract

The contract calls for Joseph Jackson, Carpenter of Gilcrux to "...From time to time furnish, provide, find, procure ..." which in this legal context furnish means "... to supply, to give, order, prescribe, or direct to be provided in any manner..." the following items:

COAL WAGGONS

To provide Coal wagons (not more than 10) according to the model and dimensions now used to contain 3 Tons each with a reasonable allowance for over measures. The wagons to be constructed "... in a good and sufficient and workmanlike manner in all respects."

The contract allowed for a greater number of wagons to be provided if necessary. The contract also provided for the maintenance and repair of the wagons "...will furnish, keep going, uphold..."

This meant that Joseph Jackson was responsible for maintaining a complete stock of spare parts and materials and having skilled men available to repair and keep the wagons on the road and operational "...in a good and sufficient manner" He would require carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths and others.

Spare parts would include wooden and iron wheels, timber for the frames and body of the wagons, which probably included a trap door in the bottom, jacks (probably used when the wagons were derailed or needed wheel replacing or repairing, pulleys, ropes and cords.

Joseph Jackson was also responsible for "finding and upholding "...both wood wheels and cast-Iron Wheels. Iron ... and every other material and

part whatsoever to keep the wagons on the road in a good and sufficient manner. Iron Work, wood working, jacks, pulleys, cords, and whatsoever else may be wanted for the furnishing, repairing and keeping the same upon the road in good and sufficient manner.”

HAZEL RODS, CORVES and BASKETS

Corves and baskets, generally woven out of hazel rods, with handles made from Oak or Ash saplings. They need to be strong enough to hold substantial amounts of coal and also to withstand rough treatment as it is dragged about underground, generally on a wooden sled and taken up and down the pit shaft and emptied onto the pit bank.

The contract called for Joseph Jackson to provide HAZEL RODS and also to employ workers to weave the corves and baskets, and to strengthen these with iron fittings and staples. Corves and baskets were also maintained and repaired.

The corves and baskets are specified to be the same size as the largest currently in use in the colliery.

Provision was also made in the contract for the potential supply and manufacture of wooden Corves, with a body of Oak staves and the “necessary iron work”.

HORSE ENGINES or GINS

The contract calls for Joseph Jackson to build and repair as many Horse Engines as may be required. At the end of the term of the contract these are to be left in good condition in all respects.

Joseph Jackson will be allowed £20 to cover the cost of erecting each new Horse Engine. This will include fencing and paving around the Gin and Gin Case (I assume this means the actual rotating mechanism)

WAGGON SHOVELS, COAL or PICK SHOVELS,

Pick shafts, Picks, Hacks, Sinking Hammers, Iron Wedges, Iron ..., Tubs and Buckets and other necessary Sinking Gear

ROPES and CORD

The contract calls for the provision of all pit ropes, Gin ropes, Sinking ropes and their appurtenances and Wagon cords or ropes necessary to work the colliery

TIMBER and carpentry

All other woodwork (joinery and carpentry) above ground and likewise of wood work whether planks or wood for the BARROW WAY or ways or TRAILWAYS underground

EVERYTHING ELSE NOT YET INVENTED OR THOUGHT OF!

This is an extraordinary clause.

EXCLUSIONS - SINKING OF NEW SHAFTS etc.

All works and materials for the sinking of new shafts are excluded from the contract. However, the Barrow way, frames, sleds, corves, baskets, picks, hacks, hammers, wedges, and shovels needed to work the new pit are to be included.

Consideration

To be paid on the last day of every calendar month, for the term of the contract (9 years) the sum of 6d for each and every wagon load of coals (3 tons) to be shipped or carried down the wagon road from the said Broton Collieries.

Also, to be paid on the same day the sum of 6d for every ton of coals sold or delivered to the country. A ton is defined as 6 pack horse loads. (See a discussion of this matter under the Observations section)

At the start of the contract the Wagons, Baskets, Gear, Utensils, Ropes and other matters particularly mentioned and described in the Schedule marked No 1 (i.e. the Broton Colliery existing stock of these items), will be delivered to Joseph Jackson for his use in the delivery of the contract. These items are valued in Schedule No1 at £47/10/6d.

At the end of the contract Joseph Jackson will be required to return to the Company all the stock of Wagons, Baskets, Gear, Utensils, Ropes and other matters then existing. Differences between the value of such items at the start and end of the contract will be resolved in accordance with terms and procedures, including arbitration described in the contract.

There are provisions to cover any damage to wagons, baskets, corves and tools etc. caused by employees of the Broton Colliery, to the disadvantage of Joseph Jackson.

Observations

A “tentale” contract

The primary observation to be made is that the contract is essentially what in modern terminology, would be called an out-sourcing contract. In other words, the contractor is being asked to provide a range of goods and services where the ownership of the goods does not pass to the client. In the 18th Century such contracts are common in coal mines and referred to as a “Tentale” agreement.

To begin with the contractor – Joseph Jackson – is issued with the equipment, tools and materials that have been used by the Broughton Colliery Co since its establishment in 1755. These are detailed and valued at Schedule No1. The contract then calls upon the contractor, to maintain, repair or replace these items or quantities of materials, and at the end of the term of the contract be in a position to hand back similar quantities of equipment, tools and materials to the Client.

- The contractor is then paid the sum of 6d for each and every wagon load of coals (3 tons) to be shipped or carried down the wagon road from the said Broton Collieries. In addition, he will

also be paid a similar sum of 6d per ton of coals sold or delivered as “country coal”. In this context the coal will not be delivered via the wagon way but probably by pack horse train. The contract determines that one ton is reckoned to be the equivalent of 6 pack horse loads.

The risk to the contractor of such a form of contract revolve around the condition of the equipment, especially the wagons, that are passed onto him at the start of the contract, and the suggestion that a further 3 new wagons may be required to be provided.

It is a risk for the contractor, as he has no control over coal sales, or coal production which in turn control his income each month.

Country coals

The phrase “country coals” is often used at this time and in this contract, it seems to have been defined. The Tentale contract describes “country coal” as being part of the liberties of the tenants of Great and Little Broughton. These tenants will have certain rights or liberties appertaining to the Common land, or waste. These may include grazing rights, foraging for fruits and firewood. In the case of the Manors of Great and Little Broughton they may also include the right to take coal from the many coal outcrops across the Common land between Great Broughton and where Broughton Moor is now located.

