Cumbria **Archives**



Cumbria Archives

Newsletter

Winter 2025/2026

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**

cumbriaarchives.org.uk

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Farewell from
Cumbria Archives' Professional Lead

Peter Eyre

I joined Cumbria Archive Service in August 1993 as an Archivist, dividing my time between the Carlisle Record Office, then at the Castle, and the Records Management Unit in Ashley Street.

Looking at the service today it would be hard to recognise the Archive Service of the 1990s. In a pre internet age paper and pencil were king. There were no computerised catalogues, let alone "Online access". Our three record offices at Barrow, Carlisle and Kendal also suffered from cramped and poor quality accommodation for our records, staff and users. Beyond core professional principles, national cataloguing standards were in their infancy and this was reflected in our catalogues. Rather than our advanced digitisation service, professional photographers were employed to provide copies of records that could not be photocopied on a paid basis. Remote access came in the form of the Historical Research Service which employed researchers to carry out research on behalf of clients who could not visit the record offices in person.



In some ways the Cumbria Archive Service of the early 90s still reflected its origins as the Joint Archives Committee established by Cumberland, Westmorland and the City of Carlisle in 1962. The record office in the Castle at Carlisle and Westmorland County Hall in Kendal reflected very different traditions and professional approaches to the management of and access to their collections. However it would be wrong to portray Cumbria Archive Service as a service in stasis. Conservation had emerged from being a craft activity, managed by just one technician, to a team of professionally qualified conservators who took a more proactive role in collection care across the service. Local Government Reorganisation in 1974 proved to be a major impetus in the establishment of the Records Management Unit and a corporate role for the Archive Service in managing the collective memory of Cumbria and its predecessors. In particular

'When I joined the service, Cumbria Archive Service was at the beginning of a transformation that has continued to this day.'

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the new RMU focussed on rescuing the records of pre 1974 local authorities and selecting those worthy of long term historic preservation. Our aspiration to bring archives to the community was also beginning to bear fruit with the opening of a new record office in Barrow in its current location in 1979.

When I joined the service, Cumbria Archive Service was at the beginning of a transformation that has continued to this day. The opening of a joint Archive and Local Studies Centre in Whitehaven in 1996 brought together the rich local heritage of a long neglected Georgian town and restored a historic police station in the process. A strongroom was fashioned from the original police cells, giving a new meaning to “secure accommodation”. This was closely followed by fresh investment into Barrow Record Office to create an Archive and Local Studies offer in Barrow Library. Both projects delivered a transformation in the care and access to the written heritage of these distinct communities.

A new strongroom was fashioned from the original police cells, giving a new meaning to “secure accommodation”.

It is hard to deny that the crowning achievement of this stage in Cumbria Archive Service development came with the creation of a new purpose-built archive centre serving Carlisle and north Cumbria. At Petteril Bank we now have a superb facility where we have seen a major uplift in our capacity to preserve and conserve collections from the 12th century to the present day. The new Archive Centre gave us a new standard for storage and access to these collections whilst the



development on the site of a 19th century mansion has offered a very popular wedding venue.

Over the last 32 years I had the privilege of working in all 4 of our archive centres with some outstanding colleagues. There have been many highlights and, inevitably, a few disappointments. Staying with the positive, perhaps the most satisfying chapters in my career revolve around our success in rescuing collections and documents of international significance including Lady Anne Clifford's Great Books of Record, reuniting the three surviving sets for the first time in over 300 years. The acquisition of Alfred Wainwright's (AW) archive has provided a source of inspiration for people of all ages to learn about AW, his art and appreciate the landscape and environment that inspired him.
During the last 10 years I also had the pleasure of leading South Lakeland Libraries and supporting the work of a very dedicated team. Although we had the challenges of COVID to contend with, our archive and libraries continued to serve our communities across Cumbria. We also had some notable successes such as the refurbishment of Ambleside Library which is now home to Lakes Parish Council and working with the Community Development Team to deliver a series of health and wellbeing fairs, hosted in our libraries.

'Cumbria Archives was among the first Archive to be accredited nationally as an excellent service.'

Leading Cumbria Archives has been the greatest honour of my career and I wish my successors all the best in taking Cumbria Archives forward. Despite over 10 very difficult years for local government and the archives, we have continued to develop as a service. Cumbria Archives was among the first archive services to be accredited nationally as an excellent service. We are building on that with the rollout of our digital preservation system, *Preservica.* This will give us the ability to preserve, curate and provide access to digital records and images and reach a new audience for our written heritage.

Another opportunity lies in investing in the future of Kendal Archives. All our archive centres are a home to a written heritage cared for by dedicated colleagues and includes collections of international significance. In Kendal the potential exists to work with other cultural institutions in Westmorland to bring our collections to a wider audience. Westmorland & Furness is home to some amazing museums and galleries that complement our archive and local studies' collections. I fervently hope that we can capitalise on this tremendous, shared community asset for the benefit of all, now and in the future.



Peter Eyre, Archives Professional Lead (1993-2025)

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Welcome to Cumbria Archives

Robert Baxter and Erika Freyr, Archives' Professional Leads

This issue sadly marks a farewell from Peter Eyre, a colleague of mine for many years. I am grateful for the support and assistance Peter always gave me and we wish him a very happy and healthy retirement. I also hope he will continue to maintain an interest in the archive sector and Cumbria Archives in particular.





Following Peter's retirement, Erika Freyr, Senior Conservator, and I will be co-managing Cumbria Archives, with Erika based at Carlisle Archives and myself based at Kendal Archives. Therefore, this newsletter offers an opportunity for both Erika and me to introduce ourselves. Like Peter, I am proud to have a long association with Cumbria Archives, in my case dating back to the 1980s as a history undergraduate, using original documents at the then Kendal Record Office as research material for my final year dissertation. Something of the service must have left a decent impression on me, as by January 1994 I found myself as a postgraduate volunteer at the same office. Due to good fortune a sympathetic county archivist, Jim Grisenthwaite, recruited me to temporary posts at the Kendal and Barrow Record Offices before and after completing my professional qualification.

In 1997 I began a six year stay at King's College London, initially as an archivist within the Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, and then running a large archive cataloguing project for the AIM25 consortium of London institutions. I had an opportunity to return to Cumbria in 2002, taking up the post of Archivist at Whitehaven Record Office, later progressing to a county wide role as Senior Archivist, and moving to the Kendal office in 2020.

I can echo Peter's reminiscences of the service over 30 years ago. At the Kendal office, the archivists submitted their catalogues in pencil to be typed up by the admin assistant. A single computer terminal, looked upon with general staff suspicion, was used for mysterious word processing and accounting purposes. The only means of searching the collections was by trawling through many shelves of bound paper catalogues and index cards. Staff relied upon their memory or heavily annotated guidance notes to answer queries and to locate collections in the strongrooms. There was no website and no staff or office email accounts, and enquiries came by letter or

the constantly ringing telephone. The searchroom was rarely quiet and on some days, what seemed like torrents of family historians would flood the searchroom to view microfiche census records and microfilm parish registers.

Although our task to collect, protect and make available the records of Cumbria remains as it was in those days, many underlying changes have taken place. With local government budgets under constant pressure, we work with smaller staff numbers, shorter opening hours and a need to work via appointments and document requests. Both staff and researchers are able to interrogate our collections through the use of our electronic collection management system, CASCAT, making for more accurate and encompassing research. Researchers have higher expectations of ready digital access, and many enquiries are handled remotely and quickly via email and e-payment.

The next year or two will bring further exciting developments. We shall be shortly introducing a new collection management system for staff and an improved successor to CASCAT, our online catalogue. We now have a specialist secure digital repository for the permanent preservation of digital content (images, documents and audio) to complement our physical strongrooms, and we shall introduce a public portal to make this digital content available. We await news on the future of Kendal Archives and Kendal County Offices.

Erika and I are grateful to all our contributors for this newsletter, and Sandra Buckland for compiling and editing the articles. We hope you enjoy the contents. **Robert**

I was appointed Senior Conservator for Cumbria Archive Service in 2020 - a strange year to start any job - and was asked to be a part of the archives management team, alongside Robert Baxter our Senior Archivist, when Peter Eyre took on the role of Archives Professional Lead in 2021.

Together, we helped Peter navigate the service through Local Government reorganisation in 2022-23, and settled into our roles in the newly rebranded Cumbria Archives. since Peter's retirement in August this year Robert and I work together to lead the service, acting as archive professional leads. This offers many challenges and exciting opportunities for professional development, whilst our combined knowledge and insight into the many different aspects of Archives is beneficial to progressing the service.

I've worked in Archives since qualifying as a conservator in 2014, specialising in parchment and flat works on paper. Along with Fay Humphreys, I've enjoyed working in the conservation unit at Lady Gillford's House in Carlisle, and travelling to the archive sites across Cumberland and Westmorland. Learning about the digitisation process at Cumbria Archives has been a particular highlight for me, and working with the digitisation technicians is a fantastic resource for collections care.

I would like to echo Robert's best wishes, and give my thanks to Peter for his support and mentorship over the last few years. **Erika**

Researcher's Contribution

Music, Heritage, Place:
Uncovering Cumbria Archives' musical gems
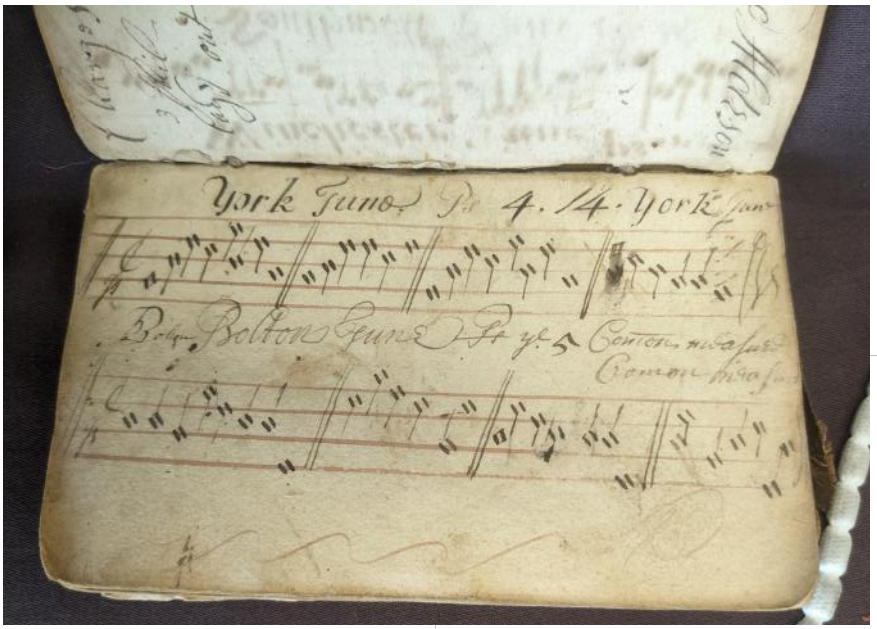
Dr Steph Carter, Newcastle University

Amongst Cumbria Archives' collections are numerous examples of songs, tunes, psalms, hymns and music pedagogy. The *Music, Heritage, Place* project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and delivered by Royal Holloway, University of London, and Newcastle University, is investigating the musical sources held across England's county record offices.

By uncovering these printed and manuscript sources of notated music dating between *c*.1550 and 1850, the music held in county record offices is being placed collectively in the spotlight for the first time. The result is a shift away from a previously centralised understanding of England's music history focused on the royal court or university and cathedral cities. Instead, the project is shedding light on musical traditions in specific places and regions, and transforming our understanding of music-making across



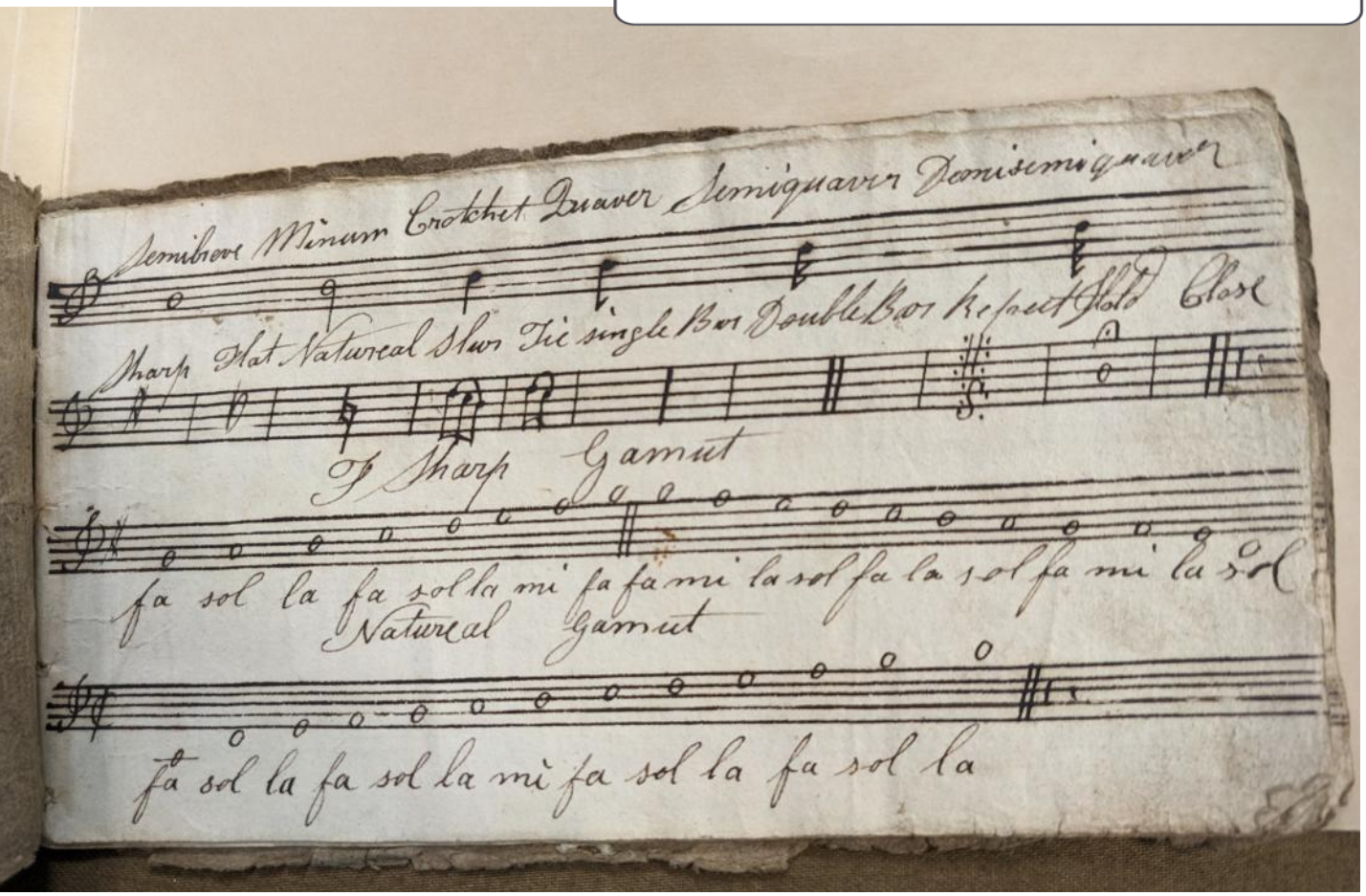
Below: Richard Alderson's tune book, 1720. (Kendal Ref: WDX 219)





'… the project is shedding light on musical traditions in specific places and regions, and transforming our understanding of music-making across England.'

Researcher's Contribution



Above: Isabella Routledge's music book, c.1820. (Carlisle, DEW1302)

England. We are discovering previously untold stories about the men and women active in musical life during past centuries. One of the really exciting parts of the project is that we are connecting our archival discoveries with today's communities to inspire a new generation of musicians via school and educational workshops, festival performances and as *The Song Detectorists* on BBC Radio 3's The Essay programme.

Eighteen months into the project, we have visited almost every county record office across England, discovered over 800 musical items and created over 9,000 catalogue entries of the sources and the tunes they contain in the open-access database *Répertoire International des Sources Musicales* (RISM for short), a scholarly initiative to document pre-1850 musical sources. Thanks to the *Music, Heritage, Place* project, the UK now has the second largest collection of sources listed on RISM across the globe. None of this would have been possible without the support, knowledge and enthusiasm of archival staff across the country to identify an absolute treasure trove of musical material in their collections. Printed and manuscript music abound across the country, originating from private family collections,

'Eighteen months into the project, we have visited almost every county record office across England, discovered over 800 musical items and created over 9,000 catalogue entries of the sources and the tunes they contain in the open-access database.'

Researcher's Contribution

parish churches and other religious institutions. Cumbria is no different: a large music collection originating from the Senhouse family is held between Carlisle and Whitehaven Archives, and there are music books from churches including Brampton, Cartmel and Nonconformist chapels in Kendal and Penrith. Carlisle Cathedral's late 18th-century choir part-books are deposited at Carlisle, along with Thomas Smith's surviving alto and bass part-books compiled by the Dean and then Bishop of Carlisle during his student days in Oxford in the 1630s. Many music items are very personal in nature: tune books are compiled by specific individuals, including clergy and farmers in Cumbria, merchants in Newcastle, and shoemakers in Lancashire. Cumbria holds a particular wealth of sources containing rudimentary instruction in music, such as the single sheet of recorder music accompanied by a drawing of the instrument down one margin of the page and explanations of finger placings for each note (Barrow, BDTB/11/8/12).

'Many music items are very personal in nature: tune books are compiled by specific individuals, including clergy and farmers in Cumbria, merchants in Newcastle, and shoemakers in Lancashire.'

Two small 18th-century notebooks related to the Birkett family of Low Wood Farm near Windermere contain doodles, pen trials and notated psalm tunes alongside pedagogical directions, and signed by multiple members of the family: William, Dorothy, Elinor and Anne (Kendal, WDTE/Box16/5). Other examples include four 19th century psalm books belonging to the Ewart/Routledge family of Bewcastle, including two owned by Isabella Routledge (Carlisle, DEW/1/30, 35 and 47).

