



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 93 – Winter 2023



Tweedmill Lane premises, Cockermouth 1922

Thanks to Gloria Edwards and Cockermouth Heritage Group for this image

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CHAIRMANS CHAT

Well although the membership renewal date for the Federation is the 1st July, I really feel the new year starts after the annual convention. The 2023 convention has now passed and it was a great success. It was practically a sell out with the hall at Newbiggin being full of both delegates and stands. We will have to try and find bigger venues in future without grossly increasing the cost of the event.

We had four very successful cluster meeting back in October and there is a more detailed report further in this Bulletin. The committee have certainly found them very useful in getting feedback on both what you feel is and isn't working for you. Also your thoughts on what you would like the Federation to do for your group. If you were not able to attend a cluster meeting and have some comments please feel free to get in touch.

Two of the outcomes of the 2019 Cluster meeting are now progressing. Nigel Mills has driven forward the Archive project and we now have Five groups signed up to use the cataloguing programme that has been kindly given to us by Tim Holden from the Alston Moor Group. It has been possible to progress this project as quickly as we have due to a grant from the Westmorland Dales Partnership to whom we are most thankful.

The other project that was requested were study days on various aspects of doing local history. By the time you read this we will have run our first 'How to Day' on the subject of Wills and Inventories. We hope to keep running these days on a regular basis on a range of subjects. If you have a subject that you would like a How to Day on please let us know. Also don't worry if you can't make a specific day. If you let us know we are keeping a waiting list for all the days and intend to re-run the days in different parts of the county.

So looking ahead to the New Year I hope we continue to provide the services you want and another successful Convention is planned and executed. This is your Federation and we are here to try and put your requirements and wants into practice.

Graham Brooks, Chair.

CLHF CLUSTER MEETINGS

The Federation held a series of four meetings around the county in June 2019 to identify problems our member groups have and any possible ways in which the Federation could be of help. These became known as the Cluster meetings and the main outcome of the 2019 meetings was the archives project which we have initiated to help local societies to manage their own archives.

The original idea was to run a similar series of meetings probably on a bi-annual basis to help keep the committee in touch with the member groups and for them to raise any problems or suggestions with us. Alas Covid intervened and no further meetings were held until the week of the 2nd October 2023 when a series of four meetings were held at Kirk Patrick Fleming, Melmerby, Mosedale and Bardsea to which all member groups were invited to attend which ever one was convenient for them.

In total 43 people excluding the committee members from 30 member groups attended the meetings in total with an even spread across the venues.

The topics raised and discussed at these meetings were many and varied and it was very welcoming to see that the majority of groups were very active, with especially those which had a degree of organised participation such as hands on archaeology being successful in having large numbers of members attending.

Those groups which had appeared to have problems at present with membership and attendance at meetings reported a number of possible causes including finding suitable speakers, A number of groups were not aware of our online speaker directory, and communication of events both to their members and the wider general public. There appears to be a need for guidance in the use of social media, emails, web sites etc for local groups to increase their presence in the modern digital world. Unfortunately a large number of us who run local groups are too old to have been brought up in the modern world of communication and IT.

Getting more people interested in researching their local history rather than being passive attenders at meetings just to hear a talk was a common theme. As I have already said those groups who were more active especially with archaeology type projects appeared to be more successful in this area. One other idea that appeared to work for another group was to have 'Discovery Days' rather than research days. Hopefully the Federations 'How to Days', an outcome from the first set of meeting, will help to stimulate people into more research.

The most common problem that came out of the meetings was the inability for number of groups to find new committee members to help run them. There has been a regular number of quite active and otherwise successful groups closing over the last few years due to this reason. Since the meetings and you reading this article there is the possibility of another two groups having closed. This is not only a problem for local village groups, countywide groups are also struggling and it was one of the contributor factors to the closing of the Friend of Cumbria Archives.

A number of suggestions came forward at the meetings to try and help with this including splitting the jobs on the committee up so no one person is doing too much, possibly sharing roles such as treasurer etc. between neighbouring groups. It is a subject that the Federation is actively looking at for possible solutions and if you have any suggestions of possible solutions please feel free to get in touch.

Despite this slightly gloomy final bit it was very encouraging to see that in general there is still a great appetite for local history within the county and a lot of groups are thriving. We are hoping to make the cluster meeting a bi-annual event and we look forward to seeing you in 2025. But in the meantime if there is anything you feel the Federation can help you or your group with please get in touch and we will try our best.

Graham Brooks

Chair CLHF.

CLHF Convention and AGM 2023

'Riches from the Earth'

Aspects of mining history in Cumbria



This year's Convention and AGM was held at Newbiggin Village Hall (nr. Stainton, Penrith) on the theme of 'Riches from the Earth'. The venue proved to be excellent with good parking and spacious facilities. The schedule was challenged by the last minute speaker cancellation due to illness but Chairman Graham Brooks proved an excellent stand in.

Graham also set the scene for the day with a brief introduction. Cumbria has more different sorts of rocks and minerals than any other county ranging from the better known copper and lead to the rarer cobalt and manganese to name a few. Evidence of prehistoric mineral extraction on an industrial scale can be seen on the Langdale Pikes. Roman times saw lead smelting and carved rocks. Although many of the Roman rock carvings are now deteriorating rapidly many have been laser scanned by Newcastle University.

From the 13th century silver and lead mining was important and Carlisle had a mint for making coins. In the post medieval period German miners extracted Copper and Lead on an industrial scale with further developments through the industrial period. However by the 20th century all mining declined and today there is no commercial mining except for a few small coal mines and gypsum.

Mark Hatton of Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining Historical Society posed the question 'Did the UK template for large scale technically driven, capital intensive, industry originate in Keswick in the 17th century?' The question may have been wordy but the presentation was succinct and fascinating. Please see the article by Mark on page 8.

In the mid 16th century there was no indigenous copper mining in the UK. Copper is needed for bronze, brass and pewter. Critically it was needed to make carding wire essential for preparing wool for weaving. Elizabeth I approached German miners from Augsburg who had started to arrive by 1565 with a Corporation established by 1568.

The arrival of 'The Strangers' had two major consequences locally. First there was a 'baby boom' with 46 marriages between local women and Germans recorded in Parish records in the first few years and secondly significant 'aggravation' including the murder of one German. This trouble was probably encouraged by The Earl of Northumberland who was not benefitting from the extraction.

The second speaker Clive Seal bought his own personal experience as a retired miner to his presentation on Pennine Coal particularly focussing on Alston moor and South Tyne Collieries. Using lidar scans to demonstrate where pits and seams could be found Clive used his practical knowledge to explain how these would have worked. He provided valuable insight into the everyday set up and working of the buildings at a colliery site across an area from Hartside colliery to Tindale. He included the developments introduced by James Thompson who became the colliery agent in 1820, notably the first fire engine at Blacksike colliery.



