

Lorton & Derwent Fells

Local history Society



In Loving Memory: The Churchyard Project By Heather Thompson and Ellen Bentsen

We are finished! Between July 1994 and December 1995, in good weather and less than good, we recorded the inscriptions from the more than 230 monuments and memorial tablets at St. Bartholomew's Churchyard, Loweswater. It took longer than anticipated, but the project never stopped being challenging. ("Addictive" is Heather's word for it, and perhaps that is accurate: we plan to start work on St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, Lorton.)

Were there problems? Some inscriptions were impossible to read, erased by time and the elements, but we were fortunate to have access to Loweswater inscriptions compiled in 1972 by Rosemary Southey, of Durham, and filed at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle. We were able to include inscriptions in our document that she transcribed more than 20 years ago and that today are unreadable. Her work underlines the importance of maintaining a record of "fragile" information.

Our report covers the entire churchyard, includes a map of tombstone locations, and has two indices - one of house and place names and the other of surnames. We have given preliminary copies to Ron George and Michael Grieve, and we hope that members will inform us about corrections so that we can send an accurate document to Carlisle.

Any questions? Perhaps they will be answered on page 5.

Secretary's letter



First of all, may I wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year.

In the last Newsletter, I made some threats about the future size of Newsletters if more articles etc were not forthcoming. Well I'm very glad to say that several members have responded - with more than one article in some cases - and so I now have material which should make at least the next two issues nice and full. I hope the contributors won't mind if I spread their articles out a bit, so please don't look for everything in this one issue! To all other members, may I just say this: if you have any topic that interests you and that is relevant (even slightly) to our Newsletter, then please have a go at jotting something down (if you can, on a 3½" floppy disk - not Mac). The odds are that it will be of interest to several other members. Right, that's all the lecturing I'm going to do (this time!).

I've included a section called "Can anyone help?". I thought of it because (yes, you've guessed) I have found something in our area which really puzzles me. Hopefully, members might be able to shed light on the problem and maybe even lead to a full answer. I hope that this section can become a regular feature of our Newsletters. I'm grateful to Walter Head for providing a similar article as well.

Finally (who cheered?), Jeannie Hope tells me that the new "blackout" blinds are up in the Yew Tree Hall and so slide shows should be more enjoyable. I think that it's worth mentioning that your Committee decided to chip in with a contribution towards the blinds - as did some of the other organisations that use the hall - and this speeded things up considerably.

Chairman's notes

I was very pleased to be able to welcome Dr. Jacqueline Woolcock, one of our Country members who lives in Sussex, to the 'office' of the Society recently. Dr. Jacqueline who was in the area visiting an elderly relative came seeking to augment her knowledge and build

more on the Winder family tree. We have quite a useful file on that family with regard to its life in the Lorton valley over a period of some 250 years. We also have considerable knowledge of the Winder family based in Wyresdale from about mid 16th century, but who are believed to have originated from the Lorton family. So far, we have been unable to make the connection - can anyone help?

A week before Christmas I was also pleased to welcome Ian Head of Bargara, Queensland, whose forebears emigrated from Lorton on the "Helen" sailing from Liverpool in 1841. I was able to show him Cornhow, Turnerhow, Millerplace, Hopebeck and Hope, all of which figure in his family history. Ian, with his wife, was able to bring an added pleasure to his brief visit to Lorton, by attending the Carol Service in the church where his ancestors are buried.

Tracing family trees is a fascinating, time consuming, and oft frustrating hobby, if it does not become an all-consuming passion. No doubt as many of you who have been so involved over the years will know, it has its rewarding moments when a cry of "Eureka" is the only comment that fits. It also offers surprises when least expected. Whilst giving our attentions to the Winder family tree, as the result of an aside about Record Offices, we suddenly discovered that my father's family and Dr. Jacqueline's husband's family had been close neighbours for generations. Where? You may think of Cumbria, Lancashire, London, or Sussex. Not so - but in a small village in Cornwall near Newquay.