Perhaps most intriguing is the prevalence of musical notation in unexpected places: amongst parish registers, tithe maps, private letters, commonplace books, diaries, administrative documents, probate records. Fragments of music manuscripts are used as binders' waste, to wrap books or to line boxes. Handwritten tunes happily sit alongside recipes, poetry, household accounts, farming notes, weather reports, pen trials and doodles. For example, Richard Alderson's compilation of psalm tunes sits adjacent to his farming notes, animal cures and moralistic sayings in his 1720 notebook. (Kendal, WDX 219).

While the cataloguing and research continues for the musical sources at Carlisle and Kendal Archives, it is fascinating to find the threading of notated music through the fabric of everyday life, hinting at a wonderfully rich musical culture and soundscape in Cumbria reflected across the country.

Dr Steph Carter is a Research Associate on the *Music, Heritage, Place* project with responsibility for the most northern counties of England. She is also the Head of Collections at Carlisle Cathedral.

Barrow Archives News Update

Hazel Gatford, Archivist

New collections

Over the last few months we have added a wide variety of new accessions to our collections. Each one is an important addition to the documented history of Furness, but a few highlights include:

BDP 199

Photographs of Barrow-in-Furness theatres 1920s-1980s including Tivoli Theatre, Her Majesty's Theatre, The Old Palace Theatre, Alhambra Palace of Varieties, Royalty Theatre.

BDFCRC [various]

Registers of the Roman Catholic parishes of Barrow-in-Furness 1865-2013: St Mary, St Patrick, Sacred Heart, St Columba, Holy Family, St Pius.

Below: A talk by Jean McSorley to launch her book *Mud, Mayhem and Moneymen* (page 13).



BDSO 18
Barrow Naturalists Field Club Minute books, club Secretary's notebooks, correspondence, syllabus cards, Centenary lecture notes and miscellaneous papers 1948-2003.

BDSO 201
Minute book of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen Technical Section 1918-1949.

BDX 975
A collection of programmes for performances by Amateur Dramatic Societies, Barrow-in-Furness 1946-1972.

BDX 977
Illuminated copy of the speech given by James Ramsden at the unveiling of a statue of himself in Ramsden Square, Barrow-in-Furness together with the grant of the Baths on Bath Street to the town, 21 May 1872.

BDX 979
Plan of area covered by Air Raid Precautions Post C5: Newbarns, Beacon Hill and Flass Lane, Barrow-in-Furness (Warden Samuel Jacques) 1939-1945.

BDX 375
Additional papers of the Dobson family of Urswick including photographs of family members and local scenes, manuscript articles written by Martha Helena Dobson on aspects of local history and local life,



(ARP plan, Barrow, BDX 979)

late 19th-mid 20th century. A great deal of work in archives necessarily goes on behind the scenes. Staff at Barrow Archive Centre have been busily working on various essential collections management tasks and projects which make our collections more resilient and more accessible and allow us to make them available to researchers.

We have been working through a programme of appraising, cataloguing and packaging some of our large local government collections. During the process we have been able to consolidate and reorganise these and other collections in our strongrooms to make the most of our storage space, while making the collections themselves more physically accessible for staff to retrieve, and more readily accessible to researchers by cataloguing them. We have also continued cataloguing and packaging two large solicitors' collections. These include a huge range of document types and subject matter, from family papers and landed estates, local business and industry, to charities and personal papers, making them relevant to research into many aspects of local life. Interesting finds include the minute books of the North Lonsdale Agricultural Society 1889-1919 [BDKF/C/182]; papers of the Guides Over Kent and Leven Sands Charity including guides' tenancies of cottages and other property matters, 1870s-1920s; minute books 1825-1920s and financial papers of the Billincoat Charity of Dalton-in-Furness (the charity originated circa 1626 as the charities of Richard Gaitskill and Sir Thomas Preston, when the profits from certain lands were left to the benefit of the poor and to provide marriage portions to 'further poor maids in marriage' and to pay the fees of poor apprentices). Cataloguing has also brought to light some visually attractive items including a drawing of houses at Rampside, with a note of their history since 1812 [BDKF/P/15], and an intriguing silhouette of an unidentified Victorian gentleman. (BDKF/C/Misc/42)



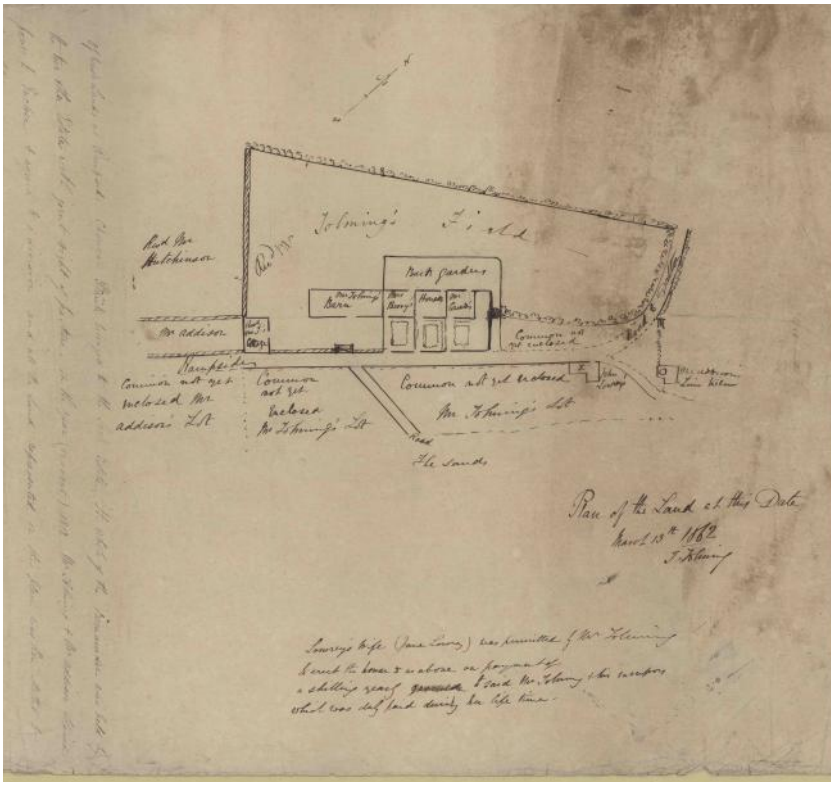
Above: BDKF/C/Misc 42

Outreach

Through the summer and autumn Susan Benson led several local history walks around Barrow, including one focussing on the history of Cavendish Dock, and two for the Active Cumbria initiative. She represented the Archive Centre at Barrow's annual Medieval Fair in August which attracted 900 visitors, and at Barrow Town Hall for Heritage Open Days in September. The Archive Centre hosted talks on diverse subjects including *Rampside and Roa Island*, and *Crossings of Walney* both by Peter Laird, a talk by Jean McSorley to launch her book *Mud, Mayhem and Moneymen*, and talks on *Prisoners of War and the early 19th century diaries of yeoman farmer William Fleming of Pennington*.



Above and right: Houses at Rampside, BDKF/P15



Archivist Susan Benson retired at the end of October, after an impressive 38 years of working in various roles for Cumbria Archives at Barrow Archive Centre. She will be missed by her colleagues, our researchers and our volunteers, but we wish her all the very best for her retirement.

Farewell from
a well loved Barrow Archivist



After 38 years of working for Cumbria Archives in several different roles, I have decided to retire so that I can spend more time with my husband.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work and would recommend archives as a career to anyone interested in history. While studying Ancient and Medieval History and Archaeology at Liverpool, I spent three weeks working at Bristol City Record Office and loved the experience. After a year gaining experience at the University Archives and Merseyside Record Office, I completed a Masters in Archives Administration at Liverpool and then moved to Barrow in August 1986.

So much has changed since then. There were no computers until the early 1990s. All our catalogues of collections were typed by the secretary, Pat, firstly on a manual typewriter and then on an electric one. If there were any mistakes, she had to retype the page. Similarly, letters were handwritten and then typed. Now we enter collections details on our CALM database, making them immediately available online via CASCAT, our online catalogue, for researchers to see what is held in each of the four archive centres. Most of our enquiries come by email so we rarely write a letter.

Family history has always been a popular research subject and became more popular after *Who Do You Think You Are?* was first broadcast. Until the parish registers were microfilmed, we had to retrieve the originals from the strongroom, sometimes over 20 a day. Boxes of paper and volumes can be very heavy, so working in an archive centre can be physically demanding. If you need to rescue collections, you may have to deal with dust and sometimes mould.

I have seen a lot of staff come and go over the last 38 years, as levels of staffing in Barrow increased and then decreased. The Record Office became an Archive and Local Studies Centre when the building was extended in the late 1990s and two new strongrooms were built. With the refurbishment of the library in 2020, local studies moved back into the library and the archive centre lost control of the books (but kept the photographs and pamphlets).

Outreach has been a passion of mine and through talks, workshops for school children and exhibitions, I have tried to open up access to the archives and the treasures we hold. Not everyone wants to undertake research, but many want to learn about the history of the area and see some of the thousands of documents we hold.

So goodbye Cumbria Archive Service. Thank you to all the staff I have worked with for their support and encouragement, to the volunteers I have worked with who have created so many name rich indexes, which we could never have achieved alone, and to the researchers I have met over the years.

Susan Benson, Archivist

Library **Collaboration**

Barrow Blitz Project

Pippa Martin, Library Outreach Officer and
Hannah Clarke, Library and Customer Manager

Barrow Library has been part of *Our Freedom: Then and Now*, a new UK-wide, locally led heritage, arts and creative program marking the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Barrow library was one of twenty UK libraries to be awarded funding to develop an exciting project and series of events reflecting on the profound meaning of freedom, 80 years after the end of the Second World War. Barrow Library holds a unique place in local history; situated in an area heavily impacted by the "Barrow Blitz" air raids, its basement once served as an air raid shelter. Today, as a designated 'Library of Sanctuary', it stands as a haven for the community - a place where individuals have the freedom to express their thoughts and where creativity, dialogue, and connection can flourish. Through this project we were delighted to work with illustrator, writer and comic-book artist, Lyndon White. Lyndon created a comic-art book for Barrow Library *After The Fire*. It is a heartfelt coming-of-age story rooted in local history and resilience.

The book was launched in November 2025 and is available on BorrowBox via W&F libraries' website. The development of the project took a collaborative approach exploring amazing stories and heartfelt memories from Barrow's past. Through research supported by Cumbria Archives and connecting with communities including heritage volunteers to look back at what freedom meant for people in Barrow in 1945 as the Second World War ended. The narrative is inspired by contributions from people sharing real life stories and from archive material including diaries and letters.

The project was made possible due to support from our project partners Cumbria Archives, Lakes International Comic Arts Festival and Dock Museum.

The project was funded by the UK Government through Arts Council England, the Future Arts Centres and Libraries









Above: Cover and page from 'After the Fire'; Lyndon White, author, collaborating with Susan Benson, Cumbria Archives; Lyndon attending a meeting.

Planning in the Old and New Worlds

Joan Coutu, Professor of Art History and Visual Culture
at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

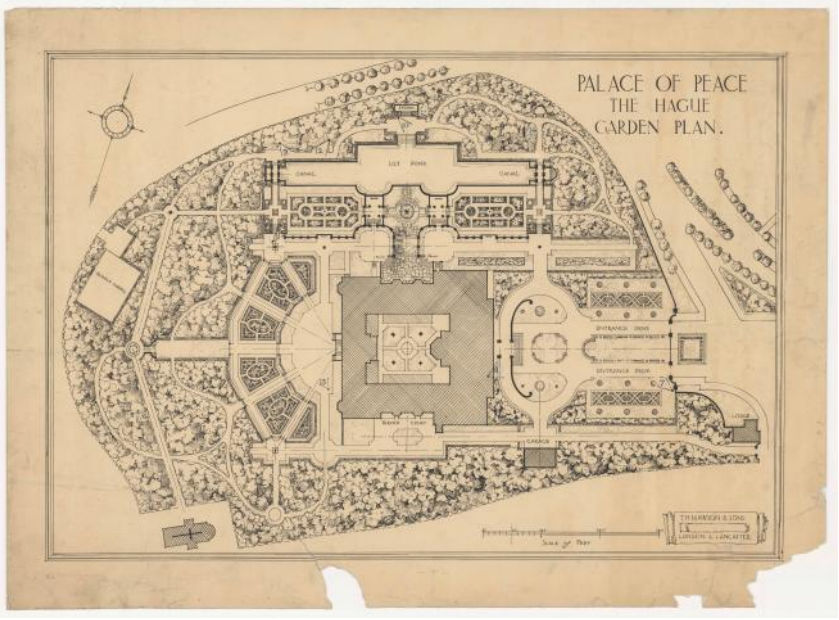
Thomas H. Mawson (1861-1933) remains well-known amongst garden enthusiasts, especially in the northwest of England where several of his elaborate residential gardens survive.



By contrast, his town planning efforts have been almost completely forgotten, although he produced an extraordinary number of designs for parks, communities, university campuses, and entire towns and cities. These include Dunfermline, Bolton, and Cardiff in the UK, Thessaloniki and Athens in Greece, and more than fifteen sites in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Stylistically, his design approach was grounded in classicism infused with English Arts and Crafts characteristics. The originals of most of his plans are housed in the Kendal Archive Centre in Kendal's Carnegie Library, fitting given that Andrew Carnegie was one of Mawson's first great patrons.

My book project focuses on this little-known rich dimension of Mawson's career. Part of my intention is to consider Mawson alongside Edward Lutyens, Herbert Baker, Ebenezer Howard, Patrick Geddes, and Raymond Unwin (whose fame continues to live on). They were all working at the beginning of the twentieth century when town planning was being formalised as a profession. Another aspect of my project is to highlight the entrepreneurial spirit of these men in this dynamic capitalist era. My scope is both global and imperial, to match the expansive perspective shared by many countries, world

'Stylistically, his design approach was grounded in classicism infused with English Arts and Crafts characteristics.'



Right: Palace of Peace Gardens, The Hague. Kendal, WDB 86/4/93

Researcher's Contribution

leaders, and industrialists of the time.
The global is especially evident at the Peace Palace at The Hague, seat of the then novel concept of international peace through law. Louis Cordonnier designed the building and Mawson laid out the extensive gardens, both funded by Andrew Carnegie who was the wealthiest industrialist *cum* philanthropist of the era. (The Carnegie Foundation still owns and maintains the site). Another example is Mawson's work in Greece, where he accepted a commission by the king to redesign Athens and was also a member of the international team that rebuilt Thessaloniki after the devastating fire in 1917. In both cases, the plans were emphatically classical, a reassertion of Greece as the cradle of Western civilization after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Mawson's imperial reach offers a fascinating contrast to that of Lutyens, Baker, and Geddes, who worked in India, South Africa, and (not imperial) British Mandatory Palestine, parts of the world that were densely populated with pre-existing permanent settlements. Instead, Mawson set his sights on the Canadian Prairies, where the government had recently confined the nomadic Indigenous Peoples to reservations and was actively giving away land to Europeans and North Americans in an effort to become the 'bread basket' of the world. The land was considered a 'clean slate' and the settler population grew sevenfold within two decades; for example, Saskatchewan's population went from 91,000 in 1901 to 757,500 in 1921. Seizing the opportunity, Mawson toured Canada three times, gave lantern slide lectures, and worked with federal and municipal governments. He set up a branch office in Vancouver and prepared designs for the new cities of Regina and Calgary, the townsite of Banff (in Canada's first national park), suburbs for other cities, and at least four university campuses.



Above: Thomas Mawson & Son, Plan of Thessaloniki after the Great Fire of 1917, drawing with watercolour. Centre portions built. WDB 86/4/77.

At the same time, he designed some sites in New Zealand and Australia, although he missed his opportunity to travel there because he was summoned to Greece (in 1913).
Reminiscent of his garden designs but on an exponentially larger scale, his city and town plans feature immense tree-lined avenues that culminate in grand vistas and are punctuated with civic, shopping, and religious nodes. The debt to Haussmann's Paris and Washington, DC is obvious. The residential districts, meanwhile, are cosy iterations of the English Arts and Crafts and Garden City Movement, recalling, for example, Port Sunlight in Merseyside which was built by Lord Leverhulme, another of Mawson's long-term patrons.
Mawson was working at a time when social reform had become a widespread concern in Britain and the United States, brought on by the dystopic working and living conditions associated with the Industrial Revolution. Howard, Unwin, and Geddes offered sociologically integrated approaches in which design was grounded in rigorous social and topographical surveys, with access to education, other services, and - most importantly - nature. Letchworth Garden City is the prototype. American planners, meanwhile, were caught up in the City Beautiful Movement and emphasized aesthetics over sociology, so strikingly evoked in Chicago's White City at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition. Mawson's design philosophy drew upon both. As his plans, many reports, lectures, and published texts (e.g., *Civic Art* of 1911) indicate, he resolutely believed good design would improve social conditions. Of all of Britain's prominent planners and architects of the time, it was Mawson who most embraced City



Above: Banff, Alberta, Canada, Thomas H. Mawson, aerial view of proposed museum and CPR hotel for Banff, 1913. WDB 86/9/47.

Researcher's Contribution



'Of all of Britain's prominent planners and architects of the time, it was Mawson who most embraced City Beautiful precepts.'

'Mawson was working at a time when social reform had become a wide-spread concern in Britain and the United States, brought on by the dystopic working and living conditions associated with the Industrial Revolution.'

Beautiful precepts. His preference for aesthetics is also a natural outgrowth of his garden design sensibilities. Yet, genuine social awareness is evident, echoing Lever's philanthropic paternalism at Port Sunlight and work by Howard, Unwin, and Geddes. We might characterize Mawson's approach as aesthetic-sociological, rather than sociological-aesthetic.

