

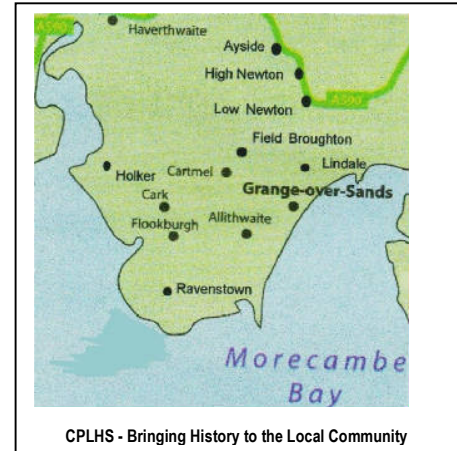
Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society

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

Newsletter: October 2018

Contents

Chairman's Message
Logo Competition
Reports (Meetings & Visits)
Research – can you help?
Online Resources
Activities & Events
Meeting Programme
Contacts
News and Article submission
Website
Newsletter Deadline



<http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

Chairman's Message

The first of our new style of Newsletter published in June was warmly received and, I believe, welcomed by members. The reason for the new, somewhat briefer, format was to inform Members and guide us to our website, etc or further information without repeating what is on our website. That this, the second edition comprises so many pages indicates lots is still happening. Grateful thanks once more to Lyn Prescott for agreeing to be our editor.

Here we have reports on our summer outings as well as details of fascinating research at Witherslack Hall, thoughts on Cartmel Smithy, some research as to Grange and Flookburgh Amateur Operatic Societies and local railways. If any Member has any further information to supplement the details below please do contact us. I feel sure that there may be many who have (or have had) connections with the Operatic Societies over the years.

Looking ahead, in addition to details of our lecture programme for next year, you will find links to, or particulars of, events hosted by Lancaster University and the County History Federations of both Cumbria and Lancashire. In particular, I draw your attention to the six week online course based on Lancaster Castle which enables subscribers to study in their own time and at their own pace with guidance from Lancaster University's excellent team.

Stuart Harling

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society – Logo Competition

Since our formation in 1996 we have gradually been increasing our presence in the Cartmel Peninsula with increased membership and articles in Grange Now etc. Over the years we have been responding to enquiries from near and far, issuing Newsletters, emails and of course have a significant website which regularly receives hundreds of hits a month from world-wide browsers.

Whilst organising lectures and trips and undertaking research will remain our top objective the Committee is looking to spread word of the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society even further. We are not quite sure how yet but have some ideas which we will be discussing.

We occasionally use a crude map of our area and our website uses the strapline "Bringing History to the Local Community". Both of these are useful identifiers but we really need an effective and clear logo so that we stand out as the active local history society we are.

Therefore we are holding a competition and would welcome your ideas and designs for a logo for our society. Entries will be considered by the CPLHS Committee and a prize awarded to the person whose suggestions we like most. The prize is yet to be decided!

If you can get thinking as soon as possible and submit your ideas to Stuart Harling by email to s.w.harling@gmail.com by **20th November** please.

Nigel Mills

Reports

Visit to The Quaker Tapestry Museum: 5th July 2018

Prior to the visit to the Quaker Tapestry Museum at Kendal I was hugely helped in the arrangements by the friendly people there and, on arrival, the same friendly and helpful guidance was given. We were also given a personal introduction.

I am embarrassed that I had not been to the museum before and my great enjoyment and pleasure was echoed by the others from our Society who attended, many of whom had been previously.

My expectation was to that I would see a long, detailed and continuous tapestry – which I imagine the Bayeux Tapestry is (I may be wrong on this). However, the tapestry at Kendal is in 77 panels, 25 x 21 inches in size, (not all of which are able to be shown in the museum). These well-displayed panels tell the story of Quaker events and record the huge contribution made by Quakers both nationally and locally, working towards

truth, equality, simplicity and peace. The areas of our history that have been influenced or, indeed, led by Quakers is set out in clear and detailed works of art. Each panel warrants close examination and the skill and detail in each is amazing. There is also a separate part of the museum set aside to record the contribution made by Quakers to the history and development of Kendal.

Sadly, for one reason or another, we were a small group but I would urge all members to visit the museum. I shall certainly return and was delighted to be told that, once the entry fee is paid, a visitor can return without further charge for a period of twelve months. Now that's an offer this Yorkshire-man cannot turn down!

