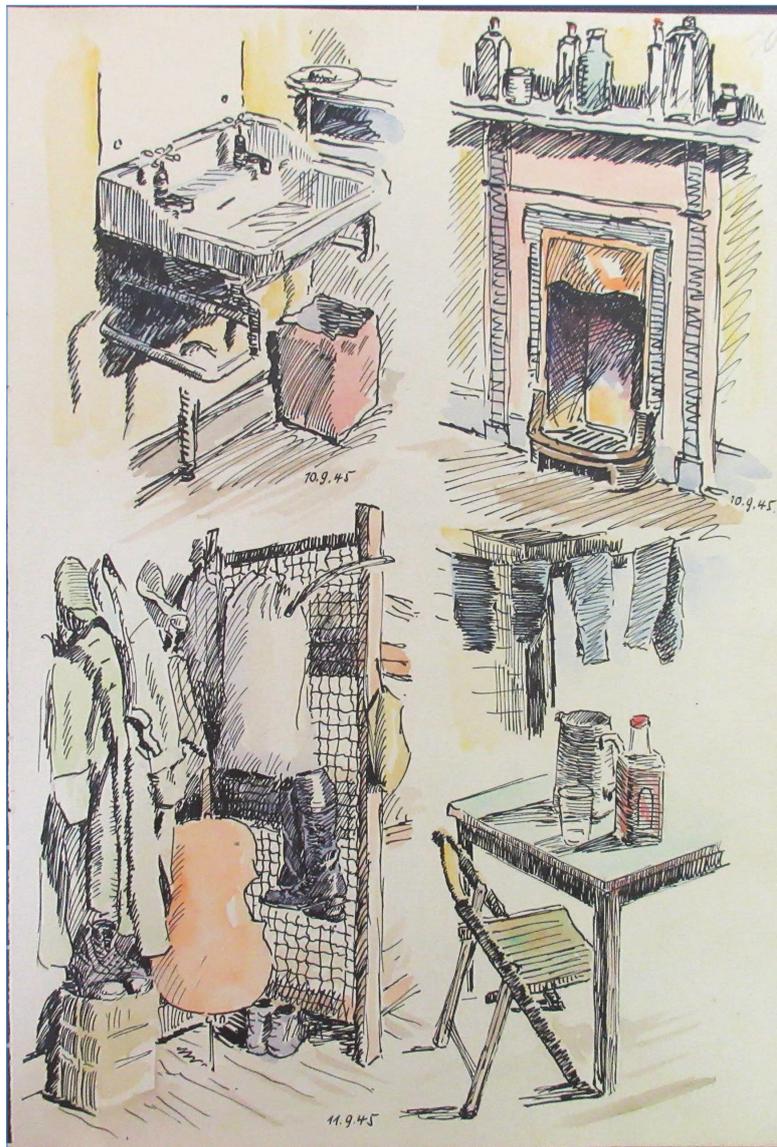


## *Theodor Langner's drawings of Shap Wells Prisoner of War camp*

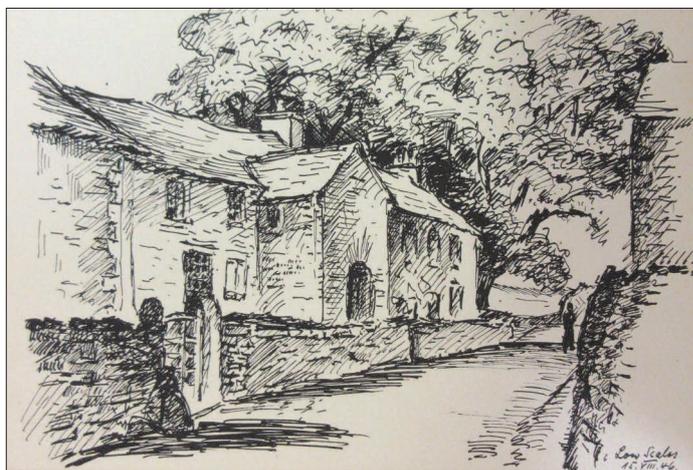


Cumbria Archive Service recently acquired a collection of drawings of Shap Wells Prisoner of War camp made by an inmate called Johannes Theodor Langner in 1945 and 1946. Langer was born in Berlin in 1893 and was possibly an art teacher before the war. He became a military intelligence officer in the Wehrmacht and was captured in the Netherlands in 1945, ending up in Shap Wells camp in April of that year. Shap Wells Hotel had been requisitioned and converted into a Prisoner of War camp in 1941 and housed German officers.

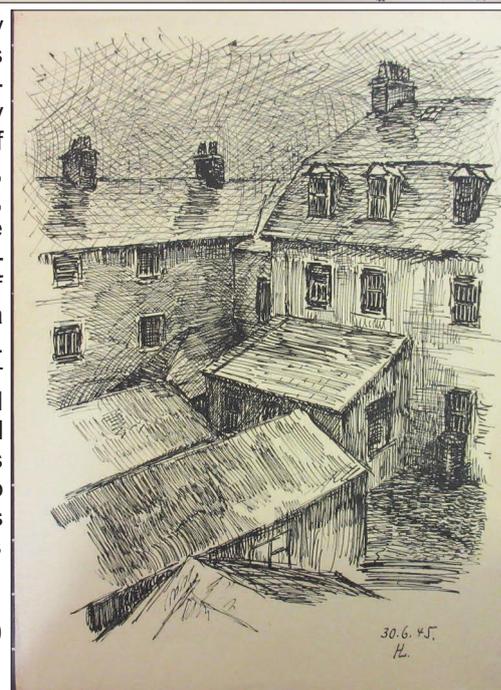
Continued overleaf

Langner's drawings of interiors in the camp and courtyard provide a glimpse into the living conditions in the camp. One drawing is a series of vignettes showing a sink, fire-place, table and chair, and the end of a bunk bed with clothes hanging up (see page 1). These mundane scenes of camp life are enlivened by a cello shown amongst the hanging clothes, suggesting an artistic life in the camp, supplemented by access to books (another drawing shows some books on a chest of drawers), and in the case of Langner, access to drawing materials.

While the prisoners enjoyed certain freedoms, rules had to be followed; one drawing depicts a series of signs in and around the camp including a couple of 'Eintritt Verboten' signs. While security was important, the prisoners were allowed to walk in the surrounding countryside, and many of Langner's drawings are of landscapes in the local area, including views of Shap Abbey, the church at Orton, views of the camp from outside the perimeter, local becks and a couple of drawings of the Shap Wells spa well pavilion and pump head. The collection also contains four drawings of Shap Abbey and farm, drawn in July 1946, and views of buildings at Low Scales drawn in August 1946, just two weeks before Langner was repatriated to Germany. He was



repatriated to Germany. He was repatriated to Wenden in the British controlled sector of Germany on 30 August 1946 and likely died around 1960. The collection contains 37 drawings and they can be seen at Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal, collection reference WDX 2017. The catalogue on CASCAT contains images of some of Langner's drawings.



