



Cumbria Local History Federation

Bulletin 101–Summer 2026



Sellafield, the site in 1956. Image from Wikipedia. See p32

Chairman's Chat	2
Federation business: Membership renewal, follow up from Enclosure How to Day and Mystery package	3
Special feature: The builder of North Lodge at Allonby	10
Story of Migration ; Thomas Holme - the Philadelphia Story	13
News from groups: Upper Eden Anniversary, South Tyneside, Millom LHS, Cumbria County History Trust, Kendal Heritage Partnership	18
Book review and notification of new publications:	27
Ph D student requests help on Sellafield based PhD	31
2026 CLHF Convention	34
CLHF request for information	36

CHAIRMANS CHAT

After what seemed like a cool Spring, I'm writing this on what is likely to be the hottest day of the year so far – into the low 30s (Celsius) around the county. Is this a blip in the weather for the year or a sign of things to come?

A few weeks ago, I attended a Community Rail Partnership event at Cark, near Grange over Sands. New Information boards about the local station were being shown off and I gave a talk on the place to a few stalwarts who braved the rain. I got to chat with someone local who I hadn't really had contact with for very many years. He had so many questions, and he is a local expert, I had as many for him! We got to reminiscing of our schooldays where the headmaster at our junior school was keen about our local history. Although several years separated us, we had had similar experiences of walking around the villages, or in poorer weather being shown slide shows, of interesting buildings and features: the waterwheel at the remaining corn mill, the manager's house for the long demolished cotton mill and so on. The most ambitious being a walk out into Morecambe Bay (with guides!!!) to see a drilling rig for an ill-fated plan to create large reservoirs for a proposed power station. I doubt many 10- 11-year-olds get such opportunities with 'Health and Safety' to follow. This is where I think they are missing out and we all could step in to fill that early introduction to local history.

Many of you will be on grandparent duties over the summer with youngsters to look after. With any luck you can tear them away from their smartphones and get them out for a walk or visit. Show them the locality, why certain buildings are important, how children their age would work on the farms, in the big houses or in the smaller factories and workshops in the village or town. What was made locally in the days before mass consumerism or easy transport to distant markets. Whilst we can't expect them all to be totally absorbed with these activities, some will get the bug for local history. It may not flourish straight away but at some point finding out why things are like they are from a local history context will come back to become the absorbing hobby we share. We need to encourage newer generations to follow in our footsteps.

Les Gilpin

Membership renewal and the use of membership software.

This may take some of the more irksome burdens from committees at a time when shortage of committee volunteers has been identified as a cause of so very many closures.

Sedbergh use an online service to help with membership renewals and some aspects of membership fee collection, linked to their bank.

Michelle Hartley, Membership Secretary, of Sedbergh & District History Society writes :

'I have been working with Membermojo <https://membermojo.co.uk/> for about two years now, and it seems to be working really well. . It's much easier to send out bulk emails and various members use this feature for our newsletters and Zoom talks. I'm still trying to get the hang of a few things, but it has also allowed members to update their details and new members (like yourself) to join easily.

We haven't integrated Barclays with the software, as you will have noticed you can't pay via Membershipmojo as it can only take Paypal. We have set up a Paypal account but are only using it for overseas members who struggle to pay electronically as Barclays now no longer takes foreign cheques. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, I'm sure there are a few other CLHF members who have similar issues and questions.

email: membership@sedberghhistory.org.uk

web:<http://www.sedberghhistory.org.uk>'

For groups with a smaller membership number, use of the Membership Mojo software or parts of it is free. There are numerous membership software packages available beside the one that Sedbergh use.

Follow on from 'How to Day' on Enclosures

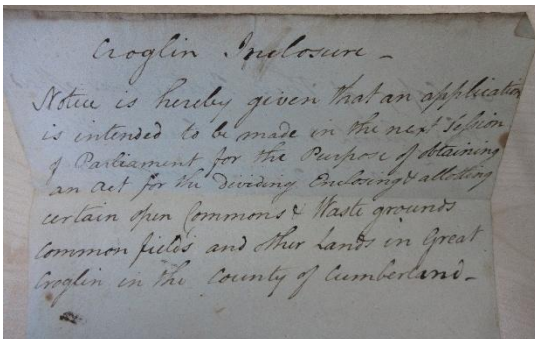
Some legal comments

Inclosure or Enclosure?

At the CLHF session on enclosures held in Cartmel Village Hall on 28th February 2026 a member of the audience asked why different spellings were used for enclosure. I was aware that enclosure was the spelling most commonly in current use, but as a former practising solicitor with a respect for tradition, I preferred to use inclosure. After all, that was the spelling used at the time the Inclosure Acts were passed and that spelling was used in the awards which flowed from the Acts. The Brampton Inclosure Act of 1777 retains that title and does not, unless amended by a further Act of Parliament, change its title to the Brampton Enclosure Act.

Might enclosure and inclosure mean different things?

The third edition of the excellent and very readable book *The Law of the Manor* by Christopher Jessel was published in 2024, which is surprising given the demise of the manorial system as a result of the Law of Property Act 1922, which provided for land of copyhold or customary tenure to be enfranchised and converted to ordinary freehold when the *manorial incidents* had been extinguished. Inclosure took place in the context of the manorial system and is lucidly dealt with by Mr Jessel. He starts the



chapter on inclosure by explaining the difference between inclosure and enclosure and cites the 1958 *Report of the Royal Commission on Common Land* as authority for the difference.

Image from 1808 document showing use of both inclosure and enclosure

Mr Jessel describes inclosure as “the conversion of open common or commonable land to land held in severalty, that is as a close in the exclusive occupation of one proprietor or group of proprietors.” Helpfully, The Royal Commission *Report* identifies the exercise as “the process by which common rights over a piece of land are extinguished and the land turned into ‘ordinary freehold’.”

The *Report* identifies that inclosure was used historically to mean both that the land had been taken into individual ownership free of common rights **and** that it had been fenced, although we need to be careful about the word fence. Land could be fenced with hedges and *fencing* is not restricted to erecting artificial boundary structures as became the norm in the 20th and 21st centuries.

This brings me back to *The Law of the Manor* in which Mr Jessel records that inclosure was usually accompanied by enclosure, that is fenced, although fencing was not essential.

In modern usage inclosure and enclosure are no longer the same activity. Land may be inclosed and not enclosed. Mr Jessel points out that in arable areas uninterrupted expanses of crop may spread over miles, without any need for individual owners of parcels of crop to fence. There are no cattle or sheep which need to be kept on the owner’s land.

