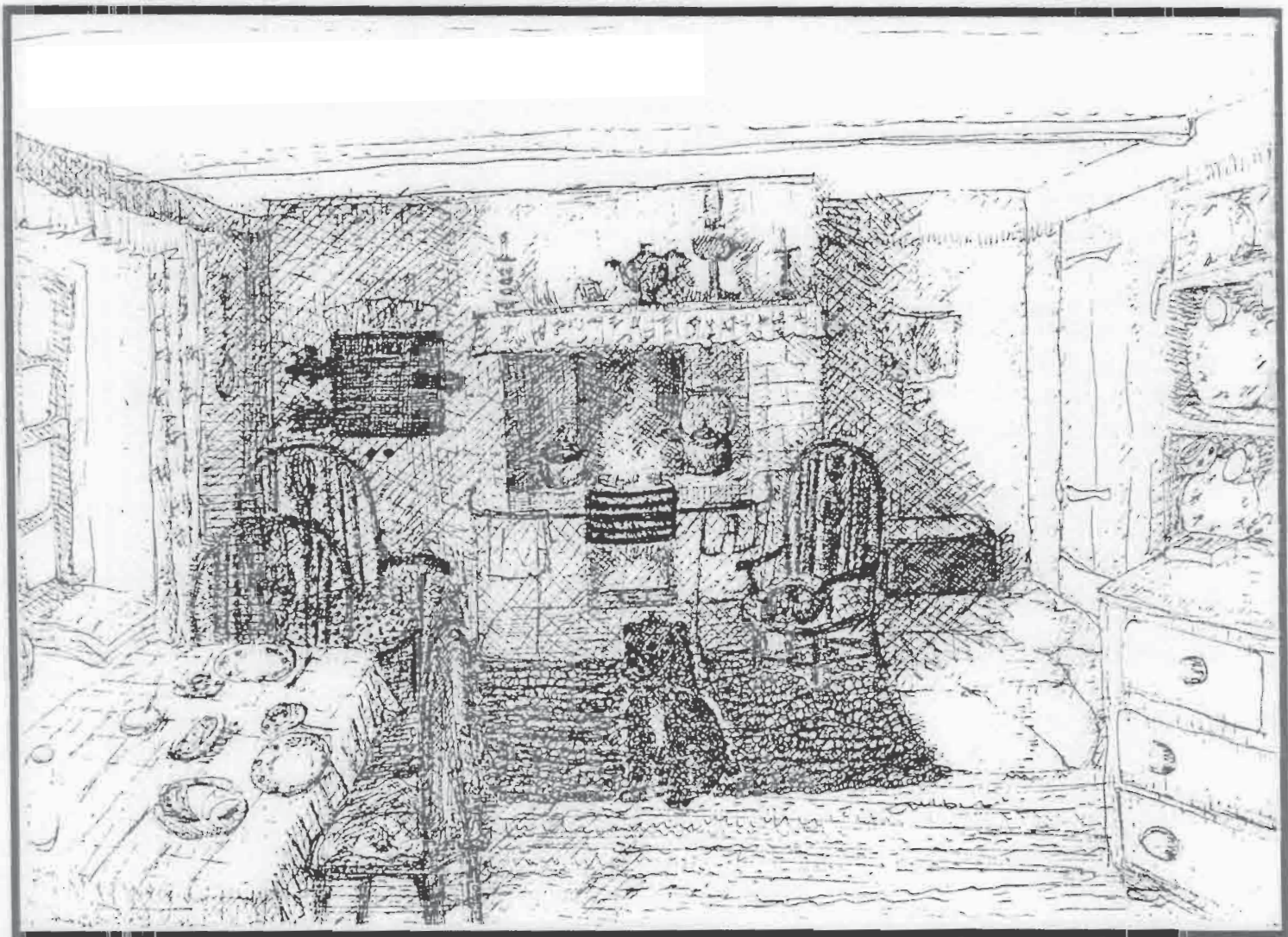


# Lorton & Derwent Fells

## Local History Society



The Tale of Two C.....see inside story!

## Secretary's letter

The Society has now been in existence for about a year - how the time flies! - and two issues spring to my mind as Secretary. The first is how successful we were in our first year to get 59 members, this figure including five Country Members (they're those people who live too far away to attend the meetings but who want to keep in touch with the area, primarily by receiving the Newsletter).

