THE MOURHOLME MAGAZINE OF
LOCAL HISTORY, Spring 2024

2024 No.1, issue 82 Price £1.00

Contents Page

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History
2024, No.1 issue 82

AN INTRODUCTION BY YOUR NEW CHAIR, Nina Gaubert

Hello All
As the new Chair of Mourholme Local History Society, I would like to introduce myself. I I took over the Chair from Simon Williams, who announced his retirement at the AGM in April 2023. Simon held the role for nine years and I know I have big shoes to fill.

So who am I? I moved back to my native Lancashire to Silverdale three years ago, after living in a village in Essex for 25 years, where I was an active member of the local history society and still edit the village history website. I am passionate about history, probably passed down from my dad, so when I receive a demographic survey and it asks were there x number of books in your house when you were a child, I always smile, as my dad had an extensive library of history books, although I don't think reading AJP Taylor as my bedtime story would have been encouraged.

An area of English history I had never studied at school was the English Civil War and I saw that the Open University did a short three-month course on the subject. The intention was to just study that, instead I became hooked again on education and completed a BA Hons degree in history in my 40s. I probably read some weird books about Mussolini or Napolean, for example, on my daily commute. I have a wide range of interest in history, whether it is some genealogy advice for the former village, or researching local history around here.

As a start of my tenure, I am interested in hearing ideas from members and you will have had a short questionnaire, which I hope you have had time to complete, so the committee can ensure we are providing a society that is delivering what members want[1].

As I have stepped up to chairing the Society, we need some new committee members. In addition, Bill, who has been excellent at sourcing some great speakers over the years, has let the committee know he will be stepping down at the next AGM. The Society cannot operate as a charity without the committee so if you could spare a couple of hours to attend four to five meetings a year, feel free to come and talk to any of the existing committee.

I am looking forward to being your chair and please come and say hello to me.

Nina

[1] For those who have not yet filled it in, the questionnaire makes another appearance along with this magazine.

The Mourholme Magazine of Local History
2024, No.1 issue 82

CARNFORTH RAILWAYMEN AND THE GENERAL STRIKE OF 1926.[1]

Clive Holden

The General Strike of May 1926 came about as a result of reductions in miners' wages quickly followed by the same treatment of railwaymen. Carnforth at the time had three engine sheds: the London & North Western Railway (LNWR); the Furness Railway (FR); and the Midland Railway (MR). These, along with the Iron Works, were the main providers of employment for the men of Carnforth and the surrounding area.

Figure 1: The closed Midland Railway shed at Carnforth

The response to the call for strike action was not total, but sufficient to force the temporary closure of the Midland Shed.

[1] Most of the following information is taken from an article by Mark Reynolds in the July/August 1991 edition of 'Back Track'. Thanks are due to Mark Reynolds, and to Pendragon Publishing for allowing the use of the information. The original article was entitled 'Railways during the General Strike' and was in two parts, with the second part dealing with events at Carnforth

Of the 285 men in the workforce, 249 went on strike, with another 14 either ill or on unpaid holiday. Whether on strike or not, there was not a lot of work available.

Twelve of the waged staff volunteered to go on the footplate, and one of them, a tube cleaner, worked for 113½ hours, for which he received £8.10s.3d, while a fitter's apprentice did 31 hours firing duty and received £2.6s.6d. There were in addition eight civilian volunteers, two of whom worked as firemen for 57½ and 41 hours respectively. The volunteers consisted of a stockbroker, a bank clerk, haulage contractor, a ship's stoker, a ship's engineman, two farm labourers and a 'gentleman'.

Figure 2: The London and North Western Railway shed at Carnforth

The busiest man during all this must have been the Running Foreman of the Carnforth sheds, Mr. W.E. Blakesley, who, in addition to his normal duties, worked as a driver throughout the strike. It is interesting to read of his duties, as his is the only record of work undertaken:

Wed. 5th May:
Light engine to Oxenholme to assist freight train, but not required. So returned light engine.
Thurs. 6th May:
Special train of petrol tanks to Lancaster; returned light engine.
Friday 7th May:
Special freight to Windermere. Shunted at Oxenholme, Burneside and Kendal. Returned with 4.30 p.m. passenger train from Kendal to Carnforth.
Sat. 8th May:
Special freight to Carlisle, with shunting at Oxenholme, Tebay and Penrith. The train of 57 vehicles had to be separated at Tebay, with two journeys made over Shap Summit due to absence of a banking engine. Returned light engine to Carnforth.
Sun. 9th May:
Shunted engines in shed yard.
Mon. 10th May:
Special freight at 7.30 a.m. to Carlisle. Lodged overnight at Carlisle.
Tues. 11th May:
Assisted 6.25 a.m. passenger to Penrith. Ran light engine to Oxenholme and attached to a Penrith – Manchester cattle special. Off duty at Patricroft depot in Manchester.
Wed. 12th May:
Worked a Manchester – Carlisle freight as far as Carnforth.
Thu. 13th May:
Piloted a Midland driver to Lancaster and back to Carnforth.
Friday 14th May:
Normal administrative duties.
Sat. 15th May:
Assisted the 8.30.a.m. Euston – Carlisle passenger to Tebay due to this train being overloaded. Returned light engine to Carnforth.

So vital was the amount of coal available, that Blakesley had to telegraph Crewe each day to state how much coal was in stock. He must have been a mightily relieved man when he could get back to some sort of normality. Only during the last days of the strike, from 12th to 15th May, did locomotive diagrams, (only four of them) exist, as follows:

Shunting in the freight yards, by MR 0-6-0T No.1659.

1. Passenger link. 8.20 a.m. Carnforth to Wennington, 10.00 a.m. Carnforth to Lancaster, 11.36 a.m. Lancaster
2. to Kendal, 1.00 p.m. Kendal to Carnforth, 4.30 p.m. Carnforth to Wennington and return with 5.20 p.m. to Carnforth. Locomotive assigned to these duties was M.R. 0-6-0 No. 3357.
3. Passenger link. 2.30 p.m. Carnforth to Preston. 4.30 p.m. Preston to Barrow and return with the 8.00 p.m. from Barrow to Carnforth. This diagram had a volunteer fireman and was worked by three FR 0-6-0 engines, Nos. 12494, 12499 and 12512.
4. Freight link. 10.30.a.m. freight from Carnforth to Barrow and return. Worked all four days by F.R. 0-6-0 No. 12475.
5. On Sat. 15th May a plan to send a volunteer driver and fireman to Preston on a 'Prince of Wales' 4-6-0 was cancelled.