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**Anthony Hughes, Archivist**

*Captions. Page 1: Interiors [WDX 2017/1]. Top right: Buildings at Low Scale [WDX 2017/31] Left: Signage at the camp [WDX 2017/5]. Bottom right: This view of courtyard and roofs may well be the view from the window in Langner's room – a view that must have become very familiar to him [WDX 2017/6].*

## Useful Information

### FoCAS office holders

Patron: Claire Hensman, Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria

President: Lord Inglewood

Chair (interim): Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, wastwater@talktalk.net

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

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

Treasurer (interim): Ian Jones, Pettitoes, Hardcrag Way, Grange over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6BH

Newsletter Editor: Jean Turnbull, 61 Bellingham Rd, Kendal, LA9 5JY, jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com

Webmaster: **Vacancy**

Research grants: Adrian Allan, The Golden Fleece, Carleton, Carlisle, CA4 0AN

Membership: Lorna Mullett, 01768 840903, wastwater@talktalk.net

Committee/ trustees: Roger Bingham, Rob David, Diana Matthews, Chester Forster, Margaret Martindale plus officers above except Patron and President

## *From the Interim Chair*

You will immediately note the addition of 'Interim' at the head of this report and the fact that this is not coming from Chester. Early in January Chester confirmed that his health was not good and would not permit him to carry out the post of Chair to the very high standard he had set himself. After consultation within the Committee it was agreed that I should take over as Chair on an interim basis until the AGM and that Ian Jones should relieve me as Treasurer, again until the AGM. Chester will stay on as a Trustee and valued member of the Committee. We hope that you will approve this way forward.

We have had our first Zoom Committee meeting which went well and allowed us to start setting out a programme of work to be done both within the 'Friends' and also in conjunction with the CAS. We have embarked on an enterprising project relating to the archives of the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald newspaper which is being ably and expertly overseen by a small committee on which Rob David and Adrian Allan represent FoCAS – for more information read Adrian's piece on page 4. We have also made a further donation to the CAS for the purchase of archives. Our next meeting will be dedicated to discussing our Website, in particular how to bring it up-to-date and fit for purpose. We anticipate that this will require a complete overhaul. We need to know what you expect from the website so do PLEASE get in touch with ideas of what you would like to see. If there is anyone out there who might be interested in becoming involved in the website please let us know.

It is also time to start thinking about an AGM. I know October seems a long way away but the months are going by. Again your thoughts on the format would be appreciated. Let us hope that by then we may be able to meet face-to-face but we must keep our options open.

Finally, County Councillor Roger Bingham, a member of our Committee, has now become the FoCAS representative on the Cumbria County History Trust (CCHT) Board of Trustees. His addition is greatly welcomed. We also pass on the congratulations of FoCAS to Peter Eyre of Kendal AC who has been promoted to Lead Archivist for the county.

All best wishes and stay safe and well

*Lorna*

## *From the Treasurer*

I am very pleased to report that 99 members have retained their 2021 FoCAS membership, despite the pandemic. This figure includes six societies, two of which have paid up subscriptions they missed last year. And I want to thank those of you who generously included an extra donation. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who has not yet paid for the present year,

Subscriptions remain unchanged, as follows:

Single member - £12; Two members at the same address - £15; Societies - £15

If you wish to pay by cheque, please make it payable to FoCAS, and post to:

Mrs Lorna Mullett, 24 Pennine Way, Penrith, CA11 8EE

We have made a further donation to the Cumbria Archive Service to enable them to purchase archives as they come available, especially at short notice at auction. As reported elsewhere we are contributing consultancy funds to enable evaluation of the heritage assets of the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald newspaper. We have also reserved £8,700 for the Archives of the Borderlands scoping exercise, which has been delayed until the autumn of 2021.

**Thank you, Ian Jones**

## **Stop Press**

FoCAS is actively involved in the project to save and assess the large archive holdings of the *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*. An important part of this project, should it go further and depending on funding, will be to work through the massive photographic archive for which we will need volunteers for a couple of weeks work on a rota basis. It is hoped that the archive can be stored at the Rheged Centre in Penrith. We are not sure of the timing of this yet but within the next few months is suggested.

If you are interested, definitely, or in principle, in joining a volunteer team then please let me know.

Many thanks, Lorna Mullett, Interim Chair of FoCAS, 01768 840903 or [wastwater@talktalk.net](mailto:wastwater@talktalk.net)

### ***At the heart of the community: the heritage of the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald***

It was in response to an approach made by Bryan Gray, chairman of the Cumbria County History Trust, to Lorna Mullett, interim chairman of FoCAS, and Robert Baxter, Senior Archivist, Cumbria Archive Service, regarding the planned move to smaller premises from the King Street, Penrith premises that the *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald* has occupied since 1903, that FoCAS has readily agreed to fund a heritage consultancy to report on and make recommendations regarding the paper's extensive collections. These contain a veritable 'Aladdin's cave' comprising newspaper collections, the paper's business archives, a very large photographic collection, newspaper library and print-related artefacts. Reporting to a small committee representative of CAS, CCHT and FoCAS (Rob David and Adrian Allan), Kevin Bolton, a professional archive consultant whose previous work has included reports on the holdings of several NW newspapers, has recently been appointed to undertake the consultancy and it is expected that his report and recommendations will be received later in the spring.

Enjoying very high rates of literacy amongst its population and a busy printing industry, as Professor Michael Mullett notes in his history of *Penrith in the Nineteenth Century* (Bookcase, Carlisle, 2020), Penrith's first newspaper, the *Cumberland & Westmorland Advertiser*, was established in 1854 by Benjamin Sweeten. Joining the paper as a reporter-compositor in 1857, his nephew, Thomas Hodgson, from Barnard Castle, established his own paper in 1860, the *Penrith Herald*, which was to be continued as the *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald*. Remarkably, Thomas Hodgson was to remain sole proprietor of the *Herald* until 1890 and editor until his death, aged 76 years, in 1913. He also served as a Wesleyan local preacher, auctioneer and proprietor of a temperance hostelry in Penrith. The *Advertiser* ceased publication in 1901 and the weekly *Penrith Observer*, 'a household paper of Conservative politics' which had started up in 1860, was closed down by the then family-owned Cumbrian Newspapers Group (publishers of *The Cumberland News* and other titles) in 1968, leaving the *Herald* as the sole surviving Penrith-based newspaper nowadays.

The printing side of the business (a limited company from 1890) responsible for the printing of books, pamphlets, billheads, etc., besides the *Herald*, was facilitated by successive investments in new machinery, a Wharfedale two-feeder printing machine in 1901, a Cosser printing press in 1933, later a photo-setting machine and a Goss web-offset press, the one surviving Linotype machine being retired in 1988 with the development of the computer. An innovation in 1986, was the introduction of a talking newspaper, a recording of the paper's main contents for blind people.

The *Herald* has enjoyed an enviable continuity in its staff; in 2003, it recorded that it had had only seven editors, all 'home grown' apart from the founder and only four men in charge of the printing side since 1890. In 2019, Emily Atherton, the paper's first female editor, became the eighth editor. The happy family which such continuity witnesses has been mirrored in the affection in which the *Herald* is held by its readership, not least evidenced when it was threatened with closure in early 2020. The pride the paper has taken in its heritage has been chronicled in a centenary history (1960) and a history and celebration, *The things they put in the papers* (2003), written by John Hurst, a former editor.

It was most fortunate that Eden businessman, Andy Barr, stepped in and bought the company in 2020, expressing the importance he attaches to preserving the heritage that the paper represents to the community it serves. The *Herald* remains one of the few remaining independently owned newspapers in the UK. The paper's website provides its readers with a history of the paper, besides a large selection of the photographs it has published. And when the King Street office is again able to open to the public, one can purchase tea towels featuring a front page of a past issue and a commemorative mug ('Don't be a Mug Read the Herald !').