Stuart Harling

2018 flax walk around High Newton and Barber Green



After a long hot summer the weather changed and the planned flax walk had to be postponed. It was rescheduled and sadly it was another damp and blowy day but we decided we could not cancel again and disappoint

the people who had expressed an interest in learning about flax production and processing around High Newton. We managed to get around the High Newton and Barber Green route but decided not to walk to Low Newton and look at the remains of the retting ponds on the route. As we were driving away the torrential rain arrived making the decision not to walk to Low Newton the correct one. David handed examples of hemp rope and flax rope around for people to feel how different the products were. Subsequently other samples of products made from flax have been acquired and all the items have been displayed at the last two lectures.

We can organise a walk again next year, please contact me so that we can see how many people are interested.

Pat Rowland

Great Grandad's Army : Rifle Ranges of the Lake District. Kevin Grice: 4th October 2018

Kevin talked about the rifle ranges which were created to fulfil the 24 days a year target practice the Rifle Volunteer Company enlisters were required to carry out as well as a brief history of the need for the establishment of the Companies in 1860 and how they developed as guns changed. Needless to say these sites were of necessity in relatively isolated areas and amongst those he discussed in detail was the site at Silver How, above Grasmere. Others noted were on Torver Common and at Helsfell, Kendal. He told us about how locations were identified and what remains were found.

From the title I was unsure whether I would find the lecture of interest. However how wrong I was. The lecture was an entertaining and informative talk, presenting the findings of his recent research. For the Society, he concluded the lecture by including some extra, relevant, research information on the rifle ranges in the Cartmel area. His lecture was full of humour to keep me hooked, and the photographs and maps were excellent.

Rose Clark

Research - can you help?

Witherslack Hall Murals

In July the Society had an enquiry from Caroline Swash regarding murals painted by her father, Edward Payne, at Witherslack Hall between 1935 and 1936 for Lady Maureen Stanley.

In Caroline's words:

It is unclear WHY she decided to have her walls painted. My father was no socialite and (when questioned) described being 'let in at the back door and ushered out when he left by the front!' He certainly 'lived in' while creating the murals and I recall as a child being told by him that he was so successful in painting a field full of daffodils for the entrance 'Hall' that he was allowed to

make a mural for Lady Maureen Stanley's bedroom.

Edward Payne had studied at the Royal College of Art in London and while still a student, he and fellow student Robert Baker were offered the holiday job of painting murals for a new Hall in the Hampshire village of Wood Green. These became known as 'The Village on the Wall'. This holiday job came through Sir William Rothenstein (who knew everyone) then Principal of the Royal College of Art. It is also just possible that Rothenstein suggested the murals idea to Lady Maureen as well. Incidentally, the finished murals were evidently regarded as a success since the Stanleys commissioned my father to make murals for their London house...since destroyed in the Blitz.

I have written to Nick Stanley who surely must have some photos of the paintings in the Hall and even the bedroom and maybe the London house as well. My father did several mural paintings for the Stanleys and I have the feeling that it was very good for him! I suppose my question isdo you know if there's any trace of the murals left in the building? This seems unlikely as it has been a school for so long.

The other query is – do you know of any photos of the Hall or any part of the interior that might actually show the murals?

The Society did some delving and found that a local lady who taught art there in the 1960s can remember the murals. Caroline later stated that she had been in touch with Oversands School who told her that no murals exist there now, however she has been in touch with Tom Stanley who says the murals are still there but boarded up.

With regard to the possibility of photographs of the murals, Caroline was informed that there are records in Kendal Archives relating to art and Lady Maureen Stanley and she was also informed that the main Stanley papers are at Lancashire Record Office. If anyone has any further information with regard to the above murals please contact a member of the committee.

Barbara Copeland

Cartmel Smithy

Earlier this year whilst researching Cartmel Smithy, Peter Roden discovered that the contents of the former Smithy were removed and loaned to the National Trust. Sadly I discovered that the items were still in storage, at Speke Hall, as the project to set up a smithy had not taken place. I was assured that the items were all safe and sometime in the future they would be put on display. Perhaps one day they will be returned closer to where they came from and put on display.

If you have any information about Cartmel Smithy or any blacksmiths who worked in the area please let us know.

Pat Rowland

The History of Grange and Flookburgh Amateur Operatic Societies

I have only recently come across a book by Graham Whalan, *The Sound of Musicals. Amateur Musical Theatre in the South Lakes Peninsulas* published by Stable Door Press in 2016 but it is of local historical interest as it includes the history of Grange and District Amateur Operatic Society and Flookburgh and District Amateur Operatic Society. It explains how the two societies were founded at about the same time and flourished side by side for over 60 years. There is also the history of Grange Youth Theatre.

