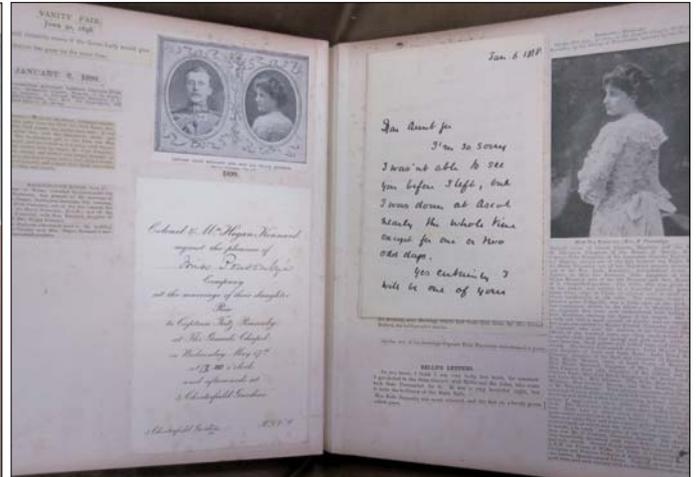


## The Ponsonby Family Scrapbooks

Thanks to the generosity of FoCAS, Whitehaven Archives was able to acquire five scrapbooks created by the Ponsonby family between 1855 and 1900. These consist of sketches, watercolours and letters created and collected by Mary Elizabeth Ponsonby (nee Bulteel), royal courtier and advocate of women's advancement, the wife of Major General Sir Henry Ponsonby (who was himself Queen Victoria's Private Secretary) and by her sons John (who purchased Haile Hall, the family's former ancestral home) and Frederick (1st Baron Sysonby) and Sir Henry's sister, Julia. The scrapbooks also contain newspaper cuttings of national events, invitations, concert programmes, school exam results and coursework for the boys and a telegram of thanks from Queen Victoria.



Selected images from the Ponsonby family scrapbooks (YDX 693) are included above. Top: The second volume in particular features a number of sketches and watercolours of family members such as this one of 'Colonel Ponsonby at Home'. Bottom left: The creator of these watercolours is uncertain but both Henry and Arthur Ponsonby drew illustrations and their mother Mary passed an examination in art. Mary and Arthur were believed to have contributed anonymously to newspapers and magazines of the time. Bottom right: The scrapbook created by Julia Ponsonby contains newspaper articles about and invitations to society engagements and weddings including her nephew, Frederick 'Fritz' Ponsonby to Ria [Victoria] Kennard in 1899 as well as letters from family members.

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

**\* Date for your diary \***

**The 2020 AGM/ Members' Day will be held on**

**Saturday 26 September at Carlisle Archive Centre**

## *From the Chair*

'And a grand day was had by all'. This was a phrase that I came across time and again when I was a sub-editor of a local newspaper in Cumbria, This was also the phrase that came to mind as I wound down from the FoCAS AGM held at Lady Gillford's House, Carlisle in October. Unfortunately the attendance was down on the usual numbers, mainly because we clashed with two history-related events, one in Whitehaven and the other a couple of miles away in Carlisle. So that set us thinking (the Committee that is) and we have come to the conclusion that October is just too busy with historical conferences, talks, AGMs, and members' days etc. To avoid future clashes, we are moving the Members' Day and AGM to September for 2020 – the date is Saturday 26 September. Please make a note in your diary now. We already have a couple of speakers booked who will illuminate some very interesting but rather unusual subjects. But more of that in the next couple of Newsletters.



October's Members' Day was led off by Stuart Eastwood, curator of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, on life at home during the First World War and without so much as a note or prompt he painted a picture of hardship and sacrifice on the home front. This was followed by regular speaker Rob David who, following a war theme, enlightened us with some very interesting stories about 'spies' around Howtown, Ullswater. This was followed by our Newsletter Editor Jean Turnbull, who gave an entertaining presentation looking at the home front in the Second World War using material from the Kendal Oral History Group archive. After the AGM (held in record time) Robert Baxter, Cumbria Senior Archivist, and Tony King, Conservator, kept us up to date with the latest developments in the service and gave us a glimpse of some really momentous developments that may be coming to fruition in the coming years.

At the time of writing, we are in the throes of General Election posturing and I, for one, am thoroughly tired of it but could I remind members that we need to keep up pressure on our local elected councillors to expand the Archive Service which has not just been cut to the bone but has had large chunks of the service hacked away. I would venture to say the service has seen the heaviest cuts, percentage wise, in personnel and that balance needs to be redressed. Please take any and every opportunity to make your views known to our elected representatives

You may remember that at the beginning of 2019, we were dismayed by the new arrangements being brought into place at Kendal. However following talks with staff and officials at which FoCAS was to the fore, some of the more stringent requirements have now been relaxed with documents being able to be ordered on the day and the requirement for booking a space and ordering some documents, now down to 24 hours (see more details on page 12). Far from lamenting 'the good old days', I think we should congratulate the archive staff who have bent over backwards to relax the stricture that were imposed. Let us hope this is a trend for the future.

The bad news this time is that the Archive Service is losing its Chief Conservator, Tony King, who is taking up an appointment at the University of Durham. I was made aware that the post was being advertised and had hoped that Tony was settled enough in Carlisle to continue in his role. However, he applied for and got the job which is hardly surprising considering his talent not only as a conservator but also as an extremely proficient communicator. Tony has spoken several times at our AGM and we wish him the very best in his new post. We shall miss him tremendously.

*Chester*

## *From the Treasurer and Membership Secretary*

By the time you read this we shall be on the quiet side of Christmas and I do hope that you had an enjoyable and peaceful one. I believe that a traditional Chinese curse runs along the lines of, 'May you live in interesting times'. The times are certainly 'interesting' so we must have upset someone! However, be that as it may, FoCAS is looking forward to a productive and useful year in conjunction with the Archive Service. We wish to expand our provision of grants and to seeing how we can possibly extend the coverage of these. So please, if you think that we can help your researches with a small grant, do look at the application form on the website. We shall also be looking at giving our website a thorough 'going over' to make it more relevant and up-to-date.

We do now have a robust sum in our savings account with sufficient resources in our current account to meet day-to-day requirements (we are very economical!), our annual donation to the CCHT, subscription to BALH (for our insurance cover) and CLHF, and the aforementioned grants. Having said this I need to remind members that annual subscriptions were due on 1 January. If you pay by Standing Order I should have been notified by the bank statement. If you pay by annual cheque and have not already done so please let me have your cheque – made payable to FoCAS, for either £12 single membership, or £15 for a couple or a society.

As always I do ask members to encourage other researchers to consider joining us. There are forms at Carlisle and Kendal and on the website.

*Best wishes, and if it is not too late, a Happy New Year, Lorna*

## Update on the 'Seeing the North with Sankey' project



Signal Film and Media is an award-winning charity providing creative film and digital media activities from Cooke's Studios in Barrow-in-Furness. We have been working towards a two-year heritage project to conserve and connect people across Cumbria to the Sankey Photographic Archive - celebrating the father and son duo who documented much of Cumbria over an 80-year period. In February 2019 we updated you on the success of our interim postcard project and how we were hoping to hear back from the National Lottery Heritage Fund after submitting the 2nd stage application for the wider creative project; 'Seeing the North with Sankey'.

In June we found out we were successful in the bid and since then, the project has been featured on BBC Newsnight and we have begun the mammoth task of moving the vast



collection into safe storage to preserve future access. This unique archive captured the changes to our landscape, culture, individuals, industry and tourism (and much more) and the postcards they created from their photography were posted all around the world! The estimated 15,000 negatives, 22 postcard books and handwritten catalogues are currently with Townsweb Archiving in Northamptonshire for digitisation and safe repacking, due to be completed around February 2020.

The Sankey family generously donated the entire collection to Cumbria Archives in the hope it would be accessible for local communities and future generations. The glass plate and acetate negatives will be re-housed in cold storage at Carlisle Archive Centre and the postcard books conserved and transferred to Barrow Local Archive and Study Centre, both under the care of Cumbria Archives. Once all has been digitised, a dedicated online website and database of the collection will be created to link with Cumbria Archives.

The project will be launched on 28 January (2pm - 4pm). Signal hopes to engage those interested in weekly training and volunteer drop-in sessions to uncover and contribute to the vast collection with plans for field visits, handling sessions, conservation, photography, and writing workshops - to mention just a few. Workshops begin on 4 February (1.30pm - 4pm).

Captions. Top: Sankey Pilot Postcard Project. Bottom: Sankey correspondence card shop front

Following the development of the image database Signal will launch a two-year wider creative project, including two artist commissions, exhibition opportunities, workshops and more.

