



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 92: Summer 2023



Silver Marcus Aurelius Denarius found near Millom Castle

Thanks to Millom LHS for this image- see p19

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CHAIRMANS CHAT

Well it has been a fantastic summer so far, except as I sit writing this it is raining heavily. At least there will be no need to water the garden tonight. Before Covid the Federation ran a series of what we called Cluster Meetings around the county. The reasoning behind these was two fold. First to find out what our membership wanted from the federation and secondly to allow neighbouring local history groups to meet and get to know each other and discuss their problems.

The main outcome of the original meeting was a need from a number of groups for help and guidance in managing their archives. Despite Covid intruding in our plans we have now provided a series of meeting on the management of societies archives. We are well on the way to providing an archive cataloguing programme for those societies who have expressed an interest. If your group has an archive and is interested in a demonstration of programme please contact Nigel Mills or see the Federation website.

We are now looking to run another round of cluster meeting in the autumn and would appreciate as many groups as possible to attend one of the meetings. This is the opportunity for you to let us know what you want from the Federation and other ways in which we could possibly help you. It will also allow you to meet your neighbours and discuss your problems.

We are also hopefully looking to start a number of study days throughout the county during the autumn. The idea of these study days will be to take an aspect of studying local history for example the use of maps and by using a number of experts on the subject give guidance on the subject and allow you to get more out of your study of local history. These days will be repeated in different parts of the county so don't worry if the day that interests you is not local it will come to a place closer to you.

If there is a subject you would like a study day on or feel there is a subject on which you could help to train you fellow local history researchers please get in touch.

Don't forget to book in for the Federation Convention and attend the AGM.

Graham Brooks Chairman

The CLHF Managing Archive Project - Update.

Since the last update I am pleased to say that the groups who have expressed an interest in this project have had the opportunity to see the Archive Catalogue application in action and received initial awareness training. All group representatives have expressed the wish to use the catalogue so with this positive endorsement the CLHF has taken steps to apply for funding and consult with our current website provider, lil'creative studio, who have confirmed that the catalogue can be attached and accessed via our website.

As a trial, and with thanks to Alston Moor Historical Society, a link to a "dummy" archive catalogue has been added to the resources page of our website so if any CLHF member is interested in viewing it please contact me for access and password.



It has taken some while to get this far but, fingers crossed, we hope to clarify funding and the cost to member groups within the next few weeks.

Nigel Mills CLHF Committee

nigelmillspp@gmail.com

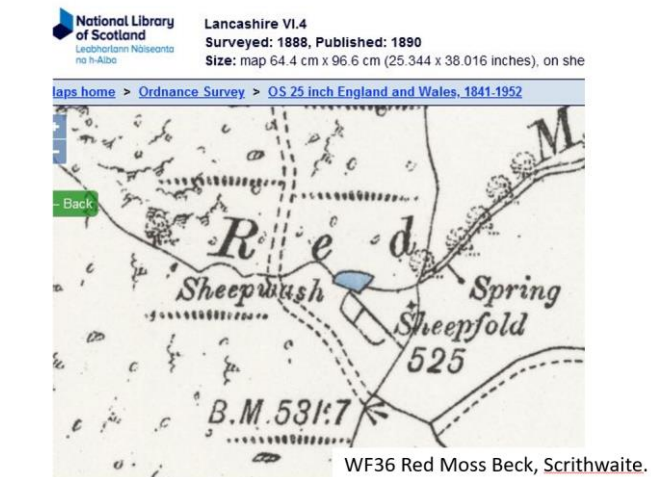
The CLHF Archive Catalogue Project

Washfolds in The Duddon Valley

an exploration of agricultural archaeology

The project began when John, a farmer outside Broughton in Furness, had asked Duddon Valley Local History Group (DVLHG) to come and look at some interesting features on his property. As we left he mentioned a book he had bought recently. This study of washfolds in the Bowland area made us realize that we knew similar sites in the valley and so we borrowed the book and began to plan. We would need to refer to various sources to identify locations, recruit volunteers, assemble survey packs and prepare recording materials.

I was surprised by two things. I hadn't pictured the farmers up to their chests in the pool with the animals and I hadn't realized that it was a large community event with lots of families working together with the flocks. Our later study showed that this did not seem to fit the pattern in the more isolated setting of the Duddon Valley.



