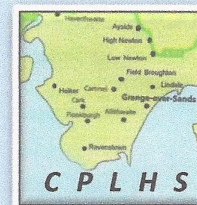


CARTMEL PENINSULA LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

"Bringing Local History to the Community"



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

Newsletter: May 2022

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Chairman's Message

Well, at last, face-to-face meetings are back.

I do hope you are enjoying them – or can now begin to do so – as much as I am. We have been treated to three excellent lectures so far and the rest of our programme has, I believe, something for us all to enjoy.

I am also delighted to have attended the visit to Lancaster Castle with 20 members. Our guide, James, was a fountain of knowledge and showed us around the castle, prison and courts with such enthusiasm and interest that we all wished we could have stayed longer. I look forward to our visits to St. Peter's Church at Field Broughton and Cartmel Priory: numbers for those are 29 and 24, so far. Any other enquiries or bookings to me, please.

Your enthusiasm to resume our meetings and visits is greatly appreciated and I am sure all will find much of interest in this Newsletter: thanks, again, to Lyn and all contributors.

We can all note the future plans of other local societies as well as our research and archive activities to date. We continue to receive enquiries from near and far and are delighted to assist, sharing our findings with all members. The note on road signs brings back fond memories and causes me to realise what changes have occurred over recent years. Cartmel Agricultural Society is to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year and I urge all who can assist Pat in our researches to make themselves known to her. This is a project in which so much information will be "out there": it will be a joy to collect it all for this special occasion.

Thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon. Keep well and stay safe.

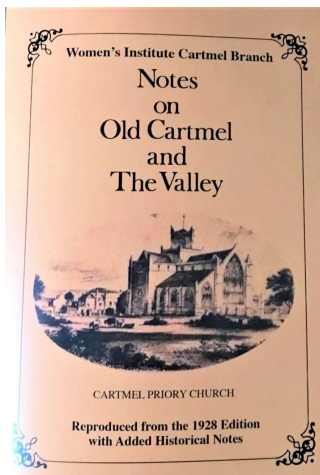
Stuart Harling

Archive & Library News

1921 Census release

Cumbria Libraries will be providing free access to the 1921 Census for England and Wales later this year (date yet to be announced). It will be available through the Library subscription for Find My Past which is only accessible when using the library computers. The release of the 1921 Census for Scotland has been delayed until later this year and will be accessible through <http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk> and in the ScotlandsPeople Centre.

Publications



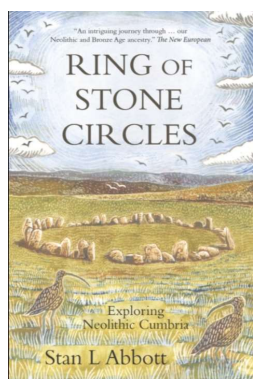
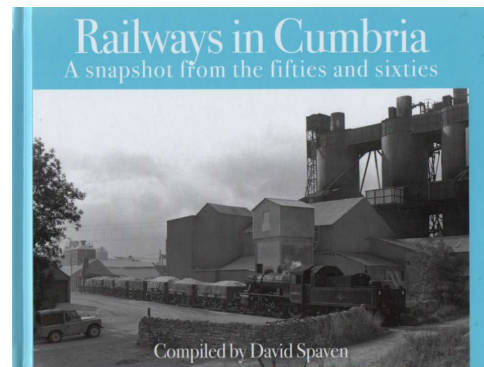
Notes on Old Cartmel and The Valley

The Society has reproduced this Women's Institute Booklet with added historical explanations. The booklet is a reproduction of the 1928 Edition produced by the Women's Institute and includes notes on the history of the area, the trades of the people, sports and games, Cartmel families etc. In addition there is a history of the Cartmel W.I. from its inception, through the wartime years and how it recovered, by several members of the branch at the time. The CPLHS has added historical notes to some of the lesser known aspects mentioned in the WI Notes and the booklet now contains over 30 pages. For all those who would like a WI booklet, they will be available at our next meeting in Cartmel Village Hall Thursday June 9th before the meeting 7pm - 7.30pm at £5. They may also be available at the Field Broughton field trip on Saturday, June 25th. For those who are unable to collect in Cartmel, we can

offer P&P for £6. Send an email to Cplhs1995@gmail.com with your address & we will let you have the BACS details. If you are already a member then you can use the membership renewal BACS details with a reference of WI + name, and send an email to Cplhs1995@gmail.com with your address.

Railways in Cumbria - A snapshot from the fifties and sixties by David Spaven

In the 1950s and 60s Cumbria offered a microcosm of what Britain's railways did, shaped as the region was by a distinctive geography and the major economic forces of mass tourism and concentrated industrial development. In this album, photos from the substantial Transport Treasury archive illustrate the character of many of the lines which served (and those which still serve) the Lake Counties. Published by Totem, ISBN 9781913893200.