Those of our members who live in the Lorton valley will long since have known that the Lorton PCC is mounting a major appeal for funds to repair and maintain our church of St. Cuthbert's. One of the special events that is being mounted is a "History Exhibition" to be undertaken by this Society. The date for this is the late May Bank Holiday week-end, 24-27/28 May 1996. This is a marvellous opportunity for us to put on a good show, and demonstrate all those factors which make the subject so interesting to those of us who are already hooked on it. So please, let us all put on our thinking caps, and empty out those dark corners of both the spare-room cupboard and of our minds, and see what we can pull together to make the exhibition a resounding success. If you are willing to help with

exhibition material, making exhibition stands, or taking a turn at supervision of the exhibition during opening hours, please get in contact with me, (01900 85 236) or Michael Grieve on (01900 85 295), as early as possible. These things take a long time to organize, and an early knowledge of what is coming is important in order to produce a set of notes to accompany and explain the exhibits.

In the September Newsletter, Angus asked if anyone could identify the individuals whose names appeared in the muster roll of 1535 for Lorton township. The various records for this period are sketchy in the extreme, and places of 'residence' (hardly the correct word really) frequently not given. I venture to suggest the top name Richard Wynder, may in fact not be of the Lorton Hall branch, but of Armaside. Subsequent to (about) 1600 the Lorton Hall families did not use the name Richard, but a Richard Winder, almost certainly of Armaside, died in 1622 leaving for his probate inventory "his parte of one horse - 10 shillings". I have found no reference to Alan Gylle, but John Gill married Janett Winder in 1545. Could Antony Hudson, who heads the second list, be the son of the Anthony Hudson who was the son-in-law of Hellin Peile of Brackenthwaite who died in 1598? (Or father? or brother?)

Also in the September Newsletter, our attention was drawn to Wordsworth's famous poem about the Lorton Yew. There is to my mind a much more appropriately worded poem, much less well known, that has the advantage of having been written by a real local - at least John Bolton was the schoolmaster of Lorton for some years. The first three stanzas are :-

Here by the stream it stands alone,
As verdant and as hale
As when the Britons bows were drawn
To guard this lovely Vale.

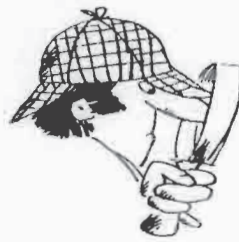
It stands, the pride of Lorton, still,
Although its glory's done;
For centuries its seen yon hill
Reflect the ev'ning sun.

By archers sought in bygone days
To furnish trusty bows,
When Lorton men in bloody frays
Defeated Scottish foes.

And finally, may I come back to the church

appeal - to assist the fund raising I have written a pamphlet about the church and some of the people who have been associated with it over the centuries - from 1198 in fact. It is priced at £2, all of which goes to the church appeal fund and, as a completely unbiased onlooker (!!), I can recommend it to you for your history bookshelf - and it makes interesting reading too. Available in the Lorton shop, the church, or from me (£2.50 if postage is to be included).

Too late for Christmas, but I can still wish a Very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 1996 to all members and their families.



Can anyone help? - 1

I (Michael Grieve) have a query - I have discovered a local tunnel and have not been able to find out anything at all about it. As you go up the Whinlatter Pass, nearly half a mile from Hole Mire, there's a signed permissive footpath on the left which goes up the fell at an angle, eventually meeting the forest boundary above Scawgill Bridge. Sometime before you get to the forest, you cross Sware Gill and, presumably, Sware Beck. For many years, I crossed this beck with unseeing eyes, assuming that it was just a footbridge. Then a little while ago I realised that it was a wide bridge and assumed that it had been built, probably a long time ago, for vehicles. But what vehicles? So I went up a few weeks ago with a powerful torch and realised that this bridge was in fact a tunnel. I could only see about six yards or so along because there is an obvious roof fall which prevents seeing any further. The tunnel slopes up only slightly whereas the ground slopes up quite a lot so I guess that somewhere a little higher up the beck drops down - or used to drop down - into the tunnel. But why?

