

Charity No 1011624

FOCAS 104

January 2019

Commemorating the Armistice in Furness

Over the past few months a great deal of time has been spent preparing for the 100th anniversary of the Armistice on 11 November. Together with Barrow Library we have been involved with creating a poppy display in the garden at the front of the library. Local schools, brownie, guide and ranger units, one beaver unit and local care leavers have all made poppies for us. Most have been made from the bottom of plastic drinks bottles painted red. Some were then glued to sticks and over 550 were tied to netting to create a weeping window. In total over 1,400 poppies were made (see image top right). The classes which came into the Archive Centre to make poppies also looked at archives relating to the First World War such as the architect's drawing for the cenotaph in Barrow Park; photographs; greetings card sent by soldiers to loved ones at home; a set of medals; the borough Roll of Honour. One class was studying the effects of the Barrow Blitz in 1941 so we went for a walk round the local area looking at where bombs had dropped, ending up in Barrow Park at the Cenotaph.



On Friday 9 November we held a short commemoration service attended by Councillor Elizabeth Mallinson, Chair of the County Council, Councillor Bill McEwan, Mayor of Barrow, along with local councillors, school children and members of the public. The Last Post and Reveille were played beautifully by Kathryn McCullough.

Susan attended an event at Dalton Community Centre on 1 November which was broadcast on Val Armstrong's afternoon show on BBC Radio Cumbria. Local school children had worked with a potter to create poppy plaques to be put on the houses of the 180 men from Dalton who died during the First World War (see image bottom right). Local choirs sang, the plaques were given out and Val talked to a family related to one of those killed and archives were out on display.



Finally an exhibition looking at the effects of the War and Armistice on

Barrow has been put up (see image on left). With the end of the War, many people lost their jobs when the munitions factory closed, there were no orders for new ships and the need for steel declined. There was concern for the women who were now unemployed and an article in national newspapers resulted in letters being sent to the Town Clerk saying that the women can go back to domestic service! Local unemployment schemes such as building the coast road were set up and several marches by unemployed people were organised. The Peace celebrations planned in July 1919 did not find favour with the local Labour party or shipbuilding unions who felt the £1,600 could be spent on better things than parties, concerts and a parade.

Susan Benson

Detailed annual lists of additions to catalogues

Do you want to know what is new to Cumbria Archive Service catalogue? Each archive centre now produces a detailed list of all the new catalogue entries for each calendar year. These can be accessed from the CASCAT home page. These are very extensive detailed lists but very useful since the documents can be downloaded and also searched by word. The latest list (for 2017) for Barrow runs to 202 pages, that for Kendal 294, Carlisle 661 and Whitehaven 765 (!). These are very useful if you have already searched the catalogue in the past but want to see if anything new has been added. They are pdf documents which can be browsed so you do not need to continually move between headings and subheadings, as you do on the CASCAT catalogue itself. You can get a very good feel of what a whole collection contains and in what detail.

Many thanks to the archives for making such a useful resource available.

See below for the link to new additions to catalogue:
<https://archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/calmview/showcase.aspx>

Wanted - a new Webmaster!

We were sorry to lose our Webmaster, Michael Winstanley, who resigned at the AGM in October 2018.

We need someone to replace him - preferably someone who has new ideas about redesigning the FoCAS website.

<https://sites.google.com/site/friendsforcumbriaarchives/>

If you would like to know more about what is involved with a view to considering taking on this important (but not particularly onerous) role please contact :

Mike Winstanley (m.winstanley@lancaster.ac.uk)
or
Jean Turnbull, *Newsletter* Editor (jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com)

Working with the Cumbria Archive Service (CAS) and Cumbria Local History Federation (CLHF)

We have now joined with the CAS and CLHF to see in what ways FoCAS can support and help mutually beneficial initiatives, and, in particular, to identify projects in which interested volunteers from CLHF and FoCAS can take part. These discussions are in an early stage. We were concerned that no volunteer work would impinge on that of paid CAS staff or would take time from their proper duties. We have been assured, 'that there are volunteer opportunities with which FoCAS may wish to associate but these are discrete and specific. These are the type of projects which would not get done without volunteer assistance but they are also not depriving an archivist or archive assistant of a paid job'. With these assurances we are happy to invite you to consider volunteering (if you are not already doing so!).