Hence having leased the coal rights across his manors of Great and Little Broughton to the Broughton Colliery Co, the Earl of Egremont will have dispossessed his tenants of these rights or liberties. Therefore, to make up for this the Earl seems to have instructed the Company to deliver a quantity of coal to his tenants.

David Malcolm, 21 June 2022

Davidj.malcolm@btopenworld .com

Cumbrian Cures

The National Health Service receives a great deal of criticism these days but prior to 1948 going to the doctor, or even worse, the hospital, was very expensive. On reading through some of Kendal Oral History Group's 300 plus interviews it is obvious the working class could not afford such a "luxury" and so relied on "country cures" handed down from generation to generation. Here are just a few cures the old wives of Cumberland and Westmorland would have tried:-

Children were the subject of many a country "cure." One suggested to their mothers was for the prevention of a cold or influenza throughout the winter. "Spread goose grease, preferably from the Christmas bird sold in Kendal's market, onto the child's chest then sew the child into a brown paper jacket and keep it on until spring arrived. I bet they didn't have many friends by the time April came.

The condition of children's teeth then, as now, gave parents a great deal of concern but a way of improving them was to rub them with the brains of a hen. Alternatively you could allow a horse to breath into the child's mouth twice a day. The latter had the added advantage of preventing convulsive fits in the child

Whooping Cough is making a comeback according to recent reports and, if you had access to a donkey you would be in luck. One cure advocated was to pass the child three times under the belly of a donkey. Another was to lay the child across the back of a donkey with his head at the donkey's rear and then drive the donkey over Skelwith bridge. Even as late as the mid 1900s children were being taken to the Gas Works on Parkside Road and made to stand close to the retorts and told to breathe in deeply the chemically infused atmosphere.

However if you suffered from boils then applying fresh cow dung in clean muslin bandaged over the boil would bring an almost instant relief.



Kendal Gas works on Parkside Road

Getting rid of warts was equally weird. Tie a black slug on the wart and then impale it on a thorn hedge was considered a sure cure although the Cumbrian farmers' wives, advocates of such "medication," were not very clear as to whether the slug was still on the wart when it was attached to the hedge.

Scrofula known as "The King's Evil" was an affliction which was quite common in the 17th & 18th century caused by the presence of tuberculosis bacillus in the body. One of the cures recommended was to get the reigning monarch to touch the sufferer.

In the Grasmere Parish records fourteen-year-old David Harrison is certified by the Rector and Churchwardens "is afflicted as we are credibly informed with the disease commonly called 'The King's Evil' and to the best of our knowledge hath not heretofore been touched by His Majesty." It is alleged Charles II "touched" over 92,000 sufferers between 1660 and 1682.

Perhaps the NHS is not such a bad institution after all.

www.kendaloralhistory.com

Ambleside Oral History Group

Covid update

Because of Covid our group went two years without meeting in person. So, in the aftermath of that, we've been keen to reconnect with renewed energy and impetus. Not that we wasted that time - during those two years we spent lockdowns checking the sound of over 500 interviews against their written transcripts, to ensure accuracy, especially necessary in some of our earliest recordings made between 1976-1990.

We decided as a group to run a Covid-related project, interviewing local people about the impact of the pandemic on their lives, which turned out to be not all negative. Volunteers delivered hot meals, did shopping, made regular phone calls to those living alone and even walked dogs for people needing to shield, which generated enormous feelings of good will.

We recorded volunteers, recounting how Ambleside Parish Centre became an organising hub for around a hundred helpers, and we also interviewed the housebound and sick, about their feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The young suffered too, especially mums at home all day with babies and young children, with no playgroups or support networks.

We looked at local business in detail, from publicans, hoteliers, and restaurateurs to shop-keepers, and explored the unprecedented surge of 'staycation' visitors that arrived in 2020 and 2021 who spent lots of money, and whose numbers clogged up pavements and roads, and some of whom left mounds of litter. However, few businesses failed in Covid. We are continuing with this project, capturing yet more perspectives on what has been for all of us an unprecedented series of events.

Covid, however, wasn't the only topic on our minds. We recorded other interviews in the last 3 months for example with two Ambleside men whose careers have been remarkable. Firstly, a retired diplomat, Bryan Sparrow, previously stationed with the Foreign Office in the Balkans, the USSR, and various countries in Francophone Africa. Bryan has so many tales to tell, we need to interview him again. The other local man, Alan



The Merz Wall being hoisted up out of the barn for removal to the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle (Photo © Fred Brookes).

Smith, has a voice that is well known to millions, first as a BBC Radio Cumbria presenter and now as a Radio 4 newsreader. Among other fascinating stories he shared with us was one about the emotions he felt when announcing to the nation, before anyone else had done so, the news



that an effective vaccination against Covid had been discovered.

We also wanted to know how the famous Kurt Schwitters Merz sculpture was dismantled and taken intact in the mid-1960s from Cylinders barn at Elterwater to the Hatton Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne - so we interviewed a retired builder who described how he had helped to do this as a teenage apprentice.

One of our latest interviews was to update our history of Zeffirelli's Cinema and Pizzeria, a much-loved family-owned business and something of an Ambleside institution for over 40 years, which comprises five cinema screens, a jazz bar, two vegetarian restaurants and two hotels.

In other news, we are currently piloting a cloud-based software tool that automatically transcribes our interviews into text, in real-time while we are conducting and recording them. This tool is “Otter” (www.otter.ai) and we would be keen to hear from any others who might have experience of using this or similar tools, and of course we look forward to sharing our learnings with you in a future bulletin.

So much for how we are gathering in the rich history of Ambleside and area through the recorded speech of local people. But what have we been doing to share these histories and bring them to life? Two of our volunteer members have now built up a comprehensive series of presentations we offer to community groups and others who have an interest in hearing the tales we’ve been collecting over the last half century or so. These presentations are each based on a broad theme, and each brings together audio and visual clips related to that theme to create an informative and entertaining story that audiences are telling us they thoroughly enjoy experiencing. We’ve produced a gate-fold leaflet (see image below) to advertise these presentations and are happy to say that a surge in demand has ensured our volunteers are now kept busy delivering these presentations far and wide. They’ve done this for more than a dozen local groups this year (as far away as Lytham in one case). We hope to produce further themed presentations in future.

