

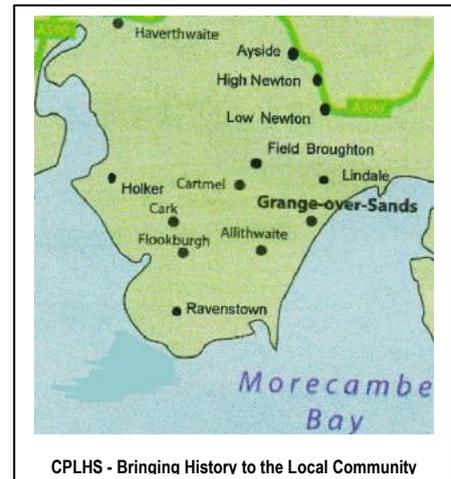
Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

Founded in 1996 with the aim of promoting an interest in local history within the area

Allithwaite Special Newsletter : September 2015

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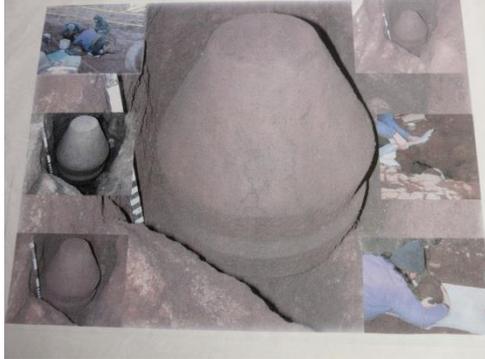
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Chairman's Message

By the time you read this we shall have recently enjoyed not only the planned lecture by Rob David but also an extra one from Alan Crosby. Reports of these follow. This year we also have much more to look forward to. Please support the return of Les Gilpin, this time to Flookburgh Village Hall, on 12th September when he will speak again on Cark Mills, a talk given to this Society some time ago, fascinating and well worth hearing again (details on page 12). Those who missed the talk first time round have a good opportunity now to learn of the industrial past right in the heart of our district of which few may have been aware. Then we have the Magna Carta celebrations at Cartmel Priory from 25th to 28th September and the historical input on the Monday (again see page 12). Our final lecture by Angus Winchester will be special: the Victoria County History project is a major one and to hear first-hand from the County editor about what has been achieved and future plans will be both entertaining and informative. Our A.G.M. will briefly feature essential business and also (once again) we ask members to bring any articles of historical interest, to say a few words about them and to show them to others. Photographs from our archives will also be on display and details of our lectures for next year will be given. This special edition of the Newsletter is centred on Allithwaite as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Church and the primary school. Articles follow on fascinating aspects of the history of Allithwaite which, I am sure, will entertain and inform us all. The next two editions of our Newsletter will feature Magna Carta and Lindale respectively. Can I ask for articles on those themes to be passed to Phil, our editor, please? This is your Society and your Newsletter: let as many as can participate in producing special editions on those themes. Finally, a word of thanks to all who joined in the trips to Sizergh Castle and the Wordsworth Museum. Our trips are not only of historical interest but an opportunity for us to get together informally.

Bronze Age Cemetery at Allithwaite



Bronze Age collared urns, inverted and largely intact with cremations inside, were discovered in Allithwaite in February and March 2001 by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. The site where they were discovered lies in the northern part of the village to the east of Church Road and was evacuated by the archaeologists to

evaluate the site before a residential development (Greendales) was built by Persimmon Homes Ltd.

Ten cremations were revealed by the excavation in the burial site, four within the urns, and it may be significant that the burial site is located just north of a natural spring. Initial estimates are that the urns date between 1500 and 1000BC, the mid to late Bronze Age.

The site is of importance because the quality of survival of the artefacts is rare and very few Bronze Age sites have been discovered in the region. The artefacts are held at Kendal museum, but not on display at present.

Holy Well, Humphrey Head

This celebrated medicinal well is said to have been used by lead miners from the time of the Romans. The patients come for a two or three days' stay to "get the poison out of their systems." The site is three and a half miles nearly due south from Cartmel. The water, which has a very peculiar taste, comes down from the hillside and flows into a small artificial basin or grotto. The key of the door is kept at a neighbouring farmhouse. Close to the well is an untenanted building formerly used by indigent sufferers. The wooded cliff forming 'The Head' is of singular beauty, overlooking the waters and sands of Morecambe Bay. On Hennessey's map of Lancashire (1828) the well is called 'Spa Holy Well.'