On the whole, the striking railwaymen appear to have caused little trouble, though there were a few exceptions. On 4th May a FR fireman challenged a volunteer knocker-up, but the incident passed without violence, though it was reported to Crewe. On 13th May a troublesome young cleaner and friends caused a disturbance outside the County Hotel where three volunteers were lodging, and the police had to be called. On 17th May an LNWR fireman was not allowed to start work because on the previous Wednesday he had accused a volunteer of being a blackleg.

So, was it worth it?

The strike, which had started on 4th May 1926, ended on 12th May nine days later with the railway companies in complete control. The former Guaranteed Week was abolished for those on strike, who would be re-employed only when traffic orders

and work could be found for them. This meant that men would only get three working days in every week by being rostered in batches of six, starting on a Thursday so as to be eligible for Unemployment Insurance after the qualifying period of six days. The railway companies also gained the power to send employees where they liked, and from 17th May volunteers had to be replaced by normal staff according to former seniority, with the required number kept to a minimum.

The railway company was in no hurry to resume full staffing levels, so that, of the 249 men who had joined the strike, 127 were on three days' work per week, while the other 122 were unable to work at all. Salaried staff were also affected, with two clerks at the station having to work on alternate weeks.

What of the volunteers?

Not a lot is known about what became of the volunteer workers, but Mark Reynolds managed to find information about two of them: Richard Downey and J. Speight. Between 1915 and 1925 Downey had been a fireman at Carnforth before leaving to be a driver on the Kenya Colony Railway in East Africa where, after only three months, he failed an altitude test and returned to England. During the strike he, with Speight as his fireman, took an engine from Carnforth to Penrith and worked on the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith section through to Workington. Downey must have seen this as an opportunity to resume full-time employment with the London Midland and

Scottish Railway[2] (LMS). After the strike Downey, along with Speight and three other volunteers, applied to be taken on, and received the following recommendation from Mr. Blakesley:

> "Downey you will notice has worked for the Western 'A' Section at this Station, and during the period he was under my supervision I found him to be a good and conscientious worker, and has never given cause for complaint.

Eventually Downey learned that the railway was willing to re-employ him, but there was a snag. The ASLEF (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen) union had no objection to Downey being re-employed, but, as he had left he railway once, it objected to his regaining his seniority. The result was that Downey was eventually offered a position as a Cleaner (the bottom of the ladder). Not surprisingly he rejected the offer. possibly with some indignation. What happened to him thereafter is not known.

In October 1926 a reference for Speight (presumably from Mr. Blakesley) had been sent to Crewe, stating:

> 'He is a sturdy, strong-built man and I feel sure to be suitable for firing duties'.

Nothing further is known of his attempt to find employment on the railway.

[2]The London Midland and Scottish Railway was formed from a number of Railways, including the FR, the LNWR, and the MR., following the Railways Act of 1921. The Act required the amalgamation of over 120 small railways into four large ones.

Mr. W.E. Blakesley

Mr. Blakesley is known to have been locomotive foreman at Oxenholme before moving to the same appointment at Carnforth in 1923, at about the time of the amalgamation of the railways following the 1921 Act. When the Furness shed was closed in early 1926 and its locomotives and staff were brought over to the former LNWR depot he was promoted to District Locomotive Superintendent with control over what had been Lancaster LNWR, Carnforth MR, and Oxenholme.

When the Euston – Heysham, and Manchester – Heysham. boat trains were introduced in 1928, replacing sailings from Fleetwood, Mr. Blakesley is thought to have found favour by asking for Midland type 4-4-0 compounds to work the trains. In 1935 LMS sheds were reorganised, and Mr. Blakesley had under his charge; Carnforth, with oversight of Barrow (Including Lakeside and Coniston); Lancaster Midland (though lost to him only a year later); Carnforth Midland; Oxenholme and Tebay.

Little more is known of him, but it seems that he must have gained promotion to a senior post of responsibility at Crewe, as there is a reference in the June 1938 edition of the 'LMS Magazine'[3] to a presentation by Mr. W.E. Blakesley to a Mr. T. Eaglesfield, who was transferred to Camden Motive power Depot as Assistant District Loco Supt, an important promotion. That it was Blakesley who made the presentation suggests that he had risen to a senior position at Crewe.

[3] It may well be that later issues of the LMS Magazine provide more information about Mr Blakesley

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WARTON FROM THE DOMESDAY BOOK TO 1512

Nina Gaubert

The following is a potted history of Warton that was prepared for the Bicentennial of the USA in 1976, due to its connection to the family of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America.

11th Century Warton

In 1086, William the Conqueror had completed his great survey of England, now known as the Domesday Book. Lancashire as a county had still not come into existence, so Warton (as well as Priest Hutton) appears in the Yorkshire – West Riding section, forming part of the estates of Torfin, an Anglo-Saxon thegn (one of the few to survive the conquest), whose headquarters were at Austwick (just off A65), which is still in Yorkshire. The North of England was sparsely populated, and large areas had been devasted by William's armies, which explains why the Domesday entries for this area are brief.

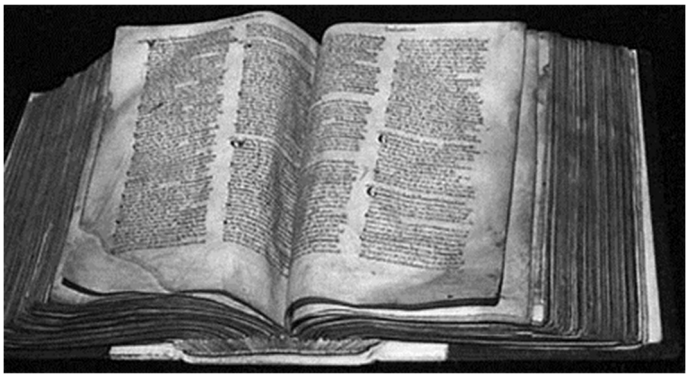

Figure 1, An image of the Domesday Book

13th Century Warton

By the 13th Century, Warton and Lancashire were very different places from what they had been at the time of the Domesday Book. The population of England had increased rapidly and trade was growing in importance. In 1086 only one trading centre had been mentioned in what is now Lancashire: Penwortham, south of Preston. As trade increased more markets became necessary, and the right to hold a market could only be given by the King. So, in April 1200, the then Lord of Warton, Gilbert Fitzreinfred, obtained a charter from King John allowing a Wednesday market to be held in Warton. Having received a Ryal Charter, it was open to any Lord to issue his own charter converting such a market town into a Borough. Gilbert's grandson Walter Lindsay, Lord of Warton was granted such a charter between 1245 and 1271[1]. Warton was now at its height of its importance: sadly, in the troubles of the next century the borough status seems to have met an early death.