 <p>Tales of the Unexpected “There was a lake in their garden with two crocodiles in it!” When researching the archive, we often come across fascinating stories that take us by surprise. The Prince of Wales did what?</p> <p>World War 2 Memories “The sixth form were taken – as the crime de la crimé – to make up the Battle of Britain!” Life and memories during WW2 – from that of a young soldier far from home to Land Army Girls, Rationing and Dad’s Army.</p> <p>The Great War “The first battle we encountered was Ypres, which was a pretty tough job!” A detailed look at life during the Great War and Ambleside’s contribution.</p> <p>Home Sweet Home “Our houses were quite different – there was no running water, no electricity and the only toilet we shared was an old earth closet!” From shared outside privies to central heating. Memories from local folk reflecting on homelife throughout the 20th century.</p>	<h2>Ambleside Oral History</h2> <p>We’re always looking for ways to open our treasure chest of memories to the public. Currently you can search the archive on our website achg.org.uk and groups can arrange for us to deliver one of our nine lively audio-visual presentations listed in this leaflet, for your club, school, community group or other gathering.</p> <p>For further information or to book a presentation</p> <p>Contact: Judith Shingler Ambleside Oral History Group Tel: 07855 905238 Email: judith.shingler@btinternet.com Website: www.achg.org.uk</p> <p>£50 plus travel expenses if applicable</p> <p>www.achg.org.uk</p> <div><p>More than facts and dates: feel the joys, heartaches, triumphs and frustrations of days gone by... through the words of those who made history, just by being here.</p><p>Enjoy the recorded memories of over 500 local residents, from 1880s to the present day.</p><p>We deliver our audio-visual presentations at schools, clubs, community groups, and other public and private events.</p></div>
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Another related development is “Ramblings” – an informal bulletin that is regularly emailed to local subscribers. This started as a way to keep Ambleside folks connected - and updated with community information - during lockdown. It was especially useful for those who might have felt the loss of community contact most keenly. Since then, though, it has developed into a fortnightly bulletin sharing excerpts and insights from the oral history archive - usually just a couple of snippets in each issue, juxtaposed alongside other items of pure entertainment or general interest. The archive extracts are selected according to obscure (and some would say random) criteria, mostly inspired either by a current event – of local or national prominence - or else simply by the meandering thoughts and deeds of our editors!

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Have they all disappeared from Cumbria?

If you are of a certain age, and let's face it, if you are reading this you probably are, then cast your mind back to travelling the roads of England and Scotland in the 1950's. Living in Somerset we had parents who fantasised about holidays in the Lake District with its fells, lakes and passes and Scotland with its bens, lochs and glens, and especially in Mum's case bagpipes and men in kilts. My sister and I had to face something like 400 miles, sat in the back of a 1939 Morris 8 loaded up with tents and other camping paraphernalia, trundling along never ending A and B roads at 30mph. Does that memory ring a bell with anyone?

Our favourite pastime was to try to spot the number part of car registration plates in numerical order starting with 1. It was easier then with fewer cars and real registrations that read WYA 81 or similar, which of course also told us from where the car originated.

Our second favourite was to watch for road signs like those illustrated. The messages on the signs were simply illustrated and easily understood.



They were smallish in size but at the speeds we went that was not a problem! Unlike today where road signs proliferate at every junction they were few and far between.

So I hope the answer to my question “Have they all disappeared from Cumbria” is “not quite”. I am sure I have spotted an old directional sign bucking the trend and still in position somewhere near Kirkby Stephen and surely there must be more tucked away in the hedgrows or villages of Cumbria. Like the school sign illustrated

which was spotted by a fellow member of CPLHS and is still standing at Ings, Nr Kendal.

So if you see any old style hazard or warning signs, directional signs or any similar roadside architecture please let me know before they disappear for ever!

Or if you have already had this idea and recorded them would you mind sharing them with me please?

Nigel Mills

nigelmillspp@gmail.com

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

‘Early Quaker Families in Ravenstonedale’

Ravenstonedale Parish History Group (RPHG) ended the 2021/22 season of lectures with a well-attended talk developed by Dr Les Neal, a member and regular lecturer at RPHG.

‘Early Quaker Families in Ravenstonedale’ drew an audience of regular members plus very welcome guests from the Quaker community across Cumbria. As with previous talks, Les delivered an extensive and thorough piece of historical research drawing upon the archives uniquely available at RPHG, and other sources including Manorial records, genealogical web sites and other limited edition texts, including ‘The First Publishers of Truth (1907)’, ‘The Ejected of 1662 in Cumberland and Westmorland’ (1911) and two volumes of Quaker history written by Ravenstonedale resident Richard Pinder in 1660.

The story took the audience from Ravenstonedale to the Americas, Bermuda and Barbados, including an abbreviated biography of Richard Pinder, who travelled to the United States and Caribbean and in 1657 ‘unbraided plantation owners for their lusts and pleasures and general Godlessness’. An early campaigner for emancipation, Richard urged masters ‘to see that kind treatment was afforded the slaves by overseers’. Richard’s travels were supported by the Kendal Fund, established by Margaret Fell of Swarthmoor Hall. Les presented slides illustrating original records describing grants made.

In the first section of the talk, Les presented history on a number of local Ravenstonedale families with early (1600’s) Ravenstonedale parish connections who were recorded in various records as early pioneers within the Quaker movement. Ancient maps (held at RPHG) and contemporary photography combined to illustrate the whereabouts of each of the dynasties researched.

Les reported on the persecution of Quakers, including reports based on Court records detailing fines, confiscated property and brutal

imprisonment. The part played by the persecutors, including their published testimony brought this era to life.

Les went on to present research on the locations and history of Quaker Meeting Houses located throughout Ravenstonedale parish including Cat Kelsey, Northwaite and High Dovengill. He developed the theme to cover the various Quaker Burial grounds in the area, including those still in existence that can be visited, such as the restored Fell End location and those no longer apparent.

Although Les's diligent research has uncovered the likely location of the oldest Quaker burial ground in the parish, located at Wath. Photographic and archive evidence was presented to explain the detective work undertaken to confirm the site of the burial ground. Wath was an appropriate ending for this fascinating talk, as Wath had also featured earlier in the talk as a location of one the first identified Quakers, Richard Pinder, the candid and widely travelled Quaker who spoke earnestly in the Caribbean of the 1660's.