**To find out more about the project launch or the workshops contact:**

**<https://signalfilmandmedia.com/seeing-the-north-with-sankey/s>**

**To see what we have been up to so far watch our Seeing the North with Sankey documentary:**

**<https://vimeo.com/31728100>; Follow our progress on @Sankeyphotoarchive Facebook and Instagram**

**Julia Parks, Project Manager: [julia@signalfilmandmedia.co.uk](mailto:julia@signalfilmandmedia.co.uk)**



Photo by Margaret Martindale

### **Mary Wane**

At the FoCAS AGM in October we marked a milestone in the history of our Society with the farewell of Vice President Mary Wane. Mary was presented with an orchid and we wish her a long and well-earned rest in the years to come. As a sixty seven-year-old retiree in 1991, little did Mary envisage that she would be attending committee meetings some 28 years later. Throughout her tenure Mary has been a steadfast and steady influence on all the committee members who have served the Society. She was a career government servant, working for the British Council in Paris, Norway and elsewhere.

In her retirement Mary has led a very full life and pursued an interest in local politics with strong social democrat and European slants. She was a County Councillor and, I understand was asked to stand for parliament at one point. Mary was on the County Council's Archive Committee and was a co-founder of this Society. She went straight on to the committee chaired by John Todd and has served two terms as Chair, as well as fulfilling many other roles. To say she is a stalwart of the Society is vastly understating the case. Even at 95, Mary's recall is exceptional and we in the FoCAS committee are diminished by the loss of her input and intellect.

**Chester Forster**

## On the rails

Amidst a large collection of principally railway-related papers dating from the 1840s-1920s which Lord Inglewood (President of FoCAS) acquired from an auctioneer a few years ago and generously deposited with Carlisle Archive Centre (DVAN Acc. H10939) is a volume of 'General Statements of Accounts' of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway Co., 1842-45, which fills in a significant gap in our knowledge of the early history of this line.

Disbursements and Liabilities					
		£	s	d	
4	Cost of office of incorporation	237	0	0	237 0 0
10-10-1842	Wages of men	2284	1	2	2285 1 2
21	Carriage & Station	2037	11	3	2038 11 3
22	Master & Station	7210	12	11	7222 12 11
23	Land & Corporation	11205	8	4	11213 8 4
24	Bridge	11207	1	4	11208 1 4
25	Iron	1600	19	2	1619 19 2
26	Wages of men	4661	2	5	4663 2 5
27	Iron Works	2722	10	11	2733 10 11
28	Wood	2109	16	5	2125 16 5
29	Carriage & Station	1410	11	0	1421 11 0
30	Salaries	1184	10	11	1195 10 11
31-12-1842	Carriage & Station	1127	7	2	1134 7 2
32	Interest & Commission	981	7	7	988 7 7
33	Director's Wages	252	14	2	266 14 2
34	£ 111				

The prime objective of the line was to transport coal, iron and other goods to wider markets, the first section, from Maryport to Arkleby Pits, opening in July 1840, with the whole line eventually being completed, with a station at Crown Street, Carlisle, in February 1845. Throughout most of its history, until it became part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway in 1923, it was run by the local gentry and coal owners, proving a very prosperous investment (as also, for the directors, a convivial occasion when they met, as the cartoon reproduced suggests); an average annual dividend of over seven per cent was paid from 1850 to 1922. The total cost of the construction of the line to 31 December 1842 is recorded as £189,997/11/- (worth approximately £11½ million in 2017), with the 8¾ mile Maryport to Aspatria section proving the most expensive (£100,152).



Captions. Top: The accounts of the 'Disbursements & Liabilities' of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway to 31 December 1842 (Carlisle Archive Centre, DVAN Acc. H10939 box 5)

Bottom: A cartoon of a Special Meeting of the Directors of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway, '5 per cent declared! Would have been 8 per cent only food is dearer', n.d. [? late 1840s] (Carlisle Archive Centre, DSen/5/11/3/1/52)

Mr Humphrey Senhouse of Netherhall served as the company's first chairman until his death in 1842, being succeeded by Mr FL Ballantine Dykes of Dovenby Hall. Successive heads of the Senhouse family separately recorded those minutes of the directors as concerned their estate, which profited from the sale of land and the tonnage rent paid on coal transported on the line running through their land (Carlisle Archive Centre, DSen/5/11/3/1/35). In 1845 it was agreed with the Trustees of Maryport Harbour to deepen the River Ellen such that the harbour might have eight feet of water at eleven foot tides. In 1854, Mr Pocklington Senhouse gave permission for the erection of additional forks to the two hurries (coal chutes) in the harbour to ship coal on board two screw steamer colliers, the 'Jackal' and the 'Excelsior', then coming to the port. In 1855 he was paid £500 by the company towards the cost of building a bridge over the river to give improved access to the town of Maryport.

A principal purpose of the company was the development of the northern part of the West Cumberland coalfield and the accounts record income from the carriage of coal totalling £14,649 by July 1843, £25,257 by 31 December 1844, and £34,854 by 31 December 1845. With the gradual completion

of the line, income from passenger traffic also increased, from a total to July 1843 of £1607 to a total to 31 December 1845 of £12,789; over the same period, income from parcels and heavy goods increased from a total of £482 to £4,463.

Amongst the other railway-related papers deposited by Lord Inglewood is a copy of the published *Railway Returns for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland for 1874* (1875) which record that the Maryport and Carlisle Railway was then paying a 11½ per cent dividend, with total receipts from all sources of traffic being £128,714 (of which £73,721 was for minerals and £27,298 from a total of 449,808 passengers, the vast majority of whom travelled 3rd class) and the total working expenditure £50,893. By this time, the company had 24 locomotives, 30 carriages for the conveyance of passengers only, and 1,441 wagons of all kinds for the conveyance of livestock, minerals and general merchandise. In his column in *The Cumberland News*, 18 October 2019, Denis Perriam has drawn attention to the fact that Carlisle Library's Jackson Collection holds the original pen and watercolour drawings of 1843 produced by John Blackmore, the company's engineer (in succession to George Stephenson), for the railway's rolling stock, and that only one of the company's coaches, dating from 1875, nowadays survives. The October 2019 issue of *Cumbrian Railways*, the Journal of the Cumbrian Railways Association, includes an illustrated article on the railway's three-ton coal wagons.

Given the large and very miscellaneous collection of the papers deposited by Lord Inglewood, relating to almost a dozen local railway companies in Cumbria, besides rail companies elsewhere in the country, it will be a little time before an ordered list of these papers can be made available per CASCAT.

Adrian Allan

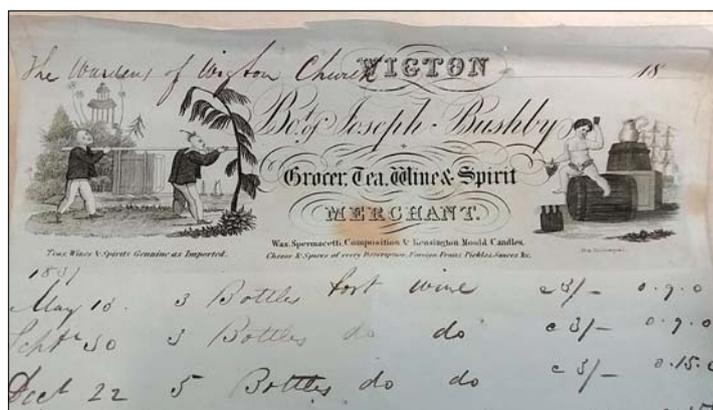
## Goods, Services and the Old Poor Law: the Small Bills Project

The Small Bills and Petty Finance: Co-creating the history of the Old Poor Law project, running at Carlisle, is an AHRC-funded collaboration between the universities of Keele and Sussex, and the archive services of Cumbria, East Sussex and Staffordshire. It is capturing the data contained in thousands of vouchers or bills sent to overseers of the poor between 1700 and 1834. In Cumbria it relies on the combined efforts of CAS staff and the dedication of a group of volunteers. Without them the mammoth task of recording the details contained in the bills could not be contemplated.

Three parishes - Wigton, Hayton and Skelton - were initially identified as having surviving bills relating to the poor. Since the project started in 2018 a further 14 parishes have been identified including Brampton, Dalston, Papcastle and Kirkby Lonsdale. The information contained within the vouchers is being used to construct partial biographies of the people who came into contact with the poor law, either as parish officials, goods and service providers or as paupers. These are free to access and can be found at [www.thepoorlaw.org](http://www.thepoorlaw.org). Eventually, all the information from the vouchers will be fully searchable on the site. This will provide a new source of information on ordinary people beyond parish registers, probate documents and newspapers, enabling family and local historians to gain unique insights into people's daily interaction with the poor law authorities at a level that has not been possible before.

