

Newsletter

No. 37 Summer 2019

Welcome to CCHT'S e-newsletter - keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.

Supported by



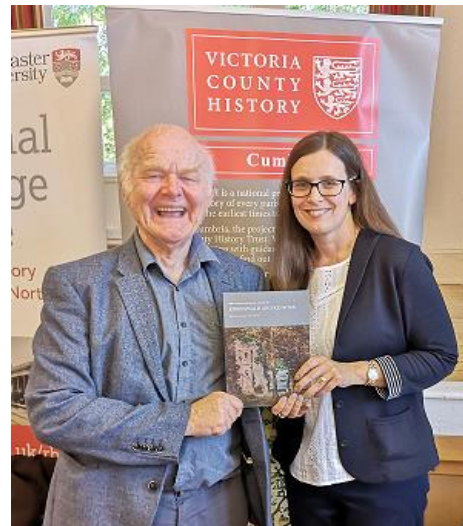
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



I hope that some of you will have noticed mention of VCH Cumbria in the local papers these past few weeks. We have had quite a bit of media attention thanks to the publication of *Kirkoswald and Renwick* and it has been wonderful to celebrate achieving this important milestone. *Sarah Rose*

Successful launch of *Kirkoswald & Renwick*

The official launch of *Kirkoswald and Renwick* on 21st May was a great success, much of it due to the support we received from the local community. The main hall of the Kirkoswald Church Institute was full, with over eighty people joining us for the afternoon. Much of the local organisation was undertaken by Neville Jackson, while the tea and an impressive range of cake was provided by Beryl Watts. Many thanks to them for all their hard work and help in making the event go smoothly. We sold an impressive 65 copies of the book on the day and Richard signed a good many of them. If you haven't got one yet, copies are still available via Lancaster University's online store <https://tinyurl.com/y4v32psk>, from Bookends in Carlisle and Ravenbridge Stores in Kirkoswald. The *Cumberland and Westmorland Herald* sent a photographer to cover the event and the book



Richard Brockington and Sarah Rose



Angus Winchester speaking to a packed main hall

subsequently made front-page news the following week. I suspect this is the first time the VCH has ever been in the headlines! There have also been positive reviews of the book in the local press.

CCHT AGM & Drafters' Meeting

On 28th June, Penrith Methodist Church played host to the final formal drafters' meeting of this academic year. This was the first opportunity for us all to meet two of our newest volunteers, Alan Clegg and Yvonne Butterfield, who are working on Waberthwaite and Grasmere, respectively. The focus of our discussion was historical population data (where to find it, how to use it etc.) for which a guidance note was produced. This document will be added to the CCHT website in due course. Our next gathering will be the annual VCH Volunteers' Field Trip, which we plan to have in late August or early September.

The drafters' meeting was followed by the CCHT AGM. The Chair, Treasurer and Trustees were all re-elected without contest, although our wonderful Secretary, Tiffany Hunt, announced that she wished to step down in the near future. If anyone is interested in, or would like to know more about, taking on this role and the opportunity it presents of joining the CCHT Steering Group and Board of Trustees please get with Tiffany at tiffanyhunt59@gmail.com. Reports by Treasurer and Director were both very positive and there is a lot for us to be proud of. One key point is that we have secured all the funding required for the next stage of the project from October 2019 to October 2022. Our particular thanks goes to CWAAS for their continued support of the project, as well as the Marc Fitch fund, who have also generously awarded us the full amount we were seeking. Some of this funding is contingent on completing the Londale Ward volume within the next phase of the project, as well as providing a skills training programme for potential and existing volunteers. Another pleasing announcement was that Dr Edmonds has recently been promoted to Reader, which reflects her hard work as Director of the Regional Heritage Centre.



After the formal reports were given, Richard Brockington spoke about his experience of writing and publishing for the VCH. A crucial piece of advice was the importance of gaining the support of the local community and to encourage their involvement in the process.

CCHT Website Helps Local History Society

Earlier this year we were contacted by Braithwaite Local History Group. They were seeking ways in which to make their research publicly available and so offered material to go on the CCHT website. We are now in the process of uploading their documents under the resources section of the Above Derwent township page and hope to include historic images in future.

Volunteer Profile: Amanda Hames

In September 2018, I happily took voluntary redundancy from a high street bank after more than 35 years' service. During the last ten years or so I was a regulatory risk consultant supporting and guiding the business to help them deliver new operating models that continued to meet the changing external regulatory standards and provide fair outcomes for customers. So, if you like, the voice of the customer and the conscience of the business.

During the last eight years I've also worked as a Volunteer for National Trust identifying and bringing to life the stories about the places they look after and the lives of the people associated with those places.

This work has involved researching and building the stories in a way that captivates and engages visitors. I've also designed and delivered education and awareness resources for staff and volunteers to build their understanding of the stories so that they could feel really confident to share them with visitors; and to Supporter Groups to help bring these places to life and to encourage support, promotion and interest in the work of National Trust.