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

Two talks and an exhibition in celebration of Parish collaborations

My research into the creation of two of the Ravenstonedale Parish Millennium projects was originally for a talk to Ravenstonedale Parish History Group to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the collaboration between many of the Parish inhabitants which resulted in the Millennium Map and the four Millennium Embroideries.

However, as we all know only too well, the pandemic intervened, and the research therefore resulted in two talks – the first, in February 2021, necessarily shorter than planned because of the time limitation of the first free Zoom facility we used, and the second eventually given to a live audience (thank goodness!) in March 2022.

I was fortunate to be able to begin my research into both projects using documents and photographs held in our Parish archive room in Ravenstonedale Community and Heritage Centre. For the Map research I then spoke to two of the three local professional artists who created the black-and-white drawings to illustrate it. Their original decisions for the subjects to be depicted came from responses to a leaflet inviting contributions from inhabitants of every dwelling in the Parish - a mammoth task co-ordinated by the Ravenstonedale School headmistress.

So many answers were received that a separate Companion Book to the Map had to be published in 2001. Anecdotes of past events handed down through families included an explanation of the traditional method of farming in our upland hay meadows (now continued by Cumbria Wildlife Trust on their Bowberhead reserve in the Parish), and an eyewitness account of the arrest of the last man in Westmorland who would be sentenced to transportation for sheep-stealing by the "Four-and-Twenty", the local Manor Court.

Changes in farming practices in parts of the Parish over the last fifty years or so were highlighted by a contribution about a local farm which supported a family of four plus five farm labourers in the 1950s but was run by just three men in the 1990s. Our Parish archive also includes the story of how this Millennium Map was put together and has examples of source material, sketches, plans, and design know-how to get the Map ready for printing the first run of 500 copies by a local firm.

At the same time as the creation of the Map in the late 1990s, another collaborative effort was under way to plan, design and execute four large embroidered panels portraying aspects of Parish life past and present.

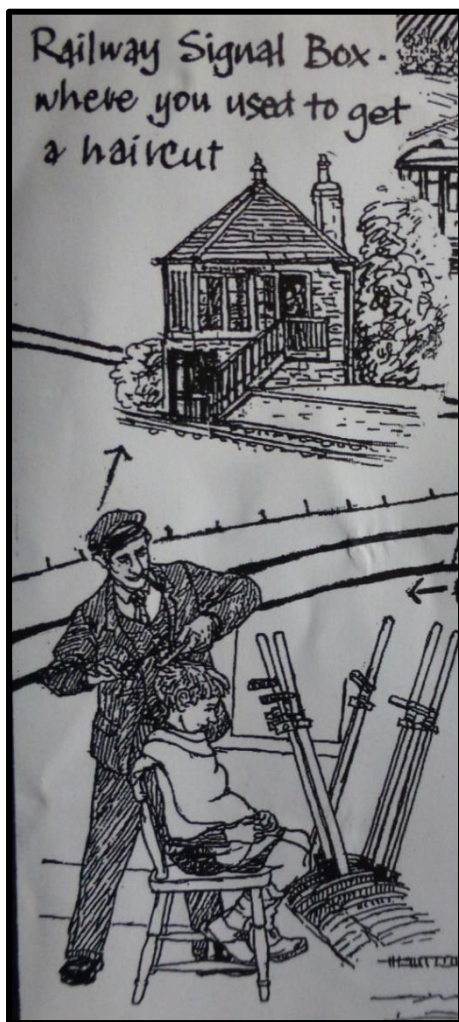
These Millennium Embroideries are now housed separately in current and former places of worship in the Parish and exchanged between venues each year, but I was able to reunite all four panels for the evening of my talk which we displayed alongside design sketches, samples of material, photographic and other sources used, photographs of planning meetings and detailed notes of materials and methods, again all taken from the Parish archive.

During lockdown I contacted several of the participants by phone and email while researching the Embroideries project, and I was able to have face-to-face meetings with them after restrictions were lifted. Without exception they remembered the project as a very happy time and really enjoyed being involved, “even if at times the execution of it seemed rather daunting” as one remarked! It was a great pleasure to welcome several of the embroiderers who were able to come to the talk – many of whom had not seen each other for some years.

Incidentally we also have a unique record of all the Ravenstonedale school pupils in 2000, because their signatures are embroidered round the edges of the panels using Quaker stitch, which was invented for the Quaker tapestry now displayed in Kendal. The schoolchildren also feature on the School Millennium tea towel – not only their signatures but also their self-portraits, and their drawings of the staff and helpers!

One advantage of having to divide the results of my research into two talks concerned the story of the burial cave featured on the Map which was nicknamed The Wolf Den, discovered in the 1970s by two cave-divers, but not explored and recorded by archaeologists until 1997. This investigation was filmed by the BBC for an episode in their *Meet the Ancestors* series (no longer available online) and was written up in the book of the same name by the archaeologist and presenter Julian Richards (which can be found for sale online).

After my first talk, a local couple contacted me to ask if we would like copies of the photographs they took of the archaeological investigation for our archive. As the archaeologists were kind enough to take the couple’s camera down into the cave to photograph the finds, we now have a unique photographic record in our archive of the burial cave and its contents before it was re-sealed.



Perhaps my favourite anecdote illustrated on the Map concerns one of the ways in which signalmen on quieter railway lines could supplement their wages with odd jobs in their signal box in between trains. In the Ravenstonedale signal box (now sadly demolished, although the station remains as a private house) this included giving a "short back and sides" to locals, and a photo in the Parish archive shows grateful customers entering and leaving the signal box after their short walk from the platform for their haircuts. I have subsequently been told that one of the other local railway staff used to collect used newspapers from the trains, iron them and then re-sell them! The History Group will shortly be helping research the involvement of working women on "our" railway (which existed from 1861 until 1962) as part of a project led by Kirkby Stephen East – one of the two women we

know about so far lived in Ravenstonedale.