"...Mr. W. O. Roper, in his Churches, Castles, and Ancient Halls of North Lancashire, writes: "One other appendage to the Priory of Cartmel should be mentioned, and that is the well known as the Holy Well. On the sea-shore, close under the towering cliffs of Humphrey Head, and almost immediately below the natural arch of rock which leads to the recess known as the Fairy Chapel, bubbles the well to which in former days the Priors journeyed in state from their neighbouring Priory, and to which in more recent times large numbers of people resorted, hoping to derive benefit from its medicinal qualities. "

Lead miners of Alston moor came yearly and camped out for a few days. According

to Sketches of Grange “They rode all the way on little mountain “Galloways”, quartered themselves in the neighbouring villages, bathe in the sea, and drank the waters in quantity... and went back renewed and invigorated. Some came annually for 40 years.”



HOLY WELL, HUMPHREY HEAD.

“Mr. James Stockdale, in Annals of Cartmel, writes: “Near to this holy well (Humphrey Head) are two cavities in the mountain limestone rock called the ‘Fairy Church’ and the ‘Fairy Chapel,’ and about

three hundred yards to the north there used to be another well, called ‘Pin Well’, into which in superstitious times it was thought indispensable that all who sought healing by drinking the waters of the holy well should, on passing it, drop a pin; nor was this custom entirely given up till about the year 1804, when the Cartmel Commoners’ Enclosure Commissioners, on making a road to Rougham, covered up this ‘Pin Well’. I have myself long ago seen pins in this well, the offerings, no doubt, of the devotees of that day.”

Mr. Hope, in his Holy Wells of England, says that “this is a brackish spring celebrated as a remedy for stone, gout, and cutaneous complaints. The water issues from a projecting rock of limestone, called Humphrey Head and its medicinal qualities occasion a considerable influx of company to Cartmel, Flookborough, Kent’s Bank and Grange during the summer months

Allithwaite Fishing Women and Children



Allithwaite family out on the sands about 1900

Farming and fishing were the main occupations of the inhabitants of Allithwaite for many years. In 1841 there were 31 people in the farming industry and 9 in fishing, but many women and children went

cockling, not shown in the census of 1841. Allithwaite... “employs the children, wives and young women of the fishermen’s families. These people follow each receding tide, and on the banks of sand, called “cockle skeers”, find the cockles. A friend of ours, who once saw a barn full of these people on a winter’s evening, has described the scene as very striking. Women bronzed to a copper hue – little ragged children with hair as rough and of the colour of the ass’s hide – strong muscular-looking young women drenched with wet, were all crowded together with their baskets, just as they had come off their work. They were measuring their lots to the dealer, who is commissioned to take

them to his cart to the market.” (Sketches Of Grange, 1850)

In 1868-9 the Royal Commission on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, xiii, page 156 stated that “great numbers of children, young persons and women who reside in the small villages on the coast of Morecambe Bay go upon the sands on every recession of the tide in parties from ten to twenty and pursue their occupation until the advancing tide compels them to return.” Apparently farmers complained that this employment robbed them of local labour and pushed up wages as the cockling was a year round. By 1911 farming was still a major occupation for the village but only one person described fishing as an occupation.

occupation, depending on the weather. Children could start cockling at the age of 5 years and there was concern that physically the stooping posture was bad for them but also the clergy complained that the money they earned for the family was “at the expense of their intellectual and moral debasement”(Rev Mr Rigg of Hawkeshead). Cockling added a substantial income for a family and was therefore important to the survival of the family. (Working Children in Nineteenth Century Lancashire pp88-90).

Barbara Copeland

Allithwaite Church & School 150

In 2015, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of St Mary’s Church and the Primary School in Allithwaite, and in the next part of the newsletter we record snapshots of four prominent individuals from the 19th century community who contributed so much to the establishment of the parish.

