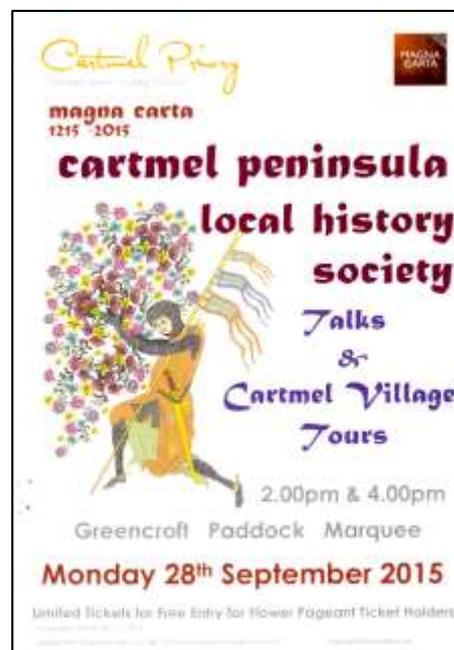


## The 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magna Carta Celebrations at Cartmel September 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

### Local History Day - Cartmel Guided Walks – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015

William Marshal was one of the most significant of all knights and was given “the land of Cartmel” in 1185. In 1188 he founded the Priory. He was closely involved with the negotiations prior to the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215 and took a major role in subsequent years, being appointed Regent for the young Henry III when King John died in 1216. As part of the Magna Carta celebrations the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society (CPLHS) were instrumental in arranging a lecture in the Priory by Alan Crosby entitled “King John was not a

Good Man” on 7<sup>th</sup> September. On 28<sup>th</sup> September we arranged for Dr Sarah Rose from Lancaster University to talk on “The Northern Barons”. This was followed by two “Talks and Walks” (or Talks and Tours as our publicist called them!) of Cartmel by members of the CPLHS. All events were well attended with over 200 at the Alan Crosby talk, 80 at Dr Rose’s talk and a full house of 15 people each for the Talks and Walks.



Here is a brief resume of the walk by Barbara Copeland:

“Have you been to L’Enclume?”, “Why are there no wooden buildings left in Cartmel when in Suffolk we have loads of wooden buildings?” were two examples of the many and varied questions asked on the two guided tours that the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society committee members led around Cartmel as part of the Magna Carta celebrations. The emphasis was on the listed buildings and what we could learn about the social history of Cartmel from such buildings.

Prior to each walk Stuart Harling gave a 30 minute talk about the legacy of Magna Carta on the village, painting a picture of village life through the last 800 years. 35 people joined the walks, although a cap of 30 had been suggested, showing how popular the walks proved to be. Dodging traffic on a beautiful, warm, wind free afternoon, the groups were guided from Priest Lane, onto Cavendish Street, through the ginnel “What is a ginnel?” onto Park View. From there we walked around Sticky toffee pudding shop “I have seen this in California” and onto the racecourse, where the picture of monks racing donkeys led to the fantasy that the Green Dragon pub (next to Tarragon on the square as stated by a local resident) was named because of a fight by the red and green dragons on the square... We moved on to the Methodist chapel, the Priory entrance and through the Flags to Clogger Beck. The old Over-sands signs led



to explanations of the over-sands route and Nigel explained the ancient use of pounds and pinfolds which led to some in the group realising that they had streets and lanes named 'Pinfold' in their own local area. The return route via the Causeway was through Barngarth where Well Cottage led to one lady saying her friend also had a well in her cellar which was forever damp. A local man walking by suggested babies were baptised in Muddy Pool by the old Tithe Barn dwelling.



The groups included a couple of local people who added to the information but also said that they had learned much about their own village and people from Suffolk, East Anglia, Lancashire and nearer to home, Ulverston. We also learned that the 'Yorkshire' sash window, seen in a couple of places in Cartmel, is also found in Lancashire and East Anglia. Some people had been to Cartmel many years before and had fond memories of the village. The groups were intrigued by all the streams/rivers running through Cartmel, especially the one running south and the one running north and by the monks' fish ponds, crossed by the causeway.

The walks lasted for about 90 minutes and at the end there were many more questions and thanks from the groups with one man stating it was the best day he had had in a long time, capped off by the guided walk. For the committee who were involved in organising and leading the walks it was a joy to lead people who were very much engaged in learning about the history of the village and thoughts about how we can use the information gathered to create a leaflet describing the walk for the village.



Introduction by Nigel Mills, Walk narrative by Barbara Copeland and images from Pat Rowland.

October 2015.