There are two projects in the pipeline which would benefit from volunteer participation: (i) cataloguing the Carlisle Hospital for Infectious Diseases Registers (pre-1948) and (ii) indexing Militia Records (1780-1830). If you are at all interested please let me have your name and contact details and I will pass them on to the CAS.

Many thanks

Lorna M. Mullett, Treasurer and Membership Secretary at wastwater@talktalk.com

Useful Information

FOCAS Office holders

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Treasurer	Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, wastwater@talktalk.net
Editor	Jean Turnbull, 61 Bellingham Road, Kendal, LA9 5JY, jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com
Webmaster	Vacancy
Research grants	Adrian Allan, The Golden Fleece, Carleton, Carlisle
Membership	Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, wastwater@talktalk.net
Committee/Trustees	Roger Bingham, Rob David, Rod Grimshaw, Ian Jones, Ian Moonie, Diana Matthews plus officers above except Patron and President

Website www.friendsforcumbriaarchives.org.uk

Deadlines for copy for the Newsletter are:

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

Members' Day, 20 October 2018

Members gathered in the Carlisle Archive Centre to enjoy the varied and interesting programme of lectures which they have come to expect at the annual Members' Day.

Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist with CAS, began proceedings with an in-depth talk on the changes that have taken place in the Cumbria Archives Service over the past few years. I suspect that we were all surprised at the extent to which the numbers of staff employed in CAS has declined over this period. Robert then moved on to describe the substantial changes to the service which are planned for the short and longer term in three of the county's four archive centres, as well as the various projects the service is hoping to undertake in the future. We look forward to hearing more on these developments over the coming months.

He was followed by Professor David Wilcock, an environmental scientist, who told us he was drawn into historical research through the VCH project in which he has made the study of Dalston (south-west of Carlisle) his own. In 2018 he published *Dalston, The Story of a Cumberland Parish* (Bookcase, Carlisle). Dalston's greatest period of prosperity was in the early 19th century and was due to its position on the river Caldew on which several large mills were fed by a complex network of weirs, mill races and dams. Dalston parish also includes the historic Rose Castle, until recently the home of the Bishops of Carlisle.

The final speaker of the morning was Tony King with a talk entitled 'Conservation and Digital Developments' that followed up on what Robert Baxter had told us on the subject of digital access to archives, Tony referred to the new Digitisation Studio at Carlisle AC, the Service's trial use of 'Preservica' (a platform for the safe storage of digital content), and the in-house and other projects in the course of planning, including a brief demonstration of the exciting 'Know Your Place' mapping project (pioneered in Bristol and south-western counties) which uses the layering of maps and other sources to build up a picture of an area through time, also a potential commercial partnership to digitise name-rich archives, granting free access from Cumbria's Archive Centres and libraries to such digitised archives. He finished with a brief description of the book production skills he had learned during his time at the Montefiascone Conservation Project Summer School in August 2018 (for more details see pp.1-2 of *Newsletter 103*, October 2018). The bindings created by Tony were then passed around for us to examine.

Following an excellent buffet lunch and a search through the books stall the AGM took place, ably conducted by Lorna Mullett, the retiring Chair.

A lecture by Susan Dench, our Vice Chair, who spent many years working in the Carlisle AC, completed the programme. The subject was Mrs Gladys Duffield and the journey she made from Keswick to London with a large party of Suffragists in June 1913. Mrs Duffield's unpublished manuscript of the event is held in Carlisle Archive Centre (Reference DX33/1) and Susan used this, together with other materials she has gathered on Mrs Duffield during her research. It was a most appropriate finish to this 2018 event.

Jean Turnbull

From the Treasurer and Membership Secretary

I have taken over as Treasurer and Membership Secretary from Ian Jones and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him, on my own behalf and of yours, for all the work and expertise that he has given to maintaining our funds and financial records over the last couple of years. Our finances have been in excellent hands. Earlier in the year the Trustees took the decision to invest £20,000 in a medium term investment account with the COIF, however, and in light of the national uncertain financial future, we reviewed this decision and decided to leave making the investment until the New Year when the situation may be somewhat clearer. We will, of course, keep you informed of developments via this Newsletter.