The project is taking academic history beyond the walls of universities by developing links with local communities. Members of the project have conducted workshops on 18th-century workhouse life at St Bede's Primary School, Carlisle, and I have spoken to Carlisle History Society about food and drink in and out of the 18th-century workhouse. My next presentation at the society in February 2020 will be on Brampton grocer Joseph Forster and Carlisle printer Charles Thurnam.

The vouchers are revealing sophisticated and enduring business relationships between overseers and suppliers and a level of provision for the poor more liberal (if not overly generous) than previously known. Taking food and drink as an example, in popular imagination workhouses provided little more than gruel, beer, bread and cheese and indeed, a handwritten dietary or daily allowance sheet from Brampton does little to dispel this view, including as it does 'hasting pudding', 'fragments of cold meat' and 'boiled beer made with oatmeal'. The vouchers, however, show that significant amounts of beef, and less frequently mutton and veal, were supplied by butchers including Joseph Bell, Thomas Parker, and John Graham. Tea, coffee, sugar, treacle, pepper, barley, and oats came from grocers Elizabeth Routledge, Sarah Oliver and Jane Davidson. Potatoes came from Ann Lawson. To these food items must be added the produce grown in Brampton's workhouse garden. Seeds and plants including cabbages, onion, Welsh onion, leeks and greens were provided by nurseryman Peter Burn.



The majority of workhouse inmates were aged, infirm and often ill. As the care and maintenance of the poor was funded from the parish poor rate, there were frequent complaints about the burden it placed on those obliged to pay. It might be anticipated that the level of care given to those paupers approaching the end of their days would have been perfunctory. Undoubtedly, there are many examples of neglect, but amongst the vouchers are bills itemising sugar and tea for the sick, or extra portions of food and tobacco. In other cases it is possible to track medical provision. Bills from doctors show weekly and sometimes daily visits to named individuals, and the treatments and medications they were given. When the time came, provision was made for their funerals and wakes.

Pauper funerals were often occasions where parish authorities doled out liberal quantities of food and drink. Most of it was standard fare, but with added 'treats'. For the funeral of John Nobles' wife in 1759, Brampton's overseers paid for 6 quarts of ale, three pounds of cheese, and bread. The bill for Hannay Todd's funeral in 1786, also at Brampton, included one gallon of whisky, a 14½lb cheese, a peck of oatmeal, barley milk and sugar, two pounds of butter, and bread.

Inevitably, there was self-interest on the part of rate-payers to keep the poor rate as low as possible and to ensure that as much of the money expended on the poor was recirculated within the local community. It is rare to find bills for goods and services from trades people and professionals outside the parish. The overseers' vouchers, therefore, are an important source of information for researchers because they enable networks and connections to be recreated. What also appears to have been significant under the old poor law, however, was the ability of local people to determine how money raised as part of the poor rate should be distributed to paupers within their own communities, and which businesses should profit as a result. It was a system that became harsher and less responsive to the needs of individuals after the passing of the poor law amendment act of 1834.

**The Small Bills project runs to the end of 2020. In the meantime, you can follow its progress via [www.thepoorlaw.org](http://www.thepoorlaw.org) and read the latest Tweets from The Project Team (@AHRCpoorlaw).**

Dr Peter Collinge

## Unlocking our Sound Heritage



Thousands of cassettes, open reels, CDs and MiniDiscs are sitting in archives, museums, libraries and in people's homes all over the UK. All kinds of unique live music, radio and conversation are recorded on these tapes and discs. We have already lost many of the people captured on them and the British Library estimates that we have 15 years to preserve the sounds themselves. Unique sounds held on physical formats risk being lost as the carriers degrade over time but the real urgency is that the equipment to play them is no longer produced. If we don't transfer the tapes from analogue to digital now we may never get the chance again. That is why the British Library has received funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, an exciting new national project to save thousands sounds which are at risk of being lost forever.



Archives+ is the hub partner for the North West region, which covers Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside. We will be digitising around 15,000 recordings on 5,000 cassettes, reels and optical discs held at Manchester Central Library. The collections proposed for digitisation range across the region from the oral histories of seafarers, dockers and football fans in Liverpool, to mill and hospital workers in Lancashire, to the stories of mountaineers from the Mountain Heritage Trust, immigrant stories from Tameside, and Cheshire lives captured by the Chester Archaeological Society. Not to mention local BBC radio recordings from all over the region, as well as output from pioneering independent radio stations like Piccadilly Radio. Plus live music recordings

including 1960s folk gigs on the Wirral, Royal Northern College of Music student performances, Irish traditional music and, of course, loads of brass bands!

We hope to obtain permission to digitise collections from the four Cumbria Archive Service centres including folklore, oral history, radio and dialect recordings. One of the highlights is the Ellen Rose Fieldhouse collection held at Barrow, a rare folklore archive featuring local folk traditions, cultural life, recipes, dialect, plays and poems. The Lakeland Dialect Society's tapes held at Kendal include unique recordings of old Cumbrian dialects. Whitehaven's West Cumbria Oral History Network represents the work of various societies in capturing the life stories of people who have lived or worked in West Cumbria. The biggest Cumbrian collection by far is the BBC Radio Cumbria tapes – we propose to digitise a selection of 200 tapes from the thousands held at Carlisle.

Permission to digitise two significant collections held by specialist archives in Cumbria will also be sought. The Freshwater Biological Association in Ambleside holds over 40 interviews with scientists and members of the public who have connections to Windermere. The interviews demonstrate the changes that have taken place in the lake and surrounding area. The Mountain Heritage Association in Keswick holds the Alan Hankinson Collection which consists of interviews with those involved in Mount Everest expeditions between 1924 and 1975, including one with Sir Edmund Hillary.

So far we have started digitising collections held at Manchester Central Library, Tameside, Oldham and Bolton. Our first collection was Voice in the Crowd, a programme broadcast on BBC Radio Manchester in the mid-1970s. You can listen to clips from these interviews and much more at [www.northwestsoundheritage.org](http://www.northwestsoundheritage.org). The British Library will archive the digital sound files and provide access to a proportion of them online; the rest will available to listen to locally. Our aim is to create a sustainable centre of excellence in digital audio preservation at Manchester Central Library, recruit volunteers across the region, offer training in all aspects of sound archive and involve new audiences in engaging with their audio heritage in innovative ways.

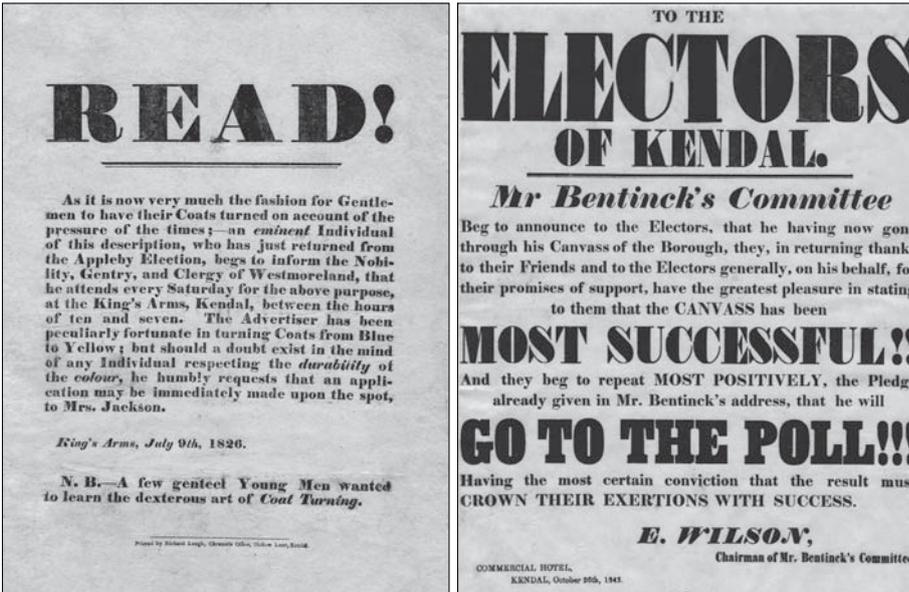
Follow the project website at [www.northwestsoundheritage.org](http://www.northwestsoundheritage.org) for much more from the team and volunteers – including lots more voices from the archives, project updates, and advice on caring for your own sound archives. You can find out more about the national Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project at the British Library's website [www.bl.uk/projects/unlocking-our-sound-heritage](http://www.bl.uk/projects/unlocking-our-sound-heritage)

**David Govier, Project Manager**  
[david.govier@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:david.govier@manchester.gov.uk)

## **Bloodhounds of Riot and Insurrection: An Archive of Electoral Politics in Westmorland 1818-1910**

In 2019 the Armit Museum and Library in Ambleside was able, through the generosity of the Friends of the National Libraries, to purchase a fascinating collection of documents covering a century of Westmorland Parliamentary Elections. The archive consists of 175 items; broadsides, leaflets and pamphlets, covering the period from 1818-1910 with significant collections from the 1826 and 1843 elections. These were politically turbulent times with electoral, agricultural and political reform at the forefront of the public mind, issues that were fought out at the local level through the hustings.

