

Charity No 1011624

FOCAS 103

October 2018

Montefiascone Conservation Project Summer School, August 2018



Each August for the last 27 years conservators from all over the world have gathered in the historic Italian town of Montefiascone to take part in the conservation summer school run by the Montefiascone Conservation Project. This year I joined them thanks to a scholarship programme offered by the conservation supplies business Conservation by Design which was set up in memory of book conservator Nicholas Hadgraft.

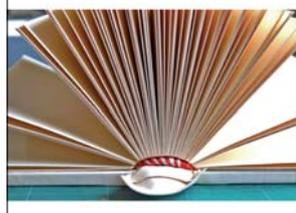
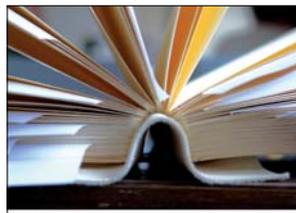
The project, which is directed by book conservator Cheryl Porter, was set up to preserve the historic library of the Seminario Barbarigo within the town, which by the late 1980s had fallen into a sad state of neglect. This collection of approximately 5,000 books comprises volumes from the late medieval period, including several unique editions, and is recognised as a significant

collection for those studying the history of the book as well as being an important part of the history of the town.

Over the years the project has benefited from the involvement of many conservators, archivists and cataloguers who volunteer their time to help preserve the collection and the conservation summer school was set up to help fund the work. Each of the four one-week courses is led by an expert tutor who focuses on a different subject (normally a specific historical book binding) presenting their research and the theory to demonstrate the technique before the students create models of these historic bindings.

I joined the summer school for the final two weeks beginning with Jim Bloxham and Shaun Thompson from Cambridge University Library instructing 'A study of sewing techniques in Romanesque book production'. During the week we took an in-depth look at the techniques and materials that went into the construction of a particular volume in the Cambridge University collection called Peterhouse Ms 13 containing Gregory's Magna Moralia and dated to the 12th/13th century. The specific features that

mark this out as a Romanesque binding include the use of wooden boards, gatherings sewn on to supports of slit alum-tawed skin which are laced through channels cut in the edge of the boards, exiting on the outer surface before entering the board again through slots into which pegs are driven to secure the supports. Getting our books to this stage had already involved three different sewing techniques and there would be at least five more before it was complete. This course was not called 'A study of sewing techniques' for nothing!



*Captions. Top right: Oak boards attached by pegging sewing supports in place
Centre: The progression of the spine profile as subsequent supporting features are added
Bottom right: The finished Romanesque binding*

Continued overleaf

**The 2018 AGM/ Member's Day will be held on
Saturday 20 October 2018 at Carlisle Archives Centre
See insert with this *Newsletter* and provisional Agenda on page 11 for further details**

It was fascinating to see the mechanical operation of the book progress towards the even-arching spine developed by medieval binders to fan open the relatively stiff parchment pages, allowing them to be read with minimal stress. Even sewing around the endbands and tabs (which might be assumed to be purely decorative) served a purpose in creating an easily opened and brilliantly articulated spine structure. With sore fingers but a sense of achievement and a greater appreciation of the work of the medieval binder, our books were finished with a secondary chemise cover held closed by a strap complete with brass clasp.

My second week; 'Dirk de Bray and Beyond', examined varieties of vellum over board bindings using the 1658 bookbinding manual of Dirk de Bray as a foundation to consider different techniques for constructing these European vellum bindings. Anne Hillam and Maria Fredericks shared their research into the subject and guided us through the method described by de Bray as well as the binding of several additional models following different methods. Anne encouraged us to embrace the spirit of the 17th century binder and not be too reliant on straight edges and squares instead trusting our 'eye' to make cuts and position elements of the binding correctly. The de Bray method was to sew the textblock onto long vellum supports which were tapered to form 'spitsels' that are then laced into a limp vellum cover before boards are inserted and pasted in place. Under Anne and Maria's direction it was surprisingly easy to follow the steps in the manual - albeit with the occasional discussion as to exactly how many millimetres were equal to a 'straws breath'.

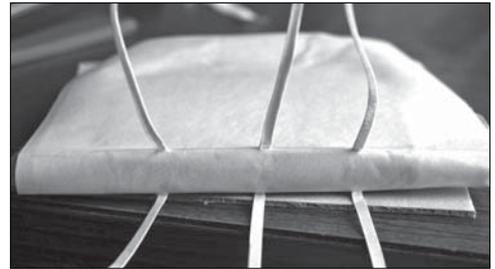
We then explored a very different variety of vellum binding; the moulded vellum spine where the cover is tightly moulded over the raised bands of the sewing supports - not something easily achieved with vellum due to its stiffness and relatively smooth surface making adhesion difficult in some situations. The method demonstrated by our tutors was to completely soak the vellum in water until it was completely softened, becoming almost jelly-like, before pasting it onto the spine of the book and moulding around the contours of the raised bands. It was then tied up to ensure the vellum adhered as it dried.

Attending these courses was a fantastic experience and I am extremely grateful to the Conservation by Design Nicholas Hadgraft Scholarship for making it possible. The experience was enhanced by spending time with conservators from across the world in a collaborative atmosphere. This was extremely rewarding and I am certain the experiences and contacts made will continue to inform my work for many years to come.

**Tony King, Senior Conservator, Cumbria Archive Service
Photographs by Cumbria Archive Service**

Captions from top.

- 1: The small de Bray model sewn onto vellum supports
- 2: De Bray laced in. Sewing supports laced through the covering vellum
- 3: The finished deBray model
- 4: Moulded vellum spine tied up while it dries



Useful Information

FOCAS Office holders

Patron	Claire Hensman, Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria
President	Lord Inglewood
Chair	Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, wastwater@talktalk.net
Vice President	Mary Wane, Email: mwane22@phoncoop.coop
Vice Chair	Susan Dench, 279, Newtown Road, Carlisle CA2 7LS, 01228 524600
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Membership	Ian Jones
Committee/Trustees	Roger Bingham, Rod Grimshaw, Ian Moonie, Diana Matthews, Rob David plus officers above except Patron and President
Website	www.friendsofcumbriaarchives.org.uk

Deadlines for copy for the Newsletter are:

1 April (May edition); 1 September (October edition); 1 December (January edition)

From the Chair

I hope that you enjoyed the summer and, depending on temperament, either basked in the heat or did not suffer too badly under it. However, the recent rain is very much welcomed by the gardeners and allotment holders among us. Which reminds me to ask if anyone knows of a good history of the allotment movement. If you do then I would be delighted to hear from you (email: wastwater@talktalk.net).