Ultimately, few of Mawson's plans outside of Britain came to fruition. Of all the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand projects, only the gardens around the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina were created and hints of his Banff plans resonate in the quasi-Tudor-Elizabethan houses and parish church built in the 1920s. Likewise, nothing came of Mawson's plans for Athens. The reason has much to do with timing: after years of exponential growth, the global economy took a downturn in 1913 and then the First World War erupted in 1914. The war utterly deflated the ambitious, utopic fervour of the pre-war era and, with that, more prosaic City Efficient town planning precepts would win out over bombastic aesthetic grandeur. (Thessaloniki was the exception, propelled by pressing practical necessity and a fleeting moment of trying to pick up where things had left off.)

Why, then, should we bother to look at Mawson's planning proposals? If we do, they offer concrete visual expression of the dynamic social, economic, and aesthetic currents of the turn of the twentieth century. Utopic and often global, these ambitious currents continue to resonate into our own time and define much of how we live today.

I discuss Mawson's proposals for Banff in more detail in "The Architecture of Tourism: Banff and Niagara Falls," in a volume of essays called *Classicism in Canada: Ambition, Utopia, Hubris* (edited by me and David A. Galbraith), to be published by McGill - Queen's University Press in May 2026.

My bigger project on Mawson is ongoing.

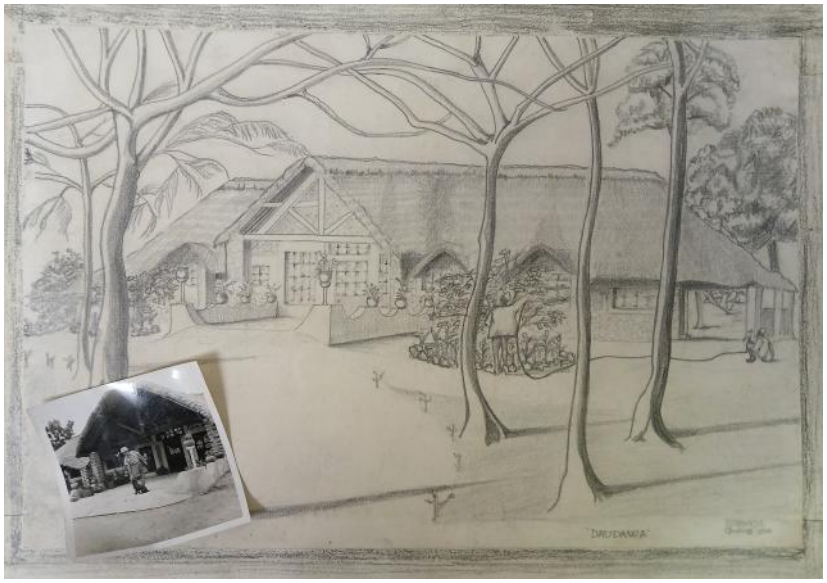
Joan Coutu's PhD is from University College London (1993) and her research focuses on the built environments of the eighteenth-century British Empire and early twentieth-century Canada.

Kendal Archives News Update

Anthony Hughes, Archivist

Recent accessions

Kendal Archives received many new accessions in 2025, on the following pages you will find some of the highlights.



Above: Gilbert Browne's residence in Nigeria, from 1936. WDBRO.

WDSO 455

Milnthorpe Angling Association, including minutes and papers, 1985-2001; bailiff's diary, 1938; correspondence 1973, 1988-2001; annual reports, 1865-1967; surveys and reports on River Bela 1971-2008; Thomas Stainton, river watcher, diaries, 1926 & 1927; keeper's report 1987, etc., 1865-2019

WDAW

Letters from Alfred Wainwright to Mr Townsend of The Border Hotel, Kirk Yetholm, regarding free pints for walkers who complete the Pennine Way, 1968-1986

WDEC 54

Heversham and Milnthorpe Christmas Charities, including minutes, accounts, and correspondence relating to the following charities: Edward Suart, Robert Johnson, Woodhouse Estate, Leck Tithes, Thomas Atkinson, M E Wintle, 19th-20th century

WDSO 456

Kendal Tangent Club, including minutes 1969-2020; agendas and reports for AGMs 2008-2020; annual accounts 1995-2018; account book 1988-2021; programmes 1996-2020; scrapbook, etc., 1969-2022

WDBRO

Browne family of The Boot, Troutbeck, including documents relating to Gilbert Browne and his career as an agricultural engineer in Nigeria in the 1940s; photographs of various Browne family members; deeds relating to The Boot and other premises in Troutbeck; letters; diaries; sales particulars; memoranda books, etc., 1586-1950

WDSO 295

Kendal Civic Society, files of papers and correspondence covering Kendal Civic Society projects and activities, 1980s-2010s

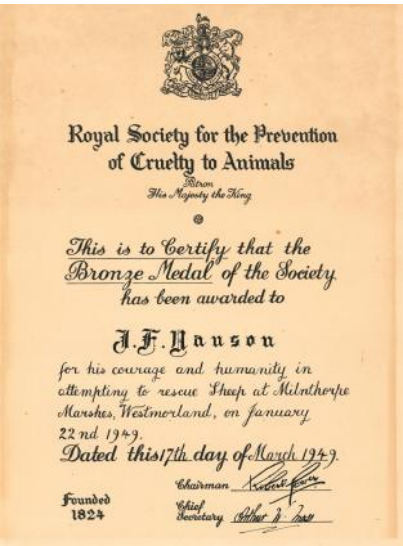
WDX 2115

Windermere Belgian Refugee Committee

minute books, 1914-1919

WDB 61
K Shoemakers Limited of Kendal, plans of building developments and extensions, with some associated correspondence, 1940s-2000

WDX 2118
Nanson family of Milnthorpe, including papers relating to John Furness Nanson;


Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Patron His Majesty the King
This is to Certify that the Bronze Medal of the Society has been awarded to
J. F. Nanson
for his courage and humanity in attempting to rescue Sheep at Milnthorpe Marshes, Westmorland, on January 22nd 1949.
Dated this 17th day of March 1949.
Chairman
Chief Secretary
Founded 1824

Above: RSPCA certificate awarded to J F Nanson in 1949 for courage and humanity in attempting to rescue sheep. WDX 2118

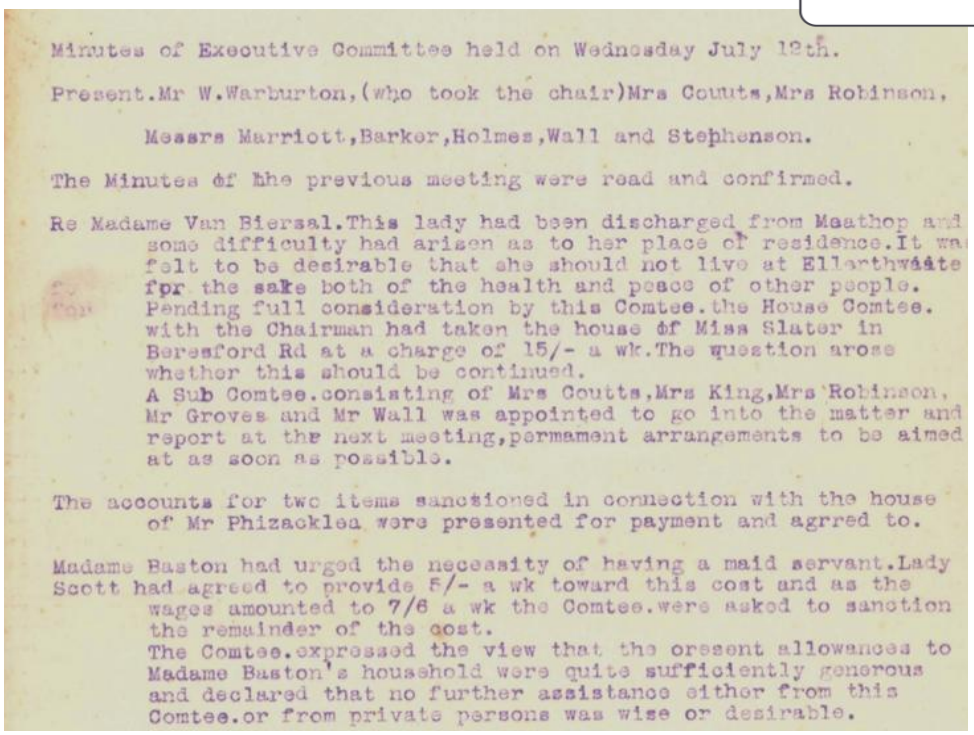
Lawrence Nanson, land agent and surveyor, Dallam Tower estate; correspondence; family photographs; photographs relating to Kendal and District Otter Hounds; plans relating to drainage areas around Heversham and Milnthorpe; newspaper cuttings relating to rights of way, trespass, fishing, and other land matters, 1895-1942; Beetham war memorial minute book, 1919-1227, 19th-20th century

WDSO 457
Hawkshead Lodge, no. 4354, including minutes 1931-1978; signature books 1934-2023; declaration book 1922-1960

WDSO 458
Guild of Lakeland Craftsmen, including programmes, directories, lists of members, history of the Lakeland Craftsmen, etc. 1964-1980

WDX 2119
Notes on the Strickland family of Sizergh Castle, mostly transcripts of passages from *History and Antiquities of Westmorland and Cumberland* by Nicholson & Burn; with a few pieces of extra information relating to the then contemporary Strickland family; some notes in French including a list of the sovereigns of England up to William IV.

WDX 2115
Windermere Belgian Refugee Committee
Two volumes of minutes of the Windermere Belgian Refugee Committee were donated to Cumbria Archives earlier this year. Many such committees were set up across the country during the First World War and were tasked with managing the needs of Belgians who sought refuge here. The committees dealt with housing provision, finding jobs, wages and expenses, medical support, and much more. The two minute books donated to us cover 1914 to 1919 and they deal with the issues mentioned above along with other interesting issues. There are minutes dealing with refugees' wages and jobs, minutes relating to complaints from refugees who felt they were not being paid enough, and minutes relating to those wanting assistance to find jobs locally or in other parts of the country. It was advised to register the names of refugees at the local Labour Exchange, and some refugees found employment as boot makers, tailors, chauffeurs,



Minutes of Executive Committee held on Wednesday July 12th.

Present.Mr W.Warburton,(who took the chair)Mrs Coutts,Mrs Robinson,

Messrs Marriott,Barker,Holmes,Wall and Stephenson.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Re Madame Van Biersal.This lady had been discharged from Meathop and some difficulty had arisen as to her place of residence.It was felt to be desirable that she should not live at Ellerthwaite for the sake both of the health and peace of other people. Pending full consideration by this Comtee.the House Comtee. with the Chairman had taken the house of Miss Slater in Beresford Rd at a charge of 15/- a wk.The question arose whether this should be continued.
A Sub Comtee.consisting of Mrs Coutts,Mrs King,Mrs Robinson, Mr Groves and Mr Wall was appointed to go into the matter and report at the next meeting,permament arrangements to be aimed at as soon as possible.

The accounts for two items sanctioned in connection with the house of Mr Phizacklea were presented for payment and agrred to.

Madame Baston had urged the necessity of having a maid servant.Lady Scott had agreed to provide 5/- a wk toward this cost and as the wages amounted to 7/6 a wk the Comtee.were asked to sanction the remainder of the cost.
The Comtee.expressed the view that the present allowances to Madame Baston's household were quite sufficiently generous and declared that no further assistance either from this Comtee.or from private persons was wise or desirable.

Above: Windermere Belgian Refugee Committee minutes, July 1916. WDX 2115.

joiners, mechanics, and factory workers (one refugee moved to Birmingham to work in an armament factory there, while another tried to get employed at Sedgwick Gunpowder Works). The boot makers came to the attention of Gordon Somervell of K Shoes who is mentioned in the minutes for sending tools and leather for the refugees to work with. A portion of the refugees' wages were put into a Repatriation Fund which was controlled by the Committee.

The subject of employment and wages was a constant one. In June 1915 a refugee called De Witte 'complained because he was being poorly paid for [his] work. De Witte labours under a sense of inequality that seems to him injustice.' Another minute shares the Central Committee's resolutions about employment, including: '1. The Belgians are the guests of the Nation; and low wages are to be deprecated. 2. The Belgians are not to oust the British out of a job.' The minutes show that many of the refugees were in, or were looking for, employment. There also seemed to be an attempt to fill jobs that were available because of a lack of local manpower.

A few of the minutes suggest that a minority of refugees were less keen to find employment. A certain Baron de Heimann and daughter are mentioned in April 1915 when 'the Chairman reported that private hospitality had been arranged for Baron Heiman and his daughter.' Later, the Baron and his daughter were said to be 'living at a scale that entailed high cost' and it was decided to arrange for them to be received at a Hydro Hotel in the Yorkshire spa-town of Ilkley. The Baron never got to Ilkley and ended up under the care of the London Central Committee instead.

Another refugee, a Madame Baston, asked the Committee for help in employing a maid; the committee declined.

Other refugees caused the Committee problems, as in March 1915: 'Strained situation at 8 Alexandra Rd. The House Comm. report that they cannot act in the matter, but that the Refugees are settling down.' Then, in April 1915, the committee 'decided that the matter remain in abeyance owing to the possible departure of Cloetens to work at Birmingham.'

The following entry of June 1915 relates to some Belgian soldiers at Ellerthwaite and is interesting in revealing

some local suspicion and anxiety caused by the war. 'The chairman reported that these men had now gone to Grasmere. Some suspicion had been aroused by some of their remarks and a doubt was entertained whether they were not German spies masquerading in uniform. The Chairman had reported the facts to the Inspector of Police.'

In August 1917 the Committee received a request from the Women's War Work Committee of the National War Museum who wanted to form a record of the work done for Belgian refugees (the National War Museum was founded earlier in 1917 and became the Imperial War Museum). Chairman Groves complied with the request and stated that 'all the available information which it was possible to give had been furnished, subject to the condition that this Committee reserved the right of access and reference to any or all the original records at any time.'

Inevitably, the Committee dealt with illness and death, showing a sympathetic and conscientious attitude. A refugee call De Waal shows up in the minutes as


Royaume de Belgique

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

A l'honneur de faire connaître à
Mlle Elisabeth W. Simpson
que, pour reconnaître le dévouement dont elle
a fait preuve dans les oeuvres de guerre, il a
plu au Roi de lui conférer, par arrêté en da-
te du 1er Mai 1918, la Médaille
de la Reine Elisabeth

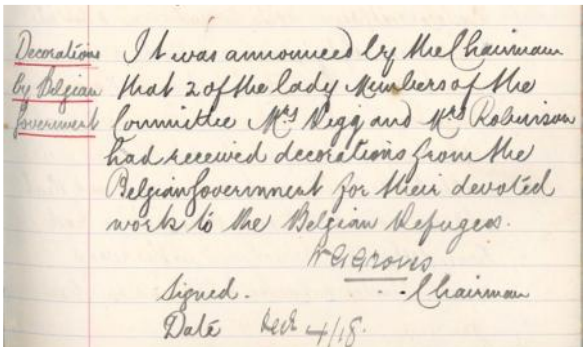
Le Havre le 20 Octobre 1918.

Above: A certificate that accompanied the award of the Queen Elisabeth medal to Jane Simpson of Kendal, October 1918. WDX 515/2/1/13/4.

being employed as a gardener at Belsfield Hotel. Later on in the minutes, De Waal is reported to have died soon after returning to Belgium in early 1919, and the minutes reveal the conscientious nature of the Committee in letting his family know of money he had saved:

'It was reported that Louis de Waal had died since his return to Belgium and Mrs Rigg undertook to ensure that his Widow was made acquainted with the fact that he was in possession of a Draft on Brussels for a considerable sum of money when he left Windermere.'

Other refugees who returned home sent letters to the Committee. A minute of March 1919 states 'The Chairman read


Decorations by Belgian Government

It was announced by the Chairman that 2 of the lady Members of the Committee Mrs Rigg and Mrs Robinson had received decorations from the Belgian Government for their devoted work to the Belgian Refugees.

R Groves

Signed. Chairman

Date Dec 4/18.

Above: Windermere Belgian Refugee Committee minutes, September 1918. WDX 2115.

letters…received from some of the repatriated Belgians which showed the Country to be very devastated and every commodity to be costly.'

Later minutes contain thanks from the refugees such as in January 1919 when 'Reference was made to the address read from the Refugees to the Committee and also to the portrait of the Belgian King presented by the Refugees to Mr Groves for the Windermere Committee. It was agreed that Mr Groves should retain the former as a matter of interest and also that Mrs Rigg be requested to undertake the custody of the latter at Belsfield Hotel on the Committee's behalf until such time as there may be erected a suitable Public Hall or Library in Windermere in which it can be hung.'

Thanks and recognition of the efforts of the Committee also came from the Belgian Government in the form

Victoria County History
The First Westmorland Project

Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor

Dr Sarah Rose, Assistant Editor of the Victoria County History (VCH) **project in Cumbria, describes the milestone achievement of producing** *Westmorland volume I, Lonsdale Ward*.

This is Westmorland's first VCH publication and the 250th volume in the 'Big Red Book' series, produced in partnership with volunteers and the local community.
On the mild and sunny evening of Tuesday 23rd September 2025, Lunesdale Hall (formerly The Institute) in Kirkby Lonsdale, hosted the launch of the VCH Cumbria project's first Red Book: *Westmorland volume I, Lonsdale Ward*. It was a very happy occasion, with the hall packed full of well-wishers, project volunteers and those who have contributed to the volume over the years. Among them was the family of the book's co-author, Emmeline Garnett. Sadly, Emmeline never lived to see her final publication, having died in 2022. But those of us who have worked on the project hope she would have been as proud of this moment as the rest of us.
This is the first Red Book for the VCH Cumbria project - and the first VCH publication *of any kind* for the historic county of Westmorland. Not that there hasn't been an attempt to bring the VCH to Cumbria before. The Victoria County History was established in 1899, and Cumberland had two introductory volumes produced in 1901 and 1905. That part of the modern (and now former), county that formerly lay in Lancashire, namely Furness and Cartmel, were covered by *VCH Lancashire volume VIII*, published in 1914. Essays were commissioned for Westmorland, including a now lost account of the religious houses of the county, but no material was ever published.[1]
It was not until the Cumbria County History Trust



Photograph: By Dr Geoff Jolliffe

(CCHT) was established in 2010 that the VCH in Cumbria was revived in earnest. Formed in order to gather funds and provide a community focus, CCHT partnered with Lancaster University's Regional Heritage Centre to run the project. From the outset, VCH Cumbria was to be rooted in the community. While some academic guidance is necessary, the bulk of the research and writing is done by volunteers, some of whom may never have undertaken historical research before.
I joined VCH Cumbria in its early days, initially to recruit, train and

[1] For the history of the VCH in Cumberland and Westmorland see John Beckett's article in CWAAS *Transactions*.