On more mundane matters may I remind you that your subscriptions for 2019 are due on 1 January. May I ask you to make sure that you are paying the correct amount - £12 per individual and £15 for a couple or a society. **Cheques made payable to FOCAS should be sent to me at 24 Pennine Way, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 8EE.** If you pay by Standing Order please do check with your bank/building society. In 2018 we lost a significant number of members through non-payment and we do wish to arrest this decline. Of course, the other way of maintaining a goodly number of members is to recruit, so, and again please, if you know of someone who might be interested then do ask them to consider joining us.

Membership forms are available on our website (FOCAS Friends of Cumbria Archives) or by contacting me on 01768 840903 or at Wastwater@talktalk.net.

With best wishes

Lorna M Mullett

News from the Cumbria Archive Service

Whitehaven Archives and Local Studies Centre

Proposed closure for building works

Due to delays within the planning process within the County Council, the proposed closure of the Archive Centre towards the end of 2018 has been postponed. If the remainder of the planning process goes smoothly, we would expect to close during the latter half of 2019. The closure period is expected to be for towards 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. With this in mind, we recommend any researchers with plans to use Whitehaven Archives should make the most of any opportunities within the next few months! 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

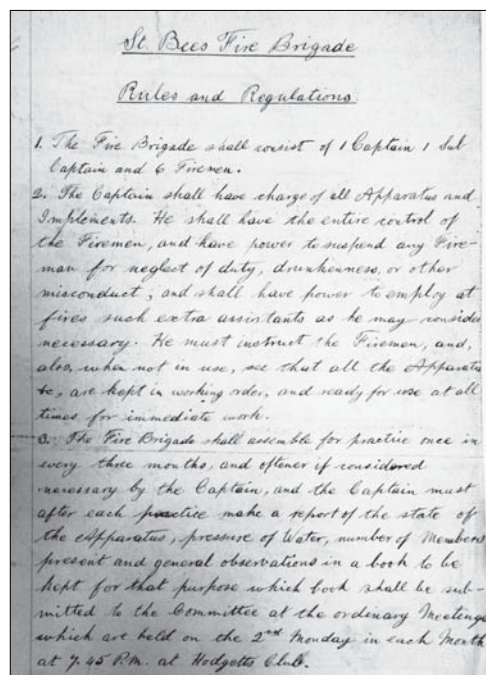
Whitehaven parish records (YPR 17 additional)
 St Peters Kells records (YPR 48 additional)
 Lewthwaite family - additional material consisting of deeds, accounts and family and estate correspondence (YDLEW)
 Distington Holy Spirit churchwardens' accounts (YPR 37)
 Deeds for property in the Market Place, Whitehaven (DBH)
 Cumberland Geological Society (YDSO 103)
 Joseph A McBain and West Cumberland Industrial Development Company Committee papers (YDB 60 additional)
 Cartgate Mansion, Hensingham, photographs (PH/1661)
 West Cumberland Building Society (YDB 63)
 Theatre Royal posters (YDX 728, 2 items)

Catalogued Material

The Mitchells Auction Company collection (YDB 61) has been listed retrospectively. There has been further cataloguing of records relating to Whitehaven Theatre Group (YDSO 177); Distington Local History Society (YDSO 60); Albright and Wilson magazines (YDB 59); Copeland Borough Council material including Civic Hall programmes (SDCO); Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society (YDSO 13); Rosehill Theatre Company (YDSO 121); Keswick and Borrowdale postcards (PH/1663); The Whitehaven Review, Whitehaven Library correspondence and photographs (WHL); West Cumbria Carers (YDSO184); Cumbrian weather reports, 1989-2012 (YDX 727).

The most recent accession of papers relating to the Lewthwaite family of Broadgate, Millom, contains information about slavery on the sugar plantation they owned, known as Check Hall, on the island of Dominica. Names, ages and occupations of slaves can be found in lists, 1802 and 1804, as well as in an appraisal of the estate, 1775, and an indenture of sale of five slaves, 1771.