Conclusion

In modern times enclosure and inclosure mean different things, with the spelling inclosure being preserved for legal documents (Inclosure Acts and awards) and the legal activity of converting former common land into ordinary freehold. Enclosure is used to describe the physical process of putting a hedge, wall or fence around land so as to form a close.

Boyd Holmes, MA, MBA, Solicitor (Retired)

When Public might mean Private in old documents

We are all familiar with the word *estate* when applied to housing estates, industrial estates and estates of country land. Here the word *estate* describes how land is being used, eg to accommodate a number of houses or perhaps a number of farms owned by one family, sometimes for hundreds of years, but farmed by different tenants. Like many disciplines, the law has its own language. However, unlike scientific disciplines, which often use words the rest of us have never heard of, the law uses some ordinary English words in a different way and *estate* is one such word. Law students soon discover that the word *estate* is used to describe the nature or quality of the ownership, such as freehold or leasehold.

Lawyers must address this divergence in the usage of words during their working lives – and beyond. It was only whilst researching inclosure awards at the more leisurely pace which retirement permits when I discovered that some rights described in the awards as *public*, such as the right to take stone from a quarry or rights of way across the land of another, are not truly *public*, as that word is understood in the 21st century. We now use *public* to mean the public at large, or people as a whole. The word *public* was more nuanced in earlier centuries, although writers and actors can still have a public who follow their work.

Inclosure Awards – Parliamentary

The manor of Hayton (inclosed in 1704 and 1814) lies in north Cumberland and adjoins the manors of Brampton (inclosed in 1778) and Castle Carrock (inclosed in 1805). The three manors are within the Barony of Gilsland, and the Earl of Carlisle was lord of the three manors on inclosure.

The 1814 Hayton inclosure award confirmed rights to use the sandstone quarry adjoining the River Gelt and the Brampton award covered the quarry across the Gelt gorge, with the river being the boundary between the two manors. One Castle Carrock quarry was on the fell above the

village of Castle Carrock at a place called Knots. Copies of the three awards are held at the Carlisle Archive Centre.

Whilst the exact wording of the three awards differs, the terms of the quarry rights granted in the awards follow a similar scheme. In the Castle Carrock award the inclosure commissioners provided as follows:

“And we do further award order assign set out and appoint for and as public freestone quarries to be for ever hereafter appropriated to and for the common use and benefit of the Lord or Lords Lady or Ladies of the aforesaid Barony and Manor for the time being and the several Landowners and Tenants within the said Manor for the time being respectively pursuant to the directions contained in the said Act All those two Plots or parcels of the said Moors Commons and Waste Grounds (that is to say) one Parcel of the said Moors Commons and Waste Ground situate at a place called Knots adjoining...”

Earlier in the award it is recited that the Act of Parliament authorising the award provided that free stone taken from the quarries was only to be used *“within the said Barony and Manor but not to be sold or otherwise disposed of...”*

From the words used in the award it can be seen that the *public* entitled to take stone from the public quarry was not the general public (or public at large) but those, and only those, to whom the right was given in the award.

Similar considerations can apply to rights of way. Inclosure awards often award or confirm rights to use roads and other ways, covering the entire range of ways from the King’s Highway through other public roads and occupation roads to private roads and footpaths. In the case of public roads, it is necessary, as with quarries, to ascertain which public is being referred to and it cannot be assumed that all roads identified as public were to be public highways.

The 1814 Hayton award granted rights to use the road to the quarry in the following terms:

“And we further award order direct and appoint that all Persons shall use and enjoy the same Roads as heretofore to the public Freestone Quarry and...”

The words following *Freestone Quarry and* are significant, and serve to indicate the true status of the road:

“to their respective Shares of Moss Ground in the Allotments sold...”

These additional words alert the reader to the fact that the right to use this road, along with the right to use roads leading to shares of moss, is a private right. It follows that the confirmation of the right to use the road “as heretofore to the public Freestone Quarry” was not of a public highway for the use of the general public, but a right of way for a group of people (the lord, landowners and tenants of Hayton manor).

Page 11 of the 4th edition of the highly-respected book *Rights of Way; A Guide to the Law and Practice*, published by the Ramblers’ Association and the Open Spaces Society records the law here:

“A right of way for an individual or any group other than the public at large is a private right of way.”

Ordnance Survey Practice

Ordnance Survey Books of Reference published alongside the first edition of large-scale OS maps (1:2,500) are another source of misunderstanding. The maps for the Brampton area, including Hayton and Castle Carrock, were published in the 1860s. The words *Public road* appearing in the column under *Description* are not definitive of the status of a road and serve only to classify roads according to their appearance to the surveyor. Paragraph 96 in the section of the Ordnance Survey’s *Instructions to Field Examiners* (1905) dealing with roads and footpaths baldly states:

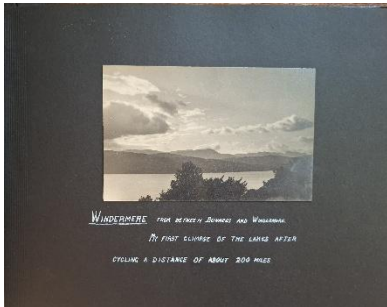
“The Ordnance Survey does not concern itself with rights of way, and employés [sic] are not to enquire into them.”

This might help to explain why a road over the former Brampton common is shown as a *Public road* in the Book of Reference. However, it had been awarded as a private road in 1788.

Boyd Holmes, MA, MBA,
Solicitor (Retired)

THE MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE

A couple of weeks ago Liz who used to be the membership secretary



received a large Jiffy bag through the post, addressed to the Cumbria Local history Federation. It obviously contained a book, but no members of the committee were expecting anything. Was it a new publication for review?

At the next committee meeting that was held in Shap the package was retrieved and with great excitement was opened. A black early 20th Century photo album was inside with a letter.

The letter was from a Louise Burgel a sales assistant at the Paul Sartori (Hospice at Home) retail shop at Narbeth in South Wales. The album had been given as a donation to the Hospice. After examining the album it was felt it was not suitable for sale but should be put in a suitable archive/museum.

The Album covers a trip to the Lakes in the Summer of 1937 and contains picture of various scenes in the Lakes and the persons account of his visit staying in youth hostels around the area.

Louise had attempted to contact a number of museums in the Lakes with no luck and had therefore posted the album to the Federation. We will deposit it with the county archive service in the near future.