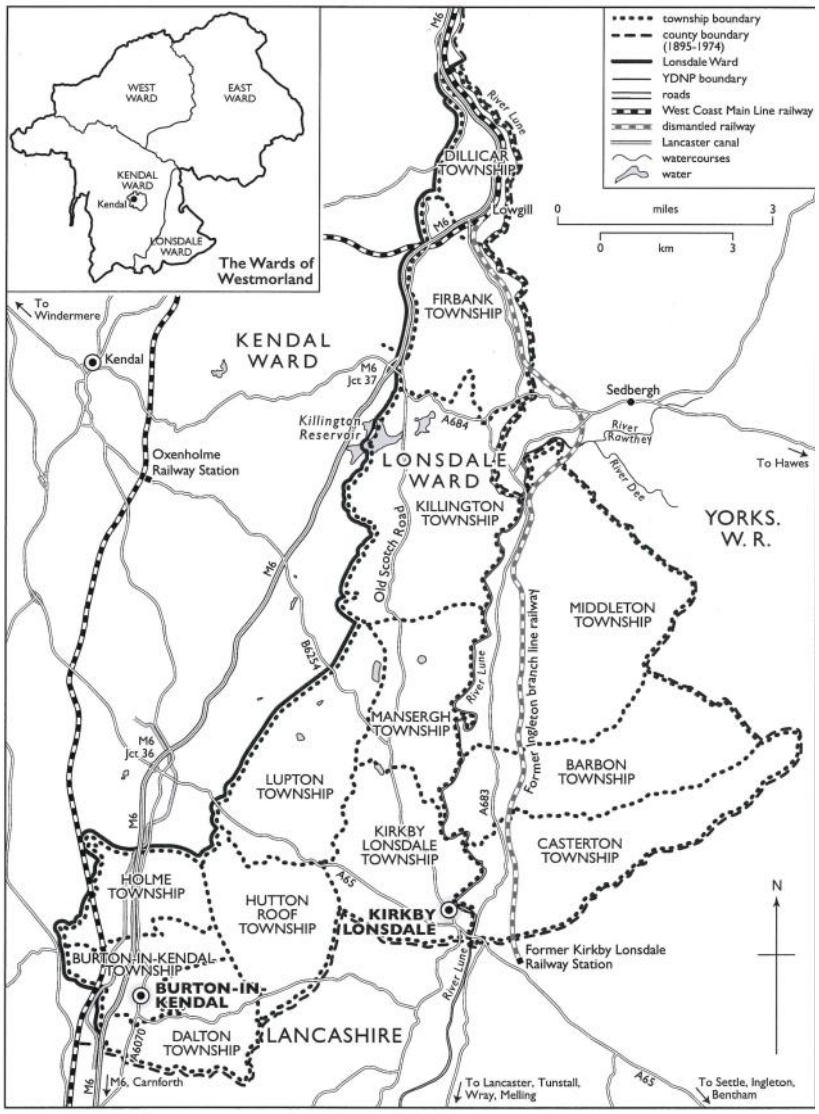
Researcher's Contribution

co-ordinate the volunteer researchers, before starting to edit their work and undertake some research and writing myself. One of our first tasks was to produce our *Volunteer Handbook*, which took the national VCH guidelines and made them more specific to Cumbria. The *Handbook* has grown over the years and our 4th edition likely needs another update!

Since the early days of the project, our core of VCH 'drafters' have been producing interim articles about their chosen place, which we then post to the CCHT website. We launched the website in 2011 and it has become an essential part of the project. Over 100 enthusiastic volunteers came forward with key facts and images to help populate the pages created for each of the 348 places for which a VCH article would need to be written.

A seminal moment came in 2019 when we produced our first official VCH publication in the form of a paperback, one of a series known as 'VCH Shorts'. Authored by one of our first volunteers and founding Secretary of CCHT, Richard Brockington, *Kirkoswald and Renwick* covered the histories of three contiguous townships on the edge of the North Pennines. The book was well-received, both by reviewers in academic journals and by the local community alike, proving that volunteers could write for the VCH.

The publication of *Kirkoswald and Renwick* buoyed our ambition to produce a 'Big Red Book.' We immediately fell on the idea of focusing on the area around Kirkby Lonsdale owing to the body of work already produced by one of our most prolific volunteers, Emmeline Garnett. A published author and local historian, with strong family ties to the area, Emmeline was among the first volunteers to joint VCH Cumbria and had been steadily producing draft articles, beginning with Kirkby Lonsdale itself. The market town stood at the



heart of an ancient parish that comprised nine townships. These, together with three townships in the neighbouring ancient parish of Burton-in-Kendal, and the small rural township of Dillicar, comprised the administrative unit of Lonsdale Ward, which would make a natural focus for the book. We were also aware that the book should have wide appeal, as this scenic area has been attracting visitors since the 18th century, including John Ruskin and J.M. Turner.

Emmeline withdrew from the project in 2017 but subsequently gave her full support to our plans for the Red Book. My work began with obtaining additional archival material, not only from the collections managed by Cumbria Archive Service, but also from repositories outside Cumbria, such as the National Archives at Kew. The Covid-19 pandemic soon halted these archival visits, but it amazed me how much source material had been digitised and placed online since I started working on the VCH project. It also gave me the opportunity to go through the hundreds of images which had been taken of material held at Trinity College, Cambridge and York Minster by my colleague Dr James Bowen during the scoping phase of the project (2017-18), for which I will forever be grateful.

The research for his book also benefited from the time and generosity of experts and residents in the local community. Emmeline had already spoken to many people about their experiences of local life, whether it be through their involvement on the parish council, or running local interest groups. There was, therefore, already some awareness of the VCH Cumbria project and a willingness to help when I took over the reins. I was fortunate to have contact with several local history groups, whose own archives proved essential to completing the research and yielded some great historic images that we were able to incorporate into the book.

With one Red Book now under our belt, we have moved on to the next phase of the project, which looks at not one, but too Red Book volumes! The first of these will be a revision of *VCH Lancashire volume VIII*, covering Furness and Cartmel. While retaining the excellent work of the Lancashire editors William Farrer and John Brownbill, the revised version will bring each entry up-to-date and incorporate material to bring it in line with the modern VCH template, particularly the sections on Social and Economic History. The other Red Book will focus on Eskdale Ward in the far north of the county, on the border with Scotland, and will be the first topographical volume for the historic county of Cumberland. I have begun work with volunteers on both volumes, but we are always happy to hear from more people who would like to be involved with the research in some way.

The Victoria County History is active in over 20 counties and two Ridings of Yorkshire. For more about the project, nationally, visit the VCH pages on the IHR website. VCH Westmorland I, Lonsdale Ward, is available from Boydell and Brewer.

For more information, including details of how to support the Cumbria County History Trust, please visit their website: ***www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/***

Did you know? Thoughts of a very amateur local historian

Peter Lewis

In 2006, after a career with the NHS, my family and I moved to Kirkby Stephen. Like many 'incomers', we looked for ways to join the local community and were pleased to discover the Upper Eden History Society. It proved to be an opening of a door to understanding our new home.

Joining the society revealed just how much research had gone into recording the fabric of the town and its neighbours. Its annual publication, *The Record*, documented an eclectic range of subjects: local crimes, Eden fell ponies, neighbours' houses, railway navvies, and more. Yet there were absences. Chief among them was the Victorian East Ward Poor Law Union Workhouse. A glance at census records showed that, over the years, the workhouse had housed several local lunatics. Any reference to this institution and its inmates seemed airbrushed out of the town's history. Railways? Fine. Parish Church? Fine. Poet Close? Fine. Workhouse and lunatics? Zilch. I found what was in effect a single reference to there having been a workhouse based in the town, an institution that had been one of the central pillars of Victorian social reform.

So I researched both subjects. The result was my first society presentation in 2012 on Kirkby's lunatics, and later an essay on the workhouse published in *Kirkby Stephen Past: People, Places and Plague* (2019), thanks to the society's chair, Anne Taylor. That essay, on such a taboo subject, was the most satisfying piece of research I've undertaken, and it owed much to the Kendal Archive Centre and its archivists. Yet the piece I am most proud of was on a far humbler subject. Since moving to Westmorland, I had often passed a small rusting shed at Brockham, Crackenthorpe, on the A66. It had the look of a chapel, yet its purpose was a mystery. Over time I came to believe that such seemingly insignificant little structures could be just as important a part of Westmorland's history as anything considered more culturally significant, and just as worthy of recognition. So it proved in this case, at least to my satisfaction.

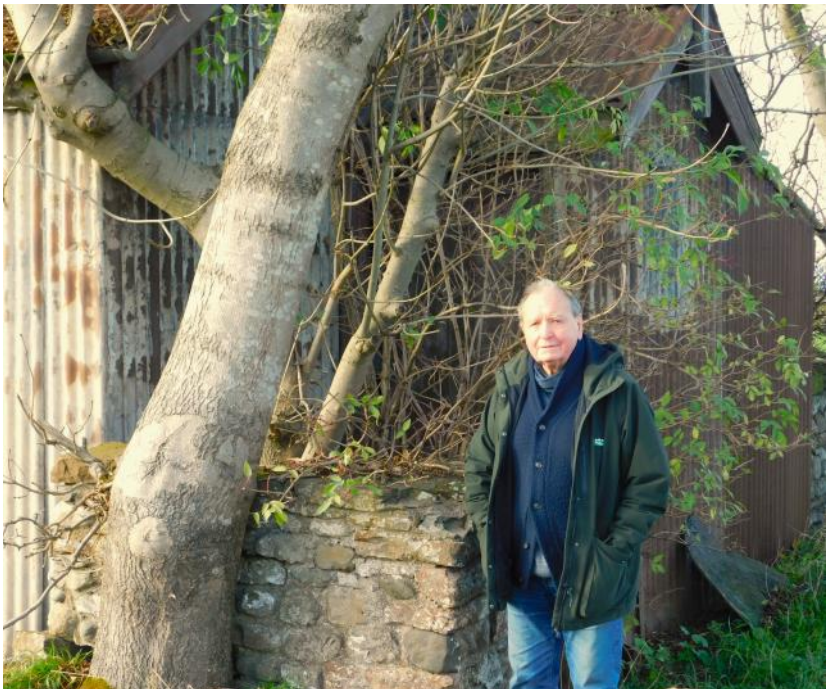


'… the piece I am most proud of was on a far humbler subject. Since moving to Westmorland, I had often passed a small rusting shed at Brockham, Crackenthorpe …'

The building transpired to be a Primitive Methodist Chapel, possibly the last of its kind in Westmorland and once a pillar of its community. When I started picking over things I was fortunate to meet some locals who had worshipped there, and even one whose father had preached in the chapel. Affectionately known as 'Crackenthorpe Cathedral', I came to know it simply as Tin Chapel. (WDFCM 1)

The trail led to Kendal Archive Centre, where the Methodist authorities had deposited several of the chapel's documents after it closed. On my first visit, the very first document I requested was the primary deed. It had everything I needed - I felt I'd struck gold dust.

Tin Chapel's story began in December 1859 when Richard Atkinson, landowner and proprietor of the Elephant Inn, added a codicil to his will allowing his trustees to buy land for a Primitive Methodist chapel. However, he added a sting in the tail: if the chapel ceased religious worship for three successive months, the land would revert to the owner - use it or lose it. Richard died in June 1860, survived by his partner of many years, Jane Fallowfield, and seven children. William (christened William Atkinson Fallowfield), born in 1855, was the couple's third child. He eventually inherited the estate, his siblings and other family members having emigrated, largely to Canada.



'Tin Chapel's story began in December 1859 when Richard Atkinson, landowner and proprietor of the Elephant Inn, added a codicil to his will allowing his trustees to buy land for a Primitive Methodist chapel.'

Though the land had been set aside in the will, it was not until 1900 that William acted. On 9 November 1901, a plot was legally transferred to the Primitive Methodist Connexion. The chapel was officially opened on 15 August 1901. Estimates of its seating capacity vary from 40 to 80, but it is likely to have been, at least comfortably, around 50.

The soubriquet 'Tin Chapel' stems from the fact that the chapel was primarily constructed of galvanised corrugated iron, along with rather fine wooden panelling that covered much of the interior. From the mid-1800s, such prefabricated chapels met the growing demand for places of worship, driven

Researcher's Contribution

by industrialisation and the upsurge in non-conformism. Corrugated iron was cheap, durable and quick to erect, making it perfect for communities like Crackenthorpe.
For decades Tin Chapel thrived, hosting worship, marriages and funerals. One elderly local resident described how he had attended a harvest festival that had been "*packed to the rafters*", and that such had not been an unusual occurrence. But by the late 1950s its congregation had dwindled. The Trustees considered trying to remove the three-month non-use clause in Richard Atkinson's will, but it remained unchanged.
As the 1960s progressed, increasing traffic meant that the main route through the village was deemed inadequate and that the road had to be redirected and widened. The eventual consequence was that the village was completely bypassed by the revised A66. As a result, worshippers now had to cross the rather busy main road to access the chapel at a time when attendance was already nearing critically low levels.
By 1964 membership was down to two. Some services were even unattended despite ministers having been allocated, and serious noises were being made about closing Tin Chapel. Although matters moved slowly, the Trustees eventually held their final meeting in October 1970, and closure was approved in April 1971. The land reverted to the owner, William Chappelhow, and all that remained was for Tin Chapel to be cleared of its furniture. By the August of 1972, 71 years after its creation, Tin Chapel's active life as a place of Primitive Methodist worship came to an end.

As I write in autumn 2025, Tin Chapel still stands, a little worn, but defiant against time and the elements, and memorable as long as archives last.



'Did You Know?'

Whenever I read something of historical interest, local or otherwise, I jot down a short summary, even if it's only a line or two. Keep the summaries and, before you know it, you'll have a compendium of short, 'snappy', historical titbits. Put them all together and you'll have a lengthy collection of pithy historical 'did you knows'.

On 12th November I was chuffed to learn that Tin Chapel was on the list of heritage assets deemed at risk, and that such assets *"can be given a better future."* Local history, and its dissemination, has its uses. Hope springs eternal.



Restored fingerpost at Musgrave.
Photograph by Mike and Kate Lea

Pointing the Way

Rob David

Travellers around the county may have spotted the many, mostly cast iron, fingerposts providing directions at road junctions. The earliest date from the late nineteenth century and they continued to be erected into the inter-war period.

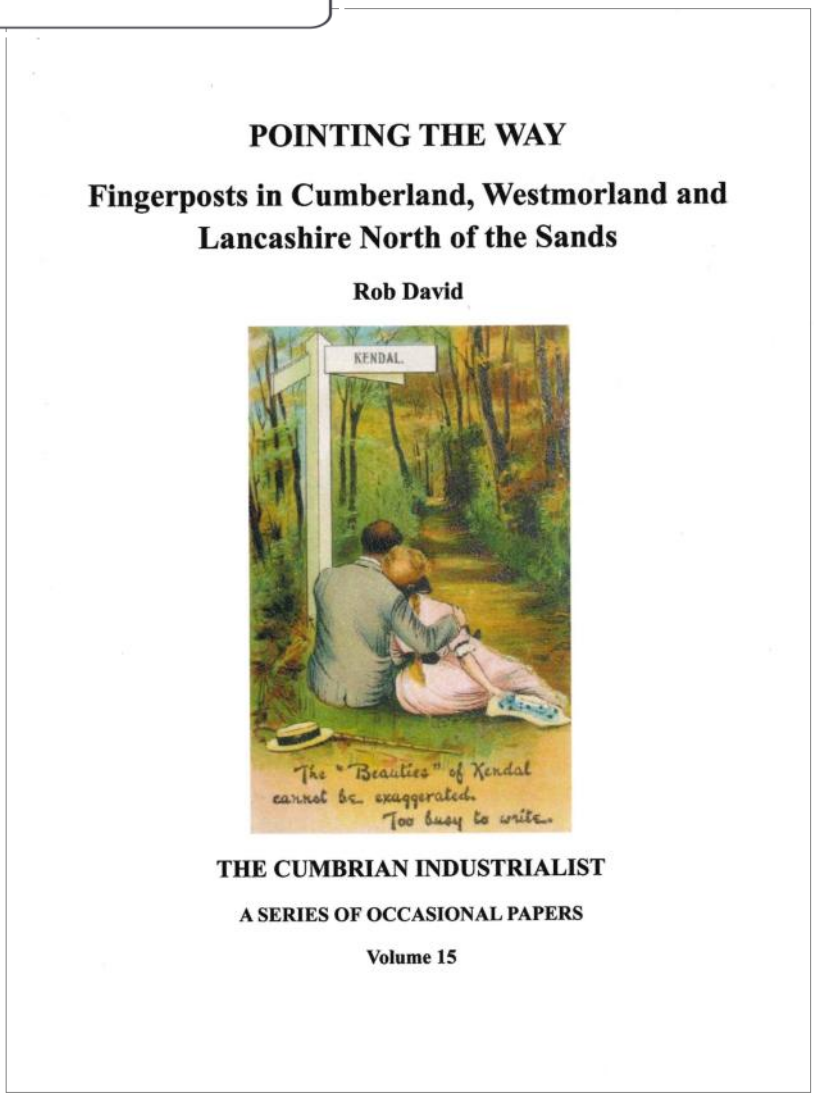
In recent years a considerable number have been restored to their former glory, the result of a growing interest by enthusiasts in these survivors from the era of early motoring. Mike and Kate Lea from Little Musgrave were two of these enthusiasts who scoured the archives and libraries for evidence of their history. After Mike's death, his widow Kate deposited their archive in



Above: Knipe, after restoration.
Photograph by Hazel Eccles.

