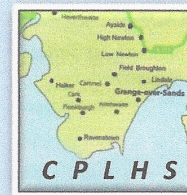


CARTMEL PENINSULA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"Bringing Local History to the Community"



Founded in 1996 with the aim of promoting an interest in local history within the area

Newsletter: May 2020

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Chairman's Message

My message for the January Newsletter began by wishing all Members a very Happy New Year. Little did any of us realise at that time that this year would see all of our leisure-time (and, indeed, all of our lives) so drastically affected by Covid-19. I do hope that you are all well and that you keep safe.

Thanks once more to Lyn Prescott, we have a Newsletter of interest to all, with some longer articles to further occupy our time after we have, more than likely, spruced up our homes and gardens in the last few weeks. Those detailed articles cover (1) the history of Boarbank and Allithwaite and (2) wartime recollections and (3) a fascinating timeline based on activities at RAF Cark during the Second World War. Grateful thanks are due to Phil and Pat Rowland and Barbara Copeland for the first and to Pat for the second and third of the articles, all the more relevant as we have just celebrated the ending of that war in Europe.

Archive and library news are particularly useful now as personal access to both are prohibited at present, leaving the online services all the more welcome. Our lecture by Alan Crosby was given only a short time before the social distancing restrictions were imposed. As always, his talk was both interesting and so very comprehensive, worthy of the full report from Pat: many thanks. The report of the research query (thank you, Barbara) illustrates the type of enquiry we often receive, from all over the world, and how a simple question or a newly-seen photograph can lead to interesting research and fascinating information.

Sadly, our programme has had to be cancelled at least until the end of August although it is hoped that some of the planned speakers will come next season. Lost, also, are our intended summer trips. Your committee will decide in July if the programme from September can take place and all will be advised.

Keep safe and keep well.

Stuart Harling

<http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

Archive & Library News

Cumbria Archives

All Cumbria Archives are closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Online sources are available as normal including CASCAT (Cumbria Archive Service Catalogue) and the Online research guides and indexes.

Cumbria Archives are compiling a collection about Coronavirus in Cumbria: documenting the pandemic in our county. This will include photographs, diaries, poems etc and can be submitted by post to any of the Archive Centres, delivered by hand when the Centres re-opened or emailed to barrow.archives@cumbria.gov.uk (Susan Benson is collating email submissions for the whole county). For further details and updates:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/default.asp>

Cumbria Libraries and Local Studies

Cumbria Libraries and Local Studies collections are closed until further notice due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Online sources for Library Members continue to be available including Historic Newspapers.

https://cumbria.gov.uk/libraries/online_resources/newspapers.asp

Temporary Library Membership can be applied for online to enable access to online resources.

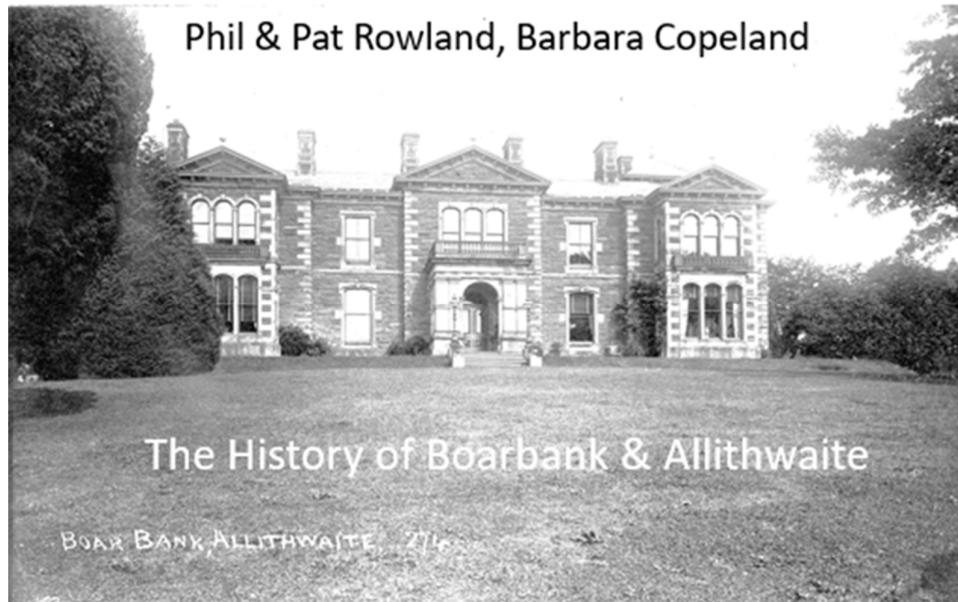
<https://cumbria.gov.uk/libraries/services/memberserv.asp>