Graham Brooks

The Builder of North Lodge, Allonby

Thomas Richardson (1770 - 1853) was a Quaker who in 1799 married a girl from Allonby. She was Martha Beeby, from a local family, but they were both working in London, in the house of Quaker bankers called Smith. Thomas was born in Darlington, County Durham, son of a humble brush maker and was related to the famous Pease family, who had made their fortune as wool merchants. In fact his Pease cousin Edward paid a shilling for Thomas to travel down to London as an outside passenger on a stagecoach, to start his new job in the Smith household. The Quaker network was a close community and prospects were thought to be better in London, than in a small rural town, as Darlington then was. Thomas had received a "scant education" but was a bright lad and soon prospered.



The Beeby family business was on the shore at Allonby. It had several purposes all connected with the sea. Ship building, ship breaking, fishing and fish curing were all activities that earned them a living. The couple married on 15 October 1799. A painting of around 1800, untitled and unsigned, exists, of a young man aged about thirty, thought to be of Thomas Richardson, that appears to be one of a pair. The corresponding one is missing. Although Quakers' attitudes to

having portraits painted varied, Thomas by this time had progressed

rapidly in his career and could be justifiably proud of his success. Was the portrait painted to celebrate the wedding?

Thomas had had a revolutionary idea, one which was to transform the banking world. With John Overend from Settle, (who married Thomas's sister, also called Martha), he began to charge commission on bills (forerunners of cheques) to the receiving bank only, and not to the lending bank, as had previously been the case. The idea rapidly caught on and when in 1807, they were joined by Samuel Gurney, of the famous family of Norfolk bankers (including Elizabeth Fry) their fortune was assured.

With an office in Lombard Street, the Richardsons built themselves a smart new house in the fast-developing suburb of Stamford Hill, then two miles out of central London. Back in Cumberland, Thomas also built a row of almshouses in Allonby, with accommodation for himself and Martha on their visits to see her family. Parson and White's *History and Directory* of 1829, states the following -

'Thomas Richardson, Esq. of Stamford Hill, London, ...has lately built a handsome mansion for his occasional residence. The two wings of the building are formed into six cottages in which Mr. Richardson generously allows as many poor families to live rent free.'



North Lodge at Allonby

North Lodge, as the 'mansion' is called, stands at the extreme north of Allonby with only the road between it and the shore. The building is

described as being early 19th century, of cement rendered walls under a green slate roof. The central house of two storeys (for Thomas and Martha), is flanked by two single-storey cottages and these in turn have a two-storey cottage at either end. The building faces the sea and apart from the simple central Tuscan porch, there are no entrances to the cottages. They are all at the back, protected from the winds by the building.

The Quaker Meeting House is nearby. Allonby has several grand buildings, many with Quaker connections, notably that known as the Reading Room, (now a house) standing on the shore side of the road, commissioned by Joseph Pease in 1861, the first Quaker member of Parliament. Alfred Waterhouse was the architect. He also designed the Natural History Museum and Balliol College, Oxford, along with many other famous buildings.

Thomas made a huge fortune and in 1815 was one of the founders of Wigton Quaker School. In 1826 he went on to buy the land when the school moved sites. He made many other gifts to the funds of the school for specific items, (eg the library, spades for the boys, frocks for the girls, etc.). He was one of the financial backers of the Stockton to Darlington Railway (bicentenary last year), was one of the founders of Middlesborough (previously a village of 13 houses) opening up the Tees to industrial development, and supported the Stevensons in developing steam power.

Thomas died at Redcar in 1853 and is buried at Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, where he spent his retirement in Cleveland Lodge, the house he built in 1840. He established the Friends School there, originally as an agricultural college.

The portrait mentioned above shows an eager young man, full of hope and ideas, whereas another portrait known to be of Thomas Richardson shows a more mature man, portly, successful and comfortable. It was painted along with one of Martha, which still exists, when they were aged about fifty. Were they painted to mark their silver wedding? The likeness between the two pictures is striking.

June Hill, Cumbria Vernacular Building Group

Editors note: Migration

Continuing the focus on Migration and its impact on Local History I am pleased to include a timely article from Hawkshead Grammar School which tells the story of a Cumbrian student who left his mark on an American city.

Thomas Holme – The Philadelphia Story

As the United States of America marks the 250th anniversary of its founding, it is fitting to celebrate one of Hawkshead Grammar School's most distinguished former pupils: Thomas Holme, a man whose vision and skill helped lay the foundations of one of America's most important cities and, ultimately, the nation itself.

Thomas Holme was born in 1624 on the Coniston side of Hawkshead Parish, the son of George Holme and Alice Whiteside. Initially educated at the small dame school at Coniston Waterhead, his childhood was marked by tragedy when his father died in 1630. His mother remarried and moved across the hills to Hawkshead and Thomas entered Hawkshead Grammar School under the guidance of the headmaster Francis Magson.

The education he received at Hawkshead would prove invaluable throughout his life. Contemporary accounts suggest that his schooling equipped him with the intellectual and practical skills that later distinguished him. His surviving writings and achievements reveal a man who was intelligent, highly literate, and capable of applying knowledge to real-world challenges. These qualities would serve him well as he embarked on a career that would eventually leave a lasting mark on history.

Thomas joined Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army during one of the most turbulent periods in British history. While stationed at Tewkesbury, he met Sarah Croft, whom he married in 1649. Six months later, serving as a captain, he travelled to Ireland as part of Cromwell's campaign. It was there that his talents as a surveyor and engineer began to emerge.

Holme became involved in a variety of engineering and surveying projects, including work on the repair of Core Castle. In 1654, he was commissioned to assist with the Civil Survey of County Kerry and later contributed to the famous Down Survey of Ireland, one of the most ambitious mapping projects of the seventeenth century. These experiences provided him with extensive knowledge of land measurement, cartography, and settlement planning.

