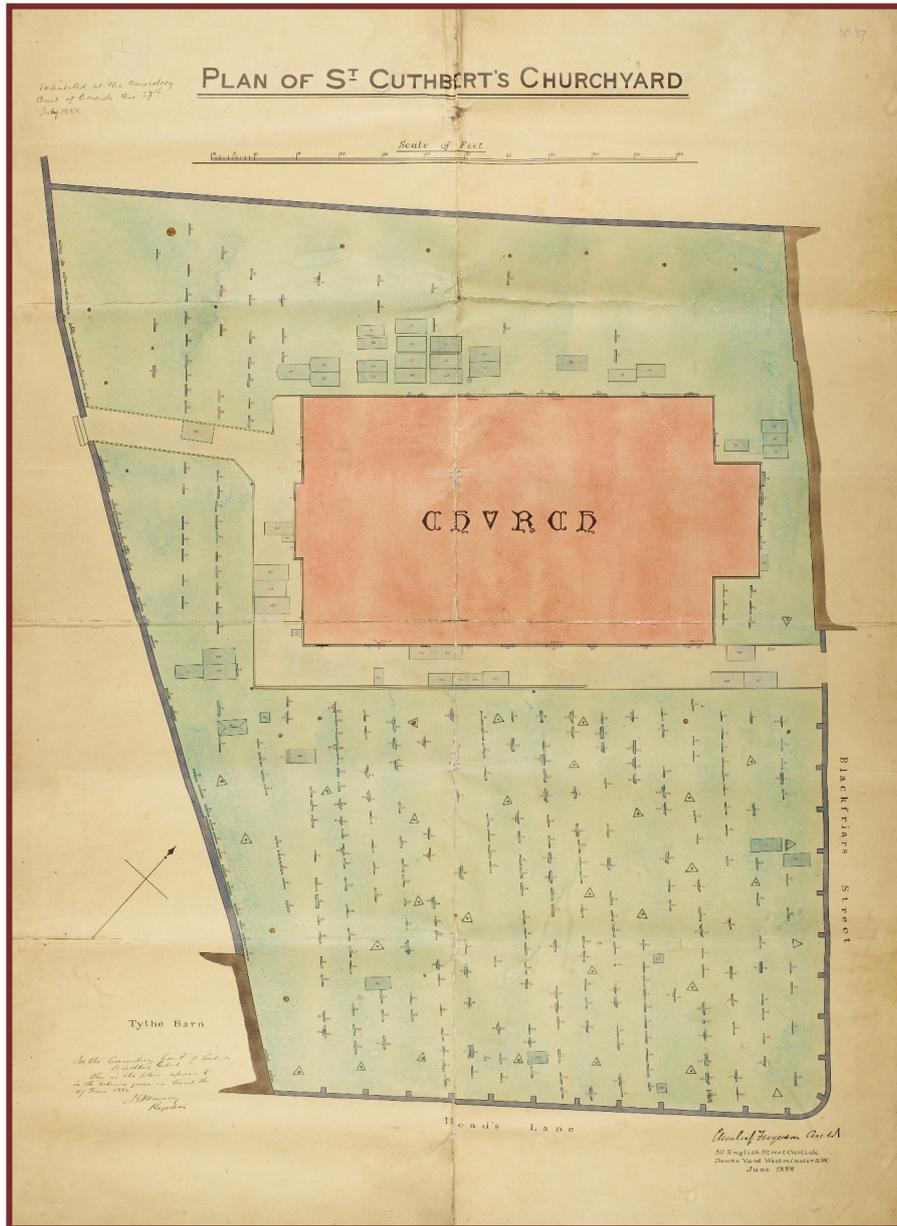


September 2022



Graveyard plan of St Cuthbert's Church in Carlisle. This to-scale reproduction is now available for visitors at Carlisle Archive Centre's map room to view. For more information see page 17

The Members' Day and AGM will take place at Carlisle Archive Centre on Saturday 29 October 2022. Please see page 3 of this Newsletter and the attached booking form

A message from the Acting Chair

In writing this introduction to the Newsletter I have referred back, as I always do, to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Trustees. On this occasion it was the last set of minutes written by our Secretary, Adrian Allan. By now most of you will know of Adrian's death in July, and there is a full obituary elsewhere in this Newsletter. We are now short of a Secretary and a person to keep an eye out for archives due to be auctioned, and which might be of interest to Cumbria Archive Service. Over the years Adrian spotted many such archives and FoCAS has supported the purchase of individual items from them where our archivists considered that they were of value to the county. If you think you could help in either capacity please let a trustee know.

At our May meeting your trustees committed much of the remaining bequest from Dr Margaret Bainbridge to two projects. Mindful of schemes that would most benefit Cumbrians and archive users, we decided to make available (a) £1,200 p.a. for three years to cover one month paid placements in the Conservation Unit at Carlisle Archive Centre for three students (one each year) and (b) c.£8,000 to equip the smaller of Carlisle Archive Centre's digitisation studios so that it can digitise large-scale items such as Tithe Maps and large plans. We hope to allocate what remains in the Bainbridge bequest to a third project at our meeting in September.

As you know Cumbria Archive Service is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. FoCAS has been supporting the archive service for over half of that time. Whether we can continue to do so will be dependent on more Friends being prepared to become trustees and becoming more involved in what the Friends seek to do. From this AGM it is possible that we shall have too few trustees to continue to run the organisation in the form that our constitution requires. The AGM/Members' Day information accompanies this Newsletter. Please consider carefully whether you could make a greater commitment to the Friends by both attending and allowing your name to be put forward to become a Trustee.

Thank you very much.

Rob David r.david49@btinternet.com

From the Treasurer

The summer months are relatively quiet financially speaking. Both our Nat West current account and Skipton Building Society account are in a healthy state and we have only a couple of members still in arrears despite reminders and notice on the website. As Rob mentions in his Chair's Piece we are using the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of the CAC to use up a good proportion of the Margaret Bainbridge legacy still in our savings account, with grants to the CAC, and are hoping for successful negotiations with another like-minded Cumbrian society to support a valuable project going forward. More news on this later. It is very satisfying to be able to use this legacy to good purposes which aid the CAC and is in line with our 'support' remit.

I will finish by supporting Rob in his request that members consider joining the team of officers and trustees. With the sad passing of Adrian Allan we do need a Minutes Secretary and there are vacancies for trustees. The work is not onerous – three meetings a year – but some fresh insights and contributions would be most valuable.

Many thanks and enjoy the rest of the Summer

All best wishes, Lorna

Contents

Page no.

3	AGM Agenda, 29 October 2022
4	Visit to Armit Museum, July 2022 Adrian Allan, Obituary
5	Launch of Cumbrian Lives
6	CAS Service-wide news
8	Barrow AC news
10	Carlisle AC news
12	Conservation & Digitisation Unit news
14	Whitehaven AC news
16	Kendal AC news
18	Book reviews <i>Memories of Milnthorpe</i> <i>Forage, Feast & Famine</i> <i>Cattle Droving</i>

FRIENDS OF CUMBRIA ARCHIVES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Charity No. 1011624)

29th October 2022

AGENDA

The meeting will begin with a minute's silence in memory of Adrian Allan

1. Welcome and to note the number of members present
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM – 9th October 2021 (sent out with this Newsletter)
4. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered in agenda items below or in reports.
5. Chair's report (oral report to be presented at the meeting)
6. Treasurer's report and presentation of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 (to be tabled at the meeting)
7. Election of Officers and Committee of Trustees

Current Officers

Acting Chair	Rob David
Vice Chair	Susan Dench
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer and Membership	Lorna Mullett
Newsletter Editor/Web Administrator	Jean Turnbull

Current Committee of Trustees

1. Roger Bingham
2. Margaret Martindale
3. Vacant*
4. Vacant*
5. Vacant
6. Vacant
7. Vacant
8. Vacant

* Diana Mathews has completed her years of service and Chester Forster wishes to stand down

8. Proposal that Mr Michael Coen be re-appointed as professional examiner for the accounts ending 31st December 2022
9. Any other business relevant to this AGM

FoCAS visit to the Armit Museum, Ambleside, 12 July 2022

On a very pleasant afternoon a small group of members met at The Armit museum in Ambleside and were warmly welcomed by Faye Morrissey, the Curator and Manager of The Armit. Faye gave a very interesting and informative introduction to the Museum which was founded in 1912 as the brainchild of Mary Louisa Armit with a remit to safeguard the Lake District landscape and cultural heritage by offering safe housing for collections of books, photographs, artefacts and art treasures. Its early benefactors included, amongst others, Canon Rawnsley, W. G. and R. Collingwood, and Gordon Wordsworth. The Museum houses collections of educational works by Charlotte Mason, writings and letters of Harriet Martineau and, arguably one of the gems of the collections, the natural history watercolours of Beatrix Potter. This list is by no means exclusive, there is much more!

Rob David, our Acting Chairman, then gave a résumé of his work as an Armit volunteer on a deposit relating to the Tucker family of Lake District artists, which included a fascinating and highly amusing book of cartoons relating to the 1880 Westmorland general election. This will form part of an exhibit in 2022/2023 so we were privileged to have this preview.