But of course last year's membership is now local history (sorry!) which brings me to the second issue, which is what will our membership be in 1995? I'm sure that those who joined last year, did so for a number of reasons, for instance family histories, house histories, the many aspects of our valley history and so on. Hopefully, most will rejoin and there should be new members also. So surprise, surprise, I find myself getting round to the topic of the annual subscription! Quite a lot rejoined at our November talk and a number of promises were made, so things are looking very hopeful. So for the use of our Country Members and for any local members who, for example, will not be able to rejoin at the January talk, I am enclosing a rejoining form which should be returned to any Committee member. Many thanks.



You may recall that early in 1994, we heard that we had been awarded a Priming Grant by the Neighbourhood Services Unit of Cumbria County Council. This was for £250 and the Committee agreed to buy a suitable, secure, cabinet with it which would form the home of the Society's archive. One real problem was where to keep it; it had to be somewhere that anyone could access it at any reasonable time and barns and garden sheds were ruled out because of damp problems. I'm glad to say that Ron George felt able to fit the cabinet into his barn (which is part of the house!) at least for a trial period. The 6 foot high steel cabinet has now arrived and I'm sure will be assembled fairly soon. Then, gradually, records should start to mount up - and here comes a plea to all members to think if they have any material (old or new) which would, or could, be of interest to anyone researching our area in the future. Please consider putting a copy into the archive, you never know, it could be invaluable to someone later. All the graveyard and other records and newspaper cuttings which are being worked on will be included as well. Annotated photographs will be very welcome and so the list goes on. One important aspect of the archive will be the method used for referencing; we plan to get advice on this so that, in the future, any document can be found and found quickly. It is obviously important to get this right from the beginning.

May I wish everyone a very happy and peaceful new year.

## Correspondence

I should like to start a correspondence column in the Newsletters and, with a bit of luck, we should get some interesting topics appearing. So please put on your thinking caps and write to me with a question, or an interesting observation, or a controversial view, or anything that you feel might interest and/or amuse others. Give it a go, you might really start something off! Letters please to the Secretary, Michael Grieve, Clouds Hill, High Lorton, Cockermouth, CA13 9TX.

## Question time - from Rosemary Southey

Christmas is perhaps the traditional time for quizzes, but here's a quiz to start off the New Year. No prizes, I'm afraid, but if you can answer all the following, you can count yourself fully qualified to study manor court records - providing of course you can read the writing..... All questions are taken from the Manor Court records of the Honour of Cockermouth, 1455-1535, but all can be answered without seeing the documents.

- 1 What was an Honour?
- 2 What was a Liberty?
- 3 What was the job of the jury and who was on it?
- 4 What's a "foreign sheep"?
- 5 The court in 1457 was held on the Wednesday before the Feast of St John the Baptist. When is that feast?
- 6 What does "15 Ed IV" mean?
- 7 William Threlkeld was fined in 1457 for "vert". What is vert?
- 8 Also in 1457, why was John Jackson of Millhill fined 4d for fishing with a net?
- 9 What was Robert Hogeson doing in 1486 when he was fined for "going away from the mill"?
- 10 William Langrigge was a vagabond in 1508. What penalty did such vagabonds usually suffer?
- 11 Peter Bank in 1519 was referred to as "alias Wilkinson". Give one possible cause for his having two names.
- 12 The above Peter Bank "haa gone forth from his country to the school of the University". Which university might he have gone to?
- 13 What does "amerce" mean?
- 14 The penalty for playing dice in 1520 was "being removed". What does this mean?
- 15 What is "multure" (which Robert Pearson took excessively in 1520)?
- 16 When was the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross? What does "invention" mean in this context?
- 17 What was the "scaling" the wife of Robert Jakson was fined for possessing in 1521?
- 18 "They say that John Bank has cut down divers alders, mastic trees, cherry trees.." (1521) What is a mastic tree?
- 19 Whose was the responsibility for looking after roads?
- 20 "The Lord's fulling mill (at Brackenthwaite) is rotten and waste..." (1529) What did a fulling mill do?
- 21 "It (the fulling mill) is in the hands of the Lord (of the Manor) to be demised". What happened to a property if it was demised?