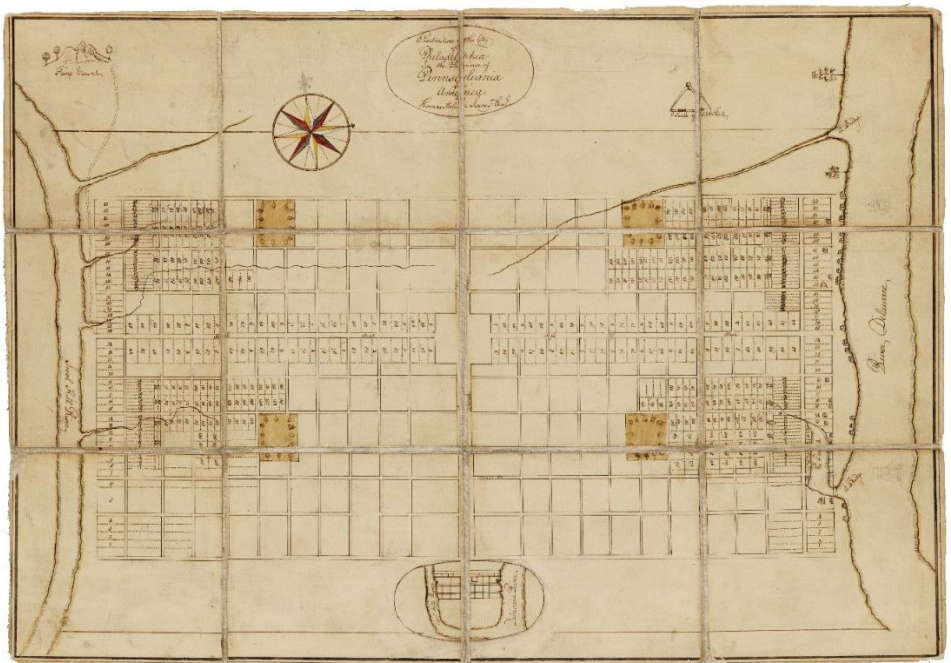
As part of Cromwell's resettlement programme in Ireland, Holme was granted 5,000 acres of land in County Wexford. Settling there with his family, he turned his attention to farming and estate management. He encountered George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, became a Quaker and an active member of the movement. Like many early Quakers, Holme experienced persecution for his religious beliefs. Nevertheless, he remained committed to the principles of the faith. After Sarah died in 1676, he became increasingly involved in political and commercial affairs, and met William Penn, the prominent Quaker.

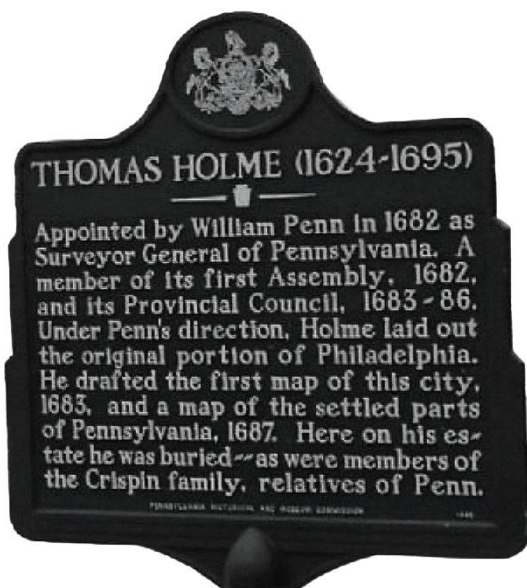
In 1682 Penn had received a royal charter to establish a new colony in North America and required a skilled surveyor to help organise and develop it. His original surveyor, William Crispin, had died during the voyage to America. Thomas who had already shown an interest in emigration and had connections with the Pennsylvania Company, accepted Penn's invitation to become the 1st Surveyor General of Pennsylvania. With his children, he embarked on a journey that would change both his life and the future of the American colonies.

One of his first and most significant tasks was to design a new city on the banks of the Delaware River where ships could safely dock and trade. Drawing upon his experience as a surveyor and planner, he created what became known as the "Philadelphia Plan."

His design was revolutionary. Rather than allowing the city to develop haphazardly, Holme laid out an orderly grid of streets divided into quadrants, each centred around a public square. Influenced by memories of the devastation caused by the Great Fire of London in 1666, he incorporated generous open spaces and public parks into the design.

The plan encouraged healthier living conditions, improved access, and reduced the risk of catastrophic urban fires. Completed in 1683, Holme's design is regarded as the first town plan created on the North American continent. The basic framework he established continues to define much of central Philadelphia today.





In 1687, he completed a detailed map of Pennsylvania that provided the first accurate representation of the colony. He was active in public life, serving as a member of Pennsylvania's first Assembly and Provincial Council. He worked as a provincial judge and commissioner of property, helping to

shape the administrative foundations of the young colony.

Thomas Holme spent his final years on his estate, Well Spring, near Philadelphia. He died in 1695 at the age of seventy-one and was buried in the Crispin Cemetery on his property. Part of the estate later became Pennypack Park, one of Philadelphia's largest public green spaces. A monument and dedication plaque mark his grave, and his legacy continues to be honoured in the city he helped create. The district of Holmesburg bears his name, while the Thomas Holme Elementary School stands as a lasting reminder of his achievements.

Eighty-one years after Holme completed his visionary city plan, Philadelphia became known as the "Birthplace of America." The First Continental Congress convened there in 1774, and in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in Independence Hall. From 1790 until 1800, Philadelphia served as the first official capital of the United States before the federal government relocated to Washington, D.C.



Today, visitors to Hawkshead Grammar School Museum continue to discover the remarkable story of Thomas Holme. It has become one of the museum's most popular and inspiring tales, particularly among American visitors. On one memorable occasion, two guests from Philadelphia were delighted to learn that Holme had originated from the Hawkshead area. Their surprise quickly turned to amazement when they discovered that he had actually attended the school itself. Even more astonishing was the realisation that they were sitting at the very desk where Thomas Holme had once studied—a desk still bearing the carved inscription of his name after nearly four centuries.

It is moments such as these that demonstrate the enduring power of local history. Through the work of the museum's researchers and volunteers, the lives of former pupils are once again being remembered. Their stories reveal how a small grammar school nestled among the fells of the Lake District helped educate individuals whose influence reached far beyond Cumbria, shaping communities, nations, and even the foundations of the modern world.

Neil Salisbury
Hawkshead Grammar School Museum

Celebrating Upper Eden History Society's 40th anniversary, March 2026

In the mid-1980s, Tom Clare (County Archaeologist at the time) gave a series of evening classes in Kirkby Stephen on local history. These were so successful that Tom suggested a local history society might be founded. The first meeting was held in February 1986 and the society has continued to meet regularly ever since. Even during the Covid-19 lockdown period we held Zoom meetings and produced a monthly newsletter, keeping our members in touch with local history.



So, how to celebrate 40 years? Obviously there had to be cake, and we were delighted to welcome Tom Clare back to Kirkby Stephen to act as cake cutter.