Local Studies online sources continue to be available including World War I & II Newspaper Soldier Indexes, World War I War Memorials, and Cumbria Image Bank.

<https://cumbria.gov.uk/libraries/localstudies/default.asp>

Lecture Reports

The History of Boarbank and Allithwaite

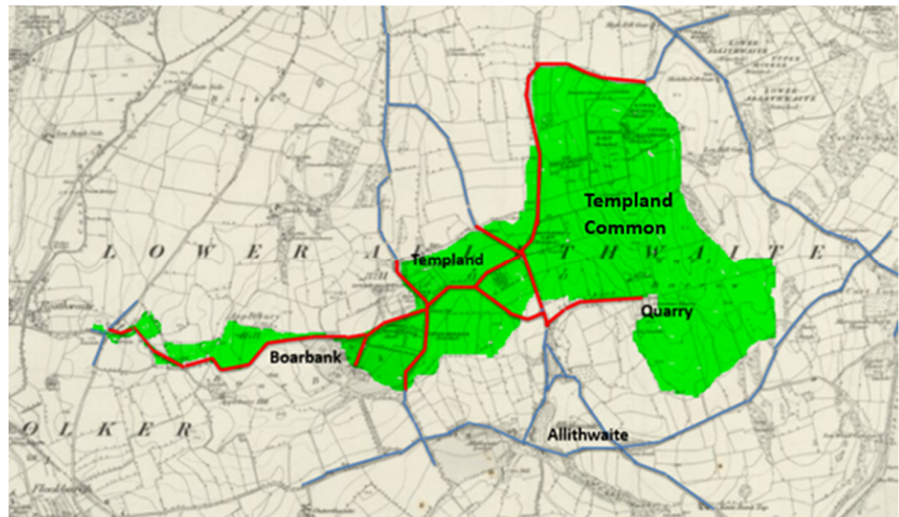


Three members of the society presented a talk at Boarbank at the beginning of March 2020 to the residents and staff of the convalescent home and some of the Sisters.

Phil presented some of our recent research from the Enclosure maps from the end of the 18th century, featuring the Common Land between Templand and Allithwaite. Following the enclose of the Commons, from the middle of the 19th century Allithwaite developed up the hill and now the two ancient farming communities of Allithwaite and Templand forms the village as you see it today.

<http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

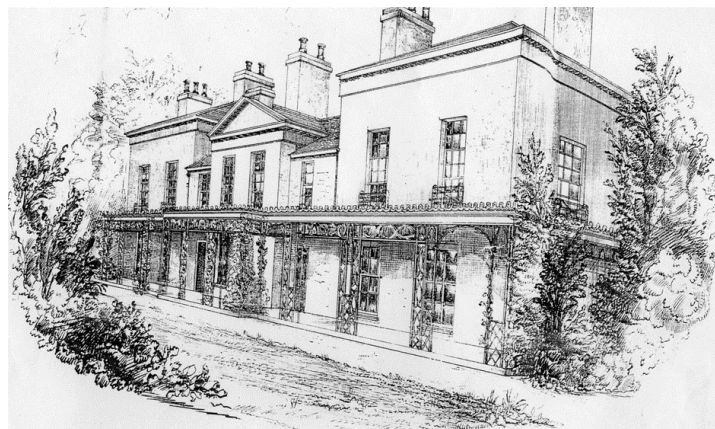
Boarbank Farm itself was only a smallholding and part of Templand until the middle of the 19th century. No talk on Allithwaite would be complete without recounting the tale of the Last Wolf slain on Humphrey Head.



