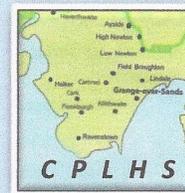


CARTMEL PENINSULA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"Bringing Local History to the Community"



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

Newsletter: October 2019

Contents

Chairman's Message

News

- Archive News
- Event
- New Publications
- Summer Trip Reports

Research

- Online Resources
- Research – website queries
- Research Resources – The CPLHS Archive

Society Information

- Contacts (Committee)
- Meeting Programme
- News and Article submission
- Website

Chairman's Message

Our last lecture for this season has been presented and we look forward to the AGM and Research Meeting to conclude another busy year. The number of members and visitors attending each lecture is testimony to the quality of our speakers and the variety of subjects covered.

You will find in this newsletter reports on our summer trips, all walks around our "patch" and covering archaeology, geology, local industry, vernacular buildings and village history. The report on the Open Day at Kirkhead Tower indicates this was well-supported and it is hoped it will become an annual feature. We highlight just two of the many enquiries received from far and wide as to local families. In addition, we receive many other requests to help with research into local villages and historical aspects of our area. Our Society's research resources are also detailed and we urge members to contact Nigel if these can assist you in any way. Members of our committee also continue to be willing to help or advise on any research projects you may have in mind. The programme of lectures for next year is set out on the final page: again a varied and stimulating programme with excellent speakers. Thanks, as always, are due to Pat for all the arrangements.

Finally, I hope members continue to consult our website on which the number of research articles grows each year. Thanks to Lyn, once more, for putting our newsletter together so well and to all on the Committee for their continued work for the Society.

Stuart Harling

Archive News

Cumbria Archives

Kendal Archives are seeking feedback on their new Search Room arrangements (now requiring researchers to pre-order documents prior to a visit) introduced in March 2019. Feedback may be submitted by completing a Comments Card at any Cumbria Archives Centre, emailing Kendal Archives (kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk) or using the online Feedback Form: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/contact/fform.asp>

Events

Cartmel Village Society Annual Lecture – Love, Life and Landscape

15th November 2019 in Cartmel Village Hall. Mike Gibbon's lecture explores how attitudes we have today to the countryside have been shaped by the writers, poets and artists who over the years have celebrated, explored and lived in The Lake District and The Cartmel Peninsula. For further details/bookings <http://cartmelvillagesociety.co.uk/>

The Fylde History Network Conference – Riot, revolution and reform in early industrial Lancashire

2nd November 2019 at St Anne's on the Sea. Topics include food riots, Peterloo, Orator Hunt and Lancashire Communities 1830 to 1848. Featuring Dr Alan Crosby, Prof Robert Poole, Prof John Belcham and Dr Michael Winstanley. Further details/bookings <http://www.fyldehistorynetwork.co.uk/>

New Publications

Ad Astra And All That: The Road to Mandalay... from Cark by Geoffrey Ardron

The Wartime account of Geoffrey Ardron, a Signals officer who after training was posted to a remote Airfield close to the Lake District (Cark). From this quiet corner of the UK, he was later sent to Burma to set up communication links where he describes the horrors of the jungle, the constant rain and lots of leeches! Published in 2019 by PixelTweaks Publications. ISBN 9781916021785.

A Pennington Pepys: extracts from the commonplace journals and diaries of William Fleming, edited by John Graeme Livingstone

William Fleming of Rowe Head, Pennington kept a diary between 1800 and 1821. He was an educated man and his diaries show his wide-ranging interests: botany, natural history, the weather, history and social comment. Living through a period of great economic and social development, Fleming recorded the changes taking place around him. Published in 2019 by Vimiera Publishing. ISBN 9781916021792.

Summer Trip Reports

Walk on Hampsfell

Sixteen members met at the Grange Fell Road end of Spring Bank Lane on a bright but threatening afternoon to be guided by Ken onto Hampsfell to view the geology and archaeology of Hampsfell. We turned off Spring Bank Lane by the pumping Station and were told of the effect of volcanic activity and the Ice Ages on the topography and the presence of erratics. Also, field clearances (of large stones to permit cultivation) had a major factor in what is now visible. There were conflicting ideas as to what occurred but we observed hollows in piles of boulders, some with trees in them, indicating a supply of water. Animal shelters and traces of field boundaries were pointed out. Low mounds may indicate burials. During World War II trenches were made for shooting practice. A possible "hollow way" was identified – indicating a route from Grange to Cartmel. Images of LIDAR were shown to us by Ken, giving indications of walls, etc. and human settlements as well as stock pens. We thoroughly enjoyed the walk and it is sad that more members were not able to attend. Thanks to Ken Howarth for organising and leading the walk.