WF36- map showing both the fold and the washdub at full extent; SD 21630 91560

Washfolds are a specialised set of folds, unlike the common containment folds that shepherds used for general tasks in caring for their flock. They

are marked on the old maps as washfolds, sheep washes or wash dubs and sometimes with the fold and the pool labelled separately.

Washfolds are found alongside a watercourse with a natural pool or where dams and banking have created a pool. They often have gathering walls that would guide the animals into the fold, and exit openings with launching stones to facilitate getting the animals into the pool. They are found in all sorts of shapes and sizes. One or two chambers were most common but the most extensive site at Birks had nine chambers. It showed obvious signs of extensions and repurposing over its working life time.



WF25-04 Washfold and dub; Stephenson Ground Scale – SD 23859 94412

In the valley we found 45 sites that were potentially washfolds. Some local place names reflected their use. On the south side of Devoke Water there is Washfold Point. The beck leading down to Turner Hall near Seathwaite is called Wash Dub Beck. There was no sign of a fold still existing at Washfold Crag near Bootle or Washfold Woods near Kendal.

There are washfolds all over, adjacent to farms, in the closes, along the fell wall and high on the fells. At Logan Beck, the washfold was close by the road; others were on remote fellsides with no sign of where the stone for building them had come from. Many were close to tracks leading down to the farms in the valley bottom.



WF21-05 Dam and original pool size; Freeze Beck – SD 18963 96307

This was all to do with shearing the fleece. But it was needed because of a process spelled salving, but pronounced “sorving” locally, carried out in autumn. A mixture of butter, tallow and tar, was heated to make a paste that was rubbed directly on the sheep’s skin creating a waterproof and parasite deterrent layer. The mix was poured into a bowl with a long handle designed to be pushed into a convenient gap in a drystone wall.

The shepherd would lay the animal on a wooden bench then make a shedding, parting the fleece to expose the skin along the length of the body. With a finger dipped into the mixture, the shepherd would rub the salve into the skin. A new shedding would then be made an inch further along and the process repeated. It would take between 45 minutes and an hour to complete each animal.

The study area was subdivided with four to six sites in each. We collected together tapes, ranging poles and folders with maps and drawings for the sites. Satellite views of this area are near enough vertical to make outline drawings of the current structure of the folds.



WF5-12 Survey team; Black Allens, Seathwaite Tarn - SD 24850 98578

The teams used these drawings to show the state of walls, openings and blocked openings, launching platforms, and the pools. The measuring was concentrated on the length and width of each chamber and recorded sample heights of walls – complete or collapsed. This information was used to edit, update and annotate the drawings to produce the final plans.

We made an assessment at each site on the condition of the folds. Some were barely more than a line of stones on the fellside. Some were in good condition and were complete. We also recorded an assessment of how likely we thought that a site had been a washfold. We rejected some as being fairly unlikely down to the difficulties of accessing the beck from the fold.



WF44-01 Launching Platform; Thwaites Fell - SD 16216 89763

It was clear that some washfolds had been built alongside deep natural pools. Others were in places where a dam could easily be placed to hold back a head of water. Some had seen extensive work to create earth banking to hold a pool. Many had extensive stone revetments to stabilize the edges of the pool to minimize the destructive forces of a beck in spate. Some of these revetments were made up of very large stones or used small crags at the beck side.

Some pools were probably much the size of the one used over a hundred years ago. Some flows were now barely a trickle and even with damming would have needed quite a while to form a pool. Three were on the banks of the River Duddon itself.

The process was essentially simple – gather the sheep, sort out the lambs and strays that were not getting washed, get them in the pool and washed, get them to the bank to dry off. There were many variations in how it was done. Most washfolds were sited alongside the beck. Others had channels built to the fold, or diversions to a separate pool.

Sheep were taken through the entrance to the pool one at a time and dropped in from the bank or from a more formal launching stone. Shepherds may have been in the pool or conducting the washing with long poles from the bank.

We found a variety of interesting details among our sites. Many had hog holes to allow the sorting and releasing of sheep. Some had storage shelves built into the wall, one still had a collection of jars and pots needed by the shepherd. There were two sites with stone clapper bridges crossing the beck to the fold. One had a paved causeway from the bridge to the fold itself.