Names	years	Vol	No	Names	years	Vol
Wendson	49			Kephane	26	
Tanning	57			Offella	36	
Milke	34	} Corporals		Bronha	32	
Sharts	19			Providana	51	
Sepio	17		Portland	26		
Hilton	33		Brook	40		
Wed	25	} Corporals		Romea	29	
Tom	21			Samson	21	
Peter Head	57		Toby	27		
Hammond	27	} Men		Mellean	37	
Jasper	19			Goruck	31	
Calkham	43		Ganga	23		
Frank	43		Jeak	22		
Abel	40		Richmond	18		
Archey	39		Baptiste	18		
Abraham	24		Mourey	16		
Cyrus	26		London	19		
Shamont	36		Gulca	17		
Cupid	31		Bibi	17		
Cudjro	60	} 50		Liverpool	17	
Damon	26			Peter	16	
Culston	31		Guonvick	13		
Chise	26		William	13		
Qu	48		Adam			



We have a new graduate volunteer who is contributing to the listing of Waugh and Musgrave solicitors' client records (DWM) as well as getting involved in outreach work during their placement. Our regular volunteer for this collection has recently completed listing another 2000 items which are due to be edited and entered into our collection management system (and online catalogue) over the coming weeks.

Work is ongoing on a sizeable collection of pre-1974 local authority records received from the Council's Records Management Service. While most appraised so far have been rather humdrum, some interesting nuggets have emerged, including a file of national and local memoranda and circulars for Harrington Urban District Council, relating to post-war issues, 1918-1920 (SMBWOA/1/3/2) and rules and regulations for St Bees Fire Brigade, 1907 (SRDED/1/2/5/4).

Captions. Right: List of slaves belonging to Check Hall Estate, 1804 (YDLEW/13/1/4)
 Left: St Bees Fire Brigade regulations, 1907 (SRDED/1/2/5/4) © Cumbria County Council

Archive Discovery Evenings

Whitehaven Archive Centre's monthly Discovery Evenings continued through the autumn with a look at theatres and cinemas in October. Some of the building plans include beautiful illustrations of the inside of the theatres showing the elaborate proscenium arches and rich Art Deco interiors. These are a treat to see as many visitors to the Archive Centre do not realise how detailed these plans can be.

In November we took the opportunity to reflect on the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. Some family historians among the visitors were able to add to their knowledge, finding names on rolls of honour and news stories in the local newspaper indexes.

December's open night is earmarked as a Christmas social.

Whitehaven Archive Centre's monthly open nights are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Doors open 7pm. It is a free event and refreshments are available.

Lesley Park, Archives Assistant

The WWI exhibition 'A Brave New World' at the Beacon Museum

Cumbria Archive and Local Studies Centre, Whitehaven contributed to Copeland Borough Council's 'A Brave New World' exhibition on the Armistice, held at the Beacon Museum from 6th Oct – 11th Nov 2018, which told the story of what happened when the fighting stopped. The display covered local reactions to the War and the Armistice, what events were held to mark the end of the War and to commemorate those who had died. It also looked at life in the immediate aftermath for both the civilian population and returning soldiers in terms of housing, employment, disease and injury. The Archives collaborated with a local researcher, Joseph Ritson, and supplied text and images for the display. <https://thebeacon-whitehaven.co.uk/a-brave-new-world-the-armistice-and-beyond/>

Caption. Right: Harrington servicemen's fundraiser, 31 Aug 1918 (SMBWOA/1/3/2) © Cumbria County Council

HARRINGTON SOLDIERS & SAILORS			
CHRISTMAS		PRESENT FUND.	
GOLF & SPORTS HELD SATURDAY AUGUST 31st 1918.			
***** BALANCE SHEET *****			
----- RECEIPTS -----			
Subscriptions	223.. 4.. 4		
Gate Money	33.. 9.. 8	Paid for Prizes	212.. 9..
Refreshments	21.. 2.. 2	Printing Star	9..
Hidden Treasure	4.. 8.. 3	"O.Times	12..
Houpla	11.. 1.. 6	Bills etc	3..10
Golliwogs & Flowers	13.. 4.. 9	"O.Wright, meat	11..
Drawing for Cake	2.. 9.. 9	Mr Gill, Sundries	10.. 6
" "Pillow cases	2.. 7.. 3	Balance	100.. 0.. 0
Entrance Fees	3..12.. 0		210.. 3.. 0
Sale of Programmes	3.. 3.. 10		
	210.. 8.. 6		

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

Outreach activities

During September as part of the national Heritage Open Days celebration Whitehaven Archives offered the general public the opportunity to go behind the scenes and view our strongroom. We held three tours and 20 individuals attended. The Tour of Britain visited Cumbria during September and both Workington and Whitehaven libraries displayed our 'Centuries of Cycling' exhibition.