Tim Haldon, from Alston, opened the event with a talk about the on-line CLHF Archive Catalogue that he designed. Tim has trained a few UEHS members in how to use the database and we now have a small team of cataloguers and over 1300 catalogue entries (see uehs.clhf.org.uk). The

society has a number of short films in its archive and we were able to show a couple of these before breaking for a buffet lunch prepared by the members. Terry Harvey-Chad was our booked speaker for the afternoon, talking about 'Life and Warfare in the Viking Age'. Terry dressed in Viking costume and demonstrated a range of replica Viking weapons very effectively, and then it was time for tea and cake, rounding off a wonderful day. Here's to the next 40 years!

Anne Taylor, Chair, Upper Eden History Society upperedenhistory.org.uk

South Tynedale History Group

Whitley Shielings on the Northumberland / Cumbria border



Photo: Walk to Whitley Shielings by Julia James

Sunday 12th April this year saw 16 intrepid explorers set off from Epiacum Roman Fort car park up and over the fell to explore the Whitley Shielings. The walk was certainly an endurance test, which all 16 folk passed with



flying colours. We ended up walking 6 miles up and down hills, through boggy, uneven ground, in 20mph winds and some rain on our return from the Whitley Shielings. To think that folk went up there to live in the summer months 400 years ago is astonishing!!

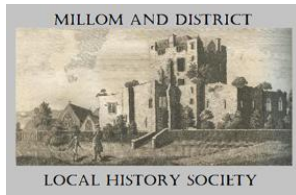
Shielings were upland summer grazing lands and settlements for the seasonal removal of herds and flocks from the lower enclosed lands to higher ground, so allowing the lower land to recover from

grazing and hay crops to be grown as winter fodder. The period of removal to the fells was strictly controlled either by the lord of the manor or the local manor court. The Whitley Shield site is on the north bank of the Gilderdale Burn, just within the Northumberland county boundary, with Cumbria on the other side of the burn.

Thanks so much to Alastair Robertson, our leader for the day for getting us all there and back. See the photo of one of the 20 Shielings showing the remaining walls taken by Christine Mineham.

Thanks to the landowners for allowing us to trudge across their land on the day.

Richard Macdonald, Chairman- South Tynedale History Group
macasrich9@gmail.com



VICTORIAN LECTURE ABOUT FURNESS AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS, FOUND AND PUBLISHED

William Barrow Kendall (1851 - 1919) was a keen antiquarian, engineer and member of Barrow Naturalist Field Club (BNFC). He researched and wrote about many parts of Furness - with some of his articles published in the BNFC journal, Transactions, available in the local history section at Barrow Library.

William was born at Salthouse Farm, Barrow-in-Furness and was the eldest of ten children. He attended Ulverston grammar school then trained to be an engineer, working for Furness railway. He moved to London for his work and was able to continue delving into the history of Furness by accessing documents at the Public Records Office. Whilst researching for the book Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil War at Barrow archives, the chair of Millom and District Local History Society, Jan Bridget, discovered his hand-written lecture, Furness and the Civil War between King and Parliament. It is a fascinating piece of writing which covers an important time in Furness history.

As the document has never been published before, and is over 100 years old, it was thought there would be no problem publishing it. But government brought in a law in 1988 making such documents fall under copyright laws until 2034 - unless a special license is obtained or permission is given from a descendant. How do you find the descendants of someone who never married, had no children, and died in 1919?

Luckily, Stuart Kendall, a descendant from William's brother, Thomas, with whom William is buried in Londonderry, is interested in family history and got a friend, Cari, to research and compile his family tree which,

importantly, is available on Ancestry. Through Cari, Jan was able to make contact with Stuart who was delighted to give permission to Millom and District Local History Society to publish his Great grand-uncle's work.

Jan said, "Millom and District Local History Society are thrilled to be able to share this important document with the public. We would like to thank Barrow Archives and Stuart Kendall for their help and hope that through the publication, more people will be introduced to this local historian but also learn more about what was happening in Furness during this crucial period in the history of England."

The lecture looks at the civil war in general, with attention paid to events in Lancashire, especially the two skirmishes between Royalists and Parliamentarians that occurred in Furness - one at Lindal Cote, the other south of Dalton. Local resident, Angela Butcher has found a cannon ball and three musket balls in the garden of her cottage, part of the old tithe barn for Furness Abbey, and local metal detectorist, Stuart Flett has found hundreds of musket and pistol lead shot from around Ashlack Hall, one of the residences of the Royalist Kirkby family. Copies of the booklet are available, £5, at Sutton's Bookshop, Ulverston

Jan Bridget Chair [Millom and District Local History Society](#)

Cumbria County History Trust

Gift of historic 'red book'

The Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria, Alexander Scott has been presented with a copy of the Victoria County History red book recording the history of parishes in Lonsdale Ward, the first red book to be published for communities in the modern county of Cumbria.

The chairman of the Cumbria County History Trust, Mark Blackett-Ord explained that this is the first of a predicted 20 volumes which will eventually cover the parish histories of the entire county of Cumbria.

Lorna Mulett

KENDAL HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

Kendal Heritage Partnership (KHP) had its third meeting on 4 June 2026. On a general note, it can be said that the Partnership is starting to find its feet as an important heritage body in the town; both in terms of providing an independent forum for discussion and consultation on heritage-related items and in providing specific support to organisations where needed.

1. The future of County Hall (Louise McKenna, Westmorland and Furness Council)

Westmorland and Furness Council (W&F) have now determined to dispose of this asset and are planning discussion with a number of parties as to how to do this in the best interests of the town and local community. The Council is open to the possibility of County Hall becoming a Community Asset Transfer. Kendal Futures, who work closely with W&F, has made strong representation to the Council on the need to ensure there is proper information sharing, consultation and strategic discussion on the future of this significant building and that its future is considered in the wider context of the proposals for the Busher Walk site and its environs. W&F agreed that a visit to the County Hall site could be arranged for representatives of key bodies, including Kendal Civic Society.

2. Heritage Open Days (Simon Unsworth, Kendal Town Council)

The Partnership has been working to facilitate a co-ordinated programme of Heritage Open Day (HOD) events in Kendal. Previously events have been arranged separately by individual organisations. Simon Unsworth, Events and Civic Officer from Kendal Town Council (KTC) is undertaking the co-ordination. In addition to the publicity produced by the national organisation (HOD), KTC will produce a local programme. A number of events are already in the planning stages, as reported to the meeting. The HOD period is from 11th-20th September. The Kendal programme will include a Heritage Weekend over Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th September, with Abbot Hall park used as a focal point for activities, including celebrations for the 450th anniversary of the Town's Charter on

the Sunday. Organisations wishing to run a Kendal HOD event should liaise with Simon Unsworth as well as with the HOD nationally.