[Secretary's note - for the answers, please would you send me £10 in a plain envelope. On second thoughts, perhaps I'd better include them later in this Newsletter!]

## Previous meetings

8 September 1994

Mr Hugh Turner, from Cockermouth, gave us an illustrated talk entitled 'Obsolete Cumbrian domestic articles' and it gave us a very interesting look back at how many day to day jobs were done. The wide range of articles considered, some known, some quite unknown to most, if not all, of the audience was quite fascinating. We must now consider re-examining some of those old probate inventories for items we have previously marked with a question mark.

RCG

29 October 1994

A small number, rather too small a number really, of members and their spouses thoroughly enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Yew Tree Hall. The pleasant conversation which followed was frequently broken off to dance to the "almost historic and antique" music of the days of ballroom dancing, played by the famous, and not quite so famous, 'big bands' of the 40s, 50s and 60s. Several persons who professed not to be able to dance were encouraged to discover that they could, and a very happy evening was enjoyed by all. By popular request, another similar event should be arranged next year, when it is hoped that more members will be encouraged to come and revive memories of youthful carefree (?) days.

RCG

10 November 1994

This was a talk which turned out to be particularly interesting. I had invited North West Water to come and talk to us on the "History, up to the present day, of the Lorton Valley water supply" and they 'volunteered' Pat Spencer, who is the Controller at the Cornhow works, to do it. She hadn't given such a talk before, but it soon became clear that she had done quite a lot of preparation beforehand. Her talk started with a description of the work carried out at the Cornhow works near Scale Hill and the area to which the water taken from Crummock Water has to be pumped; this includes, importantly, Workington. Although punctuated with "extras", Pat covered the period from the end of the last century, when the first, small diameter, pipe was put in, through the times when a second and then a third pipe were laid and the level of the lake was raised, up to the present time with the recent completion of the new reservoir above Lorton on the Mosser road. Question time was lively, with questions ranging from quite technical points to the vociferous condemnation of chlorinating the supply.

The Chairman had to call a halt eventually but that just gave members the opportunity to look through all the maps and plans that Pat had discovered in a basement somewhere. These, and resultant questions, kept things going for quite a bit longer! One reassuring point that emerged was that Pat was genuinely interested in the maps and plans that she had found and promised to look after them. My own view is that the talk contained a good mixture of technical information and general interest and, I think, an interesting time was had by all.

## Cumbria Local History Federation

Just a few possibly interesting quotes from the January 1995 Bulletin and Diary from the Cumbria Local History Federation.

### Bulletin No 9

#### Recent publications:

'The Red Hills' by Dave Kelly (Red Earth 1994. 176pp. illus. £9.99 ISBN 0 9512946 7 9) An outline of the history of iron ore mining in West Cumberland.

'The Lake Counties of one hundred years ago' by John Marsh and John Garbutt (Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd. 116 pp. illus. £17.99 ISBN 0 7509 0382 1). A local history anthology of words and photographs - a real coffee table indulgence.

'Whitehaven Harbour' by Brian Scott-Hindson (Phillimore 1994. 196 pp. illus. £19.95 ISBN 0 85033 917 0). An history of the harbour to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Harbour Commissioners.

#### Notes from Society Publications:

Transactions of the CWAAS (1994) include a study of migration into Workington during its period of rapid growth between 1861 and 1891.

#### Diary Jan - April 1995

28 January - WINTER LECTURE: At Carlisle Record Office. 'The Surprising Adventure of John Roach, Mariner of Whitehaven' by Prof Phillip Edwards, 2.00 pm. (Friends of Cumbria Archives, Mrs M A Atkin, Fiddlers Cotes, Levens, Kendal, LA8 8NX).

22 February - talk at the Keswick Historical Society 'Honister Slate Mine' by Ian Tyler of the Caldbeck Mining Museum. (Mrs M Armstrong 07687 74555).

21 March - talk at the Friends of Helena Thompson Museum 'Border TV - The Biggest Change this Century?' by Mrs K Worrall. (Mr I L McCleary 0900 603312).

