

CCHT Newsletter



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

www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

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Can you help?

Pam Cronin will be stepping down as Membership Secretary at the AGM in June and we will be in need of a replacement. If you are at all interested in considering taking on this role, please contact Pam (cumbriahistorytrust@gmail.com) or CCHT Secretary, Lorna Mullett (wastwater@talktalk.net) to find out what it entails.

CCHT are also looking for someone to help with our social media accounts. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Roland Jackson (roland.jackson@btinternet.com)

Many thanks.

Save the Date

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 6th June, 10.30AM at Penrith Methodist Church. Further details and papers will be circulated closer to the time.

Exploring Barrow's Listed Buildings

Since the New Year, a small group of volunteers in Barrow-in-Furness have been surveying and researching a number of listed buildings. This project, run by CCHT on behalf of Historic England, aims to check the accuracy of information held on the National Heritage List for England, and to enrich the content of the listing by providing some contextual information about some of the listed buildings there. We also hope that the findings will feed into the ongoing work of the VCH in rewriting the history of the town.



Index to the Registers of Building Plans submitted to Barrow Borough Council beginning in 1873 [Barrow Archive Centre, BA/S/BC]

One potential historical source is the recently digitised Sankey Photography Archive. The project volunteers were given special access to the test website before it goes live. The collection contains many fantastic images and had a helpful search function.

The volunteers received training and had a chance to meet each other at several workshops. One of these was run by

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Susan Benson at Barrow Archives, where volunteers were shown a wealth of material that could be used for researching the history of individual buildings. Local historian, Jean McSorley, was also on hand to share her extensive local knowledge. One of the potential pitfalls we learned of was the reuse of building names, which can cause confusion during research. Historic England ran a webinar which explained about how the public can help 'Enrich the List' by adding their memories of buildings and their uses, and later this month will also be treating volunteers to a maritime tour of Barrow.

At our final workshop we were joined by Caroline Kendall, a Senior Listing Policy Adviser for Historic England, with whom we have been liaising over the project, and her colleague Dr Myra Tolan-Smith, Listing Adviser for the North of England Listing Team. They provided an illuminating explanation of their work and the listing process, which generated a lot of discussion and questions from the volunteers.



Volunteers meeting at Cooke's Studios

Many thanks to Susan Benson and Historic England for their help with the project so far, and to the staff at Signal Film and Media, our partners in this project, for looking after us so well during the workshops. Once the surveying and research is completed, Signal will use footage taken during the project to create a short film documenting our activities. We also hope to have a small exhibition at Barrow Archive Centre.

If you are interested in listed buildings, or have questions about the listing process, Historic England, have provided some online guides to help:

The Principles of Selection is the statutory criteria for making a decision on whether a building is listable:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/757054/Revised Principles of Selection 2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/757054/Revised_Principles_of_Selection_2018.pdf)

The Listing Selection Guides, which provide further information about particular building types: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/selection-criteria/listing-selection/>

Requesting a minor amendment, for instance if a building has the wrong street name on the list entry: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/>

How to submit an application for Listing: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/apply-for-listing/>

The Heritage at Risk register:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/cb50293b60cd42e98f7d312cec9115a9/>

Finding out if a building has been de-listed, or previously assessed for Listing but not designated:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/non-listed-sites/>

Sarah Rose

Surveying the Poor in Westmorland and London

On a visit to the archives in Kendal, I requested a box of charity papers in the Hothfield collection (WDHOTH/2/11) not knowing what to expect as no detailed description was available on CASCAT. Members may know of the reputation of the 4th Earl of Thanet (1644-1729) for philanthropy having given away much of a considerable fortune, but the organisation and targeting of it survives in some of these documents (c. 1692-1712).

First, there are several layers to the documentation chiefly for the earl's manors in the Barony of Westmorland, which include not just cash doles to the poor but also disbursements of clothing and accounts for the same which detail payments to poor local weavers as well as trade bought in from Wakefield etc. The surprise was then to find in the centre of many of the bundles (separate years being kept together), smaller notebooks containing details of payments made to poor recipients identified in London. Like the Westmorland listings these identify the parish concerned but go into further details of the address giving particulars of street etc. The London surveys also tend to give information about the subject's background (i.e. whether from Westmorland) and circumstances, and sometimes their way of life and misfortune.

So, both of these dole lists have the qualities of providing useful, if selective, geographically oriented surveys. Thus, in the year to Lady Day 1699, £214 10s. 6d. was given in Westmorland 'to the poor Gentry, Indigent clergy and the widows of Such And to the poor ten(n)ents and other poor in Westmorland and Cumberland'. There are the expected stipulations such as 'none are to share in his Charity but such as frequent the Church ...' but 'Tennants as are by old age Sicknesse or Infirmitie disabled from working; or are by Stewertship Charge of Children, or Misfortune Reduced to Poverty, & have lived in good Repute; Or such as have beene burdened with ffines & to such other poore as most want & best deserved but little or Nothings to such as are younge & able to worke...' To balance this picture of beneficence it is perhaps necessary to point out that the earl's interests extended very widely, as was the case with the preferment accorded to some of the poor boys he sponsored. The evidence for this comes from a manuscript listing much material that has disappeared from the Hothfield archive since 1729 (MS.Don.c.85; thanks to the Bodleian Library). Poor boys from humble backgrounds in London were sent to Christ's Hospital (private school) which by Royal Charter of 1673 was enabled to teach mathematics for navigation. A few of those listed were provided the necessary recommendation for work in the slave trade from West Africa, as in the case of Edward Nash. With thanks to Lord Hothfield.

Haydn Charlesworth, VCH Volunteer. This piece has previously appeared in a FoCAS newsletter.

Just before Christmas, Haydn completed his draft article on Stainmore. This is now on the CCHT website: <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/vch-stainmore-final.pdf>.

He has also written a piece on the Nine Standards:

<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/sites/default/files/stainmore-and-nine-standards.pdf>

News from Lancaster University

This is a special year for the Regional Heritage Centre, as it marks the 50th anniversary of its predecessor organisation, the Centre for North West Regional Studies, founded in 1973. The RHC will be running several events throughout the year:

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/regional-heritage-centre/events/>

There is also news of a new archaeological dig to begin this summer, which focuses on Lowther's medieval castle and village. The project is being led by Dr Sophie Thérèse Ambler of Lancaster University's History Department, working with Allen Archaeology and Archaeology staff and students from UCLan. The project is funded by the Castle Studies Trust. For more information visit <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/news/new-investigation-of-lowthers-medieval-castle-and-village-set-to-reveal-cumbrias-past>

Drafters' Meeting

Volunteers met for an online meeting on 7th February. After reporting back on their progress, I delivered a short presentation about the chapels of Killington and Firbank. A written version of this talk will appear in the next CLHF *Bulletin*.

Sarah Rose

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
- 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 cumbriahistorytrust@gmail.com or visit our website www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

CONTACTS

VCH Cumbria Project Director: Prof. Fiona Edmonds, f.edmonds@lancaster.ac.uk

Assistant Editor: Dr Sarah Rose, s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

CCHT Secretary: Mrs Lorna Mullett, wastwater@talktalk.net

CCHT Treasurer: Richard Platt, 9 The Abbey, Carlisle, CA3 9TZ; dick.platt@gmail.com

CCHT Membership Secretary: Mrs Pam Cronin, cumbriahistorytrust@gmail.com