Barbara entertained the audience with some fascinating social history. This ranged from the Poor House, the 19th century Bobbin Mill, the Tinkerman of Humphrey Head, the little known fisherwomen of the village, and the reports of the devastation of the bombing on Holme Lane in the Second World War.

P

at concluded our presentation with her own personal research on the History of Boarbank Hall up to the beginning of the 20th century. This included details of how Mary Lambert converted the small cottage, known as Boarbank Cottage, into a splendid residence, and how each subsequent owner improved and adapted the Hall.



1858 sketch of the façade.

The full script of Pat's talk is on the Website. Afterwards we were treated to a gorgeous afternoon tea and we chatted to the residents (one of whom was related to the Stockdale family of Cark), and a grand tour of the Hall by Sister Margaret. Sitting in easy chairs on the first floor, looking out towards Humphrey Head, it was very obvious why the house was built here with the main rooms on this floor.

Phil Rowland April 2020

<http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

Cartmel Parish in a changing world 1550 to 1800

Dr Alan Crosby – 5th March 2020

The changing world from the reformation and dissolution of the monasteries to the beginning of the 19th century was described through the superb maps available for the Peninsula, from the County Palatine Map of Christopher Saxton in 1577 to the first OS map in 1850. Saxton's map was decorative, and attempted to show topography. The coastline was taken at low tide, indicating the sands crossing route. At that time there was little woodland in our area, in contrast to the extensive woodland to the north where there was a charcoal industry. Subsequent maps for a while tended to copy Saxton, eg John Speed. Around 1665, John Bleau published a map in Amsterdam, with some peculiar spelling eg Flokesbarro, and with the locations of Cart Lane Village, Gowborn Head (Humphrey Head), Waysholm towre, Wynder, Howker and Hamfeld Hall.

Yates's 1786 prize-winning map is the first 'proper' map (1" to the mile). It was more effective in showing different aspects of the landscape (mosses, small patches of woodland and enclosures) and the townships with Cartmel, the market town, at the centre. Sponsors were named eg John Wilkinson's improved moss. Even by this time Cartmel was still relatively cut off, until the turnpike road and railway were completed by the middle of the 19th century.

Richard Keurden produced very detailed maps in 1684 of the main routes in Lancashire, including the area north of the sands which were never printed or published. His survey of the main roads showed properties and distances in furlongs. Alan showed the map from Sandgate and Flookburgh to Allithwaite past Utterthwaite Hall.

The importance of Cartmel for travellers and as a market town was demonstrated in a survey by the War Office in 1686 of guest beds and stables, Cartmel being the 12th in the ranking for Lancashire with 26 guest bed and 57 stable places, ahead of Ulverston in 17th place.

The relative importance between Flookburgh and Cartmel Markets was discussed. It is known that William Marshall prescribed Cartmel for markets in 1292, Flookburgh's charter was originally granted in 1412 and regranted for a second time in 1663, but still it appears that it was unsuccessful. There were disputes between the two settlements, the claim of Churchtown in 1690 of weekly markets beyond the memory of man was disputed by the residents of Flookburgh. Similarly, in 1721, Flookburgh claimed market affairs were held since time began! In 1725 the Bishop of Chester reported that Flookburgh had neither maintained a market or fair. In 1731, Sir Thomas Lowther granted Cartmel its only market charter.

Alan showed Paul Hindle's map of developing routes, including the cross sands route and the turnpike road up to Kendale and across to Crosthwaite and down to Newby Bridge. Despite the turnpike route being safer the dangerous cross sands route remained well used because it was shorter and importantly it was free.