We had a busy October and November delivering lots of outreach to children from across Copeland and Allerdale. First we had a visit from Whitehaven Youth Council, nine inspirational year 7 girls, who were given a behind the scenes tour of the archive strongroom followed by activities introducing them to researching local history. The girls had a great time and asked lots of well thought-out and interesting questions. They happily told me that they thought 'It was going to be boring' but that they had enjoyed themselves. The visit was arranged by Councillor Emma Williamson who accompanied the girls. Next we held a number of workshops to mark the centenary of the Armistice called 'A Brave New World'. In total 279 Key Stage Two children from Broughton, Egremont, Millom, Thornhill, Eskdale and Whitehaven schools visited the Archive Centre. Using archive sources they learnt all about Whitehaven's Victoria Cross hero Abraham Acton and how children helped the war effort.

'Victoria Cross heroes' was also the subject when we took part in the national Explore Your Archive Week during November. We had a display of information panels on four local men who were awarded the Victoria Cross; as always staff were on hand to help customers research their own family heroes.

Jacqueline Moore, Community Services Officer

Barrow Archive and Local Studies Centre

(See also story on page 1)

We have continued to accept accessions, catalogue collections, give talks to local groups and run sessions for local schools. New accessions include the research papers of Dr Geoff Hancock relating to the work of John Bolton, a local geologist (BDX 799); Log books from Dendron Church of England School 1875-1992 (BDS 1); Photocopy of a staff register and index from the Furness Railway 1867-1927 (unfortunately the original has been destroyed) BTBR 6/7; The Grizedale Society, Grizedale Forest, Cumbria including the Theatre in the Forest, photographs and videos of the sculptures in the forest and the papers of Bill Grant, a founding member (BDB 81); Five drawings and plans done by James Alfred Grundy of Ulverston, architect while a student at Liverpool University in the 1930s. James was later killed in the Second World War and the family practice closed (BDX 795).

Plans for alterations to the Library and Archive Centre are currently awaiting planning permission. Building work may start in spring 2019 and this will result in a period of closure.

Susan Benson

Carlisle Archive Centre

Jim Templeton Collection Volunteer Project

An exciting new volunteer project at Carlisle Archive Centre will provide improved access to our most important photographic collection; Jim Templeton of Carlisle.



Jim Templeton (13 February 1920 – 27 November 2011) from Carlisle and a fireman by trade, was a keen local historian, photographer and collector of photographic material. Carlisle Archive Centre holds some of his extensive collection.

The collection (reference: DX 416) spans more than a century, containing material from the mid-19th century to the early 21st which relates to largely to Carlisle and its surroundings. The material includes original photographs, photograph albums, copy photographs, negatives and postcards. In addition there is a series of printed material and scrapbooks containing images of the city, its people, industries, events and activities.

Much of the collection is unlisted or partially listed and there have been several accruals to the collection in recent years. At present, access for researchers is limited and it is a priority for us to make the collection more widely available, whilst increasing its profile. The collection deserves greater recognition and this volunteer project aims to address this.

There are several stages to the project. The first of these is to compile a catalogue of the unlisted material onto spreadsheets, which is currently being undertaken by our four volunteers on Thursday afternoons. They are working through boxes, which contain a mixed range of material. There are postcards and photographs of Carlisle and other places in Cumbria from the later 19th and early 20th century, alongside modern slides and photograph albums relating to more recent events, such as Carlisle Great Fair in the 1980s, royal visits and Remembrance Day parades. Much of the earlier material provides a record of industries and trades now long gone.

This work will provide us with an overview of the material, which will enable us to arrange it in a more accessible way for researchers. Ultimately, this will be incorporated into the main collection on our online catalogue, CASCAT.

Once the material is catalogued, the next stage will be to repackage it and transfer it to our cold store; cooler conditions are better for the preservation of photographic materials. Finally, we intend to digitise the whole DX 416 collection, which will have the benefits of better preserving the original records and making digital images available for research and display purposes.