Grange had a thriving Society performing Gilbert and Sullivan Operas in the early 20th century and the newly built Victoria Hall was an ideal base. The book recounts the history of the revived Society from 1949 onwards. Flookburgh Society operated from 1951 to 2015 and answers the question why we had two thriving Societies on the Peninsula.

The book covers a period that is not much written about. Graham has spoken to people who have been involved in the productions and the book covers a very interesting aspect of the history of the local area. Mentioned in the book is a local lady known as Madam Forbes-Wilson 'late of the D'Oyly Carte Opera' who was a producer for many of the local Societies including Grange. Margaret Jane Wilson was born in 1861 the daughter of William Forbes Wilson, a gardener and Catherine, his wife. In 1911 she was living at Keith House, 4 Morecambe Bank, Grange and was described as a music teacher

An obituary for Fred Gabriel at Barrow in the Lancaster Guardian dated 17 January 1941 recalls that Fred played a number of leading parts at Grange then says that it was about 1923 when the last opera was given there. My own research has discovered that there is a reference to a production of *Les Cloches des Cornerville* in the Morecambe Guardian 12 Jan 1924 which must have been the last performance by the Society until it was revived in 1949. In the article it was reported that the Society finished with a balance of £30 and it recounts that cast members were presented with gifts. Madame received a silver headed walking stick engraved with the Opera name and Grange 1924. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could find where that walking stick is now?

Madame married Major Bewlay in 1912 and they continued to live in Grange in the Wilson family home at Morecambe Bank which she shared with her brother and sister. She died in Paddington District in London in 1932 leaving a production at Millom without a producer at a critical time which suggests that she was visiting London at the time.

Her sister Mary born in 1879 was also a talented vocalist and she was appointed Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music in 1907. She had organised an annual Opera Concert at the Victoria Hall for several years before her move to London. She was still alive in 1939 and living in London. If you know anything about these ladies please contact me.

Pat Rowland

Railways and Cumbria

I'm sure that there are a number of members that are interested in the railways of their given area. As Editor of the Journal of the CRA, *Cumbrian Railways*, I am always happy to hear from groups outside the Association that are undertaking research projects with a view to making their work known to a wider audience.

If you are working on anything that you think might be of interest, please get in touch with me at editor@cumbrianrailways.org.uk. Well-researched and worked-up articles will add to the important record of railway history in Cumbria.

Tourism and the Railways

The local railways in Cumbria saw the benefits of promoting services for the tourists wishing to visit the area. As well as special trains put on by the major national railways, the Furness Railway had its famous 'Twenty Tours' programme, offering the visitor the chance to take advantage of many areas using their rail and lake steamer services. These services were supplemented by road transport by coaches between the lakes and the railheads. As a railway researcher, and one that is looking at the tourist traffic in detail, the railway side of things is relatively easy to follow up but my knowledge does not extend to how the coach traffic operated in conjunction with the railway. I would be glad to hear from anyone that has made a study of the coach operators and their services, ranging from those that operated by the earlier horse-drawn carriages (Riggs of Windermere are one such operator) to the later motor Char-a-Bancs that superseded them.

The whole subject of how the tourists could get about the area is a fascinating one and a fuller appreciation of how the road traffic operated would make the study much more interesting.

If anyone can help, I would be pleased to hear from them and they can contact me at editor@cumbrianrailways.org.uk.

Mike Peascod (Editor, Cumbrian Railways)

Online Resources

Cumbria Image Bank

Cumbria images bank is a collection of digital images created using original material from Cumbria County Council Libraries and Archives Service and submitted photographs. There are 32,000 images, dating back to the mid-eighteenth century, covering the whole of Cumbria. <http://www.cumbriaimagebank.org.uk/>

Activities & Events

Cumbria Local History Federation

Events organised by the Federation and their members are listed in their Events Diary. Anyone can attend Federation events or those of their members for the payment of a small fee. <http://www.clhf.org.uk/events-diary/>

Lancashire Local History Federation

Events organised by the Federation and their members are listed in their Events Diary. Anyone can attend Federation events or those of their members for the payment of a small fee. <http://www.lancashirehistory.org/event-diary.html>

Online course - Lancaster Castle and Northern English History: The View from the Stronghold

Free 6 week course starts on 29th October 2018. Topics include:

- The Roman coastal fort and its relationship to the northern frontier
- The Norman Castle: its role in Anglo-Scottish warfare and the emergence of the Duchy of Lancaster
- The Castle's role as a prison for the Lancashire Witches, in the context of post-Reformation history
- The role as a debtors' prison in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and changes in prison organisation
- The First and Second World Wars
- The importance of the castle to the region's heritage