Recognition of the *Herald* has also come from within the media industry, including more recently 'Weekly Newspaper of the Year' in 2013 and the O2 Media Awards 2018 North West 'Community Publication of the Year'.

**Adrian Allan**

### ***Seeing the North with Sankey - Photo in Focus***

Several articles on the SIGNAL Film and Media's exciting 'Seeing the North with Sankey' project have appeared in this *Newsletter*.

The company has now created this online photographic exhibition which can be viewed at:

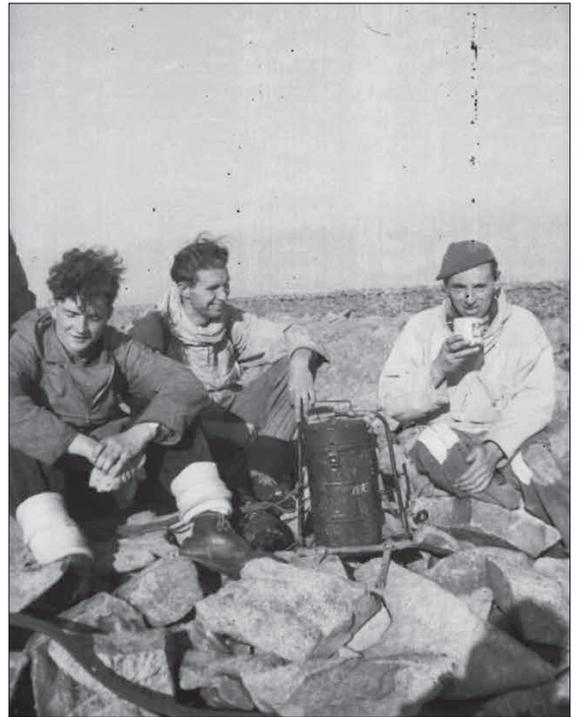
<https://signalfilmandmedia.com/sankey-photo-in-focus-exhibition/>

## Mountain Heritage Trust Online Catalogue Launch

The Mountain Heritage Trust is delighted to announce the launch of its online catalogue, giving access to catalogues and collections information. The Trust, founded in 2000, records, preserves and, most importantly, communicates to as wide an audience as possible, the UK's rich heritage in climbing, mountaineering and mountain culture.

Mountaineering and climbing heritage is exceptionally varied; in our archive Chris Bonington's expedition planning records and Mabel Barker's boots share shelves with the photographic archive of Johnnie Lees, one of the pioneers of modern mountain rescue. Other highlights include the pre-WWI Siegfried Herford Collection, the Stanley Watson Collection (covering the Lakeland climber's guiding and film making life) and the Chorley and Hopkinson Mountaineering Library. British mountaineers' achievements (post-1960) on the world's great peaks also feature, including the Mick Burke Collection, the Joe Tasker and Peter Boardman Collections, the Jim Curran Collection.

More recent additions include the George Band Collection (the youngest climber on the successful first ascent of Everest in 1953) and the Don Robinson Collection (likely to be the most significant indoor climbing collection in the UK and globally). We also hold a substantial object collection of climbing and mountaineering equipment and clothing.



### About the catalogue

The online catalogue contains descriptions relating to the collections in our care. It was implemented in 2021 with funding from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Culture Recovery Fund. Records within collections include: expedition planning records, reports, diaries, photographs and slides, equipment, clothing, climbing wall plans, magazines and journals, press cuttings, books, awards, drawings, films and many other types of material. The catalogue can be accessed at: <http://calmview.co.uk/MHT/CalmView/Aboutcatalogue.aspx>



*Captions.*

*Top: Hillwalking party c.1940s, Johnnie Lees Collection, Mountain Heritage Trust.*

*Bottom: Carabiners and rope, Mountain Heritage Trust*

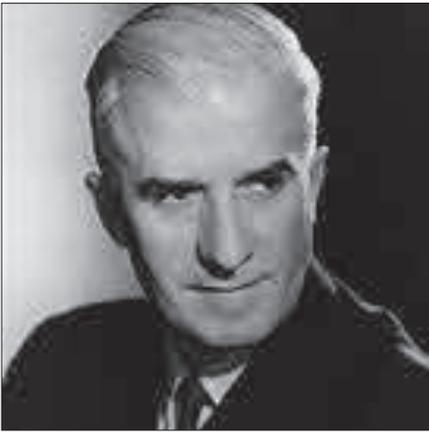
We have limited staff resources so have prioritised adding (as a minimum) summary description for all our collections to give an overview of all the collections in our care. Many collections are not catalogued in detail – we are writing grant funding bids to try and get these catalogued and make them accessible as soon as possible.

Where we have managed to obtain dedicated cataloguing resource, collections are catalogued in detail, notably the Sir Chris Bonington Archive and the Joe Tasker Collection (both funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund). Some collections have paper catalogues which we will transfer or attach to the online catalogue as soon as possible. In the future we plan to add digital images of selected collection items to their catalogue descriptions.

**Kelda Roe, Collections Manager**

**If you struggle to find what you are looking for, please do get in touch and we will be happy to help. Email: [enquiries@mountain-heritage.org](mailto:enquiries@mountain-heritage.org)**

## Do you remember Ted Short?



Edward Watson Short, later Baron Glenamara, was more usually known simply as Ted Short. So why the interest? I can remember him as a politician, in and out of government, in those years of my awakening political consciousness, but it was not until a few months ago that I bought a rather battered autobiography entitled *I Knew My Place* and immediately noted that he was born and brought up in Warcop, then in Westmorland.

This village is not a million miles from Penrith and it became the object of a Saturday morning visit – with hopes that this lay within the ‘keep-it-local’ restrictions. We particularly wanted to identify the house in which he was born and lived for the first ten years or so of his life and the War Memorial which provides a touching piece of writing in the book. He describes his home as ‘one of fifteen, all totally dissimilar, which faced the beck. They were known as Main Street – though there was, as a matter of fact, no other. We called our house Brook View ...’

Suitably face-masked and observing social distancing we approached a lady in one of the nearby cottages. She had read the book, and said that she had worked out that the Short’s house was one of the two cottages (with the white doors but no longer named Brook View) as she knew that one had been a shop and the wood yard, referred to in the book as Longstaff’s, lay behind them. Further investigation is needed here to identify the house but the photograph is offered here in the hope that someone may give a more positive identification.

He was born on 17 December 1912 to Charles, who kept a draper’s shop, and Mary Short who kept their small premises immaculate. Given that he was only six when the Great War ended his remembrances of that time are remarkable. The erection of the War Memorial, commemorating the dead of the Great War is described in poignant detail, ‘The names of the dead were on the east side of the plinth and among them was Lieutenant- Colonel G.G. Buckle DSO MC – Garry Buckle a popular, dashing man ... ‘old’ Mrs Buckle stepped forward and kissed her son’s name.’

The book describes his childhood in the village in loving, humorous and searching detail as they appeared to him - school days, Christmas treats, the social make-up of the village with the ‘Church/Tory side of the village’ divided from ‘Our side ... the Liberal/Non-conformist half’. This interest in the social stratification is brought out in the chapter ‘Nobs’ which begins ‘Warcop in the Twenties was still a feudal pyramid with the Lady of the Manor sitting on the top like a cock on a farm-yard midden, and the tenant cottagers at the bottom of the socio-economic heap’. Did this sew early seeds of his Labour affiliation of later years?