Broadsides were single sheets of paper, generally quickly and crudely produced in large numbers, designed to have an immediate impact. They were distributed free in town squares, taverns and churches, or sold by chapmen for a nominal charge. Historically they were used to inform the public about current news events, announce and record public meetings, later they became a vehicle for political agitation and what is now known as 'popular culture'. They filled the place occupied today by the tabloid press and were by far the most popular ephemeral format used throughout

printed history. As with today's tabloids, the language is often inflammatory. In 1818 an anti-Brougham broadside addressed to the 'Freeholders of the County of Westmorland' the day after the 'Kendal Riot', complained that the Lowther faction was 'assaulted by a mob inflamed by liquor paid for by themselves'. It goes on to describe the 'Bloodhounds of Riot and Insurrection' and wonders that anyone escaped alive as 'the rabid fury of the populace seemed ripe for general bloodshed'. In response, a Pro-Brougham broadside a few days later refers to the Lowthers as 'dastardly sycophants who have been so long preying on the vitals of the Country, and are now everywhere quaking, screaming, and almost ready to disgorge themselves, through pure cowardice...'.  


By 1826 the burning issue at the hustings was Catholic Emancipation. An anti-Brougham broadside from that year goes so far as to suggest that the men of Kendal should 'inspect their monument to the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 and if they mean to support Brougham they should 'erase the inscription, prostrate the column and march to Appleby with the Keys of St Peter painted on their banners'. Clearly an appetite for the salacious, or indeed politics reduced to the level of a theatrical event is not an entirely modern phenomenon.

The general view of the political power structure in Westmorland throughout the greater part of the 19th century is that it was dominated by a landed elite led by the Lowther family, earls of Lonsdale. Between 1832 and 1885 the Conservative Party enjoyed an unbroken run of successes in general elections for the two county seats and its candidates were seldom opposed. North Westmorland was characterised as 'a feudal appendage of the House of Lowther', the South as a deferential community which loyally supported the existing social order, described by the *Westmorland Gazette* in 1880 as 'the old rest and be content spirit' of conformism. However, the persistence of Nonconformity and small independent farmers, particularly in the north of the county, meant that there was always the potential for a realistic Liberal challenge, and the Lowther agents had to work diligently to sustain the status quo. It is notable that Tory broadsides adopted the term 'King and Constitution' rather than the previous motto 'Church and King' apparently on the advice of William Wordsworth, as many of voters were dissenters.

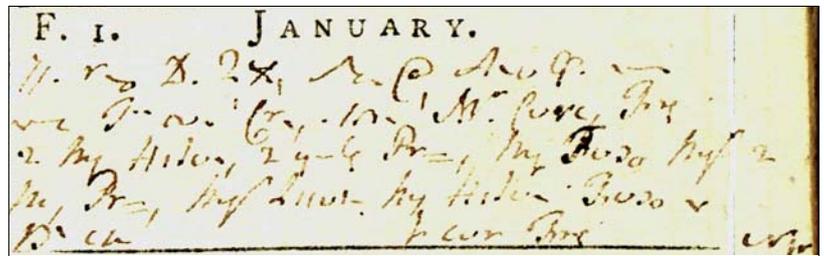
The Armit already held a number of items relating to early 19th century electioneering in the county, including the annotated Poll Books for the Knights of the Shire of Westmorland from the turbulent 1818 and 1820 elections. These were presented to the Armit by Beatrix Potter in 1938 and originally belonged to John Heelis, an ancestor of her husband and agent to the Whig party in Westmorland. Although the collection might primarily be seen as an important research tool for the study of popular culture and political engagement on a local level during the 19th century, it also has great vitality and visual interest, in particular with the liberal use of Robert Thorne's Fat Face typography, the first real display typeface, introduced in 1803.

**For further information on the Armit Library and its collections visit [http://armitt.com/armitt\\_website/](http://armitt.com/armitt_website/)  
Deborah Walsh, Curator**

# News from the Cumbria Archive Service

## Collaborative Doctoral Award – Hudleston collection

Cumbria Archive Service and Keele University History Department have been successful in an application to the Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership stream. We have appointed Edward Hardiman to undertake a doctoral studentship based around Andrew Hudleston of Hutton John near Penrith (1734-1822). Hudleston was called to the bar in 1756 and was later known as 'The Bencher'. He pursued what is thought to have been an unexceptionable legal career in London, enjoyed a wide social circle, and married late in life. His residence at Gray's Inn was a matter of public record and privately he was remembered as irritable and haughty. Hudleston's multiple surviving diaries offer an alternative way to view the man and his professional and social lives. Nearly 200 volumes spanning the years 1773 to 1815 (held at Carlisle Archive Centre) contain information about his dealings in minute detail, but are in his personal shorthand code. The cryptography ranges from relatively simple abbreviations to more severe and quirky substitutions. Preliminary analyses of entries for 1773 reveal the beginnings of Hudleston's social network spanning the professional and intellectual elite of London. He took a keen interest in politics, frequently dined with prominent political figures at the Commons, and played an active part in the Cumberland Society. His diaries also hint at a taste for physical pleasures - heavy drinking and paid-for sex.



Above: An example of Hudleston's encoded diaries: entry for 1 January 1773

As well as researching Hudleston through archival sources held by the Archive Service and elsewhere, Ed Hardiman will be undertaking a special study of the encoded diaries. These will be digitised so that they can be analysed by a software application called Transkribus which, we hope can undertake automated analysis and translation of the diaries. Ed will also be looking at possibilities for volunteer involvement in the project and will also be undertaking outreach and related research activities, including talks, papers and articles. I look forward to providing further updates to FoCAS members on what we hope will be a fascinating project

## Farewell Tony King

Readers will note the sad news (at least from a Cumbrian viewpoint) of the impending move of our Senior Conservator, Tony King, to his new appointment as Senior Collections Care and Conservation Manager at the University of Durham. Tony leaves with our congratulations and thanks for all his hard work over the past five years here in Cumbria. Tony has constantly demonstrated a superb level of knowledge and expertise across a broad range of areas. He has led a high-quality conservation service to our Archive Centres where he has always been willing to offer colleagues excellent advice. In particular I have valued his contributions for Archives Accreditation in 2016 and this year, and also in the implementation of our Digital Repository. He has also been important in assisting with preparing for some of the most significant digitisation projects for the Archive Service and its users - more news of which next year. These and his other conservation activities undertaken will be a worthy and long-lasting legacy and we look forward to having a useful and friendly conservation contact at Durham!

**Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist**

*After five happy and productive years with Cumbria Archive Service I am moving on to take position with Durham University at the Palace Green Library. I would like to thank FoCAS for their continued support for the preservation of Cumbria's wonderful collections. The Conservation Unit at Carlisle has benefited tremendously from the work of FoCAS over the years including members giving up their time to volunteer as well as by funding equipment purchases in previous years. There are a number of exciting projects in the pipeline concerning digital access and it is with regret that I will not now be playing a role in these; however the work will continue and I look forward to seeing and using the results.*