For more details and how to enrol: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/lancaster-castle>

Regional Heritage Centre Study Days

A varied programme, mainly held at Lancaster University, including:

- Saturday 17 November 2018 - Political Radicalism and Dissent in the Early 20th Century – from suffragettes to soldiers
- Saturday 19 January 2019 – Dr Alan Crosby day – Matters of Convenience – sanitation, public health and working class housing in the Victorian and Edwardian North West
- Saturday 2 February 2019 – From War to Peace, in association with the exhibition 'For the Fallen' at Lancaster City Museum (Held at the Storey Institute, Lancaster)
- Saturday 2 March 2019 – 46th Annual Archaeology Forum
- Friday 5 April 2019 – Lancashire 500-1500. Re-envisioning our medieval history and heritage. A collaborative event with HSC (Held at Whalley Abbey)
- Saturday 18 May 2019 – From Farm to Table via Railway and Road – feeding the towns of the North West in the 19th and 20th century

Full details of events and online booking at www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc

Meeting Programme

Meetings are held 7.30 pm in Cartmel Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

1 November 2018 - AGM

AGM Business, sharing interesting historical artefacts and research.

29 November 2018 - 2 to 4 pm CPLHS Research Meeting

To be held in Cartmel Village Hall Supper Room. The theme for this meeting is Agriculture & Farming. Members who are conducting research on Agriculture will give short presentations on topics including Agriculture to end of 18th Century; Cark Auction Mart; local Farms (Outerthwaite, Speelbank, Wraysholme and Wyke), Short horned cattle, Wilkinson's land improvement, the Hibbard hoard and developing the Society Archive. A discussion will follow and refreshments will be served. Do come along to support this event.

7 February 2019 - Richard Sanderson - Backbarrow Ironworks

Backbarrow Ironworks have been described by Historic England as "the best illustration nationally of iron-smelting technology development from the early C18 to the C20". The site has featured on the Heritage at Risk register for many years, and there have been a number of previous attempts to "save" it without success. Richard will tell us more about what is happening now and plans for the future.

7 March 2019 - Michelle Cooper - Fishing Traditions of Morecambe Bay

A oral history project run by Morecambe Bay Partnership as part of Headlands to Headspace (H2H) is focusing on the small inshore fishing communities especially those at Flookburgh, Morecambe and Sunderland Point. Michelle will give us an insight into what memories have been collected.

4 April 2019 - Arnside Archives - Arnside Maritime Heritage

Research is being undertaken on boatbuilding by the Crossfield family of Arnside and The Severn, a 1912 yacht, built by Crossfield returned to Arnside in April 2018. This talk will be about the project.

2 May 2019 - Dan Elsworth - Allithwaite Archaeology (at Mary Lambert Hall, Allithwaite)

Dan of Greenlane Archaeology will update us about important and exciting archaeological finds in Allithwaite in the past and more recently.

Summer trips TBA

5 September 2019 - Alan Cleaver and Lesley Park – The Corpse Roads of Cumbria

Criss-crossing the Cumbrian landscape are many trods, paths, lonnings and other ancient trackways, included among these are several corpse roads. These paths were used until the 18th Century to transport the dead from the remote villages to the 'mother' church for burial. Alan and Lesley have written a book about these tracks.

3 October 2019 - Peter Roebuck - Cattle Droving through Cumbria 1600-1900

A talk by an Emeritus Professor of History at University of Ulster who now lives in Cumbria. He has researched and published research on Irish and British agrarian history. Peter will talk about large scale, long distance movement of cattle from pasture to market.

7 November 2019 - AGM

Contacts

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News and Article Submission

Members are invited to submit news items or snippets to the Newsletter Editor (lynprescott@hotmail.com) by the deadline indicated at the end of the Newsletter.

Research articles for inclusion on the website should be submitted to the Website Editor Phil Rowland, (philrowland414@gmail.com)

Website

Lecture Summaries

Lecture summaries are published in Grange Now and on the website.

New Research Articles

The Newsletter format no longer includes research articles, however they are all available on the website. Since June 2018, several articles have been added to the website. Topics include the Cark in Cartmel Auction Mart, A Grange Grocery Business, Jubilee Digests (Allithwaite Upper, Broughton East, Grange, Lower Allithwaite, Lower Holker, Upper Holker), A Mackereth Family History, Kirkhead Archaeology Report & Charles E Parker. A reminder that the focus for this year's research is agriculture and farming on the Cartmel Peninsula. Articles on Farm Histories and/or field names would be welcomed as there is very little written on these topics.

Copy deadline for the next Newsletter: 31 December 2018