We were then allowed to range free through the Library to view its large collection of books and some exhibits of special interest which had been set out for us. During this period we were given tea with some discussion of who claimed 'first out of the pot' and who opted for 'last out of the pot'. After tea Faye gave us a view of the future plans for the Armit, its possible physical extension, need for more volunteers, and hopes for further exhibitions. Of note was the news that The Bridge House, over the Stock Beck, in Ambleside, whilst remaining a property of the National Trust, will become part of the Armit Museum operation with hopes that this central attraction will encourage more visitors to come into the Museum.

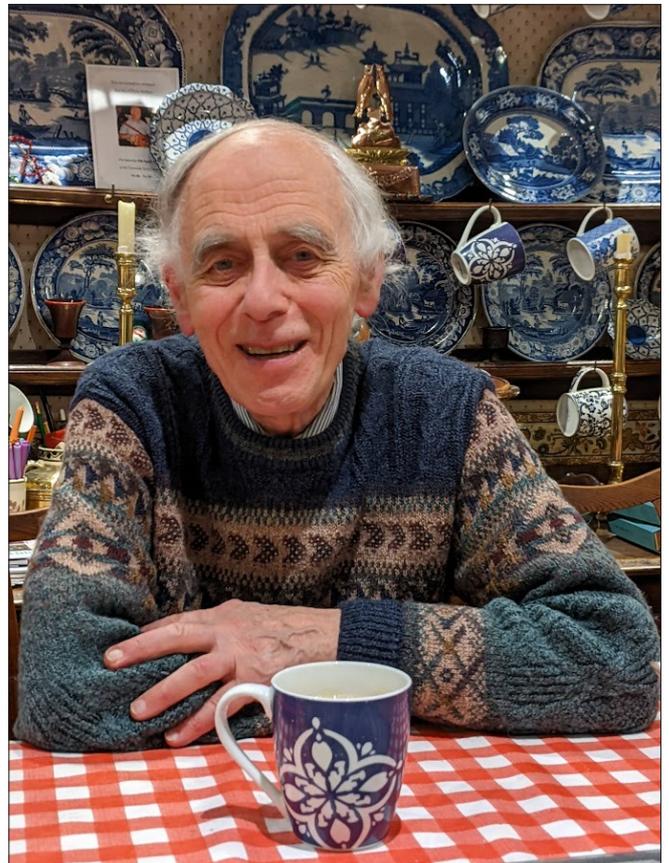
With this the visit ended but members were encouraged to look around the exhibitions and to see if there were any books in the shop that they would like to buy – it takes a strong will to resist book sales and I don't have a strong will, so I gave in and bought a book! Altogether a most enjoyable and interesting afternoon. Many thanks to Rob David and Faye Morrissey for the organisation.

Lorna M. Mullett

Adrian R. Allan 1942-2022

Adrian was a professional archivist with an extraordinarily wide and deep knowledge of his field. He was possessed of a fierce passion for archives which never left him. Without having to be asked, he placed his experience and expertise at the disposal of countless others to their very considerable advantage. FOCAS was one of numerous organisations which benefited from Adrian's commitment to Cumbria.

Although he had been born in Derbyshire, his family came to Cumbria in 1950, and his father, a market gardener, acquired The Golden Fleece property (once a pub) near Carleton and some ten acres of land, and after renovations the family moved there in 1955. Adrian went on to study Modern History at Durham University (1961-64), followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in the Study of Records and Archive Administration at Liverpool University (1964-65). His first appointment was as Assistant Archivist with West Suffolk Council at Bury St. Edmunds in 1965, where he also joined the Suffolk Preservation Society. In 1970 he took up a similar position at Liverpool University. Back in Carlisle he became involved in the public debate about the re-development of Carlisle City Centre, joined the Civic Trust, and went into local government. He was elected to the Border Rural District Council, 1971-74, and to Carlisle City Council, 1974-79. In 1994 he was promoted to the position of Liverpool University Archivist and remained there until his retirement in 2008.



Adrian returned to The Golden Fleece permanently during his retirement, making jam from the remaining bushes and trees and annually distributing cooking apples to all and sundry including those who gave him lifts to meetings and events, reluctant though he was to accept them, preferring to use public transport if available. At the same time he became more engaged with the archives and history of Cumbria. He joined the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society in 1972, and FoCAS at the time of its inception in October 1991. Since then he supported the Friends as the administrator of its Research and Publication Grants programme and latterly as an unflagging secretary. His minutes were always meticulous and his contributions to Trustees' discussions informative and incisive. His knowledge of archives and the CAS was encyclopaedic and was shared unstintingly with whoever sought his help either personally in the search rooms or via email. Adrian was an enthusiastic volunteer in the Carlisle Archive Centre and did much valuable work in cataloguing the large number of acquisitions, as well as overseeing and developing the CWAAS archive in his role as Honorary Archivist. He also kept a very keen eye of archive collections that were coming onto the market through auctions and in this way helped the CAS to bid for and, if successful, to acquire important collections, often with the help of money donated by FoCAS. As a member of other county groups, notably the Cumbria Local History Federation, Adrian was able to act as a 'go-between' when needed, and did much to champion the preservation of archives held by the local history groups in the county. His contribution to FoCAS has been acknowledged by all his colleagues and friends in the Friends and we shall miss him greatly.

Although Adrian had other interests in music and in the achievements of his family, archival and historical work nearly filled his life, and he was indefatigably busy until very nearly the end. There will be many organisations and individuals who will miss his encyclopaedic knowledge of the county and his generous support of their endeavours.

Compiled by Rob David, Chester Forster, Lorna Mullett and Peter Roebuck

Launch of Cumbrian Lives: 27 July 2022

After a wonderfully productive period during the pandemic, the launch of the Cumbrian Lives website was finally held in Carlisle on Wednesday 27 July 2022.

Founded in 1998 by David Cross, this county biographical project aims to identify, research and write up all interesting Cumbrians, from the time of the Romans onwards. To avoid duplication of effort, a key *desideratum* is that they are not already included in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB), though brief reference is made in the Index to many characters already included in that project. Encouraged by the late William Rollinson and under the chairmanship of Les Shore, a group of local biographers, historians, archivists and librarians planned the project during ten meetings. In company with Angus Winchester, David Cross had a helpful meeting c.1999 with Brian Harrison, the then editor of the ODNB at Oxford.

From 1999 until 2020, working intermittently, Richard Hall and David Cross each produced a long alphabetical list of likely candidates. Each name was researched and written up as a paragraph, with bibliographical references, when available. Next, in 2020 Stephen White, librarian of the Jackson collection at Carlisle, merged the two lists and removed duplicates. This joint Index now holds some 2000-3000 individual paragraphs.

Just before the start of the pandemic, Darren Kierman of Kierweb, in Carlisle, was asked to design a website and the project was announced to the CWAAS, FCLHS and FoCAS. Among the writers who stepped forward, we are particularly grateful to Kevin Grice, Jean Warburton and Tim Cockerill who between them have researched and written 54 lives of the 100 that are now completed.

Observers have wondered what our criteria might be. Following the success of the Mass Observation and Oral History projects, it seemed appropriate to broaden the scope of the website to include huntsmen, climbers, cattle breeders, craftspeople and, as in the ODNB, some visitors. Any life written at an acceptable standard will be included and the editors will support this process.

In launching the website we hope that the project will be of interest to a wide range of Cumbrian residents and visitors of all ages. Everyone is encouraged to explore the Index and to submit further ideas to the editor. We look forward to hearing from potential contributors and others with editorial experience.

David A. Cross, Editor
www.cumbrianlives.org.uk; www.davidacross.org.uk

News from the Cumbria Archive Service

Service-wide news

2022 continues to be a busy year for Cumbria Archive Service with continued uncertainty over local government re-organisation hanging over the service. As I write, we are waiting for a final decision on the future of the service with the newly elected unitary authorities. A great deal of work is going on to prepare for the transfer of services to the new authorities in time for vesting day, 1 April 2023. Despite the challenges there have been a great many achievements and I wanted to highlight the role volunteers are playing in the service and the great range of volunteering opportunities that we are offering across the service. In particular, we provide lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for all age groups. Whilst many of our volunteers are older people bringing their experience to help us bring collections to the public, we are also supporting students from secondary school and university to gain valuable work experience.

Our Conservation team have established a close relationship with the University of Northumbria to support Conservation students gain valuable work experience in a wide range of conservation techniques. With the generous help of FOCAS we plan to start offering the FOCAS conservation internship in Spring/Summer 2023 - this will be a month-long internship in conservation, where the successful candidate will gain valuable practical experience and skills to kick start their career in the North West. We hope this will help to solidify conservation excellence in the North, as Northumbria University is now the only remaining MA in the conservation of Fine Art of Paper in England. We are glad to support the efforts of the students in making Cumbria a centre of excellence for conservation and collections care.

Among our ten volunteers at Barrow we have supported a trainee archivist and a student volunteer from Lancaster University to catalogue a collections including one relating to COVID 19. In all volunteers are working on indexing name rich sources such as cemetery registers, military tribunal registers from the First World War and workhouse registers. Other activities include stock-taking collections: BDFC and BDx 555 photographs and listing slides of Barrow belonging to the Local Studies Collection.