You will find with this edition of the *Newsletter* the Programme and Booking Form for our 2018 Annual Members' Day and AGM on 20 October. Two of our speakers are with the Archive Service - Robert Baxter as Senior Archivist and Tony King, Senior Conservator – and will be updating us on developments and proposed projects within the Service. There are some exciting projects in the pipeline and I am sure that members will have questions. Emeritus Professor David Wilcock will be speaking on his recently published book about the village and parish of Dalston and Mrs Susan Dench will finish off the day with a talk on Gladys Duffield, the Cumbrian suffragist. As usual we will have our book sale so do please bring along any books with which you have finished and let us sell them on. We have decided to reduce the cost of the day to £10 pp including the usual delicious lunch so I do hope that you will agree that this is very good value for money and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We have been asked why we use Carlisle AC every year as this is a longish way for members in the south and west of the county. This is true, but the Carlisle AC has much to commend it in terms of rooms and equipment made available, ease of obtaining the catering, plenty of parking space on site, and it comes free of charge, for which we are grateful. However if you wish to suggest an alternative venue for another year then please do let us know.

It is always pleasant to offer congratulations and this we do very heartily to Tony King, the Senior Conservator at Carlisle who has been awarded the prestigious 2018 Nicholas Hadgraft Memorial Scholarship. As you will have seen in the cover story this enabled Tony to learn more about book-binding and conservation techniques and included attendance at the Montefiascone Summer School in Italy.

Finally we are pleased to have agreed to support, in principle, three projects, using some of the legacy of the late Dr. Margaret Bainbridge. One is to promote the Elizabeth Roberts Oral History Archive, the second based around the diaries of Dr Bainbridge held at Barrow, and the third, the provision of a structured course promoting the history of Barrow to be run by the U3A. More information on the development of these will be given at the Members Day.

Many thanks and looking forward to seeing you on 20 October.

Lorna

Membership Decline

Regretfully, despite reminders, I have to report a disappointing state in FoCAS membership. Half way through the year there are still:

19	Partly paid members
37	Unpaid

Last year we took a lenient stance, issuing broadcast reminders in Newsletters, and personal reminders by post. We asked particularly that members would up-date their standing orders. Many of you did so, and despite the high cost of postage this was a cost-effective exercise. Several of you even made additional donations to our funds to make up for previous arrears. Our thanks are due to all of you.

This year we have decided to take a firmer line and to terminate the membership of those who have not paid at all. The rule has always been that subscriptions are due on 1st January, with a payment deadline at the end of June. Please, revisit your standing orders and check that you are paying the correct amount - £12 for single members, £15 for two at the same address.

The Treasurer

Cumbria Archive Service update on work at Kendal Archive Centre

This article is a progress report on the major changes underway at Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal, to replace older accommodation that is no longer fit for purpose. In particular the creation of two new strong rooms in County Hall has enabled us to bring collections into the Archive Centre from an out store. So far we have relocated the equivalent of well over 3,000 boxes or 800 shelves worth of records to new homes in the Archive Centre

Whilst this work has been in progress, our microfilm collections have moved to Kendal Library where they are available for six days a week including Saturdays and Wednesday evenings.

The Kendal Archive Centre has been closed since 2 May 2018 and it was our hope to re-open in early November. Unfortunately a number of issues have arisen that will mean that we will not be able to re-open until early in the new year. Part of the project has been to survey the condition of the collections and, whilst most are in a good condition, we have identified a number that need further preservation treatment before they are relocated to their new home. The extension to the closure period gives us an opportunity to address this issue and ensure that all our collections are safeguarded for future generations.

Staff have concentrated on essential collections work including backlog listing, cleaning and preservation, transfer and recording the location of collections and preparing collections for digitisation. However the task of assessing, moving, backlog cataloguing and recording the locations of over 8,000 boxes of records has been a massive task for a small team. Delays in recruiting additional staff have meant that it will take longer to complete the project that we anticipated.

Taking the extra time at this stage means that the investment we are making in storage facilities, a greater focus on collections management and future digitisation to improve remote access, will safeguard our written heritage for future generations and improve access to collections that have hitherto been unavailable to researchers.

We have written to key stakeholders and our elected members with regard to the delayed re-opening and will publish further updates on progress through our Twitter feed and website.

Peter J Eyre, Community Services Manager

The Inland Revenue District Valuation ('New Domesday') of c.1909-15

Cumbria is about the only county in the country which chose to retain additional materials relating to this valuable, but underused source.

What is it?

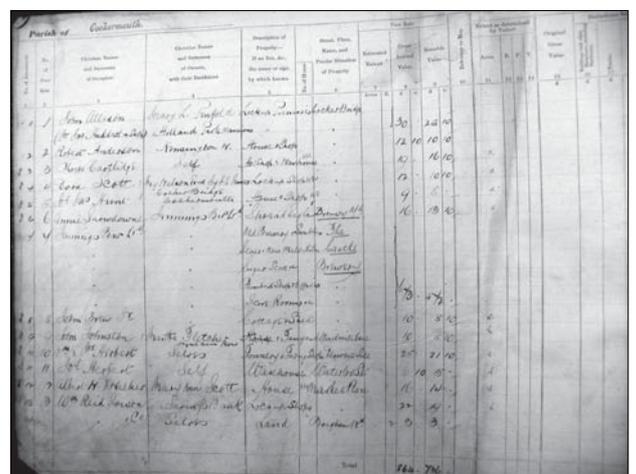
It was the only detailed survey of property since the 11th century and is a uniquely valuable source for family, house, local and other historians. It can be used alone or in conjunction with other sources such as trade directories, extant buildings, photographs, maps and the 1911 census to explore a wide variety of topics.