22 March - talk at the Keswick Historical Society 'Lakeland Walls' by Bill Rollinson (as above).

29 April - visit to the Hutton in the Forest archives. (Friends of Cumbria Archives, as above).

Finally, two secondhand book fairs are mentioned [*I went to one in Preston earlier this year and found it fascinating - it included antiquarian books galore!*]. They are both open from 10am to 5pm and are on:

Sunday, 9 April at Lancaster University and

Saturday, 29 April at The George Hotel in Penrith.

### At last.....The Tale of Two Cottages!

I'm very grateful to Gill Griffin for the picture on the front cover and for the following piece that goes with it.

When we bought our property at Holemire in 1964, it was in reality two tiny cottages, Nos 3 and 4, which were mirror images of each other. There were two front doors, side by side, each one opening on to a small living area and each of these had two interior doors - one opening into an even smaller kitchen, the other to a staircase giving access to a first floor bedroom. A start had already been made to incorporate the two into one whole, with the typical local flat-roof extension built on top of the kitchens.

For twelve years this was an ideal holiday and weekend cottage, with the second living room, with its damp stone floor, providing an excellent wine cellar and store. However, we had bought the cottage with a view to retiring to it eventually in 1985 and we knew that we wouldn't feel like living in such cramped conditions when we were here full time.

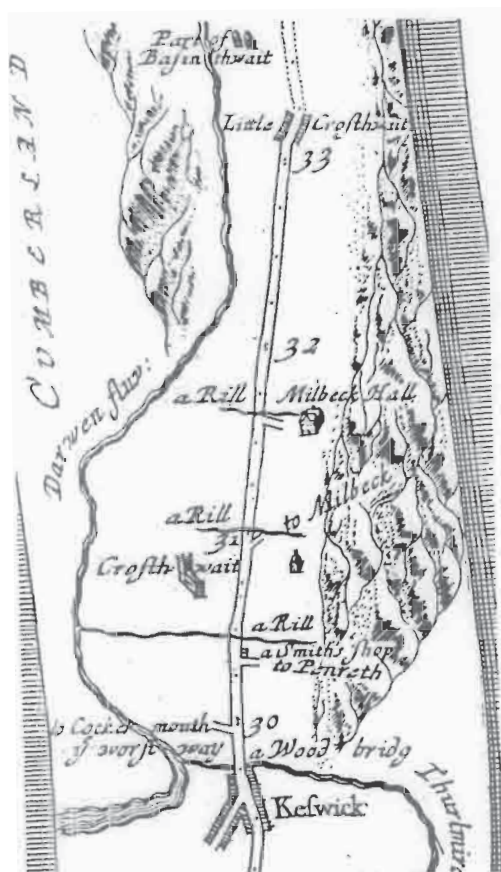
So in 1976, the building was redesigned into the area we occupy today.

I often think of the cottage as it used to be and feel rather guilty at changing things so radically, so it was a great delight recently to have an unexpected visitor. This was Trudi Kiang who had lived here with her mother, Gertrude Kaczmarek, in the 1950s. She obviously remembers the time and place with great affection and has sent me a drawing of one of the living areas, perhaps, as she says in her accompanying letter, "recalled through the rose-tinted glasses of childhood memory". Apart from looking rather bigger than it actually was, it's a very accurate picture of the room that I recall when we first came, although there was no sign of the attractive fireplace and oven when we took over. I would have liked to have found an old bread oven that could have been incorporated into our new design.

It would be interesting if any of our older, local, members can remember these features (we must only just have missed them!) and if so, when they were removed. It's amazing how many people have lived in these cottages over the years, or know of people who have lived here. Locally, they are still referred to as "Rising Sun Cottages", a name that has always seemed more pleasing than "Holemire". However, that's another story!

Thanks Gill, for that interesting bit of history - and it gives me the opportunity to ask other members if they would think around a bit and jot a story, anecdote, query, request or whatever down on paper, tape or even 3½" floppy disk as an article or for the correspondence column. I would love to be always in the position of having material available for both the Newsletter being put together **and** the next issue too. Needless to say, I'm not in that position at the moment!