14th Century Warton

In 1311 Ingram de Gynes, a Frenchman, had succeeded to the very important and valuable de Coucy estates in France. He also possessed extensive lands in the North of England, including the Lordship of Warton. His wife was Christiana Lindsay, a Scot. At the death of each great man in Medieval England, the King would hold a special inquiry called an Inquisition Post Mortem, to discover what lands the deceased had possessed, and what they were worth. When, in 1324 Ingram de Gynes died, the subsequent Inquisition Post Mortem found that Mourholme, the

[1] Translation by M. Bateman is in 'The Creation of Boroughs' English Historical Review XVII pp286-95

name of the castle of Warton,[2] belonged to the lordship of Warton (this included 150 acres in what is now Carnforth). There is a reference to the enclosed pastures whose land was worth only 12 pence a year because the beasts there were either destroyed by disease, or stolen by the Scots. This refers to the devasting Scottish raids of 1322, which reached far into south Lancashire.

Ingram's heir, William de Gynes was 36 years old. Subsequently his son, known as William de Coucy, now the Lord of Warton, made his home there. When, in 1337, the bitter Hundred Years War between England and France broke out, William, understandably, took the French side. To avoid having his English estates forfeited he passed them on (including Warton) to his son, known as William de Coucy II. Five years later, in 1342, William II died and his Inquisition Post Mortem shows the extent of the manor. There were 44 free tenants who paid rent of 1s 0d (these are the burgesses of Warton). There was a dovecot worth 12d and two water corn mills and a windmill worth £5. This, together with associated records, gives us the most valuable information we have about the medieval Warton, which the de Coucys now lost.

15th Century Warton

15th century Lancashire was a very different place from what it had been 200 years or so earlier. Scottish raids, famine and plague had led to a decline in population and general prosperity – many promising developments were nipped in the bud. Trade decreased in volume and many boroughs and market towns reverted to the status of villages. Warton was one of these, and

[2] The ruins of Mourholme castle lie at the Burton end of Pine Lake, Carnforth.

there are no references to the borough of Warton after the 14th Century. All that remained was the designation of certain landholdings in the village as 'Burgages', (i.e. the land which belonged to the original burgesses), in deeds, such as one granted to the Wheelman family of Warton in 1423. Their deed refers to land formerly owned by one John Dyke and transferred to Thomas and Jean Wheelman, with the provision that it was to pass to their children.

Another radical change with regard to Warton was that after the beginning of the Hundred Years War with France in 1337, the Lordship of Warton (which included Carnforth, Borwick, the Yealands, Lindeth and Silverdale) reverted to the Crown, and the castle of Mourholme fell into decay, never to be rebuilt. The only details we have about the castle are; it had a Hall, Great Chamber (bedroom), Wardrobe (dressing room and privy), Pantry, Buttery, Kitchen, Knights' Chamber and a Chapel.

Warton in the early 16th Century

In January 1512, King Henry VIII ordered a Latin Rental or Rent Roll of the whole manor of Warton. This gives an almost complete list of all the householders of the village, as well as the lords of adjacent manors (Yealand, Borwick, Carnforth and Ashton), which in the Middle Ages, had been subordinate to Warton.[3] At this time, the manor of Warton was in the possession of Sir Thomas Parr, the father of Catherine Parr, who became Henry's sixth wife.

[3] Lancashire Record Office, Towneley Papers

Manor Courts (or Courts Leet), which had been introduced shortly after the Norman conquest, were still a principal form of local governance in the 16th Century They were the local court of justice and a local authority rolled into one. It was the place where some local officials (such as constables, rate-collectors and by-law men and other manor officers) were elected. Its jury could make by-laws relating to the whole township.

In addition to the Latin Rent Roll, local Manor Courts Rent Rolls record the names of some local landowners, The Warton Roll, part of which is an annex to this article, names some members of the Washington family living in Warton during this period.

In this article Nina Gaubert has traced the history of Warton through almost five centuries, showing the profound changes in in its status during these years. Part II of Nina's fascinating history of Warton, 'Warton from the 16th to the 19th Century', will appear in the next magazine.

Annex

An extract from the local Manor Court rent roll records:
Gressomers, (tenants paying a special due called a gressom) were bound to attend at the Manor Court every three weeks.

1. Edward Laurence for the manor of Yealand, which used to belong to John Laurence. 1s.0d
2. Robert Whesshyngton (Washington) called Whitefield for which he pays, as rent a spur worth 8d.
3. John Whetyngton for a hold of land and the manor of Borwick. 13s 6d
4. Richard Walvey for a holding in Lindeth. 1d

5. Thomas Sand for a holding. 1d
6. John Wesshington (Washington) for a holding which used to belong to John Noble .1d
7. John Barbone for a holding in Lindeth. 1d
8. Robert Washington (mentioned above) for a holding in Lindeth which used to belong to William Yugleton. 6d
9. Richard Mackerell, husband of Margaret (widow of John Jackson Atkinson) for a holding in Warton. 1d
10. Thomas Stell for a holding. 1d
11. Richard, son of Thomas Hudson for a holding for which he pays, as rent, one red rose worth 1d.
12. Thomas Turnstall, Esq., for ten acres of land in Hubthorne for which he pays, at rent one pound of pepper worth. 1s 0d
13. Nicholas Lambatson for a piece of a burgage plot. 7d
14. Richard Lambatson, junior, for a piece of a burgage plot. 3d
15. Thomas Laurence for another piece of a burgage plot 9d
16. John Croserth for half a burgage plot. 6d
17. Thomas Stell for half a burgage plot (the other half of 16.) 6d
18. Thomas Laurence for two burgage plots. 2s 0d
19. Richard Hudson for a burgage plot and other land. 5s 2d
20. Thomas Stell for two burgage plots. 2s 0d
21. John Weshyngton (Washington) and Robert Wesshington (Washington) for a piece of a burgage plot. 8d
22. Thomas Stell for a piece of a burgage plot. 4d
23. John Wasshyngton (Washington) for half a burgage plot. 6d
24. Robert Wesshington (Washington) for half a burgage plot. 6d
25. Thomas Laurence for one burgage plot which is waste (i.e. has no buildings on it). 1s 2d

All tenants are bound to attend at the manor court every three weeks.

A VISIT TO THE WINTER GARDENS
Pam Davies

On Friday 18th August some 30 members and friends enjoyed an afternoon at the Morecambe Winter Gardens. We had an introductory talk by Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Chair of the Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust and Director of City and Culture at the University of Sheffield, whose family operated the Winter Gardens fairground. Following this talk, expert volunteer guides led us, in three groups, around the building: front of house and back stage; up to 'the gods' and out to the front veranda. Finally, we had a splendid and sociable tea, at slightly sloping tables on the raked floor of the auditorium, served by further volunteers and accompanied, on the stage, by the organist. The enthusiasm and dedication of all concerned in this massive restoration project was impressive.