Amanda at Haweswater

The sorts of topics have included extensive research on George Macaulay Trevelyan uncovering his work for National Trust and his enduring love of the Lake District. This work was used in support of the Lake District application for World Heritage Status.

There has also been other work associated with National Trust's properties at High Close and at Allan Bank in Grasmere, for example, Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley and "One Man & An Island" which uncovered the events that led from the sale of Grasmere Island to the formation of National Trust.

I joined the Victoria County History Project a few months ago and I'm really enjoying the broader disciplines of historical research that this project will demand. It's a bit daunting but also exciting in equal measure and I'm particularly enjoying the fact that every day working on this appears to have become a school day again.

I have chosen, perhaps unsurprisingly, the township of "Rydal & Loughrigg" which is the backdrop for quite a bit of my previous work with National Trust.

Whilst my main interests have always been historical and researching and building family history and stories, there are outdoor interests too, which take me away from the computer, such as volunteer conservation work with National Trust and fell-walking in the Lake District or the Yorkshire Dales.

Amanda Hames

The History of Cumbria in 100 objects...

....well, maybe not quite that many! To mark the 120th anniversary of the VCH this year, the Central Office team have taken inspiration from the 2010 project curated by the British Museum in collaboration with BBC Radio 4 that told the history of the world in 100 objects. Each VCH county has been challenged to fill a small red box (in homage to the big 'Red Books') with everyday objects that reflect the history of the county. Once filled, the Red Boxes and their contents will be displayed in an exhibition at the Institute of Historical Research in the Autumn. They will also be displayed in a 'virtual exhibition' on the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community / VCH website. The exhibition is linked to the annual 'Being Human' National Festival of the Humanities.



Some Cumbrian objects....

As you can see from the photo, we have already made a start on gathering some items but more are needed! The exhibition is not about showing off priceless artefacts but instead aims to demonstrate how everyday objects can provide insights into Cumbrian history and heritage. We are particularly keen to see objects where county history meet personal or local traditions.

All objects **will be returned** once the exhibition has ended early in 2020. It would be nice to have as many people as possible involved in this. If you think you might have something suitable for our box, please get in touch:

s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk.

Help Wanted

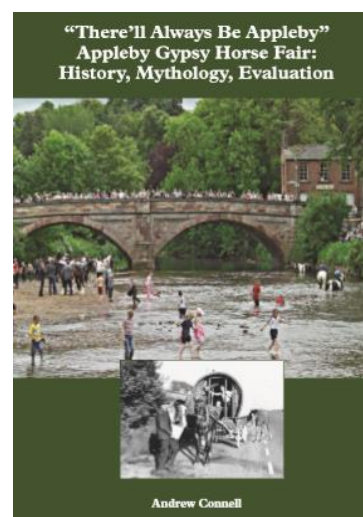
Like the VCH, the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB) is another encyclopaedic project from the Victorian era that continues to this day. Inspired by the ODNB, 'Cumbria Lives' is an ongoing project that aims to create an online resource of Cumbrian biographies. They are currently looking for volunteers to help with this work. For more information and details on how to get involved, please follow the link on the CLHF website: <http://www.clhf.org.uk/events-diary/>

Kirkby Lonsdale's Past on Film

"Remembering Kirkby Lonsdale" is a documentary by filmmaker John Hamlett that brings together the pre-war memories of eight of Kirkby's very oldest residents and includes previously unseen archive stills and footage from North West Film Archive. Two screenings will take place on **Sunday 14 July**, at 1.00pm and 3.30pm, at Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. The film is non-profit project but is being shown as part of a fundraiser for St John's Hospice and Macmillan. Tickets £10 (include refreshments and prize draw) available from Boots the Chemist, Market Square Kirkby Lonsdale.

Volunteer's Book on Appleby now in 2nd Edition

VCH Volunteer Andy Connell's discovery of new source material has enabled him to produce a second edition of his 2015 book *'There'll Always Be Appleby' - Appleby Gypsy Horse Fair: History, Mythology, Evaluation* (CWAAS Extra Series, XLIV, 2015). This second edition has been extensively revised and includes a fuller discussion of the Fair's beginnings; the policing of it, both past and present; and its relationship with local government. The book – r.r.p. £12.99 - is available from various book retailers and Amazon. Or place orders (p&p free) by email agshistory@gmail.com; tel. 01768351847 or 07817754612; by post to A.N. Connell,



CONTACTS

VCH Cumbria Project Director: Dr Fiona Edmonds, History Department, Bowland College, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT. Tel. 01524 594297; f.edmonds@lancaster.ac.uk

Assistant Editor: Dr Sarah Rose, tel. 01524 593141; s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

CCHT Secretary: Ms Tiffany Hunt, Yew Tree Cottage, Barn Garth, Cartmel, Cumbria LA11 6PP. Tel. 015395 36302; tiffanyhunt59@gmail.com