At Carlisle volunteers are working on two projects. The first relates to the militia ballot papers 1806-31 which are particularly important as they cover the period of the Napoleonic Wars. Cumberland is one of only six counties where militia lists survive. The volunteers work in pairs to read and record the information on a spreadsheet. The second project relates to our local hospitals. Currently the admission registers and case notes of Blencathra Isolation Sanatorium are being indexed. Blencathra Sanatorium, one of the first in England, was built in 1898 and opened in 1904 on a mountainside in Keswick, close to Threlkeld, and focused on the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Alongside this we are indexing the case files for the Infectious Diseases Hospital (later the Fever Hospital) at Carlisle. The hospital volunteers work individually reading and inputting the data onto spreadsheets.

At Kendal we have benefited from the dedication of a long-standing volunteer who joined us to work on the Alfred Wainwright collection. Since then he has catalogued the Hardman photographic collection identifying many unidentified images. The volunteer is now working on the Margaret and Percy Duff Photographic Collection (WDMPD). The Conservation and Kendal teams are also supporting new volunteers helping to conserve the Browne of Townend papers held at Kendal.

At Whitehaven a dedicated team of regular volunteers are indexing names from ships' crew lists and agreements and the Cockermouth Poor Law Union workhouse register. A former colleague has returned to work on the title deeds of Waugh and Musgrave solicitors collection. All our Archive Centres continue to support university and secondary school students on work placements, giving them a taste of our work whilst completing valuable tasks for the Service.

I would also like to pay tribute to Adrian Allan who was a staunch friend and long term volunteer with the Archive Service. In the years that I knew Adrian I had the privilege of working with a dedicated and exceptionally skilled archivist who made a tremendous contribution to the service. It is no exaggeration to say that Adrian dedicated his life and work to the cause of preserving, recording and sharing our written heritage. I also remember his personal kindness, advice and support at various points in my career as an archivist.

Earlier this Spring we had the pleasure of working with Adrian as the Archive Service, Kevin Bolton, Archives Consultant, and Cumbria Local History Federation worked together to deliver a series of workshops

to local history groups throughout Cumbria. These workshops, held over four days in Carlisle and Kendal, gave local groups an insight into all aspects of managing and supporting access to their collections, from accessioning and cataloguing, preservation care and digital collections.

We are marking our 60th Anniversary with an open day at Carlisle Archive Centre on Saturday 12 November. We are marking this milestone with a local history fair, behind the scenes tours of the Archives and a series of talks exploring our history and collections



that speakers have used in their research. We will also be planting a tree to commemorate our anniversary and also to support the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Once again FoCAS are making a major contribution to a long-term legacy of our anniversary. We are very grateful for a grant of £8,000 to enable us to upgrade one of our digitisation suites to enable the digital capture of larger maps and plans, which currently have to be photographed in segments. The upgrade to the camera will enable us to take the camera to the archive centres and increase our digitisation output. A new map wall in the studio will enable us to photograph our largest items in one capture.

Despite a challenging year there is much to look forward to and I hope that you will be able to join us in supporting these achievements as we begin a new and yet to be written chapter in the story of Cumbria Archive Service.

Peter J Eyre,
Archives Professional Lead

**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)

Those related to members' current research interests are particularly welcome

Please contact me at jean2.turnbull@btinternet.com

News from Barrow Archive Centre

Broughton Market Proclamation and exhibition

As usual staff attended the proclamation of the market in Broughton-in-Furness on 1 August. This event has taken place every year since the market charter was granted by Elizabeth I in 1593. Cumbria County Council have been Lords of the Manor since 1988 when Lancashire County Council passed the lordship and the archives over. The dignitaries processed from the Black Cock Inn, led by Joss Curwen, bailiff, to The Square when Bill McEwan, Vice chair of the County Council and John Jardine, Chair of Duddon Parish Council, read out the rules of the market. After singing the National Anthem, pennies were thrown out to the children. The parchment proclamation was signed by Bill McEwan in the Manor Arms, he then proposed a toast to The Queen, the Duke of Lancaster and everyone was given a fair cake. As this was the last time that Cumbria County Council will run this event, the Archive Service produced an exhibition on the history of the Broughton-in-Furness. This is now on display in the library and will be handed to Duddon Parish Council for display, possibly in the Victory Hall.



*Images . Top: Reading the proclamation
Bottom: Bill McEwan signing the proclamation*

Schools

Susan visited four Barrow primary schools to deliver sessions on Victorian Barrow to year 5 and 6 children looking at the growth of the town, the iron and steel works, shipbuilding and the workhouse. She also went to Coniston Primary School to run a session of Alfred Wainwright. The children worked out how he produced his books and created their own version of one of his drawings. In total 156 children from seven classes worked with archives to learn about the history of the area.

Guides Walks run for Furness Carers

Susan trained as walk leader in October 2019 but this is the first time she has been able to lead an historical walk. Susan has given talks to this group of adults who care for someone and for the summer it was decided to get out and about. The first walk was around Dalton-in-Furness and the second along the promenade from The Dock Museum to the slag back and back.

Work with CANDO FM and Community Development CCC for audio trails

Cando FM has been commissioned by the County Council to produce three audio trails in the borough. The first, along Biggar bank on Walney, is now up and running. Walkers can listen to audio content and scan the QR code on the poles to access images. The second, from Dalton-in-Furness to Furness Abbey, is about to be installed and the final one from Rampside to Barrow-in-Furness along the old railway line and around Cavendish Dock is being designed. Images and information from the Barrow Archive Centre are included and Jonny and Andrea from CANDFO FM recorded Susan talking about the history of the area.

Roof work

We have been waiting for a new roof to sort out the problem of condensation forming in the cold weather and dripping through into the searchroom. Finally, the work has begun after a delay of several weeks. A temporary searchroom was set up in the Galley Room in Barrow Library and staff are working in various places to get away from the noise. By the time this is published, everything should be back to normal.

Kendal and Fisher Solicitors (BDKF) and Thomas Butler Solicitors (BDTB)

Both of these collections contain over 300 hundred boxes and have been waiting to be catalogued for many years. Hazel is working her way through BDKF and Selena has taken over the cataloguing on BDTB from Susan. Both contain a wealth of information about local people, usually estate papers but there are manorial documents, records of the Billincoat Charity (boys could apply for a bursary to take up an apprenticeship and young women were entitled to a payment when their first child was born as long as it was nine months or more after the wedding!). Notes about cases taken to the military tribunals held in Millom between 1916 and 1918 survive as well as title deeds, wills, records of the building of Ulverston Canal in the 1790s. There are still treasures to be discovered.

Life Through Laundry

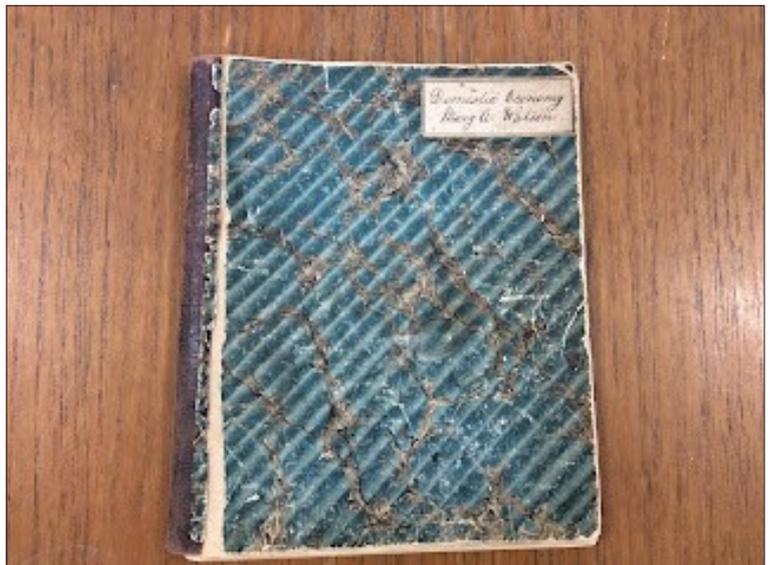
Ruth, a local artist who now lives in the North East, was commissioned by BarrowFull to produce a set of poems about laundry as seen through the eyes of people in Barrow-in-Furness. She visited the Archive Centre at the start of her research and then worked with the owners of local laundrettes and Women's Community Barrow. One of her poems even tells us where all the odd socks end up.

A section from Ruth's blog:

The day started with a visit to Barrow Archives, who I had contacted prior to my visit to arrange an appointment and to request lots of artefacts that had the word "laundry" in them! I arrived to a wonderful welcome and all the documents beautifully laid out. After registering for my card and getting quite emotional at the thought of how many hours my Grandma had spent in this space, I got to work!

Well, it didn't feel like work! What a treasure trove of stories and mysteries! Susan, who works in the archives, was also a goldmine of information and brought out a book she thought I might be interested in. And, oh my goodness, I really was! More on that later.