The autobiography takes the reader to 1922, ‘my second decade’ and his hopes that life would continue as it had done in the village he loved. But he moved on and qualified as a teacher at the Venerable Bede College of Durham University and later took a degree in law at London University. The Second World War saw him serving as a Captain in the Durham Light Infantry.

His political career began in 1948 when he was elected as a Labour councillor on Newcastle City Council. This was followed by election as the Labour MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1951, a seat he held until 1976. He gradually rose up through the ranks of Labour government – Chief Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury, Postmaster General, (in which position he was responsible for the banning of Radio Caroline!) Secretary of State for Education and Science, Shadow Leader of the House of Commons, Leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. His elevation to the Peerage as Lord Glenanara, a title which reflected his home in Patterdale on Ullswater, and the award of Companion of Honour came in 1976. He died on 4 May 2012 aged 99 when an obituary paid generous tribute to him as ‘unequivocally a man of the north’.

This very short appreciation has given only brief tastes of his remembrances of life in this Westmorland village community. The book is a wonderful evocation of those times and I can only add that if you have not read it, and you can get hold of a copy, you should! *I Knew My Place*, Edward Short (London, Macdonald, 1983)



Captions. Left: Portrait of Ted Short. Top right: The cottages. Bottom right: The War Memorial (Lorna Mullett)

Lorna Mullett

## ***Can you help identify either of these photographs?***

In Ian Jones' collection of Victorian glass plate negatives, used for a slide show on Members' Day in 2016, there are approximately 20 Lakeland scenes which have not yet been identified. Two of these are printed below in the hope that members may be able to help. If you think you recognise either of the scenes, please contact Ian by email at: [jonesian9999@gmail.com](mailto:jonesian9999@gmail.com)

If this proves to be a successful feature, we will print more photographs in future Newsletters.

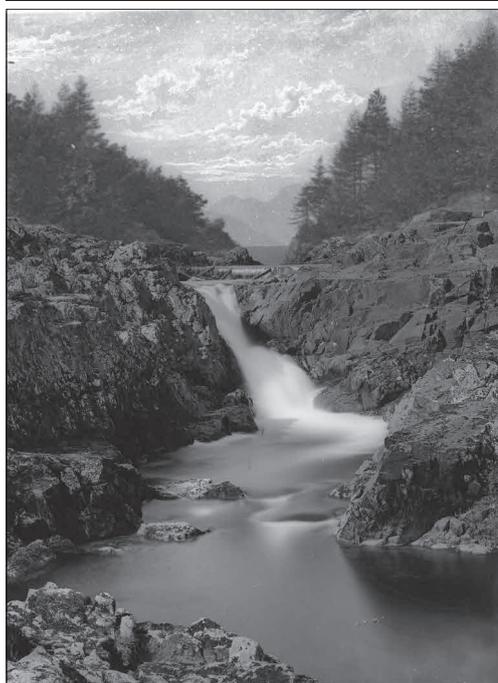
For the technically minded, they were all photographed by the wet collodion process on full plate or half plate glass - some as stereo pairs. Many have been positively dated between 1860 and 1890. The exception is the village scene reproduced here (FU08), which probably dates from around 1900, judging by the dress of the lady on the bridge.



*Photographs.*

*Top image: FU08.*

*Bottom image: D007*



### ***Institute of Historical Research and British Records Association series of webinars on 'Archives and Truth'***

On 18 March the Institute of Historical Research and British Records Association held the first of a series of webinars on 'Archives and Truth' which was very well attended. A recording of the zoom webinar is now available online. To view visit:

<https://www.history.ac.uk/podcasts/shock-record-why-archives-matter>

The next webinar of the series will be held on 17 June. The subject is 'Evidence Under Attack' and speakers include Andrew Flinn (University College London), Laura Millar (Independent Consultant and Scholar), Anthea Seles (International Council on Archives), Jo Fox (School of Advanced Studies, UoL) and Richard Ovenden (Bodleian Library). It is free of charge and takes place at 5.30pm.

To book your ticket visit:

<https://www.history.ac.uk/events/who-creates-record-and-why-evidence-under-attack>.

Those interested in this series may wish to consider joining the British Records Association

see: <https://www.britishrecordsassociation.org.uk/membership/>.

**Anthony E. Wrathall, *Helsfell Hall: not just an old Lakeland barn***  
(self-published by the author, 2021), ISBN 9781526208613. £15 (including p+p) from Tony Wrathall at:  
1 Webb View, Kendal LA9 4SN (01539 741428) or email [awrathall@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:awrathall@mypostoffice.co.uk)

The Helsfell estate at Strickland Ketel to the north of Kendal, close to the east side of the A591 bypass, has a history dating back some 500 years to the time Helsfell Hall was first built. The remains of it consist of a large bank barn and an associated shippon. An adjacent one-up, one-down cottage, built in the late 19th century was demolished in recent years, while a stone shed that stood to the north of the bank barn ramp fell into dilapidation and only scattered rubble is left. The Hall receives a brief mention in the 1936 survey of Westmorland by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments, and it has been possible to find and quote from the notes made by the original RCHM inspector. It was listed Grade 2 in 1984 and English Heritage paid for its re-roofing in 2009.

As the author ably demonstrates, the Hall is associated with many of the most significant families of Westmorland and beyond, starting with the Briggs who built the Hall and the Sandys, to the Philipsons and their financial difficulties, and on to the Pigeons and Days, including connections with Levens Hall. From there the properties went to the Burningshams of London and Westmorland, when enclosures took place, and to the Thompsons of Underley Hall and their aristocratic connections. Finally, at the outbreak of World War II, the estate was sold to a local farming family, Matthew Gibson of Toadpool Farm, and remains with them to this day.

At first sight the standing structures do not come near in scale or architectural significance to the eminence of the families concerned. On closer attention to their histories, however, it becomes evident that the Hall for most of its existence has been let out to tenants or simply left empty, as one of a number of properties held and traded together within a larger estate. The most plausible explanation is that the Hall was retained for the value of its land holdings, and the relative meagre inventory of goods and chattels the Hall, shown as Table 3.3, supports the view that it was the grain crops and livestock that justified holding on to it.

Nevertheless, many intriguing questions about possible earlier and additional structures on the site remain. Cornelius Nicolson in the 1860s is quoted as noting 'general foundations, however, may be traced upon strict observation and the extent of the buildings thus partially ascertained'. Further exploration to rediscover what was once extant, and indeed to use modern techniques to investigate both the remaining buildings and the immediately surrounding landscape, would clearly be worthwhile.

**Marion McClintock**

### ***Writing Cumbrian history in lockdown and with no archives***



By January I was beginning to run out of projects and the pile of unfinished ones awaiting the reopening of our archive offices was getting taller, and I did not really want to add to it. The unexpected solution of what to do next came with a book I had been given for Christmas with the intriguing title *The British Museums: The Benin Bronzes, Colonial Violence and Cultural Restitution*. It is written by Dan Hicks, a Cambridge archaeologist, and addresses the continuing debate over ownership and restitution of the Benin bronzes which were looted by a British expedition in 1897- many of which are now in the British Museum. What has that got to do with Cumbria I hear you say? Well, the book introduced me to James Robert Phillips, the eldest son of The Venerable Thompson Phillips (1832-1909), vicar of St George's, Barrow-in-Furness, Archdeacon of Furness and honorary canon of Carlisle Cathedral, and his wife Eliza Sleigh. James had been born in Holm Eden and was brought up in Ivegill, both parishes where his father had been the incumbent. After attending Uppingham School he read law at Trinity College, Cambridge, before returning to Carlisle where he spent some years working as a solicitor in the firm of C.B. Hodgson.