Researcher's Contribution

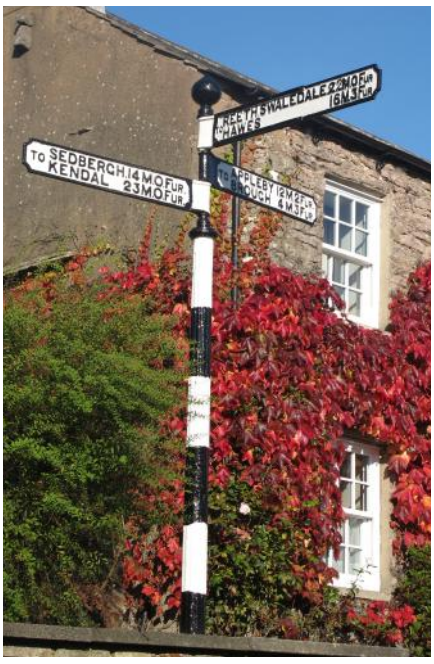
Kendal Archive Centre (WDX 2090) and asked whether I could use their research and photographic record to create a history of the county's fingerposts.
The resulting book 'Pointing the Way' was published earlier this year by the Cumbria Industrial History Society and provides the first account of the history of these way markers, and its numerous illustrations depict the surprising variety of fingerpost designs across the county. From now twenty first century travellers can have fun looking out for the old fingerposts and using the book to identify their makers and characteristic features.



Above: Front cover of *Pointing the way*.
Below left: Ham Baker fingerpost, Kirkby Stephen.
Photograph by Mike and Kate Lea.
Below right: Photograph from Askam & Ireleth, Facebook page.

Copies of
'Pointing the Way'
can be purchased from the Cumbria Industrial History Society.

Contact:
Graham Brooks
solwaypast@yahoo.com,
priced at £6.50.
There are also copies deposited in Cumbria's Archive Centres and in the county's Local Studies Libraries.

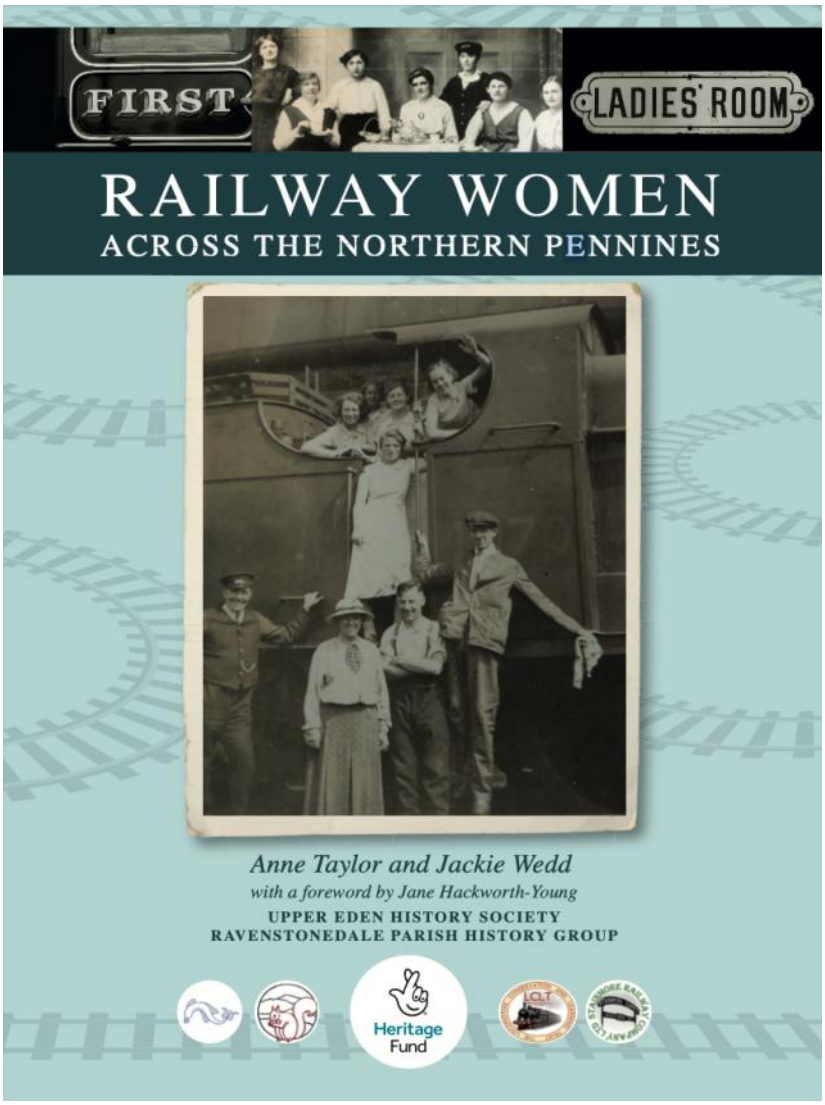




Railway Women
Across the North Pennines

Anne Taylor and Jackie Wedd

Books about railways are usually filled with beautiful photographs of locomotives, powered by steam, electricity, or diesel, and often in dramatic settings – on a viaduct, in deep snow, or against a stormy sky.



The captions give details of the type of engine, the railway company, and the part of the country. The workers are seldom shown and those that are pictured are nearly always men: the driver, the fireman, the guard, the signalman. You would think that women have never worked on the railway but of course there have been, and are, many railway women, filling all the different jobs that exist. This book celebrates the role of women working on two subsidiary branches of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR), and was published in September 2025 to coincide with the S&DR bicentenary celebrations.

The story of the S&DR in the north east, from the early negotiations and the opening day on 27 September 1825 to its expansion up to 1863, has been described in many publications. The 'west side story', that of the Stainmore Line and the Eden Valley Railway, is told here.

However, this is not a 'history' of the two lines, but a 'herstory': a collection of the names, jobs and tales of the railway women. The researchers have widened their scope from the women who were actively engaged as crossing gatekeepers, signallers and booking clerks to include those who held other important railway jobs: office

Researchers' Contribution

cleaners, station book-sellers and refreshment stall-holders, for example. The information has sometimes come from surprising sources: census returns, accident reports, photographs, newspaper cuttings and personal memories – but also from advertisements and nineteenth-century poetry. John Close of Kirkby Stephen, for example, published a poem in 1865 about the express train at Tebay; it passed through the station too quickly for him to sell his poetry pamphlets. So, he wrote eleven verses of complaint! And, in verse nine, he mentioned Mrs Johnson who had a refreshment stall at the station, selling 'cakes and bitter beer'. The researchers found that she was Margaret Johnson, wife of the Tebay stationmaster. Without that poem, Margaret Johnson would not have featured in the book. The personal memories include tales of wages clerks and engine cleaners, of grandmothers who were crossing gatekeepers, and memories from the schoolgirls who travelled over Stainmore to get to school. All are collected here before the stories disappear.



Above: Joan Lennox, Anne Cradock and Gill Terry dressed as witches for the annual Hallowe'en event at Kirkby Stephen East station. All three are railway volunteers and Anne grew up in a railway cottage near Cliburn. Photograph: Anne Cradock.

Published by: Upper Eden History Society and Ravenstonedale Parish History Group, and thanks to National Lottery players. Commissioned by: Stainmore Railway Company, Kirkby Stephen East station.



Above: Protesters at Kirkby Stephen East station on the evening of 20 January 1962. They claimed that closing the railway line took Upper Eden back to the era of the penny farthing bicycle. Photograph courtesy of Stainmore Railway Company.

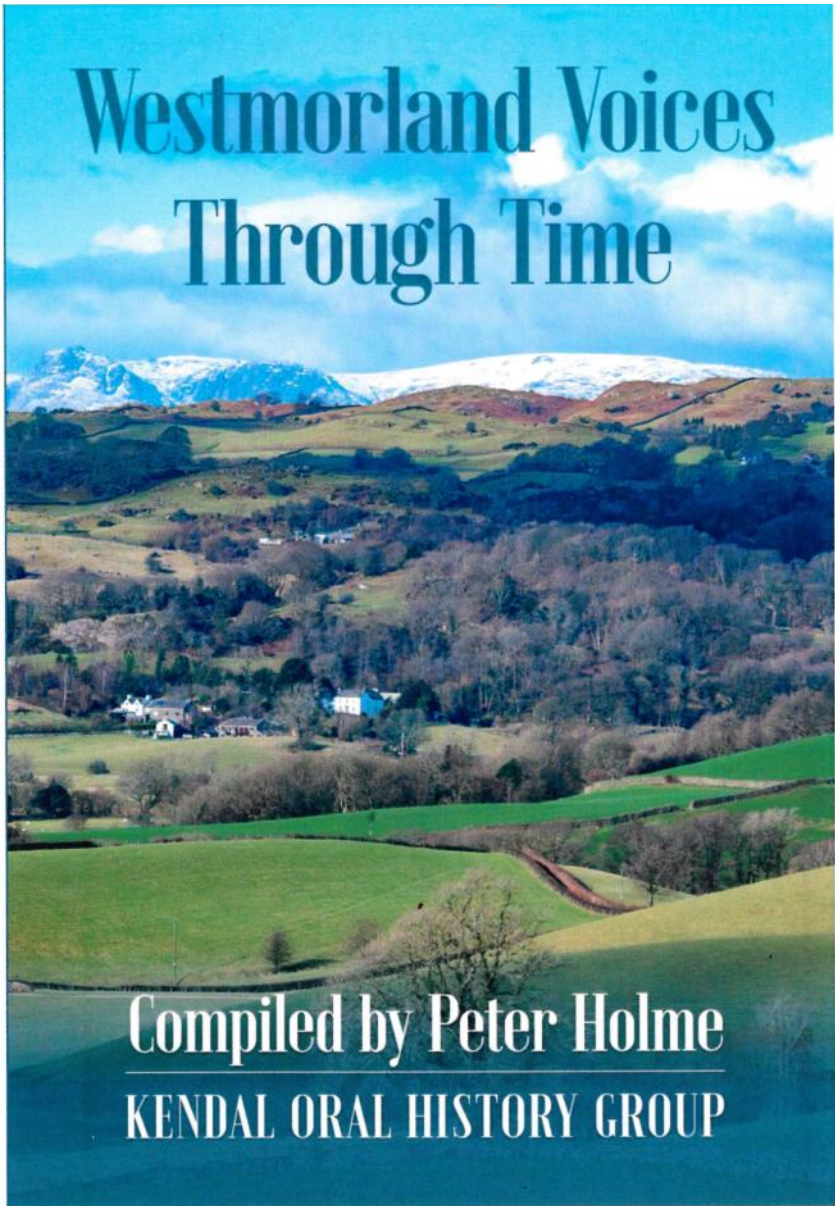
Westmorland Voices
Through Time

Compiled by Peter Holme

Kendal Oral History Group was founded in 1987 and since then a committed group of volunteers have created one of the largest oral history archives in the region. The archive contains a treasure-trove of memories dating back to 1888 and is a valuable source in itself - as well as complementing conventional historical records.

In 2016 the first Peter Holme's columns was published in the Westmorland Gazette - where they continue to appear today. The columns are edited extracts taken from interviews conducted by members of the Kendal Oral History Group and have proved popular with readers.

This book is a compilation of 100 of these columns and includes some of the oldest interviews in the archive – people born between 1888 and 1939. It is full of fascinating recollections which will take you back to the days of the 'old' Westmorland. The text is well illustrated with old photographs.



Copies of 'Westmorland Voices Over Time' can be purchased from Kendal Oral History Group. Contact: kendaloralhistory.com priced £9.95 + £3.50p+p. There are copies available at in Cumbria's Archive Centres and in the county's Local Studies Libraries.

Researcher's Contribution

Reaching out to descendants of the Basque Children, Brampton

Rob David

Previous editions of the Cumbria Archives Newsletter have drawn attention to the important collection of documents deposited over the last few years by descendants of the family of Charles and Lady Cecilia Roberts.

These documents have enabled a book, *Happy and Safe: The Basque Child Refugees in Cumberland and Westmorland 1937-1939*, to be written and published, and the interest that has developed in the story of these children has resulted in the First Edition being sold out, and the publication of a Revised Edition in July 2025. Interestingly the archive is being increasingly noticed through the Basque Children's Association '37 UK website: www.basquechildren.org by descendants of the children in Britain, Spain and other countries where they now live. A grandson and great nephew of two of the Brampton children, Henrique and Felix Pérez Pérez, recently discovered the existence of the archive and asked whether there were any references to his relatives amongst the collection of documents at Carlisle Archive Centre. There is now such a network of people interested in the stories of the Brampton children that he was soon being helped by Michael Stephens at Carlisle Archive Centre, Dr Stephanie Wright and Eilidh Hornigold at Lancaster University, and myself, as author of *Happy and Safe*, as well as several members of the Basque Children's Association in both the United Kingdom and in Spain. The importance of the information that is in the archive to the enquirer and his family is clear from the following email that was received:



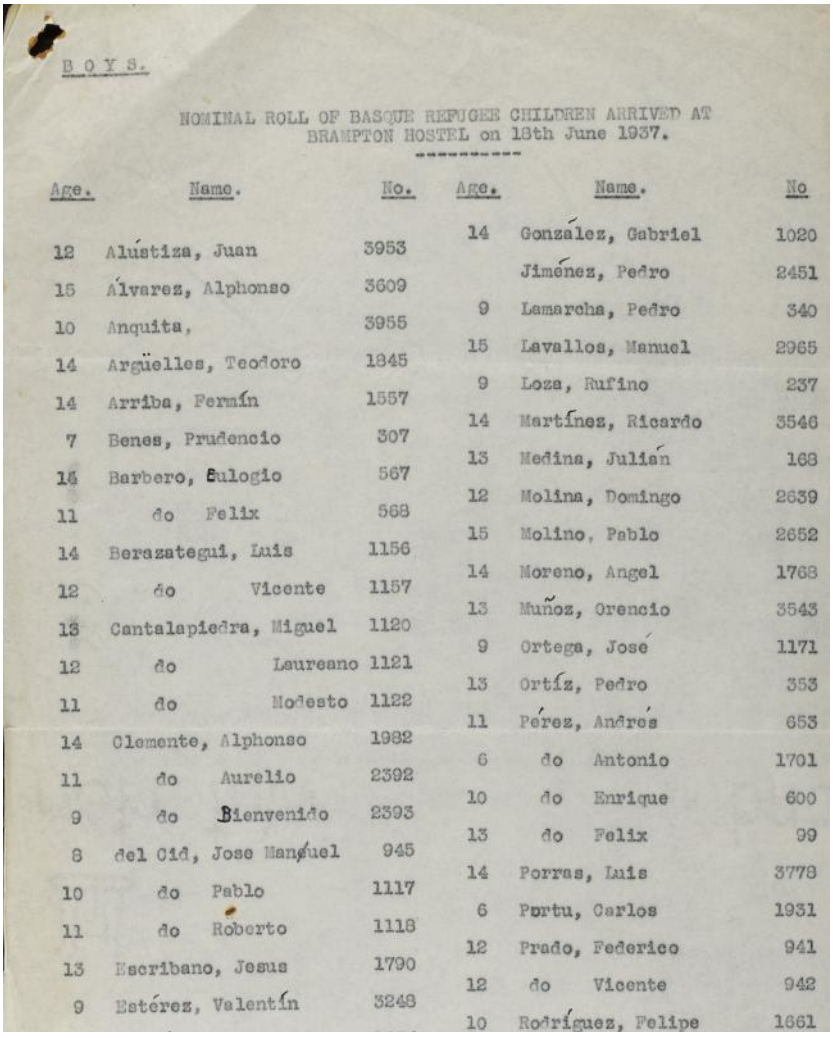
'My mother and I were genuinely moved to learn [from documents at Carlisle Archive Centre] that my great-grandfather had been in prison, and that my grandfather's older brother fought during the Spanish Civil War. We had no idea about this part of

The Revised Edition of *Happy and Safe: The Basque Child Refugees in Cumberland and Westmorland 1937-1939 by Dr Rob David* is available for £5, plus postage and packaging from: Simon Martinez, c/o Basque Children's Association '37 UK, 164 Carr Road, Sheffield, S6 2WZ Email: simonmartinez1937@yahoo.com

Researcher's Contribution

our family history, and it has touched us deeply. It has also helped us to better understand the weight of silence and the way certain traumas can be passed down through generations.'

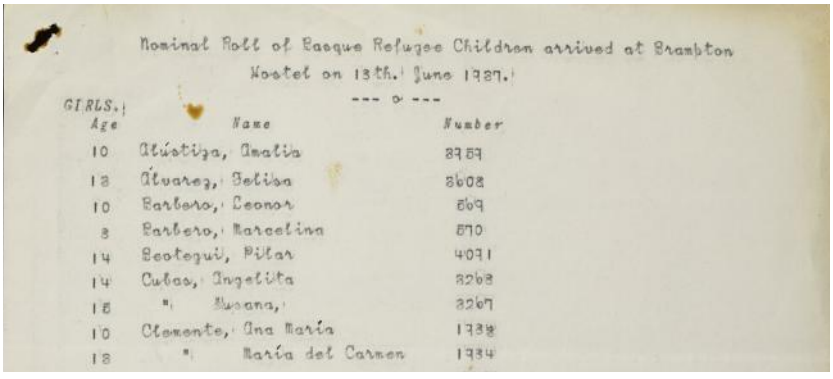
'Reading these references - especially the mention of Felix and Enrique, and their aunt Juliana in Bordeaux - makes everything feel so much more real and personal. It's as if pieces of a long-lost puzzle are slowly falling into place. I feel incredibly connected to my grandfather now, more than ever before.'