We also featured some archive material from the Millennium projects in our exhibition over the Platinum Jubilee weekend - along with contemporary diary entries and photos of Parish celebrations from Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 onwards to the present (including on the third day some photos from the first two days of this Jubilee weekend). We also featured a file of "May Day Madness" - ten years of the famous (or infamous) Ravenstonedale Yacht Club Regattas -

and again we often find that visitors come up with more archive material for us prompted by our annual exhibitions. This year one visitor went back to search her attic and has now given us the original Ravenstonedale Yacht Club banner which was flown on Regatta HQ (aka The King's Head) on Regatta weekends and which by chance she saved from the skip when the pub was refurbished some years later – and incidentally she also found some photos of the railway too!

Jackie Wedd

www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk.

The Millennium Map and Embroideries can be viewed at:
www.ravenstonedale.org

Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society

‘Monasteries of Cumbria’

In February Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society welcomed Dr Alan Crosby who delivered a highly entertaining talk on the friaries and monasteries of Lancashire and Cumbria.

Touching on the distinction between friaries and monasteries, Dr Crosby explained that friaries weren't supposed to accumulate assets, instead relying on alms which were then redistributed to the needy. For this reason, friaries such as Lancaster were typically situated on main roads, so as to encourage donations from passers-by. In contrast, monasteries such as Furness Abbey were often able to build up substantial reserves of wealth, making them powerful and influential institutions. In the case of Lancashire and Cumbria, however, Furness Abbey proved the exception, not the rule. In fact, Dr Crosby likened the North West to a “monastic desert”, many of the monasteries being short-lived or highly insignificant. Even though it was the most powerful monastic house in Lancashire and Cumbria, Furness Abbey only had 30 monks; some of the smaller houses such as Hornby and Lytham had just three.



Despite this, the monastic houses of Lancashire and Cumbria enjoyed greater levels of support during the Dissolution of the Monasteries than those in other regions. Contrary to the traditional image of a moribund institution hated by the populace, the monastic houses of Lancashire and Cumbria were notable for the

youth of their clergy and their relative dynamism. No doubt a contributing factor towards their popularity was their relative probity compared to other areas of the country: in the North West, for example, 10.8% of monastic income was distributed as alms, a figure which stands in stark contrast to national average of just 2.5%. Whalley Abbey is particularly notable for giving away 21% for charitable purposes. Similarly, when Henry VIII's commissioners investigated misbehaviour amongst the monks (typically sexual in nature and broad in definition), just 17.8% of monks in Lancashire were accused of misconduct. In comparison, in the Diocese of Norwich accusations were levelled against a shocking 36% of monks.

As bastions of the old faith, it is unsurprising to find that many of the monastic houses in Lancashire and Cumbria supported the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536, a Northern revolt against the dissolution of its monasteries. To illustrate the potential consequences of participation, Dr Crosby pointed to the example of Cartmel where four canons and ten local men were publicly executed in Lancaster as punishment for their participation. However, it was interesting to note that such punishment was very rare, and the monks of Furness Abbey and Conishead Priory who actively encouraged the rebels escaped unscathed.

This is perhaps indicative of the strength of the King's position, and consequently, the futility of the revolt. Ultimately, the rebels were fighting a losing battle and by 1541, the Dissolution of the Monasteries was complete. Dr Crosby ended his talk by exploring life after the Dissolution for the monks. In particular, he explored the case of Bryan Willan, a cannon at Cartmel Abbey who, unable to continue in his post, ultimately conformed to the religious changes, married, had children, and was buried in Kirkby Lonsdale.

Nicholas Flight with thanks to Adam Buckland for the image

Platinum Jubilee Exhibition

COCKERMOUTH HERITAGE GROUP



We recently staged a well-received, four-day Platinum Jubilee exhibition at the Kirkgate Centre in Cockermouth. We received contributions from townspeople with their memories of various Royal Jubilees and interesting pictures, including one from the 1977 Jubilee showing someone climbing a greasy pole on Main Street! We turned our attention too to the Queen's Coronation in 1953 when, to the joy of children

everywhere, sweet rationing was lifted in those post-war, austere times. Even a recipe for Coronation Chicken was included in the display. In the years since the Queen's Coronation to the present-day Cockermouth has seen major changes and improvements, which were also reflected in our exhibition.



A large part of our exhibition covered a Jubilee that changed the town significantly as regards infrastructure, and that was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887. The town acquired no fewer than three bridges, trees planted along Main Street, Station Street and in Market Place, an extension to the Fairfield Girls' School, and the purchase of the Cockermouth Gas Works by the local Board. The poster shows an invitation to a meeting to discuss the forthcoming 1887 Jubilee. Not everyone embraced the anticipated expense of such a celebration with enthusiasm. Mr

Robert Mitchell (of the auctioneering family) asked to move a tongue-in-cheek amendment:

I propose that we, the loyal subjects of the ancient borough of Cockermouth, do pray (but not humbly) that in consideration of having, during a period of 50 years, contributed our quota to the £385,000 annually paid to your Majesty, as well as having provided for your offspring in a lavish manner, amounting in the 50 years, at compound interest, to no less than £84,000 sterling, in addition to which, at your Majesty's wish, provided lucrative and nothing-to-do situations for many of your German relatives and others – we therefore, in common reasoning, ask your Majesty to hand over one year's income, viz.

£385,000, to erect some useful and lasting memorial from a grateful Queen to her loving subjects & etc.

At that point Mr Mitchell was stopped in his speech and Cockermouth went ahead with the proposed celebrations. However, news of Mr Mitchell's remarks spread far and wide, and proved a source of great amusement in the national and international press.

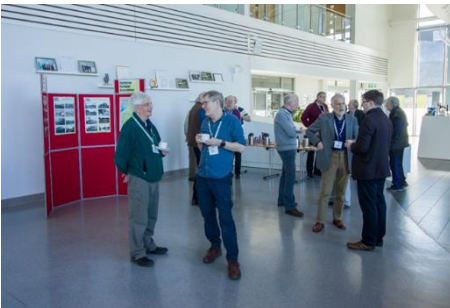
Gloria Edwards

Cockermouth Heritage Group

Cumbrian Railways Association

Cumbrian Railways Association (CRA) holds successful 2022 AGM and Spring Meeting

Energus Centre Lillyhall Industrial Estate, Workington was the venue for the CRA Annual General meeting and Spring Conference on Saturday 19th March and it provided great facilities for both the formal and social sides of the conference. We were delighted to welcome over sixty CRA members to listen to our speakers, participate in the AGM and share time together for chat and catching up on friendships. The great weather also eased the travelling for those coming from further afield!