3. Quaker Tapestry Museum (Jenny Pearman, Kendal and Sedbergh Quakers)

Following the closure of the Quaker Tapestry Museum (QTM) in 2025, Kendal and Sedbergh Quakers have been working hard to provide access to the Museum for one day a week, staffed by volunteers, as an interim measure amid ongoing discussions on the long-term future of the Museum. The one-day a week opening is going well, proving there is significant demand for this important Museum to remain open. KHP has been instrumental in providing support to QTM, and KTC has provided a £5,000 grant to assist. The QT Collection Trust appeal is still ongoing.

4. Kendal's Public Realm (Ruth Leahy, W&F Council)

RL provided important updates on the 'Heart of Kendal Scheme' which comprises improvements to the public realm of Kendal. Funding from the government's Local Regeneration Fund totalling £13.2m will go on improvements to the Indoor Market Hall, Market Place, Kent Street and the Riverside Corridor (linking Kent Street to Abbot Hall). Improvements utilising other funding sources are also planned to the Bus Station infrastructure. A number of people commented on the need to ensure there was linkage between the various projects. Paula Scott from Kendal Futures reported on work being done to produce a design guide for such endeavours including guidance for businesses and shops wishing to improve their premises. Heritage would form an aspect of this guidance. A report was also made by RL on the work being done by W&F to take advantage of new national planning regulations to enable local councils to address the problem of empty shops. This would require leaseholders to conduct an auction of their leases within a specified time enabling entrepreneurs and new businesses to more easily take up such places and hopefully contribute to a vibrant town centre.

5. Future of the Kendal Town Museum and Kendal Archive Centre (reports by Louise McKenna and Charlotte Hawley, W&FC and Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist Cumbria Archives)

These items were taken together as they are now intrinsically linked in W&F Council's planning and consultation processes. The crucial news was that Kendal College have now formally confirmed they do not wish to renew the contract they have with W&F to manage the **Town Museum**; thus, their involvement will cease with effect from September 2028 when the current Management Agreement comes to an end. In February it was discovered that there is a serious case of carpet beetle infestation in the wildlife collection of the Museum, which has necessitated speedy conservation work on the part of the College and W&F to preserve the collection. The partnership with Kenya regarding the cultural objects of the Nandi people which have been in Kendal for around a century is developing both in Kendal and in Kenya. CWAAS will be holding a conference in Kendal on Cumbria and colonialism in the autumn which will develop the understanding of the background to the arrival of these cultural objects in Kendal, and discussions continue regarding strengthening the links between the town and the area inhabited by the Nandi people. An application has been made to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for funding to support this work. The Museum Steering Group is now meeting on a monthly basis. **Kendal Archive Centre** is now temporarily closed, with 15% of the collection being held in Carlisle and 85% in the Cheshire deep mine. It is hoped to re-open the 'front door' of the Archives to researchers in July. There will be weekly runs to Cheshire to retrieve requested documents. An inspection by the National Archives over the summer will inform the re-accreditation process next year. W&F have now started on their planning and consultation process for the long-term future of both the Museum and the Archives, including the engagement of Janice Tullock Associates – Archive and Heritage Consultants – who have wide experience in the sector.

6. Other reports/updates

Other reports and updates were made by the following organisations

Lakeland Arts has commenced Phase One (two years) of its National Heritage Lottery (NHL)-funded project, with a Cataloguing Assistant and a consultant planned to join the organisation to push forward on the development activities which will provide the foundation for Phase Two funding. **Kendal Town of Culture** – a decision on the town's bid in this national competition is expected by the end of July. **Kendal Parish Church** has submitted its bid for Phase Two of its NHL-funded project, with a decision expected in September. **Stricklandgate House** has recently undergone a visit and assessment by the NHL to make a decision on its application for Phase Two funding, with a decision expected in mid-June. It was reported that the assessors liked the Heritage Partnership approach being undertaken in the town. **Kendal Unitarian Church** – work was now going ahead, thanks to generous donations, on the restoration of the beautiful School Room, closed in 2022. It was hoped to complete the work by the end of the year. **Kendal Civic Society** – a project to restore and remove the historic water fountain on Aynam Road to Abbot Hall park was now in full swing. **Kendal Yards** – the Chair reminded members of the need to be vigilant on the emergence of any problems in particular yards which could undermine this important aspect of Kendal's heritage. **Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society** reported they had a number of funds which were available for different aspects of heritage work/projects. Members were encouraged to consult their website for details: https://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/cumbriapast/cp_main.pl

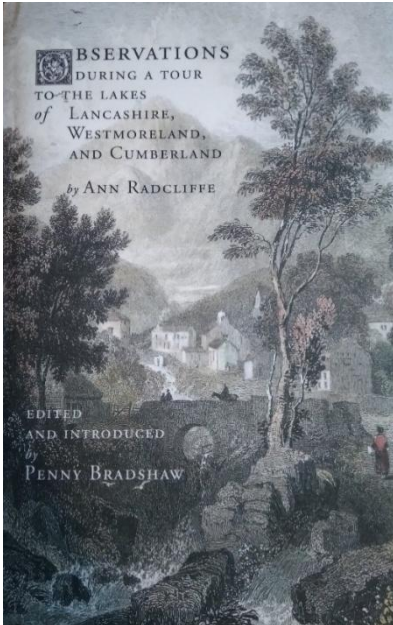
7. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 17th November.

J Anstee, on behalf of Kendal Local Heritage Partnership.

Book Reviews

OBSERVATIONS during a tour to the Lakes of Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland



edited & introduced

by Penny Bradshaw

Hobnob Press 2024 2nd edition

vii+148pp

ISBN :978-1-914407-65-9)

£14.95

This excellent book is the first edition of the Lakes section of Anne Radcliffe's 1794 tour to be published separately from her observations during her European forays – her absorbing account sits somewhere between the instrumentalist views of Defoe and the slightly later lyrical Lakes poets.