BOYS.

NOMINAL ROLL OF BASQUE REFUGEE CHILDREN ARRIVED AT BRAMPTON HOSTEL on 18th June 1937.

Age.	Name.	No.	Age.	Name.	No
12	Alústiza, Juan	3953	14	González, Gabriel	1020
15	Álvarez, Alphonso	3609		Jiménez, Pedro	2451
10	Anquita,	3955	9	Lamarcha, Pedro	340
14	Argüelles, Teodoro	1845	15	Lavallos, Manuel	2965
14	Arriba, Fermín	1557	9	Loza, Rufino	237
7	Benes, Prudencio	307	14	Martínez, Ricardo	3546
16	Barbero, Eulogio	567	13	Medina, Julián	168
11	do Felix	568	12	Molina, Domingo	2639
14	Berazategui, Luis	1156	15	Molino, Pablo	2652
12	do Vicente	1157	14	Moreno, Angel	1768
13	Cantalapiedra, Miguel	1120	13	Muñoz, Orencio	3543
12	do Laureano	1121	9	Ortega, José	1171
11	do Modesto	1122	13	Ortíz, Pedro	353
14	Clemente, Alphonso	1982	11	Pérez, Andrés	653
11	do Aurelio	2392	6	do Antonio	1701
9	do Bienvenido	2393	10	do Enrique	600
8	del Cid, Jose Manuel	945	13	do Felix	99
10	do Pablo	1117	14	Porras, Luis	3778
11	do Roberto	1118	6	Portu, Carlos	1931
13	Escribano, Jesus	1790	12	Prado, Federico	941
9	Estérez, Valentín	3248	12	do Vicente	942
			10	Rodríguez, Felipe	1661



Nominal Roll of Basque Refugee Children arrived at Brampton Hostel on 18th. June 1937.

--- o ---

GIRLS.

Age	Name	Number
10	Alústiza, Amalia	3953
13	Álvarez, Setina	3608
10	Barbero, Leonor	569
8	Barbero, Marcelina	570
14	Beotegui, Pilar	4071
14	Cubas, Ingelita	3268
15	" Mariana,	3267
10	Clemente, Ana María	1738
18	" María del Carmen	1734

Carlisle Archive Centre is rapidly becoming a hub for research into the stories of the Basque children who came to the United Kingdom in 1937. The accompanying illustration is of two documents from the archive which list the 100 Basque children who arrived at Brampton on 18 June 1937. These are amongst the documents sent to the enquirer a s both Henrique and Felix Pérez Pérez are listed.

Researchers are dependent upon the owners of archives making them available in archive centres such as that at Carlisle. In the following paragraphs descendants of Charles and Cecilia Roberts reflect on the importance of their deposit of their family archive for scholars, descendants of the Basque children who were welcomed to Brampton, and the wider public.

Conservation and Digitisation

Erika Freyr

The Conservation and Digitisation Teams have been particularly busy over the past few months, as we strive to divide our time evenly between the four centres, support ongoing projects and provide our digitisation service.



In July, we welcomed Melina Shin to the Conservation Team as our new Collections Assistant. She is mainly based at the studio in Carlisle with occasional travel between the sites, and her day-to-day support has been invaluable to the work of the conservation and digitisation departments. Claire Dean's work has significantly enhanced the collections care offer in Westmorland and Furness, as she has carried out interventive conservation repairs on-site at Kendal and Barrow. One of our main priorities has been supporting Kendal during stock-taking. With help from Fay Humphreys and Melina, Claire completed the packaging survey of all the strongrooms, using the data to generate charts that will assist with planning and packing priorities. Claire has also initiated a packaging survey at Barrow in preparation for a strongroom refit. As a team, we have helped with the repackaging of oversized items and Kendal's Pattinson collection.

Claire has also continued work on the Mawson project funded by National Manuscript Conservation Trust. All plans in the pilot project bundle have now been documented and cleaned; the repairs are in progress and Claire has been experimenting with gels to treat staining. This relatively new method is excellent for keeping aqueous treatments localised, avoiding tide lines and migration of staining products. Mawson remains a highly requested collection, and we hope to secure funding to improve its condition and catalogue.

Fay has been working on book preservation, cleaning some newly accessioned volumes in Kendal as well as completing the packaging of some very large books. Her focus has been the preparation of a churchwarden's book of accounts from 1690-1848 for digitisation for a researcher, as it was too fragile for production. The book had no cover, many detached and crumpled pages at the beginning, further detached pages inside and the sewing was barely holding the rest of the book together. To reveal the writing, she has been unfolding each page with tools such as tweezers, spatulas and bonefolders, and it is surprising how much is still legible. This has now been digitised and access can be provided via a digital copy.

Robert Baxter and I met with representatives from The Beacon and Maritime Museum to discuss collaborative projects across Cumberland's

cultural sector. This led to Carlisle and Whitehaven centres lending documents to The Beacon Museum for their current WWII exhibition, *Service, Solidarity and Sacrifice*. This included items from Mademoiselle/Sister Baudot de Rouville, including a nurse's uniform, which has meant we have taken a little side-step into some textile conservation to prepare it for display.

Olga - alias Thérèse Martin - served as a Red Cross nurse during both world wars and worked as an operative, courier, and liaison officer for the French Resistance. She risked her life to help dozens of British soldiers and airmen escape occupied France and was awarded France's highest military honour, the Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star, as well as the King's Medal for Courage at the end of WWII. She lived near Cockermouth for some time, before moving to Ireland, leaving her wartime papers behind. Reference: YDX 207.

The original documents will be on display at The Beacon Museum from 20 September 2025 - 1 February 2026.

Archivists at all centres have assisted in identifying undigitised oral history collections, and the resulting list of recordings has been shared with Manchester Archives. This information will support a funding bid for the North-West Sound Archive Consortium.

We have been working on processing a large accession from Brougham Hall. The items have been going through our quarantine process to remove excess humidity from the documents and to prepare them for archival storage, and will now be weeded, accessioned by the archivists, and made available for research.

I have been working with ICT procurement to upgrade the environmental monitoring equipment we use to ensure we stay up to date with technology, and to align some of the contracts we hold with museums and records management. Hopefully this extra work will make our contracts easier to manage in future.

Within the Digitisation department, Helen Leech has, until recently, been based at Kendal one day a week to ease pressure on their remote search room. While there, she digitised motor vehicle registrations from the 1920s and the Lady Anne Clifford collection. Helen has reorganised the files for our ongoing project on the preservation and digitisation of the Diocese of Carlisle probate records from 1563-1857, which are now up to date to 1613. Helen has completed digitisation of the West Cumbria Industrial Heritage project, including fleet bus histories for Cumberland Motor Service Ltd. and works' diaries for the Buttermere and Honister Green slate quarries. She has also contacted the North-West Film Archive to gauge interest in digitising five films containing oral histories from the West Cumbria Industrial Heritage project, which they are considering.

At Carlisle, Helen has supported George Platt with external requests, ensuring our digital service remains seamless for the public. Perhaps the most memorable external digitisation order was a huge plan of Plymouth Central Park, created by Thomas Mawson in 1928. It is fascinating to compare a satellite view of the park today and see that Mawson's design remains largely intact. The plan was so large it had to be photographed in ten segments and stitched together using Affinity software.

Carlisle Archives News Update

Kelda Roe and Michael Stephens, Archivists
Sarah Wood and Fiona Bake, Archives Assistants

Accessions

Michael Stephens, Archivist

Towards the start of 2025 we received a deposit of the correspondence of Reverend Dr John Waugh during the Jacobite Rebellion (DX 2661). Reverend Dr John Waugh was Chancellor of Carlisle Cathedral, 1727-1751. During the rebellion he received reports from Scottish Provosts and other reliable contacts in the Lowlands on progress being made by the Jacobites. He would supply this vital intelligence to English officials offering details about their number and movements. Other content in the letters include the siege of Carlisle, prisoners, billeting of soldiers, plundering, the outcome of battles (Culloden, Prestonpans and Falkirk), and reinforcements expected to join the Jacobites from abroad. The authors of the letters express their feelings of fear and uncertainty as well as confusion over the intelligence that is received. More notable correspondents include Dr Bettesworth, Dean of the Arches, London; Edmund, Bishop of London; Lord Archbishop of York; Reverend Robert Wardale and the Earl of Carlisle.

We have received deposits of material from 5 local Women's Institutes: Longtown



Above: John Strong, fishing tackle dealer. (DX 2679)

(DSO 150), Burgh by Sands (DSO 152), Hayton (DSO 216), Raughton Head and District (DSO 332) and Wetheral (DSO 345). I am pleased to report that 4 of these groups are still in operation with only 1 closure (Burgh by Sands) earlier this year.

DSO 232

We were delighted to take in a deposit of records for Borrowdale Church of England Primary School (ref.). This is the first time we have ever received a deposit of material from the school. The collection includes a run of 5 log books, dating from 1877 and a punishment book dating from 1906.

Family historians will be keen to learn of new deposits which will assist them in their research.

DX 2667

Cumbria Family History Society kindly deposited several parish register transcripts: Westward 1813-1837; Bowness on Solway 1813-1837; Preston Patrick 1813-1840; Kirkbride 1813-1941; Kirkandrews on Eden and Beamont 1813-1990; and Keswick St John memorial inscriptions. We also received a survey of the new churchyard at Kirkhouse, St Thomas a Becket's, Farlam.

Accession H16751

Dumfries and Galloway County Heritage Service have kindly sent us a copy index to Allison's Toll Bar Irregular Marriages Registers 1843-1864.

DSO 569

On a sporting note, Penrith Swimming Club deposited 7 minute books which cover the history of the club over the years 1883-1974.

DSO 232

We also received the Cumbria County Cricket Annual Year Book for 2025.

We always welcome illustrative material including photograph albums and scrapbooks.

Accession. H16740

We have taken in a bundle of Council plans for the Crown Court and Nisi Prius buildings, Carlisle.

DSO 568

We received a scrapbook (volume III) from Brampton County Secondary School Dramatic Society which contains details about productions including cast members, black and white photographs, programmes and newspaper cuttings, 1944-1958.

DX 2678

A photograph album and scrapbook of press cuttings relating to Alderman Mrs Sarah Emma Perkins, Mayoress of Carlisle has been donated to the archives. This item covers her time in office over the years 1967-1968.

DX 2680

The son of Elfrida Nelson, who was a founding member, actor and producer at the Green Room Club, Carlisle, has kindly donated 5 scrapbooks which cover



DX 2680



the years 1949-1965. Material includes newspaper cuttings, art work, programmes, correspondence and photographs. There are also 3 typewritten scripts for pantomimes: And so to Bedouin, Disguise and Dolls, and Begone Dull Care as well as a short biography.

DX 2679
One of my favourite items is a black and white photograph of John Strong, fishing tackle dealer who was based at 65 Castle Street, Carlisle.

DX 2676
Other photographs include a black and white photograph of Scotby Cricket Club, 1925 and a black and white photograph of Cumberland Mills and District Band, circa 1920 (above).

DX 2682
On an agricultural theme we took in 2 lots of farmers' diaries: those belonging to Samuel Rigg, yeoman farmer of Boustead Hill, Burgh-by-Sands, 1838-1854.

DX 2668
Earl of Low Holme, Cumwhitton, 1823-1839.

DX 2674
We also received an exercise book belonging to James Michael Wilson, High Carlingill, Tebay, former student at Newton Rigg Agricultural College in 1960.

Outreach

Fiona Blake

During the Autumn Term, Carlisle Archives have been delivering workshops to 4 primary schools in the local area. One school came to the archive centre and staff delivered the workshops on site at the 3 other schools.
While visiting the archive centre, the class from Stoneraise School had a tour of the building and then used original



documents including maps, plans and registers to explore and learn about the history of their locality. The Conservation lab and electronic, moving shelves made quite an impression, but hopefully the children will remember some of the history they learned. '*What can we learn about our local area using the census?'* This is a popular history topic for local schools, and we have visited Stanwix School, Longtown Primary School and Rockcliffe Church of England Primary School to deliver our census workshop. In the workshop, census returns are used to investigate a family through time. We returned to Rockcliffe and Stanwix for a fourth time this year. It's great to see material from our collections being used to inspire children and to promote their understanding of history. We devise each workshop based on the school locality. Although this can be quite time-consuming, if we are invited to return to the school the following year, it is worthwhile and a good investment of our time.

Background tasks

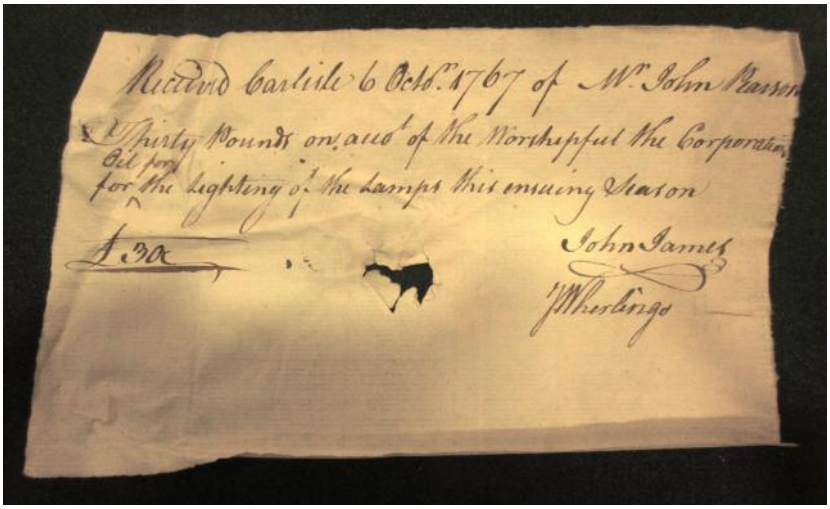
Fiona Blake

I am currently listing the 18th century Petitions from the Quarter Sessions records to enable more researchers to use these fantastic name-rich sources. From petitions to the Bench for poor relief to the quarterly disbursements of the County Gaol, these documents give an insight into life for the ordinary people living in Cumberland in this era. Administrative responsibilities such as road maintenance were part of the duties of the Justices of the Peace, and it was as big an issue then as it is today, with petitions from the Surveyors of the Highways needing a "Common Order" to assist with the repair of the roads as well as work on the county bridges. Inquisition reports, bastardy bonds and removal orders are all part of the Quarter Sessions records, and this information can be incredibly useful for anyone trying to trace their ancestors and learn more about how they lived.

Lighting up Carlisle

Kelda Roe, Archivist

The title 'minute book' of a council committee doesn't always ignite the imagination – but, amongst the appointing of officials and routine business, there are details which can help to shed light on the changing landscape and experience of life in Cumbrian towns, villages and the City of Carlisle.



Above: Receipt for payment of lamplighters. Carlisle CA/4/63

The recently catalogued Watch *and* Lighting Commissioners and Committee minute books are an illuminating example of this - as Carlisle moved from an early 19th century city with very little public lighting to one lit first by oil lamps, then gas and finally electric lights.

While the Carlisle City archive includes receipts for payment of lamplighters dating back to the 1760s (see image above right), widespread public street lighting in Carlisle has its origins in 1803 with an Act of Parliament. This was passed to give the City Council the powers needed for 'Lighting the Streets, Lanes, and other Public Passages and Places, within the City of Carlisle' - the act noted that at this time the streets of Carlisle were 'very insufficiently lighted'.

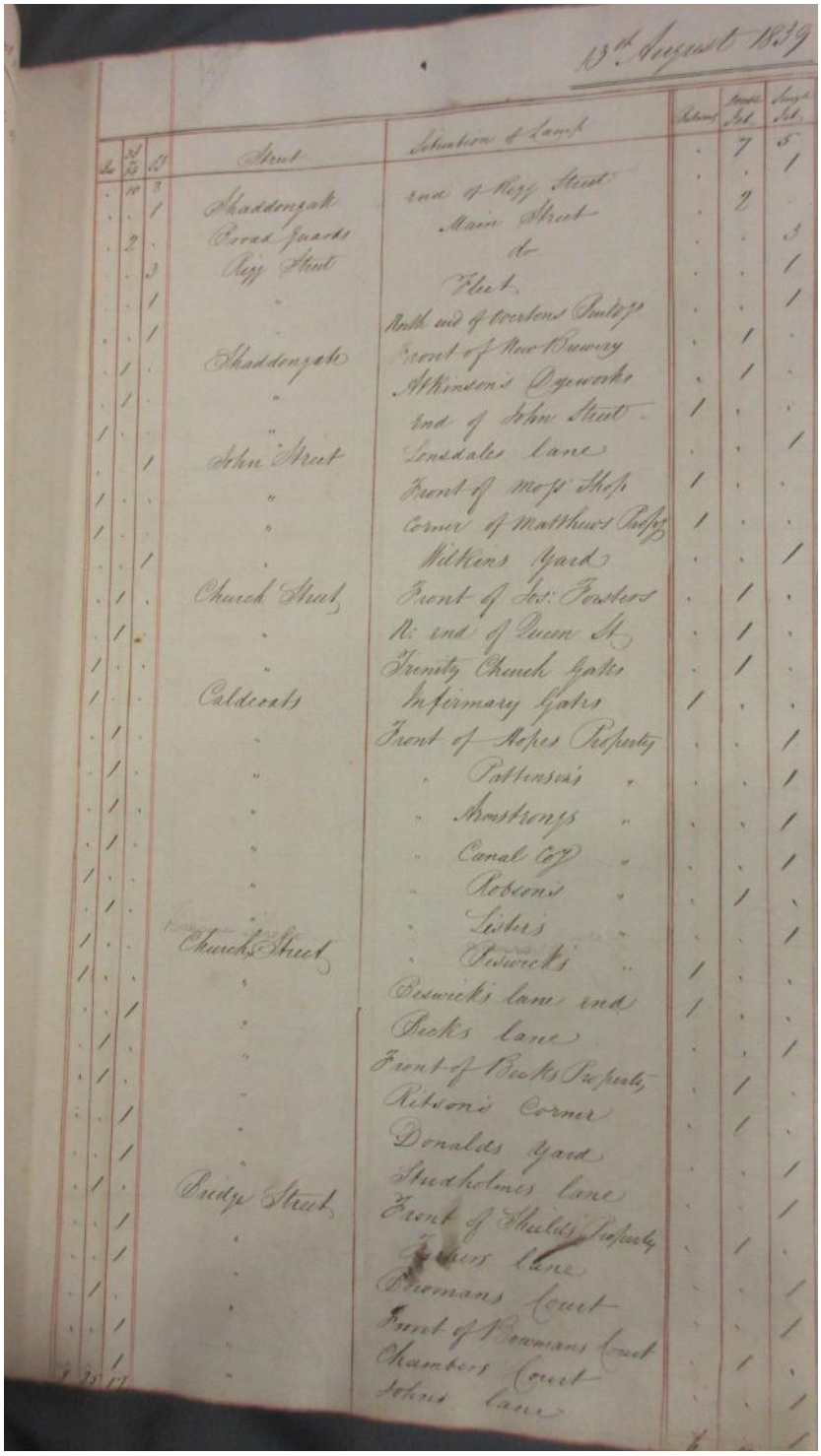
The first public streetlamps in Carlisle were powered by oil with cotton wicks; the flames being protected and light dispersed by glass globes. These lamps were individually lit each evening by a lamp lighter.