After a nicely filling lunch Graham Brooks gave a nearly impromptu presentation, educating his audience on the niceties of Lead Smelting. Galena (Lead Sulphide), the commonest form of lead found in Cumbria needs to be oxygenated and then carbonised to yield its lead in a pure form. This is a dirty process with by-products of Carbon Monoxide and Sulphur, not to mention vaporised lead if heated too much and other impurities such as Arsenic. Silver is often found alongside Lead but requires further processing to extract.

Slag heaps from lead mines are very toxic and still recognisable hundreds of years after closure. As production increased so did the chimneys attached to the smelting plants. The toxicity must have been recognised as the vegetation died. The chimneys would have diverted the toxicity away from human activity. 'Riches from the Earth come at a cost.

Hugh Lee Pattinson was the Greenwich Hospital assay master responsible for testing lead and silver at Alston and dedicated himself to improving silver extraction from the molten lead by having a series of large molten lead burners from which the silver could be scooped off.

Altogether there were 9 lead smelting centres in the Cumbrian Pennines and 10 in the Lake District.

The day was rounded off by Les Gilpin with a discussion of the Maryport – Carlisle Railway and its involvement with the coal mining industry of West

Cumberland. Until the advent of rail travel coal from Whitehaven was mainly exported by sea, mostly to Dublin. The connection of Maryport to Carlisle by rail was a slow process which started with an act of Parliament in 1837 and the creation of a company with 28 Directors. The line was opened in 1845 and initially carried coal from West Cumberland. During the 1850s iron ore was a valuable export but in the 1860s a line from Penrith provided an alternative route eastwards and some coal traffic went this way. By the 1870s steel manufacturing was developing and this required the import of coke from the northeast.

Overall the convention provided something for everyone, those already knowledgeable picked up nuggets of information while others, myself included, emerged with some of the basics of Cumbria's 'Riches from the Earth'.

KESWICK'S KEY ROLE IN THE EMERGENCE OF CAPITALISM

The arrival of the "German" Miners in Keswick in the 1560's did far more than simply change Keswick; it had a profound and revolutionary impact on the whole of The British Isles. Dozens of skilled German speaking men arrived in Keswick in 1565 to manufacture Copper. They set about extracting the precious Copper Ores from veins they had found in the Newlands Valley, Borrowdale and the Caldbeck Fells and then smelting it at Brigham Forge to produce Copper metal. At the height of the industry over 100 skilled German speaking miners and smelter workers were living in and around Keswick. They were employed by a newly formed Company incorporated to pursue this new Industry, called The Company of Mines Royal. Many of these men married local women and there was something of a baby boom. Keswick grew rapidly and transformed from a small, remote Town to become the centre of this revolutionary metal manufacturing Industry.

Whilst the story of the Elizabethan Mines and Mining activity around Keswick is reasonably well known, what is often overlooked is the role this metal manufacturing business played in establishing Capitalism and Industrialisation in the British Isles for the first time. Here was established the means of transforming the economy of the Nation from one based on

Agriculture to one based on large scale Manufacturing. As such Keswick has a claim to be the birth place of Capitalism and Industrialisation in the British Isles.

So what was it that was so new and revolutionary about the Company of Mines Royal at Keswick ? The answer lies in three words - Capital, Technology and Law. This was the first Joint Stock Manufacturing Company in the British Isles, with dozens of wealthy private individual shareholders pooling their financial resources and sharing the risks and rewards of the new business venture. The aim of the business was to make The British Isles self sufficient in the production of Copper, a metal of great strategic, economic and military value. These private shareholders were given substantial tax breaks by The Crown to encourage them to subscribe for shares. However the largest single shareholder in the Company of Mines Royal was a German Company, based in Augsburg, which at the time was the preeminent centre of Trade, Commerce and Banking in all of Europe. The considerable Capital that these shareholders provided gave The Company of Mines Royal the financial muscle to invest in the long term, capital intensive mines and smelting machinery at a scale and sophistication that up to this time was unprecedented in the British Isles. The Science and Technology needed to efficiently and effectively prospect for metal ore carrying veins, then extract those ores, process them, transport them and smelt them in to pure metals, to then be distributed across large distances, was far more advanced than anything previously known about in the British Isles. And the Management skills needed to organise this complex manufacturing business, deploy the capital and report to the Shareholders was all completely new in the British Isles at this time. This knowledge came from the German States where there had been considerable investment and success in developing complex, large scale, well funded commercial and manufacturing ventures. But the German Investors would not have been prepared to put up the Capital and bring their world class Science and Technology to Keswick without being granted considerable legal protection. The Company of Mines Royal was granted Royal Patronage and a Monopoly on Metal Mining and

Manufacture. It was also granted Patents to protect its technology from being copied by anyone else.

This combination of Capital, Technology and Legal protections for the first time in Keswick in the 1560's created a business model that is very similar to that used today by the vast majority of large scale Manufacturing and Commercial businesses. How many people realise that it is to Keswick we need to look to find the origins of Capitalism in the British Isles ?



The Coat of Arms of The Company of Mines Royal, established in Keswick in the 1560's, to manufacture Copper, showing a miner and a smelter.

Mark Hatton.

www.CATMHS.org.uk.

CLHF AGM 2023

The AGM was conducted efficiently with all members of the committee willing to continue in post.

The Treasurer and Vice Chair both sent their apologies and were absent due to family illness. New members are always welcome.

The meeting agreed a rise in membership fees to £12 per individual member and £20 per group. The need for the rise in fees is that the costs of the Bulletin are rising and printed copies are popular with the membership.

The work done by Liz Kerry on the weekly what's on calendar was noted as was the work done by Nigel Mills on the Archive project. Anyone willing to be a sub editor for The Bulletin is asked to contact Ruth. In the past sub editors have been instrumental in contacting their local groups to encourage them to submit articles.

Archiving photographs digitally

Beware of copyright and consent issues!

The CLHF Committee wish to draw attention of members to the dangers of digitally archiving material without gaining consent from the donor. Copyright and consent issues can be troublesome especially if photographs are not properly recorded at the time of donation and an accession number allocated. An **accession number** is a unique identifying number, or code, which can be used to track it through your collection. Information about the photograph or other material can then be attached to the accession, such as legal paperwork, pictures, information relevant to the archived material.

Christmas food has changed over time

It is said that modern families very rarely eat meals together round a dining table. An exception to the rule appears to be Christmas when the full might of mum's culinary expertise comes to the fore with turkeys suitably stuffed along with roast potatoes and Brussel sprouts, cranberry sauce etc., is presented as probably the biggest meal that most people eat during the year.

What would this same family have eaten in the 1800's?

Looking through the Westmorland Gazette archives I have picked out the following –

(From the Gazette of December 1853)

“On Tuesday week crowds of people had the curiosity to call at Mrs Hetherington's confectioner to inspect a large goose pie, six stone in weight, which on Wednesday morning was sent off to Kinmel Park, North Wales to Sober Watkin Esq.”