Stuart Harling

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

Flax Walk

Our research on the flax and hemp industry in the Cartmel Peninsula is continuing. This year I have grown a small amount of flax and was able to show walkers an example of a flax plant. I led two walks from High Newton to Barber Green, one for our members and another for Mourholme Local History Society from Silverdale, in total about 40 people. Rain threatened but did not arrive until we had returned to High Newton with the Mourholme group and the other was on such a hot day we were unsure whether we should go ahead but we did. Yes, it was hot but we also were caught in several heavy rain showers and had to shelter under trees in Barber Green. Despite the weather trials the walks were successful and revealed beautiful countryside and interesting historical information to all. The lush vegetation made it difficult to see the engineered water course at Barber Green and because of threatening rain I did not take the Cartmel people on that part of the walk. Both groups were fascinated by the 3m-wide 'consumption' wall created when the field were cleared of stones for flax growing.

Heron Corn Mill at Beetham is running a flax project this year and next called 1220 to 2020:Flax Project Look on their website for information using this link. <http://www.heronmill.org/projects/1220-2020-flax-project/>

Pat Rowland

Presentation & Guided Walk around Flookburgh Village

On two evenings in August (the first VERY WET and the second a lovely evening) over forty five members enjoyed illustrated talks by Helen Edwards entitled "Before and after the Great Fire of Flookburgh", followed by a walk through the village when vernacular features of the buildings were pointed out and we enjoyed a tour of Flookburgh Manor (by kind permission of the owners, Ian and Pam Parker).

In the talks, Helen gave a brief history of the village from 1246, mentioning the first Market Charter of 1278. The office of Queen's Guide over the Sands (to Flookburgh) was established in 1548, Cedric Robinson being the longest-serving guide on his recent retirement. It was in Flookburgh (not Cartmel with its magnificent Priory) that the first markets were held, simply because the cross-bay route ended at Flookburgh where commerce and accommodation were needed. The coming of the railway and consequential ceasing to use the cross-bay route led to Flookburgh ceasing to grow into a larger village or town. Old photographs illustrated Flookburgh Chapels, originally built in 1520, rebuilt in 1776/7 and taken down in the early 1900s. They were situated in what is now The Square. In 1664, not, as earlier thought, 1686, a fire destroyed 22 dwellings and 126 other buildings in the village. Many would have been constructed of wood and thatched. Helen also showed us maps by Kuerden (1685), the Enclosure Award map (1809) and early Ordnance Survey maps (the first one in 1851). These clearly showed the burgage plots which can still be seen behind the houses in Market Street and Main Street. Frequent references were made to a paper written by Bill Shannon entitled "The Landscape and People of the Cartmel Peninsula in 1685: the Kuerden/Townley maps" (published in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society: vol. 18: 2018) and to a paper by our own member, David Shore, entitled "The Flookburgh Fire: 1664 not 1686!". Dan Elsworth added details to the talks, then he and Helen led the walks through the village which followed the presentations in the Village Hall.

The walks took us up Main Street and then down Market Street to Flookburgh Manor, observing the properties there. Many are listed Grade II including Flookburgh Manor. Features noted included:

- Small cottages with attic space, possibly used for storage of wool at a time when that trade was locally prevalent
- Several date stones, the earliest being 1619 (1617?), prior to the fire of 1664
- Substantial round "Cumberland/Westmorland" chimneys (esp. White-well House: date stone 1625)
- Formerly The Royal Oak Inn (now a dwelling), the gable end (rather than the front) being adjacent to Main Street and still having iron railings around the front
- Braithwaite Hall (date stone 1637) showing a fine frontage with moulded door surround, mullioned windows and a small "spy" window in the loft
- Numerous houses having adjacent barns, some now converted into dwellings

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

- The former Crown Inn (now in course of conversion into dwellings) which may well have had a blacksmith's shop at the rear and its curved front elevation displaying the wish to appear ostentatious!