The existing grade II* listed Winter Gardens building was built in 1897 as the Victoria Pavilion, a theatre forming an addition to the original Winter Gardens. The earlier complex, started by a consortium of businessmen from Bradford in 1876, comprised seawater baths (men's first and second class, and ladies'), an aquarium, an indoor garden, and restaurants, and was the third Winter Gardens built in England following those of Blackpool and Southport. The theatre was built using the new technology of iron roof arches developed for railway stations, enabling it to have a span of 118 feet and a height of 65 feet, with an elaborate fibrous plaster ceiling suspended by hemp ropes from its metal girders. It seated up to 3,000 people in stalls, a grand circle, and 'the gods', and was decorated to a high standard to give holiday-makers an extraordinary experience.

Over the years the Winter Gardens hosted Music Hall, then Variety Theatre, with acts such as Koringa the Female Fakir who mesmerised crocodiles, and Chung Ling Soo the second most famous magician in the world (actually an American called Robinson). It was also a classical music venue: the Morecambe Music Festival ran from 1893 to 2004; Edward Elgar attended it and wrote a song as a competition piece. More recently there were major visiting acts including Morecambe and Wise, and The Who.

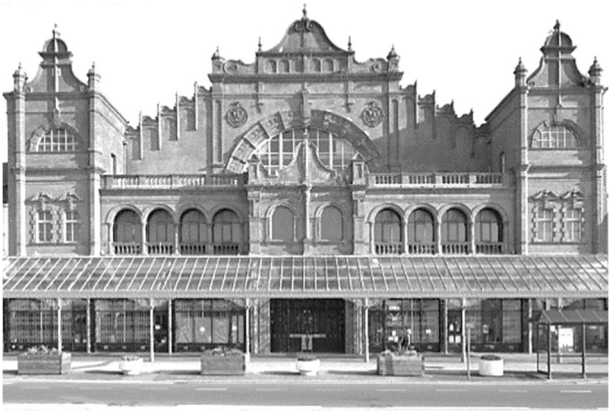

Figure 1, The Winter Gardens, Morecambe, today

The theatre went through various changes of ownership, and decline, and in 1982 the original Winter Gardens building was demolished against local protest: an amusement arcade was built on the site, to the right of the existing Winter Gardens. A group of local activists formed the Friends of the Winter Gardens and fought to save and reopen the building. It is now owned by the Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust, formed in 2006, and is the largest entirely volunteer-led project in the country, raising funds including grants from the DCMS Cultural Recovery Fund, the Theatres Trust, and elsewhere. Our £20

payments for our afternoon contributed to the current fund-raising. The Trust is keen to offer opportunities to local young people, and is working to provide training schemes.

We all came away with an insight into this extraordinary building and the equally extraordinary people of Morecambe who are determined to see "The Albert Hall of the North" restored to its former glory and functioning once more. Our guide reckoned that the Winter Gardens project was instrumental in the decision of the Eden project to come to Morecambe, by demonstrating the energy and enthusiasm of Morecambe's residents.

Do you have any memories or documents (Granny's collection of programmes?) about the Winter Gardens? Their web site includes this plea:

> Sadly, we have no archive or records of who appeared on our stage. If anyone can contribute or has information that can help us please send in to us via our Contact Us form. We cannot check for records of performances at the Winter Gardens over the years it was open as we don't yet have a comprehensive list but there are some famous names that appeared**.'**

The Trust's website at **https://morecambewintergardens.com** has a wealth of information about the past, present and future of this extraordinary building. Members who missed out on this visit can admire the auditorium and enjoy refreshments from the café most weekends from Easter to September, when the building is open.

As a result of the dedicated work of the Morecambe Winter Gardens Preservation Trust, In November 2023 it was announced that the Trust has been honoured with the King's Award for Voluntary Service. You can read ore about it here. - https://morecambewintergardens.com/morecambe-winter-gardens-preservation-trust-receives-the-kings-award-for-voluntary-service/.

BOOK REVIEW
Clive Holden
'Sketches of Yealand'
by Mrs. Ford (Helen Cordelia)

This booklet was published in 1931, but the seven articles contained therein first appeared in the 'Lancaster Guardian' in 1911. From the brief foreword of 1931 it is clear that Mrs. Ford was firmly rooted in the past, and resented the intrusions of such people as trippers and motor cyclists who disturbed the idyllic rural existence of Yealand.

The first article, **'Places of Worship'**, contains a passage from the 'Lancaster Guardian' of 1838, describing the consecration of the Anglican church, when it was still a chapelry before Yealand became a parish in 1870. The subsequent additions and alterations are dealt with in detail, and the various ministers and worthies connected with the church are mentioned. The Friends' Meeting House receives similar lengthy treatment, while the information about the Roman Catholic church is considerably shorter, and the Wesleyans are dismissed in a mere three lines.

Article 2 **'Education'** starts in 1709 with teaching monopolised by the Friends. The children of poor Friends got their education gratis, while others had to pay. When free education was introduced, several schools sprang up, some of them with limited scope. One unidentified teacher had fits of absentmindedness which allowed the pupils to run riot, but when he came to his senses he gave everybody the strap, while another would put a recalcitrant child under his desk and kick him if he became restless (oh, for the good old days!). Added to 'Education' is a very brief history of the Band of Hope.

Mrs. Ford was curious enough to seek for information about the origin and history of the Canal, and this she added to Article 2.

Article 3 **'Occupations'** is largely a story of hard graft; a fascinating insight into the various labours of men and women in bygone days, not forgetting a child aged seven taken as an apprentice (to what?) for eleven years. At one time the staple food of the people was oaten clap bread or riddle bread (what were they?). Worthy of mention was Fanny Nicholson, a carrier, who died at the age of 65 after travelling between Yealand and Lancaster twice a week for about fifty years, amassing a total of more than eighty-three thousand miles.

Article 4. **Amusements and Sport.** In the early days, before mass communication, games consisted mostly of athletics and wrestling (dangerous!). Cricket, dealt with in a little more detail, came only latish in the 19th Century. The rest of the article deals with 'stories and legends', some of them true, including the one about the lady who papered her room with newspapers pasted upside down so that she need not waste time reading them.

Article 5. **Buildings** deals largely with older houses, especially those with early date stones, and more modern places, such as the police station of 1900 (does it still serve that purpose?). The article ends with '**Names',** with name variations of families with long-standing Yealand connections, and the many variations in spelling of Yealand, Conyers, Storrs and Redmayne.