In the 18th century, industry started to appear on maps, eg on Yates's map, there were details of the extensive iron works and other industries at Backbarrow. Alan showed an Indenture dated 1709 from Elizabeth Preston to Maychell for charcoal fired forges at Cartmel and Backbarrow and the right to explore for iron ore for a yearly rent of £28. She agreed to supply 300 loads of charcoal to Maychell. This was a renewal of the first agreement dated 1691. Iron Ore was not found in quantity in the Peninsula which saved the area's landscape. In 1796, at the time of the enclosures the new land owners were granted mineral rights as an encouragement for the tenants to occupy the poorest land. Alan concluded by showing a plan of the sea embankments of 1797, 1807 and 1828, and his lovely map showing the original coastline before the establishment and drainage of the marshes overlaid onto a modern map. Notably Humphrey head was an island! And then he presented data from the Agriculture Board Returns of crops showing a time-honoured diet (in acres): Oats 1586, Barley 659, Wheat 382, Potatoes 167, Rape 58, Peas 23 & Beans 7 from a total of 8000 acres.

Phil Rowland March 2020

RESEARCH

Online Resources

National Archives at Kew are currently closed, however they are now providing free access to their digital records available on their website for as long as they remain closed to visitors. Registered users can now order and download up to 10 items at a time, up to a maximum of 50 items over a rolling 30-day period. The records include First and Second World War records, Military records, Royal and Merchant Navy records Wills, Migration records, 20th century Cabinet Papers, Security Service files and the Domesday Book. To register/log in go to <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Research Queries

The Mystery of the Farmhouse Photograph



In March we had an enquiry from America relating to the photograph of a farmhouse which the enquirer, Alison, thought was a farm in the Cartmel area. The enquirer's great grandfather, John James Hawley, had emigrated to South Africa, she was not sure when, and married Emma Hodgson in Johannesburg in 1911. Both he and his wife died in the flu epidemic of 1919 leaving children aged under 7 years old. The photograph of an English farmhouse hung in his daughter's home and was always referred to as "the family farm".

Alison had found JJ Hawley working at a farm at Low Gateside, Lower Allithwaite, in the 1901 census and wondered if this was the farm in the photograph. We were able to tell her that this was not the farm in the photograph and we had found her great grandfather emigrating in 1909, described as a miner. Further research found that JJ Hawley's family were miners from Lindal in Furness, his wife was also from a mining family in Lindal and they lived at first in mining housing in Johannesburg. When he died, aged only 34, he had purchased a 260 hectare plot of land in Pretoria that he was running as a dairy farm.

The research of the censuses had shown that JJ Hawley's family did not have a farming background but when we researched his wife's family there was a farming link. Emma Hodgson's mother, Bridget Hunter, born in 1863 in Dalton, had farming ancestors who farmed at Lindal Cote (Coat) with 140 acres employing 5 labourers. So was this the farm in the photograph?

We discovered that the layout of Lindal Cote farm (now owned by the Sharp family) was significantly changed between 1850 and 1913 and this was confirmed by a member of the Askam and Ireleth History Group to whom I sent the photograph. Unfortunately with the present lockdown this person could not visit the farm to confirm his thoughts

<http://www.cartmel-peninsula-lhs.org.uk/>

but from his memory he thought the proportions of the farmhouse in the photograph are not dissimilar to the present house at Lindale Cote.

But this begs the question that there is a bus in the photograph which shows it must have been taken in the 20th century after the above changes had taken place. I believe the family did farm at Lindal Cote but I am not certain that the photograph is of Lindal Cote farm. If anyone can identify the farm below please contact Barbara Copeland, Lyn Prescott or Pat Rowland.

Barbara Copeland

My tenuous link with the Cartmel Penninsula

Way back in the 1980's a close friend announced that she was taking a short break and had hired a caravan at a place called Flookburgh; she asked if my husband and I would like to join her. We accepted her invitation and spent a very pleasant week walking our dogs and visiting Cartmel and the Priory, Holker Hall and its gardens etc.

The caravan park was close to, or on an old airfield. The name seemed familiar and then I recalled that many years before my father had told me that he was in Flookburgh at the end of WW2. He never spoke much about it but did mention Flookburgh, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands and an airfield.