Background

The Finance Act of 1909-10 introduced an incremental site value tax which was to be levied on the capital appreciation of land - ie. it was to exclude any increases in value attributable to investment in improvements by the owners, such as new buildings. Prior to implementing the tax the Inland Revenue had to value every piece of land to obtain a base line for estimating future increases (or decreases). Surveyors visited, described and valued every property or 'hereditament' in the country. The documents have only been in the public domain since the 1980s.

The Documents

These are split between the National Archives (TNA) and local record offices. Cumbria Archives hold a virtually full set of working maps and quite extensive coverage of other forms which make the source much easier to use without having to visit TNA. Searching CASCAT for 'Finance Act' or 'Inland Revenue' should return the most relevant results. There are three main documents.



1) Valuation Books ('the Domesday Books'):

The information they contain was initially compiled from a combination of the entries in the 1909-10 poor rate book or from Inland Revenue Returns for Tax Schedule A. Additional information, however, was inserted at a later date after the surveyors had completed their work.

Captions. Left: Part of Cockermouth (Main Street). Right: First page of Cockermouth 'Domesday Book' showing first property owned by Mary Penfold, living in Kensington

They contain

Assessment (Hereditament) Number; Poor Rate Number; Name(s) of Occupier(s); Name(s) and Address(es) of Owners; Description of Property (eg. farm, land, shop, house, shop and house...); Address of Property; Estimate Extent (not always given); Gross Annual Value (ie. gross letting value estimated for rateable purposes); Rateable Value (ie. estimated net rental value after repairs etc.); Map reference; Gross Valuation of Property; Building Value; Site Value; Extent as determined by Valuer. They may also contain other information affecting site value eg. rights of way over property; easements/access over other property; estimated cost of the enfranchisement of the copyhold or long leasehold; additional comments: eg. the date that assessment was first issued; whether the owner has put in a counter claim against the valuation.

2) Maps (TNA IR121-135) and working copies in Cumbria Archives

These allow assessment numbers within the valuation books to be given precise locations within a district. Final copies of these survive for virtually all the country. They were based upon most recent OS surveys, in some cases specifically updated to 1912, mostly at scale 1:2500 (25") but for urban areas 1:1250 (50") or even 1:500 (127") for town centres and some villages, usually adapted from smaller scale maps.

3) Field Books (TNA IR58)

These are ONLY held in the TNA. They contain much more detailed information about each property. The information was collected from a variety of sources: the original entries from the 1909 valuation list; details provided by owner and, most importantly; a site visit by the valuer. Unfortunately the precise dates of each of these are not normally given. The detailed information in these books can shed further light on the nature of properties in an area and the people who owned and occupied them: nature of ownership: freehold, copyhold, long leasehold etc; length of tenancies or leases date and price of purchase (if in the previous 20 years); level of rent; liability for rates, repairs and insurance and other outgoings; estimates of value of timber, fruit trees etc on property and, in the case of many pubs, their precise trade; details of subletting or multiple occupancy; lists of rooms; state of repair of the property; some plans of properties; some valuers' miscellaneous opinions – eg. good neighbourhood; rent too high etc.; details of farm fields included with the property valuation purposes.

Summary

As you will have gathered, this is a tremendous source for local historians and we are fortunate that Cumbria Archives decided to preserve so many of the documents.

Further reading and guidance:

Brian Short, *Land and Society in Edwardian Britain* (Cambridge UP, 1997. Paperback edition, 2005). This is the fullest guide.

The National Archives online guide: Valuation Office Records: The Finance (1909-1910) Act Domestic Records Information 46 (but does not list Short's publication)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/valuation-office-survey-land-value-ownership-1910-1915/>

Michael Winstanley

Promoting the exploitation of the resources of Carlisle Archive Centre's research library collections

On the shelves of Carlisle Archive Centre's Search Room and Map Room is a wealth of secondary literature on the history of Cumbria. In the Map Room, in sections on such subjects as Architecture, Archaeology, Education, Health, Cumbria People and Families, Trade and Industry, Transport, County Histories, and Cumbria Places, there is to be found a large collection of publications, alongside those other shelves holding copies of the *Transactions* of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, the publications of the Surtees Society, volumes of the List and Index Society and the Calendars of Patent Rolls and State Papers and other series of archives held by the National Archives; and to further assist the researcher there are the dictionaries and guides to archive sources and their reading and interpretation, also copies of theses submitted for higher degrees which concern aspects of the history of Cumbria which their authors have kindly donated to the Centre. Hitherto, through the absence of a catalogue of such publications, researchers have not always been aware of the riches to be found on the shelves and fully exploited in support of their research in the archives. Now the Archive Service has made a spreadsheet of a list of all that is available on the shelves in the Map Room (and some of the shelves in the Search Room) available online: if you go to <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/archivecentres/cac.asp> you will see under the 'Related Links' section on the right-hand side that you can now download and search the list, recording each publication and the numbered shelf on which it may be found; this list may also be accessed on the Service's 'Family history indexes' page. Over a period of time, catalogue entries for holdings in the Map Room will also be added to Cumbria library service's online catalogue.

Yet to be produced and made available online is a full catalogue of the further research collections held on the shelves of the Search Room - transcripts of parish registers and monumental inscriptions, local directories, printed minutes of pre-1974 local authorities, newsletters of local history and other societies, notes on individual families, an extensive series of pamphlets, and much else - but in the meantime researchers are indebted to the staff of the Archive Service for making a list of what is available principally in the Map Room so readily accessible.

Through the grants that FoCAS has made available to the Archive Service, Carlisle Archive Centre was recently able to purchase, to add to its reference library collection, a copy of Steve Hindle's major study, *On the Parish? The Micro-Politics of Poor Relief in Rural England c. 1550-1750* (Oxford, 2006), a copy of which was not previously held in any of the county council's libraries or record centres. As Steve Hindle notes, 'one of the finest archives on negotiations over the entitlement to relief is that of the Cumberland magistracy in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. There are some 465 petitions for poor relief surviving amongst the quarter sessions of the Cumberland bench for the years 1686 to 1749'. Throughout his study, Steve Hindle cites the Q11 series of petitions etc. held by Carlisle Archive Centre.