Following a welcome by our Chairman, Philip Tuer, we had our first speakers of the day. Andrew Leitch and Jim Bownass from "Cumbria Film Archive" who treated us to a range of historic films depicting Cumbria's past

both in terms of railways and social and economic history - right back to the late 19th century. The subjects covered included the last days of the

Coniston railway line; life in Barrow around the shipyards and Jute factory; and early film of the arrival of a circus in the centre of Carlisle!

Following our AGM and lunch, CRA Archivist, Guy Wilson gave a fascinating talk on the “Development of West Cumbria’s Railways” a very appropriate subject for a conference near Workington. With the aid of maps, diagrams and photos, Guy explained how the (now largely disappeared) extensive and complex railway network developed in West Cumbria in the 19th and early 20th centuries. His talk also embraced the nature of West Cumbrian geology and geography and how important these were to the development of the mining industries and the building of the rail network that grew to serve them as well as providing much needed communications for passengers.



Excellent photographer and CRA member, David Gibson, gave an illustrated talk entitled “Photographing Cumbria’s Railways” using images from his large collection taken over the years. A high quality photographic feast that stirred many memories and discussions.

All in all, an excellent day enjoyed by all and we are now looking forward to our next conference on 12th November at Shap Wells Hotel, Shap, Penrith – to which non-members are welcome.

Don Jary, CRA Publicity Officer

Alston Moor History Society

As a follow-up to our February 'zoom' talk about the Fellfoot Forward Project with speaker Fiona Knox, on Thursday 16th June AMHS members teamed up with committee members of the North Pennines AONB Historic Environment Working Group for a visit to Kirkoswald village and Kirkoswald Castle. A good day was had by all, and a visit to both castle and village is highly recommended. Our thanks to Janet Stirk and Sarah Orme for the photos.



As a follow-up from our talk on 2nd June with Graham Brooks, Chair of the Cumbria Local History Federation, a walk is planned for Sunday 3rd July to look at the archaeology of Tynehead.

For our next talk, by zoom on Thursday 7th July, we will learn about the 'Treasures of Penrith Museum' with curator Sydney Chapman. See the notice that will be issued in a few days' time for details about this little-known gem (the Museum that is).

AMHS committee members attended a two-day course on 'Managing Local Archives' organised by the Cumbria Local History Federation, at Carlisle and

Kendal Record Offices, which was very interesting and beneficial, not the least to mingle with members of other societies. It was also reassuring to find that the AMHS is looking after precious relics of Alston Moor properly in the Town Hall, but we must not rest on our laurels. An announcement about Archive post-covid re-opening will be made imminently.



Cumbria County History Trust Website Revamp

Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT) is a charity and membership organisation, established in 2010 to help support the Victoria County History of Cumbria, a national project that aims to write the history of every town and village in England. Early on, CCHT established its own website - <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/> - which features not only materials produced by the VCH project, but also aims to become the main online resource for the history of Cumbria. This year marks the 10th anniversary since the website launched, and it has recently undergone an upgrade in order to improve its usability.

The site contains a webpage for every one of the 348 parishes and townships within Cumbria. Each of these pages contains a brief account of the main historical features of each place and links to place-specific resources, such as relevant articles in CWAAS *Transactions*. For some townships, there is also a complete draft history, produced by VCH volunteers. You can access the place you are interested in via our improved [Interactive Map](#), or through the keyword search, in the **top righthand corner of the site**. We are also gathering a series of [Interesting Facts](#) and information about **different aspects of the history of the county**, which you can access via our [‘About the County’](#) page. We have an ever growing [‘Resources’](#) section, designed to help not only VCH volunteers, but anyone interested in researching local history. We hope to add more online talks here in the future. Among the thousands of resource items on the website, we also have a [Gallery](#) full of old maps, prints and other images.

The CCHT website has grown in popularity over the years and now regularly has 6,000 user sessions each month. If you haven’t visited it

before, please have a look. We have a PowerPoint guide to navigating the website that is free to download from (<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/resource/ccht-website-presentation>). For returning visitors, thank you for your continued support, and we hope you are happy with the changes we have made.

Sarah Rose , University of Lancaster.

2022 CONVENTION AND AGM

The planning for this year's convention and AGM is coming together nicely. Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society have kindly agreed to help with the convention. The date is Saturday 15th October 2022 and it will be held in Allithwaite Community Centre which has sufficient free parking.

The topic this year is Agriculture and Angus Winchester has agreed to be our keynote speaker on livestock farming in Cumbria with reference to the medieval period. Keith Cooper will fast forward a few centuries to 'Farming at Halligill in 1875'.

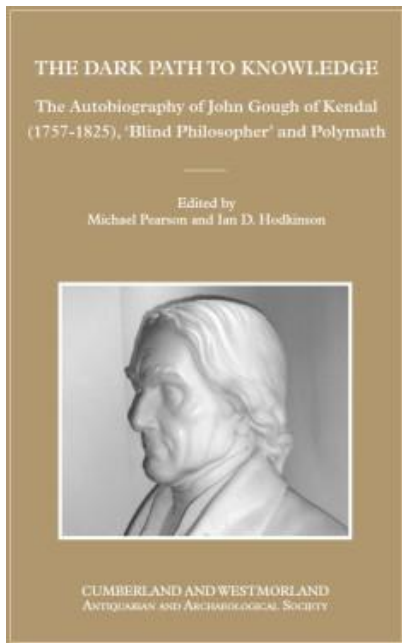
The afternoon speakers are David Johnson who will present his case study of Chapel le Dale and Scales while Cartmel Peninsula LHS complete the programme with 'Cumbrian Farms in remote Lancashire'.

Local history Publications

The Dark Path To Knowledge, The Autobiography of John Gough of Kendal (1757-1825), 'Blind Philosopher' and Polymath

Edited by Michael Pearson and Ian D Hodgkinson

CWAAS Series – Tract Volume 29



'John Gough was one of the most astonishing instances that ever appeared, of what genius united with perseverance and energy and other subsidiary aids can accomplish when deprived of what we usually reckon the most valuable sense'

– So declared the eminent physicist cum chemist John Dalton, a sentiment reiterated verbatim by Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley a founder of the National Trust. What impressed them was the power of his intellect and his astonishing attainments for a man

blinded before his third birthday by smallpox. Gough's numerous publications ranged across mathematics, meteorology and atmospheric physics, the nature, transmission and reception of sound by the unsighted, many aspects of natural history and the folklore of his native Westmorland.