Details of all the sites were analysed.

75% have just one or two chambers

They were found between 150m and 380m – with only one much higher than any others

25% were in poor condition and 20% were probably not washfolds despite previous recordings

Sites were evenly spread above, around and below the fell wall; few were close to farm buildings

Most were built substantially and have survived the worst of the weather. Some sites have disappeared. Many have some wall sections that have tumbled but are generally in good condition. They may be choked with reed, bracken or gorse but the structure is clear. Where hog holes have been blocked preventing access of sheep to chambers, mature trees have grown. In some cases, the launching stone above the beck is quite clear but the opening from the fold has been blocked up to make a simple containment fold.

There are some sites that have indications of many extensions and changes in use. Some have had concrete troughs built in that show the introduction of chemical dips. This may have speeded up the process compared with salving and washing, but the damage to the shepherd and the environment have proved to be long lasting.

Our results and links to sites on the Internet can be found on the Duddon History website – www.duddonhistory.org.uk/washfold-background

If you have information or photos to share, get in touch with us at:

sec@dvlhg.org.uk

Stephe Cove, Duddon Valley Local History Group

Researching the Yards of Penrith in praise of your local library

Many hours and days spent walking around the centre of Penrith, peering into alleyways, finding hidden entrances and recording name boards culminated in the recent publication of the walk leaflet guide to the historic yards of Penrith.

Apart from observation and gaining many clues from local people, time spent in the Local Studies section of Penrith library was deeply interesting and beneficial.



Large maps of the town centre showed the importance of the 'market' streets and charted the spread and development of the yards behind them.

History books, old and modern, painted vivid pictures of life at these times and photographs gave insight into the historic buildings and layout of the town.

Newspaper articles and census material on the microfiche, fleshed out personal stories of the inhabitants of the yards. All there to be discovered in one place without wasted hours trying to find information on the internet!

Sheila Fletcher

MITCHELL'S AUCTION COMPANY LTD.



Robinson Mitchell would surely be proud of the auctioneering company that he founded more than 150 years, making it the oldest purposes-built auction in the county, if not in the country. Today it is a thriving business, despite many setbacks over the years, not least foot and mouth disease which wreaked havoc on farming communities.

Robinson set off selling a few bits of furniture and timber on Main Street near the Mayo statue and in the courtyard of Aspava's premises back in the 1860s. At that time he was living with his brother Jonathan at his bacon-curing business on the corner of High Sand Lane and Main Street. He was convinced that there must be a more efficient way of selling furniture, land, property and livestock than the time-consuming haggling he had observed for himself. With his brother's help, he built his business, which rapidly expanded, requiring a move to the Fair Field.

In 1873, finding his business in competition with the Farmers' Auction Co. Ltd. opposite his Auction Mart (built in 1865) in Station Street, his own

Company received Incorporation.



Station Street market with pens

The Farmers' Auction Mart was eventually bought by Mitchell's in 1921. Mitchell's today comprises a thriving livestock mart, a highly successful land and property service, farm services, and an expanding Fine Art and Furniture section.

The business did so well that Robinson was able to build the fine family residence of Fairfield House, which then boasted fine, ornamental railings – the railings were melted down, like those in many other parts of town, during WWII. 1865 also saw the coming of the passenger railway service to a site opposite Fairfield, which must have been a real boost to the business, since cattle could be brought by train and kept overnight in pens before going to auction at Mitchell's. Before the coming of the railway to this part of town there was no Station Street or Station Road. Both had to be created by demolishing property on Main Street and then further up on South Street (Back Lane) to create access to the station.

When Robinson Mitchell senior died in 1888 it was his two nephews (Robinson Mitchell junior and John Ritson Mitchell) who took charge of the Company. John Ritson lived at Fairfield House with his family – his

three sons married three Peacock sisters, daughters of Henry Peacock of the Globe Hotel. Robinson junior and his family lived at High Dyke, Mosser.



