

CCHT Newsletter



No. 47 Summer 2023

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

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CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
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Lonsdale Ward Red Book Update

The CCHT AGM, on 6th June, was the first to be held in person since the pandemic. The Lonsdale Ward red book was a key topic of discussion at the meeting. As reported in the Spring newsletter, the book draft was submitted to VCH Central Office at the end of 2022. In May we received the peer review and the appraisal of the principal editor, Adam Chapman. Happily, the reports are full of praise and indicated no major problems. This was reiterated to Roland Jackson in person, when he visited Central Office for the annual VCH Day in May.

Work has already begun on making minor amendments to the draft, with a view to re-submitting in autumn. We expect publication in the second half of 2024 and will keep you updated. The publication and launch of this Red Book offers us a real opportunity to raise awareness of our long-term project and to seek additional funding.

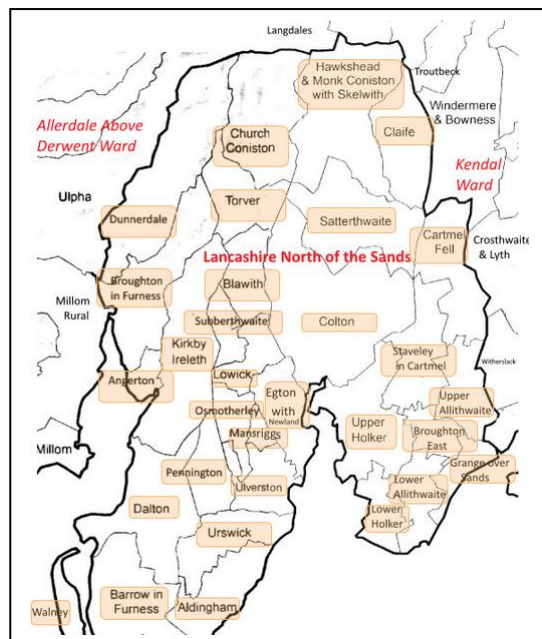


Upper left - datestones in Middleton churchyard; lower left – Rigmaden, Mansergh; upper right - Kirkby Lonsdale Bridge, from Pennant's Tour to Alston Moor, 1801; lower right - Lune Viaduct, Firbank

Hot off the press! CCHT have been successful in our application to the central VCH Trust for funds towards the book's production costs, including cartography and image permissions.

Lancashire North of the Sands

From the autumn onwards, we will be turning our attention to the red book for Lancashire North-of-the-Sands. As you are likely aware, this part of the county is covered by VCH Lancashire VIII, edited by William Farrer and John Brownbill. However, given that it was published in 1914, it misses many key historic developments, particularly for industrialised places like Barrow. It also adheres to the old VCH template, and therefore excludes social and economic history in particular. Given that work on revising this volume will involve research using source material generated since the First World War, we hope that volunteers can be enticed to get involved, and have the opportunity to work in different ways from our usual township-by-township model.



A grant we received from FoCAS is supporting the work on Lancashire North of the Sands. Also, a key element of the generous funding allocated by CWAAS to the project's current phase was a training programme to benefit the public in south-west Cumbria. We are therefore planning another joint course with Morecambe Bay Partnership in autumn 2023, which would help volunteers to contribute to the histories of other places in the Furness and Cartmel peninsulas. This course is in the early stages of planning and we need to identify sources for volunteers to focus on.

Funding Success

Thinking ahead to the next three-year funding phase 2025–8, Chris Donaldson and I submitted an application to the Joy Welch postdoctoral scheme, a small grant scheme offered by Lancaster University. We are pleased to report that the application was successful and the funding begins in October. This will enable Sarah to run a scoping study in Carlisle and Whitehaven, which would underpin a NLHF application made by CCHT.

Fiona Edmonds

Volunteer Meeting

I met with five volunteers at Penrith Methodist Church on 27th April. I gave a presentation on the medieval legal system and its records, and the volunteers had a chance to give updates on their progress. Since then, I have received draft articles for Ainstable and for Walney Island. The latter is the first submission for Lancashire North of the Sands since Bill Shannon's work on Angerton.

Sarah Rose

Barrow's Listed Buildings Project

Signal Film and Media are producing a video documenting Barrow's Listed Building project, which CCHT conducted on behalf of Historic England. It includes interviews with two of the project's volunteers. In addition to the video, Barrow Archive Centre will host a poster exhibition, detailing the project and its findings during the summer.



Romney's Cottage, Ormsgill
© Russ Ellis

100 Interesting Facts

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 81! Thanks to Rob David and James Underwood for their recent respective contributions on Basque Children at Brampton

(<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/basque-children-brampton-background>) and the nationalisation of pubs in Carlisle in 1915 (<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/carlisle-experiment-background-carlisle>).

Fellfoot Forward News

Fellfoot Forward Landscape Partnership Scheme have released reports of archaeological field work undertaken by DigVentures at Carlatton cairn, Long Meg stone circle, Grey Yauds and the moated site in Kirkoswald:

https://digventures.com/reports/?reports_project=fellfoot-forward

Can you help?

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

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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