

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

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**Special points of interest:**

- Dates for your diary p.1
- Do you fancy being our Treasurer? P.2
- Lectures alternate between Cartmel Institute and the United Reformed Church Hall in Grange



## VIKING BURIAL GROUND LOCATED BY LOCAL BUSINESSMAN

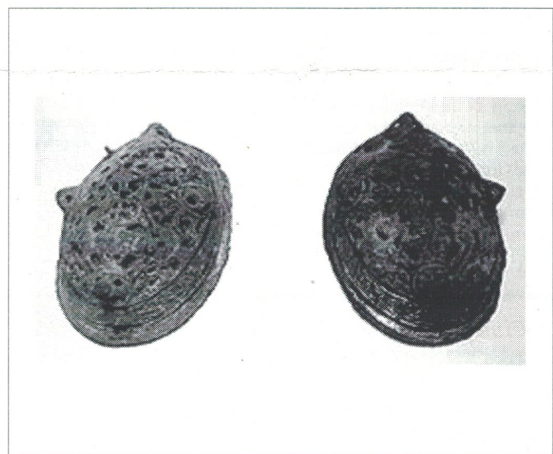
Last year one of our local businessmen, Peter Adams who runs the Grange Laundry with his wife Gracie, took a break from the hot and steamy atmosphere of his everyday life and went on a treasure hunt.

Armed with his metal detector, and presumably a packed lunch, he ventured further 'up north' to a secret location and began detecting. Imagine his surprise, not to say shocked delight, when he unearthed the two brooches pictured.

I was very privileged to have an early sighting of them, still covered in mud, before they were sent off to be cleaned and catalogued.

I was also delighted when Peter agreed to give our local history society a talk describing both his 'find of a lifetime' and metal detecting as a hobby.

This promises to be a very interesting and stimulating talk, and Peter has said he



Viking Brooches (circa 10th century) found by Peter Adams

would try to bring along some of his society's finds to his talk to be given on April 28th and the United Reformed Hall in Grange at 7.30p.m.

Anyone wishing to attend this talk (and indeed any of our talks) is very welcome. More details of Peter's find

can be found on the following website:

[http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh\\_gfx\\_en/ART23841.html](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART23841.html)

We welcome news about archaeological finds, please let us know if you have found anything interesting.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: LECTURES FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2005—ALL WELCOME

On 27th January Mr Nick Thorne, of the National Parks Authority, will be giving us a talk about the types of documentary evidence consulted when determining disputed rights of way. Nick will be illustrating his talk with a Powerpoint slide presenta-

tion to show the wide range of documents used for this task. The talk will be held at the United Reformed Hall in Grange at 7.30.

On 24 February Dr Yvonne Simm will be giving a talk about her research into oral and written testimonies of

marriage in war time. Audience participation welcomed! To be held at the Cartmel Institute at 7.30.

At the same venue, on 24 March, Mr. Ian Lewis is to give a talk about the large number of Great War memorials in south Lakeland.

## LOOKING AT LOCAL HISTORY: IT'S A PERSONAL QUEST

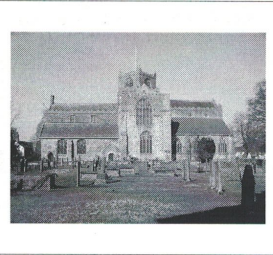
The Society would like to involve both its members and non-members in looking at all aspects of our local history.

We are fortunate to live in a region where the landscape is richly decorated with the reminders of other periods; for instance the imposing monastery of 12th century-Furness Abbey, or the much smaller Cartmel Priory (also 12th century).

Then we have the economic history of the region including the industries that located here during our (rather late) industrial revolution. These industries wrought changes on the landscape turning Barrow, for instance,

from a small village in 1851 to a large and growing town by 1881. We have families who can trace their lineage back to the pre-industrial revolution period; and we have a wealth of different types of architecture to draw upon. What about the history of transport in the region? Or indeed the history of various societies whose interests cover a multitude of topics.

Anyone who is interested in history is likely to have a particular and specific interest in some aspect, my own interest concerns urban growth and housing provision— what's yours?



Cartmel Priory Church

Please let us know so that we can tailor our lectures and events to suit.

## NEW TREASURER REQUIRED

The Society is looking for a new Treasurer as Peter Wain, our current incumbent has announced his intention to retire from the post. Peter has given many years of fantastic service to the Society, but as he now finds himself spending much of his time travelling abroad, he simply does not have the time to devote to the Treasurer's

duties as well.

Peter has assured me that the duties are not onerous and that he would be willing to talk to anyone who may be interested in the position and about what the role involves.

If there are any members of the Society out there who think they would like to take

on the duties of Treasurer, please let either myself (Ruth Hughes) or one of the committee members know. (Contact details on the back page).

## SHOPPING IN LANCASHIRE 300 YEARS AGO!

The last lecture in our 2004 series was given by Mrs Janet Nelson prior to our AGM in November.

Her fascinating topic focused on how people bought and sold goods in Lancashire between 200 and 300 years ago.

Mrs Nelson used the autobiography of William Stout of Lancaster (1665-1752) to help illustrate the wide variety of goods that were available (to anyone with any dis-

posable income) in the early eighteenth century.

From other documentary evidence Mrs Nelson was able to identify the types of vending outlets that were in existence in Lancaster during the eighteenth, and into the nineteenth centuries. We were treated to some beautiful slides showing us, for example, how Lancaster would have appeared 200 years ago. The museum, for instance, was an open sided

market arcade supporting a variety of stalls catering to the town's requirements.