On returning home I forgot all about it until almost 30 years later. In 2013 my dad died. As my sister and myself were sorting through his possessions we came across an old chocolate box, held together by an elastic band and we recognised it immediately. The box had belonged to our mother and we knew that inside it she had kept all the letters that dad had sent to her throughout the war. Growing up we never sought to read them; both feeling that it would have been an invasion of their privacy. It was only after they had both died that we opened the box and read them for the first time. This is when my research began. I noticed that the last five letters between 1945 and 1946 were sent from Cark and Cartmel. The head of the letters read:

Pte. C Waring 3386966
19th Holding Battalion
HQ Coy
Cark and Cartmel
Lancs

Not having any other information, I searched websites trying to find out about the 19th Holding Battalion. Eventually, I found the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society (CPLHS) and sent an email in the hope that further details could be found. Unfortunately, I have not discovered exactly where the Holding Battalion was situated but with the help of Pat Rowland I now have a much clearer understanding of the area and I am almost sure that dad must have been on or very near the caravan camp where we stayed in the 1980's.

As a Social Historian I decided to write a book (for the family) based around mum's letters and how my parent's relationship developed throughout the war. This meant lots more time-consuming research into family history, various operations during WW2, prison camps etc., and so my book is still ongoing. Mum's first letter was in 1939, they were both teenagers and just friends. Dad gave a false age and joined the army in 1938 when he was just 16 years old. He became Pte. C. Waring, army No.3386966, 4th Battalion, East Lancashire regiment (TA). When war was declared his Battalion was sent to a training camp in Marlborough, Wiltshire and this is when the first letter was sent.

In April 1940 the 4th Battalion sailed to France onboard the Ben Macrea. They joined up with three other Lancashire Regiments and became part of the British Expeditionary Force on the Belgian Frontier. As the German Army advanced and Operation Dynamo was put into operation the regiments became part of the rear guard (many people now call them the forgotten heroes). They had to do everything they could to try to slow the German Army while over

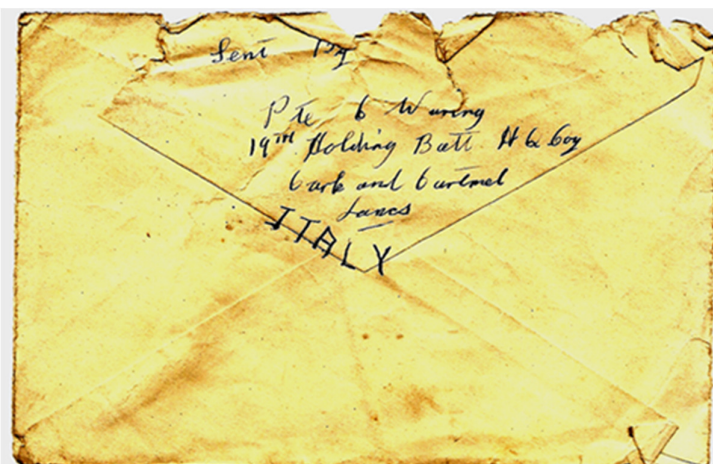
300,000 troops were evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. Dad was captured and spent the next five years in a POW Camp, Stalag XXB, Marienburg, East Prussia, (now Malbork, Poland). This is where the majority of mum's letters came from. In 1944 as the Soviet Army advanced, German authorities decided to evacuate POW camps. The evacuation of Stalag XXB began in January 1945. Being moved at short notice most of the prisoners' belongings were left behind. This is why we have none of the letters that mum sent to dad.

The winter of 1944/45 was the coldest on record so far in the 20th century with temperatures falling many degrees below freezing. As each camp was evacuated the number of prisoners marching westward increased and they were joined by Polish refugees. By April 1945 many POW camps had been liberated. Though free, the ex-prisoners were hundreds of miles from home with many suffering from illness, fatigue and starvation. They flooded into collection points throughout Europe and a method of repatriation was needed. Operation Exodus was put into place and RAF bombers were tasked to fly the POWs home. They were joined by the United States Air Force. At the height of the operation, the repatriation aircraft were arriving at a rate of 16 per hour bringing more than 1,000 people a day into British receiving camps. By the end of the operation Allied forces had brought over 354,000 ex-prisoners and Polish refugees back to the UK. They were then despatched to reception camps. This is when dad was housed on the Cartmel Peninsula.