**Tony King**

## Carlisle Archive Centre

### Journals of the Lacy-Thompson Family of Farlam Hall, Brampton, Cumberland

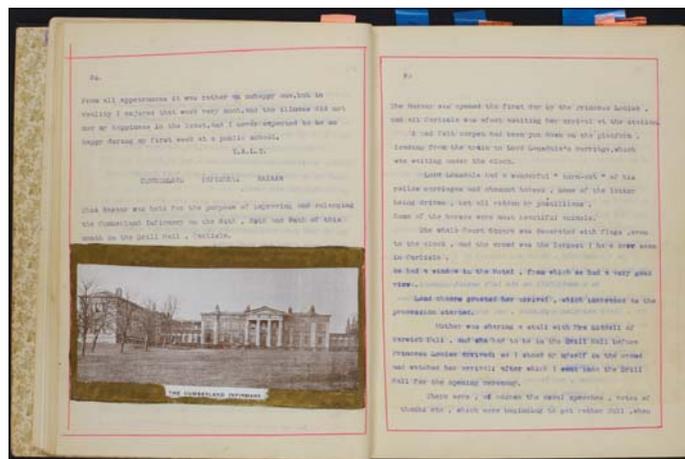
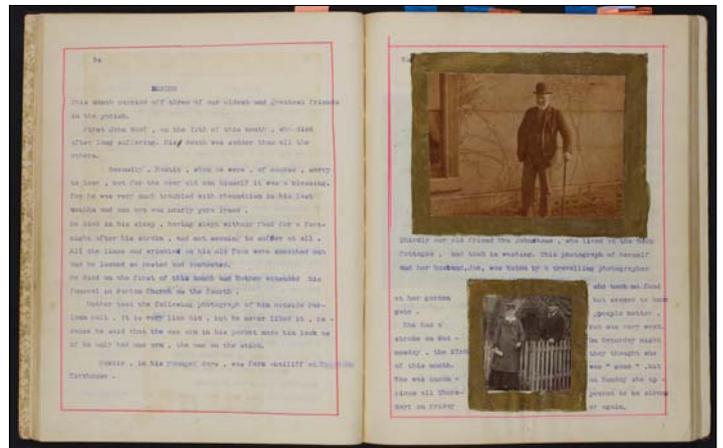
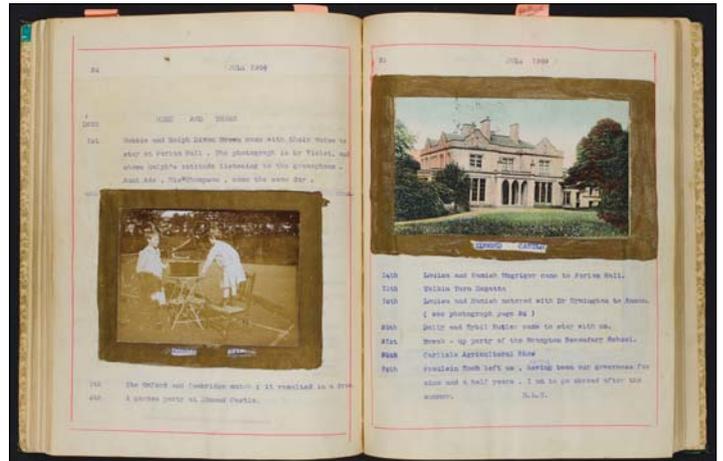
Carlisle Archive Centre recently received a fascinating series of 12 journals of the Lacy Thompson family of Farlam covering the period 1908-1913. They are edited by Lady Caroline Lacy Thompson, with contributions from two of her children, Tom and Rosemary. Charles and Lady Caroline Lacy Thompson lived at Farlam Hall from the time of their marriage in April 1889. Charles was a well-established member of the local gentry, a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Cumberland. He suffered ill health for many years and died in 1920 at the age of 63. Caroline outlived him by 42 years and remained at Farlam until her death in 1962 aged 92.

The journals present a chronicle of family life and activity. There are lively accounts of days of leisure; outings by motor car, tennis parties, dances, concerts and plays, shooting meets, golf competitions, cricket matches and boating; as well as reports of travel to Scotland and overseas. References are made to favourite family pets and working animals and

there are playful features, such as the catalogue of items added to the family 'museum'. The journals also reflect the commitment of both Charles and Caroline to the social and civic concerns of the local and wider community. There are touching descriptions of local characters and employees. Entries are frequently illustrated with photographs (often taken by Rosemary), postcards and occasionally drawings, which add an exciting extra dimension to the volumes. Sample pages of the journals for the years 1908 and 1909 can be seen below.

The first Journal, beginning in January 1908, contains a poignant account of the Roachburn Pit Disaster on the estate, which includes photographs of the affected site. This event was the beginning of a gradual decline in the family fortunes, due to the collieries becoming less viable. In volume 2, the nature of Caroline's charitable work can be seen through an account of a day in the country arranged for poor children, who were child patients of the Queen's Nurses in Carlisle. The Queen's Nurses worked with families from the poorest areas of the city. Rosemary writes, 'Mother wrote and asked the matron to choose those of their child patients whom they considered to be the most suitable and deserving.' Thirty children were brought to Farlam Hall to enjoy tea, races and boat rides.

Caroline was also concerned for the welfare the children of the estate workers and to this end, she established 'The Curiosity Club' arranged on Scouting lines to provide entertainment and instruction throughout the winter months. Volume 3 reports on the establishment of the club and its first meeting. Throughout the journals, there is a recurring theme of culture and entertainment; often with synopses of plays and concert programmes within the pages and these events are often reported in detail. Charles supported the Tory party candidate Mr Claude Lowther and volume 7 reports on party meetings at the North Cumberland Election. Caroline's standing in society is beautifully illustrated in volume 9, by an entry concerning the Carlisle Flower Show which she opened,



The two images on the right are taken from the 1908 journal. The image on the left is taken from the 1909 volume

of the age, this section of society enjoyed enormous wealth and privilege and the opportunities that these afforded. But the far-reaching consequences of the 1914-1918 conflict were soon to be felt, resulting in fundamental changes to the social order and the onset of industrial decline. Whilst being typical of their time, and interesting for this reason, the journals are very personal and reveal the intimate details of family life, often entertaining and sometimes very sad. They demonstrate how deeply-rooted the Lacy Thompson family were within the local community and reflect the mutual respect between the family and local people, in particular, those who were in their employ.

The journals can be found in the Lacy Thompson family collection (collection reference DTH, series DTH/6) at Carlisle Archive Centre.

as well as a copy of the *Carlisle Journal* report of the event.

Tom's contributions relate largely to his life at Charterhouse School and in particular, the sports in which he was involved. Rosemary writes of life on the estate at Farlam and the many social engagements and leisure activities locally. There are occasional entries on events of national significance, including a report of the death of King Edward VII in May 1910 which is accompanied by many illustrations of the funeral procession. Volume 10 reports on the Coronation of King George V in June 1911. She also writes of culture and of travel. Extracts are taken from her diaries of trips to Lamalah on the Isle of Arran and an extended trip to Norway. Later diaries chronicle her time at finishing school in Brussels

The journals represent a fascinating insight into upper-class family life at this time. Bolstered by the confidence of the age, this section of society enjoyed enormous wealth and privilege and the opportunities that these afforded. But the far-reaching consequences of the 1914-1918 conflict were soon to be felt, resulting in fundamental changes to the social order and the onset of industrial decline. Whilst being typical of their time, and interesting for this reason, the journals are very personal and reveal the intimate details of family life, often entertaining and sometimes very sad. They demonstrate how deeply-rooted the Lacy Thompson family were within the local community and reflect the mutual respect between the family and local people, in particular, those who were in their employ.

Louise Smith, Archivist

## Hospital Records Indexing

### Garlands Hospital

Carlisle Archive Centre holds several collections of hospital records. These contain series of admission, discharge/transfer and death registers, which date from the mid-19th century to the late-20th century. We frequently receive enquiries from members of the public, concerning named patients. Records less than 100 years old are closed to public inspection and members of the public wishing to view these records would be required to make a Subject Access Request to the appropriate Health Authority through Freedom of Information. This project is concerned with creating a surname index for each register, in order to facilitate searches by members of archive staff. The indexing work involves inputting patient data onto a spreadsheet from the original record. This sounds to be straightforward work, however, handwriting and medical terminology can be particularly challenging!

The first registers being indexed are those from the Garlands Hospital collection (formerly Cumberland and Westmorland County Asylum). This is the most frequently consulted hospital collection held by Carlisle Archive Centre, largely for family history purposes, however the collection has been used as a case study for a PhD thesis. There is an extensive series of case books in this collection, dating from 1862 to 1929, some of the later 19th century volumes contain photographs of patients. Sadly, the survival of case notes for individual patients after 1930 is not good.

### Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital

A second project involves creating a patient index for the Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital case records (collection reference THOS 2/3. See image on right). These date from 1932-1948 and are stored in bundles, arranged alphabetically by surname. The notes record personal details and details of their case. Many of the patients were soldiers and airmen, serving in the Second World War. We have set up a spreadsheet to record patient details in the same order as the case notes appear in the bundles. There are the same challenges with the handwriting and terminology.

The work can be repetitive and requires accuracy in transferring details from the original records. Volunteers must be comfortable with computer keyboard work. Instructions will be given by members of staff, regarding the specific task and staff will be on hand to assist with interpretation.