New mart ring

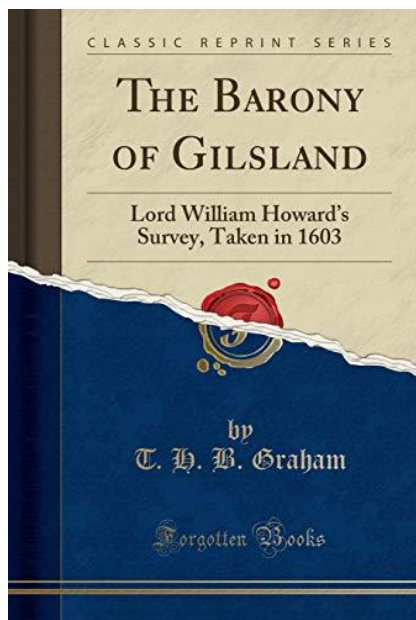
I was asked to produce a history of the Company and copies of this have now been printed off. Copies have been distributed to all Mitchell's shareholders, and the remaining books are available to buy through Mitchell's (£5 per copy). A commemorative exhibition was also prepared and staged at the end of June in Michell's Fine Art saleroom.

Images attached, should you wish to use them, are (1) old auction mart in Station Street with pens for livestock (2) new auction mart sales ring at Wellington Farm site (3) Robinson Mitchell senior, founder of the Company.

Gloria Edwards, Cockermouth Heritage Group

The Barony of Gilsland Survey 1603

17th century land surveys could be viewed as the forerunners of later enclosure and tithe commutation awards and were typically produced for estate owners to assess the extent and value of newly acquired property.



One such survey, believed to have been conducted by William Hayward, prominent early 17th century surveyor and cartographer, was produced in 1603 for Lord William Howard on his acquisition of the barony of Gilsland. The barony lies in the north east of Cumbria and contains 15 manors with Askerton manor (including Bewcastle) the most northerly and Cumrew manor at the foot of the Pennines, the most southerly.

Surveys of this kind were usually a combination of written terrier (in this case described as a 'field-booke') with accompanying maps (platts) as

is the case with the survey in question. Both records survive and are stored as part of the Howard of Naworth collection at Carlisle Archive Centre. However, due to a shipping accident whilst being transported from Naworth to Castle Howard in 1830, the maps suffered water damage (some worse than others) but they are mostly legible, especially when compared with the field-book, which acts as a guide around the whole barony giving extent and title of properties, plus names of individual tenants; thus, giving a snapshot of the region and state of agriculture at the time of the 'pacification' of the Anglo/Scottish border.

The maps have now been digitised and each original sheet protected and can be viewed in situ at the archive office in Carlisle. As there was no agreed map alignment at this time, they follow a varied set of orientations.

The original field book that is also part of this archive and stored with the Howard of Naworth collection at Carlisle was transcribed by noted Cumberland Antiquarian T H B Graham in 1934 and published that year by CWAAS as part of the Extra Series, Volume XVI. For those who cannot gain access to this, Graham's transcription has recently been re-published by Forgotten Books and can be purchased online at their site or through Amazon.

Christine Craghill

Levens Local History Group Collaboration with the Francis Crick Institute

Following a successful project working with National Trust Regional archaeologist Jamie Lund on a burnt mound at Sizergh castle in 2013 LLHG planned an excavation of a monument in Levens Park.

A lot of research was done but our application for an HLF grant was unsuccessful. However the preparatory work had made us aware of a rescue dig done on another site in the Park in the late 1960s when the planned alignment of the Kendal to M6 link road threatened to obliterate it. We found very little had been published at the time and very little trace of the dig records. Extensive detective work brought to light surviving participants who had kept some records e.g their own photos, the location of the human remains recovered at the time, and a happy accident led to Dan Ellsworth (of Green Lane Archaeology, Ulverston) unearthing the dig archive when looking for something else in Kendal Museum. We therefore had a possibility of getting something back from our original abortive project.



Photo: Levens Park Ring Cairn excavation led by David Sturdy in late 1960s

LLHG has been involved with the Francis Crick Institute's Ancient Genomics project.

Our involvement with the Crick came about with the publication of a paper in the *Archaeological Journal* Vol.178, Issue 2, 2021 entitled *A reinterpretation of the Levens Park ring cairn, Cumbria, based on the original excavation archives.*

That paper was written by the former County Archaeologist Tom Clare, assisted by a team of LLHG members and followed on from the perfunctory reports of the rescue dig done by David Sturdy in the late 1960s. Tom Clare initiated a thorough review of the original excavation.