### An Ogilby opinion



I wonder how many of you have seen the very first large scale road map of England and Wales? I mean the revolutionary (for the time) one inch to the mile "Ogilby's Road Maps of England and Wales 1675". Actually, that is what my facsimile edition is titled (Osprey Publications Ltd 1971. SBN 85045 034 9) whereas the original title was just "Britannia".

A very small section is reproduced on the left and it shows a part of the route from Kendal to Cockermouth. His route from Keswick goes up the east side of Bassenthwaite Lake and over Ouse Bridge.

The point of selecting this bit of the route is the comment that Ogilby makes just as you're leaving Keswick. Just before Crosthwaite church, there is a road to the left which crosses the River Derwent to get to Portinscale (it's the old road, now only a footbridge). On the map, this road has a note saying "to Cockermouth ye worst way". That was the road (read track) over Whinlatter!!

## Answers to Question time

- 1 An estate made up of a number of manors.
- 2 Another name for an Honour.
- 3 The jury was made up of men from the manor being dealt with; they had the responsibility of bringing before the court the malefactors of the past year and presenting the evidence of their misdeeds. They did not decide on the guilt or otherwise of any malefactor.
- 4 One whose owner lived outside the manor and who therefore did not have any grazing rights within it. (Anyone who can explain the "half a foreign sheep" mentioned in 1517, can give themselves an extra mark. The animal in question was not dead.)
- 5 24 June.
- 6 The 15th year of the reign of King Edward IV ie 1457.
- 7 "All that bears green leaves in forest; right to cut this." (Concise Oxford Dictionary) William cut down vegetation where he was not allowed to do so.
- 8 It was poaching. Fishing with a rod was usually allowed, presumably because the total catch would be small. The habit of stretching a net across the river caught large numbers of fish and was definitely forbidden.
- 9 Robert was taking his corn to be ground at a mill outside the manor which wasn't allowed; it was often done however if a miller in a neighbouring manor offered better terms.
- 10 A birching, followed by being thrown out of the manor.
- 11 Peter might have been illegitimate, one surname being his mother's, the other belonging to his father. On the other hand, surnames were still not perfectly fixed at this time; quite frequently, men had two names, one referring to their job, another to their parentage. Thus "Bank" may have referred to Peter's profession or even his residence (next to a big bank?) and "Wilkinson" to his father (William?)
- 12 Oxford, Cambridge or St Andrews.
- 13 Fine.
- 14 Thrown out of the parish.
- 15 Payment (in grain or flour) paid to the miller for grinding your corn. Robert Pearson was the miller at Whynfell.
- 16 3 May. Discovery (by St Helena).
- 17 A flimsy, often temporary, shelter, in this case on the common. The word scaling was originally used for a summer pasture for flocks, where the shepherd would have a hut for shelter. Robert Jackson's wife used hers as a tavern and harboured suspicious characters there.
- 18 "Mastic: gum or resin exuding from bark of certain trees." (Concise Oxford Dictionary) ie fir trees in this case.
- 19 The tenant or owner of the land over which the road passed; here, the farmer.
- 20 Full! ie finish (by cleaning and teasing) woven cloth.
- 21 The lease was transferred from one tenant to another.

[Now, which are you?]



## New members

I should like to welcome several new members for 1995:

Mr and Mrs Head and family are moving from Workington to Brackenthwaite and they're all members now.

Mr John Jaggar, who lives at Santon Bridge, as a full member.

Mrs Susan Laville, from West Malvern, as a Country Member.

## Programme and dates for 1995

All our meetings are on the second Thursday of alternate months, in the Yew Tree Hall, starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

12 January "Cumbrian farming - Stone Age to ESA" by Geoff Cole

9 March "Humps and bumps and things in fields" by John Todd

11 May TBA

8 June Annual general meeting

13 July TBA

14 September Members' evening?

9 November TBA

Plus, hopefully, a teach-in with Angus Winchester and Susan Denyer and another social evening.

We have had a number of suggestions for future talks and these include:

Place names

History of the Quakers

Relationships between the church and people

Past actions that have contributed to landscape features visible today

Farming practices linked to fields and hedges

The influence of the Norse settlers on the valley

Local industry

### An open invitation

If you would like to tackle one of these - or any other local history subject - please would you let the Chairman or me know. It would be a very healthy sign for the Society. Alternatively, do you know anyone who would like to give us a talk?