Ring of Stone Circles by Stan L Abbott

Cumbria boasts more Neolithic and Bronze Age stone circles than any other English county. This book examines whether these were the earliest such monuments in Britain, placing Cumbria at the heart of Neolithic society and what purpose they had - ritualistic, astronomical, burials or meeting places? This book searches for the hidden stories these monuments guard. Published by Saraband ISBN 9781913393434.

Local History Organisations

British Association of Local History

Saturday 11th June - Local History Day 2022

This is a blended in-person (London) and virtual event. Lectures on Using post medieval manorial documents for local history research and Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages, Through the Women Written Out of It.

<https://www.balh.org.uk/events>

Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society

CWAAS was formed in 1866 and research articles have been published through their Transactions since 1874.

Physical copies of the Transactions are available in some Libraries and online through their website. An online search of the Transactions for Cartmel resulted in 422 articles, 60 for Flookburgh, 130 for Holker, 69 for Allithwaite & 59 for Lindale.

https://cumbriapast.com/cgi-bin/cwaas/cp_main.pl

Cumbria Local History Federation

The Federation has over 60 member groups (including the Society) from around the county and has useful Research links on its website. <https://www.clhf.org.uk/> The Society will be hosting the 2022 CLHF Annual Conference on 15th October – further details to follow.

Lancashire Local History Federation

The Society is also a member of the Lancashire Local History Federation, as until 1974 the area was part of Lancashire. The Federation recently held their annual Conference which was hosted by West Houghton Local History Group at West Houghton High School. The day was very interesting with lectures on West Houghton through the Ages (800 years), the Burning of Westhoughton Mill in 1812, The Bolton to Leigh Railway 1828 and The 1920 Pretoria Pit Disaster. Rather unusually for this type of event there was a musical interlude with Jim Berry of the Houghton Weavers singing their song 'Pretoria Pit Disaster'.

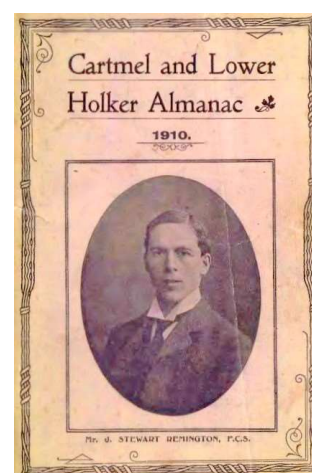
<http://www.lancashirehistory.org/>

RESEARCH

Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society Archive

Cartmel & Lower Holker Almanacs 1887 – 1918

The author and publisher of these almanacs was William Richardson Nash, who was born about 1835 in Tower Hamlets, London. He moved to Allithwaite Lodge when he was 21, to Pit Farm Cartmel in 1879 and then The Mount, Cark from 1898. William Nash's parents were Quakers, and he himself became a prominent member of the Quaker community in the Cartmel area. During the 1880s, he was no doubt developing other commercial interests besides his main one, farming and apart from starting to write and publish his almanacs in 1887 he was also involved in the incorporation of the Furness and West Cumberland Permanent Benefit Building Society in 1891, when he was its Secretary. In the first available almanac for 1894, whilst still at Pit Farm, he also advertises himself as an Insurance Agent for Fire and Life Insurance, which he continues to do until his last almanac.



The Almanacs are a fantastic resource for the local historian. We thank Barbara Copeland for allowing us to copy and add 17 Almanacs donated to her by the late Isobel Butler and the late Robert Copeland Senior, to our Archive. And a big thanks also to Peter Roden for digitising the hundreds of pages in 17 Almanacs.

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

The information in the Almanacs is incredibly comprehensive and includes articles about local people, organisations, statistics on crop production, school attendance, parish relief, local events, population figures, financial matters, etc etc, and of course the weather and its effect on farming.

We now have copies of 17 Almanacs but we would love to have copies of the missing years of 1887-1893, 1896-1898, 1901-1902, 1907, 1911 and 1915. If you come across any or know of anyone who has the missing ones please get in touch.

Nigel Mills

Research

Cartmel Doctor

Some years ago I was asked if I knew where Mr Redhead, the surgeon (local doctor), had lived and where his surgery was located. At that time I was unable to find the answer and it is only recently that several pieces of information have come to my notice and finally I have been able to locate the house and discover a fascinating history.



