

# Newsletter

No.1

October 2011

Welcome to the first of a regular e-newsletter intended to keep you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project. We would like to invite CCHT members to contribute to future issues. Please send material to Sarah Rose, the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

## New CCHT Website

Please do visit the new CCHT website (<http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/>). We encourage you to explore the site and we welcome any feedback via the 'Contact Us' facility. While much of the site is visible to the public, there is also a members-only section which contains more resources for volunteer researchers. To access this part of the website, you will need a username and password. **If you do not already have these, please request them through the 'Contact Us' tab.**

## CCHT AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Rheged Centre, Redhills, Penrith, CA11 0DQ, at 10.30am.

## Research in Progress

Work is progressing well with research on township/parish histories. There are currently 7 individuals or teams preparing VCH articles, and other potential drafting teams have emerged in the past few weeks. A series of guidelines are being written for researchers, which identify sources relevant to each section of a VCH article. A guide for 'Manors and Estates' is now available as a resource on the members-only pages of the CCHT website.

## Completed Mosser Article

Angus Winchester has revised his draft article on Mosser. This is a sample which we hope will be a useful resource for anyone working on a township/parish history, as it demonstrates VCH approaches and format.

## CASCAT Re-launch

A new and greatly improved version of Cumbria Archive Service's catalogue, CASCAT is now available: <http://www.archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/CalmView/default.aspx>

## Census Work Near Completion

A big thank you to all volunteers who have worked on Tasks 1-3 over the past 9 months. The Census exercise has been a great success and is nearly complete. Returns for Allerdale Above, Eskdale, Lonsdale, East and West Wards are now available on the CCHT website.

**URGENT HELP REQUIRED!** In order to complete returns for the whole of Westmorland, we need a volunteer to look at the Census data for Kendal. If anyone would like to help with this, please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

## We Need Your Help

Do you have skills in Latin and medieval palaeography? Would you be willing to help other volunteers? If so, we would like to hear from you. We aim to create a network of volunteers who can use their Latin and palaeography skills to help answer queries from other VCH volunteer researchers. Please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator if you can help.

## Training for VCH Volunteers

There are plans to start a training programme for VCH volunteers in the next few months, and we look forward to Marion McClintock taking on the organisation of this. The key areas of training will be palaeography (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries), using Excel spreadsheets, and using online catalogues. Training sessions will be delivered face-to-face at Cumbria's Archive Centres and through online sessions. More information about how to get involved will follow soon.

## Photography Licences for VCH Volunteers

CCHT have negotiated a camera licensing system with Cumbria Archives Service.

This means that from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011, VCH volunteers working on a parish/township history no longer need buy a licence to use a camera at any of Cumbria's Archive Centres in connection with VCH work.

Each record office will have a list of approved VCH researchers who are working on a research task approved by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. It is important that volunteers respect this privilege and that the licence is used for VCH work only. To make sure your name is on the approved list, please contact Sarah Rose.

## CONTACTS

**VCH Cumbria Project Director:** Dr Angus Winchester, History Department, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT. Tel: 01524 592559. Email: [a.winchester@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.winchester@lancaster.ac.uk)

**Volunteer Co-ordinator:** Dr Sarah Rose, History Department, Bowland College, Lancaster University, LA1 4YT. Tel: 01524 593141. Email: [s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk)

**CCHT Secretary:** Mr Richard Brockington, Highland Hall, Renwick, Penrith, CA10 1JL. Tel: 01768 870352. Email: [richard.brockington@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:richard.brockington@mypostoffice.co.uk)