Mum and dad were married, in their hometown of Burnley on 20th October 1945 but dad had to return to Cartmel until his demob in 1946. Like many of the soldiers who fought in WW2 dad never spoke about his experiences. We got snippets of information but he did tell us that he was flown back to England in a Lancaster and we know that as a result of the Long March he suffered frost bite in some of his toes for many years.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Pat Rowland for the valuable and interesting information that she has supplied.

Pte. C Waring - 4th Battalion
East Lancashire Regiment (TA)



Letter postmarked 20th December 1945

Ann Mayers

What we know about the Army Artillery Camp can be found on our website in the research section for Flookburgh. [CPLHS flookburgh-in-the-second-world-war-1939.pdf](https://cplhs.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/flookburgh-in-the-second-world-war-1939.pdf) This is probably where the returning soldiers were housed.

RAF Cark

The airfield to the south of Flookburgh has a long history. During the First World War it was going to be developed as an airship station but the project was abandoned. Details can be found on our website <https://cplhs.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/flookburgh-winder-moor.pdf>

During the Second World War the Government requisitioned the land again and the site became a very busy RAF station. The impact of so many extra people on the Flookburgh area, the noise generated by flying and artillery practice undertaken at the Army Camp at the end of Mile Road and the opportunities for work for the locals are difficult to comprehend. I understand that the Village Hall was a popular venue for dances and the pubs benefited from the people at RAF Cark.

The following information was extracted from Wings Over Sands, A Concise History of Cark Airfield & RAF Grange-over-Sands by John Nixon, published by Elanders in 2012.

1941 – early summer, construction commenced on site, contractors were John Laing and Son. It was built following German blitz on northern industry and considerable damage at Barrow-in-Furness.

1942 – By the new year it was decided that a fighter station was no longer needed at Cark following pressure being put on the Luftwaffe by Hitler's Russian campaign and aerial bombardment of the north having subsided. The airfield was reallocated to Training Command and on 17 March 1942 it reopened as a Staff Pilot Training Unit. Its purpose was to familiarise pilots with the type of flying being done at Air Observer Schools before they were posted to these in an instructional capacity.

Also based at Cark were Anti-Aircraft Cooperation Units who carried out aerial towing duties over Morecambe Bay to facilitate the training of anti-aircraft gunners of the Royal Artillery who also were to be based at the site. The No 9 Light Artillery Unit were based in a largely tented site south of the airfield in an area now occupied by a caravan park. The aircraft towed a target like a large wind sock that the trainees had to shoot at.

12 March Sqn Ldr J C Gibb arrived to take up post as Station Commander. He remained for the duration of the unit's life.

By 27 March 30 aircraft were on site. The aim was to have at least 40 pupils on each course.

30 April – first course commenced with 2 Officer Grades and 9 Sergeant Pilots.

2 May - 6 nursing orderlies and Station Medical officer arrived.

2 June- WAAF contingent expected but not yet arrived. Accommodation ready and in the meantime was allocated as living accommodation for airmen as their accommodation was not yet complete.

27 Aug – airmen were being billeted at Lower Holker Club.

1943 – early April - the unit staff numbers comprised

Airmen and airwomen - RAF 524, WAAF 210

Staff Pilot Training Unit (SPTU) Pilots - 60 and 30 Warrant officers/Air Gunners under training

SPTU Aircraft on strength - 31

19 April - course number 12 commenced with 30 pilots who had just completed training at Advanced Flying Units.

National 'dig for victory' initiative followed at Station as they grew many vegetables for their own use.

8 May – more aircraft had been arriving and total now was 38 serviceable and 4 under repair/scraping.

14 May – mustard gas demonstration held on SE perimeter and area was deemed unfit for occupation for 48 hours.

End of May – 50 WAAFs had arrived and some Balloon Operators and Flight Mechanics under training. They all were to receive 6 months training at Cark as Flight mechanics.

Flying hours for May - day 2,114, night 734

August – preparations being undertaken to train staff on site to undertake mountain rescue service. Staff at RAF Millom Mountain Rescue Unit where the unit was based were building a reputation.