Adrian Allan

News from the Cumbria Archive Service

Carlisle Archive Centre Round-up Community Outreach; Discovery Evenings

Carlisle is now offering a programme of Discovery Evenings, which are open to the public and free to attend. These events are held on a quarterly basis and are themed, where possible and seeking to reflect Cumbria's place within a wider national context. Our March event considered the theme of women's franchise, as reported in the last issue. Since then, we have offered two evenings, 'On the Right Track,' in May, enabled us to showcase our holdings, which relate to the construction, development and in some cases, sadly, the demise, of railways in north Cumbria. This was a popular event and attracted over 60 visitors. Our July event, 'NHS at 70,' provided over 30 attendees with a flavour of our health-related holdings.



Due to closure periods on many series of records, such as admission registers and casebooks, many of the items on display related to the pre-NHS period. Nevertheless, it was possible to display a selection of records not subject to this restriction, photographs proving particularly popular. Our next event on 13 November will commemorate the armistice of 1918 and will feature military organisation and activity through the centuries. The 2019 programme is currently



Captions. Top right: The last passenger train at Alston railway station, May 1976

Bottom Right: THOS 1/73/2/1 Photograph of staff and patients at Fusehill War Hospital, Oct 1918

Left: THOS 1/73/2/6 Portrait photographs of medical staff, Cumberland Infirmary, 1940

being planned and will include industrial Carlisle, including engineering (Cowans Sheldon Ltd. will feature) and textiles, the State Management Scheme and sport, both traditional Lakeland sports and mainstream. Our intention is to widen the scope of the evenings to include relevant talks and displays from external organisations. The Discovery Evenings will be advertised locally and on social media.

Accessions and Cataloguing

A selection of the highlights from recent accessions and cataloguing:

Farming in Skirwith, 1901-1912

Details of a sale of farming stock at Skirwith by Kidds Auction Company Limited, Mar 1912; account book of Mid Town Farm, Skirwith, Mar 1901 (DX 2345)

Mounsey Family of Grange in Borrowdale

Over 100 glass slides taken by the family, showing buildings, people and landscapes of Borrowdale. The slides were borrowed from a member of the family by the Borrowdale Story Project, which is based in Grange. The slides were digitised as part of the project and the originals deposited with the Archive Service. We have also been supplied with digital copies, which will greatly aid us in cataloguing the collection, c.1900 (DX 2346)

Carlisle Prison: Record Plan

Transferred by the Ministry of Justice. This plan dates from 1879 and provides a detailed overview of the prison buildings (DX 2348)

Music and Writings of Jeffrey Mark, composer and writer

Jeffrey Mark was born in Carlisle in 1900 and spent his early life at Hart Street. He read English at the University of Oxford (Exeter College) and served in the First World War as a Captain. He later studied Musical Composition at the Royal College of Music and became responsible for the musical collection at New York Public Library, where he published works on economics during the depression of the 1930s. He suffered a mental breakdown and was brought back to the UK by his sister, Mrs E Tegart OBE. After the Second World War he worked for *Picture Post* and taught Musical Composition at the Royal College of Music. He continued to write music and published a range of books on Lord Nelson, President Abraham Lincoln, President Thomas Jefferson and papers relating to mental health issues. This collection has now been fully catalogued; work on the collection was begun by Mr John Bell Mark, [brother] of Jeffrey Mark. He was a fine singer and work as chief accountant for K Shoes in Kendal (DX 1936)

School collections: Much work has taken place to improve the cataloguing of our school collections and these are now available to view on CASCAT. Collections deposited by the County Council's Education Department in the 1970s have been amalgamated with those transferred more recently by the Council's Records Management Service. This has streamlined the cataloguing, thereby making the collections much more accessible to researchers. All school collections now have 'DS' collection references. Our hospital collections present a similar problem and work has commenced on these. New material is frequently being added to CASCAT.

Volunteers

The Poor Law voucher sorting and cataloguing project, overseen by Dr Pete Collinge, AHRC Research Associate 'Small Bills and Petty Finance', based at Keele University, is continuing apace on Wednesdays. There are both morning and afternoon groups of volunteers. Additionally, we have a new project, which will involve the identification, sorting and cataloguing of the photographic collection of Mr Jim Templeton of Carlisle. In recent years, we have received large accruals to the existing collection. The collection contains photographic material from the mid-19th to the early 21st century. It relates to largely to Carlisle and its surroundings and includes original photographs, photograph albums, copy photographs, negatives and postcards, printed material and scrapbooks containing images of the city, its people, industries, events and activities. This fine photographic collection deserves recognition but currently, access for researchers is limited. Increasing the accessibility of the collection is a high priority for us and we are seeking volunteer assistance with this. At the time of writing, we have received several expressions of interest.

Louise Smith, Archivist

News from Barrow Archive and Local Studies Centre

In the last *Newsletter* I wrote about the 'Walking in Others Footsteps' project run by Mirador Arts and the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. The project used oral history collected in the 1970s and 1980s by Elizabeth Roberts from people living in Barrow, Lancaster and Preston. Dan Fox from Ulverston turned some hairdryers into oral history booths. Steve Fairclough collected oral history from local people and worked with Barrow Island Primary School where Elizabeth went to school. He then produced a memory box and display which was exhibited at the film night held in June. A new film, in which local people were interviewed about subjects covered by the original oral history, was shown along with old film of the three towns.