*Image on left. The memorial lectern to James Phillips, originally in Ivegill church and currently on loan to Carlisle Cathedral. Photograph courtesy of James Armstrong, Head Verger, Carlisle Cathedral*

So what has James Phillips got to do with Benin? In 1891 he left Carlisle for West Africa to take up a post as Sheriff and Overseer of Prisons in the Gold Coast, and in 1896 he was appointed H.M. Acting Consul-General of the Niger Coast Protectorate. It was in this role that he led a British mission to discuss trading arrangements with the king of Benin. On 4 January 1897, James, aged only 33, along with others in his party was killed in an 'ambuscade when on an embassy of peace to Benin City', as the memorial lectern, originally in Ivegill church, but now in Carlisle Cathedral, puts it. How all this was reported in the Cumbrian press at the time, and how and why Canon H.D. Rawnsley came to play a leading part in his memorialisation, could all be discovered on [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) and with help from the Uppingham School archivist, and a careful reading of Dan Hicks's book, without needing to access Cumbria's archives. However, if you want the full story you will need to read it in CWAAS *Transactions* this autumn!

Shortly after writing this account for FOCAS the events in Benin in 1897 have again hit the headlines. Aberdeen University has announced that it will restitute its Benin bronze which the university museum acquired in the 1950s back to Nigeria. As the Vice Chancellor said: 'It would not have been right to have retained an item of such great cultural importance that was acquired in such reprehensible circumstances.' Aberdeen's action may, perhaps should, set a precedent for trustees of other collections.

**Rob David**

## *News from the Cumbria Archive Service*

### **Service-wide News**

#### **Reflecting on a year of pandemic and lock downs**

When the Prime Minister announced the first lock down in on March 23 last year little did we realise how much the world would change for society, work and also for us in Cumbria Archive Service. Like other public services the Archive Service has had to radically change the way we operate and this has had a major impact on how we support researchers and our communities throughout Cumbria.

We have heard a great deal about how the world of work has changed with the switch to home working and meetings on Zoom. However we know that you cannot look after and preserve our collections and make them available for the public to research and enjoy without working with them physically. The Archive Service has risen brilliantly to the challenge of ensuring that staff and public alike remain safe whilst continuing to support access to our collections. The searchrooms were reopened on 14 April and visitors are asked to book in advance of their visit. The need to observe social distancing means that we cannot offer as many reader spaces as we would normally. We are also asking visitors to identify what they want to see before their visit. The requested documents will be waiting for them when they arrive. NHS Test and Trace procedures remain in place.

We have also introduced the new Archives Card which replaces the old CARN ticket. Researchers need to register online for the card which remains valid for five years. As with the CARN ticket the new Archives Card can be used in participating Archives Services.

Whilst we have not been able to open our searchrooms during the lockdowns, Cumbria Archive Service has continued to support researchers through our enhanced enquiry service. We are carrying out extended searches of our documents up to 30 minutes and are providing digital copies where appropriate. Our Digitisation Service has continued to support customers providing digital copies of archives that cannot be copied in the Archive Centres for a fee. Our staff have continued to work on our collections. The extended closure periods have allowed us to update our catalogues and indexes and catalogue major collections. We have continued to receive new collections and you can read more about this in the updates from the Archive Centres which are included in this *Newsletter*.

Finally, following a restructure of Library and Archive service management, I have been appointed to lead Cumbria Archive Service with the new job title of Archives Professional Lead ie County Archivist in old money.

**Peter J Eyre, Archives Professional Lead**

### **News from Whitehaven Archives**

#### **Outreach**

We have been contributing to the History Begins At Home campaign on social media over the summer with tweets about the themes of shopping, nights in and sounds in our collections. On 19 November, we took part in *History Day 2020* organised by the Institute of Historical Research. We posted short video clips of records connected with the theme of 'A Brave New World', such as letters on emigrating from Winscales to Canada; the coming of the railways to Cockermouth; the compulsory vaccination of children; healthcare for the poor provided by the Whitehaven Dispensary; the attempted raid by John Paul Jones. These videos can be viewed on Cumbria Libraries and Archives' YouTube [channel](#).

**Continued overleaf**



## New material at Whitehaven Archives

Plan of part of the late Henry Curwen's estate in the manors of Workington, Harrington and Distington and of land at Flimby, 1805 [ref. DCU/Estate Plans/157]  
Photographs of The Rookery, Great Clifton, 1984-1985 [ref. PH/1668]  
Photographs of the public houses of Hensingham with notes, c. 2020 [ref. PH/1669]  
Photographs of the Greenbank Mural, Whitehaven, Nov 2020 [PH/1670]  
Egremont Urban District Council / Egremont Local Board, 1880-1890 [ref. SRDEC]  
Deeds of various properties in West Cumbria including the Wasdale Hall Estate, Manor of Castlerigg and Derwentwater, Derwentwater Lake and Bolthow Farm, c. 1620-20th century [ref. YDB 103]  
Workington County Grammar School Speech Day Programmes 1951, 1954-1959 [ref. YDS 53]  
Whitehaven Playground minute book, 1920-1924 [ref. YDX 342]  
Publication *Atom Kids: The Oral History of Seascale* compiled by Jason Rushworth, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2020 [ref. YDX 698]  
Photographs of Egremont and related material, 1980s-2011 [ref. YDX 699]  
Admissions to the Manor of Workington, for land in Priestgate, 1729-1750 [ref. YDX 742]  
Deeds relating to 41 New Street, Whitehaven, 1777-1909 [ref. YDX 743]  
Deeds relating to Green Dykes cottages, Egremont, 1716-1915 [ref. YDX 744]  
Blackwood's pocketbook and diary, documenting daily life in Whitehaven. Writer unknown, possibly a woman or girl in domestic service in Whitehaven, 1897 [ref. YDX 745]  
West Cumbrian industrial scenes - glass plates, photographs and negatives [1960s] to be digitised [ref. YDX 746]

**Diane Hodgson, Archivist**

## Update from Carlisle Archive Centre

### Accessions

For obvious reasons, the past year has seen a significant reduction in the number of deposits of archives. A small number have been sent by post and during the two brief periods that our public service was open, during October and December, people took the opportunity to bring records to the Archive Centre. Since the current lockdown began after Christmas, we have undertaken various backlog cataloguing and sorting projects. As a result of this exercise we have been able to increase the content of CASCAT and create more space in the strongrooms, though re-boxing work. Replacement of the imperial boxes with the new archival quality metric size boxes, enables us to free space for new accruals of records.

A selection of deposits for the period April 2020-February 2021 is included below. To illustrate the effect of the pandemic on collecting, the total number of accessions for this period was 61 compared to the same period in 2019-2020 when there were 124.

The Friends' School, Brookfield, Wigton.