Article 6. '**Weather', as** might be expected, concentrates on the extreme spells of bad weather experienced at Yealand, suggesting that the early 20th century years were no better than those of previous eras. The article concludes with **'Birds and Flowers'** which, after listing the alternative names for various

wild flowers, becomes a protest against the depredation of the countryside by trippers, and the destruction of creatures which prey on pests.

Article 7. **Fragments** includes more about local flora and extracts from the Warton Parish Magazine, but that is not all, for in a lengthy **Appendix** (mostly of brief observations) we are treated to a miscellany of items from the sublime, such as information about the Leighton Beck iron smelting furnace, to the less serious, such as the story of the man who said when his horse suddenly died ”Why! He’s never done that afore!”

It matters not whether you are an inhabitant of Yealland/Yelland/Yealande/Yeland/Yealen/Yealon/Yeoland or an outsider, there is much to be learned and enjoyed from Mrs. Ford’s articles which she left unfinished, with a plea for readers to add more.

REPORTS OF EVENING MEETINGS
Clive Holden, Pete Baker, Andrew Davies and Pam Davies

30 November 2022: Lancashire Archives; Past, Present and Future. Lancashire County Council's Collections Archivist, **Keri Nicholson**, took us through the long history of record keeping by Lancashire Archives, Preston (formerly known as the Lancashire County Record Office). This included ways of working and engaging with the public, and how the challenges of an increasingly digital age are being met.

A surprising fact is just how long the County has been caring for its historic records. As far back as 1808, the Clerk of the Peace was ordered to arrange the Public Records in such a manner as to ensure their preservation and utility. The first major step to make the County records more accessible followed in 1907 when George Veitch was employed to carry out the sorting and indexing of historic documents into 'bundles', which were arranged according to subject, then labelled and endorsed. Public inspection was encouraged.

The formal appointment of the first County Archivist, Sharpe France, was in 1940 and the Lancashire County Record Office, Preston, was officially founded, with the first deposit of documents coming from the Fylde Historical and Antiques Society. Visits were understandably limited by the war with only 66 visits in 1940, for example. This number slowly grew as the scope and activity of the archives service was publicised, and in 1946 the first public search room was created. A set of rules was imposed including 'formal insistence that silence shall be maintained at all times except for necessary communication with staff'. Other services were introduced in the 1950's including regular exhibitions, lectures and educational outreach to schools.

Preservation of documents in a poor state of repair became a central aspect of the Record Office's work.

Throughout the 1950's and 60's, there was a growing recognition that more space was needed: for historical research by the public; for maps; for repairs; for suitable storage for the ever-increasing number of deposited documents; and for administrative offices. Eventually in 1970, the problems led the County Council to acquire a site at Bow Lane alongside County Hall for a new Record Office. Designed by the County Architect Roger Booth (who lived in Silverdale), this new concrete Modernist building opened in 1975 and was the first purpose-built Archives Office in the country.

The Friends of Lancashire Archives was set up in 1986 to provide extra support through various volunteer projects, including the 'Will Flatteners'. These volunteers have been unfolding, flattening and listing over 300,000 rolled up bundles of probate documents to make them more readable. Storage remained a continuing issue with, initially, additional space taken in local mill buildings to be replaced by a new 'stack' extension to the Records Office with 8 miles of shelving and, most recently, use of the disused salt mines of Cheshire for thousands of registers of birth, marriage and death.

Changes in technology have impacted enormously on the work of the service over the past 20 years. Many archives and images have been digitally recorded and made available online. The preservation of sound recordings has been a particular challenge in terms of their formats, playing equipment, and accessibility to the public. There are similar issues with making the photographic collections available with thousands of sets of photos to be digitised and catalogued. And, then, of course, there

is the need to care for this mass of digital records in the same way as the physical records still held in the strong rooms.

Lancashire Archives has now been in service for over 80 years and has been continually adapting and developing its services to meet ever changing needs and challenges, such as the Covid pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns. But, at its heart there remains the core objective of telling the rich histories and stories of the people of Lancashire. You can find their recently launched new local history magazine, 'Archives', at branch libraries across the County.

25th January 2023: The Old Roads and Trackways through Carnforth. Have you ever walked along a road or trackway and wondered why it suddenly comes to a halt? Or have you found the vestiges of what might have been at one time a regular pathway, or even an old Roman road? **Brian Jones** explained it all to a good attendance with the aid of maps and photographs, taking us first from Lancaster via Bolton-le-Sands to Carnforth, then with various diversions to just south of Kendal.

The coming of the canal and the railways meant that many roads and trackways were interrupted, so that they had to be re-routed, while the building of new roads added more complications. In all, Brian dealt with more than a dozen routes of varying importance, but all worthy of investigation, such as the Thwaite area to the south of Carnforth.

To add to the interest Brian brought along for sale, a number of his A4 size book on the subject, containing 58 pages packed with information – well worth a read!

1st February 2023: Arnside Maritime History, (*Postponed from December 2022 because of the difficult weather conditions*.) Beginning his talk by telling us about Arnside's early trade in in coal and salt, **Alasdair Simpson** told us that this trade made use of Dixies wharf at Sandside, but that the trade was partly killed off by the opening of the Lancaster – Kendal canal. He then went on to talk about the Crossfield family, a name inextricably linked with the maritime history of the village from about 1840 until the early 1950s. They built prawners (known as 'nobbies'), many yachts, bay boats for tourists sailing in Morecambe Bay, as well as Arthur Ransome's 'Swallow'. Other well-known craft built by Crossfields, some of them still in existence, include 'Sir William Priestley' (the Morecambe Fishermen's Lifeboat), 'Bonita', 'Ziska', 'Moya', 'Severn', 'Formosa', 'Pacific Moon' and the Welsh named 'Coch y Bonddhu'[1] .

Alasdair also told us a good deal about the Arnside Sailing club (of which he is a leading member), based at the old Customs House in Arnside. Founded in 1852, it has a long and distinguished record, and was shortlisted for 'Sailing Club of the Year' in both 2019 and 2022.

This was another very well attended meeting which aroused much interest.

22nd February 2023: A County Lunatic Asylum for Lancaster.
The County Asylums Act of 1808. Required every County to open a so-called Lunatic Asylum. However, as **Pauline Churchill** told us, by 1816, Lancashire was only the fourth county in England to open a Lunatic Asylum. In all, fewer than 20 counties ever complied with this

[1] If necessary, the editor could provide a guide to Welsh pronunciation…

Act. Lancaster's Asylum was built on a five-acre site in Quernmore Road on Lancaster Moor and was originally designed for 90 men and 60 women.