Looking round the area, it looks as though there used to be at least one building nearby and there are two possible routes for the beck near the tunnel. So that's it - was there a form of water power here? I've found nothing shown on old maps yet; can anyone help please?

The 1760 storm near Grasmoor

In the last Newsletter, I gave an extract from Father West's "A Guide to the Lakes" in which he mentions a "memorable water-spout" and I asked if anyone had a reference to a description of it. Several members have contacted me and there is a graphic telling of the story in Volume II of William Gilpin's book entitled "OBSERVATIONS, RELATIVE CHIEFLY TO PICTURESQUE BEAUTY, Made in the Year 1772, On several PARTS of ENGLAND; PARTICULARLY THE MOUNTAINS, AND LAKES OF CUMBERLAND, AND WESTMORELAND." To give you some practice (!), I'm reproducing all the old spellings and the old form of "s" - although I am sorry that I have no old "s" on my word processor yet so I have to use an "f".

His party had got to "Brackenthwait, which lies at the bottom of Grafmer". He goes on:

"Here we had an account of an inundation occasioned by the burfing of a water-fpout. The particulars, which are well authenticated, are curious. But it will be neceffary firft to exhibit the geography of the mountain.

In that part, where Grafmer is connected with the other high lands in it's neighbourhood, three little fstreams take their origin; of which the Liffa is the leaft inconfiderable. The courfe of this fstream down the mountain is very fteep, and about a mile in length. It's bed, which is a deep *gully*, and the fides of the mountain all around, are profufely fspread with loofe ftones, and gravel. On leaving the mountain, the Liffa divides the vale, through which we now paffed; and, after a courfe of four or five miles, joins the Cocker.

On the 9th of September 1760, about midnight, the water-fpout fell on Grafmer, nearly, as was conjectured, where the three little fstreams, juft mentioned, iffue from their fountains.

At firft it fwep the whole fide of the mountain, and charging itfelf with all the rubbifh it found there, made it's way into the vale, following chiefly the direction of the Liffa. At the foot of the mountain it was received by a piece of arable ground; on which it's violence firft broke. Here it tore away trees, foil, and gravel; and laid all bare, many feet in depth, to the naked rock. Over the next ten acres it feems to have made an immense roll; covering them with fo vast a bed of ftones; that no human art can ever again

reftore the foil.

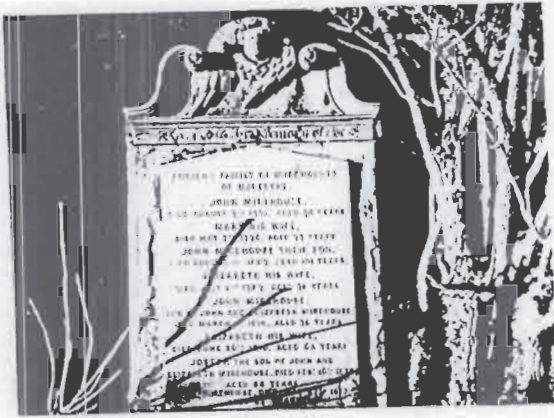
When we faw the place, tho twelve years after the event, many marks remained, ftill flagrant, of this fcene of ruin. We faw the natural bed of the Liffa, a mere contracted rivulet; and on it's banks the veftiges of a ftony channel, fpeading far and wide, almoft enough to contain the waters of the Rhine, or the Danube. It was computed from the flood-marks, that in many parts the fstream muft have been five or six yards deep; and near a hundred broad; and if it's great velocity be added to this weight of water, it's force will be found equal to almoft any effect.

On the banks of this ftony channel, we faw a few fcattered houfes, a part of the village of Brackenthwait, which had a wonderful efcape. They ftood at the bottom of Grafmer, rather on a rifing ground; and the current, taking it's firft direction towards them, would have undermined them in a few moments, (for the foil was infantly laid bare) had not a projection of native rock, the interior fratum, on which the houfes had unknowingly been founded, refifted the current, and given it a new direction. Unlefs this had intervened, it is probable, thefe houfes, and all the inhabitants of them (fo instantaneous was the ruin) had been fwep away together.