The pie was the gift of his old neighbours at Plumpton who contributed one thing and another to the pie. It consisted of one goose, one turkey, one hare, two fowls, two pigeons, two partridges, one brace of grouse, two tongues and a snipe. (six stone = 84 pounds -38 kilos)

The poor of the area also dined well. *(From the Gazette in 1876)* “The inmates of the Union Workhouse in this town had a merry Christmas of it this year, for besides having a plentiful supply of the customary roast beef and plum pudding, at which eight inmates sat down and ate until they were satisfied, there was a plentiful supply of currant bread, apples, oranges, nuts and sweets supplied by several townfolk.”

However the price of Christmas was not always to the customers satisfaction.

(From The Gazette in 1892) “It seems to be the tradition with farmers' wives to begin the Christmas Market by asking impossible prices for their geese. This is a disadvantage both to themselves and to intending purchasers, for it prolongs the market and keeps both buyers and sellers in the Market Hall until far past noon.

“Of course many purchasers go away to buy a joint instead of the customary Christmas Goose. Last Saturday 13 pence per pound for dressed geese was asked at the opening of the market and from that figure

the rice dropped to 8 pence. There were still some baskets of geese left unsold at three o'clock (*8d = 4p in today's money.*)

Finally mince pies were up for inspection (*in the December Gazette of 1884*) "Most people it appears unwittingly commit a dreadful heresy over the ordinary Christmas Mince pie. Its usual shape at the present time is round.

Four centuries ago to eat a round mince pie would be to stigmatize yourself as a heretic. The orthodox shape is a long oval and was doubtless meant to represent the cradle in Bethlehem and tradition further asserts that the strange mixture which makes the mince represents the fruits and spice with which the Three Kings, in the legend, fill the cradle."

Peter Holme

Kendal Oral History Group



Stories from Parish Churches

Parish churches are at the centre of many towns and villages and inevitably provide evidence of the heritage and history of the local community. I asked members of the CLHF for stories or histories they had researched from their local church and was lucky to receive the following three articles, interestingly all have women as their lead characters.

If any other readers have interesting facts or stories – however short – please send them for the next issue. Meanwhile I hope you enjoy these from Lamplugh, Wreay and Addingham.

The Editor

Wreay Church

St Mary's Church, which was dedicated in 1842, was funded, designed and supervised by Sarah Losh, a local landowner. The building recalls the Romanesque churches that she had seen on her 'grand tour' in northern Italy and is contrary to the prevailing Gothic style of the time.



Within this simple building Sarah created a highly original work – the product of her exuberant imagination. The church is full of symbolic ornament and carvings some of which Sarah carried out herself. She ignored the accepted Christian symbols and instead used images from nature, as

demonstrated by the carving on the font. (see image)

In recent years St Mary's has featured in several guide books and publications particularly 'The Pinecone' by the renowned author and biographer, Jenny Uglow. As a result it's fame has spread nationally and internationally and it welcomes visitors on a daily basis as well as on pre-arranged guided tours.



The Friends of St Mary's Church was formed in 2010 to help with ongoing building maintenance and the promotion of local history. They publish a newsletter twice a year featuring research, original writing and artwork. They organise annual events with visiting speakers and performers

that celebrate different aspects of the church and local history.

In 2015 the Friends successfully bid for a Heritage Lottery Grant to repair and refurbish the Chapel of Rest, one of the earliest of Sarah Losh's ventures. It now houses the Sarah Losh Heritage Centre with an exhibition about local history, the Losh family and St Mary's and is open to visitors every day.

Raymond Whittaker on behalf of The Friends of St Mary's Church, Wreay.

The Lamplugh Memorials and the Strange Tale of the Lamplugh Brisco Marriage

On entering Lamplugh church, two large and impressive eighteenth century marble monuments can be viewed. They commemorate members of the prominent local family, the Lamplughs, who had held the manor since the twelfth century, occupying the Hall opposite the church, and

Richard Brisco, heir to the Crofton estate near Carlisle, who inherited the Lamplugh estate in strange circumstances.



The memorial nearest the door, was erected on the instructions of Richard Brisco, the then owner of Lamplugh Hall and its estates. He had instructed in his will of 8th November 1749,

that this memorial should be in memory of his in-laws, Thomas and Frances Lamplugh, from whom he had inherited the Lamplugh estates. Perhaps somewhat strangely, whilst the memorial is “Sacred to the memory” of his in-laws, and was erected “in duty, gratitude and affection” it says the barest minimum about them, mentioning only their names and ages. Thomas Lamplugh (the last in the direct line of Lamplughs and the son of Colonel John Lamplugh who had fought in the Civil War under Prince Rupert at Marston Moor in 1644) had been High Sheriff of Cumberland in 1700 and MP for Cockermouth in the years 1701 to 1708: no mention is made of this. However the virtues of Richard are extolled in some detail.



The earlier of the two memorials on the north of the window is surmounted by a shield containing the coat of arms of the Brisco and Lamplugh families. Below is a bust of a woman – possibly based upon a death mask of Margaret Brisco (nee Lamplugh). The inscription states that Margaret, who was the eldest living daughter of Thomas and Frances Lamplugh, was born “October 7th 1693” and that she was married to Mr Richard Brisco, son and heir of John Brisco of Crofton “in the year 1731 and died July 21 of the same year.”

The memorial states that Margaret was a dutiful child, sincere friend and loving wife and continues at some length to record

in glowing language, her character and many virtues. “Rare and uncomon [*sic*] to be found in one and the same Person. She gain’d the Esteem and Admiration of all who knew her Excepting only those whose Envy made them repine at her Virtues.”

The latter statement, so contrary to the rest of the eulogy, is indicative that not all was well. A very public attack is made (set literally in stone) on unnamed persons. The clue may be found in the final sentence. Margaret Lamplugh, previously unmarried, at the late age of 38 had married Richard Brisco. The inscription omits to mention that Margaret was on her death bed when she was married on 15th July 1731, (as attested in the church register)

The same register records that Richard and Margaret were married “by a licence granted by the Rev. Mr. Brisco Minister of Whitehaven.” Haste was seemingly necessary as the bride to be lay dying and, it was later alleged, that Thomas Lamplugh being elderly (74) and in his dotage, his wife Frances (66), despite the age difference was keen to keep the 35 year old Richard Brisco (heir to the wealthy Crofton estate) close to her; the marriage to her dying daughter would achieve that. The suspicious circumstance of the marriage to the dying Margaret was exacerbated by the use of a Minister from Whitehaven to perform the ceremony, and who bore the same surname as the bridegroom.

The recently installed Lamplugh vicar, Thomas Jefferson, was a pluralist being also Rector of Cockermouth, but if he was busy elsewhere he had a curate, George Mackereth, who could have acted on his behalf. It was claimed in a family note 30 years after that whilst Margaret Lamplugh was known to be very ill, no-one in the house or neighbourhood knew of the marriage “not even the parson of the parish until they saw it [*her married name*] on her coffin” when she was buried on July 24th. 1731.