An advert for the first patients asked for "lunatics, insane persons and dangerous idiots". Fees were charged to the home parish of each resident, in a similar way to the contemporary Poor Law, Men and women were kept separate, even in the internal hospitals. The windows were very high in the walls to prevent seeing out and with iron bars over them to prevent escape. Violent and epileptic patients were restrained, particularly at night. The staff wore uniforms similar to those of prison staff, adding to the prison atmosphere. Warm rooms were added. In these notorious facilities, particularly difficult patients were chained in chairs day and night. The floor was swilled several times a day.

After an Act in 1845, improvements were made. The window bars were removed and the sills lowered to allow seeing out. Use of restraint was very much reduced. Treatments included hemlock, opiates, mercury, leeches, ether and creosote. However, later the Asylum became a pioneering centre for improved treatments, including electro-convulsive therapy.

After the addition of several extensions and an annex, capacity was increased to 1,100. However, the peak number of patients was 3,060 in 1948, with beds completely covering the floor in large rooms. By the late 20th century, some patients were deemed to be cured, and left. Visitors could take patients out, but at the end of the visit they typically talked of their return to the Asylum as "going home".

The Asylum became a hospital, losing its last mental patients in 1991 and finally closing in 2000. The main buildings are listed and still stand.

29th March 2023: Short Brothers. Two members of the of the Ambleside Oral History Group**, Judith Shingler and Alison Peake,** showed us the value of filmed interviews, in this case with people who lived through the period when the Short Sunderland Flying Boat Centre was transferred first from Rochester, then to Swindon and finally to Windermere. We were told not only of the development of the aircraft itself from the 1930s until its withdrawal in the 1950s (some even later), but of the construction of a village for the large workforce involved, with a school, a hospital, even a Company of the Home Guard and, in 1945, shelter for survivors of the holocaust

As for the aircraft itself, the 'Flying Porcupine' had many applications: not only did it hunt U-Boats, (sometimes flying at no more than 50 ft. above the waves); it performed rescue missions; air-sea rescues (later banned as being too dangerous); and it also played its part in the Berlin airlift. Although it was designed to take off from and land on water, it was susceptible to damage in rough seas.

It was a privilege to see and listen to those interviewees with people, sadly no longer with us, whose accounts remain for posterity, and a large audience showed their appreciation of the interesting and humorous way in which Judith and Alison presented the programme.

Wednesday 26th April 2023: Market Street, Carnforth. In this fully illustrated talk, **Clive Holden** gave us a tour of Market Streer, with photographs ranging in date from the late nineteenth century to the present day. Clive started with the Station Hotel, and with the mystery as to when and why it became the Royal Station Hotel. The original main entrance was on the corner of Haws Hill but back in the 1930s the current entrance was added

and the valuable corner site was used successively by a number of enterprises including National Insurance Office, Done (bookmakers), and today the Estate Agents Hackney and Leigh occupy the site. Attached to the Station Hotel was the Victoria Hall, which in the early twentieth century was adapted to be the Victoria Picture Palace before the Roxy was built across the street.

The tour continued along the southern or odd numbered side of Market Street. On the next corner is the recently closed branch of Barclay's Bank, formerly Martin's Bank. This ornate building, really part of Victoria Buildings in New Street, looks out of place next to the plainer Market Street structures. There followed a long run of shops. All the earlier photos howed quite elaborate wooden surrounds to the windows and more panelling and scroll work above them. Much of this may well survive under today's plainer window surrounds, although in several cases as the windows themselves are now larger, the original surrounds must have gone. There were usually two doors, one for the shop and another, often recessed, for the floors above.

Before World War II, several of the shops had the same owner, or at least use, for a generation or more. Thus at 25 was C Macdonald, watchmaker and jeweller, from 1899 until 1930, followed by J Macdonald. Post war this became Sowden's, a very busy fruit, vegetable and fish shop, often with a queue outside.

At 29 was W.R. Williams, butcher, successor of J. Williams who started trading in 1872 in other premises before Market Street was developed. Even when he wound up, the shop continued as a succession of butchers, being Carnforth Butchers, then Maddisons, and finally Foragers before closing in 2009.

One of the more interesting shops was Webb's, clothiers. The men's department was on the first floor at the rear, accessed by a wooden footbridge. Today you can still buy clothes at the premises, from the Salvation Army Charity shop.

Particularly from the 1960s, many of the shops changed frequently both in ownership and in the market sector they were addressing. Some of these sectors proved short lived, their transience a response to rapid economic and technological changes, to say nothing of fashion. Thus, Kenneth Gardener had a TV rental business where Philip Jones, optician, is today and at 31 Blockbuster Videos were to be found.

At 87 Market Street, on the corner of North Road, was a sweet shop run for many years by Mrs Stretch, a small old lady. Then her daughter Lizzie took over the shop, but she failed to control children shoplifting, so the shop came to a sticky end in 1971. Today it is a house and not recognisable as a shop.

Clive asked for more information about the street and there were several contributions. We look forward to part 2 about the north or even numbered side.

.**27th September 2023: Morecambe's Super Swimming Stadium and the Eden Project.** An authority on the history of Morecambe**, Barry Guise**, regaled a plentiful audience with the story of Morecambe's development, with special emphasis on the Super Swimming Stadium. The story began with the arrival of the North Western Railway to Poulton-le-Sands in the mid-19th Century, and the construction of the North Western Hotel. Visitors who came from Yorkshire were encouraged to drink the sea water, and Poulton was gradually transformed into the holiday resort of Morecambe.

In 1906 baths were opened at Bare, and in time cross bay walks from Grange became popular. By 1927 there were plans for a lido with the intention of rivalling Blackpool, but much work had to be carried out, as the area was occupied by TW Ward's shipbreaking yard, and, when that closed, a new sea front had to be constructed.

It was in 1936 that the stadium was opened, It was to the designed by of architects Cross and Sutton to be in harmony with the nearby Midland Hotel of 1933. In its heyday it was very successful, with room for swimmers and spectators alike, and its many attractions incuded Aqualoonies, Aqualovelies and Aquacascades.

In 1945 the first of many Miss Great Britain competitions was held, with the finals being judged by such visiting luminaries as George Formby, Laurel and Hardy and Morecambe and Wise. Gradually, with such competitions losing their popularity, the stadium fell on evil times, and the last beauty competition was held in 1973. The structure of the stadium quickly decayed and in 1974 the stadium was closed and controversially demolished in 1976.