Then back to see Susan and Selina in the archives. I really wanted to look again at Mary A Watson's Domestic Economics notebook from 1868, a treasure map of the whats, wheres, whys, whens and hows of all you will ever need to know to run a home (see image on right). Additionally, I wanted to look again at the Alfred Barrow House yearbook - a place for girls to go for their "extra year" to learn "the foundation of what for most of them will be their future life's work".



<http://www.quietdownthere.co.uk/life-through-laundry-barrowinfurness>

Aidan Charles Jenkin Jones 1951-2022

Aidan, a former area archivist at Barrow, died on 5 April 2022 at home in Tregaron, Wales. He was born in Cambridge on 4 February 1951, the second son of Charles and Freda Jones. Aidan read Medieval History at St Andrews University before attending University College of Wales at Aberystwyth where he undertook the Archives Administration course. Once qualified as an archivist, Aidan worked in Carmarthen and then Southampton before moving to Barrow in 1982. After retiring, Aidan moved to Tregaron near Aberystwyth in 2014. He married Janet in 2015 but tragically Janet died 14 months later.

Aidan spent many hours researching his own family tree, amassing an archive covering over 1,000 people. He learnt Welsh as his family originated from Wales: the village of Tregaron was the home of his great-great grandfather. As a child he spent hours train spotting and as an adult, he spent his holidays travelling round Europe by train. After 2000, Aidan had singing lessons and joined first the Barrow Male Voice Choir and then a Welsh choir. He was due to compete in the solo competition at the National Eisteddford in Wales later this year. As well as singing, Aidan enjoyed acting. He took part in the pantomime produced by Walney churches several times and then shows put on by the Showtime Singers of Aberystwyth. After moving to Tregaron, Aidan joined a Welsh class, winning several awards in Welsh writing competitions.

Susan Benson, Archivist

Update from Carlisle Archive Centre

Accessions

We received a deposit of material relating to Maryport Educational Settlement 'The Settlement' (ref DSO 527) which opened in 1937. It was located at Castle Hill, which was built in 1785 as the residence of Captain William Currey, a Maryport Ship owner. It stands at the top of Mote Hill on the southern end of High Street looking down on the River Ellen and with spectacular views across the Solway Firth. From 1789 to 1934, Castle Hill was a private residence of the Senhouse and Addison families. When the late Miss Addison died, the house became vacant and stood empty for three years prior to being acquired by the Friends Society for use as the Maryport Educational Settlement.

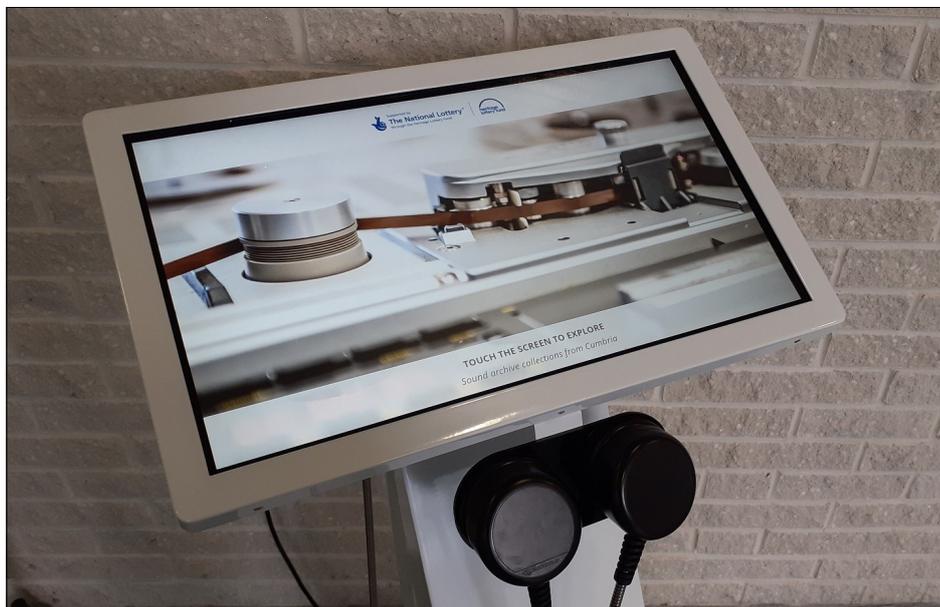
The economically depressed state of West Cumberland during the early 1930s led to a number of central government initiatives designed to alleviate the poverty experienced by the residents of West Cumbrian towns including Maryport. The Education Settlement arose from these initiatives. The collection includes the original founding constitution, newspaper clippings regarding the search for a premises to run a club for the unemployed, minutes of the Council and Executive Committee, annual reports, annual accounts, applications for LEA Grants, staffing records, news bulletins, syllabus relating to educational programmes and events.

A black and white photograph of a group of Basque refugee boys (and some adults) outside the Brampton hostel has been donated (ref DX 2571). This image compliments a deposit of material that was made in 2021 by the Roberts Family of Boothby. Their collection of family papers includes a file of correspondence that relates to the financing of the Brampton hostel. A group of 100 unaccompanied refugee children from the Basque region of Spain were accommodated here after they fled their country during the civil war. The letters provide information on sources of finance, they also help to identify the hostel's supporters, including those who 'adopted' the children. They also reveal the names of many of the young refugees. Although there were over 70 of these hostels nationwide, there is little surviving data about them. There are plans to recruit an undergraduate History student from Lancaster University to list the contents of the file to item level. This will enable researchers to make best use of the archive.

Other deposits include a single manuscript sheet containing correspondence between Lord Carlisle and the Deputy Lieutenants concerning militia tax and payment of militia officers in Cumberland and Westmorland, Nov-Dec 1683 (ref Q/MIL/5/1/1). This was purchased with funds donated by FoCAS; a pocket diary belonging to Dr Henry Lonsdale, Carlisle, 1870 (ref DX 2570); title deeds dating from the 17th century relating to Dunthwaite House, Setmurthy (ref DNT); papers from four local parish councils: Aikton, Bassenthwaite, Boltons, and Bromfield; and records of three local sporting organisations: Yad Moss Ski Club Ltd (ref DSO 531), Cumberland County Cricket Club (ref DSO 232), and Cumbria Schools' Cricket Association (ref DSO 480).

Outreach

In May we were delighted to introduce a new sound kiosk to the Archive Centre. The interactive kiosk features historic audio clips on a range of themes from across Cumbria. These were digitised from original recordings, held on cassette, CD and other increasingly obsolete formats, by Manchester Central Library as part of the British Library 'Unlocking our Sounds Heritage North West' project. Now located in the foyer, the sound kiosk is accessible to anyone visiting the archives or registration service (see image on right).



Cataloguing

We have catalogued some small collections including the Raughton Head Young Farmers' Club archive (ref DSO 519) which gives a great sense of the fun, camaraderie and community in the club. Also, the Rimington Family of Tynefield House, Penrith (ref DRIM) archive which is an incomplete archive but features some interesting highlights including a diary written by an unnamed late 18th century Quaker woman (family history research based on the names in the diary would probably enable her to be identified) and letters sent from South Africa during the Boer War.

New cataloguing projects

We have begun the repackaging and auditing of the Cowans Sheldon (ref DB 40) engineering drawings, which will make this regularly requested collection much more accessible. We have also begun cataloguing the Mounsey-Heysham Family of Castletown archive which will be of particular interest to those studying the people and places of Rockcliffe and the surrounding area.

Records appraisal

We don't shout about this area of our work too often, but we thought it was worth highlighting the regular appraisal work we undertake on records reaching us via the County Council Records Management Service. Once a month the archivists from across the county work together in Carlisle on records originating from a range of Council departments and which have reached the end of their immediate administrative use.

Working with reference to the Council Retention and Disposal Schedule, we appraise material to ensure that records with long-term historic value are retained in the archives while also making best use of our space by arranging for material which does not have long-term historic value to be confidentially destroyed. We also repackage and add basic catalogue information as we appraise, preserving and making records searchable as efficiently as possible.

Michael Stephens and Kelda Roe, Archivists

Photographs of The Lanes, Carlisle, 1965-1968

Every Thursday night at 7pm, a post is scheduled for Facebook, showcasing Carlisle Archives' vast collection of historic photographs, using the #PhotoThursday. It is scheduled to complement Cumbria Image Bank's image of the week every Friday, or #PhotoFriday as it's more commonly known. Throughout July and August, the focus has been on Cumbria Libraries in and around the Carlisle area encouraging users to #GuessWhere the places are. It is whilst searching for a photograph for this week's featured library Carlisle Library that a small, annotated scrapbook of photographs came to light.

Entitled *The Lanes, Carlisle linking Lowther Street and Scotch Street to English taken between 1965-1968* (ref DX 51/6). It contains photos of: Law's Lane, Union Court, Hodgson's Court, Globe Lane, Crown and Anchor Lane, Grape's Lane, Lewthwaite Lane, Key's Lane, Old Bush Lane and some unidentified lanes or courts.

Potentially the easiest untitled photo to identify is annotated 'Name of lane or court not known, is against the wall of Sibsons, solicitors, who gave permission to take the photos'. Two photos are included below. The one on the left is 'Looking towards Lowther Street'. That on the right is the only named building in the scrapbook: 'House in Crown and Anchor Lane now called Stansfield Buildings. This house remained a private residence until this century. This is an example of a family residence where business offices and family were housed above business premises on the ground floor, the retail building entry from English Street'.