Louise Smith



Captions. Right: An image from the collection 'The Tip, Carlisle'. Left. Volunteers working on the collection. Top: Elizabeth Allnutt & Moira Tattersall. Bottom: Christine Tattersall & Bill Bundred

Heritage Open Days 2018 at Carlisle Archives

Established in 1994, Heritage Open Days is England's contribution to the European Heritage Days and has since grown into the country's largest heritage festival. The open days in 2018 fell on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th September and it was the second year running that Carlisle Archives took part.

As part of this event Carlisle Archives invited customers to see what lies behind the strong room door. This was a rare opportunity to see our specialist storage facilities including the Conservation and Digitisation studios, to learn about the history of Lady Gillford's House and to view some of our unique collections.

Documents on display included:

- The Dormont Book (reference CA/2/17)
- Charter of Edward II, 1316 (reference CA/1/2)
- Lanercost Cartulary (reference DZ/1)
- Photographs of munition workers taken in 1917 at the World War One munitions factory, near Gretna (reference DB 85/16)

Visiting the Conservation Studio, the groups saw repair work being undertaken on a collection of 19th century building plans from Kendal Archive Centre. These plans are drawn on fragile tracing paper which has deteriorated over the years, becoming brittle and crumpled through use leading to the loss of areas; as a result these plans are currently closed to researchers. Conservators explained how the plans are removed from the book pages they are currently mounted on by softening the adhesive using the carefully controlled application water vapour before receiving a supporting layer of lightweight archival quality tissue on the back.

Over four tours Carlisle Archives staff met and greeted 39 customers. One tour of nine customers resulted in five new members to the County Archive Research Network scheme [CARN]. Visitors came from as far away as Silloth as well as a couple that lived opposite the Archives on Holmacres Drive who used this unique opportunity to visit the Archives for the first time. Questions on the tours included property and family history and promises to revisit the Centre, including one boy who will be back for his work experience later in the school year.

For future events held at Carlisle Archives, readers can check our Twitter account, @CumbriaArchives; Facebook account, @ Carlisle Library and Archives; or the website <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/events.asp> including our next discovery evening in November where we will have original documents on display about the militia and military activity in north Cumbria.

Sarah Wood, Archives Assistant

Cumbria Archive Service update on work at Kendal Archive Centre

This article is an update on where we are with the Kendal Archives refurbishment project. Since my last article in August there has been considerable progress with the relocation of the collections to their new homes in County Hall. So far we have moved the equivalent of 1500 shelves or 6000 boxes to new locations. Work has been ongoing to address those collections that required preservation treatment and this work was completed by mid-December. The relocation will be completed by January.

An important element of the work has been to record the new locations of the collections. Sharon Dugdale has joined us as Records and Digitisation Clerk to support this essential work.

With the completion of the transfer of the records to new accommodation, we are now turning our minds to re-opening the service. In particular our aim is to re-open on 5 March 2019. There will be significant changes to how the service operates. Our popular family history sources, including microfilms of parish and non-conformist registers and wills, have been located at Kendal Library since May. They will stay there and continue to be available for six days a week including Wednesday evenings and Saturdays.

When Kendal Archive Centre re-opens we will facilitate access to original manuscript collections through a booking system. We appreciate that a booking system is a radical departure from how the Archive Service has operated until now. However such a system has a number of advantages for both researchers and the Archive Service. Many researchers like to plan their visits and we have received many requests for documents in advance. The researcher will save valuable time in not having to wait for items to be produced from the strongroom. Documents will be waiting when he or she arrives. When we re-open, the service will be open for four days a week between 10am and 4pm.

With the focus being on invigilation, more staffing resources can be allocated to essential collections management tasks including cataloguing, preservation and location management. These will allow more collections to be accessible over time.

Researchers will be asked to identify the documents they wish to see in advance of a visit giving at least one week's notice. Space will be allocated to them for the duration of their visit. A number of our collections will be held off site in Carlisle and a week's notice will be required for access to those collections. These will be made accessible at the Cumbria Archive Centre, Carlisle. A revised list of collections which require pre-ordering at least a week in advance is now available at https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/Online_catalogues/advance.asp

A CARN readers' ticket will be essential to access original manuscripts. Up to ten manuscripts can be ordered in advance, per visit. Researchers will be able to take copies of documents with a camera/phone camera for the cost of a camera licence fee. We will not be offering a copying service.