In fact there was so much to discuss that we ran out of time! Mrs Nelson has promised to come back another year to give us the second half of her lecture.

We look forward to it.

*"The museum, for instance, was an open sided market arcade supporting a variety of stalls catering to the town's requirements".*

## DESIGNS ON GRANGE PROMENADE

One of our most precious facilities, and indeed landmarks, is in desperate need of renovation.

Last year there was an exhibition held in the Victoria Hall in Grange outlining the results of many months of research to identify what may be done with the now very decrepit promenade and old pool area.

Some very interesting and controversial ideas were put forward for residents and visitors to comment on.

At our AGM in November it was pointed out that, under the proposed plans, it looks as though we will lose the tea rooms, shelter and old

toilet block.

Whilst the promenade must be repaired, and new bridges and access ramps are desperately needed, it seems more than a little unfair that we face losing some of our historic buildings in the process.

Does anyone have any views on this topic?

In a related vein, does anyone have any happy, funny or significant memories of the tea rooms from their youth?

Have you any stories surrounding this little treasure of a building?

We would very much like to hear from you if you have.



**Grange Promenade**

Contact details can be found on page 4.

*“[I]t seems more than a little unfair that we face losing some of our historic buildings”*

## AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

The Society has been contacted by a Mr Norman Wearing, currently living in Middlesex. Norman is researching his family tree and has managed to trace his ancestry back to Robert Wearing, butcher of Cartmel, who married (1826) Mary Birkett.

During his research, Norman has come across many other

families with the surname Wearing, many from Cartmel and surrounding district, some of whom may be related to him and some who may not. He has provided a family tree (as yet incomplete) showing as many of the branches of his family that he has so far managed to positively identify.

Norman would like to know if

there are any Wearings out there who are also interested in researching their family history, and who may be interested in the information he has, so far, managed to find. He is also interested in trying to find links with his own branch of the Wearing tree and thus would welcome an exchange of infor-

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## THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION: LOCAL HISTORY MONTH, MAY 2005

### CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Last year the Society put on a display of local photographs in Grange Library as part of the national Local History Month. This year, 60 years after the end of World War Two, we would like to put on another display, this time using local photographs, recollections and perhaps artefacts from the period.

To be able to do this we need your help. Do you have any photographs we could borrow for the display? Perhaps you or a relative was in the Home Guard or the fire service? Perhaps you have a story to tell that you would like to share? Were you at school during the period and if so what did the war mean to you? We would welcome short stories from anyone who remembers what it was like to live in this region during that period, and we would be happy to come and tape your story if you would prefer.

If you feel you can help us in any way please contact either my-



**WW2 bomb damage, Holme Lane, Allithwaite 1941**

self Ruth Hughes, or Barbara Copeland. Numbers overleaf.



**Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society**

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We will shortly be on the  
web—keep watching this  
space

*Local History News*



Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society was established over ten years ago under the name Cartmel and District Local History Society. Three years ago the Society changed its name to reflect more accurately the historical interests and area that our members encompass. Our aim is to cover as broad a spectrum of historical enquiry as possible in order to reflect the interests of members, and to interest and include non-members in what is, we feel, a very exciting and enjoyable subject. One of the ways we plan to further this aim is through the pages of this newsletter and by having and maintaining a presence on the World Wide Web.

We also plan to hold a series of informal meetings in which specific themes will be discussed and in which our members can play a more active role if they so wish. These meetings have not yet been set and we would welcome suggestions as to possible themes for discussion. For example, a number of you may have a specific interest in the history of Cartmel Priory and the Augustinian monks who lived there; others may be interested in architectural history and would welcome a chance to discuss this interest with other like-minded people; still others may have an interest in archaeology, a subject the Society has not really addressed but to which it is open to suggestions. The list of possible discussion topics is endless.

If you are interested in joining an informal discussion group please contact either myself or Mrs Barbara Copeland who will be pleased to provide further information.

**COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS**

**STOP PRESS**

*(Continued from page 3)*

mation.  
If you feel that you can be of any help, or indeed are interested in the information already located by Norman, please contact me, Ruth Hughes, and I will gladly put you in touch with him.

My contact details are to the top left of this page.

Family history is a topic many of you may be involved in. It can be a very rewarding, but also extremely frustrating and time-consuming process. We would love to hear from anyone who has stories to tell about their own searches, or from anyone who is experiencing difficulties in their research. Perhaps we can help?

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Chairperson  
Tel: 015395 33165

Dr Ruth Hughes  
Secretary  
Tel: 015395 32591

Mr Peter Wain  
Treasurer  
Tel: 015395 34814

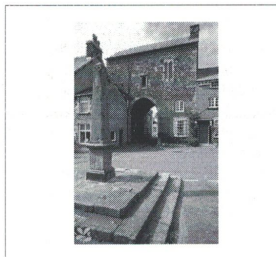
Mr Stewart E Allen  
Dr Malcolm Arthurton  
Dr Michael Atkinson  
Mr Trevor Moore  
Mr Peter Le Mare

**SAD NEWS FROM CARTMEL**

As many of you know there is, in the village, a monastic gatehouse which is one of the finest medieval buildings left in the district. The Village Society has carefully restored the interior and collected artefacts to create a very interesting historical and rural museum.

It has been a popular destination for visitors to the district but its future is now in doubt due to a lack of volunteers to man the building when open. Furthermore, income from visitors simply does not cover outgoings.

If you would like to know more, or think you could help, contact the newsletter editor who will put you in touch with a Village Society representative.



Cartmel Gatehouse