The owners of Flookburgh Manor (date stone 1686) welcomed us into their home where we were able to see the many well-preserved period features, including panelling, screen and stone fireplaces. Externally, we observed the richly moulded jambs to the front entrance, ogee-mullioned windows, corbelled gable-end stack and round chimneys. Thanks are due to Helen Evans and Dan Elsworth for their time and expertise and to Ian and Pam of Flookburgh Manor.

Stuart W. Harling

Heritage Open Day – Kirkhead Tower

Tours of Kirkhead Tower were held on 15 September as part of the Heritage Open Day scheme. Morecambe Bay Partnership organised 3 tours to the usually inaccessible tower with permission from the landowner, Holker Estates. The tours commenced from the Lambert Manor (previously known as Abbot Hall) and walked up to the tower led by 2 guides from MBP and 2 volunteers. Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society supported the tours with a volunteer guide. The tours shared information about the history of the tower, the recent conservation work and the significant prehistoric environment and cave networks near to the Tower. Further local history information and research was added and a short walk to the limekiln nearby was included. Approximately 55 people attended the tours in total and the feedback from the visitors was very good with discussions and questions continuing well after the tours ended. A number of visitors commented that the tower was quite a notable landmark but they had never had the opportunity to visit it before and it was also encouraging that so many people were interested in the local history.

Barbara Copeland

RESEARCH

Online Resources

The Heritage Image Register is a Free 'Archive' Service for individuals, families, heritage groups, photographic societies, archives, private & public organisations, museums & others to display and promote heritage images of North West England, Lake District & North Wales. <https://heritagephotoarchive.co.uk/>

Research – website queries

Several people have contacted us via our website recently, the following queries are particularly interesting.

Barker Family

Arthur G. Credland, Chairman, East Yorkshire Local History Society:

Have recently discovered that the eminent Wigan clockmaker and gunmaker William Barker(1714-1786/7) was buried at Cartmel 8 February 1787. His son Daye subsequently owned and ran the Low Wood Gunpowder factory. Should like to know if there is a headstone or other memorial to William and/or Daye which survives or has been recorded in the past.

I was unable to find any memorial or grave at Cartmel. The Barker family were the owners of the Backbarrow Cotton Mill and in 1799 they started producing gunpowder at Low Wood, Haverthwaite. At that time they lived at Haverthwaite. I discovered that the family were connected with and supported Haverthwaite Church which was built in 1824. One thought is perhaps the family have placed a memorial in Haverthwaite Church at a later date but as the church was locked when I last visited I do not know what memorials are inside it. Later in the 19th century another generation of the Barker family settled at Broughton Lodge in the Cartmel Valley and they have a grave at Cartmel.

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

I was surprised to find how many clockmakers there were in the area. 2 members of the Burton family living in Backbarrow were making clocks around 1790. John Dickinson of Cartmel in the 1770s and at Carl William Lawrence in the 1780s were producing clocks and Robert Sinkinson, Backbarrow, was described as a clockmaker in 1802. Nigel Mills researched and wrote an interesting article about Cartmel Clockmakers in the 18th century which was included in the June 2014 newsletter which can be found on our website using this link <https://cplhs.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/newsletter-june-2014-copy.pdf>

Dickinson family

Enquiry from Guy Dickinson:

My grandfather was (Sir) Alwin Dickinson who was born in 1873 at Barn Garth, Cartmel. His parents were Thomas Dickinson 1831-1904 and Agnes Robinson (1834-1877). Agnes died when my grandfather was only 4. However his maternal grandmother was a very kind lady and when he was old enough he said he walked over the moors to see her at weekends. She was born Lucy Wilson (1811-1885) and had married Thomas Robinson (1801-1849). This is where the problem starts! My grandfather apparently stated that he visited Lucy, his grandmother, at Wilson House, Lindale. In 1841 Thomas and Lucy are at Wilson House, Lindale, and the 1851 census has Lucy now as a widow at Wilson House. In 1861 she is still there but now remarried - to a Mr Hudson. In 1871 she is now recorded (a widow again) at Askew Green, a house in Witherslack - which is still there (I've seen it on a visit). In 1881 she is still at Askew Green. So my problem is this - my grandfather said that, aged say 7 to 12 (when Lucy died), he walked across the moor to Wilson House - but the census puts Lucy at Askew Green. Is it possible a small boy could walk from Cartmel to Askew Green? But it seems unlikely he got the name wrong to me - so might Lucy have also lived at Wilson House? Is there any way of finding out who lived at Wilson House between about 1878 and 1885?