The lengthy Introductory essay is essential reading to understand the context in which the *Observations* were written and the content of each of the individual entries. It provides historical and biographical background, outlines the rise of tourism in the Lakes referring to those who come both before and after Radcliffe, and importantly it clarifies the way in which Ann Radcliffe's *Observations* are an attempt to introduce her own, new, way of depicting the landscape. Ann Radcliffe chose not to follow a route through the Lake district which had been proscribed by others and what comes through is a more direct and genuine engagement with the environment

than those who followed “the sublime” from afar and went to pre-determined viewpoints.

Ann Radcliffe was an acclaimed novelist and sales of her third novel funded her excursions abroad and to the North West of England to write her *Observations*. It is mainly for these “gothic” novels that she is remembered and there is an echo of the gothic in many of her travel and nature descriptions in the *Observations*. Her visit to Furness Abbey ruins in the Vale of Nightshade and her “mind’s eye” description of the procession of monks there would not be out of place in one of her novels.

Ann Radcliffe was interested in the area’s human history as much as the quality of the landscape frequently commenting on domestic life, blissful or otherwise, and suggesting that the “civilised though simple life” was an admirable state. To the modern ear it all sounds somewhat condescending but readers should bear in mind the date when it was written – England’s social structure at the time was hugely hierarchical. Original footnotes have been retained and presented within the main text and further expanded in the final four pages. Detailed, comprehensive and thorough they are an excellent final addition. Radcliffe’s use of phonetic renderings of some of the villages and fells is interesting, it allows those unfamiliar with Cumbrian dialect to have some kind of ear for it! The editor chose to use the later notes to offer commentary on this aspect of the *Observations* and this was absolutely the right choice so as to leave the whole reading experience uninterrupted.

An interesting selection of several monochrome illustrations accompany the text throughout. Some are undated but the earliest, an engraving of Brougham Castle, has a date of 1774 whilst the latest one c. 1850 depicts Derwentwater. They often show an exaggerated version of the topography or present an overly romanticised image of reality – given the time-span of these images that is perhaps unsurprising and they are useful reminders, if not entirely accurate, as to the nature of the landscape Ann Radcliffe was travelling through.

Crossing, with a guide, the “wide desolation” of the sands from Ulverston to Lancaster is the final section and Ann Radcliffe looks back on the view of

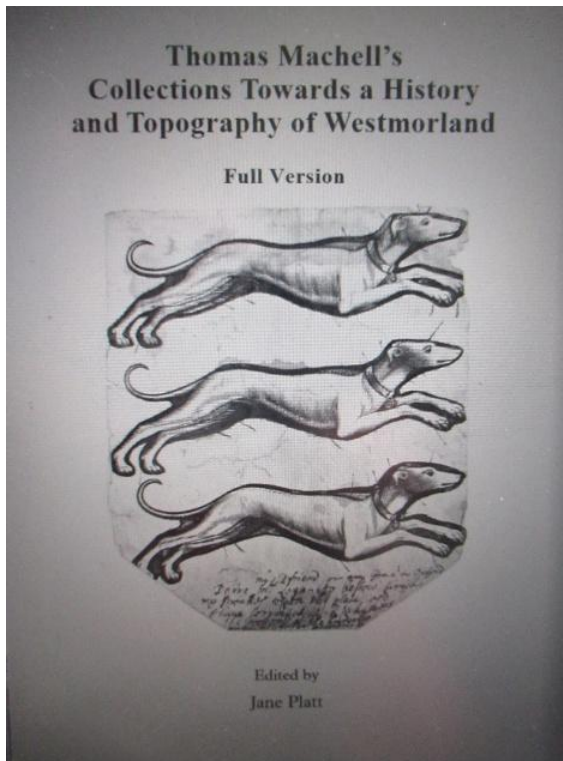
the Westmorland mountains she has just visited noting the “infinite delight” they had provided - it seems a very fitting end.

Anyone with an interest in the development of landscape aesthetics or more widely an interest in the Lake District will surely find this book well-researched and informative.

Carol Dougherty

THOMAS MACHELL

Collections Towards a History and Topography of Westmorland



In February 2026, the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS) in conjunction with the Armitt Library and Museum in Ambleside held an event to launch the publication of Thomas Machell's *Westmorland*.

Machell was the rector of Kirkby Thore in the late seventeenth century and compiled his *Collections* for the county of Westmorland. These were unpublished in his lifetime and remained so for 350 years until Dr Jane Platt undertook the scholarly challenge of transcribing Machell's manuscripts for publication, a task which had deterred and defeated many before her.

Dr Platt gave an engaging presentation about the pleasures and pains of completing so significant an achievement and in doing so thanked some of those who helped her along the way. Professor Angus Winchester responded with high praise not only for Dr Platt's achievement but for the wealth of information historians may now find in Machell's work.

Significantly, the launch took place in Machells' county of Westmorland. The work covers every parish in the county, not only the Kendal and Lake District parts but also the area around Appleby and Machell's own parish of Kirkby Thore. There are additional chapters on subjects such as heraldry and antiquities.

The whole publication, enhanced by Dr Platt's Introduction and her copious and informative footnotes, is now available for free consultation on the website of the CWAAS – search Cumbria Past. In addition, only a very few hard copy versions, appearing in three substantial volumes, have been printed. The goodwill and support of CWAAS and a donation by a Friend of the Armitt have enabled one of those hard copies to be lodged permanently at the Armitt in Ambleside, the only such publicly available copy in Machell's own county of Westmorland.

Barry McKay

Message from Ph D student about Recording West Cumbria's Nuclear Heritage

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Calder Hall - the first commercial nuclear power station in the world to generate electricity at an industrial scale

Known as ‘the father of the nuclear industry’, when it opened in 1956 Calder Hall signified a turning point for both the region and international nuclear innovation. This anniversary provides an opportunity not only to reflect on a truly remarkable chapter in Britain's industrial history, but also to consider how the nuclear industry has shaped the communities of West Cumbria over generations and continues to influence different visions for the future.

I am currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Exeter researching nuclear heritage and the ways in which the nuclear industry influences both places and the people who live within them. My research partly explores how the nuclear industry continues to shape local identity and wellbeing in West Cumbria. One of the most rewarding aspects of the research has been conducting oral history interviews with local people, each connected to the nuclear industry in various ways.



2005 View of Sellafield with the Calder Tower cooling towers still standing
image from Wikipedia

Participants have included former and current employees, residents and local business owners. Their recollections demonstrate the breadth of experiences associated with the industry. Conversations have ranged from memories of the Windscale Fire and the unique work culture of the 20th-century nuclear industry to the social changes that accompanied the growth of the nuclear industry in West Cumbria. Interviews also touched on the changing relationships between the industry and the public.