**Louise Smith, Archivist**

Division of Last Attack of Mental Illness			Cause of Death			ETIOLOGICAL FACTORS	
Paranoid	Manic	Depressive	Immediate cause	Medical conditions, if any, giving rise to (and those which preceded the cause)	Other possible contributory conditions, if death not related to immediate cause	Diagnosis	Assessment
1/2	2 1/2	2 3/4	Acute Depression	Chronic of the brain		1	02
1	3 1/2	4 1/2	Acute Depression		Alcohol & Cocaine Abuse	1	0
1/2	1/2	1/2	Acute Depression & Alcohol Abuse	Acute Sclerosis	Complication of the brain	1	03
1/2	3/4	1	Acute Depression			1	01
4 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Acute Depression			1	0
1/2	1/2	1/2	Acute Depression			1	02
2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Acute Depression		Complication of the brain	1	03
1/2	1/2	1/2	Acute Depression			1	01
1/2	1/2	1/2	Acute Depression			1	02
1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Acute Depression			1	02
1/2	1/2	1	Acute Depression			1	02

## The Fabric of Carlisle: a journey through the textile industry of the region

On Tuesday 16 October 2019, Carlisle Archives held its latest quarterly discovery evening entitled 'The Fabric of Carlisle: a journey through the textile industry of the region'.

The event started with Local Studies Librarian, Stephen White, talking about 'King Cotton in Carlisle'. Afterwards customers could view original documents within the map room focusing on the main textile firms of Carlisle and the surrounding area including:

- Cumberland Mills, Textile Manufacturers of Warwick Bridge (DB 19)
- Stead McAlpin, Textile Manufacturers of Cummersdale, Carlisle (DB 82)
- R R Buck, Textile Manufacturers of Carlisle (DB 43)
- Ferguson Brothers; Textile Manufacturers and Printers of Holme Head, Carlisle (DB 110)
- S Redmayne Ltd., Tailors of Warwick Bridge (formerly of Wigton) (DB 86)
- Morton Sundour (DB 11)



Documents on display from the above business collections included fabric sample books; scrapbooks; advertising; photographs; staff records; catalogues and plans. FoCAS members can view other Cumbrian business collections on our online guide at [https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online\\_catalogues/Nonofficial/bus.asp](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online_catalogues/Nonofficial/bus.asp). During the evening customers also had the opportunity to talk to a representative from the Cumbria Industrial History Society, <http://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk/cumbria-industrial-history-society/>, who attended with a small paper display focusing on the history of the linen industry within Cumbria.

The evening was very well supported with 49 people attending, including a lady who had seen it advertised on future archives events web page at the weekend and decided to attend, travelling all the way from Durham! Another highlight from the evening included a lady who found her own handwriting in the wages book from Ferguson Brothers (DB 110/136).

FoCAS members can look out for future discovery evening dates, including a 'Down Your Way' series via Cumbria Archives future archives events web page, <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/events.asp>, following us on Twitter, @CumbriaArchives or following us on Facebook, @carlislelibrary, or by visiting Carlisle Archives or Carlisle Library and looking out for posters and flyers. FoCAS members are always welcome at these events.

**Sarah Wood, Archives Assistant**

### The Cumberland Militia Ballot Lists 1797-1831

The project involves the indexing of the militia ballot lists from which the Cumberland militia were chosen. This was a defensive force of able-bodied men aged 18-45 years and was compiled annually. They could be considered similar to the Territorial Army of today. The returns survive for three of the five wards of Cumberland, giving names, age, occupation and number of dependent children, and occasionally further information (physical infirmities, poverty, and other reasons for exemption). Each parish had several township lists. Such lists survive in only six counties in England; Cumberland's lists being the most extensive series. Once indexed the lists will allow remote access to the collection whose current existence is relatively unknown and therefore underused. As we have the raw ballot lists we are also able to see many of those who were exempt from the ballot in this name rich source.

The Indexing project has highlighted new information that was previously difficult to access such as the percentage of males who remained single throughout their lives, injury and disability within the male population, the trades carried out in each township, changes in occupation throughout the period. For instance in Carlisle in 1806, 510 men described themselves as weavers; by 1818, it was only 43 as the transition from handloom weaving to weaving by machine in the mills took hold.

The project is still ongoing and volunteers are always welcome as less than 15 per cent of the collection has been indexed. These lists are also only a fraction of the militia collection which includes muster rolls for the 1715 and 1745 rebellions, local cavalry records, enlistment papers etc.



**Helen Cunningham, Archive**

### Kendal Archive Centre

#### Mountain heritage events at Kendal Archives

Kendal Archives ran a couple of events to tie-in with the Kendal Mountain Festival, 2019. On Saturday 16 November we held some workshops in Kendal Library that looked at the life and work of Alfred Wainwright. Archives and library staff helped attendees learn about how Wainwright put his famous pictorial guides together, and there was a chance to draw like Wainwright using his photograph of Fisher Crag as inspiration. It was an enjoyable event and was well attended by those who knew about Wainwright's publications and also by some who were new to his work. A few days later on 20 November we held an open evening in Kendal Archives and displayed documents from collections such as the Wainwright archive and the Fell and Rock Climbing Club collection, along with photographs from the Joseph Hardman collection and a few items from the K Fellfarers collection.

**Anthony Hughes, Archivist**



Photograph by Joseph Hardman: Climber J.N. Mather of the 1955 Kangchenjunga expedition, in Langdale with two of the expedition Sherpas (WDHD/53)

## **Changes to access at Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal**

Following a review and public consultation of access arrangements at Kendal Archive Centre, we will be introducing a number of changes to access to archive collections. These changes came into effect from 4 December 2019.

### **Our opening hours**

From 4 December we are open three days a week from Wednesday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm. We will resume opening over lunchtimes subject to staff availability. Where lunch closures apply this will be between 12.30 and 1.30pm. A notice will be posted on our website and in the searchroom before 9.30am on the day of the closures.

### **Reserving a space in the Archive Centre**

A table space may be reserved up to 4pm the day before your intended visit. Space is limited and we cannot guarantee that a space will be available. We strongly advise that you book as far in advance of your visit as possible to avoid disappointment. Reservations will normally be for a day. Please contact the Archive Centre by email at Kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk. Or by telephone on 01539 713540.

### **Ordering documents on the day of your visit.**

Documents no longer need to be ordered in advance of your visit but can be ordered on the day of your visit\*. Document request slips will be available on the searchroom table to order documents. A maximum of two orders may be submitted at any one time. Although we will endeavour to keep the searchroom open over lunchtime documents will not be produced between 11.40am and 2pm. There is, however, no maximum number of documents that can be seen during a visit.

\*some documents are held at an outstore and seven days' notice is required for access to these collections. Access to these records will be provided at the Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle. Further details can be found on our website at [https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online\\_catalogues/advance.asp](https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online_catalogues/advance.asp).

## **Staying the same**

### **Reader's ticket**

A County Archive Research Network (CARN) ticket is essential for access to archive collections. Please ensure that you bring this ticket with you on your visit. Alternatively you will need to bring identification confirming name, home address and signature with you. We regret that we will not be able to allow access to archives without a CARN ticket.

### **When you arrive**

A seat will be reserved for you for the duration of your visit. Any coats and belongings will need to be stored away from your seat. Lockers are provided for storage of any bags, laptop cases and other belongings not needed for your research. Coats must be hung up on the coat hooks provided. Please ensure that you only have notepads and pencils at your allocated seat. You may also bring a laptop or tablet to your allocated seat. You will be required to sign in the visitors register and hand over your reader's ticket for the duration of your visit.

NB Please note that we cannot support the charging of electrical devices including laptops. Please bring a charging pack with you.

### **Copying of documents**

You are welcome to make copies of documents using a digital/phone camera subject to any copying restrictions for that collection. A charge will apply. We regret that we no longer offer a copying service at Kendal. If you are unable to visit the Archive Centre in person a list of researchers is available on our website at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/archivecentres/research.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/archivecentres/research.asp).