Since 1976 there have been several attempts to rejuvenate the area, such as the Leisure Park, the Superdome and Bubbles, but none have survived. It is hoped that he Eden Project North (Eden Project Morecambe) will succeed where others have failed, and become a permanent feature of Morecambe.

Thanks to Barry for a well-structured and illustrated talk, enjoyable for both those who remember the stadium in its glory days and those to whom it is a mere figment of the imagination.

25th October 2023: Curtain Up! A short history of the British Theatre; the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, and How a Theatre Works. Any disappointment caused by the advertised speaker's unavoidable absence was quickly dispelled when it became clear that **Adrian Taylor** was master of his subject. His talk was in three sections, beginning with a short history of the British theatre, from the mediaeval mystery plays through the late 16th century and The Globe Theatre (later demolished during The Commonwealth) into the days of Charles II when the cast would still be all male. Not until 1737 was the Theatre Licensing Act introduced, which was some 45 years before the opening of Lancaster's Grand Theatre

In 1782 'The Theatre' as it was first called, was opened. It is not known whether such luminaries as Kean and Grimaldi appeared there, but Sarah Siddons is known to have played the part of Lady Macbeth. During the 1830s it was the venue for a Temperance society, and by 1849 it had become The Music Hall. In 1861 its name changed to The Athenaeum, but by 1882 it was derelict until re-opening in 1884.

Frank Matcham, the celebrated theatre designer, made additions to the building including a Fly Tower, but in 1908 there was a fire which destroyed his work. The theatre was rebuilt to Albert Winstanley's design and re-opened as the Grand Theatre in the same year.

The Lancaster Footlights (founded in 1921) were based at The Grand, and bought it in 1951 at which time it was threatened with demolition. It had in the meantime been used as a cinema, a bingo hall and a lecture theatre. Since then, it has flourished, and it is hoped that an extension to the Grade 2 listed building will be built despite the demand for more parking space.

For the final part of his programme, Adrian talked about how a theatre works – all the things we ought to know but probably don't. These included superstitions such as no whistling, no money, mirrors or jewellery, though the origin of 'break a leg' was not so clear. We were fortunate indeed to have such an able speaker at such short notice, who well deserved the round of applause which he received.

29th November 2023. The History of Lancaster Port Commission: The long history of a port at Lancaster, we were told by **Elsabe White**, goes back to the 16th Century, and at one time, presumably when the slave trade was in operation, was the fourth largest in the country. As time went on and vessels grew in size, navigational problems along the river Lune led to the building of various aids, followed by the establishment of the Port Commission in 1749. Glasson Dock did not come into prominence until 1783, since when it has been the heart of the Commission, with Lancaster itself of no importance. The construction of a branch to Glasson from the Lancaster canal in the 1820s was a forward step, and by 1830 more than 10,000 tons of goods were being transported along the canal to Lancaster. From 1883 until its closure in 1964 there was also a railway connection from Lancaster.

In more modern times, after a slump in trade in the early 20th Century, Glasson has dealt with a variety of trades, such as military disposals, coal for power stations, china clay, linseed oil and scrap metals. The WS Mezeron is a vessel much seen at Glasson, as it provides direct trade between Glasson and Ramsey in the Isle of Man and Belfast. Far from being just a dock, Glasson is also a thriving community, with one of its latest projects being the renovation of the Harbour House.

A good attendance enjoyed an informative and at times amusing presentation for which Elsabe White and her fellow presenter Judith Jaques are to be thanked.

Wednesday 13th December 2023: Place Names and the Landscape in Medieval Northwest England. In recent years, the relationship between place names and the landscape is a topic of growing interest to historians. Before exploring this notion, **Dr Alan Crosby** explained that local placenames have developed from seven different languages, so that an understanding of these is key to understanding local place names.

Firstly, there was pre-Brittonic, an ancient language spoken widely across Britain for thousands of years, which is virtually unknown and unknowable as it was never written down. Many river names come from this language. Before Roman times, pre-Brittonic evolved locally into Cumbric, a language related to Old Welsh. It had mostly died out by the 7th/8th centuries and was also never a written language. There followed languages introduced by successive invaders. The Romans brought Latin, although locally it was written and spoken as an ungrammatical colloquial form. The Romans often adopted the British place name and then 'Latinised' it e.g. the town name Catterick became Cataractonium, 'place of the waterfall'.

There were then two streams of Anglo-Saxon invaders, one branch coming up through the Cheshire plain and another across the Pennines through Northumbria. There followed Norse invaders, who came via the Hebrides and Ireland, the latter place in particular affecting their language. This Norse/Irish hybrid was still spoken in the Lake District area until the Thirteenth Century and even recently some older locals from the more

remote farming regions are able to converse with Norwegians; technical terms used in fishing and farming for example, persist in both places today.

The last invaders were the Normans who brought French, a local example is Beaumont meaning beautiful hill However, French like Latin was mostly used by the elite of society, the gentry and those in monastic life who wrote down happenings of importance. At the same time, English was continuously developing, mostly from Anglo Saxon.

Place names then are important as they allow us to know what was happening in the landscape, such as clearances of woodland by the Vikings producing places ending in 'thwaite or riddings', Examples of this are Applethwaite, meaning the clearing with apple trees, which was the township that later became Windermere; or Haverthwaite, a clearing planted with oats. In this way we can get a feel for the landscape that new settlers were creating and living in. These place names were mostly created by ordinary people, not by committee or by the high born, so that we can get a real flavour of the landscape that was around them.

People also used technical terms for topography; an example being, the Cumbric Pen meaning the 'very steep end of a wedge shaped hill' an example of which would be Pendle. Another example of the place name letting us know what the ancient landscape was like is an ending of 'ergh or 'argh which were areas grazing large herds of cattle, much like a ranch e.g. Sizergh which meant Sigarith's erg; interestingly Sigarith was a woman's name.

Several elements can be involved in place names. They can be made up of: adjectival description, such as red or high; natural history in the place, such as ash, oak or hare; landscape features as mentioned previously; the function of a place, such as a farm or market; an identifier of function, thus Keswick means cheese(kes) farm(wick) and similarly Buttermere means butter lake. Another common place name element is land ownership, which can be a title or post such as king, bishop or priest or a personal name, such as Sigarith. The elements can come from different languages.

In this way we can know local features, although when a place is named after a tree for example it can be difficult to know whether it's the locally dominant tree or a local specimen of a relatively unusual tree but if for example the tree name is one that is never common in the wild such as pear, the significance of the naming is clear e.g. the place name Parbold means cottage (bold) by the pear tree (par)

Another interesting place name type which is common in this part of Britain is 'x' with 'y' for example Slyne with Hest, which Alan explained would have been two communities living in the same place, side by side, but one would have been Norse and the other Anglo Saxon.