Photo: Levens Park Ring Cairn excavation 1960's.

The publication of the Archaeological Journal paper prompted contact with the Crick about the possibility of that Institute testing the Beaker era human remains recovered by Sturdy, which are the property of the Levens Hall Estate. LLHG, with the kind permission of Richard Bagot of Levens Hall, facilitated access to the remains for Dr. Tom Booth at the Crick. DNA testing produced some successful results throwing light (subject to confirmation by further analysis) on the transfer from neolithic to bronze age peoples and the origins of the latter. Additionally there was a surprise in the form of what appears to be only the second site in Britain to have evidence of Bronze Age bubonic plague. Publication of these results has taken place in a Crick paper in the leading journal Nature <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-38393-w>

Tom Clare opined to the effect that the incidence of prehistoric burials in the South Lakeland area round the head of Morecambe Bay might signify a particular importance of the area in the history of human settlement in north-west. LLHG is interested in revisiting reports of discoveries in the recent past. To this end, with the kind, and enthusiastic, agreement of

Henry Strickland who owns the prehistoric remains excavated by Prof. McKenny Hughes on Sizergh Fell in 1904, 25 samples from these remains are now at the Crick awaiting tests for recoverable DNA.



Photo: Levens Park Ring Cairn as it is today

We are delighted to be associated with the Crick's discovery. You will see acknowledged as authors the late Stephen Read, Mark Simpson, Tom Clare, Ian Hodkinson, and Geoff Cook- the LLHG contingent. The Crick is continuing to work on the Levens bones and we are hopeful of gaining further information about the origins of the people whose remains were tested and perhaps their familial relationships. In addition the Crick is carrying out similar analysis of the prehistoric remains from Sizergh Fell, and we understand that some Iron age remains found at Nelson Square, Levens are being analysed by a team in York..

All this is causing us to speculate that our small area might contain a very rare continuum of prehistoric presence over a long period of time - Tom Clare thinks it is of national importance. We are therefore keen to reactivate our search for the lost burials at Hyning, Levens, a search that stalled last year because those of us involved were too busy with the Sizergh project.

Allan Steward LLHS

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD FOR MILLOM AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

When I moved to this area three years ago I was totally unaware of Millom's history, apart from it being a Victorian town with iron works that closed in 1968. Whilst talking to young Josh Carr, a local metal detectorist who was doing some work on my house, we discovered a mutual love of Ancient Rome. He told me about the silver Marcus Aurelius denarii he had found in a field near Millom Castle, as well as an Iron Age iron terret ring which was used to guide the reins of horses pulling a chariot. From that chance meeting I went on to conduct research, write a paper about Romans in Millom and, with help, organised two very successful events (120 attended the first and 60 the second). I was then asked to become Chair of the local history society.



Photo: Two volunteers, Josh Carr and Jake Huddleston with archaeologist Jelmer Wubs conducting geophysical survey

I suggested we amended the objectives to include archaeology and instead of meeting on an evening once a month, to hold bi-monthly Saturday afternoon sessions, with two or three speakers and work our way through the different periods of history (these usually attract 60+). We do not have a formal membership as such but have a Facebook group with over 1,000 members as well as a website: www.millomhistory.org.uk

When we covered Prehistory (which attracted 80+), local historian Duane Farren spoke about his finds and the Prehistoric footprints he takes folk to see down on the Duddon Estuary; and expert Alison Burns from Manchester University explained how the footsteps were formed. This adventure resulted in me researching and publishing our first book, *Millom and District: Prehistoric Past*; over 100 copies have been sold with the money raised going towards our archaeological surveys. We hold our events in Holy Trinity church, a grade I listed building next to Millom Castle, another grade I listed building; the church wardens providing excellent refreshments.

Then Josh Carr made a find of a lifetime: six bronze socketed axe heads (one of which had two pieces of broken swords inside). There has never been bronze axe heads found in the Millom peninsula before. This was big news, and Josh appeared not only in the local media but also on Border and Granada TV News. Josh, and other metal detectorists, has found hundreds of coins in the fields around the Castle dating from Roman through to Modern times as well as other, fascinating, objects. On the basis of these finds and a desk-top survey, the Society applied for funding to work with a local archaeological firm to conduct geophysical surveys of the fields surrounding Millom Castle and Holy Trinity church. We were awarded £5,500 from the government's Levelling Up Scheme.