George Norton was appointed as lamp lighter by the Watch and Lighting Commissioners in 1811. He was paid 2 shillings and 7 pence a week for each sconce lit and allowed a budget for ladders 'during the season' - presumably the darker winter months. The Lamp Lighter was also to be advised by the committee on 'when to commence lighting in each Moon'. The thrifty Commissioners of the early 19th century were apparently not going to spend money on fuel for lamps, or the wages for lighting them, when there were clear skies and a full moon to light the way for Carlisle residents out after sunset.

'The first public streetlamps in Carlisle were powered by oil with cotton wicks; the flames being protected and light dispersed by glass globes. These lamps were individually lit each evening by a lamp lighter.'

‘The Commissioners also ordered the printing of 500 handbills offering a reward for anyone providing information about people deliberately breaking the lamp globes’.

The costs of oil, wick and the lamplighter’s wages were largely covered by an annual rate charged to residents or owners of property in the city, but for accidental and deliberate breakages the Commissioners took further action. By 1813, lamplighter George Norton was responsible for the cost of repairs ‘if any Glass Globes be broke thru’ Idleness of the people employed in lighting the Lamps’; the Commissioners also ordered the printing of 500 handbills offering a reward for anyone providing information about people deliberately breaking the lamp globes. This proved effective - in February 1819 George Edmondson and William Hicks[?] were rewarded for apprehending and detaining a boy who was ‘wilfully breaking the lamps’.



Above: Page from the Lighting Committee’s minute book. Carlisle: CA/C/1/26/3

Around 1818 the first lamps were erected on Eden Bridge and 1819 saw the establishment of The Carlisle Gas Light and Coke Company to produce gas and install the infrastructure needed to deliver it to public buildings and spaces. From 1819 Carlisle began the process of moving from oil to gas streetlights. The gas lamps still had to be lit, but they

didn't need to be individually refuelled as the oil lamps had.

1839 was a major year in streetlighting for Carlisle with expansion of gas lighting to many new areas of the city. The Lighting Committee minutes show the expansion planned for the second half of the 1839-1840 financial year listing the streets and types of light that would be placed. The list covers almost ten full pages of the minute book, detailing the location of more than 350 new lamps e.g. 'English Street Front of Routledge's Shop' - and whether they would be a batwing, double jet or single jet style of lamp. (see image on page 44).

Electric light began to be introduced from the late 19th century; however, gas streetlamps remained a feature of the Carlisle landscape into the mid-20th century. As late as the 1950s, when one area of Carlisle had lamps upgraded from gas to electric, the gas lamps were often reinstated in other areas of the city or on new roads. Lighting the gas lamps had become more efficient through the introduction of 'Gunfire' lighters (see image above right) and later automatic timers. People sharing memories on the 'Old photos of Carlisle and surrounding area' Facebook group recall being able to give the streetlamp outside their house a kick to get it lit early and save on their bills at home - or for the kids it was just a fun game known as 'Lampie'!



Mr. Smith, in conclusion, submitted the following statement of capital expenditure and annual cost of scheme for fitting the whole of the lamps in the city with automatic controllers :—

Capital Expenditure.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CONTROLLERS :		
2,177 for double lamps at 26s. each	2,830 2 0	
16,823 for single lamps at 22s. 6d. each ...	18,925 17 6	
		21,755 19 6
NEW LAMPS AND CONVERSION OF EXISTING TO NEW TYPE :		
500 new double lamps at 25s. 6d. each ...	637 10 0	
1,000 new single lamps at 22s. 6d. each ...	1,125 0 0	
1,654 "Bellamy" double lamps converted at 16s. each	1,323 4 0	
11,073 "Bellamy" single lamps converted at 14s. each ...	7,751 2 0	
4,550 flat flame lamps converted at 13s. each	2,957 10 0	
		13,794 6 0
Bye-pass tubes		450 0 0
Labour, installing		1,500 0 0
		£37,500 5 6

	£ s. d.
Credit :	
Old material	250 0 0
	£37,250 5 6

Annual Maintenance Cost.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
PRESENT SYSTEM :		
Wages of 14 foremen and 181 lamplighters ...	12,948 19 1	
Wages of lamp repairers, trimmers, &c.	3,993 10 5	
Materials	2,437 5 10	
		19,379 15 4
AUTOMATIC SYSTEM :		
Wages : 95 lamp attendants at 26s. per week ... 6,422		
" One week's holiday for ditto... 138		
" Lamp repairers, &c.... ... 1,400		
	7,960 0 0	
Clock maintenance ...	400 0 0	
Material	1,300 0 0	
Maintenance of tricycles	100 0 0	
Painting lamps and columns	100 0 0	
	10,060 0 0	
	£9,319 15 4	

Saving in gas by promptly lighting and extinguishing the public lamps at the time which those operations are now respectively completed and commenced during the year, except during the six winter months, when the lamps are lighted at the mean time 2,316 11 1

Saving in gas through abolition of summer lighting 143 17 5

2,460 8 6

£11,780 3 10

At Wednesday's meeting of the City Council the Committee recommended "that the Superintendent of Street Lighting be authorised to expend one-quarter of the amount of £7,500 (proposed to be included in the Estimates for 1909), viz., £1,875, in completing the lighting of a portion of a district with automatic controllers and lamps."

This Report is based upon (over a year's) trial of **260** of the

"GUNFIRE" CONTROLLERS

(TRADE MARK) (GUNNING'S PATENT)

Which are both Simple and Strong, and can safely be entrusted to an ordinary Lamplighter.

THE CONTROLLER THAT CAN BE EASILY SET and THE TIMES OF LIGHTING AND EXTINGUISHING VARIED AS REQUIRED

Our success is further proved by the fact that in the following towns, viz:—

OXFORD	BOURNEMOUTH	FOLKESTONE
EXETER	BRIGHTON	OLDHAM
WEST HARTLEPOOL	WALTHAM ABBEY	NEW SOUTHGATE
WELLINGBOROUGH	NORTH MIDDLESEX GAS Co.	BISHOP'S STORTFORD
MAIDENHEAD	BANBURY	KEIGHLEY
LIVERPOOL	WEYMOUTH	BASINGSTOKE
ROMFORD	NEWTON-IN-MAKERFIELD	BRISTOL

. . OVER . .

Eleven Thousand

LAMPS ARE FITTED WITH THE

"GUNFIRE" CONTROLLER.

No other system of Controller can show a list of three towns with over 50 Controllers in each.

THE BRITISH, FOREIGN AND COLONIAL

AUTOMATIC LIGHT CONTROLLING CO., LTD.

63, Victoria Street, BRISTOL.

Above: Page from the Lighting Committee's minute book. Carlisle CA/C/3/231 part ACCESS

Conference Spotlight:
Archives and Records Association

Kelda Roe, one of our Archivists at Carlisle Archives Centre, recently attended the Archives and Records Association (ARA) national conference in Bristol, where she played a key role by chairing one of the panel sessions. Kelda attended not only as a speaker but also as a bursary holder, thanks to support from Ancestry.

Here's what she had to say about her experience:

It was a content-packed three days with topics ranging from sustainable storage and the use of AI, to supporting a range of audiences and researchers. It was also an opportunity to connect with hundreds of other professionals working in archives, conservation, records management and information governance. There were lots of useful sessions to learn from, and the opportunity to step back from day-to-day work and gain a broader professional perspective was invaluable.

I chaired a panel session on emotions in the archives with a particular focus on working with distressing records, e.g. coroner's records, and supporting staff and researchers who need to access them. I also delivered an individual presentation on my work to make Carlisle Archive Centre's legal deposit records more usable. While I knew my work was important and relevant to my service, I was pleasantly surprised that it was so popular on a national stage - the venue was standing room only and I received really positive feedback both in person and on LinkedIn.

I will definitely be encouraging my colleagues at Cumbria Archives to submit papers or consider attending in future years as it was an amazing professional development experience.

Kelda Roe, Archivist





Above: Kelda (front right) with fellow bursary attendees. Photograph by: Archives and Records Association.

Researcher's Contribution

A local historian's experience: Using Cumbria Archives Service

Simon Drakeford

I live in Casterton, near Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. Casterton is an ancient village, boasting its own Roman road, a Neolithic stone circle, a turnpike road, a school associated with the Brontë sisters, and many historic farmsteads.



For the past few years, I have been writing regular history articles - standalone pieces I call "Sketches" - each focusing on an aspect of Casterton's history.
To date, I have written 25 such Sketches on subjects varying from local houses and farms, to historical personalities, local industry, and village life. They are published on our local village website (see https://www.castertonparishcouncil.org.uk/simon-drakefords-historical-articles/

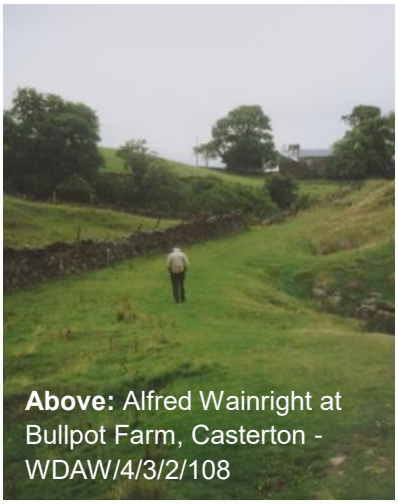
of which revealed a fascinating story; the largest concerned the turnpike road. I have even written a sketch about an intangible topic: a documented walk that took place in Casterton in 1846.
At some point, I hope to consolidate and edit these Sketches and publish them in book-form to provide a definitive history of Casterton.
I use many research resources, including paid access to the Ancestry genealogical site and the

'Some local Casterton residents have been very generous with their time, either agreeing to be interviewed or sharing their own history discoveries.'

Once I started thinking about our local history, I was amazed at how many different areas of research, albeit quite niche, could be identified in a small village. The smallest item I have written about is a plaque in the village hall, the words

British Newspaper Archive. I have purchased far too many local history books and postcards that feature Casterton, as well as archive maps from the National Library of Scotland, who offer a fantastic resource of digitised old maps in extremely high definition.
Some local Casterton residents have been very generous with their time, either agreeing to be interviewed or sharing their own history discoveries. I have also found that field work is particularly useful to help understand certain aspects of history.
Finally, I have made extensive use of our local council archives. Due to Casterton's proximity to Lancaster, some related material has found its way into the Lancashire Archives in Preston. While the Cumbria Archives in Carlisle also hold records, the Kendal branch contains by far the most extensive collection.
I have used county

archives before. Many years ago, I authored an essay as part of an archaeology GCSE, the topic of which was the ancient boundary of the Warwickshire village in which I lived.
More recently, I have visited corporate archives, old libraries in Shanghai, and the US Marines Archive near Washington DC, all which helped me with information for my master's degree dissertation in Sports History and Culture and for a published book about the history of the Shanghai Rugby Football Club.
All the archives I have visited have one thing in common: immensely helpful staff with a passion for history. These characteristics ensure that they provide great support for visiting researchers.
The staff at Kendal are no exception and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you!
In my many visits to the Kendal archives, I have retrieved numerous documents such as probate documents, wills, old estate maps, enclosure award maps and schedules, tithe maps and schedules, railway maps, conveyance and lease documents, documents



Above: Alfred Wainright at Bullpot Farm, Casterton - WDAW/4/3/2/108

regarding mortgages on local property, documents related to the 'Clergy Daughters School', auction catalogues, documents and letters connected with the administration of local estates, assessments on the poor of the parish and more esoterically, a reward notice concerning the theft of fruit from an orchard at Casterton Hall and a photograph of
Alfred Wainwright visiting a local farm.
Today's researchers can make use of modern technology to more efficiently search for and record the documents pertinent to their field of interest. Even before visiting the archive, it is possible to comprehensively search for items that may be of relevance to one's field of study. The advanced search facility, with its capacity to search key words, makes it much easier to identify documents of interest, while a quick copy-and-paste enables you to pre-order documents, so they are ready for your visit.
Another great benefit to researchers today is the ability to photograph physical documents in the research room. This offers three major advantages over the old method of making notes in situ: Firstly it makes it possible to view more documents in a single visit; Secondly, having a digital copy of a document on a desktop, particularly older documents, makes it a lot simpler and less time consuming to decipher, read, and transcribe the document; Thirdly, if you need to take a second look at the document, you have immediate access.
To conclude, if you are researching local history, your family history or working towards an academic qualification, it has never been easier to identify documents and make notes for your research. One thing that has not changed is the support and help you will receive from the diligent staff who will ensure your visit is seamless.

Happy researching!

Whitehaven Archives News Update

Diane Hodgson, Archivist

Outreach

This year we have had school visits from year 5 and 6 students from Gosforth and Beckermet primary schools.

Both sets of children have had a tour of the strong room and worked through activities based on our resources.

There has been a particular emphasis on the Census.

Over the Easter holidays, Finn Dickinson, a Lancaster University History student joined us to work on listing the Percy Kelly letters in more detail, completing the 1986 series. These entries are now live on CASCAT.

We are preparing for a cohort of A-Level History students from St Benedict's School to spend a day with us, having a tour of the archives, attend a talk on Public Health in Whitehaven and Workington, and an introduction to the source material they will need for coursework.

New Material

YDSO 204

Cleator Moor Bowls Club: handbook, yearbooks, constitution and photographs, 2003-2024.

YDSO 13

Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society, assorted programmes, 1957-2010.

DCU

Harrington Harbour and Dock Board Arrivals, Sailing and Harbour Dues, 1916-1928.

YDSO 205

Whitehaven Flower Club, minutes, scrapbooks, programmes, correspondence, 1962-2020.



YDSO 205

Whitehaven Flower Club, minutes, scrapbooks, programmes, correspondence, 1962-2020.

YDSO 103

Slides of Edgar Shackleton, geologist and president of the Cumberland Geological Society, undated [c1946-2006].

YPR 29

Brigham, St Bridget's parish, register of services, minutes, and financial papers, 1968-2017.

PH/1690

Photograph album of construction of A595 Hensingham Bypass, 1990-1991.

YDX 795

Reverend Thomas Parsons' family tree notes, 1858-1944.

YDX 765

Stephen Holliday's Local Studies Collection - additional material: letters, photographs and postcards, 1807-c1970s.

Local Studies Library, 99 COC

Church Book of Cockermouth Congregational Church, 1651-1700 volume 1: An Introduction by R B Wordsworth.

YBSC

British Steel publications,

programmes, photographs and balance sheets, presentations on the history of Chapel Bank and Moss Bay, 1881-2025.

DB 59, YDX 796
Material on Marchon and Bigrigg, including photographs and publications, c1870s-1990s.

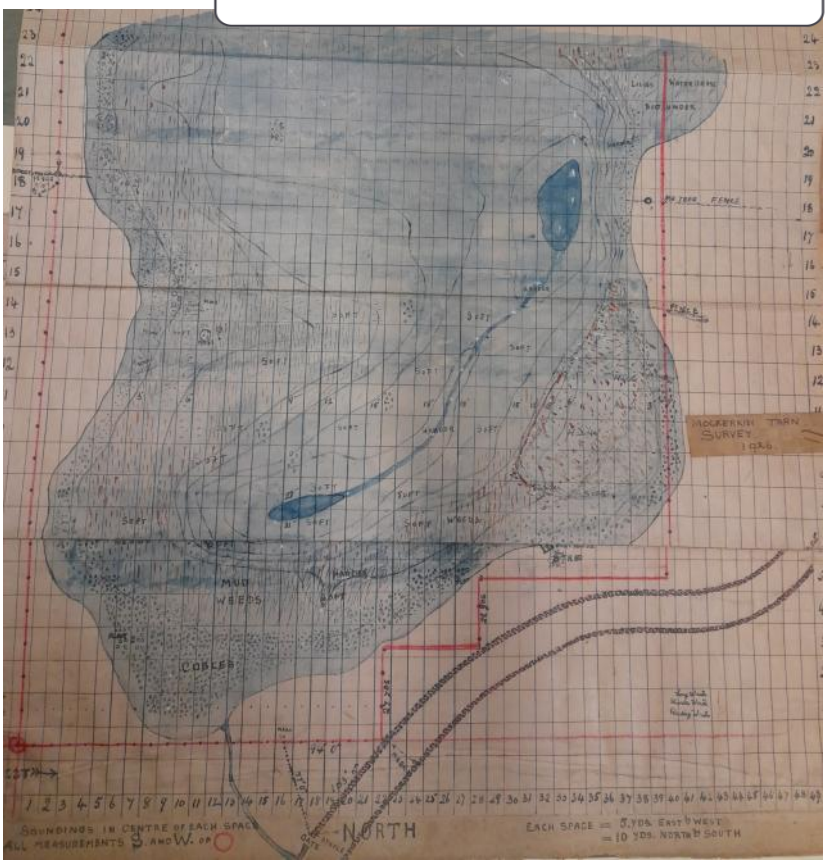
DH/579/21
Colour engraving of Maryport Pier during a storm, 1840.