School 'panorama' photograph, showing pupils and staff, October 1948 [DFCF 7 Accession: H15193]

Cowans Sheldon, Civil Engineers of Carlisle

Crane catalogue/promotional publication, 1940s; engineer's calculation book, JW Wharton; press cuttings relating to the Ursa Major and Minor cranes and model at Tullie House (1960-2008); black and white photographs (29); Colour slides (1960s-1980s); negatives (black and white and colour) loose [DB 40 Accession: H15222]



Captions. Left: Electric crane, DB 40 Acc H15222 2. Right: DB 40 Acc H15222 1 steam crane

John Hall Thompson of Thompson's Board Mill, Little Salkeld, 1899-1952

Transcripts of the diary notes of John Hall Thompson (E-deposit). The notes cover the daily happenings at Thompson's Board Mills, Little Salkeld, the local community, family matters and the local Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Digital files only. [DX 2421 Accession: H15199] (see 'Cataloguing' below)

**Continued overleaf**

Garlands Hospital, Carlisle

Patient records, mainly from the 1950s-1970s. Some stray reception orders and papers, 1922-1978 [THOS 8 Accession: H15200]

James Family of Barrock Park, Low Hesket

Letters, c.1768-1889; letters re Jamaica, c.1870s-1890s; letter, 1841, from JH James, aged 16, to his cousin; correspondence with Arthur Holland (later Lord Knutsford) late 19th-early 20th century; letters of CA James, 1840-1860; letters, 1870s [DJB Accession: H15238]

St Patrick's Boys' School, Carlisle

First World War Rolls of Honour (2) and portrait photographs (2) (2nd Lieutenant Joseph Henry Collin VC Royal Lancaster Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel William Kerr DSO, MC, Border Regiment) and memorial scroll (Joseph Henry Collin VC, Royal Lancaster Regiment) 1918 [DS 6 Accession: H15243]

Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society

Research papers concerning the role of women in the CWAAS, 1866-1966, assembled and written up while a postgraduate student at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester, 1866-1966 [DSO 1 Accession: H15247]

## Cataloguing

An increasing part of our work involves processing the modern records of Cumbria County Council. Semi-current departmental records are held by the County Council's Records Management Service (RMS) which is an internal service. The Archive Service works closely with RMS, to ensure the transfer of appropriate records, which are no longer required by departments, for permanent preservation. Before the pandemic, a group of archivists from across the county had been meeting on a regular basis to appraise the records, with a view to making them available to the public. An example of this work is as follows:

Collection: CB Cumbria County Council, Corporate Information Unit (CB/CI) 1988-2004

Briefing notes and records of Corporate Information Unit; covering statistics specifically about Cumbria. The information is largely population based. Topics covered include, population, housing, employment and unemployment, wage rates, educational attainment, social disadvantage, childcare, migration, social and elderly care.

The Unit was part of Economic Development and Corporate Policy Department. It was established in September 1988 to provide information, research and intelligence services on Cumbria's population, economy, and environment to County Council Members, departments, district councils and other clients in the public and private sector.

## Other recent cataloguing includes:

John Hall Thompson of Thompson's Board Mill, Little Salkeld, 1899-1952

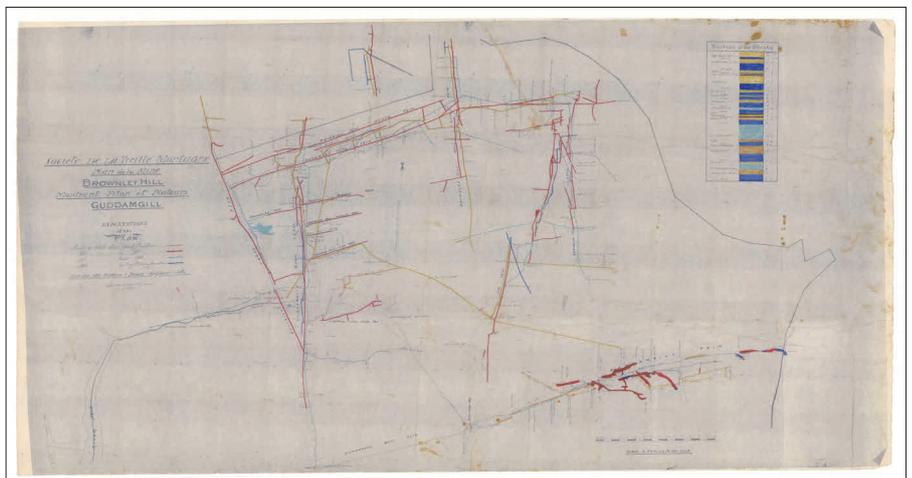
John Hall Thompson made notes of the daily happenings at Thompsons Board Mill, the local community (Little Salkeld and its environs) groups in which he was involved, his family and the local/regional activities of the Society of Friends (Quakers) of which he was a member. The notes include references to international events during both World Wars. He wrote up these daily happenings in three large ledgers which he had rescued from the mill's pulping process. They record the years 1899 until his death in the early 1950s. The books have been transcribed and made available as electronic files. It is possible to view the files on CASCAT via the 'media' field [DX 2421]

Research, Slate Quarrying and Ice Houses, Dr Rob David, 1979-2004

The collection includes a quantity of colour slides: relating to articles produced for the CWAAS Transactions, and Northern History (40); recording the experiment of filling the ice-house at Levens Hall, 1980 (22); slate quarries and the slate quarrying industry in Westmorland, 1984-2003 (50). There are also cassette tape recordings of interviews relating to the filling of ice houses, 1979-1980 [DSO 1/Accession: H15194/1-7]

Plan of Brownley Hill Mine, Nenthead [reference DX 2439-1—see image on right]

Showing strata and levels at Guaddamgill and sections of the strata. Traced from the original plan in 1970 by A Walshaw. The original is undated [early 20th century]. The Vieille Montagne Zinc Company (VM) came to England in 1896, to Nenthead in the North Pennines. It remained in the Nenthead area until 1949, when it sold its mineral leases and equipment. The Brownley Hill Mine operated for VM from 1914 until 1936. [DX 2439 Vieille-Montagne Zinc Company of Belgium]



Louise Smith, Archivist

## Update from Barrow Library and Archive Centre

Both the Archive Centre and Local Studies Library opened to the public on 16 December 2020 and were used by several researchers. The Archive Centre was closed between Christmas and New Year as usual and after a second lockdown reopened on 14 April.

Selena and Susan are working in the Archive Centre. Selena is cataloguing a solicitor's collection and editing catalogues already on our online catalogue, CASCAT. Susan spends a lot of time carrying out management tasks which would have been done by the CSM and two Operational Leads but as they have left due to restructure, Lauren, the librarian and Susan have taken over the roles on a temporary basis. There are ongoing issues with the building (water coming in upstairs and condensation coming through the new ceiling in the Archive searchroom when it is cold). The architect from NPS has been back to look at the problems and hopefully to find a solution. Susan does manage to do some archive work including working on the Covid 19 Community Archive. Two online sessions on local history with local schools were postponed during the lockdown.

We continue to answer enquiries and send images of documents as staff can do 30 minutes research free for people. Customers were very grateful for this as they had no other way of accessing documents during lockdown. We continue to tweet and post on Facebook.

The library closed in January but reinstated the offer of essential PC use by appointment, Home Delivery and Select and Collect. Not many people use these services but there was an increase in those asking for books through the Select and Collect system during lockdown. Staff are continuing to do a stocktake of all the books including those in the Reserve Stock in the basement.

The Oaklea Trust (<http://www.oakleatrust.co.uk/what-we-do/young-people>) run two sessions a week in the library for children: on Tuesdays between 4 and 6pm and on Saturday mornings. The Trust was struggling to find suitable venues where they could continue their work with children and are delighted to be able to use the library especially as we now have a sensory room.