In paffing further along the vale, we faw other marks of the fury of the inundation; where, bridges had been thrown down, houfes carried off, and woods rooted up. But it's effects upon a stone caufeway were thought the moft furprizing. This fabric was of great thicknefs; and fupported on each fide by an enormous bank of earth. The memory of man could trace it, unaltered in any particular, near a hundred years: but by the foundnefs and firmnefs of it's parts and texture, it feemed as if it had ftood for ages. It was almoft a doubt, whether it were a work of nature, or of art. This mafsy mole the deluge carried off; but, as if it turned it into fport, made it's very foundations the channel of it's own fstream.

Having done all this mifchief, not only here, but in many other parts, the Liffa threw all it's waters into the Cocker, where an end was put to it's devaftation: for tho the Cocker was unable to contain fo immense an increafe; yet as it flows through a more level country, the deluge fspread far and wide, and wafted it's ftrength in one vaft, ftagnant inundation."





In Loving Memory: The Churchyard Project (continued from the front cover)

Q: How old is the churchyard in Loweswater?

A: According to John Rowland, who as vicar wrote a booklet in 1929 called "Loweswater Church Centenary: A Few Notes on the Church and Parish" (Times Printing Works, South Street, Cockermouth), the earliest mention of a church was about the middle of the 12th century when Randolphus de Lindsay gave a church at Loweswater to the priory of St. Bees. "This is probably the foundation for the tradition", wrote Mr. Rowland, "that monks from St. Bees used to come out to Loweswater Church to take services...and also that the dead from Loweswater used to be carried via the 'Corpse Road' through Holmwood, for burial at St. Bees". Mr. Rowland stated that the first document to mention a churchyard was dated 1578 and that burial records were available from 1626. He also says that John Borranskail, curate at Loweswater for 73 years, was buried in the churchyard in May 1674.

Q: What is the oldest grave that you found in the churchyard?

A: The earliest date of death that we could read is 1685 for Ann Tolson, who died at the age of 10 months. The text on her family stone is as follows: "Interr'd here was Isbell wife of John Tolson the (13)th of July 1695 Aetat __. Interr'd here was Ann daughter of said John and Isbell y the 6th of Febry. 1685 Aetat 10 months. John __ (176_) Thomas Burnyeat of High Nook, Father of the said Isbell was interr'd the 26th of December 1705 Aetat (33)." Not all graves have stones and some stones are illegible. (Parentheses indicate text that is illegible but probable; blank spaces indicate text that is illegible.)

Q: Who is the oldest person buried in the churchyard?

A: On a stone honoring the memory of the Ancient Family of Mirehouses of Miresyke, there's a reference to John Mirehouse who died in 1807 at the age of 101. (The Cumbria Family History Society booklet, "Cockermouth Miscellanea", reprinted an 1891 speech by John Bolton called "Lecture on Lorton, as it was 80 years ago" in which he mentions John Mirehouse's 100th birthday celebration. He received a coat and a chair.)

Q: How many graves are there in the churchyard?

A: We recorded more than 230 headstones, some of which are memorials to people buried elsewhere. Not all graves have stones, and we are interested in receiving information about unmarked graves so that we can add those names to our document. There are 163 different surnames on the stones in the churchyard and on the tablets hanging inside the church.

Q: What local house names did you find on the stones?

A: Not all stones include house names, but many do, with various spellings, and we have listed them in an index. One we had not heard before is "Scallow", mentioned on the grave of James Graham, who died in 1834. (Information anyone?) More familiar names are Beck House, Branthwaite Hall, Cold Keld, Corn How, The Cottage (Rannerdale), The Croft (Thackthwaite), Fangs Farm, Foulsyke, Godferhead, The Grange, High Nook Farm, High Thrushbank, Hudson Place, Iredale Place, Jenkin Hill, Jenkinson Place, Kirkgate, Kirkhead, Kirkstile, Lanefoot, Latterhead, Loweswater Hall, Miresyke, Moss Cottage, Muncaster House, Oak Bank, The Park, The Place, Red How, Scale Hill, Turner How, Watching How, Waterend, and Watergate.