YDX 792
Additional George Sloan material: photographs of machinery and staff (of Distington Engineering Company), undated [1960s].

DCU
Haile parish, registers of service, minutes and a trust deed, 1920-1985
A flag bearing the Curwen arms, 20th century.

YDX 797
Maritime records of Joseph Mossop, apprenticeship agreement, certificate of character and notebook, 1857-1960s.

YDX 798
Miscellaneous papers and photographs relating to Whitehaven and



Above: Plan of Mockerkin Tarn, 1926 (YDX 801/1).

businesses, including '12 Views of Whitehaven' postcards, 1920s-1980s.

YDX 563
Clark family papers and photographs - additional, including educational certificates and references, and photographs of a moto-cross event at Bootle, 1933-1979.

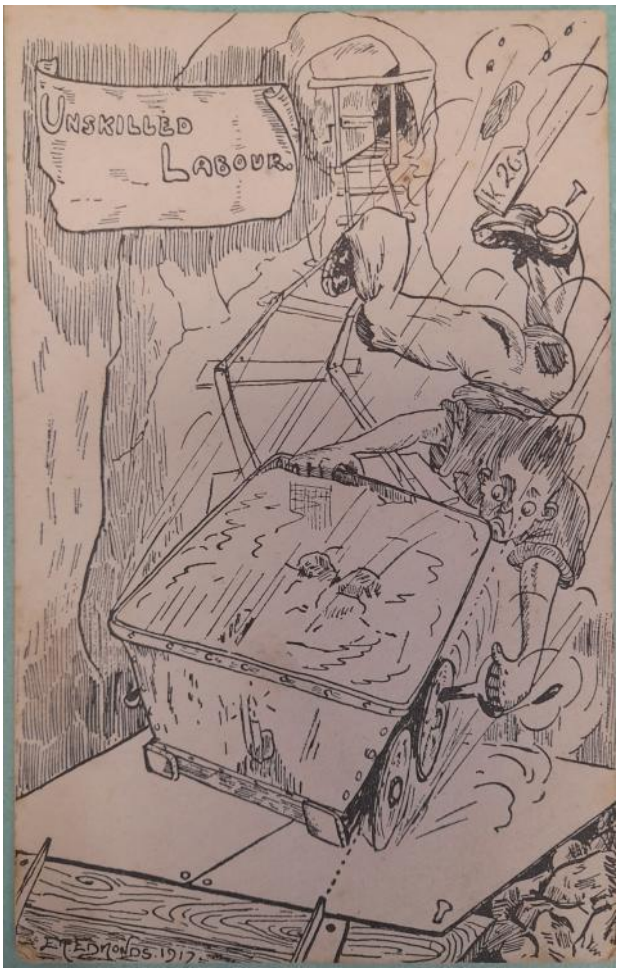
YDX 799
Records relating to mining including cartoons drawn by a miner and Woodend Mines order book, 1887-1980 (see page 52).

PH/1691
Photograph of St Cuthbert's Church, Seascale, undated [1950s].

Various including
YPR 42 and YDX 364
Assorted newsletters, magazines, newspaper

articles and flyers relating to West Cumbria, including St Bees News, Whitehaven Musical Festival programme, Mid Copeland GDF partnership newsletter, 2004-2025.

YDSO 206
Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society: title deeds, sale particulars, plans, correspondence, material relating to Loweswater and Brackenthwaite Agricultural Show and Lorton Valley Sports,





Above: Mining cartoons drawn by E R Edmonds, miner, 1916-1917. (YDX 799/2)

school records, digital photos of various Leconfield records, 1837-2025.

YDX 791
Tax assessments on Lord Muncaster's estate, undated [late 18th-early 19th century].

YDFCE 1, YDFCE 2
Workington, Evangelical Church, Gordon Street and Christ Church, Edkin Street, marriage registers 1919-1968.

YDFCE 3
Workington, Mission Hall, Duke Street marriage register, 1905-1986.

YDX 800
Local Studies Collection of the late Eva Elliott: research files of newspaper articles, handwritten notes, programmes and photographs on Whitehaven; sporting postcards and West Cumberland Boys Brigade photographs; Older Persons Forum (West Cumbria) minutes, 20th century to 2020.

YDSO 94
Whitehaven Heritage Action Group minutes and draft information board street signs, 2016-2023.

YDX 801
Survey of Mockerkin Tarn and poem, 1888-1926.

YDX 802
Deeds for properties in Whicham and Thwaites: Wholepippin Farm, Grice Croft, Baystone Bank, 1697-1930.

SWWC
Statutory instruments, West Cumberland Water Board Orders, 1960-1964.

YDSO 2
Independent Order of Oddfellows, Special' Rules of the Loyal 'Curwen' Lodge, 1915.

SRDMB
Millom Joint Education Committee and School Managers Committee minutes, 1934-1958

YDS 104
Lapstone Road School, Millom, pupils' poems, [1970s].

Cataloguing

Since our last update, we have worked on smaller collections and ongoing projects.

YDX 794
We have catalogued the papers of Workington Mayor and Councillor J Mercia Haughan.

YDSO 205
Programmes, minutes and scrapbooks of Whitehaven Flower Club.

YWCSP
The records of the West Cumbria (Strategic) Partnership are now completely catalogued and live on CASCAT.

YPR 25
The large deposit of Cleator Moor St John's parish records, including registers of service, faculties and reports, were listed after they had been cleaned by the Conservation team.

YBSC
We received a large number of newsletters, brochures and accounts for British Steel and its predecessor companies which have filled in gaps in our existing holdings.

YDX 797
The Australian National Maritime Museum forwarded us some documents relating to the career of Joseph Mossop, a seaman born in Ennerdale, including his apprenticeship indenture, 1857, and certificate of character, 1862.

We have catalogued the records of Whitehaven School which were transferred from our Records Management Team. These have mainly consisted of governors' minutes but among them were school newsletters, a staff handbook, inspection reports, and 'Starting at Whitehaven School in 1995' - a collection of views from pupils.

YDX 801
We have recently received a survey of Mockerkin Tarn carried out by a family in 1926, recording types and locations of grasses and soil. It was accompanied by a handwritten poem, 'The Legend of Mockerkin Tarn' in 1888.

YDX 800
We were saddened to learn of the passing of Eva Elliott, a local researcher and regular visitor to Whitehaven Archives. Her research files on various aspects of Whitehaven such as entertainment, mining and schools, as well as a collection of photographs of local sports teams have been donated to the office.
Jethro from Whitehaven Library has visited the archives regularly to add more of our Local Studies books to the library catalogue. Staff have continued to appraise the Ennerdale Building Plans, listing them in more detail

as they go. We have also started adding files to *Preservica*, our new digital preservation system. This includes sound recordings such as Sellafield Stories and the West Cumbria Oral History Network and small photographic collections as we begin to get to grips with this new software.

Staffing

There has been a significant change in personnel here at Whitehaven.

In March, we said goodbye to **Lesley Park** who worked as an Archive Assistant for around 18 years. Lesley was instrumental in running the Archive Discovery Evenings at this office. She also managed our regular volunteer projects, like the indexing of ships' crew lists and the World War II newspapers and was the creator of the West Cumberland at War newssheets (which can still be found on our website).

In May, **Barbara Clark**, one of the longest-serving members of staff at Cumbria Archives, retired after more than 30 years working for the archive service. Barbara first worked at Carlisle Archives as a Search Room Assistant and then Search Room Supervisor. She left Carlisle in December 2010 during the move from the Castle to Lady Gillford's House. Barbara then began working in the library service in West Cumbria and covering the search room at Whitehaven Archives, before being appointed as a Project Archivist, cataloguing the Rosehill Theatre collection. After that, she became a permanent Archivist at Whitehaven.

We are sorry to see both Lesley and Barbara go and wish them a very happy retirement.

Melanie Grange returned as a part-time Archive Assistant in June 2025, having worked at Whitehaven back in the 2000s. Melanie is about to take on the role of Collection Manager at Muncaster Castle. We wish her well in her new role and shall look forward to future collaborations.

Volunteering at Whitehaven

Mary Chisholm



For many years I was a search room assistant at what was then Whitehaven Record Office and Local Studies Library. I retired in 2013 and later that year I became a volunteer to try and do some of the necessary backroom work which the staff don't have time to do.

This involved, among other things, reorganising the Local Studies files, listing uncatalogued local books (some from the eighteenth century) and boxing up church magazines. I also helped with the reorganisation when an extension was to be built. This did not happen because of costs but a lot of work went into weeding the Local Studies section. Another major job I do is repackaging archives, particularly solicitors' collections which are inevitably dusty and full of corrosive staples and paperclips. Many cleaning sponges have been used over the years. My contribution is small as I only volunteer one morning a week, but I hope I help to keep the service running.

Notes from a Volunteer

Evelyn Platt

I had little or no expectations 20 years ago when I first stepped into the Whitehaven records office, but I had started my family tree and the advice back then was visit your local archives as there may be records available that could help.

I turned up one Saturday morning to see what records were available and have continued to visit on and off ever since, thrilled with each discovery and record found. I knew my great grandfather Tom Dyson came to Whitehaven from Yorkshire in the early 1900s with his wife Esther to be landlord of the Royal Standard Hotel but that was all. One of the first treasurers I was introduced to was the Pub Register, which listed information about pubs in the area, and there was a record of my great grandfather Tom Dyson taking on the Royal Standard Hotel in 1904 when there was a music hall theatre at the back. In 1917 his daughter Evelyn and husband John William Strand took over the role of landlord whilst Tom Dyson took over the Pack Horse and the Puncheon public houses.

I asked family members if there was a family story that I could try and confirm, and there was. I was told Grandma Dyson was stoking the fire in the Royal Standard and her apron caught fire and she was badly burned around the chest, neck and face. Knowing my Grandmother died in the Royal Standard in 1946 I initially wasted time looking in newspapers around this date but found no newspaper articles, only a death announcement. I then realised that my grandmother was born Evelyn Dyson but upon her marriages she would have been Evelyn Strand and then Evelyn Cooke so it couldn't have been my grandmother but perhaps it was my great grandmother who would have been Grandma Dyson. So back to the Pub Register and I found that after the death of Tom Dyson in the Pack Horse Pub in 1930, Esther took on the role of a caretaker landlord until a permanent landlord was appointed. Esther then took on the full tenancy of the



Masonic Hotel in New Street, Whitehaven from 1930 until 1933. So back to the newspapers and in the *Whitehaven News* there was a story on how Esther turned on her gas oven to cook lunch when the oven backfired and her apron caught fire. She ran out into the street and a passer-by put out the flames with his hands and Esther was taken to hospital with severe burns. To finish the story, after her recovery Esther didn't return to the Masonic Hotel but retired and passed away in 1953, 20 years after her ordeal. She is buried in Whitehaven Cemetery with her husband Tom.

A number of archive staff have come and gone in the time I have been visiting the archive centre and all have been helpful and full of encouragement in the search for your chosen goal. I cannot thank the staff enough for their help.

Muncaster Castle Archive
Development and collaboration

Melanie Grange

I have recently been lucky enough to work both as an Archive Assistant for the Cumbria Archives at Whitehaven, and a Castle Guide and volunteer archivist at Muncaster Castle.



This unique position has provided me with an insight into the relationship between private family collections and public archives, enabling me to learn from established practices within the archive service, and to utilise and adapt these new skills within a private family collection.

It is also fortunate that many of the early records of the Muncaster Castle estate are held at the archive in Whitehaven, and my knowledge of both collections has proven extremely useful.

The Muncaster estate is home to the Pennington family, who have occupied this site for over 800 years. Alan de Penitone was granted a charter to build at Muncaster in 1208, with earlier records suggesting the family may have resided in this area as early as 1026. The medieval Peel tower, built in the 13th century, forms the earliest part of the current structure which was expanded and re-designed over subsequent years. The final version is a gothic interpretation of our medieval past, designed in the 18th century by renowned architect Anthony Salvin. This site with its commanding position overlooking the West Cumbrian coastline, has been recognised for centuries as a key strategic point providing panoramic views over a landscape rich in natural resources such as tin, iron and copper. The Romans recognised its strategic importance, utilising the natural harbour at nearby Ravenglass, erecting a fort complex with a bath house which still stands today, and a road network incorporating Muncaster and the surrounding fells. This location and key finds at the site including Roman coins, may even indicate the existence of a Roman structure beneath the current building.

The Castle houses a vast collection of historic material ranging from important works of art by artists such as Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough, Alfred Munnings and Philip de László, to 17th century tapestries, early Dutch religious carvings, Italian plaster work, and marble inlays by Antonio Canova, exquisite furniture and personal family papers, photographs, books and memorabilia. My personal favourites amongst this impressive collection include the large portrait of Joan Ramsden by de László, which is accompanied by



preliminary sketches and correspondence, and the beautifully carved marriage chest in the library recording the marriage between the 4th Lord Muncaster Gamel Augustus Pennington and Lady Jane Louisa Octavia Grosvenor, which visitors often believe to be a coffin!

The family tree is vast, encompassing the central Pennington family lineage, and the later Ramsden Family of Huddersfield, from which the current owner Iona Frost-Pennington descends. When the 5th and final Lord Muncaster Jocelyn Pennington died in 1917, he had no children and therefore no direct heir to the estate. The estate was inherited by his cousin John Freshville Ramsden, and upon inheriting, the Ramsdens also retained the family name Pennington. The Pennington family have ties through marriage to other prominent families such as the Lowthers, the Grosvenors and the Huddlestons, whilst the Ramsden family ancestors include the Buxton family, and the famous Seymour family, tracing their heritage back to Edward Seymour the 1st Duke of Somerset and Jane Seymour his sister, wife of Henry VIII. A portrait of Edward Duke of Somerset proudly surveys the Drawing room, accompanied by other prominent relations such as Mary Bright the Marchioness of Rockingham, wife to the Prime Minister Charles Watson-Wentworth 2nd Marquess of Rockingham.

‘The Commissioners also ordered the printing of 500 handbills offering a reward for anyone providing information about people deliberately breaking the lamp globes’.

It is easy to understand why the family has produced so many important records over the centuries, records which are held at several repositories around the country, including the Hull History Centre, which holds records of the family from their Warter estate in

Yorkshire, the National Library of Scotland and Cumbria Archives. A large proportion of the early Pennington family records are held by Cumbria Archives at Whitehaven, and these are available for the public to view on request. Records held at the Castle include a few early Pennington records, but predominantly consist of the personal, family and estate records, photographs, plate negatives and memorabilia of the Seymour and the Ramsden families.

With the help of a team of volunteers we are currently organising the records held at the castle, with the aim being to provide access to these collections in the future. One area of focus is the photographic collections, which we believe will be of particular interest to local people, family historians and the descendants of our early estate workers. We would like to digitise these collections in the future and use the images for displays and events. Many of our records have been boxed, listed and some records transcribed by volunteers, but this is an ongoing project, and we still have a long way to go.

We have worked closely with the Archives since beginning the project, and they have been generous enough to provide us with advice, suitable archive shelving, storage and archive boxes, which have enabled us to create a functioning archive space in the Castle.

Researchers use the Pennington collection at Whitehaven frequently, and the family appreciate the work done by the service to care for and provide access to these records. We recognise the need to generate greater awareness of our collections in the castle and explore the value these records will hold for wider projects. Many family history researchers with ties to the Pennington family travel from around the world. Branches of the Pennington family emigrated from England to America in the 1700's, and we host many American visitors at the castle and at Cumbria Archives. The estate records also hold great interest for academics, and most recently a team from Norway have transcribed early administrative records from the 1300s to analyse linguistic styles within medieval records. A recent Oxford intern working at the castle has employed records held both by the castle archive and the Whitehaven archive to research early landscape history and development on the estate. We hope to work together in the future to provide further access to records held at the Castle and hopefully generate research projects and events that will utilise these valuable historical resources.

'I am about to undertake a new role at Muncaster as Collection Manager, and I look forward to working closely with Cumbria Archives to provide information and access for the public in the form of talks, exhibitions and online content.'

I am about to undertake a new role at Muncaster as Collection Manager, and I look forward to working closely with Cumbria Archives to provide information and access for the public in the form of talks, exhibitions and online content.

Cumbria Archives

Opening Hours

To make an appointment to visit, please get in touch with the relevant Centre:

Barrow Archive Centre

Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am - 1pm; 2pm - 5pm
Closed between 1pm - 2pm
Email: Barrow.archives@cumberland.gov.uk

Carlisle Archive Centre

Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am - 1pm; 2pm - 5pm
Closed between 1pm - 2pm
The Victorian Kitchen will be open for visitors to stay during the lunch closure but bring your own refreshments. Please also note that Reception at Lady Gillford's House will be closed 12pm to 1pm. Archive users already in the building will be able to exit the building but there will be no admittance of visitors during this hour.
Email: Carlisle.archives@cumberland.gov.uk

Kendal Archive Centre - Interim Service at Kendal Library

Wednesday to Friday: 10am - 4pm
Important: Kendal Library closes at 1pm on Thursday.
If you aim to arrive after 1pm you will need to phone us for access to the building. Phone numbers will be provided when you make your appointment.
Email: Kendal.archives@cumberland.gov.uk

Whitehaven Archive Centre

Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am - 12.30pm; 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Closed between 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Email: Whitehaven.archives@cumberland.gov.uk

@CumbriaArchives

Cumberland Council

Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**

cumbriaarchives.org.uk