One participant reflected on the opening of the Sellafield Visitors' Centre in 1988, which welcomed more than two million visitors during its lifetime, and symbolised the nuclear industry's shift towards greater public engagement³. This provided my interviewee with their first opportunity to learn about what happened behind the site's security fences. Industrial heritage is often understood through buildings, machinery and archives, but oral histories offer something distinctively valuable. Personal oral histories have helped me to capture experiences that are rarely documented elsewhere and preserve perspectives that might otherwise be lost.

As anniversaries such as Calder Hall's encourage reflection, they also provide an important opportunity to record these stories. If you are interested in sharing your current experiences or memories, I would be delighted to hear from you.

Interviews are informal and designed to allow participants to reflect on their own experiences in whatever aspects they consider most significant. I can be contacted by email at cam272@exeter.ac.uk for further information or to discuss participation.

By recording these personal histories during this significant anniversary year, I hope to contribute to a broader understanding of how nuclear heritage has shaped West Cumbria's economic networks, social relations and cultural development - and how those histories continue to influence the region today.

Caitlin Mullin cam272@exeter.ac.uk

‘Spirit of Place’

A new project starting at a selection of Cumbrian churches



Churches Trust for Cumbria is announcing a £139,245 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to record, research, interpret and communicate the stories found in our church buildings.

The funding will enable the Churches Trust for Cumbria to undertake their ‘Spirit of Place’ project which will engage with visitors and celebrate the heritage found in Cumbria’s churches. Image is of Bewcastle Church, one of the selected churches.

Church heritage is more than just an old building; it’s about the people and communities who made them, and the stories they have left behind in the objects they donated or commissioned. These objects form part of the richly layered narrative of our church heritage. ‘Spirit of place’ aims to explore and share the treasure trove of heritage found within our church buildings and without this funding from the Heritage Fund these stories would remain unheard.

This project will discover some of the unique stories, objects and traditions found in Cumbrian churches while promoting environmentally responsible, inclusive and accessible ways for people to engage with this heritage. It also strengthens long-term skills, partnerships and resources, helping the Churches Trust for Cumbria build a more resilient and sustainable future for our churches.

If you are interested in volunteering to record or research the rich heritage found in our churches, please contact us. [Spirit of Place – The Churches Trust for Cumbria](#)



Cumbria Local History Federation

Annual Convention and AGM 2026

Saturday 10th October 09.00 – 16.00

North Lakes Hotel, Penrith

£35 to include lunch, tea/coffee etc.

“Aspects of Life in 18th Century Cumbria”

09.00 Doors open - Register, Set up displays, Tea & Coffee

10.00-10.15 Introduction - Les Gilpin CLHF Chairman

10.15 – 11.00 Paul Hindle - Turnpikes and Tourism in Cumbria

11.05-11.50 Chris Craghill -The Winners & The Losers –
Cumbrian Farming Practices in the 18th Century

11.55-12.25 CLHF Annual General Meeting 2025
Les Gilpin

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.15 Trevor Grahamslaw – Times of Change,
Solway Life in the Georgian Period

14.15 – 14.35 Tea & Coffee

14.35 -15.20 David Cross – Cumbrian Lives of 18th Century
Beyond the Canon

15.20-15.40 Summing Up & End of Convention

Paul Hindle – ‘Turnpikes & Tourism’ – Paul has compiled a unique talk for the Convention on two of his main research subjects, the beginnings of tourism in the Lake District and the routes to travel to reach a destination.

Bio: Since retiring as Senior Lecturer in Geography Paul now mainly concentrates on researching, writing and lecturing and is a prolific author. His main interests being old maps, roads and tracks plus the Lake District. Other interests include limestone landscapes & caves, along with towns & roads in medieval England.

Chris Craghill – ‘The Winners & The Losers – Cumbrian Farming Practices in the 18th Century’ – An assessment of some of the major Cumbrian manorial estates at a time of national change in agricultural practices. How did Cumbria compare and who were the winners and the losers?

Bio: Qualified local historian Chris Craghill is a long-term researcher on Cumbrian farming families and the buildings in which they lived and worked. In the past she has concentrated on the Northern Fells area ‘Back o’ Skidda’ but at present is working on the N.E. area of the county and the Barony of Gilsland.

Trevor Grahamslaw – ‘Times of Change. Solway Life in the Georgian period’. – A talk inspired by letters discovered in Carlisle Archive Centre sent by Jane Matthews of Wigton Hall to a friend, which reference institutions, work, leisure, politics and hardship for the people of the Solway area from the 18th Century into the early 19th.

Bio: Carlisle born Trevor Grahamslaw has been photographing, collecting and publishing images of the Solway for over 40 years. His latest publication “Wigton & the Solway. Times of Change” is his first book on a more indepth history of the area.

David Cross – ‘Cumbrian Lives of the 18th Centry: Beyond the Canon’ – A talk that covers both familiar and less familiar figures who contributed to the affairs of the county during the 18th century. The names are drawn from a wide range of occupations in the arts and the sciences.

Bio: Barrow born publisher David Cross is both a Durham and Lancaster University graduate, an ex global teacher of English and Drama as well as being involved in the Ruskin Studies program. In 1998 he became a co-founder of the Cumbrian Lives project, which went on to launch the website www.cumbrianlives.org.uk during Covid.



Cumbria Local History Federation

Dear CLHF Members,

Are Cumbria Local History Federation Members ready for a CLHF Facebook presence? If you use the Internet you will have noticed that more and more groups, of all types, are using Facebook to publicise information, seek and give opinions and generally keep their members and public aware of events and items of local history interest.

We, the CLHF, have a website that is, frankly, little used by members so we would like to hear yours and your members views on whether a CLHF Facebook page would be helpful to you and especially your own individual members as a means of communication about meetings, lectures and other local history interests. We would especially like to hear from you if already run or use your own local history Facebook group.

We will continue with our excellent quarterly Bulletin (paper and e-mail), Annual Convention, How To days and other events which a Facebook page would support.

If you have just read the above, please email me with your views and encourage your members to do the same. Thank you, my email is nigelmillspp@gmail.com on behalf of the CLHF committee.

CLHF Contacts

CLHF committee www.clhf.org.uk

Bulletin editor ruthlawley@hotmail.com

Membership and events listings solwaypast@yahoo.com