

CCHT Newsletter



No. 48 Autumn 2023

Welcome to the CCHT e-newsletter. Keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.

www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

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CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



News Round-Up

The Autumn issue is a little late this year, which is a reflection of how busy we have been. The past few months have been devoted to making amendments to the draft of the Lonsdale Ward volume following the peer-review process. We have also created base maps, which will be worked up to accompany the text, with one map for each township.

Our work for Historic England on the listed buildings of Barrow has now been documented in a poster exhibition, which is now on display at Barrow Archives. There is also a video which has been produced by Signal Film and Media. This includes interviews with two of the volunteers on the project. You can find a link to the video from this page on the CCHT website:

<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/exploring-listed-buildings-barrow-furness>

We have also just launched our historical skills training scheme in the Furness Peninsula. You can read more about this on page 2.

All change at the top

As you may already know, this academic year is the last in which Professor Fiona Edmonds will lead the VCH Cumbria project, as she will be stepping down as Director of the Regional Heritage Centre in September. Dr Chris Donaldson will then be taking over the reigns. Until then, he and Fiona will be sharing the Directorship. While some of you may already know Chris, we thought this was a good opportunity to introduce himself.

Hello everyone. It is my pleasure to have the occasion to introduce myself to you in this context, and I do hope to have the pleasure of seeing and speaking with you in person at one of our upcoming events. I joined the History Department at Lancaster University in 2016, and I have had the pleasure of being an affiliate of the RHC since that time. I am one of the educators who contributes to our free, online course, 'Lancaster Castle and Northern English History' and our PG Certificate programme in Regional and Local History.



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My research focuses on various aspects of the modern history of North West England and the border region, including our region's historical links with other parts of the world. That interest, in a way, reflects my background. Although I now live in Cumbria, I grew up in the United States.

Dr Chris Donaldson

Lancashire North of the Sands

On Monday 6th November, we launched our new historical skills training programme. Organised and run on our behalf by Morecambe Bay Partnership, the course is aimed at potential new VCH volunteers in the Furness area. The course will introduce participants to sources that can help us bring the content of *VCH Lancashire*, Vol. VIII up to date. While much of the course is being delivered online, there will also be a visit to Barrow Archive Centre and a tour of Dalton to consider historic structures there.

<https://www.morecambebay.org.uk/what-we-do/stories/help-us-tell-the-story-of-the-furness-peninsula>



Image credit: Morecambe Bay Partnership

100 Interesting Facts - Progress

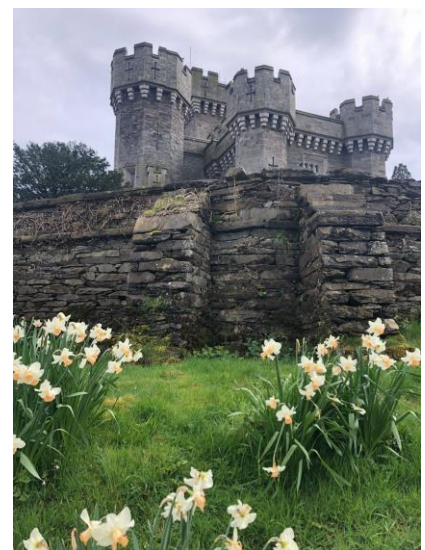
Don't forget that the CCHT website is home to 'Interesting Facts' about the county's history. While we haven't made it to our target of 100 facts just yet, we have reached 83!

Two of the latest facts, both offered by Bill Shannon, look at how Freshwater Biological Association scientists spent the war years in Wray Castle, helping to feed the country, and how Gunpowder from Low Wood and Sedgwick, in South Cumbria, was shipped out to West Africa, to be traded for slaves.

<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/perchines-and-eels-wray-castle-war-1939-45-background-claife>

<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/triangular-trade-low-wood-sedgwick-0>

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Wray Castle (image credit: Cara Shannon)

Many visitors come to the CCHT website through the 'Interesting Facts' page, showing that they are a well-used resource. Google analytics show that there were 5,148 unique visits to the CCHT website in September. That month, the top 'Fact' was the African Community at Burgh-By-Sands in the Roman period, with 247 sessions.

<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/first-recorded-african-community-britain-background-burgh-sands>

If you have any facts to offer, ideally with an accompanying image, please get in touch. In the long-term, we would like to link individual 'Facts' to the relevant township pages.

Can you help?

We are still in the need of a Membership Secretary. If you are interested in the role, please contact Lorna Mullett (wastwater@talktalk.net)

Temporary Closure of Archive Centres

All Cumbria Archive Centres will be closed from Wednesday 29 November for 2 weeks, reopening on Wednesday 13 December 2023. This is for staff to undertake salvage training and stocktaking work:

<https://cumbriaarchives.org.uk/archives/whatsnew/default.asp>

Supporting CCHT

Your support of CCHT is greatly appreciated. If you know anyone who you think might be interested in helping our work, please ask them to consider becoming a supporter. There are several ways they can help:

- Keep in touch with us: sign up to receive our newsletter and keep up to date with the project. You can also follow us on Twitter [@VCH_Cumbria](https://twitter.com/VCH_Cumbria)
- Come and support us: by giving any monthly or annual donation through our website www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk
- Come and join us: membership is open to any interested individual, society, or organisation for an annual subscription of at least £25; life membership is a one-off contribution of £1,000.
- Come and work with us: anyone interested in researching local, regional or family history can contribute to the VCH Cumbria project. Training and guidance will be provided by the project team at Lancaster University. To find out more, please email cchistorytrust@gmail.com or visit our website www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

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