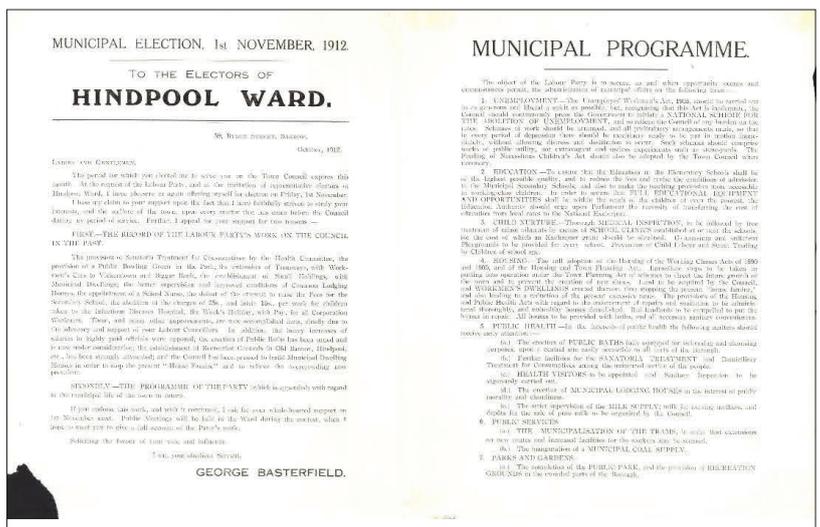
Susan Benson, Archivist and Lauren Martin, Librarian

### The Effects of the 1918 Representation of the People Act: as seen in Municipal Election materials at Barrow-in-Furness

The 1918 Representation of the People Act was a transformation of British democracy. It extended the right to vote for men of any class over the age of 21 and to women over 30 for General Elections, or 21 for local government affairs. It continues to be admired to this day and is acknowledged as a momentous achievement for the working classes and women's rights alike.

The effects of this Act can be directly seen in a Barrow Archives' collection of the local Labour party's election leaflets from 1918 onwards. By looking at these recently-collected documents, a change in language used by the party to engage new electors, increased inclusion of women's presumed interests in campaign policies, and material from female candidates themselves can be found. These materials provide a fascinating insight into the most important event of enfranchisement in British political history.

The two examples below show simple changes in language that highlight the immediate impact of the Act. The candidate letter from George Basterfield of Hindpool Ward in 1912 addresses electors as 'Ladies and Gentlemen', a common practice of similar documents, whereas the 1921 letter from Isaac Clamp of Ramsden Ward addresses 'Fellow Worker'. There is a clear shift in candidate awareness of the more diverse classes being represented in the electorate as a result of the 1918 Act, evident from even the very first line of the leaflets respectively. These changes to the language used by candidates is not seen in all the materials found in this collection, but the influence can still be seen across the majority of leaflets.



The Labour Party, founded by Trade Unionists in 1900, sought to represent the working classes in society who were often excluded from democracy via limited access to voting. The Labour party was aligning itself with the newly-enfranchised working classes that it had developed to support. Previously, the party had to entice those who could vote, to vote on behalf of the working-class interest. However now, the working classes had a significant voice in politics for the first time and the Labour Party accordingly adapted. This intensifies the sense of the class awareness and importance in politics that would manifest itself into more directly beneficial policies to drastically improve the lives of the newly-enfranchised working classes. After the Representation Act, the Labour Party's municipal election campaign materials were designed to appeal to the average worker of Barrow-in-Furness, and for the first time, directly to women who now had a stake in elections.

Continued overleaf

## Continued from previous page

itself into more directly beneficial policies to improve the lives of the newly-enfranchised working classes. After the Representation Act, the Labour Party's municipal election campaign materials were designed to appeal to the average worker of Barrow-in-Furness, and for the first time, directly to women who now had a stake in elections.

**BARROW LABOUR PARTY.**  
**Municipal Election, Wednesday, November 1st, 1922.**

"There is no wealth but Life."—*Ruskin*.  
 The struggling masses demand the right to "LIFE"—Comfort, Security, Happiness.

FELLOW WORKERS, MEN AND WOMEN OF BARROW,  
 You are again called upon to elect a representative to look after your interests on the Borough Council.

The interests of the Workers, and especially the *Unemployed Workers*, have been safeguarded by the Labour Representatives from that body, and it, during the dark days of the present crisis, the interests of those who have fallen upon hard times are to be represented, a strong Labour Group must be returned to the Council this time.

**Labour's Policy—**  
**SAFETY FIRST—**  
 Safety for the Children.  
 Safety for the Unemployed.  
 Safety for the Small Ratepayer.

**Liberty—Equality—Fraternity.**

**Independent's Policy—**  
 Safety for Big Business.  
**Secrecy—Graft—Privilege.**

The "Independents" on the Council, who are really Tories masquerading as impartial representatives of the People, have a black record of recent date; let us review some of their "impartial" findings.

They have declared against the continuance of the Provision of Meals for Schoolchildren, time and time again, and even now they are trying to place the children upon the Poor Law. *The spoils of the Children will go if you vote Labour. Remember Aid, Barrow's two votes against the children. Nothing so despicable has occurred before in public life.*

They have declared against the Policy of the Labour Party, which says that "no man or woman unemployed should be prosecuted for non-payment of Rates." They have even insisted upon DISFRANCHISE WARRANTS to be granted against the Homes of the Unemployed. Many are now held by the Police, and can be put into effect any moment the Police think fit. *Labour is the Friend of the Unemployed.*

**OUR POLICY.**  
 Security for the Unemployed Ratepayer.  
 Food Economy in Education—well as the expense of the stomachs of the Children. The use of our fully equipped National Kitchen for the provision of Meals, and cut out £50 profit made weekly by the Middlemen.  
 Pressure to be brought upon the Government to compel them to come to the assistance of the Town instead of squandering wealth on the Streets.  
 Efficiency in the Management of the Tramways. Full and independent inquiry in order to end the drain on the rates. Stop the Lovers and the Cars.  
 Reduction of Assessments to the 1920 basis.

The only "LIVE WIRES" among the Dry Bones of the Council are the LABOUR MEMBERS.

Free Barrow from the Stagnating Influences of "Beer" and "Conservatism" by sending a MAJORITY OF LABOUR TO THE COUNCIL.

Content from 1918 onwards increasingly featured policies aimed at helping children, healthcare provision and education as these were deemed to be more attractive to female electors. For example, a leaflet for candidate Pat McKeating in 1922 was addressed to 'Fellow workers, men and women of Barrow', indicating the greater importance of the working classes and women in politics. Later the impact of women involved in politics can be seen in the Labour Party's family-based campaigns of the 1950s. For example, in a campaign leaflet for Barrow centered around children and the responsibilities of parents, especially mothers, voting for the benefit of their family with regards to the NHS, welfare, education and local spaces.

One of the more fascinating of documents in this collection, is the 1922 election leaflet for Ellen Robinson, the candidate for Hawcoat Ward: the first presence of a female Labour Party Candidate in Barrow. The language of her campaign centred around her status as a working-class mother and how this would be an asset for the local council as she understood how to safeguard the interests of children. This played on gender stereotypes which were very evident at this

PUBLIC LIBRARY, BARROW.  
 Photo of your Candidate Place this Card in your Window.