Mr John Redhead purchased Green Croft in 1821 which in those days lay in the area known as Barn Garth but now has an address of Priest Lane, Cartmel and he created his surgery in a small room on the right hand side of the building with external access from a door opening onto the road. John Redhead died in 1852. His daughter Anne Jane had recently married surgeon Peter Allen and Peter purchased the house and surgery from the estate having raised a mortgage in April 1853 from one of Mr Redhead's trustees, Thomas Roper. However the marriage was short because he died in 1854. Because he did not leave a will, the house (and mortgage) was inherited by his father, Peter Allen senior, who was an innkeeper at Lindale. Anne Jane was only entitled to receive a life income of half the value of the house, so the property was let and she left Cartmel. The new occupier was also a doctor, Mr John Lomax, who eventually purchased it in 1879, from the heirs of Mr Allen senior who had died in 1874. Mr Lomax was joined by his nephew William Wood who was training to be a doctor and in 1894 John Lomax gifted Green Croft to William Wood. The village surgery continued in the same place until William Wood died in 1912 and his widow continued living at Green Croft. I have not been able to establish if the surgery use continued but the current owner was able to tell me that when he purchased the house towards the end of the 20th century the room was still fitted out with shelves and numerous small drawers with drug labels attached.

To understand why local doctors were described as surgeons I have looked at the history of medicine. The class of doctors that commanded most prestige in 1800s was the physicians. They were not concerned with the external injuries, nor did they performed surgeries or set bones. Their work was mainly confined to check the pulse and urine of the patients. They were called the physicians because they only administered drugs or physic. After the physicians, came the surgeons in the medical hierarchy. Their work was to perform surgeries, cut open the chest, deal with fractures and everything that a physician could not perform. The class of surgeons did not command as much respect from the society as the physicians did.

Medicine was learned mainly from books and being an apprentice to a doctor or surgeon before the 19th century and it was only in 1780 that Universities started to establish medical schools. Doubly qualified (MRCS, LSA) surgeon-apothecaries were the forerunners of general practitioners and most rural surgeons were doubly qualified. Major regulation of the profession came with the Medical Act of 1858 that established the Medical Council "to regulate the qualifications of practitioners in medicine and surgery". It was charged with drawing up and publishing an annual register of those with specified qualifications who would be entitled to practise medicine or surgery. The first official annual Medical Register was printed in July 1858. Any person not on the Register and practising as a physician, surgeon, doctor or apothecary was liable to heavy penalty.

I have not found any physician living on Cartmel Peninsula. However research on the medical profession in our area is ongoing and if you have any information please contact me.

Pat Rowland

Have they all disappeared from Cumbria?

If you are of a certain age, and lets face it, if you are reading this you probably are, then cast your mind back to travelling the roads of England and Scotland in the 1950's. Living in Somerset we had parents who fantasised about holidays in the Lake District with its fells, lakes and passes and Scotland with its bens, lochs and glens, and especially in Mum's case bagpipes and men in kilts. My sister and I had to face something like 400 miles, sat in the back of a 1939 Morris 8 loaded up with tents and other camping paraphernalia, trundling along never ending A roads at 30mph. Does that memory ring a bell with anyone?

Our favourite pastime was to try to spot the number part of car registration plates in numerical order starting with 1. It was easier then with fewer cars and real registrations that read WYA 81 or similar, which of course also told us from where the car originated.

Our second favourite was to watch for road signs like those illustrated. The messages on the signs were simply illustrated and easily understood. They were smallish in size but at the speeds we went that was not a problem! Unlike today where road signs proliferate at every junction they were few and far between. So I hope the answer to my question "Have they all disappeared from Cumbria" is "not quite". I am sure I have spotted an old directional sign bucking the trend and still in position somewhere near Kirkby Stephen and surely there must be more tucked away in the hedgrows or villages of Cumbria.

If you see any old style hazard or warning signs, directional signs or any similar roadside architecture please let me know before they disappear for ever!

Nigel Mills

Research Enquiries

Amongst the enquiries we have recently received the following may be of interest.

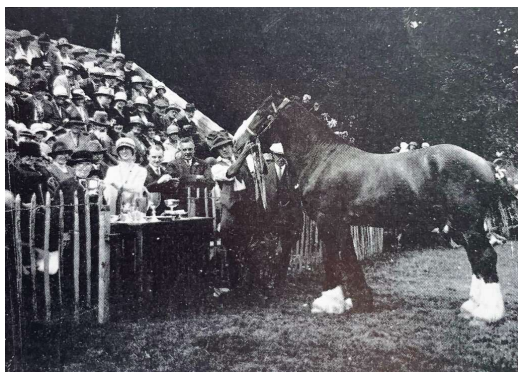


Felicity contacted us to ask if we had any information about the displaced Poles' Camp at Cark in the aftermath of the Second World War. We do not have much information but we were able to tell her that the refugees had been housed in former Nissan huts or wooden huts at RAF Cark or the Army Artillery Camp on Windermoor south of Flookburgh and the RAF station. If anyone has any photographs or memories of the families who lived there we would love to hear from you.