Rev Robert Townson MA



Rev Robert Townson (by permission of the wardens of Allithwaite Church)

The Rev Robert Townson was instituted to the perpetual curacy in April 1866 as the first incumbent. A local lad from Crosthwaite, he was educated at Oxford and after teaching at Rossall and Askham, he was the curate at Grayrigg immediately prior to his calling to Allithwaite. The family clearly had other income as Robert and Margaret together with their 8 children had 4 servants (1871 census). In 1866 he generously donated two guineas towards the Archdeacon’s memorial. Between his arrival in 1866 and the 1871 census Margaret produced 4 children, and sadly Sarah May died in November 1874 aged 6 months giving them 10 children in total. Robert officiated at the wedding of his brother-in-law, James Cowper at Hawkshead in 1867 and later was reported as being involved with the Kents Bank House preparatory school for sons of Gentleman as a referee.

In the time of Robert’s incumbency in Allithwaite the liturgy will have been High

Church. In the announcement of his death he was said to belong to the Oxford Movement, who were Anglo-Catholic High Church members of the Church of England. In 1881, Robert purchased the living in Gedding in Suffolk by auction for £250, and duly exchanged parishes with his successor the Rev John Hammersley.

Walter Winson

Walter Winson was the Schoolmaster and Choirmaster in Allithwaite during most of the incumbency of the Rev Townson. Walter was born in Bakewell, Derbyshire in 1841. Walter was the schoolmaster at the Union Workhouse, Bakewell in the 1861 census. He subsequently moved to Dewsbury. He married Elizabeth Atkinson in the second quarter of 1868 in Bradford and in the 1871 census he was the schoolmaster at Allithwaite living at Lambert House, Allithwaite with his wife and daughter Edith who had been born in 1869 in Allithwaite. Walter had taken up the post of Allithwaite schoolmaster on 13 January 1868 and for the next 15 years he became a significant figure in the development of Allithwaite. Soon after his arrival he established a reading room in the Institute and was the honorary Secretary. In recognition of his contribution to the Institute, the village gave him a walnut writing desk. He was very involved in running the church and other choirs in the district, and was featured in many of the district concerts. He was a very keen cricketer despite having lost an arm in an accident in a saw mill in 1853 when he was about 12. He played cricket in Allithwaite, Grange and Cartmel and was thought to be the founder of the Allithwaite and Grange clubs, and it is said that he had the best batting average for Allithwaite in one season.

By the 1881 census his wife Elizabeth had taken on the role of school mistress and four more children had been born. Carrie

Beatrice arrived in 1871, Effie Bertha in 1873, Laura Annie in 1875 and Florence Mabel in 1878. However in 1882 Walter's father died and he moved back to Bakewell to run Matlock Gas Works. He composed many pieces of music during his lifetime including the hymn 'Forgive them, oh, my Father'. Walter died in 1899 in Stockport.

Rev John Hammersley MA

Rev John Hammersley featured prominently in religious activities during his incumbency in Gedding. He was outspoken in his views, giving lectures and contributing to schools and the missions abroad. In complete contrast to the practises of Robert Townson, in a Christian Association Lecture, John Hammersley deprecated in strongest terms all approaches to ritualistic practices in the Church of England. He was glad to say that



Rev John Hammersley (by permission of the wardens of Allithwaite Church)

the ritualistic party was mainly confined to a section of the clergy, and not the layman. The Ritualists were fighting for their own ideas, i.e. wax candles and petticoats, and he maintained they were fighting the battle of the Pope. Clearly the congregation at St Mary's were about to experience a major change in the liturgy. John Hammersley was well-loved in the Parish. Unfortunately he had suffered from poor health from the 1895 onwards and eventually resigned in

1907 on account of increasing physical infirmities.

William Lamb

One of the first tasks for John Hammersley was to appoint a Schoolmaster to replace Walter Winson. Not only was he looking for a school teacher, he had to play the organ and train the choir, but his wife was required to take the sewing! We have been privileged to view an archive of information in the possession of Mrs Lamb, the wife of the grandson of William Joseph Lamb (1847-1929). She made contact when she saw the Allithwaite Boys article in the Westmorland Gazette.



Advert for Allithwaite schoolmaster in 1882

We have discovered that William was an important man in the history of the village. He was headmaster at Allithwaite School from 1882 until 1897 and again for three months from October to December 1916 following the death of the headmaster Mr Batty. He was previously been the schoolmaster at Cartmel National School between October 1870 and the summer of 1876. He was very involved in Church and village matters and was the organist and lay reader for 47 years. When living in Cartmel he had been the organist at the Priory and had run the choir. During his time in Allithwaite he was involved in many areas; the rate collector, captain of the fire brigade, member of the Allithwaite National School management, member of the Technical Instruction Committee, and secretary for numerous organisations including the Church Institute, the Cartmel Parish Horticultural Society, Cartmel Entertainment Committee in 1899, Church of England Men's Society and Cartmel Sheep Dog Trials.