**Municipal Election, Nov. 1, 1922**

**Mrs. Ellen Robinson,**



**Labour Candidate for Hawcoat Ward.**

You have no Women Representatives on the Council. Send a Woman Councillor this time, to be a real live representative of your interests. Safeguard the interests of the Children by sending a Mother to the Council. Send a Woman who knows the life of the Worker by having managed a Working-Class Home.

**VOTE EARLY.**

Printed and Published by G. M. Carruthers, Electric Printing Works, 117 Dalton Road, Barrow.

time. She also cleverly drew upon her management of a working-class home as a tool to parallel a politician's role with management of the community as part of the council.

The increased visibility of women and the working class in political election material of the early 1920s and onwards can be seen as a direct result of the 1918 Representation Act. The materials found in this collection highlight the important influence this act had on the local area and in the diversification of politics. There are currently 12 female councillors in the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness which shows how far we have come over the last century. As we near the centenary of Ellen Robinson's campaign, we can appreciate the impact the Act has had, and admire the changes and inclusivity it has allowed us in elections to this day.

**Eleanor Dawson, Lancaster University student on placement at Barrow Archives**

*Captions. Image p. 13: Leaflet for George Basterfield: candidate for Hindpool Ward, Barrow-in-Furness. Above left: Leaflet for Pat McKeating, candidate for Newbarns Ward, Barrow-in-Furness. Above right: Leaflet for Ellen Robinson, candidate for Hawcoat Ward, Barrow-in-Furness (All images held in Barrow Archives)*

## News from the Conservation Unit, Carlisle Archive Centre

### The Fight Against Aging Plastics

Historic preservation treatments don't always stand the test of time. While we know that archivists and librarians in the past had, for the most part, the best of intentions, we often come across things that make us wince. What follows is a fine example.

The object, 'The Kendal Diary' from 1794, is a printed sheet almanac detailing important dates, fairs, term times, and news of the world. It had been lined onto acidic board, and then stuck onto a mount board using a very sticky glue. It was then covered across the entire surface with a sticky plastic facing. We assume this was to facilitate easy handling while keeping the sheet flat and protected. Really, the sticky stuff was doing far more harm than good.

The reason conservators tend to avoid using adhesives more potent than the ever-faithful wheat starch paste is that most adhesives age very badly. Over time most will become stickier and start to yellow, often leaving bright orange and yellow staining and areas of oily residue in the paper that it contacts. Pressure sensitive tape - Sellotape - is a regular offender and should never be used on anything you care about. Additionally, it is very hard to ascertain the exact chemical makeup of a commercially produced adhesive as companies that make them rarely share their formulas. This means that any adhesive more complicated than animal glue or wheat starch paste has the potential to react in strange ways to treatment, aging and handling.

To remove this alarming example I used a hairdryer to heat the surface, causing the adhesive to soften. I then began the slow process of peeling back the plastic layer, taking care not to skin the surface of the aged paper underneath. Next, I will work over the surface with a crepe eraser to remove any last sticky residue, gently scrape away the acidic backing, and rehouse the object in an archival quality melinex sleeve.

**Erica Freyr, Senior Conservator**

### **Estimating DB/45/23/1**

Putting aside the practicalities of digitising the items in our collections, estimating costs for customer enquiries can be a harder challenge. Each and every article must be assessed, and a time factor attributed to it. Consideration must be given to its state, that is, the size and condition of the item. Handling can be slow depending on this. A recent enquiry came from a person who is undertaking a project on advertising. They supplied a list of items (22 in total) that they had seen on our website. Most were volumes with a selection of documents and photographs as well. Realising that this enquiry could be very expensive and never come to fruition I emailed the enquirer attaching a photograph of the items they had chosen to give them an impression of what was being asked and quoting our charge - £25 for half an hour's work. I also added that I had digitised one of the volumes with 600 pages as a guide and the time it took was approximately one day. I did not give a total estimate for undertaking this project. I received a reply from the enquirer informing me that they would be discussing the way forward with their manager. Estimating is not easy with an historic collection. The saying 'How long is a piece of string?' comes to mind.



**Guy Pawle, Digitisation Technician**

### **St Patrick's School World War One Rolls of Honour at Newman School**

In the 1990s, a newly-appointed Head of History at Newman School, Carlisle, was going through the department's resources and came across two unframed rolls of honour and two framed photographs of soldiers - former pupils who had received significant honours for their valour and who had met their death as a result.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to clean one of the photographs, resulting in it appearing much more faded than its companion which was simply dusted before both were replaced in their frames. The rolls of honour were mounted in vaguely-matching frames and all four displayed in the school's entrance together with a memorial scroll for one of the soldiers pictured.

In 2005 and 2016 the school was flooded after extreme weather events and, following the latter, moved into temporary accommodation from which it is due to move to a new permanent home. These were brought to the Conservation Unit in Cumbria Archive Centre where they were removed from their frames, cleaned, some paper repairs and infills were made and light re-touching was done. Looking considerably better, they were then transferred to the Digitisation Department where they were photographed. They are now in the process of being sympathetically digitally restored. This is enjoyable, though painstaking work, which can take many hours to erase fine lines, fill in areas and enhance features. Without great care it is easy to spoil the image.

We will print out the restored images which can be returned to their frames and displayed in the school, whilst the originals will be re-packaged and preserved in our strongrooms. A couple of examples of work in progress. Can be seen on the right

**Francesca Halfacree, Digitisation Technician**



**Before**

**After**

## Preserving the Sankey Photographic Archive with Signal Film and Media

We recently gave an online talk on 'Preserving the Sankey Collection: The conservation and preservation of a photographic archive' to the Sankey Project volunteers with Signal Film Media. As part of their project we were hoping to host an event for the volunteers here at Carlisle Archive Centre so that they could see the collection and our preservation activities. Unfortunately we had to postpone this due to Covid-19 restrictions. As we are now all used to virtual events we were able to share our work online and we look forward to showing this to them in person when we can.

The collection contains real photograph postcards in albums, as well as glass plate and plastic negatives, and so we began with an overview of these processes and their history of use. Following this we moved on to the challenges of preserving photographic materials and how we have been approaching the collection as the different elements have individual requirements.



The structure of most photographic print material is essentially that of a binder layer on a paper support. It is important to understand that the bond between binder and support material unites two very dissimilar materials. This is the cause of many preservation issues as each material responds differently to environmental factors such as relative humidity and temperature. The glass plates are the most vulnerable to mechanical damage, as they are both heavy and fragile, whereas the plastic negatives are comparatively more chemically unstable. The main priority of the project has been the digitisation of the collection due to the vulnerability of the material within it. This provides access to copies and reduces the risk of damage to the original items to preserve them for as long as possible.



The glass and plastic negatives are not suitable for physical production so our focus has been on ensuring they are stored in the appropriate environmental conditions and packaged properly with stable and inert materials. All our facilities have air conditioning units which maintain the relevant

temperature and humidity and we actively monitor this. The bound photographic albums will be kept and made accessible at Barrow Archive Centre. However due to the heavy use they have received in their lifetime and the quality of materials used in their construction they need to be individually assessed for any conservation needs prior to this.

**Fay Humphreys, Conservator**

### Deadlines for copy for the Newsletter are:

**1 April (May edition); 15 August (September edition); 1 December (January Edition)**

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

**Articles should be in the region of 500 words (preferably with illustrations)**

**Articles on members' current research are particularly welcome**

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