Margaret’s younger sister, Elizabeth who had been married to George Irton only 4 months previously later claimed that although in the house she was not allowed to be present at the marriage. It was said that she believed that her sister either never married Richard Brisco or, if she did, she was so ill that “she did not know one thing from another.” Elizabeth is also quoted as claiming that her mother forced Margaret to marry Richard Brisco and the marriage was solemnised in the chamber by “Parson Brisco” and a man named Senhouse, the physician.

The anger of those close to Margaret at the perceived forcible marriage is surely indicative of whom the author of the memorial had in mind when referring to those “whose Envy made them repine her Virtues.”

On 19th May 1737, Thomas Lamplugh, died. Thomas’s will caused further family distress. “It is well known it [*the will*] was of his wife’s making.” All of his extensive property was left to his wife Frances for life and thereafter the Lamplugh estate was to be inherited by Richard Brisco and his heirs for 21 years. At the end of that period the estate was entailed to the sons of his surviving daughter Elizabeth Irton (who however remained childless). Thomas’s cousin Robert described the will as “a comical ridiculous will as ever heard”. Elizabeth and George Irton went further and between 1737 and 1740 disputed the will until Richard Brisco obtained a decree that the will was valid.

On 5th January 1745 Frances Lamplugh died and left £100 to her “dear and tenderly loved daughter Elizabeth” to buy ‘plate’). To her “very loving son-in-law Richard Brisco Esquire” she left the residue of her property, which also included shipping interests, property, mines and all other minerals. Richard then inherited the Lamplugh estate for 21 years. Richard was charitably active as the owner of Lamplugh. He had earlier endowed the local school in memory of his wife.

However Richard only lived 5 years to enjoy his Lamplugh inheritance. His brother Musgrave Brisco became the owner of the Lamplugh estate for the remaining term which expired in 1766. According to Thomas Lamplugh’s will of 1734 the estate was then to revert to the sons of Elizabeth Irton. However, Elizabeth, by then 65, was childless and with growing animosity and litigation between the Lamplughs and Briscos, the estate went to a distant branch of the Lamplugh family in Yorkshire.

In due course two sibling descendants of the Yorkshire branch married siblings of Benjamin Brooksbank of Yorkshire: the son of one of the couples being the Rev. Walter Brooksbank, who became the vicar of St. Michael’s in 1854; it was he who oversaw the rebuilding and reordering of much of the church in 1870.

Mrs. Frances Lamplugh appears as a key player in the ‘strange tale’ of how the Lamplugh estates were inherited. The family was naturally greatly upset and incensed that the dying Margaret was secretly married to

Richard Brisco and later claimed that he was supposed to have “dealings” with Frances despite their considerable difference in age (she was some 31 years older) “and frequently familiarity and benevolence [was] seen between them... the mother the better to carry on her intrigue ... trumped up a pretext and married her daughter and Brisco.” It was claimed too that Thomas Lamplugh’s 1734 will by which Richard Brisco benefited greatly was of Frances’s making. Frances certainly appears to have been a strong willed woman with financial means of her own and judging by the terms of her will was fond of Richard: “her very loving son-in-law ...”. But could there be a different explanation of her desire to keep Richard close? Frances and Thomas Lamplugh had had 5 children of whom by July 1731 only two had survived. Frances had lost her only son and had no male heir to inherit the extensive Lamplugh estate and property.

Rather than having improper romantic interests in 35 year old Richard Brisco, could it have been that Frances saw in him her only son that she had lost 22 years previously? Richard Brisco did appear to live at Lamplugh Hall looking after the Lamplugh estates until his early death in 1750.

All that remains visible of this extraordinary family tale, are the two memorials, one of which gives the barest hint that all was not well, and, below the memorial to Thomas and Francis Lamplugh and Richard Brisco, stands a plain but ancient table which served as an altar until the church was rebuilt in 1870. As the inscription carved on the front records this was “The Gift of Mrs F. Lamplugh Mrh 16 1737”, given to the church just 2 months before her husband died. Whether it was an expression of a guilty conscience, a gift to obtain divine help for her gravely ill husband or just a charitable Christian offering – we will never know, but it remains as a tangible reminder of the person who was at the centre of the “strange tale.”

Robin and Joan Megan.

The above was taken from a leaflet created to support the renovation of St Michaels and All Angels Church at Lamplugh in 2017.

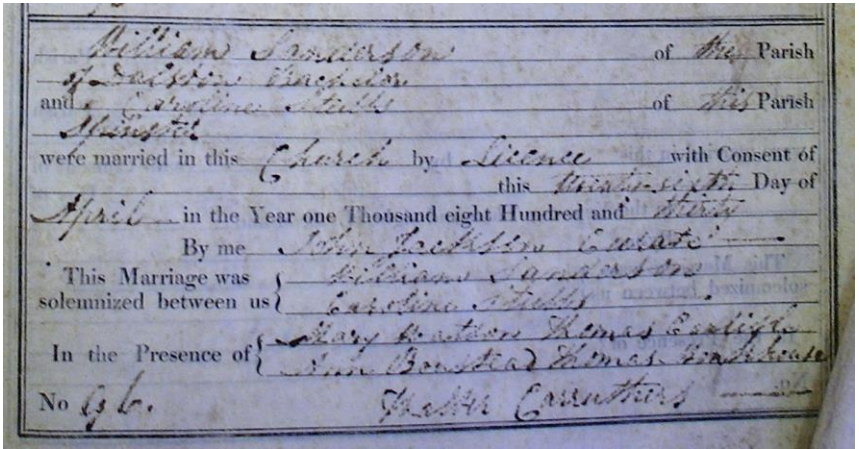
An Addingham story...

I've been doing a lot of research into the history of the parish of Addingham, seven miles east of Penrith – the parish church lies just outside the village of Glassonby. Readers may be interested in one story that emerged.



If you walk to the front of St Michael's church and pause by the choir stalls, you will see a large monument on the wall to the right. How nice you might think – a grandson honouring the memory of his grandfather. Just so, no doubt, but there is much more to the story of Samuel Lacy and his grandson than meets the eye here.

An entry in the Addingham marriage register records the marriage of Caroline Stubbs, spinster, and William Sanderson, of Dalston, on 26 April 1830 at Addingham. A few months later, in November 1830, there is a further entry in the baptism register for their only son, Samuel Lacy William Sanderson.



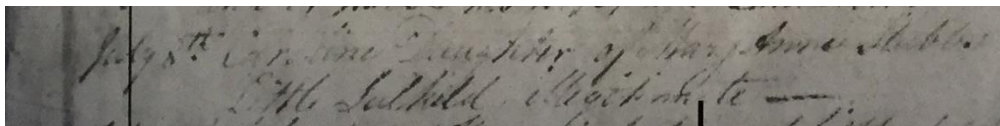
[Page 52.]