Q: Are there many communities besides Loweswater on the stones?

A: A number of stones include the names of towns where people were born, lived, or died. They include Bassenthwaite, Bowden, Brackenthwaite, Brigham, Carlisle, Cheltenham, Cheshire, Cockermouth, Dean, Doncaster, Ennerdale, Gilcrux, Holmrook, Keswick, Lancaster, Lamplugh, Mockerkin, Plumbland, Rogerscale, Thackthwaite, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Workington. International references include British Columbia, France,

Hong Kong, Manitoba, New South Wales, Palestine, and South Africa are all mentioned in inscriptions. Two stones say that the person "died abroad".

Q: Was the project interesting?

A: Yes, sometimes quite unexpectedly. The churchyard is quite beautiful, of course, even in the rain. We enjoyed the different moods of Mellbreak, the daffodils, the morning light on the tombstones. The grounds are thoughtfully maintained - it's not one of those places just left to nature. Actually, a project like this can have many subtle satisfactions - some unusual bits of history. Little Derwent was with us most of the time, and he learned to walk while we were there; one sunny day Chris Todd drove by and told us about his brand-new twins; people came in to put flowers at a grave or in the church or just to say hello; walkers waved on their way to the fells. Sometimes the rewards were just the pure sense of accomplishment, however small. One day, for instance, we couldn't decipher an inscription no matter how long we stared at it; later, in a different kind of light and usually on a different day, we were able to figure it out. All three of us did a lot of clapping and cheering when that sort of thing happened. And there was the educational side - seeing words or abbreviations that we hadn't seen before: "Relict" (widow) and "aetat" (a person's age), for example. Some early stones include titles or professions, which gave us a further insight into people's lives - Thomas Donald, Landsurveyer, 1801; Jonathan Harrison, Mason, 1786; Joseph Skelton, Officer in His Majesty's Customs, 1806; Joseph Skelton Brougham, Captain of HM Tenth Regiment, 1875; David Harrison, Captain of HM Ship Dromedary, 1803; Joseph Iredell, Yeoman (1845). Sometimes the name of the stone mason appears on the bottom or side of the stone. (We saw Walker's of Cocker-mouth a few times.) Some texts are brief and anonymous: "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" is all that appears on one stone; two others limit themselves to initials. Life stories are reduced to a few brief words. Yet for the curious there are other sources of information. In the aforementioned centenary booklet, for example, Mr. Rowland mentions that Thomas Cowper, curate at Loweswater from 1744 to 1795, had a son John who died in February 1770 at the age of 20, and that the next month Sarah Hudson, 21, of Kirkhead, also died. "She and the said John Cowper were pleasant

and lovely in their lives," wrote Thomas Cowper at the time, "and in their death they were not divided, their graves being contiguous at the South-West corner of the Church." We won't ever walk past their graves again without thinking of their young lives and their friendship.

Q: Are there many epitaphs?

A: There are a number of epitaphs, mostly on the older stones. We found some lines of poetry, text from the bible, and words that may have been composed by family members. Some are in Latin. We were moved by a fairly recent inscription to Florence Pratt (1944): "A valiant pilgrim, who made good her right to be a pilgrim. She lives to many in memory's garden." Another one, from the late 1700s, was "...Think, Reader, as thou'rt passing by, Thy natural birthright is to Die, Then raise to heaven thy pensive heart, Where dearest friends shall never part."

Q: How will you approach the Lorton project?

A: We learned a lot from Loweswater, and we will do things a bit differently at St. Cuthbert's Churchyard in Lorton. This time we will start by drawing up a map and a logical route, assigning numbers in rows or "row-equivalents". We wandered around too much in Loweswater - there aren't true rows in a number of areas - and we had to retrace our steps more than once and renumber, which was time-consuming. In Lorton we will be helped a great deal by an existing map and the work done by Ron George. A laptop computer would be nice too, but we're not quite that modern.