Memory box and oral history display

We have received copies of the oral history interviews collected by Signal Films and Media as part of their Market Tales project. They interviewed a number of ex stall holders and other local people and worked with two local schools to produce short animated films about the market. The culmination of the project was the performance of a number of short plays in the market based on stories and information discovered by the volunteers who took part. These plays included one about the banana ripening room (BDB 78)

The Submarine Heritage Centre has deposited a large number of documents and plans relating to the Oberon and Porpoise classes of submarines which were collected by the volunteer members over many years. Unfortunately the centre never opened and Onyx, the submarine they had acquired, had to be disposed of. Fortunately the archive has come with a spreadsheet of all the plans and a list of the documents (BDSO 158)

Like all archive centres, we receive donations of documents which have been rescued from skips. Recently we were given two items from Barrow County Club: a subscriptions book 1885-1931 and a petty cash book 1913-1934. The club was established in the 1870s in what is now the Custom House restaurant on the corner of Abbey Road and Hindpool Road. The subscription list is full of the names of well-known men in the town who were involved in the building of Barrow.

Post Office Collection BDB 79

In August 2017 I was alerted to the sale on eBay of a number of volumes from Barrow Post Office. These included staff registers from 1860, establishment books, details of post boxes, records of staff absence and records of commendations. Geoff duly bid for the items and as no one else was interested, he bought them for their reserve prices averaging £2.99 per volume. Postage cost him more than the volumes themselves! The collection has now been deposited in Barrow Archives and a volunteer is working his way through the staff records, producing a database of names. The collection covers much of Furness and South Cumberland.

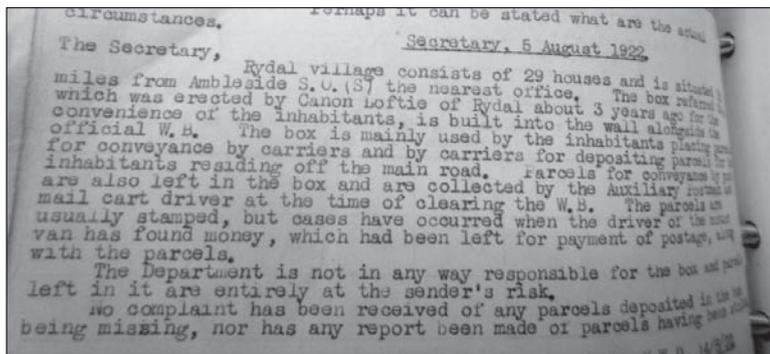
James Fisher was appointed as the first postmaster for Barrow in 1860. James Binder and Charles Whittle seem to have been the first town postmen, both appointed in 1876. Between 1878 and 1883 subordinate postmen and women were appointed for Walney (Abram Slater), Roose (Richard Rudder), Furness Abbey (Thomas Dickson), Piel (James Gash) and Rampside (Margaret Fenton). JW Soulby, a pupil at Rampside Academy, records in his diary 'Today the postman came down for the first time. ... One of the boys and Mr Matthews took 24 letters to go to the respective parents of the boys and to have the Rampside stamp on for the first time.' (Friday December 10th 1847)

The original post office was situated in the Custom House Buildings on Abbey Road. According to the *Mannex Directory* of 1882, letters were dispatched on weekdays at 8am, 10.50am and 8.30pm. On Sundays they left at 3.45pm. Deliveries were at 7am and 3.25pm. The office was open on weekdays between 7am and 8.35pm for postal business and on Sundays between 7 and 10am. A new large post office was built on the corner of Schneider Square in the 1890s. It is now a listed building.

Left: John Fisher absence record

Continued overleaf

Jobs in the post office included: postmen, clerks, telegraph messengers, one called sorting clerk and telegraph, sub-postmaster, paid and unpaid learners. In the 1890s, jobs in Millom, Bootle, Broughton-in-Furness, Holmrook, Ravenglass, Waberthwaite and Seascale appear - so presumably the post office system in Barrow was extended to cover a much larger area. Numbers of staff increased as the work and area of influence grew. Sub-post offices were opened throughout Barrow, Dalton, Kirkby Ireleth, Broughton-in-Furness and South Cumberland as far as Seascale, Wasdale and Santon Bridge. The volume beginning in 1911 includes charwomen, unestablished office cleaners and night operators. In 1900 shops were licenced to sell stamps including WH Smith & Sons at the local railway stations, newsagents and tobacconists.



The collection also includes four books containing detail of the post boxes in south Cumbria except Barrow. The slips record the letter boxes number, position, date erected (if known), the name of the maker and pattern. In 1922 someone wrote to the Pontypool Free Press about a box at Rydal (see image on left). Apparently there was no post office between Grasmere and Ambleside so to give the villagers somewhere to post parcels, a box two feet deep was built into the wall next to the post box. 'There is no door to the wood box and residents place their parcels along with money for postage in this box to await collection by the

postman'. According to a letter written in reply, the box was built by Canon Loftie of Rydal in about 1918 and was used by villagers to store parcels for carriers and the auxiliary postman. As far as it is known, no parcels or money were ever stolen.

Susan Benson

News from Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies Centre

Proposed closure for building works

Earlier this year we gave notice that the Archive Centre would close towards the end of 2018 for around a year to enable building works on the Archive site so that the Whitehaven Library, Archives, Registrars and Community Learning can deliver their services on the one site. We shall announce confirmed dates and further details as soon as we are able. Users can see any updates on our web page at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/default.asp> and also through our Twitter feed @CumbriaArchives

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist

Recent accessions

- High Duty Alloys, Workington additional material (photographs and visitors books, YDB 68)
- School records of Edward Gribbin (YDX 705)
- Printed documents and publications concerning Whitehaven, Hensingham St John's and West Cumberland Hospital Voluntary Library (YDX 720)
- Lorton, Loweswater and Buttermere parish magazines (YDX 724)
- Demolition of Calder Hall cooling towers photographs (PH/1659)
- Moor Row Boy Scouts postcard [early 20th century], (PH/1660)
- Lorton and Brigham estate and family papers, 1698-1899, (additional) including a deed regulating system of drainage of lands of various owners at Lorton, 31 Dec 1881 entitled 'Lorton Main Drainage' (YDX 710)
- Calder School, Seascale photographs including reunions, 1959-2002 (YDS 19)
- Lamplugh, Kirkland and Ennerdale Ecumenical PCC meeting minutes (YPR 2)
- Lamplugh Diamond Jubilee Group working papers, 2012 (YDSO 180)
- St Bees marriage registers, 1995-2017 (YPR 42)
- Archaeological site evaluation inc. photographs for land at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, 2018 (YDB 79)
- Gosforth, Buttermere, Loweswater and Lorton Parish Council records (YSPPCs 12, 29, 17 and 10 respectively)
- Lowca Community School scrapbook, 1957 (YDS 85)
- Cleator Moor Brewing Company and Paitson's Brewing Company shareholders' minutes, wages book and accounts, 1874-1947 (YDB 100)
- Whitehaven Methodist Circuit records including St Marks Moresby Parks (YDFCM 2)
- Lewthwaite family, Broadgate, Millom, correspondence, title deeds and estate papers, particularly concerning the Check Hall estate in Dominica in the West Indies, circa 1619- c.1945 (YDLEW)
- Whitehaven, St Peter's, Kells, registers of service, 1997-2009 (YPR 48)