Also remarkable is the fact that his manuscript account of his life, supplemented by extensive handwritten biographical notes by his son

and amanuensis Thomas Gough, has survived. This book provides a full transcript of John Gough's autobiography with supporting footnotes, together with an introduction to his life, a list of publications and a biographical sketch of his son Thomas who did so much to preserve his father's memory.

Michael Pearson is a naturalist and local historian.

Ian Hodgkinson is Professor Emeritus in the School of Natural Science at Liverpool John Moores University.

Price £15

Orders for in print publications to Ian Caruana, 10 Peter Street, Carlisle CA3 8QP. (Tel: 01228 544120) or email: librarian@cumbriapast.com

Chris Craghill 2022.

Cattle Droving: Scotland and Ireland through Cumbria to the South

by Peter Roebuck *2nd Revised Edition*

Bookcase, Carlisle, 2022

This book is a reference for all historians of Cumbria. It incorporates information found in previously unresearched sources, particularly the Musgrave archive, adding to the author's earlier work on the subject. It increases our knowledge on the scale of this trade, proposing new figures, doubling, at least to 200,000 the numbers of cattle which passed through Cumbria per year, from livestock rearing areas of Britain to the populous south, when trade was at its height.

The relationship between Scotland and England is discussed at length, as a major influence on droving. Smuggling, to avoid payment of customs

duty, had long been a significant factor in the lack of accurate official figures. The Union of the Crowns (1603) was an event which led to improved cross-border relations. Cromwell's "full union and free trade between the two countries stimulated substantial growth". The Act of Union, (1707), had a further positive effect.

Droving reached its height from c.1758 - 1813, coinciding with a huge increase in population causing demand for meat, leather and other products to rise. Urban centres grew, the drift from countryside to towns accelerated, as did the three coeval revolutions, in industry, transport and agriculture.

Numerous fluctuations occurred over time. A national outbreak of cattle plague occurred (1745 - 1757), resulting in restrictions on movement and other measures, which had an inevitable effect on the droving trade. Periods of depression followed wars, especially the Napoleonic Wars (ended 1815). Droving became more expensive, due to the turnpiking of roads, increased charges at stances, etc.

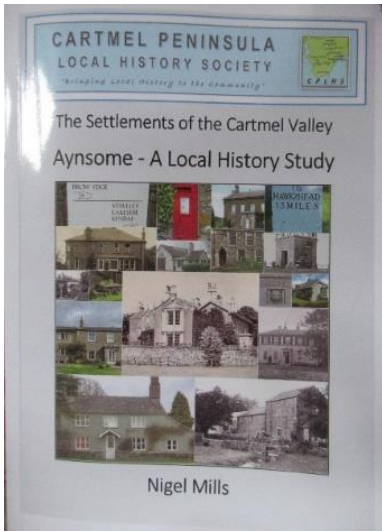
Cattle from Ireland and the Scottish islands had for centuries travelled by sea to the mainland. The introduction of steam shipping on coastal routes contributed greatly to the decline in droving. From the 1820s, steamships carried passengers, goods, and livestock from the Solway at Port Carlisle to Liverpool, calling at Annan, and Whitehaven. Liverpool gave access to the growing Lancashire towns.

The railways followed, dealing a further blow to droving. Ultimately, auction marts, were established, bringing to an end the practice of driving cattle over land.

In his forthright style, Peter Roebuck has produced an authoritative, readable, and succinct book. The bibliography alone is a valuable resource! No local historian, whether of the economic, social or transport history of Cumbria, should be without it.

June Hill 2022

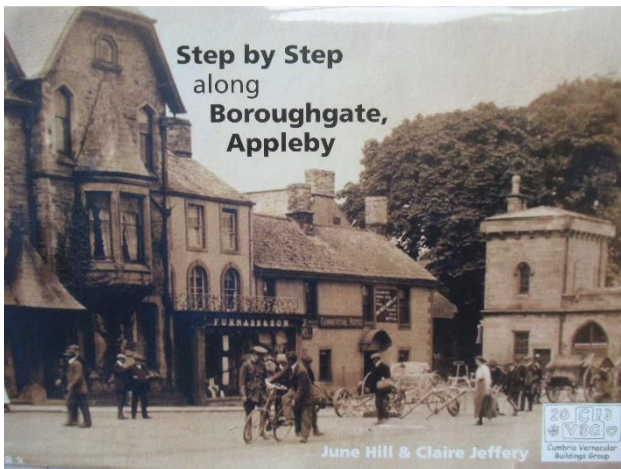
New publications



The Settlements of the Cartmel Valley Aynsome- A Local History Study

Nigel Mills has published this well presented local study. It is a 'study' rather than a 'history' as it demonstrates how the author approached his topic and developed it.

Copies are available by contacting Nigel at nigmillspp@gmail.com for £12 including post and packing.



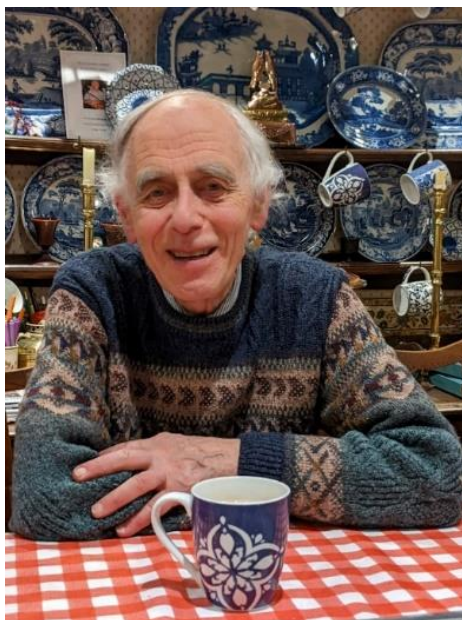
Step by Step along Boroughgate, Appleby

**CVBG Publications,
ISBN 978-1-
9163518-3-7**

**Available through
the CVBG website**

OBITUARY

ADRIAN R. ALLAN 1942-2022



His many friends and colleagues in the archival and local history worlds, both in Cumbria and further afield, greatly regret that Adrian Allan is no longer with us. After a short illness he died in the Cumberland Infirmary on 21 June, aged 79.