The Project is now completed and several possibly exciting anomalies have come up including perhaps a Neolithic double ditch enclosure, an area where the Medieval market may have been held and possibly an ancient road. We are now seeking permission from the land owner to dig several small trenches and, of course, applying for further funding to do this. The local community, not least the twelve volunteers who took part in the Project, are excited at what we might find.



Photo: The Old School

Alongside this, the Society has been working with a dormant Community Interest Company to change its name and objectives, so that we can obtain a long-term lease on the old school next to the church and castle, apply for large grants to renovate it and turn it into a heritage and education centre. Watch this space!

Jan Bridget Millom LHS

Coanwood Featherstone Lambley History Group Including Tindale Hartleyburn Knarsdale Kirkhaugh Plenmeller

We have had a very successful year so far. Here is a rundown of our walks and talks.

In Jan/Feb this year we held 2 talks to the Hallbankgate WI and the Slaggyford WI. I was assisted by Tom Park and Les Graham. Both very well attended and we got some great feedback.

In March we hosted a talk by Alastair Robertson "The Roachburn Pit Disaster 1908" at Lambley Village Hall. Having postponed it the week before due to the snow, all went well this time. A fantastic 48 people attended. Ian Hopper and the Village Hall Committee did a great job preparing the seating and doing the Teas, Coffees and Biscuits, it was a great venue. Most people stayed on after the talk for a chat and social

get together. The History Group gained 10 new paid up members on the night showing the level of local interest.



Photo: The Bastle at Wellhouse

Next up in April was the guided walk and talk around Epiacum Roman Fort and the Bastle houses which nearby attracted 27 hardy folk. The weather was very kind to us, thank goodness! Steve Bentley did a sterling job for over 2 hours, explaining the whole area to us in great detail. Attached are a few photos of the day, the group at the top of the steep climb and the recently finished Wellhouse Bastle. Everyone enjoyed the experience very much. We attracted 4 new members to our group on the day.

In May we had great interest in our visit to Featherstone Castle, 60 folk booked onto this and after John Clark's initial talk we split into 2 groups of 30 for 2 tours of the Castle with John's nephew Simon Prins. Simon was very informative and everyone enjoyed their visit. Michelle and Silvie did a great job with refreshments and thanks to Gary Fleming for helping to organise the evening! This event attracted 8 more new paid up members to our History Group bringing our Group Membership now to 252 including people from all over the world, such as expats and distant relatives in Greece, USA, Australia and Canada.

In June an exhibition was opened. Local volunteers from the 11 Haltwhistle Parishes have each compiled a History poster which are all currently displayed in the Waiting Room at Haltwhistle Railway Station. Our History Group members did 4 of these posters.



Bea Deacon - Hartleyburn Coal Mining, Alison Higgs - Featherstone Park POW Freedom Camp, Sue Seymour - Plennmeller Industrial Girls School and myself - Coanwood Quakers. Others were done by Wendy Bond, Linda France, Lorna Silverstein, Ruth Forster, Julie Gibbon and Will Higgs. They will remain on view until the end of the year. You will need a bit of time to read them all, but it's well worth a visit. I enclose a photo of the back wall.

At the time of writing we are organising a "Stroll around Coanwood" in July in conjunction with NDCD and this will be extended to further walks around other villages/hamlets in the area in the forthcoming months. These are to show local people about the History of their area and also to get new people in the area to meet up and get to know some of the more established locals. That's all for now from me, good luck to all.

Richard Macdonald, Chairman CFL History Group

Renwick and Kirkoswald Local History Group

For our end of season trip 15 of us had a most entertaining and informative guided tour of Birdoswald fort under the expert guidance of the chief archaeologist, Tony Wilmot. We had detailed evidence of the way the fort developed and how various buildings were repurposed and altered over the centuries including after the Romans left. We were also very fortunate that the annual dig was being prepared which meant we could get up close to the previous dig which had just been exposed again and hear about where the new excavations were going to take place. I personally was surprised to learn that the settlements outside the fort boundary were not only on both the East and West sides South of the wall but also includes a substantial area North of the Wall.