William was a founder member and Chief Officer of the Allithwaite Fire Brigade which operated from Allithwaite Farm. He was a member for Allithwaite Lower of the Divisional Committee for Highways and Public health of Cartmel Parish Council and he was Guardian for the Poor. He also found time to teach music and to be the local correspondent for the Westmorland Gazette and Kendal Courier. William died in Allithwaite in 1929. Following his death money raised by public subscription was used for electrical installation in the church and there is a plaque in the church commemorating this.



By kind permission of Mrs Lamb

Mrs Lamb has several newspaper cuttings books full of articles from 1870 about Allithwaite and Cartmel which are revealing fascinating detail about life in the villages. It complements and expands on the information that is in William Field's log book for that era. She also has photograph albums containing pictures taken by Albert Lamb, William's son. Albert was born in 1872 when the Lambs lived in Cartmel. He was a self-taught photographer and the standard of his photography is high. He took pictures of the locality and people and probably sold some of his pictures to postcard printers. He kept a very detailed

record of all of the Territorial Army camps he attended until he resigned in May 1914.

Pat & Phil Rowland

Further Information

The previous articles on the clergy of St Mary's Church are extracts of full articles published on the CPLHS website. In celebration of 150 years since the consecration of the church in Allithwaite, there are also articles on the website on the Establishment of St Mary's Church and the History of Allithwaite Institute.

Allithwaite Church's Great War Memorial Window

The East Window at Allithwaite Church commemorates the soldiers of the village who died in the First World War. It was installed in 1922. No information about the memorial stone or window was found in the Church council minutes of the period, just an acknowledgement that the work was complete and the subcommittee had completed their task. It is only recently that I have found information about the commissioning of the window and its installation. A bundle of letters kept in the Church safe held the forgotten or untold story of the window.



In April 1919, at the Easter meeting of the Vestry, a question was asked about raising a memorial to those from the parish who had fallen in the war. The Vicar advised that he had been told to wait a short while before taking any action. In October 1919 Morris and Co of Merton Abbey, Surrey was approached about making a stained glass window. A design was agreed at a cost of £230 in March 1920 and in May 1921 the window was delivered. The window was rejected by the Committee because it was not what they thought they had agreed to and ordered. Apparently on receipt of the design they liked, the cartoon had been sent to the Registrar to obtain a faculty instead of being returned to Morris and Co who would have provided a copy for the faculty application. Morris and Co had produced a window based on the only cartoon in the file, the rejected design, as the vicar had sent that design back to them. Morris and Co agreed to replace the central window which depicted the devil being vanquished as this was the reason for the rejection. The requested design had been of Our Lord as the symbol of Supreme Sacrifice. The replacement window arrived in August 1921. However a further dispute arose as Morris and Co realized that they had provided a cost for a window smaller than they eventually provided. The actual window was 10 feet longer than the one they had estimated for. An exchange of letters finally resulted in an additional cheque being sent on 25

November 1921 with the vicar pointing out that '£230 is a large sum for this small parish to raise and had a larger sum been suggested at the commencement I think

that the idea of a window would have been abandoned as hopeless.'

Pat Rowland

The Hermit Tinker of Allithwaite or 'The Allithwaite Hermit'

George Rhodes died in March 1922 in the Ulverston workhouse hospital aged 60 years. He had lived many years at Humphrey Head and at an abandoned building in Allithwaite quarry making his living as a tinker by going from house to house in the area and was known as a skilled craftsman. Once a year he would tramp to Leeds and back with his wheelbarrow for supplies of tin, stating that the Yorkshire brand was superior to anything he could get elsewhere.



George Rhodes, Allithwaite Tinker at his home at Humphrey Head. Picture taken by Mr Wood of the Wyke farm, permission from David Wood

George was born in Leeds and emigrated with his brother to America at an early age becoming a mechanic and then a journeyman tinker and was about to start up a business with his brother when his brother died. George then did some lumbering before returning to England by paying his passage home on a cattle boat. He appeared in Allithwaite about 1900 and first lived in the cave at Humphrey Head and many strange stories were circulated about the mysterious stranger who had adopted this unusual way of life. Although his appearance was unkempt and uncouth

he was a harmless and inoffensive with a cheerful demeanour and was especially a favourite with children.