Catalogued material

Volunteers, including an A-level student from St Benedict's School in Whitehaven, have continued to work on the Waugh and Musgrave solicitor's collection (DWM). This has included labelling previously listed documents as well as cataloguing individual records. In the coming months this data will be imported into the catalogue and made available online. The most recently listed Percy Kelly letters from 1984 are also about to go online (YDX 427/1/2). Archive staff have also been working on improving the details available for Whitehaven Borough and Copeland Borough Councils planning applications (SMBWH & SDCO). Papers from our Local Studies files have now been added to the archives and catalogued. These include publications such as Albright company magazines.

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

Archive Discover Evenings

We have celebrated a couple of big birthdays over the last couple of months. In June Whitehaven and District Rambling Club took over the regular monthly open night to bring along its exhibition celebrating 90 years since the Club's formation. Photographs and memorabilia belonging to members past and present were on display along with items from the Club's archives, held here at Whitehaven. It was a departure from the usual Archive Discovery Evening format, as an outside organisation hosted it and selected the archive items to be on show. It worked very well, introducing many ramblers to the Archive Centre for the first time. Staff were kept busy answering questions from new visitors about the Archive Service and the resources available to researchers here.

In July we were able to pay our respects to the National Health Service – not quite as old as the Ramblers but just as loved. This supported the exhibition which had been held all the previous week at the Archive Centre, and the open night attracted former NHS employees including former nurses who worked at Whitehaven Castle over the years.

The regular Archive Discovery Evening is held on the third Tuesday of each month (doors open 7pm) and provides visitors with a glimpse of items we hold in the strongroom which they might not realise we have.

Lesley Park, Archives Assistant

NHS Exhibition

To mark 70 years of the National Health Service Whitehaven Archive Centre displayed a small exhibition looking back at early healthcare in West Cumbria, including home cures, the Victorian chemist, doctors' services, voluntary hospitals, disease outbreaks and the beginning of our NHS. Although the majority of people seem to have been in favour of a National Health Service, many were cautious of this radical change to the healthcare system. Whilst conducting my research I was surprised by the level of local opposition to the scheme, with posters being displayed protesting about the establishment of National Health Service control of voluntary hospitals and petitions being signed by local residents. The NHS exhibition was complemented by an exhibition in the foyer of our building for Garlands Hospital, Carlisle and also formed the backdrop to our Archives Discovery evening in July.

Alison Hurst, Archives Assistant

Outreach and education activities

MORE DEATHS FROM THE EPIDEMIC AT EGREMONT.—The grim hand of the Reaper continues to claim toll, young, old, and middle aged alike being called. Several have passed away during the weekend, and there is no sign of abatement as yet. The neighbouring villages and hamlets have now been invaded by the dreaded scourge, and deaths have occurred at Couderton and Middletown. At the former place, the victim is Miss Lister, who has been for a long time in the service of Mr. Elliot, farmer, at the Cop Farm. She was a native of Broughton, and her body was conveyed there for interment. At Middletown Mrs. Graham and her grandchild have succumbed to the epidemic. At Egremont several deaths have occurred among young people in their twenties and early thirties. Mrs. Stamper, of 22, East Road, died on Friday at the residence of her parents, who were her immediate neighbours. She was called in to attend her mother, and herself was stricken and died. Another death on Friday, was that of Mr. Geo. Bell, who resided with Mr. W. Foster, 1, North Road. He was in the employ of the L.N.W. and Furness Railway Company, at Egremont. His parents reside at Cockermouth. Miss Sarah Bailiff, who lived in Church Street, died on Saturday, as also did Mrs. Elizabeth Gleave, another resident in Church Street. She leaves her husband and two children to mourn her loss. Saturday also saw the death of Mrs. Dixon, widow of the late Mr. Tom Dixon, of Egremont, at the age of 74 years. She was a strong supporter of the Wesleyan Church, until she removed out of the town to reside with her brother. She returned to Egremont only a few months ago, taking up her abode with her married son, Mr. T. J. Dixon, of Ehen Bank. We are pleased to note that the tolling of the "passing bell" has been temporarily suspended owing to the number of sick who are in the town. The frequency with which it sent out its mournful tidings during the past week or two must have had a doleful effect on the sick, and we are certain that the townspeople will appreciate the kindly thought which prompted the order for its stoppage. Another custom which might well be suspended is the ringing of the bell through the streets of the town on the eve of a funeral.

Key Stage 2 children from Ennerdale and Kinniside CE Primary School visited the Archive Centre on 6 July. They participated in a two-hour workshop on Alfred Wainwright to tie in with their school work on the Lake District National Park. They enjoyed learning about Alfred's life using copies of his collection held at Kendal Archive Centre. The final activity involved the children sketching a Wainwright-type image using pen and ink. It is quite a knack getting the right amount of ink on the nib and the children soon mastered the skill. Thankfully they didn't get too much ink on themselves.

BBC Radio Cumbria recently contacted me to ask if we had any information on how the locality was affected by the outbreak of the 'Spanish Flu' pandemic 100 years ago. Looking through the local newspapers it came to light that the town of Egremont suffered the highest rate of deaths due to influenza than any other place in Cumberland. Such was the frequency of death the tolling of the 'passing bell' was temporarily suspended due to its effect on the sick. One family was greatly affected by the disease. Seven members of the Graham family were struck down with the flu and within a matter of weeks four had died: James Graham, a 54 year old iron ore miner and three of his daughters. They were all buried in Egremont Cemetery.