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Addingham
in the County of Cumberland in the Year 1830.

| When Baptised. | Child's Christian Name. | Parents' Names. | | Abode. | Quality, Trade, or Profession. | By whom the Ceremony was performed. |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Christian. | Surname. | | | |
| 1830. November 19 th No. 413. | Joseph Son of | Isaac Elizabeth | Wodger | Winstill | Husband Labourer | John Jackson Curate |
| November 28 th No. 414. | Samuel Lacy William Son of | William Caroline | Sanderson | Little Salkeld | Bridge Moor | John Jackson Curate |

So how did Samuel Lacy William Sanderson come to be a grandson of Samuel Lacy if his mother's maiden name was Stubbs and his father was named Sanderson? Investigating this conundrum led me to find the baptism of:

8 July 1805, Caroline, daughter of Mary Anne Stubbs of Little Salkeld, 'illegitimate'.



There could only be one answer – Caroline was the illegitimate daughter of Samuel Lacy, the most prominent landowner in the parish, the nearest thing to a squire that the parish had at that time. Samuel bought Salkeld Lodge in Little Salkeld in about 1790 and in 1794 he married Caroline Thompson of Hull; they had three children before Caroline's death in June 1799, aged only 27, leaving her husband a young widower of 34. A family tree notes that 'Through the infidelity of her husband her married life was far from happy' but has nothing more to say about him.

Mary Ann Stubbs died, aged 22, in 1807. She was buried at Addingham. Caroline was married in the parish, her address given as Salkeld Hall, and she features in Samuel's will; we may assume that he brought her up and that she was clearly acknowledged as his child. There was no doubting the claim upon the Lacy name when young Samuel was given his grandfather's full name before that of his own father. I have found no record of the Sanderson family actually living together. Samuel sold Salkeld Hall in 1836 and moved to his newly-built house, named Eden Lacy, in Great Salkeld parish, on the other bank of the River Eden, and this was where Caroline was living in 1841, with three servants but no father, husband or son.

Samuel Lacy died in 1847 and was buried at Addingham. His will was explicit about his daughter, as it had to be to ensure she, an illegitimate child, inherited. He left all his property in the Isle of Man in trust to his grandson, Samuel Lacy William Sanderson, with a life interest in it to:

my Daughter Caroline Sanderson (now living with me at Eden Lacy aforesaid, known before her marriage as Caroline Stubbs and late the wife of William Sanderson formerly of Skiprigg in the parish of Dalston, in the county of Cumberland, Bridge Surveyor but who many years ago went to the United States of America and accounts of his death have lately been received by his friends in England) ...as if she were a feme sole' [sic].

Caroline and her son were the main beneficiaries of the will; possibly Samuel felt that his legitimate sons were already sufficiently provided for or perhaps there had been some estrangement between them. A family memoir, written by a grandchild of a younger brother of Samuel, mentions 'Samuel Lacy, pleasantly recalled by his relatives as 'Wicked Sam' and refers to 'his singular and unconventional will'.ⁱ

When Caroline died in 1870 her address was given as Eden Lacy and there is a memorial window to her in the church at Great Salkeld. However, she was buried at Addingham.

You might like to visit the churchyard and look for her grave along the west wall. Poignantly, she chose to be buried alongside the mother she barely knew – the headstone says 'erected by her daughter Caroline'.



Graves of Mary Ann Stubbs
and Caroline Sanderson,
Addingham churchyard, 2019.

Lydia Gray, 2023

www.addinghamcumbria.co.uk

ⁱ Lacy, Mary Emily, *A book of ancestors and arms*, Birmingham, 1936.

KIRKBY STEPHEN'S MEDIEVAL MARKET CHARTER

This year, 2023, is the 670th anniversary of Kirkby Stephen's first market charter. There was always some uncertainty about the correct date of the medieval charter, because the original document was lost centuries ago.



We know that Roger de Clifford, Lord of the Manor, received the charter from Edward III, but when? Three dates are commonly quoted in the literature – 1350, 1351 and 1352 – but all three are wrong. The correct date is 16 October 1353, confirmed in 2001 when Margaret Gowling, a member of Upper Eden History Society, was researching the town's charters for a Medieval Charter Fair celebration.

A small publication about the charter was produced in 2001, but there was a limited print run. As Chairman of the Society, I have long wanted this document to be re-published; the 670th anniversary seemed a good opportunity.

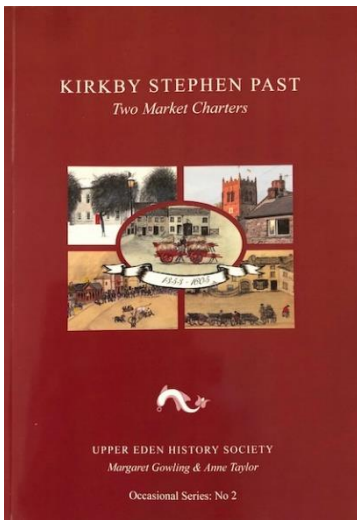
Perhaps I am a 'doubting Thomas' but I like to be absolutely sure of the facts, so I booked a research session at The National Archives in Kew this summer – to see the copy of our charter in the Charter Rolls. From 1199 to 1517, records of all charters were written down, not in a book or ledger but on sheets of parchment (membranes). These were then stitched together to form a long Charter Roll, approximately one roll for each year. That was an exciting moment for me, unrolling an original medieval document and trying to read the Latin. Although I studied Latin at school, my knowledge is not good enough to decipher a medieval manuscript, but the words 'Rogo de Clifford' and 'Kirkeby Stephan' were very clear.

The Charter Rolls were transcribed, translated and calendared (summarised) in the nineteenth century. The summary of Kirkby Stephen's



charter states that on 16 October 1353, in the 27th year of the reign of Edward III, a grant was made, *of special grace, to Roger de Clifford and his heirs of a weekly market on Friday at their town of Kirkeby Stephan, co, Westmorland, and of two yearly fairs there one on the two days preceding the feast of St Mark the Evangelist and on the day itself, and one on the two days preceding the feast of St Luke the Evangelist and on the day itself.*

The anniversary has been celebrated with two events. First, Upper Eden History Society published its second book – *Kirkby Stephen Past: Two Market Charters* – expanding and updating the original research on the 1353 and 1605 charters, and including two new chapters. Second, the annual reading of the charter proclamation was enlarged. This is always read in public on a Saturday in October, near the date of Kirkby Stephen's Luke Fair sheep sales, and it takes about 5 minutes. This year we included a small costumed procession, a band of medieval singers from Upper Eden Community Choir, and a display of replica medieval objects in the



church. To enliven the event a little, I wrote and performed a short piece of dialogue between myself, as a medieval stall holder, and the singers, complaining that they had not paid their market fees. Once some money had been passed to the 'bailiff' they sang 'Here we come a wassailing' with a slight change to the chorus, wishing us all 'A happy charter day'. A fitting end to our charter celebrations.

Anne Taylor, Chair, Upper Eden History Society

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP

Digging the Past in Ravenstonedale village – what did we discover?