FoCAS members can follow us on Facebook, [@carlislelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/carlislelibrary) to see previous and future posts showcasing photographs of Carlisle and north Cumberland

Sarah Wood, Archives Assistant

Update from the Conservation and Digitisation Unit

We are lucky here in Cumbria that our conservation and digitisation teams work very closely together. As research continues on the preservation of collections, more and more we find that chemical intervention in natural degradation processes causes more harm than good. We find ourselves less and less able to justify heavy linings for maps, or water- or solvent- based treatments of our documents and photographs.

So how do we best help our collections last for years to come? Luckily, our archive service is embracing the future of preservation: Digitisation. The more time and effort our team puts into digitisation and digital preservation, the safer and more secure the collections will be. This push will expand our reach and make our collections more available remotely to our user base, and hopefully expand to new audiences as well. Here's some examples of what we've been working on.

Erika Freyr

Digitisation: Access Granted!

Convicts from Carlisle Gaol once rested beside soldiers loyal to Bonny Prince Charlie in the grounds, where the memorial to the industrial families of Dixon and Thurnham now stands. Between larger projects, a graveyard plan of St Cuthbert's Church in Carlisle - brought by Archive Assistant Sarah Wood from the strongrooms - has caught my eye. It is a rare map especially considering the city's flooding habits and storied Christian history; their usual fate is to go missing in gravedigger house clear-outs before reaching any kind of archive store. Fortunately, a to-scale reproduction has been printed and is now available for visitors of the Carlisle Archive Centre's map room to view without fear of damage to the original item. St Cuthbert's Churchyard closed for burials in 1867 and the map outlines each of the 550 gravestones marked, numbered, and signed by their architect Charles J Ferguson prior to their clear-out in 1888. Alongside monumental inscriptions edited by Margaret J Ferguson in 1889, resources like these can be invaluable for any of us looking to trace our family tree all the way to their final resting places (see cover image). This can be found on the search room shelves number 2.30.

The Preservation of Wills

The pre-1858 wills from the Diocese of Carlisle are part of an ongoing volunteer project to remove them from their existing packaging, which is overcrowded and inefficient. They are being repacked in archival quality enclosures that make better use of the available shelf space and enable individual wills to be retrieved one at a time. These documents date from 1540 to 1858 and were stored in folders with paper labels attached by paperclips. Placing each will in its own paper sleeve, with the reference and name of the testator laser-printed on, allows us to remove the bulky paperclips and labels (see images below on left and centre). The wills are then placed in custom-made boxes designed to protect the documents, while maximising shelf space (see image below on the right). So far over 11,000 wills have been repackaged which will help preserve them while freeing up space in the strongroom. Once repackaged, they are ready for digitisation by Guy.



There are occasions when Guy is unable to photograph the entire document, due to missing sections or creasing from folding. Sometimes a document does not lie flat enough to see all the text. If angling the lighting to exclude shadowing to reveal the text does not succeed, the will gets passed to our Conservation department to carry out their magic and ease out the creases with gentle weight. Once digitised, there should be no more need to manually handle the document again, thus ensuring its preservation.

Fay Humphreys and Guy Pawle

External Digitisation Requests

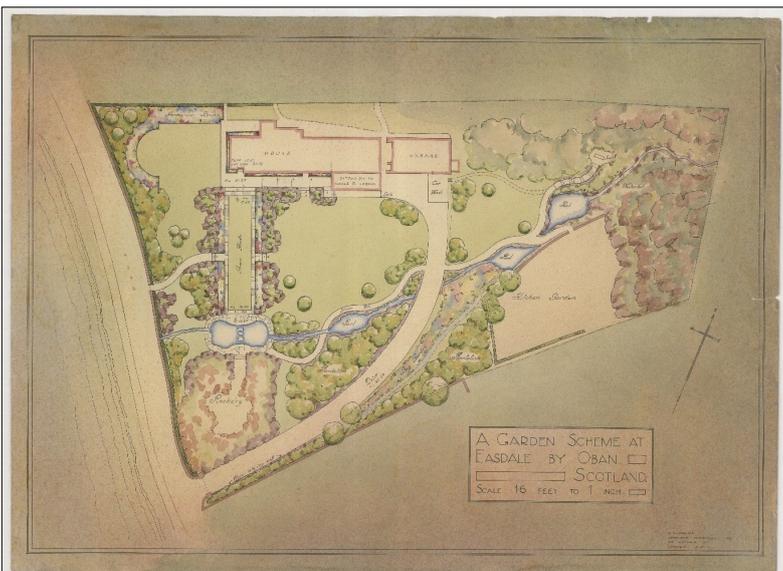
Recently we've had the usual eclectic mix of requests including wills and parish registers for family research, and also a copy of a pedigree of an old Quaker family. People always find this information useful to fill in the gaps of their family jigsaw puzzle. There is also interest in the Garlands Mental Hospital records that we hold.

An early 19th century draft enclosure plan was a bit of a challenge to read as it was so faded, but we were able to enhance copy in Photoshop to make the writing more legible. Other items include a personal diary from 1802, colour prints of a plan of a bridge for local history research, and a court book from 1680.

Architects and developers often want to refer to original building plans to aid their work. One recent job was to digitise the plans, planning applications and objections regarding converting an airfield into a caravan park after the Second World War.

It is always a pleasure to see Thomas Mawson's garden designs. One of these, a garden scheme for 'An Cala' at Easdale, by Oban, Scotland in 1938. For Faith Celli [wife of A.C. Murray, later Lord Elibank] can be seen on the top right (ref KCAS WDB 86/4/195).

Another task was to provide images of some items from the Lonsdale Archive which were accepted in lieu of inheritance tax in 2022. The images will be used for the report on the Cultural Gifts and Acceptance in Lieu schemes which is published every year and features details about the cases accepted for the nation in that financial year. One of the images that was considered is the one on bottom right. Can you spot a well known face along with the Earl here?



Francesca Halfacree

West Cumbria Industrial Heritage



I have been working on a collection of some 4,000 photographs of the Corus steel works in Workington. They cover every aspect of daily work, from the depth of the mines to the staff Christmas party. The image on the right was taken in 1952, of a group of apprentices sent to Germany. They are waiting for their train on Workington Station. What an adventure that must have been. Look at the crisp crease on their trousers, and the sandwiches stuffed into their pockets.