Our Percy Kelly posters have been on the road. They were on display at the Gosforth Agricultural show and they were later displayed at Gosforth Library link for a week.

Jacqueline Moore, Community Services Officer

Captions. Top right: Visitors, including former NHS employees, find out about early healthcare in Whitehaven. Bottom right: Petition to save the voluntary hospital. Left: Spanish Flu hits Egremont: Whitehaven News, 5 December 1918



'Beneath the Beacon'

'Beneath the Beacon' was an alphabet trail and exhibition in celebration of people in and around Penrith, which showed from 28 July to 2 September and which presented a novel way of exploiting archives and the information they reveal, using a technique which dates back centuries. Whereas our ancestors were fascinated by the automata to be observed in cabinets of curiosities and other precursors of our modern museums and were impressed by the sepulchral monuments and the funeral effigies to be found at Westminster Abbey and other churches, Dawn Hurton, the Cumbria Archive Service's former Outreach Officer, employed her talents as both an artist and as skilled interpreter of archives vividly to portray over two dozen men and women, both the famous and the overlooked, who have had an association with Penrith and its region. In over a dozen separate locations in Penrith, the 26 'story boxes', featuring the mechanical sculptures which characterfully portrayed the individuals in their setting, were accompanied by pen portrait biographies and pertinent extracts from the archives. While some of those pictured are well known – Richard III, Lady Anne Clifford, William and Mary Wordsworth, and the 'Yellow Earl' of Lonsdale, among others - fresh light was thrown on many whose lives should be better known, including John Close, the Kirkby Stephen poet, Charlotte Deans, a nomadic travelling player, and Dr William Fairer, a 'quack' doctor, of Redgill near Orton.



*The Yellow Earl on his Arctic trip
(Gavin Jacob Power)*

The project was sponsored by the Arts Council, Cumbria County Council, Penrith Town Council, and Penrith and Eden Museum (which loaned objects and itself mounted a complementary exhibit). The mechanical sculptures ran on the insertion of 20p coins with the proceeds being donated to Hospice at Home. Many people particularly associate The Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle with the late 18th century musical automaton, 'the silver swan'; more recently, we have been pleased to associate Dawn Hurton's own successor creations with the Cumbria Archive Service and the role it seeks to perform – of fostering the exploitation of its resources by young and old alike. If you missed the exhibition or did not visit all its venues, do visit the website at www.beneaththebeaconinterpretation.com for pictures of all the sculptures and the associated text.

Adrian Allan

The World War One Diary of Sergeant Hubert Simpson, RAMC

Hubert Simpson's WW1 diaries give unique insight into aspects of WW1. In this final piece for the FoCAS *Newsletter*, the run up to and aftermath of the Armistice in 1918 is covered.

Understandably, Simpson and colleagues eagerly anticipated the end of the war. On 6 November after the capture of nearby Mormal Forest, he writes "... Germany stands alone. How long will she last?" Four days later he comments that armistice was expected at any moment (the Kaiser having abdicated the day before). On 11 November came the entry "Fighting ceased at 11:00 hrs. I scarcely know whether to laugh or cry and I'm ever so happy. I have tried to give thanks to God for all his goodness to me. Now that the Armistice is in force we look forward for peace and the welcome home." However, there were still hardships to come. On 13 November he reports that ambulance trains could not get through to pick up patients at his field hospital (at Solesmes) due to mines laid by the enemy in the final days of the war. These had been disclosed by the Germans according to armistice terms and had to be removed or exploded before traffic could pass. Simpson records this as a problem until 17 November. On 19 November he reports repatriated prisoners coming down, dressed in all sorts of old rags "some pretty sick and all are thin and haggard." On 7 December after a shell explosion in Solesmes, two officers were brought in, one dead and the other unlikely to survive despite a blood transfusion.

However, there were celebratory dinners and concerts to mark the end of the war. On 20 November "A dinner and concert held this evening to commemorate various anniversaries and to celebrate the cessation of fighting. Four course dinner at 17:00 hrs, officers and sisters waited on us all in old op. theatre [operating theatre], and we have had a splendid time. The concert at 20:00 hrs was a great success and was quite the best our own boys have ever given." A couple of weeks later the Stars Concert Party had visited again and all had an enjoyable time. Two days later Simpson writes "Matron has had most of my time today. I have spent several hours in printing menus for a dinner the [nursing] sisters are giving this evening." On 14 December he records that The Troncats gave another concert, all enjoyed the show, though there was a delay in starting and "heaps of room for improvement."

Less obviously celebratory, Simpson reports having a walk in the town four days after the Armistice and seeing many refugees returning with their little carts piled with bundles. "Our motor transport is carrying a number but lots are waiting with their few belongings to be picked up."

On 16 December he was able to enjoy himself 'joy riding' (his own term) on an ambulance car with colleagues Atkins and others. The trip included skirting round the Forest of Mormal, a two hour visit to the city of Valenciennes and then tea at 57 CCS (a field hospital, similar to Simpson's own). It was a cold ride back to camp in the moonlight but he found his leave pass waiting for him, dated that day. "My luck is in and I'm going away tomorrow for the best Christmas holiday I have ever had." His diary tells of a wonderful Christmas celebrated with his new wife, family and friends.

Simpson did not return to his field hospital after leave in December/January 1918/1919. His diary presents details of his demobilisation experience. On Tuesday 7 January it reveals that he set out by train from Kendal at 9:20 am, travelled via Preston and arrived at Whittington near Oswestry at 3:00 pm. He marched to Oswestry Camp where he passed through 18 different huts as part of the demobilisation process, "an awful business" which finished by 6:45 pm.