The first evening talk in Ravenstonedale Parish History Group's 2023 autumn/winter season on 20th September was given by Dr Douglas Mitcham, YDNPA Community Heritage Officer, about the Digging the Past test-pitting project in Ravenstonedale village over four weekends in summer 2022. This was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and was one of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership's projects aiming to discover the hidden heritage of this north-westernmost corner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park – see their website <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/westmorland-dales-hidden-landscapes-partnership>

As some of the audience had not taken part in the project, Doug gave a brief explanation of the archaeological testpitting method devised by Cambridge University that enables volunteers with no previous archaeological experience to investigate their local area with guidance from experienced archaeologists – in Ravenstonedale these were from the National Park and Eden Heritage, a firm from Appleby. Doug showed a diagram of how the metresquare test pits were excavated in 10cm layers (spits) down to a depth of one metre if possible, or down to the natural geology beneath if that was less than a metre deep – in Ravenstonedale this layer is mostly boulder clay. However one of the test pits in the farmland had so much good plough soil that had accumulated over the years that the natural layer at the bottom of the pit was more than one metre below the soil level.

Local volunteers and others from further afield dug 28 test pits, sieved earth to collect the finds and washed them, before putting them in bags labelled with the test pit and spit number where they were found. Eden Heritage made a preliminary catalogue and assessment of the finds, before they were sent to archaeology.biz <https://www.archaeology.biz/> for further specialist analysis, photography and illustrations. The final report by Martin

Railton of Eden Heritage is available online free at <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1205971>. (Click on the green button on that page to download a pdf).

Doug showed examples of the post-medieval finds, and photographs of some of the medieval ceramic sherds dating from as early as the 12th century, which have now been deposited at Kendal Museum. He also showed a plan of the test pits in Ravenstonedale village with its remains of crofts and tofts (cottages with small individual landholdings) on one side and a “back lane” (still in use today) parallel to the main street on the north-west side, with farmland beyond. This existing back lane is mirrored by a footpath on the other side of the main street to the south-west, which is the route of a former back lane on that side, again with farmland beyond. This layout indicates that the village was probably a planned Norman medieval settlement. Ravenstonedale is in the area of Westmorland that was not covered by the Domesday Book, so the test pits provided a random sample of finds to give further clues to the pattern of occupation over the centuries in and around the village.

Ceramics, glass, iron, copper, and animal bones were found throughout the village, although there were no medieval ceramics found in the outer areas, for example Coldbeck. Some of the 122 sherds of medieval pottery, the earliest dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries, were found near the bottom of some test pits where the soil was undisturbed since that time (i.e. with no other later finds in the same layer). A great deal of post-medieval pottery was found, dating from 17th century (slip-trailed fragments) up to and including 19th and 20th century domestic pottery pieces – plates, cups, storage pots etc discarded when they were broken.

The concentration of medieval finds at the southern end of the village offers scope for further archaeological investigations – this will of course depend on a source of funding being identified. Doug explained that the possibility of such future work shows the importance of the accurate measurements from nearby permanent features to the corners of the test pits that the volunteers took at the time. Now the pits have been fully recorded, the sieved earth replaced, and finally the turf replaced on top, it will still be possible to find the location of any of the pits again from the measurements in case further investigations are to be made.

Doug finished by stressing how grateful he was to the landowners who gave permission for the test pits on their farmland, the common land and in their gardens, and thanked the volunteers for all their efforts. In turn, the Ravenstonedale Parish History Group thanked him for a fascinating and informative talk.

Jackie Wedd.

COANWOOD FEATHERSTONE LAMBLEY HISTORY GROUP

**INC HARTLEYBURN, TINDALE, PLENMELLER,
KNARSDALE AND KIRKHAUGH**

General Update

We have currently 249 members on the books (similar to June 2023). Recently we have made membership for couples £15 instead of £20 annually, members under 30 years old £5 and everybody can pay for two years at renewal and get the 3rd year free- this was introduced to stop some members dropping out and encourage younger members to join. We currently have 25 sponsors on our books also, so we are in a good financial position.

Events etc held this year since June

Coanwood Stroll, 23rd July, Cancelled due to concerns from some locals unfortunately!

Alston Historical Society 50th Anniversary, Aug 2023, Very well organised and attended event over a full weekend. Richard, Trish and Laurie, Tom and Trisha and Nic helped out- 3 new members kindly joined our Group

Slaggyford to Alston Historical Train Trip Day- 7th Oct, This came about



after talking to the Hub Museum and South Tynedale Railway at the 50th Anniversary. We had 25 people on the Train including Silvie Fisch and 10 of her German friends, Many thanks to Ian Millward for meeting us at Slaggyford and giving us a talk both there and in the Engine Sheds at Alston Station. Thanks also to the Hub Museum for greeting us in the Station Yard and to Simon Danby for keeping open Alston Historical Society Archives.

Halton Lea Gate Bus Shelter Signs, On 31st Oct with the aid of member Bob



Nixon we put up the two new "Aluminium History Signs" in the old bus shelter on the main road at Halton Lea Gate. The funds were provided by Karbon Homes and managed by Haltwhistle Partnership. Our History Group arranged the rest!

Featherstone Cornhole Club, our History Group Committee agreed to fund some bean bags for a new to UK game,

CORNHOLE, to be started in Featherstone Village Hall, in late November. In return we will get our history group name put on the boards for a bit of publicity. Northumberland Communities Together is kindly funding the 4x Boards required. A club is already set up in Knarsdale Village Hall called the

Knarsdale Knights where sessions take place every Wednesday Evening 7pm -all welcome.

Online Archives – Our Group online archives page has been set up by CLHF in conjunction with Tim Haldon from Alston. We now have our own domain for people to look up photos/docs etc in the future. We will be kindly trained by Tim on how to go about this very shortly.

History Book/e Book or really good website sectioned like a book – we need to get the ball rolling with this in 2024 and any help would be gratefully received. The work we do for the Online Archives could really help with this.

Walks/Talks/Visits 2024 – Plans

- 1) Greenhead WI Talk–by Richard Macdonald 12th Feb 2024
- 2) Visit to Cumbria Archives in Carlisle and maybe Woodhorn again - Possibly Feb to Carlisle
- 3) Nenthead Lead Mines talk at Knarsdale Village Hall -possibly March
- 4) TINDALE 225 all-day event at Hallbankgate Village Hall 13th April 2024 4 x talks though the day- Not our event but we will be there, hopefully with a stand!!
- 5) Lambley/Coanwood/Pennine Pits Talk -possibly Lambley Village Hall March/April
- 6) Tindale Spelter Works walk and talk -possibly April/May 2024
- 7) Ayle Colliery visit to Colliery site and surrounding areas- May or June one Saturday morning date to be agreed
- 8) Displays in our 3 Local Village Halls TBA
- 9) Ian Millward has offered a tour of the 3 engine sheds in Alston at any time. TBA

Any other ideas for next year or the year after would be welcome folks. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024

Richard Macdonald – CFL History Group – Chairman and Treasurer

Renwick and Kirkoswald History Group

Our September meeting was very well attended and we had an entertaining talk from Alan Cleaver on 'Lonnings, paths and corpse roads.'