## **Recent accessions at Kendal include:**

- Grasmere, St Oswald Parish, 1998-2015 (WPR 91)
- Lindale-in-Cartmel, St Paul Parish, 1987-2016 (WPR 99)
- Natland, St Mark Parish, 1999-2019 (WPR 35)
- Kendal United Reformed Church, 1999-2016 (WDFCURC 1)
- Lakeland Arts: miscellaneous documents, 1863-1916 (WDLA)
- Oxford Archaeology North: Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme watching brief, 2018 (WDSO 185/91)
- Crosscraze Women's Institute, 1994-2018 (WDSO 17)
- Lake District Mountain Trial Association, 2019 (WDSO 229)
- Ambleside Oral History Group, 2019 (WDSO 169)
- Inner Wheel Club of Windermere, 1963-2019 (WDSO 398)
- Lunesdale Agricultural Society, 1987-2019 (WDSO 86)
- Cumbrian Railways Association, 2019 (WDSO 108)
- Grange Natural History Society, 1954-2015 (WDSO 415)
- Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, 2019 (WDSO 404)
- Beast Banks, Kendal: Title deeds and associated papers, 1702-1938 (WDX 2002)
- Windermere Sunderland Flying Boats, 1940s-2007 (WDX 2004)
- Ellerthwaite Estate, Windermere: copy deed of partition, 1884 (WDX 2005)
- Bowness: old photographs [19th-early 20th century] (WDX 2006)
- Deed of a parcel of ground in Long Eels, Great Ormside, 1636 (WDX 2007)
- Kentmere Hall title deeds, 1805-20th century (WDX 2003)

We have had an interesting influx of records from a number of local societies this quarter, including final deposits of records from two organisations that have recently disbanded. Lunesdale Agricultural Society (WDSO 86), organisers of the Lunesdale Agricultural Show, made a final deposit of records spanning the 1980s to 2019, bringing their 170+ year history up-to-date with papers relating to the dissolution of the society earlier this year. Other items deposited include minutes, show results and show catalogues, and accounts. The Inner Wheel Club of Windermere (WDSO 398), which started in 1963, also deposited additional records following the closure of the club, including minute books and club visitors' books.

Other interesting accessions include a collection of papers and photographs relating to Windermere Sunderland Flying Boats, 1941-1945 (WDX 2004). This includes reminiscences of the depositor, who formerly worked at the factory at White Cross Bay, Windermere; an interview with Frederick 'Jim' Frearson, c.1985; aircraft maintenance records, 1940s; pilot and flight engineer's notes for Sunderland III; Flying-Boat Reunion programmes, 1993-1995; notes on the sinking of U-Boat U-107 by Windermere Flying Boat EJ150; list of Sunderland aircraft built at Windermere; notes on the factory at Calgarth, Windermere; cut-away drawing of Sunderland I flying boat; newspaper cuttings regarding flying boat sunk in Windermere (an untrue rumour!); copy of operations records books; notes on loss of DP176, the first Windermere flying boat; and various photographs of flying boats including the first flight of DP176.

**Hazel Gatford, Archivist**

## **Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre**

### **Proposed closure for building works**

Regular readers will know the archives team are trying to give researchers as much notice as they can in advance of possible works at the archive site. Any accompanying temporary closure would see an alternative interim service with access to microfilms and local studies books in Whitehaven Library. However, there has as yet been no confirmed news as to the next steps for progressing this project and staff anticipate access will be unaffected for at least the first half of 2020. It is a case of looking for further updates on the Archive Service website as you plan any future visits. Happy researching!

**Catherine Clark, Community Services Manager, Copeland**

### **New material at Whitehaven Archives**

Latest accessions include:

Miscellaneous printed papers including local acts of parliament, selected newspapers (YDX 688)

- Waberthwaite St John marriage register, 1989-2018 (YPR 46)
- Cumberland Coalfield plan no 4, [c.1946] (TNCB)
- *West Cumberland Journal*, 1967, issue no 1 (YDX 682)
- West Cumbria College, Whitehaven, building plans [copies] and student enrolment records (YDS 50)
- Ponsonby Family of Haile Hall scrapbooks (YDX 693)
- Copy plans for proposed new county record office at Richmond School, Whitehaven, 1984 - (YDX 520)
- Sports programmes, mainly Whitehaven Rugby League fixtures, 1958-2008

### **Recent cataloguing**

In recent months, we have been focusing on move-related work but we have also seen a visit from St Benedicts' A-level History students, who received an introduction to the archives and its holdings as well as talks on public health in Whitehaven in the 19th and 20th centuries and the town's workhouses and local administration of the Poor Law. Through the listing work of one of our regular volunteers, we have imported a further 880 file-level records (32 boxes) of Waugh and Musgrave, solicitors. We have recently catalogued an additional deposit of the Burns-Lindow family records, which include valuations of their West Cumbrian estate, royalty accounts for coal and iron ore mines and pay sheets, giving names and occupations of employees.

**Diane Hodgson, Archivist**

### **Outreach activities**

During August Monkway Junior School, Whitehaven attended our Alfred Wainwright workshop. Within this two-hour session the children learn all about Alfred's life using facsimiles of some of his archive collection which is held at Kendal Archives. They learn about his love of animals, football, the outdoors and of course his skill as an artist. In one activity they use what they have learned from his archive to tell a story between them of a day in the life of Alfred which always proves to be entertaining. The final activity however is the one they all enjoy the most. The children have to draw in the style of Alfred using a dip pen and drawing ink. It did get messy but everyone had a good time.

**Jacqueline Moore, Community Services Officer**

**The Editor welcomes contributions to the *Newsletter* from FoCAS members**

**Articles should be in the region of 500 words (preferably with illustrations)  
and on archive-related subjects**

**Please contact me at: [jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com](mailto:jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com)**

## Caring for your archive part two

In a previous edition of the FoCAS *Newsletter* (see No. 97, September 2016) we looked at how to ensure your own irreplaceable documents, books and photographs are given the best possible chance of long-term preservation by storing them correctly. This article describes how to deal with damaged or dirty archives. If you are concerned about the condition of your own archives the best approach is always to ask a Conservator. However, there are some steps you can take if the object in question is not of great financial or sentimental value, but please remember you do so at your own risk.

### Handling

The number one cause of physical damage to archives is handling, either through carelessness or from repeated actions that cause stress and strain. Regularly unrolling a document or opening a book to the same place to display a particular page will eventually lead to damage. The materials these archives are made from are mostly organic and so degrade over time, becoming increasingly brittle and prone to breakage so careful handling is the foundation for caring for your collections.

### Rolled items (see image on right)

In most cases, leaving a paper document rolled will not cause further damage, however the roll is vulnerable to being crushed so it is advisable to roll it around a solid core (for example a cardboard tube) to support it properly. When unrolling, have a supply of fairly light weights close to hand and work on a sufficiently large surface clear of obstacles. Weight down the leading edge to keep it from springing back and gently unroll the document placing more weights as required. Keep an eye out for tears at the edges which appear as you unroll, in very springy rolls these can tent up, putting stress on the tear and causing more damage. If you spot any tears or weak areas just place a small weight on them to keep them flat.



### Books

Remember that old books are unlikely to appreciate being opened as flat as a modern binding. Open old books slowly and feel how tight the binding structure is, taking care to limit the angle of opening to a suitable degree before resistance is felt. Ensure the binding is supported to reduce strain on the joints - which is what leads to the boards falling off eventually.

### Gloves

Should I wear gloves? The answer is generally 'no'. The white cotton gloves favoured by TV shows are not used in archives as they tend to cause more problems than they solve. The loss of dexterity that comes from wearing cotton gloves and the abrasive textile makes damage more likely. In addition the gloves are good at transferring dirt and mould residues unless regularly washed. However, if you are handling photographic material gloves must be worn to protect the vulnerable image surface from the effects of acidity and oils naturally present on skin. In this case disposable nitrile gloves are recommended.

### Cleaning (see image on right)

Over time dirt and dust will settle on archives and removal of this is of more importance than just making their use more pleasant. Dirt will eventually sink into the paper structure causing permanent discolouration and being acidic it will accelerate the physical degradation of the material. Do not attempt to clean any mouldy items and seek professional advice.

Use a soft wide brush to remove loose surface dirt. Be sure to work in a well ventilated environment and wear a dust mask if necessary. For slightly more ingrained dirt you will need some conservation supplies:

- Smoke sponge: These are designed for removing soot from surfaces following a fire and their rubbery, porous texture lifts and traps particulates from paper and parchment. Cut the sponge into small pieces and gently wipe across the surface taking care not to abrade any loose ink. When dirty either trim off the outer part to reveal a clean surface or discard.
- Pencil Eraser: A range of pencil erasers are available from conservation suppliers; they should all be free of abrasives and other chemicals that could do long-term damage. They vary in softness with a foam eraser being softer than the Mars plastic eraser. You need to decide whether the item can withstand being cleaned in



this manner as it is somewhat abrasive. Work in a circular motion applying minimal pressure. Alternatively, if cleaning a larger area, you can use a cheese grater and grate the eraser over the document until you have a small pile of crumbs. These can be rolled around the surface to collect dirt.