Encroaching tides made his home uninhabitable so he moved into the half ruined building of Holywell house at the bottom of Humphrey Head. He was again driven from there by the sea and moved to the dilapidated building in the quarry at Allithwaite. There was no chimney so George removed some slates to allow the smoke to escape, his bed was an old mattress set on some scaffolding and the rest of the room was filled with stacks of old tin for his business. If he made 1s 3d per day he said he could live comfortably and he would not accept charity. He was steady and industrious, a reliable and conscientious worker who was useful to farmers and the local population.

In February 1922 he was seen to be in failing health and collapsed in a field at Templand after completing a job there. He was carried home and after a visit by the vicar he was taken to Ulverston hospital where he died of pneumonia a few days later. He was interred in Ulverston cemetery which the residents of Allithwaite regretted as they would have borne the costs of his removal to Allithwaite.

(taken from Westmorland Gazette article 14 March 1922)

Barbara Copeland

Allithwaite Blitz

At approximately midnight on Sunday night/Monday morning 4/5th May 1941 a bomb was dropped on the houses in the middle of Holme Lane, Allithwaite. These houses had only been built in the previous 10 years. No one was killed but one lady, Mrs Drinkall, lost the hearing in one ear and a lady in another house, Miss Byers, lost one of her eyes. Miss Byers had been a governess in Russia prior to the Russian Revolution.



Holme Lane, Allithwaite after the bomb blast by permission of Barbara Copeland

One resident describes Wartbarrow Fell being lighted up with the incendiary bombs being dropped around the village. Below is a witness account of the bombing.

The witness was a 16 year old male living in the Square at the bottom of Holme Lane, who was also a member of the Home Guard. He was woken up by the shattering of the windows in his house. The rest of the family rushed under the stairs, seen to be a relative place of safety. The sky was bright as though it was daylight, lit by the great number of incendiary bombs that were falling. The witness ran outside to call on other Home Guard members and for a while it was difficult to see what had happened. Three of the Home Guard members including the witness made their way up Holme Lane and came across the devastation caused by the bomb which had

landed in the road in front of the houses. There was a huge crater with water fountains created by the burst water mains. The houses close to where the bomb had landed were shattered as the picture shows and the three Home Guard members went into the houses to help people injured by the explosion. Fortunately no-one was killed but one couple were found buried under the rubble and another elderly lady who lived on her own lost an eye. The blast had also caused deafness in one ear of another lady living further up the road. One of the Home Guard members ran over the field to the telephone to call the emergency services and through the shouts of his friends was able to avoid an oil bomb coming down on a parachute which went off in the field close by to him. Incendiary bombs dropped throughout the area and it was fortunate that no more damage was done, although a bungalow down Risedale was set on fire by one.

Bombs also fell in Grange, damaging houses and Colonel Porritts' home. But probably the most devastating bomb on that night killed 11 people in a farm at Selside, near Kendal. 6 members of the Wood family who lived at Cooper House were killed there that night, they were relatives of the Wood family at the Wyke farm. The others killed were 4 evacuees and a domestic servant, 2 farm servants escaped with their lives.

It is interesting to note that The Westmorland Gazette published the details of the bomb damage the following week but did not state where the bombs fell so the headline described a North-West Coastal Town and there was no mention of the tragedy at Selside to be found.

Barbara Copeland

Trip & Lecture Reports

Sizergh Castle Visit

On 25th June a group of seventeen members met at the Cafe at Sizergh Castle

(some having previously enjoyed lunch there). We were greeted by our member Mike Hornung who is a regular guide around the gardens and by Russ whose interest is in the buildings and architecture.



We then met one of the permanent staff at the Castle who gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the building and the Strickland family after which we were left to go around the Castle where the voluntary guides in each room were most helpful.

Some of us had a brief stop in the cafe for tea before all being shown round the gardens and the exterior of the buildings by Mike and Russ. Unfortunately the rain decided to make an appearance as we set off - but it was summer after all!



The afternoon closed as the Castle closed at 5.00 with the day being counted as a success, despite the weather. The talk before our inside visit and the guidance of Mike and Russ were much appreciated and gave an insight which added to the joy of seeing such a splendid building, enhanced by reason of its still being a family home.