As many of you will know Renwick Chapel, where we held our meetings, is now closed and is going to be sold. Therefore we have had to find a new venue. From September we have decided to move across the road to the Church in Renwick. Details of the first meeting will be in The Raven in September.

Richard Pickstock

For the future: Showcase your group!

One idea for future Bulletins is to have a **SPECIAL FEATURE** focussing on one particular Local History group in each issue. All the groups have their own unique character. It would be very interesting to learn more about each other and in doing so we may spark ideas and share problems.

If your group would like to participate in this, please get in touch
and

Nigel Mills or myself or both will come and interview you

Ruth Lawley Bulletin Editor ruthlawley@hotmail.com²⁴

ALSTON MOOR HISTORY SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!



Congratulations to Alston Moor History Society not only for reaching their half century but also hosting a very successful celebration. This took the form of a 2 day event at Alston Town Hall with 11 different local history societies contributing and showcasing their own work. The enthusiasm in the room was evident and a great detail of information was discussed, and many connections made.

May the next 50 years be as productive and enjoyable as the last!

The Editor

Clogs

Q:What's the difference between a male clog and a female clog?

A: Male ones have laces and female ones have clasps

Cumbrian Railways Association

ANOTHER ACTIVE YEAR FOR THE CUMBRIAN RAILWAYS ASSOCIATION

The first half of 2023 has been a very busy period (again!) for the Association, whose membership is remains at over 500.

We attended and had promotional stalls at the Kendal and Preston model railway exhibitions. Kendal MRE in January was our first of the year and what a show it was for us - with lots of people coming our stand and also buying a record number of our books and publications. We all thoroughly



enjoyed speaking to visitors, so if you were one of them thank you for stopping by.

It was also an appropriate venue to further promote a recent publication. The Kendal &

Windermere Railway, by Dick Smith, which looks back 175 years to the difficult birth and short independent life of a key 10-mile route linking Windermere, Staveley, Burneside and both ends of Kendal to the wider world. As reviewer Bill Myers observes:

“The book neatly forms the final piece in a series of public events, which have included exhibitions and a train naming ceremony, to mark the anniversary of a line which has survived as the last part of the national railway network into the heart of the Lake District.”

This event was followed up in March with a highly successful presence at the Preston model railway exhibition. With another new CRA book, this time by John Pickup, focused on Oxenholme Station in the period 1957 to 1961, just hot off the press our team was really busy dealing with visitors, enquiries and sales.

Our one day Spring Conference at Carus Green, Kendal on the 18th March was also a great success with over 60 Association members enjoying a great day of social chat and first class presentations. Geoff Holme who has been much involved with the process of digitising and re-housing the Sankey Family Photographic Collection gave us a talk and shared a selection of iconic historic images with us.

Peter Fitton gave us a talk entitled "More 1960's Steam Memories. Finally there was a presentation by Ian Henderson, Project Director of The Standard Steam Locomotive Co Ltd, entitled "Building Clan No. 72010 Hengist". Since the very successful new-build of the A1 Pacific "Tornado", more similar projects have been undertaken. One such is of the Clan Pacific No. 72010 "Hengist". Ian, explained the project and the progress made so far.

In another new departure for the Association, we were delighted to be asked by the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Museum to create a presentation for the summer season in their Community Section at Ravenglass. This is now in place and will be in situ until the end of July. The presentation features photographs from the CRA's extensive archives, some railway models and artifacts and features relating to historical aspects such as the opening of the Lancaster to Carlisle Railway and the history of a railway family in Cumbria.

In addition to all this, we have also been pleased to be able to attend events such as the CIHS Conference and support other historical societies in our area.

All in all, a great start to the year with more yet to come! One for your diaries is our Autumn Meeting that will be held at the Carlisle Railway Hotel, Court Square, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1QY, on Saturday 11th

November 2023. Three speakers have been confirmed, and topics to be covered include the Carlisle Canal, Oxenholme, and as usual, a top-class images presentation by a highly-regarded photographer.

Further details will be announced on our Website: <https://cumbrianrailways.org.uk>. As usual non-members are most welcome and can book a place through Ian at meetings@cumbrianrailways.org.uk.

Philip Tuer Chairman

CVBG Report July 2023

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group has had a busy and productive time this year. In the winter months we had ZOOM talks, as members from all over Cumbria find it difficult to travel. More are planned for later this year. The committee now meets via ZOOM so that members who are in full time work can attend more easily.