Helen Leech

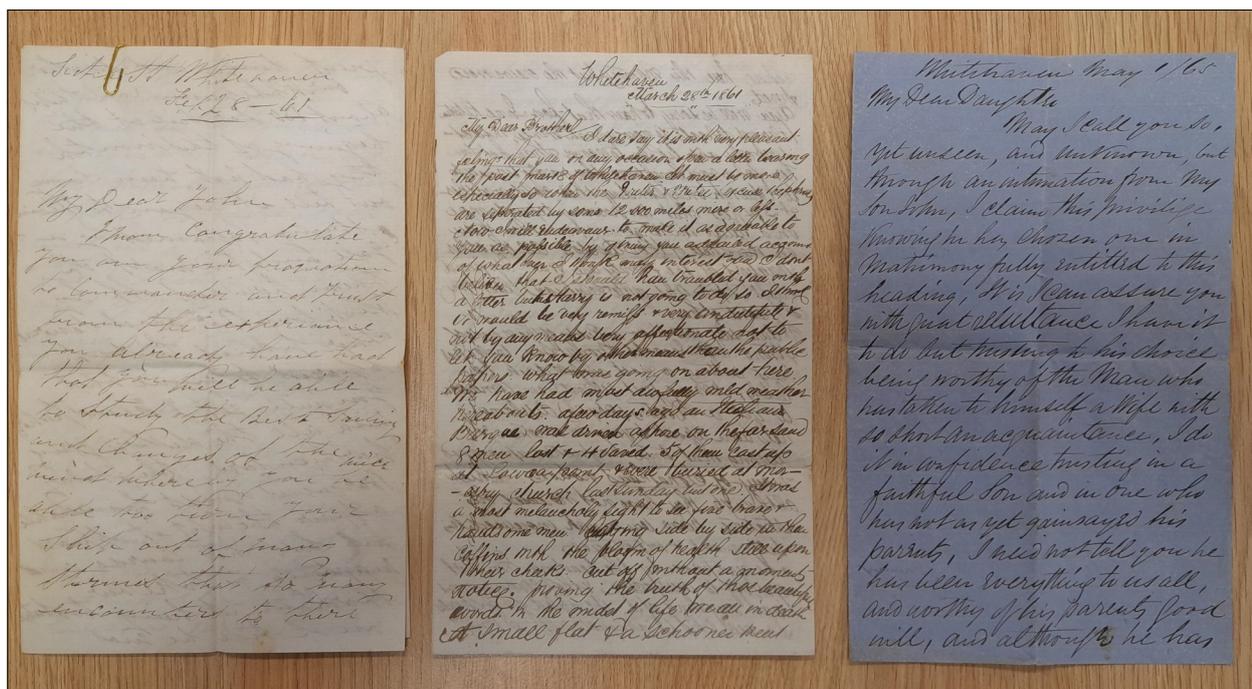
Update from Whitehaven Archives

New material

- Egremont Methodist Churches marriage registers, 1923-2011 and cradle roll of baptisms, 1942-1953 (ref YDFCM 2)
- Workington Rambling Club committee papers and correspondence (ref YDSO 122)
- Captain John Whittle, family and business correspondence, 1860-1913 (ref YDX 769)
- Cockermouth Poor Law Union Assessment Committee Minutes, 1899-1911 (ref SPUCO)
- Middleton's Commercial Directory for Workington, 1908-1909 (Local Studies Library)
- Biographies of Lewthwaite family members, 2020-2021 (ref YDLEW)
- Lawson Mardon Medical printed drainage plan, Moresby Parks site, 1996 (ref YDX 770)
- Election leaflets for Cumberland County Council candidates, 2022 (ref YDX 771)
- Whitehaven and West Cumberland Hospital Ladies' Linen League, List of Members, Articles Needed and Rules, 1943 (ref YDX 773)
- BNFL News, 1991-1992 (ref YBNFL)
- Cleator and Workington Junction Railway, Northern Extension Railway No 1 Contract Section -Calva Junction to Linefoot, undated [1883] (ref TBR 1)
- Calder Abbey: its ruins and history* by the Reverend Arthur G Loftie, vicar of St Bridget's, Beckermot, 1888 (ref YDX 774)
- Conservative and Unionist Association, Ravenglass Branch, Whitehaven Division, minutes, accounts and correspondence, 1947-1983 (ref YDSO 192)
- Records relating to Beckermot Mine: legal agreements, publications including reports, photographs, newspaper articles, mining maps and notes, 1850s-2015 (ref YDX 775)
- Digital Photographs of the Gulliver's Travels mural and blue plaque for Dame Edith Brown, 2022, (ref PH/1670 (addit))
- Digital photographs of art installation of whale at Whitehaven Harbour, May 2022 (ref PH/1678)
- Curwen family of Workington Hall: Estate and personal papers and correspondence, including papers relating to High Sheriff of Cumbria, c.1990-c.2015 (ref DCU)
- Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited files on Bradbury House, Gosforth and Burrow Walls, Workington, 2016-2017 (ref YDB 79)

Recent cataloguing

Staff at Whitehaven Archives have been listing digital photographs and scans of postcards of Seascale, showing homes and businesses in the village as well as a variety of views. A new accession of accounts, deeds and probate of the Curwen family has been catalogued.



We recently received a small collection mainly of the letters of Captain John Whittle, Marine Superintendent of the China Navigation Company, and the son of John Whittle, ironmonger, from his time in Shanghai, Singapore and Calcutta, sent to and from his family in Whitehaven and his employers in Liverpool (see three letters displayed above).

A local studies collection relating to Whitehaven consisting of printed material and maps, vouchers and photographs, including pictures of the harbour, mine buildings, and railway is listed under the reference YDX 765, although more material has just arrived.

The marriage registers of Egremont Wesleyan and United Methodist Chapels (Main Street and the Castle) are now on our online catalogue. We have taken in the records of the late Raymond Clements, mine surveyor, concerning Beckermeth and Florence Mines, including his notes, newspaper cuttings, plans, publications and photos. Staff have carried out further appraisal and listing of the British Coal Corporation files held at our out store too.

Outreach

Since the last Newsletter, we have had a Lancaster University student visit us on a two-week placement spent listing the letters of the Cumbrian artist Percy Kelly (ref YDX 427). The student focused on the years 1984 and 1985. She also interviewed staff on their experiences with volunteers as part of her assignment. The record office had a short work experience placement from a graduate, who enjoyed it so much she returned as a regular weekly volunteer listing our crew lists. The graduate has since found a paid employment.



Whitehaven Archives has hosted a couple of events, one being a talk by Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park on lesser-known footpaths and linnings in Cumbria (based on their recent book, *Get Lost*). The other event was a Platinum Jubilee Tea Party, which included a display on royalty with original documents, a themed quiz, and plenty of cake. It was very well attended with around 35 visitors (see two images on left).

We have also joined in with the Explore Your Archive campaign on social media with tweets on the themes of Royals, Sport, Animals and '30 days of Archives' (featuring something new, something big and something small from the collections). We have continued to showcase the fruits of the West Cumbrian Industrial Heritage project with images from Distington Iron Works and Marchon.



Coming up in September, we have a talk by Gareth Pugh on Dukes of Atholl and their connections to Whitehaven and a display on anniversary celebrations in our collections which ties in with the theme of Cumbria Archives at 60. A copy of the poster for this event can be found below.



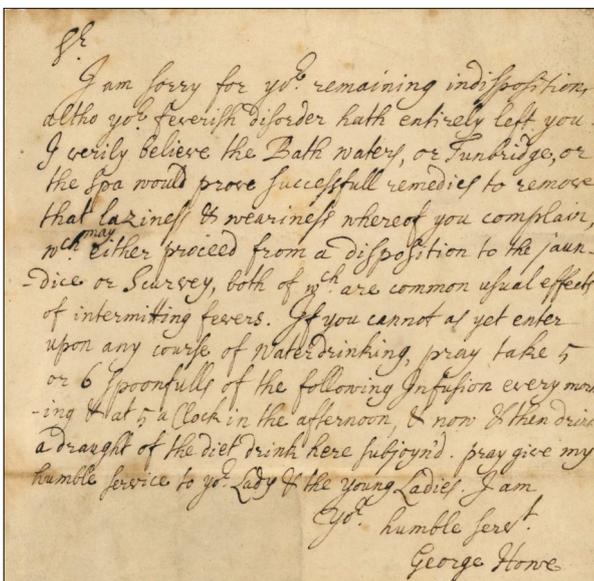
Diane Hodgson

Update from Kendal Archive Centre

Some recent accessions:

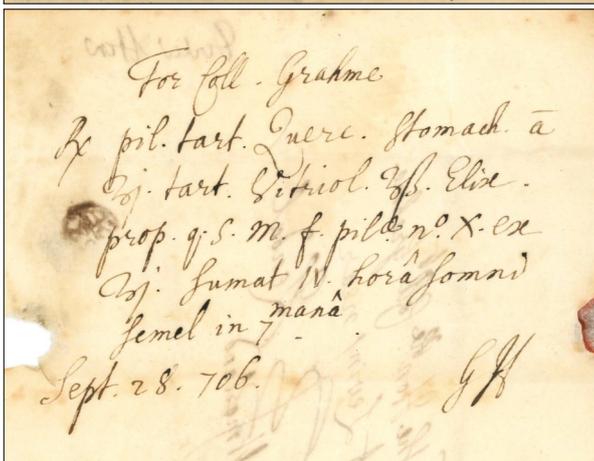
- Beetham Sports - minutes 1920-2004; cash book 1964-1985; races book 1948-1949 (ref WDSO 419)
- Westmorland deeds - deeds and documents relating to Appleby and Great Asby areas (Rivington estate), 1753-1974 (ref WDX 2055)
- Burneside Cricket Club – Westmorland Cricket League season handbooks 2014-2019 & 2021; score books: 1st XI 2012-202, 2nd XI 2017-2021, 3rd XI 2014-2016, etc. (ref WDSO 330)
- John Flavel Curwen of Heversham, architect and antiquary - scrapbook containing newspaper cuttings on churches, sanitation, architecture, etc; also containing leaflets, orders of service, notices, letters, architectural drawings, etc., 1888-1934 (ref WDX 2056)
- Holker Upper Parish Council - Cartmel Ward minute book for parish or parish ward meetings, 1894-1910 (ref WPC 29)
- Natland, St Mark Parish - parish magazines June 2021-June 2022; Give to Grow [stewardship campaign leaflet]; order of service for Her Majesty's platinum jubilee, June 2022; annual vestry minutes, April 2021; financial review, 2021; annual report for PCC for year ending 2021 (ref WPR 35)
- Captain French Lane, Kendal - deeds relating to property in Captain French Lane, Kendal, 1703-1882 (ref WDX 2057)
- Cartmel - papers including letters from George Howe to James Grahme of Levens Hall regarding health and cures, 1703-1706 (3); overseers of the poor accounts for Staveley division [?], 18th century; funeral expenses of Mrs Taylor of Cartmel, died 19 Nov 1749; apprenticeship indenture of William Gilpin to John Walker, tailor, 16 Aug 1734; etc. (ref WDX 1278)
- Rotary Club of Kendal South Westmorland - minutes 1985-2022; accounts 2011-2022; membership and seniority lists, 1991-2001; miscellaneous documents, including fundraising activities, photographs, newspaper cuttings, etc. (ref WDSO 420)
- Backhouse family - pedigree of descendants of John Backhouse of Yealand Redmayne [showing some descendants from Kendal], covering 17th to 19th centuries [with later annotation to 1938] (ref WDX 2058)

Remedies to remove weariness - letters to James Grahme from his doctor



The image shows a handwritten letter on aged paper. The text is written in a cursive hand and discusses medical advice for weariness. It mentions 'Bath waters, or Tunbridge, or the Spa' and provides a recipe for an infusion. The letter is signed 'George Howe'.