Stuart Harling

Visit to the Wordsworth Museum and Dove Cottage, Grasmere



Members of the Society enjoyed an interesting and informative afternoon at the Wordsworth Museum and Dove Cottage at Grasmere on the 30th July. The traffic was heavy as not only was it school holidays

but also Ambleside Sports - so lots of delays both going and coming back. Luckily all set off in good time and delays coming back did not matter. The scenery was lovely as the weather was, for this summer, about as good we get.

We were welcomed on arrival by Susan Allen who came to speak to the Society on Dorothy Wordsworth. She and a trainee gave us tea / coffee and biscuits and also background information to help us as we enjoyed the afternoon together with a paper detailing the descriptions and history of

the buildings owned by The Wordsworth Trust.

We then had a full guided tour of Dove Cottage (which used to be an inn and dates from the 1600s) and were able to wander around the garden where Wordsworth wrote many of his more well-known poems (with lovely views to Grasmere) before going to the new (2005) library for a talk by another member of the staff who showed us some of the thousands of books, including Wordsworth's own copy of

Milton's "Paradise Lost" which he so treasured.

We then went to the museum where we were left to browse the interesting exhibits about the lives of William Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy and his wife Mary until we left about 5.00. Both the museum and Dove Cottage would warrant another visit as there was so much to see and enjoy.

Stuart Harling

The Yellow Earl in the Arctic 1888 – 1889

Dr Rob David 3rd September 2015

Dr David's lecture was based on his research of the papers, journals, letters and photographs in the Lonsdale archives plus contemporary newspaper reports from both the UK and North America. The London Illustrated News and the People newspaper, in particular, carried lengthy reports of his exploits illustrated by engravings. The Earl's motivations for his trip are unclear: to reach the North Pole, hunting with the emphasis on the polar bear, a tour of Alaska and the Yukon, assessing the conditions of the indigenous populations, a temporary escape from the publicity surrounding a paternity suite. His route took him across Canada by train, from Toronto to Fort Qu'Appell, north-west of Winnipeg; then north-west by sledge and boat to Liverpool Bay – the northernmost point of his travels. The Earl's greatest adventure was in the Liverpool bay area when he went Whale hunting with Inuits and had to defend himself against a knife

attack. From there he headed west into the Yukon, down the Yukon River to the Alaskan coast and by steamer to San Francisco. His journals record his hunting activities, including shooting a number of polar bears, and show that he had to endure some very difficult conditions; extreme cold, shortage of food and coping with torrents and ice packed rivers. He brought back a large numbers of artefacts and animal skins. Many of these went on display in the Hall but the best were presented to the British Museum. A polar bear and musk ox are on display in Kendal Museum. It is unlikely that the Earl made new discoveries but he was admired for 'having enough pluck to go'. His expedition also marked a watershed between old style expeditions and the later trend to hunting and tourist type visits.

Mike Hornung

Dates for your diary

Les Gilpin will give an illustrated talk about Cark Mills: A History of Industrial Cark on Saturday, September 12th at 7pm at Flookburgh Village Hall in aid of funds for St. John's Church Flookburgh with a raffle and refreshments.

Monday 28th September CPLHS is hosting a **"Talk in the Tent"** about the influence of Magna Carta in Cartmel. The introduction will be given by Dr Sarah Rose from the University of Lancaster at 11:30. There will also be a talk by our chairman Stuart Harling and a guided walk through Cartmel. Entry is by purchasing a day-ticket to the Festival. Full details are available on the Festival website. CPLHS expects to 're-run' the walk in future for members.

Thursday 1st October 2015. *Professor Angus Winchester*. **CPLHS Lecture: The Victoria County history Project; what has been achieved and what the plans are for the future.** Angus is a popular speaker from the History Department of Lancaster University who has been running the project and is the County Editor.

Thursday 5th November 2015. **CPLHS AGM.**

Newsletter Articles

Members are encouraged to submit news items and summaries of research (1000 word max.) or snippets to the editor by the deadline indicated at the end of the Newsletter. We are especially looking for articles for the planned Special Editions of the newsletter, i.e. Magna Carta (January 2016), Lindale (May 2016).

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Copy deadline for the next newsletter 7th January 2016