There was only time to give a taste, in this summary of Dr Crosby's talk, of the scope of studying place names and how they can be used to make many connections with past communities and landscapes, even giving some knowledge of languages which have never been written down.

31st January: The Brownes of Townend: Townend is not an unusual name locally, but this one is at Troutbeck, near Windermere. **Keith Hildrew** set the scene by showing pictures of the inside of the house and then talked about the Browne family. There are not so many Brownes, and even fewer with the male line virtually monopolising the forename, George through the centuries.

The Brownes were a long-established family of sheep farmers, or yeomen farmers as they preferred to be called, going back many centuries, though in later years able to send sheep to London by rail. One of the early Georges was an expert woodcarver, with his work still to be seen in the property, but what seems to have been a family eccentricity was its propensity to collect or hoard various items, such as newspapers, not to mention a library of 1500 books, some of them extremely rare, and a stack of items of correspondence, including letters from one named Benjamin (how strange that he was not a George!) about his clothes.

The family must have been held in high respect (at least one C19 George was a J.P.), and at one time they organised their own militia. The last of the Townend Brownes had three daughters and no sons, so the name died out. The last daughter died in 1943, and in 1948 Townend passed into the ownership of the National Trust. As a virtual time capsule of the past few hundred years, it is of great interest to anyone with an inquiring mind.

Keith's presentation was both spirited and knowledgeable, and he made the evening's entertainment for a large audience well worthwhile.

NOTES AND QUERIES

In the Notes and Queries section of the last magazine, the following photographs of two of Silverdale Players' performances appeared. Foirtunately, Janet Adams née Hodgkinson, who acted with the Players in the 1970s, could supply most of the names in both pictures, including that of her uncle, John Webber. Now, Robert Bolton, who acted with the Players in his youth, has supplied the missing names, saying how pleasant it was to be reminded of such happy times.

'The Unexpected Guest', 1969

The names supplied by Janet are from left to right: **Back:** Robert Bolton, Noel Coleman, John Webber, Pat Simpson**, ?** In f**ront;** Peter Meddows, Ruby Coleman, Jacqui Bolton, Cedric Dyson

Robert adds the following information:
The missing cast member name for **'The Unexpected Guest'** is a man named **George Tomlinson** who retired to Cleveland Avenue in 1967. I believe he was a former Baker Confectioner.

'Sailor Beware', May 10th-11th 1965.

The names supplied by Janet are from left to right:
Back: John Webber**, ?, ?,** Jacquie Bolton, Pat Simpson, Cedric Dyson, Noel Coleman.
Kneeling, Margaret Brown, **Seated**, Ruby Coleman

Robert writes, 'The missing names for **Sailor Beware** are;
Andy Goodhill, Former Warden at the Leeds Children's Holiday Camp.
Muriel Bland. Who married a Bland from Arnside Tower and moved to a Farm in Malham.'

Writing about his time with Silverdale Players, Robert says, 'They were all friendly, funny and good people to be around and it gives me much pleasure to send you this information. The Village Players was a wonderful experience where people of diverse ages all came together and worked together to put on the

best they could do and I cannot remember anything but good fun. The thought of the Vicar playing a villain, or the gardener playing the Doctor, or a maid playing the Lady, was a great fascination to me and I often felt it enriched my earlier life so much. It was always a discipline and no one ever let anyone down.'

MOURHOLME LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024-2025

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held in Yealand Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.
Our talks generally finish by 9 p.m.

27th March 2024: Morecambe Winter Gardens.
Peter Wade
Morecambe was once a Meca for live entertainment. Today, most of the performance spaces have closed. One, though, is set for renewal The Grade II* listed Winter Gardens of 1897 has attracted support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and hosts performances and community events.
Note: This talk will be preceded by a short AGM

24th April 2024: At Home and Abroad - St George across cultures and conditions.
Dr Sam Riches
As the patron Saint of England, St George can be a controversial figure. We will consider the breadth and depth of the cult of this saint which extends well beyond his links to 'Merrie England. We will visit Ethiopia, Georgia, Malta and Brazil, and even Wales and Scotland along the way.

25th September 2024: Crossing the Bay.
Dr Bill Shannon
Until the mid-19th century, the main highway from Lancaster to Ulverston and beyond was across the sands of the Bay. Guides were employed by the monasteries as an act of charity: later the Duchy of Lancaster took on the role. In the early 19th century there was a regular coach between Ulverston and Lancaster – but the coming of the railways largely put an end to the route.

30th October 2024: Lest we forget. Caring for our wounded soldiers in World War I

Liz Howard-Thornton

Looking at medical, nursing and convalescent services provided during World War I, as highlighted through the often tragic stories of soldiers, remembered on local war memorials and village archives. The talk will include the impact of enlistment on a village population, by comparing statistics of one local village to national available data.

27th November 2024: Tales of the unexpected, oral compilation of stories from the region

Ambleside Oral History Society

Fascinating stories from the Archive of Ambleside Oral History Group, which were unexpected gems when interviewing people in the region.

18th December 2024: Most truly yours, Aunt Anne Geddis Gilchrist OBE

Peter and Barbara Snape

Aunt Anne Geddis Gilchrist was a Lancastrian collector of folk songs and Music. Peter and Barara will focus on the songs she collected, celebrating a remarkable woman who was a pivotal figure in the folk song-collecting community of the early 20th C.

29th January 2025: Children, School and Rural Society in Late-Victorian Lancashire

Keith Vernon

By the end of the nineteenth century, all children were supposed to be in school, but what was education like in rural Lancashire? Drawing on log-book evidence, this talk explores the experience of school life for children and their teachers in a typical village school.

26th February 2025: Thomas Mawson's A Lancastrian Garden Designer

Brian Smith

Silverdale has one of Thomas Mawson's designed gardens Grey Walls, but there are also others in the region including Rydal Hall. His life was remarkable and this talk will tell you about some of it and the gardens he designed locally.

26th March 2025: Cromwell's Northern Journey 1648

Nick Burton

Walking in the footsteps of the New Model Army across Yorkshire and Lancashire to fight the Battle of Preston in August 1658

30th April 2025: The Leeds Children's Holiday Camp Silverdale

Stephanie Davies

The history of The Leeds Childrens Holiday Camp, Silverdale from 1904 with oral histories from children who stayed there and the staff who looked after them, including the founder of the charity, Mrs Helen Currer Briggs, the first Lady Mayoress of Leeds and her connection to the Lake District and the Arts and Craft designer Charles Francis Annesley Voysey.

Note: This talk will be preceded by a short AGM