Amongst a recent deposit of papers received were three letters written to James Grahme of Levens Hall (1649-1730) in the early 1700s (ref WDX 1278). The letters were written by George Howe and are all concerned with the health of James Grahme and some of his relatives. George Howe appears to have been a doctor and over the course of the three letters (written in 1703, 1705, and 1706) he enquires after James Grahme's health and offers advice and provides recipes for remedies that he hopes will cure him. It is unclear what precise illness James Grahme is suffering from, but in the 1705 letter Howe writes 'I verily believe the Bath waters, or Tunbridge, or the Spa would prove successful remedies to remove that laziness and weariness whereof you complain'. Howe states that Grahme's weariness may either proceed from jaundice or scurvy, both being the results of intermittent fevers. James Grahme had had a military career, had been a favourite at Court, was involved with the Jacobite cause, and had become a Member of Parliament, so perhaps his weariness was caused in part by his busy lifestyle. Whatever the cause, Howe's best advice was to continue to take the waters. In the letter written in 1706, Howe rejoices in Grahme's resolution to take the waters at Bath and hopes he will 'reap great advantage.'



The image shows a handwritten recipe for pills on aged paper. The text is written in a cursive hand and lists ingredients: '℞ pil. tart. Querc. Stomach. a', '℞j. tart. Vitriol. ℞j. Elix.', 'prop. q. s. m. f. pills n. 8. ex', '℞j. Sumat N. hora somni', 'Semel in mane'. The date 'Sept. 28. 706.' is written at the bottom. The recipe is signed 'GH'.

Howe urges caution, however, and advises Grahme 'not to bathe at all, for fear of any ill consequences, which by bathing is many times procured.' Much better to drink the water, and Howe advises that Grahme take three pints or two quarts if his stomach can bear it. Howe provides recipes for some pills and infusions if Grahme couldn't drink much water. These recipes, written in Latin, contain ingredients such as vitriol and chalybeate.

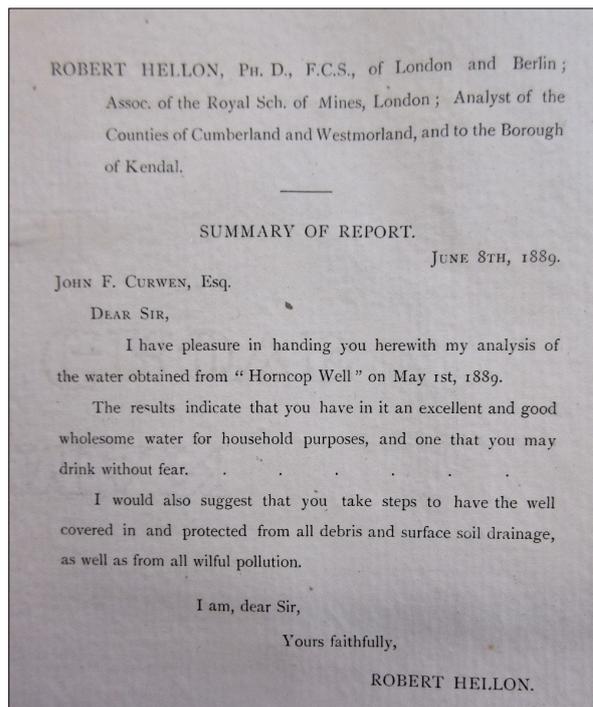
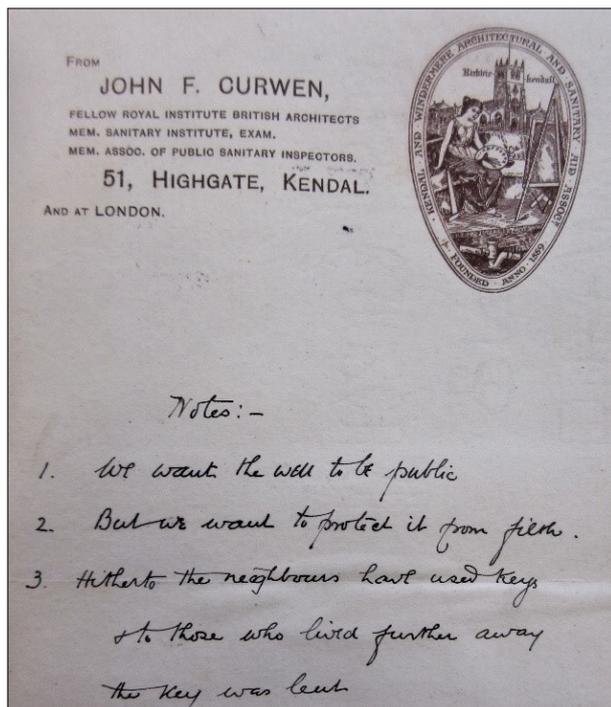
Top left: Letter from George Howe to James Grahme, 23rd June 1705.

Bottom left: Recipe for pills, 28 September 1706

There is an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, for a George Howe, physician, who was born in 1655 and died in 1710. The entry states that Howe entered Glasgow University in 1671 and graduated MA in 1673. He later entered Leiden University, where he is described in the register for 8 September 1677 as 'Georgius Howe, Scotus', a student of physic aged twenty-two. He graduated MD at Leiden in 1679. Howe became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London, on 30 September 1679, fellow in 1687, and censor in 1707.

John F Curwen's scrapbook

Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal, was fortunate to receive a gift of a scrapbook compiled by the architect and antiquarian John Flavel Curwen [ref WDX 2056/1]. Curwen is a well-known figure in the archives at Kendal, as we hold a collection of Curwen family papers, along with some of his architectural plans and other records. Some of Curwen's publications can also be found on our searchroom library shelves. The scrapbook was a welcome addition, therefore, and provides the researcher with a handy overview of Curwen's interests and activities. The scrapbook covers the years 1888 to 1934 and contains newspaper cuttings relating to churches, sanitation, and architecture, along with leaflets, orders of service, notices, letters, architectural drawings, and more.



Above: Report and note from the scrapbook endorsing Curwen's wish to have Horncop Well enclosed, 1889

Curwen was a sanitary inspector as well as an architect and the scrapbook contains newspaper cuttings, letters and papers relating to sanitary matters in and around Kendal. There is some interesting material relating to a public spring called Horncop Well which Curwen proposed roofing over and enclosing with railings to protect the water supply. In 1889, Curwen published a circular letter to inhabitants who used the well which stated that 'hardly a day goes by without the water being stirred up and contaminated by boys and others who play around it; sometimes by the washing of their feet, by the washing of their dogs with soap in the well water, cases have been seen by me of even nuisance committed into it, dogs are frequently drinking from it'. For these reasons, Curwen wanted the well protected and users to pay five shillings for a key to access it. Curwen even sent a sample of the Horncop Well water to be analysed, and the analyst supported Curwen's proposal of protecting the well. Many locals were not happy with the proposal and the scrapbook contains newspaper cuttings of complaints against the scheme, one of which considers the scheme 'very strange, when just now the best thing the [Kendal] Corporation can offer is a kind of puddle. It is very like an attempt of some one who may have an interest in the beer trade - stopping off pure water in order to send thirsty ones to the beer tap?'

Other items in the book relate to Curwen's role as an ecclesiastical architect. There are newspaper cuttings relating to various churches Curwen worked on including some interesting cuttings and letters relating to the restoration of Cartmel Fell church, which Curwen carried out in 1911. Essayist and poet AC Benson criticised the restoration for removing too much of the original fabric of the church in a letter to Country Life and in newspaper articles which can be found in the scrapbook. Curwen defended his work in his own letters and articles, stating in a letter to Country Life that the church 'was in the galloping stage of decay' and as such the alterations were unavoidable. Any controversy surrounding the restoration did not negatively impact Curwen's career as he was appointed Diocesan Surveyor for the southern parts of Carlisle Diocese soon after, a post he held for 12 years.

Continued overleaf

There are, of course, numerous cuttings and papers in the scrapbook relating to Curwen's antiquarian pursuits, including notices of his lectures and publications, certificates appointing Curwen to be Westmorland's local secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and syllabuses of some of his lectures given whilst secretary of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeology Society.

At the end of the scrapbook are obituaries for John F Curwen from August 1932, and a 1934 article about the dedication of a new vestry and Lady Chapel designed by J F Curwen and Sons. These articles were probably pasted into the scrapbook by a member of the Curwen family, most likely one of John F Curwen's sons.