As this is a new development for the Archive Service, there will, inevitably be an element of trial and error as we establish the new service.

Peter J Eyre, Community Services Manager

Conservation Unit Update December 2018

New member of the team

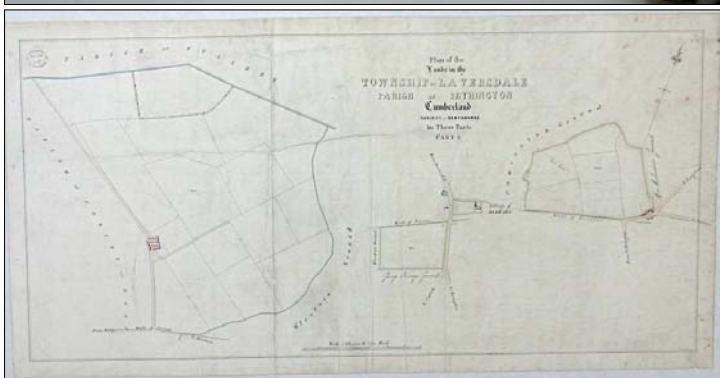
We welcome Fay Humphreys who joins us from Cambridge University Library to take up the role of Conservator following the retirement of Izabela Park after 16 years with the Archive Service. Fay trained at Camberwell College, graduating with an MA in Conservation, specialising in archive and bound material before becoming Conservator for Cambridge University Press. Despite only being in post since October, Fay is already involved with several conservation projects.

Visit by Conservation Students

Ten students in the second year of the MA Conservation course at Northumbria University spent an afternoon in the Conservation Unit at Carlisle Archives learning about the work of the Unit. After a tour of the building they were shown a selection of previous projects and had plenty of questions for us! The Northumbria course does not cover the conservation of archives or books so the students took the opportunity to explore approaches to parchment, seals and bound material.

Mapping project

The past few months have seen good progress towards our ambition to create a regional digital mapping platform where map collections from archives in the North West can be displayed online in a similar manner to the Know Your Place and Layers of London projects that are currently available online. It is expected that tithe maps will form the initial basis for the project, however many of Cumbria's tithe maps are in need of cleaning or significant repair before they are in a fit state to be digitised.



Map restoration. Before (top) and after (bottom)

Work to assess the suitability of the Preservica digital preservation system is drawing to a close. This web-based platform is a potential solution for the long-term storage and access of born digital archives and digitised content generated by the archive service. As well as securely storing digital content, Preservica monitors files for degradation and obsolescence, migrating formats created by out-dated software to approved archive formats that can be opened by current software packages. If Preservica is adopted by the Council, it is hoped that the public facing access portal can be used to allow researchers access to images and audio files digitised from original documents in our collection.

Digital Preservation

Work to assess the suitability of the Preservica digital preservation system is drawing to a close. This web-based platform is a potential solution for the long-term storage and access of born digital archives and digitised content generated by the archive service. As well as securely storing digital content, Preservica monitors files for degradation and obsolescence, migrating formats created by out-dated software to approved archive formats that can be opened by current software packages. If Preservica is adopted by the Council, it is hoped that the public facing access portal can be used to allow researchers access to images and audio files digitised from original documents in our collection.

Tony King

The Gladly Solemn Sound project



Concert at Rydal, October 2018 (Graham Rogers)

FOCAS supported with a grant of £250 the *Gladly Solemn Sound* project to find 'West Gallery Music' preserved amongst Cumbrian archives, and to bring it to life through their singing and music making. The music sung in the 18th and 19th centuries in churches in Troutbeck, Martindale, Coniston, Brampton, Skelton Middleton and elsewhere is now available on a CD - *A Different Lore: The Antient Psalmody of Cumbria* - deposited in the Cumbrian archive centres and available for purchase. The CD was launched at a concert held at Rydal last October, a rare opportunity to hear the sacred music of Cumbria performed once again.

Information about the CD and how to purchase it can be found on the *Gladly Solemn Sound* website <https://gladlysolemn.co.uk/>

Rob David

The Editor would like to encourage FoCAS members to submit short articles on archive-related subjects for future editions of the *Newsletter*

If you would like to contribute contact me at: jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com