Flying hours for Aug - day 1,454, night 659. At the same time guns were blasting out day and night during training exercises for the anti-aircraft trainees. Local villagers and staff on site must have experienced some disturbance!
Oct - Flying hours - day 1,135, night 594.
Nov - Flying hours - day 889, night 795.
Dec - Flying hours – total hours 1,149.
Variations in flying hours due to weather conditions.

1944 - Jan - 29 pilot training courses had been completed, training of WAAFs and wireless operators continued and gunners of the artillery units continued their training.
Feb - Flying hours – total hours 1,939.
March – RAF officers 82 including 30 staff Pilots under training
Airmen 531
WAAF officers 4
Airwomen 215
Aircraft 43
No numbers available for personnel at the Artillery Camp. (Imagine the social impact these numbers had on the local communities).
April - Flying hours – total hours 1,555.
May – 16th – 37th Staff Pilot Course completed.
June - Flying hours – total hours 1,556, of which 564 were night time.
Aug - Flying hours – total hours 2,519 (1647 daytime and 872 night time). Pollution from industry in Barrow and Liverpool restricted visibility and therefore flying time.

1945 – 2 Jan - RAF Millom closed and RAF Cark became base for the Mountain Rescue Unit.
Jan 17 approx– Staff Pilot course no 49 completed and course no 53 arrived to begin training. Period of snow recorded with 29th recording 6 more inches.
Jan 30 - completion of course No 50
Jan 31 – arrival of course No 54.
Feb 21 – Italian prisoners of war were recorded as working at RAF Cark
March 6 – No 52 Staff Pilot Course was completed, 3 Officers and 27 Non Commissioned Officers.
March 7 – Course No 56 men arrived, 12 Officers and 18 NCOs.
March 20 - No 53 course completed
March 21 – No 57 course commenced
April 30 - Hitler's death announced
May 7 – Germany signed surrender
May 30 - No 58 Staff Pilot course completed
July 15 – Staff Pilot course No 60 completed
July 16 – French course completed (no details)
Aug 15 – Japan surrendered following dropping of 2 nuclear bombs on the 6th and 9th.
Sept 15 – RAF at home day held at RAF Cark with about 3000 people attending a celebratory air show.
Dec 31 – RAF Cark closed and put under care and maintenance.

Pat Rowland

SOCIETY INFORMATION

Contacts (Committee)

Chairman: Stuart Harling, (s.w.harling@gmail.com) or Tel 36296.
Secretary: Barbara Copeland, (barbara.cland@btinternet.com)
Treasurer: Christine Dawson (christine567dawson@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary: Nigel Mills, (nigelmillspp@gmail.com)
Lecture Programme: Pat Rowland, (patrowlanduk@gmail.com)
Website Editor: Phil Rowland, (philrowland414@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Lyn Prescott (lynprescott@hotmail.com)
Committee Member: Catherine Bottomley, (cnblever@hotmail.co.uk)
Committee Member: Rose Clark, (roseclark83@gmail.com)

Meeting Programme

Meetings are usually held 7.30 pm in Cartmel Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

All meetings and trips until August have been suspended. A revised programme will be circulated in due course and may include the following:

3 September 2020: Janet Shimmin – Margaret Fell and the Quakers in the 17th century

Janet is a Quaker and a guide at Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston which was Margaret Fell's home in the 17th century.

1 October 2020: Simon Williams – The mystery of the chimney at Jenny Brown's Point, Silverdale

The Chairman of Mourholme Local History Society at Silverdale. Simon has been researching why there is a chimney at Jenny Brown's Point.

5 November 2020: Annual General Meeting

News and Article Submission

- Members are invited to submit news items or snippets of interest to other members to the Newsletter Editor Lyn Prescott. **Copy deadline for the next Newsletter: 30th September 2020.**
- Research articles for inclusion on the website should be submitted to the Website Editor Phil Rowland.

Website

New Research Articles

Since the last Newsletter in January 2020, the following articles have been added to the website
Lindale Tapestry in 2015, Boarbank Hall History, Plague Pestilence and Famine in the Cartmel Peninsula v2,
A Grange Grocery Business (2020 version), 110 to 116 Station Road Cark in Cartmel.