Live events began in earnest in April, with a study day at Naworth Castle, the home of our Patron, the Hon Philip Howard. After a day of papers, given by members of CVBG, Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist for Cumbria, and Ivan Day, international historian of food and cooking, those present were offered the option of a tour of the Castle, guided by Philip Howard. A special report on the day has been issued to all members.

At this event, the guide to buildings in the Lower Eden Valley, 'Bastles, Bee boles and Barns' was launched. This was the result of cooperation with the North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NPAONB), through their Historic Environment Working Group and the Fellfoot Forward scheme. It was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and distributed free to all our members and to the general public of the area.

In May, Hannah Kingsbury offered a walk on Little Asby Common, to see the sites of recent archaeological investigations.



Photo: Grange Hall, Great Asby, John McDowell

In June, a visit to two medieval buildings in Asby parish, both with ecclesiastical connections, was arranged with the help of Keith Cooper. Asby Old Rectory (15th century) and Grange Hall, (14th century) a farm formerly belonging to Byland Abbey in North Yorkshire, were visited. Many of the original features of both buildings survive.

More visits are planned, to Castle Sowerby (a large 16th century house), Allhallows near Wigton (a tower house and church), to Keld (chapel) and Crosby Ravensworth (a ruined medieval tower house), and to Hartsop in Patterdale, to look at several local buildings, including a corn drying kiln and an early farmhouse.

Now is the ideal time to join CVBG, as the financial year starts at the beginning of August. www.cvbg.co.uk

June Hill Chair



Would you like to deepen your knowledge of the history of the North West and develop your research skills?

The Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University is now recruiting students for its part-time Postgraduate Certificate in Regional and Local History for October 2023: this course may be just what you are looking for. Taught online over 12 months, this programme offers an opportunity to study at your own pace with guidance from expert tutors as you work towards an award from a top UK university that is renowned for its expertise in this field and has significant experience in delivering high quality distance learning programmes.

Regional and local studies offer a well-defined way to approach important historical themes and techniques. Whether you are interested in rural areas or urban centres, counties or kingdoms, uplands or lowlands, this programme will equip you with the skills, knowledge and confidence that you need to conduct primary research of your own in this vibrant and varied field.

You will build up your knowledge and skills through two taught modules, one rooted in medieval history and one at the dawn of the modern era. These modules will enhance your understanding of a broad sweep of history, develop your critical awareness in dealing with historical

scholarship, and improve your ability to interpret various types of historical sources. You will then have the chance to put these skills into practice, with the guidance of a tutor, in an independent research project.

The programme will appeal to anyone who is enthusiastic about History, particularly those who wish to deepen their awareness of the importance of local experience in shaping our understandings of national and international trends.

You will access a range of fascinating learning materials online and will be able to study at a time and place to suit you. A wide variety of primary sources will be introduced and discussed and you will be able to participate through our dedicated online learning platform. You will be in frequent online contact with your course tutors and other students, and you will receive one-to-one supervision for your independent project.

The flexibility of this programme and the learning format is ideal for people who want to pursue their historical interests around family or work commitments; you can expect to spend around 10-15 hours a week on your studies. We are keen to support learners from a range of backgrounds, including those who have been out of formal education for many years and who may not have a first degree, so do contact us to discuss your personal circumstances.

The Regional Heritage Centre promotes and celebrates the rich social and cultural heritage of North West England by engaging with the regional community through a range of events and projects. Please visit our website for more information: www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc



Paper Copy of The Bulletin

The CLHF committee has been reviewing its expenses. As the printing and distribution of this Bulletin is one of the significant expenses a review of the usage of the hard copy of the Bulletin was carried out in June of this year.

The results showed that 100% of hard copies received are currently read and 40% are read by more than one person.

80% of societies circulate their electronic copy to others. 80% of all members who responded want to keep the paper copy. One respondent stated that they spent their working life on the computer and enjoyed the paper version very much.

Paper copies are also distributed to Cumbria public libraries and archives as well as the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster.

In the light of the above the committee agreed unanimously to keep the hard copy at least for the foreseeable future.

To contact the CLHF committee please see our website www.clhf.org.uk

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