'Lonning' is a Cumbrian term for a short path, often ending at a farmhouse. One suggested origin for 'lonning' is from 'loan' – an old word for the quiet place by the farm where milk and eggs would be sold to villagers. A 'trod' as in our 'Beggars Trod' in Renwick is a faint path.

The names of the lonnings are very evocative; Thieves Lonning, Dog Lonning, Lovers Lonning, Fat Lonning, Thin Lonning – and for the thinnest of rambles: Squeezed Gut Lonning. Dynamite Lonning might well be worth avoiding!

Alan also gave 'ius' a word new to us, to 'slare' to ramble about with no real purpose - so evocative!

He also spoke about postman's routes and how important this contact and chat and gossip was for isolated people; near Shap after the longstanding postman retired, a lady who had lived alone for many years was asked what the new postman was like and replied 'oh he's alright, but all he does is deliver letters'.

Dick O'Brien

Cockermouth Heritage Group

The Cockermouth Heritage Group recently staged an exhibition at the Kirkgate Centre on the history of the footwear industry in Cockermouth. As part of that display we also featured Millers Footwear Cockermouth, a company which first came to the town from Great Yarmouth during WWII to escape bombing raids, and operated until the 1990s, employing many local people. The following article is an extract from that exhibition, concentrating on the earlier history of footwear production.

THE MAKING OF FOOTWEAR IN COCKERMOUTH

A look through old historical Directories shows that boot, shoe and clogs were made in Cockermouth for several hundred years. The trade required

leather, which resulted in many industries associated with the production of leather in the town:

Tanners, skimmers and fell-mongers, curriers, leather cutters, leather dressers, as well as boot, clog and shoe-makers (cordwainers)

1790 (Universal Directory):

“One of the principal articles manufactured in Cockermouth is tanned leather, annual profits on which £14,000.”

1829 (Parson & White Directory):

Referring to the rivers and becks: “streams are a great convenience to the manufacturers who employ a considerable number of the inhabitants in the tanning and dressing of leather.” (N.B. population then 3,800)

1861 Directory lists:

- 4 tanners
- 2 curriers
- 3 clog-makers
- 10 shoe-makers (including **William Ridyard**)
- 4 boot and shoe-makers

In Victorian London ‘pure’ collectors, so called because the dog faeces they collected were used to ‘purify’ the leather. The collectors were usually children, wandering the streets with buckets to earn some money. In more modern times chemicals were produced to serve the same purpose as the ‘pure’ that was collected. The leather could then be used for a variety of purposes, including the making of boots and shoes.

Cockermouth had many tanneries, including those along Tom Rudd Beck and Bitter Beck. The Castle tannery was situated on two sites at the confluence of the Cocker and Derwent - one nearer to the present Brewery site and the others nearer the confluence point.

The Rydiard family



Rydiard's was a well-known family shoe business until recent years. **William Rydiard** was working as a shoe-maker in **St Helen's Street in 1861**. In **1882 George Rydiard** was a family bootmaker on **Cocker Bridge**.

In **1901** we find **George Rydiard, Skinner Street** – tanners, skimmers and fellmongers, in addition to George Rydiard with a shop on **Cocker Bridge** (boot and shoe-makers), so clearly the Rydiard family were tanning leather, making shoes/boots from the leather, and selling the finished products in their shop.

THE PIONEER OF CHEAP FOOTWEAR.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 100 pairs Men's Calf Waters Boots 17/6. | 100 pairs Red Wool and Hemp Boots 15/6. | 100 pairs All Kinds of Boots 17/6. |
| 250 pairs Ladies' Gaiters 12/6. | 100 pairs Ladies' Gaiters 12/6. | 100 pairs Ladies' Gaiters 12/6. |
| 100 pairs Men's Shoes 12/6. | 100 pairs Men's Shoes 12/6. | 100 pairs Men's Shoes 12/6. |
| 100 pairs Children's Shoes 12/6. | 100 pairs Children's Shoes 12/6. | 100 pairs Children's Shoes 12/6. |

Geo. Rydiard, Jun.
(Nearly Opposite Station Street),
COCKERMOUTH.

George Rydiard Jr., Main Street, 1921

Gloria Edwards

Cockermouth Heritage Group, (Kirkgate Arts & Heritage)

Email: cockermouthheritagegroup@outlook.com

MILLOM AND DISTRICT



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MILLOM CASTLE SIEGE: 14th OCTOBER 1644

Whilst conducting research for their next event, members of Millom and District Local History Society have come up with two new pieces of evidence: The first one is the date of the first siege by the Roundheads of Millom Castle in 1644.

We know one Rev. Nathaniel Ward from Staindrop near Barnard Castle was killed at Millom Castle during the siege and that he made a nuncupative will (a will declared orally by a mortally wounded soldier or sailor). The Society discovered the will was held at Durham University Library Archives which can be searched on-line. The will was found; not only was it signed by five Royalists including John Huddleston, one of nine Huddleston brothers who fought for King Charles 1st in the English Civil Wars, but there is also a date: 14th October 1644. Up to now the date of the siege has been vague.

Examining their names it was discovered that they all came from Teeside; it seems the Huddlestons (who owned Millom Castle for 500 years) during this period did not live in Millom Castle but had moved to another family property in Romaldkirk Parish also near Barnard Castle, where the Huddleston brothers were baptised.

The second new piece of evidence was found during a search of Cumbria Archives with a document entitled *“A short relation of the faithful carriage and good service done for the parliament by Colonel Sir Wilfrid Lawson from the time that the Scots came into this County being the 4th of September 1644 and during the legare [siege] at Carlisle which broke up.”* This is written in Secretary Script which is difficult to understand so the Society paid a professional genealogist to transcribe it.

It seems that Sir Wilfrid was the Parliamentary commander-in-chief for Cumberland in 1644. But he was also one of several gentry of the period who switched sides: originally he was a supporter of King Charles. During the Rump parliament his loyalty was questioned and he was imprisoned for a short time but released and was re-elected MP for Cumberland in 1660.

This document outlines eight of his actions supporting Parliament and is signed, after each incident, by nine local gentry who, it is assumed, also fought for Parliament. It is believed this is the first time the document has been examined since it was deposited in the archive by the Lawson family. One of Colonel Sir Wilfred’s actions was to besiege Millom Castle. Until the discovery of this document there has been little information about the siege.

We learn that Colonel Sir Wilfred Lawson, with eleven foot companies and six cavalry troops, was ordered to march on Millom (he had sent three more of his foot companies and one cavalry troop to help with the siege of Carlisle). After a day and a night in Millom, the next night the Parliamentarians marched on Millom Castle to within a “pistol shot of the walls.” We are told, “there he [Sir Wilfred] secured his men with such advantage that the enemy could no way get out of the Castle, where upon some in the Castle being slain, it was shortly yielded to the said Sir Wilfred Lawson with the Cannon

arms, ammunition, and all therein, only the commanders and officers to have passed for their own homes.”