Continued at foot of page 11

MEMBERS' DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Cumbria Archives will take place at 1.35 pm, 20th October, at the Carlisle Archive Centre, Petheril Bank

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Welcome and to note number of members present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM (to be circulated at the beginning of the day)
4. Matters arising from those Minutes not covered under agenda items below
5. Chair's report (to be circulated at the beginning of the day)
6. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report and presentation/adoption of examined accounts (to be circulated at the meeting)
7. Election of Officers and Committee of Trustees

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Currently</u>
Chair	Lorna Mullett
Vice-Chair	Susan Dench
Minutes Secretary	Adrian Allan
Treasurer	Ian Jones
Membership Secretary	Ian Jones
Newsletter Editor	Jean Turnbull

Committee Members
Roger Bingham, Rob David, Rod Grimshaw, Diana Mathews, Ian Moonie, Mike Winstanley *

Ex Officio
Mary Wane
8. Appointment of professional examiner for the accounts
9. Any other business proper to the meeting
10. Date and venue of 2019 Members Day and AGM

* Members should note that the Committee has an entitlement of eight members and this year Mike Winstanley has served his term of six years and is to stand down, so we are looking to recruit three more Committee members who automatically become Trustees. We particularly need to replace Mike who is our Webmaster so if you feel that you could take this on, or know someone who could then let me know. If you wish to nominate anyone as an Officer or Committee Member or if you have any item(s) that you wish to be included on the Agenda please let me have names/details by **Monday 15th October** at the latest. All nominations will require the consent of the person nominated, a proposer and a seconder.

Lorna M. Mullett, Chair
wastwater@talktalk.net

Later he marched to Gobowen station near Oswestry and arrived in Kendal the following morning "... I'm a FREE MAN - thank God."

Simpson also experienced at first hand the ravages of the influenza epidemic which broke out towards the end of the war. On 26 October 1918 he writes "influenza raging, we have 2 wards full and a number of bronco – pneumonias." There are other references to the epidemic and on 18 November he writes "Scott very sick and admitted to flu ward." Jimmy Scott was a colleague and local lad from Kendal. On 21 November Simpson writes "... It seems hard if Jimmy has to go after 4 years hard work ..." and on 22 November 1918 "Jimmy Scott died at 2 o'clock this morning ... Six of us acted as bearers and every available man attended. It has been a sad, sad day, and those of us who were his friends have not dared to talk much. A Canadian bugler blew the 'last post' an impressive call on such an occasion."

Hubert Simpson wrote in his diary every day for the whole of his wartime career except 1- 4 July 1916 (Here he purposely linked together those four days to record the part his unit played in the first days of the Battle of the Somme). His measured, informative, often perceptive entries contribute substantially to our knowledge of the non-combatant history of WW1 and more specifically the role of the Royal Army Medical Corps and their Casualty Clearing Station field hospitals.

The diaries are held at Kendal Archive Centre reference WDX 515/2/3/2

Margaret Owen

Voices From The Hood

Recently people in Cumbria have been connecting with voices from the past in a hair-raising way. Ulverston-based sound artist Dan Fox created a sixties style hair salon entitled 'Voices From The Hood' to bring a pioneering oral history archive to life. The hood hairdryers were converted into listening posts and a vintage hairdryer became a personal speaker.

'Voices From The Hood' has toured various Cumbrian venues: The Forum in Barrow, Kendal Brewery Arts Centre and Barrow Library. Visitors were able to take a comfy seat on one of four period chairs and, via a small control panel, play excerpts from the Working Class Oral History Archive created by Elizabeth Roberts who was born in Barrow. Elizabeth's pioneering work in the 1970s and 1980s captured the voices and memories of people in Barrow, Lancaster and Preston from 1890 to the 1970s.



Dan Fox with his 'Voices From The Hood' sound installation (Mirador)

Dan was one of several artists brought together by the Lancaster-based arts and heritage company, Mirador, to take part in their latest project 'Walking In Others Footsteps', a celebration of the digitisation of the Elizabeth Roberts archive by the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University. While 'under the dryers' visitors to 'Voices From The Hood' could read a magazine listing details of the tracks they could hear. "The piece worked on two levels: the personal experience of sitting and listening whilst watching the world go by and the image of a period hair salon popping up in an unexpected place", said Dan. He learned his trade growing up on the road with Welfare State International. For more than 25 years he has worked all over the world with theatre companies, bands, festivals and organisations.

Mirador is a highly experienced team that blends its expertise and know-how to originate, research, develop and deliver magical and inspiring projects which fuse arts and culture that connect people to their location, heritage and history. 'Voices From The Hood' was just one element of their 'Walking In

Others Footsteps' project funded by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Regional Heritage Centre at Lancaster University and the Sir John Fisher Foundation.

A special event was held at Barrow Library in the summer which saw rare archive film of the town screened alongside a new documentary film 'Give Me Today, Anytime' which featured Barrovians talking about domestic life today, combined with voices from the past. This event also included Elizabeth Roberts talking about her archive and a display of memorabilia collected by Steve Fairclough, the engagement officer for 'Walking In Others Footsteps'. Steve had held several drop-in sessions in Barrow to collect people's memories of food, family, football and funerals and he plans to deposit these at the Regional Heritage Centre. Steve also worked with children at Barrow Island School and, on one visit, took Elizabeth with him - returning for the first time since she was a pupil at the school more than 70 years ago.

'Walking In Others Footsteps' also involved events in Lancaster and Preston including poetry writing inspired by the archive and a street party where today's children played with toys enjoyed by generations past. For more information about 'Walking In Others Footsteps' visit www.miradorarts.co.uk



Elizabeth Roberts with pupils from Barrow Island School (Mirador)

For more information about the Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive and the digitisation project, see <http://www.regional-heritage-centre.org>

Louise Bryning, Mirador

Archival Sources

A recent article by Adrian Allan on 'parish packets' (see pp. 6-7 of FoCAS Newsletter 102) and another in this edition on Inland Revenue District Valuation records by Michael Winstanley (see pp.4-5) provide evidence of their usefulness as historical sources. These are only two examples of the many and varied archival sources to be found in local and national archives.

Any member who wishes to highlight a source that they have found particularly useful in their research and to provide details of this, together with the reasons why they have found it so useful, should contact the Editor with a view to having this published in the FoCAS Newsletter:

Jean Turnbull (contact details on page 2)