He was a professional archivist with an extraordinarily wide and deep knowledge of his field. He was possessed of a fierce passion for archives which never left him. Without having to be asked, he placed his experience and expertise at the disposal of countless others to their very considerable advantage. In this respect above all he was positively philanthropic.

His father, William Reginald (also Adrian's second name) Allan, was a horticulturalist, descended from a long line of East Anglian head gardeners. His mother, Eleanor, hailed from Northumberland with

forbears who ran a flour-milling business in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Although Adrian was born in Derbyshire in 1942, the family spent most of that decade living in a house which his grandparents had built in Dorking, Surrey. At his mother's behest they moved back north to Stanwix, Carlisle in 1950, where William sought land on which to grow soft fruit, his commercial speciality. In 1952 he acquired The Golden Fleece property (once a pub) near Carleton and some ten acres of land, and after renovations they moved there in 1955. Adrian returned to this childhood home permanently during his retirement, making jam from the remaining bushes and trees and annually distributing cooking apples to all and sundry.

His schooling began at Rickerby House Prep. in Ecclefechan. From there he proceeded to Haileybury and Imperial Service College in Hertfordshire. He took a degree in Modern History at Durham University 1961-64, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in the Study of Records and Archive Administration at Liverpool University 1964-65. Together with palaeography for his Diploma, his study of Latin during these early years stood him in good stead. Later he was much in demand for help from those working on medieval and some later manuscripts. His education at Haileybury would appear to have been particularly influential. The school continues to proclaim that 'helping others is a core part of...[its]...ethos'. This was certainly a guiding principle of Adrian's own endeavours.

His first appointment was as Assistant Archivist with West Suffolk Council at Bury St. Edmunds in 1965, where he also joined the Suffolk Preservation Society. In 1970 he took up a similar position at Liverpool University. For several years he returned home at weekends, looking after his parents until they moved to a Nursing Home. He became involved in the public debate about the re-development of Carlisle City Centre, joined the Civic Trust, and went into local government. He was elected to the Border Rural District Council, 1971-74, and to Carlisle City Council, 1974-79. Despite these additional pre-occupations, his career in Liverpool prospered. He was promoted to University Archivist in 1994, serving until his retirement in 2008, and continuing to work voluntarily thereafter. In addition to other shorter publications, he produced two

books for the University: *Honoured by Degrees: A Century of Liverpool Graduates* (2004) and a study of one of its properties, *History of Greenbank House* (2022).

On returning north Adrian steadily became more engaged with the archives and history of Cumbria. He joined the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society in 1972; and became a member of the Friends of Cumbria Archive Service from its inception in October 1991, and of its Committee of Trustees from its earliest days. He administered the Research & Publication Grants programme of FoCAS and later worked as its Secretary. Following his retirement he played an increasingly central role in the development of the CWAAS. He joined its Council in 2012 and subsequently served continuously as Secretary of the Outreach Committee. He was Membership Secretary 2013-17. Most significantly, in 2017 he became the Society's Honorary Archivist, a post he held until his death. He not only identified the strengths of the existing archive but vigorously searched out fresh material to fill in gaps. The collection, which is held at the Carlisle Archive Centre, was transformed.

From May 2017 Adrian joined the Committee of the Cumbrian Local History Federation, playing a vibrant role. He attended virtually every meeting and event, invariably taking careful notes and, if required, providing a formal minute. He scoured E-bay and the press, and kept an eagle eye on sales and auction rooms, so that one never quite knew what he would turn up next. In his time fourteen numbers of the Federation's thrice-yearly *Bulletin* were published. Adrian contributed to each one (Nos. 75-88) with articles on archival, library and related matters. Voluntarily giving each Friday to archival work, especially at the Carlisle Centre, he was close to staff, other volunteers and many searchers. His experience guided the Federation's response to changes in the archive service. He was closely engaged in successful efforts to achieve charitable status. He represented the Federation on the Advisory Board of the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. And he played a major role in the design and delivery of a series of cluster meetings with members across the county, conducting a survey of archival holdings in

the Federation's network. At the time of his death he was the Committee lead in an archival training programme for group representatives. Only after his death did it emerge that it was his generous donation which finally allowed the programme to get underway.

An easy and congenial colleague, Adrian Allan was also a very private man who, nevertheless, took his public responsibilities very seriously. He was a bachelor with an abiding interest in his nephew and niece, notably during their higher education. He cherished his independence, never learning to drive and inclined to decline lifts if public transport was available. He learned to play the organ early, was fond of classical music, and visited the Edinburgh Festival annually. Yet archival and historical work nearly filled his life, and he was indefatigably busy until very nearly the end. He was held in great respect and affection and will be sorely missed.

Peter Roebuck

The Armitt: Museum, Gallery, Library at Ambleside

The current exhibitions – “The Pull of the Fells: Overcoming the Mountains and the Mind” and “Beatrix Potter: More than just storytelling” – will continue till the end of the year.

The Pull of the Fells: Overcoming the mountains and the mind

This exhibition aims to showcase how being active outdoors can truly provide a long-lasting, positive effect upon people, and how the history and heritage of fell walking, rock climbing and mountaineering are intrinsically linked with the Lake District. In a time when the coronavirus pandemic made getting outside more difficult, never has it been so crucial to show how the outdoors improves not just physical health, but mental wellbeing too. The Armitt shares the emotions of everyday people in this exhibition, and we have worked collaboratively with other organisations and individuals to discover personal stories. The display features some rare guidebook editions, historic (and new)

mountaineering and climbing equipment, and examples from the Abraham brothers' photography collection.

August

Tuesday 30 August – Talk – Hannah Kingsbury, Cultural Heritage in the Westmorland Dales

September

Wednesday 14 September – Walk – A Literary Walking Tour of Ambleside with Penny Bradshaw

Tuesday 27 September – Talk –Mark Hatton, An Illustrated History of the German Copper Miners at Keswick in the 16th Century

October

Tuesday 25 October – Talk –Tony Lonton, George Hutchins Bellasis of Bombay and Bowness: A hitherto unknown painter of the earliest image of Bowness

November

Monday 7 November – Talk –Fiona Edmonds, Mapping Landscapes: OS map data and looking toward a new project

Rydal Road, Ambleside, LA22 9BL, 015394 31212, www.armitt.com

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