The document goes on to describe further actions against the Royalists which Sir Wilfred and his army took whilst marching to Carlisle; again, information hitherto unknown.

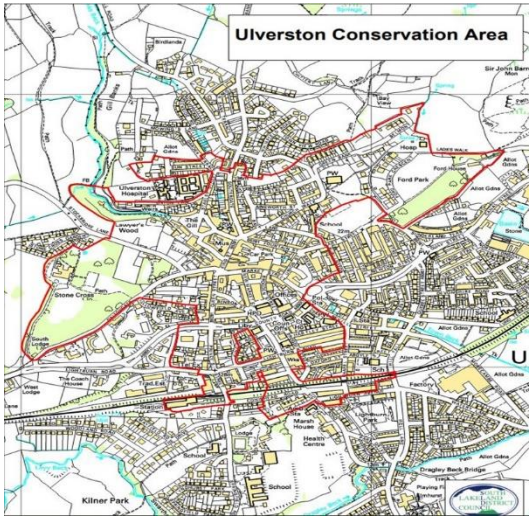
Millom and District Local History Society are holding an event on 11th November, 1-3 pm at Holy Trinity Church which stands alongside Millom Castle and was, like the Castle, damaged in the siege. The event will look at Millom Castle and the English Civil Wars. As well as members of the Society sharing the findings of their research, it is hoped there will be a talk from the Sealed Knot, the oldest re-enactment society in the UK. Visitors will be able to see where the Parliamentary cannons were positioned and view some of the Castle from behind the church (the Castle is too dangerous at the moment to be accessed by members of the public).

The Society are hoping to publish a book of their findings in the near future. Jan Bridget, Millom LHS.

ULVERSTON'S DISAPPEARING HERITAGE AND THE ULVERSTON & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY'S PURSUIT OF AN ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIVE

“Heads must roll,” was the cry earlier this year when it was revealed that precious artefacts from the British Museum's collections had gone missing and were now for sale online. Similarly, there was very public outrage at the demolition under somewhat suspicious circumstances of the much-loved Crooked House pub in Staffordshire. Widespread publicity for cases like these is the exception rather than the rule. The steady loss of our heritage assets across the country, with less famous historic buildings suffering from unsuitable alterations or their contents being spirited away, rarely hits the national media.

Ulverston is no stranger to this drip drip of loss harming its special character. In 2015 members of Ulverston Civic Society conducted a detailed survey to map Ulverston's heritage as part of a major conservation project. We hoped that the information gathered would help us towards being granted an Article 4 Directive – usually awarded when the Conservation Areas are originally designated, as was the case in Kendal.



To this end we undertook an extensive photographic survey of every building in the Conservation area and reviewed all the town's Listed Buildings filling in comprehensive surveys of damage and deterioration for each one. The findings were not good but we felt with the extra protection afforded by an Article 4 that we could stop the rot and preserve what was left of

the historic heart of our town.

This appeal for an Article 4 was not acknowledged and the last two decades have seen a massive decline in the appearance of Ulverston's town centre and surrounding residential areas. To take a few random examples, sash windows with their original glass have been swapped for incongruous PVC replacements, inappropriate and unauthorised illuminated signs have sprung up and historic shop fittings have disappeared along with iron gates and railings, graduated slate roofs and features such as lead hoppers on drainpipes. Even more depressing is the almost non-existence of enforcement of blatant and acknowledged infringements, due to lack of Local Authority staff.

ULVERSTON CONSERVATION AREA

**ADVICE AND GUIDANCE
FOR BUILDING
OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS**



Subsequently, Ulverston & District Civic Society has now changed tack, and is trying to address the problem at its source by alerting home owners to their responsibilities.

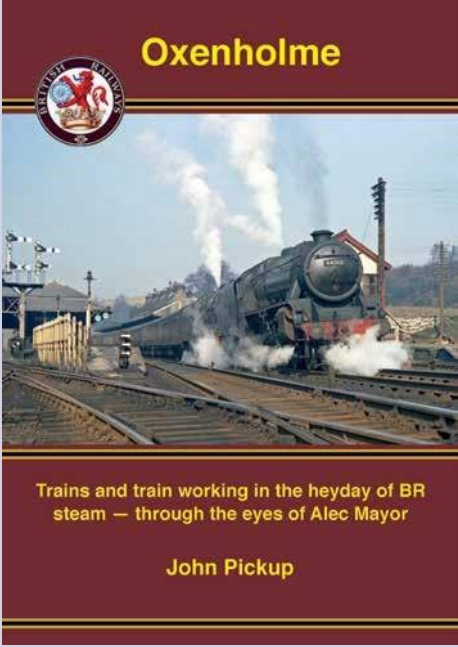
A charitable view is that owners and occupiers of listed buildings and of those in the Conservation Area (not to mention estate agents), are unaware of their properties' status and historic importance and of the law pertaining to such properties, so we have created two leaflets giving advice and guidance: one for owners and occupiers of listed buildings, and one for owners and occupiers of properties in the Conservation Area.

Ulverston Town Council has published the leaflets on their website but we felt that a printed

leaflet delivered, together with an accompanying letter, to all the listed building and all the properties in the Conservation Area would be most effective. We have worked in association with Ulverston Community Partnership to create these leaflets and they have volunteered to work alongside our own volunteers to deliver them.

The Society hopes that this advice and information may contribute to an increased awareness of, and pride in, the historic features which give Ulverston its unique character, and will help to preserve them for the future.

Jan Hancock, Ulverston and District Civil Society



**A New Book from the
Cumbrian Railways Association**
**Oxenholme - Trains and train working
in the heyday of BR Steam**
by John Pickup

This book portrays the railway scene around Oxenholme, a busy junction station at the foot of the Westmorland fells on the West Coast main line, in the heyday of BR steam from 1957 through 1961.

It looks to convey the many fascinations of train-working, and the daily challenges and goings-on that encouraged local enthusiast Alec Mayor to keep unique and detailed records of train operation and time-keeping.

Later, Paul Irving compiled them into a narrative rich with his personal insights as a Carlisle train controller. Though express passenger trains are naturally at the centre of the story, local services, parcels and the many freight trains that passed north and south take their places too.

Richly illustrated with Alec's own photographs and images from the wider collections of the Cumbrian Railways Association, the book draws on Alec and Paul's work to transport the reader back to enjoy the interest and excitement of those days again.

As Ron Herbert, who spent some years early in his railway career as a train and traffic controller in Preston said, "It's a superb read - reliving the railway as I remember it all those years ago. This was the real railway in action!"

The book has 48 pages, soft backed and priced £8.00.
Copies are available from **CRA Book Sales, 50 Tattershall, Toothill, Swindon. SN5 8BX** . The book can also be ordered through our website at cumbrianrailways.org.uk.

Charr Ponds in the Lake District

Does anyone have information about charr ponds in the Lake District?
There are two on the shores of Windermere but there should be three.
Did other lakes have them?

The fish were caught in the summer and put in the ponds for the winter table.

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Seasons Greetings to all CLHF Members From the Committee!

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