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



Kathy who had recently started to explore her family history wanted to know if we had any information about the Leece family who lived at Newton at the beginning of the 20th century. Her great grandmother had a shop in Cartmel and she wondered if we could identify it. We were able to find information in digitised newspapers and census returns that partially answered the question and revealed additional information. Mary Leece had run a grocery shop on Cavendish Street in 1906 and I have been able to identify the shop in Cavendish Street as the first building attached to the gatehouse which is now a display window for Rogan's shop on The Square. Her husband, a butcher running his own business, according to the 1901 census, had died in 1905 leaving Mary with a young family to support. Some family members were buried at Field Broughton and the grave was located and a picture was taken for Kathy as well as identification and photographing of where the family had lived briefly in Grange after leaving the family home in Barber Green. Kathy's ancestors were butchers and this made me wonder about butcher's businesses in rural areas like ours. The term butcher originally was used for men working in private slaughter houses such as an outbuilding, a barn or even their own cottages. Cartmel Parish Register records butchers in Ayside and Church Town Cartmel from 1719. In 1845 newspaper reports described how George Airey, a butcher of Fidler Hall, Ayside who, returning from his usual round of selling meat, was trapped in his covered wagon in the middle of the river when his horse was startled and jumped down the bank. Airey's are still trading today on the site they moved the business to in the 1850s. William Walker was described as a slaughterman in the 1861 census when he lived and worked at Airey's. The 1871 census records him and his brother Thomas living at Fidler Hall and both were butchers. He had established his own butcher's business at Headhouse by 1881 and his business was still in existence at the beginning of the 20th century. Wearing family members were described as butchers in Cartmel ChurchTown between 1812 and 1827 and William Ormandy was also a butcher living in ChurchTown from at least 1819. John Lawrence was listed in Flookburgh as a butcher in 1829. In Grange Thomas and William Westwood had established their butcher's business by 1864. In the 1861 census they had been living in Lindale where their father was a farmer and Thomas was described as a butcher but William was an assistant on the farm. More research is necessary.



Cartmel Agricultural Society is about to celebrate its 150th anniversary and we have offered to undertake research on the history of the Society and Show. Currently five of us are looking at various record sources and extracting information. Cartmel Agricultural Society has very little information about its history before 1897 and initially we are gathering the early history from digitised newspapers and researching the people who were involved with the Society. We would also like to look in greater depth at the prizes awarded, who won them and how they changed over the years. Would you be interested in joining us to contribute to our research?

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)
Lecture Programme: Rose Clark (roseclark83@gmail.com)
Membership Secretary: Nigel Mills (nigelmillspp@gmail.com)
Newsletter Editor: Lyn Prescott (lynprescott@hotmail.com)
Social Media: Geoff Beeson (geoffbeeson@icloud.com)
Website Editor: Phil Rowland, (philrowland414@gmail.com)
Committee Member: Catherine Bottomley (cnblever@hotmail.co.uk)
Committee Member: Pat Rowland (patrowlanduk@gmail.com)

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

Meeting Programme

Talks are held at 7.30 pm in Cartmel Village Hall. Visits take place at 2.30 pm (advance booking required).

- **June 9th - Alan Cleaver - Lonnings, Trods and Meanders - the ancient paths of Cumbria** Alan returns to Cartmel to talk to us about byways which today have gone into obscurity.
- **Saturday, 25th June – visit to Field Broughton** We join the visitors at the Open Day of St. Peter's Church to see the church and to hear of its history and features and to visit the village pound and limekiln. Opportunity for a picnic.
- **Tuesday, 9th August – Guided Tour of Cartmel Priory** A tour of the Priory and studying the stained glass.
- **September 1st - Simon Williams - The Mystery of the Chimney at Jenny Brown Point** There have been many stories about exactly why this local monument was built on Morecambe Bay. Simon Williams returns to talk to us about these stories and may even reveal which one is true.
- **October, 6th - Jean Turnbull - Roadside Garages and Cafes in Westmorland 1900-1970** Dr Jean Turnbull will share with us her latest research and publication on the roadside garages and cafes which became part of the local landscape in the twentieth century.
- **November, 3rd - Annual General Meeting**

If you have any questions about meetings or visits, please contact Rose Clark.

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 2022.**
- Research articles for inclusion on the website should be submitted to the Website Editor Phil Rowland.

Social Media

Our Facebook community continues to grow, now with 55 members. All talks and tours are actively promoted, and where applicable shared onto the Cartmel Peninsula Community page.

Geoff Beeson

Website

New Research Articles

Since the last Newsletter in February 2022, the following articles have been added to the website:

- CPLHS Agriculture Resources
- A timeline of Holker Estates
- The Textile Industry of the Cartmel Peninsula