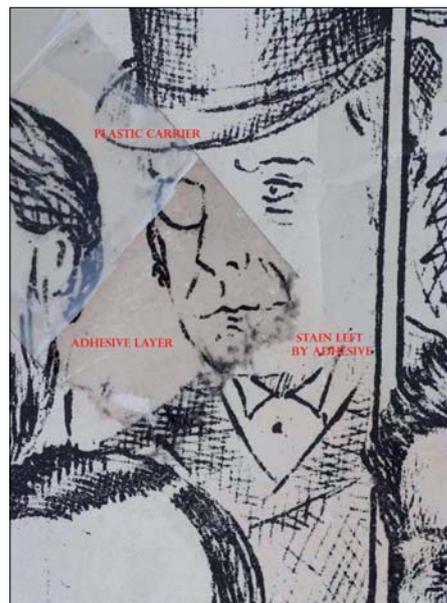
Take extreme care not to remove any pencil inscriptions and always test your method on a small area first.

### Repairs (see image on right)

If the number one cause of damage to archives is poor handling, the second is DIY repairs! You should ask yourself 'does this item *really* need repair?' A torn document or a book with a loose board should not get any worse if stored properly and subjected to limited, careful handling, however, well-meaning but inappropriate repair can easily do irreversible damage. Alternatives to repair include making a photographic copy and use that when you want to consult the item or making use of archival-quality plastic sleeves available from conservation suppliers. By slipping a fragile paper document into a plastic sleeve, it can be safely handled and read without risking further damage.

The horrors of self-adhesive tapes are well known. Tape will cause permanent staining as it becomes yellow with age and attempts to remove the tape before it has done its worst require the use of harmful solvents. Even professional conservators struggle to remove tape without damaging the surface of the document or causing adhesive residue to be driven further into the paper structure by the effect of the solvents employed.

Archival document repair tape is available for those who decide to do a DIY repair but it must be used with some caution. It is normally a lightweight tissue so is only suitable for repairing thin paper documents and needs to be applied to both sides of a tear to be effective. Most tapes require dampening to activate the adhesive layer so are unsuitable for use over water soluble inks. Applying damp tape can easily lead to wrinkling of the document unless care is taken over the drying process. The final thing to consider is how will my repair be removed? If the document is sent for professional repair at a later date or if your repair proves unsuitable, the tape will need to be removed without causing further damage. Removal is normally carried out by applying water or a chemical solvent depending on the type of adhesive used and if the media on the document (or the document itself) is damaged by that solvent, the attempted repair is potentially a permanent addition.



Tony King

**To contact the Conservation Unit:** Email: [Conservation.unit@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Conservation.unit@cumbria.gov.uk) Tel: 01228 277252

### Suppliers:

Conservation by Design

Website: <http://www.conservation-by-design.com> Email: [info@cxdltd.com](mailto:info@cxdltd.com) Tel: 01234 846300

Conservation Resources

Website: <http://www.conservation-resources.co.uk/> Email: [sales@conservation-resources.co.uk](mailto:sales@conservation-resources.co.uk) Tel: 01235553166

Preservation Equipment

Website: <https://www.preservationequipment.com/> Email: [info@preservationequipment.com](mailto:info@preservationequipment.com) Tel: 01379 647400

### **Useful Information**

#### **FOCAS Office holders**

Patron: Claire Hensman, Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria

President: Lord Inglewood

Chair: Chester Forster, 25 Highwood Crescent, Carlisle. CA1 3LF

01228 527010: [chesterforster1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chesterforster1@tiscali.co.uk)

Vice Chair: Susan Dench, 31 Mallyclose Drive, Carlisle, CA1 3HH

Minutes Secretary: Adrian Allan, The Golden Fleece, Carleton, Carlisle, CA4 0AN

Treasurer: Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, [wastwater@talktalk.net](mailto:wastwater@talktalk.net)

Editor: Jean Turnbull, 61 Bellingham Road, Kendal, LA9 5JY, [jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com](mailto:jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com)

Webmaster: **Vacancy**

Research grants: Adrian Allan, The Golden Fleece, Carleton, Carlisle

Membership: Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, [wastwater@talktalk.net](mailto:wastwater@talktalk.net)

Committee/Trustees: Roger Bingham, Rob David, Diana Matthews, Ian Jones, Ian Moonie, Margaret Martindale plus officers above except Patron and President

**Website:** [www.friendsofcumbriaarchives.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcumbriaarchives.org.uk)

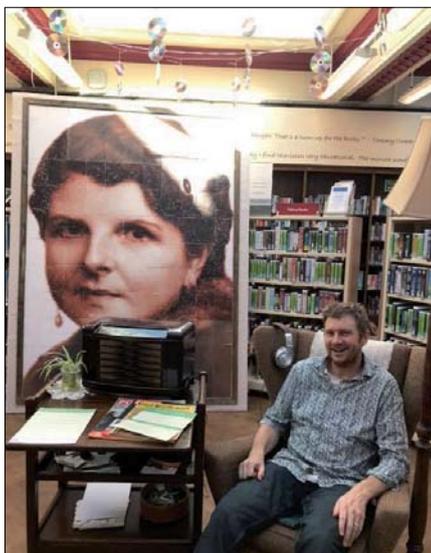
**Deadlines for copy for the Newsletter are:** 1 April (May ed.); 1 August (Sept ed.); 1 December (Jan ed.)

## **Barrow Archives and Local Studies Centre**

### **Refurbishment of Barrow Library and Archive Centre**

Cumbria County Council is investing in Barrow Library and Archive Centre by bringing the old museum back into use as a multipurpose room for community use, improving the toilets, creating a range of meeting spaces and a new Local Studies Library. This work started at the beginning of December and lasts until September 2020.

At times parts of the library will be cordoned off to allow the work to take place. This is to ensure the safety of library and archive visitors. The Archive and Local Studies Centre will be closed in June and July 2020 and the library closed for a short while towards the end of the refurbishment. It is inevitable that there will be some noise and disruption during library opening hours but as far as possible the usual events will continue to be run.



### **Lasting Diaries**

As it was the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War in September, Barrow Library and Archives joined with Jennie Dennett of Lakeland Arts to host a day commemorating Nella Last, Housewife 49, who began her diary for the Mass Observation Project. Radio Cumbria broadcast live from the library all morning, two schools visited for creative writing workshops, diaries were on display and a very large portrait of Nella was produced using 24,000 stickers. Extracts from Nella's diaries were recorded by a local actress and a listening post created for people to sit and listen to them. Susan dressed up in a 1940s Guide uniform to get into the spirit

of the day (see images on left). Several people are now keeping a diary to record the events of Brexit and these will be lodged with the Mass Observation Project.

### **Maritime History North Conference**

Susan attended the conference which was held in Forum in Barrow. The whole day was about ships and submarines built in Barrow so the Archive Centre took along archives from the Vickers Shipbuilding collection which were very well received.

**Susan Benson**

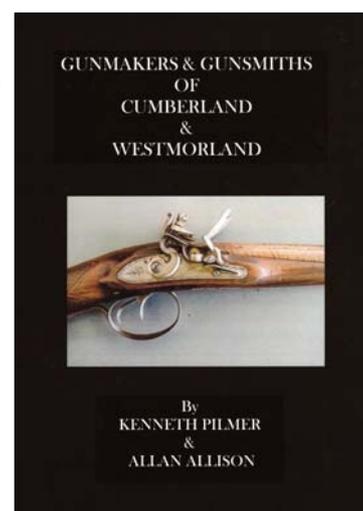
### **Book Review**

Every now and again a book comes along on a topic that no one has ever thought about before. That book is *Gunmakers and Gunsmiths of Cumberland and Westmorland* by Ken Pilmer and Allan Allison. However the book has been in gestation for the last 30 years. Over that period the authors have assiduously collected material for publication from all manner of sources. The birth has not been an easy one and in the run-up to printing, Ken, the main author, had a heart attack. However, during the days of recuperation, Ken realised that he could no longer say to himself 'I will get round to publishing one day'. The health scare galvanised him into action and within a couple of months he was actively seeking advice on how best to achieve his goal of publication. Armed with this advice he decided to make the book an all-Cumbrian production by getting the book printed by Badger Press in Bowness-on-Windermere.

It is a prodigious tome, as you might expect from 30 years of research, but for a self-published book it far exceeds what one might expect in both quantity and quality. Most illustrations are in colour and the book extends to some 204 A4 pages, giving chapter and verse, the history of some of the great gunsmiths that have plied their trade in Cumbria over the years.

So, what can you expect for your money? Well the 200 pages are profusely illustrated with photos of ancient weapons and advertisement from years past. One can follow the progress and fortunes of gunmakers in the hundreds of reproduced newspaper adverts which have been included. As the adage says 'one picture is worth a thousand words'. But the book is more than just a series of pictures as it contains a great deal of text with every line filled with fact after fact. On the down side there is no index, but the main point is that the book is published and is available to all

**Chester Forster**



**The book is available from Ken Pilmer, 5 Lowry Street, Carlisle. It costs £19.50 plus £3.50 p+p, and is also available in some local book shops**