I think the 'moor' that Alwin described could be Hampsfell or Hampsfield Fell, the limestone ridge between Cartmel and Lindale. It has a very bleak feel about it as there are few trees and lots of bare limestone and limestone pavement. It is very open with few walls. There are footpaths across it and there is definitely a route between Cartmel and Lindale. It would not be an excessive distance for a child to walk at that time. It would also be possible to walk to High Newton, along the Cartmel Valley and go north over Newton Fell past the Heights to get to Askew Green via Witherslack. That is a considerable walk but again not impossible. Another thought is that an area north of Cartmel before High Newton at Field Broughton was known as St Andrews Moor in the 18th century. It was enclosed in about 1810 and became pasture and meadow land, not at all moor like.

We exchanged a number of emails as I was interested in the family living at Wilson House and I was also curious if John C Dickinson who wrote *The Land of Cartmel* in 1980 and lived at Barn Garth was related to Guy. I discovered lots of interesting newspaper reports that will form the basis of a much longer article and also that Christopher Wilson the coach builder who lived at Sunset Cottage, Lindale was Lucy's son. Guy had not been aware of that family. Guy has purchased a copy of *The Lands of Cartmel* and is researching if John Dickinson is connected to his family. I am hoping he will write an article about the Dickinson's for our website. What a coincidence... whilst writing this I now wonder if John Dickinson the clockmaker mentioned above is an ancestor of Thomas Dickinson?

If you know anything about these people or would like to research them in greater details please contact me.

Pat Rowland

Research Resources - The CPLHS Archive

The Archive we have been developing over the last few years is a completely digital one consisting of pdf and jpg files, with only a few physical documents, enabling members to view them via a CPLHS Archive Memory stick using their own computer. The sub archives include a Document Archive with over 100 local history documents covering the whole of Cartmel Peninsula, several image archive with over 1000 images, a complete set of Census records in an excel file for easy searching together with the 1939 Register and our library of books available to borrow.



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

The latest additions to the Document Archive include transcriptions of deeds, conveyances and other papers for the Hibbert Estate and Head House farms dating as far back as the 17th century and the Wraysholme archive. The CPLHS has also been with the kind permission of Cartmel Priory Parochial Church Council been compiling an archive of papers held by the church which are of interest to local history researchers and this archive will soon be available for members to consult. If as a member you are undertaking research and would like a copy of the archive please get in touch with me. There is a small charge to cover costs and you will receive periodic upgrades as the archive is added to.

Nigel Mills

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Contacts (Committee)

Chairman: Stuart Harling, (s.w.harling@gmail.com) or Tel 36296.
Secretary: Barbara Copeland, (barbara.cland@btinternet.com)
Treasurer: Christine Dawson (christine567dawson@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary: Nigel Mills, (nigelmillspp@gmail.com)
Lecture Programme: Pat Rowland, (patrowlanduk@gmail.com)
Website Editor: Phil Rowland, (philrowland414@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Lyn Prescott (lynprescott@hotmail.com)
Committee Member: Catherine Bottomley, (cnblever@hotmail.co.uk)
Committee Member: Rose Clark, (roseclark83@gmail.com)

Meeting Programme

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

7 November 2019: AGM followed by 'show and tell' of interesting artefacts or documents (in the Supper Room)
28 November 2019: Research Meeting – sharing research & research updates (2pm in the Supper Room)
6 February 2020: Dr Colin Penny – History of Lancaster Castle
5 March 2020: Dr Alan Crosby – To be advised
2 April 2020: Rusland Horizons Field Names Project
14 May 2020: Fiona Edmondson – Cartmel, the Northern Britons and the Northumbrian Kingdom
Summer trips – to be advised.
3 September 2020: Janet Shimmin – Margaret Fell and the Quakers in the 17th century
1 October 2020: Simon Williams – The mystery of the chimney at Jenny Brown's Point, Silverdale
5 November 2020: AGM

News and Article Submission

- Members are invited to submit news items or snippets of interest to other members to the Newsletter Editor Lyn Prescott. **Copy deadline for the next Newsletter: 31st December 2019.**
- Research articles for inclusion on the website should be submitted to the Website Editor Phil Rowland.

Website

New Research Articles

Since the last Newsletter in May 2019, several articles have been added to the website. Topics include Wraysholme Hoard Summary, Stockdale's Annals of Cartmel 1872 (Intro to Contents) & Demography of the Cartmel Peninsula.

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