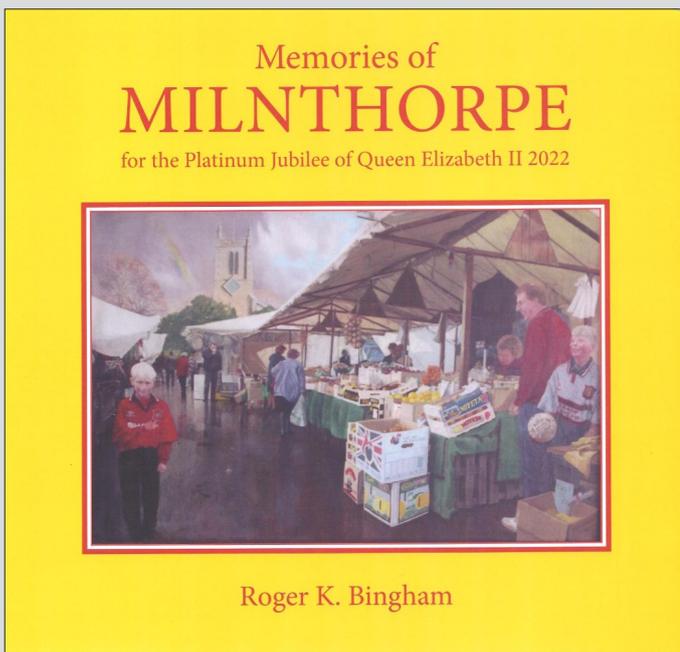
Anthony Hughes, archivist

Right: Typical pages from John F Curwen's scrapbook (ref. WDX 2056



Roger K Bingham, *Memories of Milnthorpe for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II 2022*

Privately published, softback, 2022. 174pp., £10.29. ISBN 9780950999128



Amongst the many aspects of his life, Roger Bingham is known as the author of books on the history of north-west England. These include town histories of Morecambe and Kendal and a detailed history of his birthplace entitled *The Chronicles of Milnthorpe*. He has penned other books and these include *A history of the Westmorland County Show, 1799-1999* and *The Church at Heversham*. There is also his well-illustrated 'memories' series and Roger's latest book is the fifth volume in which he returns to the topic of his first two volumes, the village of Milnthorpe. It is the most substantial volume of 'memories' and it focuses on developments in the life of the village in the years from 1952 to the present day.

The first eight chapters take a geographic view of the village, concentrating on specific areas before moving on to look in detail at institutions, including churches and schools. The final chapters focus on social life -

sports, carnivals and so much more. These demonstrate that Milnthorpe residents have long enjoyed a variety of communal activities – as they still do today.

All of the chapters use the same format with photographs providing the basic framework around which the author provides very detailed and informative captions – some of them of paragraph length. Only someone with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the community and its history could have written these, and perhaps only Roger could have persuaded so many people from the village to provide the wide range of photographs.

The book includes over 300 illustrations and is beautifully produced. Most of the photographs are black and white but there is also a colour section. All proceeds from the book go to a local charity.

Jean Turnbull

Dianne Davidson, *Forage, Feast & Famine: How did Cumbria Fare down the Ages*

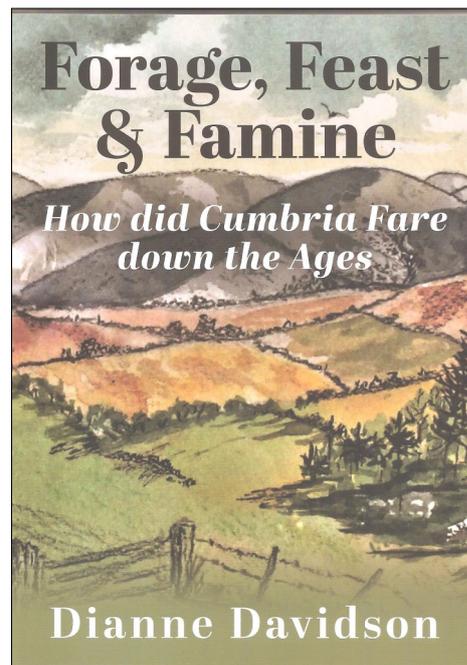
Privately published, softback, 2021. 198pp., £14.99. ISBN 9781399910378

The clever pun on the word 'fare' sets the tone for this lively, entertaining and informative book which takes us on a gastronomic trip through the centuries from the Neolithic to the end of the 18th century. Food, and food production in Cumbria are linked to its history and social development and illustrated by quotations from contemporaneous sources. Of added interest, and where the author comes into her own, are the recipes, based on what was available to the different emerging classes for their tables. In their reliance on what was available locally they have a resonance with modern culinary ideas of 'local-sourcing'.

Some of the ideas put forward in the early chapters are necessarily speculative, as the evidence is not always to be found, but as the book progresses the ground becomes firmer. The book would have benefited from some closer editing to eliminate spelling errors but perhaps this may be a little pedantic. There are one or two statements with which one could argue; one is not sure that *Brigantes* translates as *the Brigands* (p.13); there is a strong argument that Cumbria was the territory of the Carvetii not the Brigantes, and there is no archaeological evidence of a port at Haverthwaite (p.25). This leads to a further concern – the lack of footnoting and referencing (which may have answered the queries above). A couple of quotations are ascribed to their authors but many are not (although a bibliography is given); assertions and statements are made without any reference to where the information came from. The inclusion of footnotes and references would have given depth to the book and would have made it a different kind of book, but this may not have been what the author intended.

The depth and breadth of the research is obvious and jumps out from every page and the Appendices give added illustrative information. It is a book that speaks loudly of the author's deep engagement with Cumbria and its 'fare', and is a very enjoyable read.

Lorna Mullett



ID Rotherham & C Handley (eds),

History & Heritage of the Bogs & Peatlands of Cumbria & Surrounding Areas

This is free to download as a PDF at:

https://www.ukeconet.org/store/p810/History_%26_Heritage_of_the_Bogs_%26_Peatlands_of_Cumbria_%26_Surrounding_Areas.html

The book will be available for sale as a paperback later in the year

History & Heritage of the Bogs & Peatlands

of Cumbria & Surrounding Areas

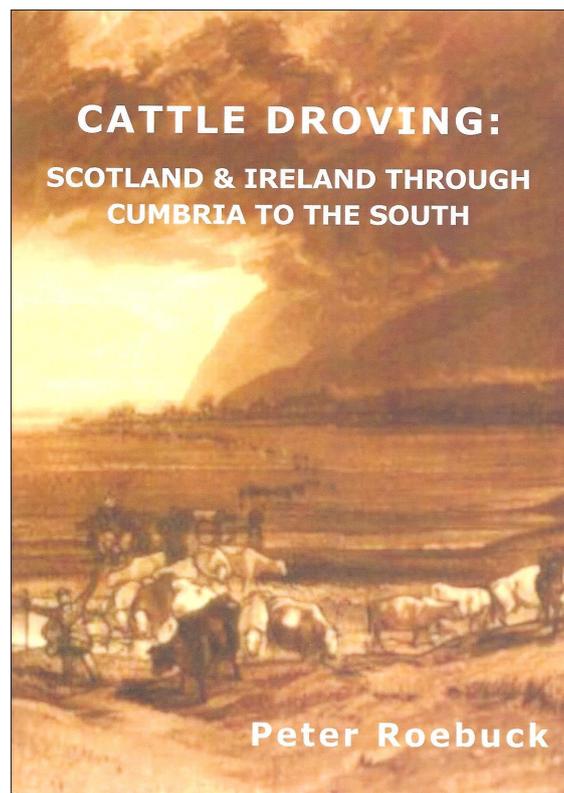


Edited by Ian D. Rotherham and Christine Handley

Peter Roebuck, *Cattle Droving: Scotland & Ireland through Cumbria to the South*

Bookcase, softback, 2022. 249pp., £15. ISBN 9781912181544

Some of you who have read Peter Roebuck's earlier publication on cattle droving, published by CWAAS in 2014, may think you don't need to read this. Think again. This is an entirely different book. Whereas the earlier book focused largely on one family, the Parkers of Old Town, near High Hesket, this surveys the trade much more widely, piecing together for the first time, its origins, growth from the early 17th century, routes into and through the region, the families involved (many of whose names are still prominent today), its complex organisation, fluctuating fortunes and eventual rapid decline in the early 19th century in the face of increasing competition from steamships and rail which shifted the focus of the cattle trade from store cattle to fatstock, ready for retail sale. Cattle were brought in from many parts of Scotland, from Ireland and from Cumbria itself and driven largely to the south for the London market but increasingly also for the expanding industrial towns of the north. Although it is impossible to give precise figures for the number of animals involved, it is clear that they ran into hundreds of thousands each year. Cattle were essential not just for food but for a whole range of other industries. Leather tanning and working whether it was belts of various sorts, gloves, footwear or saddles or even pipes and buckets; tallow for candles and soap; hooves for glue; horns for combs, handles, drinking vessels etc; hair for furniture and mattress stuffing and, of course, manure for agriculture. Servicing the drovers required accommodation and food for men and beasts. Dealing led to the growth of cattle fairs and markets throughout the region. It is difficult to underestimate the impact which droving, and cattle more widely, had on the Cumbrian economy, whether in its heyday or through its decline which coincided with agricultural depression more widely and is associated with the decline of the 'yeoman'.



The problem as Peter Roebuck acknowledges is that this is a poorly documented trade with few obvious sources but he has trawled imaginatively through a range of seemingly unrelated secondary and primary sources to unearth a treasure trove of detail. The book deserves a wide readership and not just in Cumbria. It has relevance for Irish and Scottish economic development and for our understanding of ways in which they, and the North, helped feed England's rising urban population during this period.

Poignantly, the book is dedicated to Adrian Allan as a token of gratitude, respect and friendship. As one might have expected, Adrian was generous as ever with his knowledge and time.

Michael Winstanley

Useful Information

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