* * * * *

This is a really good example of practical local history work and I'm very grateful that Heather and Ellen produced this article for the Newsletter. Please contact Ron or me if you want to see a copy of the complete report. I am assured that any other questions that members may have will be answered - perhaps in the next Newsletter?

For me, one interesting fact to come out of this work goes back to Newsletter No 1, on the front of which I put part of the first large scale map of Cumberland. This was surveyed by Thomas Donald in 1770/71 - and his name appears in the article above as a Landsurveyer.

Can anyone help? - 2

Oaken trough/chest - found on Lorton Moss

by Walter Head

The following is extracted from a letter written by Mr John Fairfield, Lorton in 1879.

The chest was found in a peat moss in the northern part of the township of Whinfell (field number 26, OS map) in the parish of Brigham.

The trough or chest is oblong in form and made of massive heart of oak planks. It measures 6 feet 6 inches in length (1.98m), 3 feet in breadth (0.92m) and 1 foot 6 inches (0.46m) measured inside.

The planks forming the end were fully 5 inches thick and appear to have been split from a noble tree by means of wedges, as no saw marks were visible either on the ends or sides of the planks, but only the stroke of an axe. The ends of the chest were notched as shown on the plan of the Scotch Cavit end board. (Does anyone know what this was like?). The bottom planks were placed across the chest and projected irregularly beyond the sides, from a few inches to upwards of a foot. These bottom boards were generally about 3 inches by 3 inches thick and 16 inches broad, and some less.

The trough/chest had no lid or cover, nor any apparent means of fastening it together, but there was an irregular oval hole about 2 inches by 3 inches in width close to the end of one side.

The joints were caulked with moss still, like the wood, it is in good preservation and retaining its colour.

It rested on clay, at the bottom of a mass of peat 6 feet 9 inches (2.06m) in depth and its longer axis lay south-west and north-east.

Its contents were a small quantity of wood ashes, stores of several kinds which had been subjected to the action of fire, and a few crystals of quartz, which might possibly have been arrow tips.

Above it many generations of trees appeared to have grown and decayed and added their remains to the mass of peat that covered it. Mr Alexander had had it put together as it was found and has placed it near his house.

NOTE: Opinions at the time varied as to the purpose of the object, and included a peat sledge; a boat (surely too heavy for a boat); and a coffin, due to the dimensions.

Has any member any theory as to what it was or any idea where it is now?

Now here's someone who needs help.....

THE SAGA OF THE SILVER SPOON

from Tom Laws

No doubt members will recall our open night when we were invited to bring along pearls of wisdom or other items of local historical interest.

Our contribution among other things dug out of the garden at Birkett Cottage was a silver teaspoon which defied popular sources of identification. None of the usual reference works recorded the particular hallmark although there was strong evidence of a Newcastle connection.

Hetty Baron put me onto the British Hallmarking Council in Birmingham where I spoke to a Michael Winwood (Secretary) who was kind enough to send a copy of the entries for Newcastle from his own reference.

Unfortunately it was no more enlightening than Hetty's or mine i.e. that Newcastle ceased to be an assay office in 1883 and still did not include the series of impressions on our spoon nor any reference to the mysterious maker's mark (MA).

Frustrated I sent the spoon itself to Mr Winwood who confessed he was unable to identify the hallmark and passed it on to Bernard Ward the Assay Master of the Birmingham Assay Office which apparently has an extensive library.

Very shortly afterwards I received the

following reply from Mrs Phyllis Benedikz, Librarian and Curator:

"The maker's mark is that of Mercy Ashworth, the widow of Michael Ashworth who had an ironmongery business in the Market Place, Durham. He died in 1776 and when Mercy took over she evidently added silver articles to her stock. She registered marks at Newcastle in 1785 and 1792 and sent items for hallmarking - mainly rings and spoons - between 1785 and 1801. (Some of the entries are for Mary Ashworth but there is no other evidence for Mary's existence, so it seems likely to be an alternative name). She occasionally employed Beilby and Bewick to engrave on silver. In 1802 she retired, selling her shop and stock."

However one mystery remains, the owner of the initials EB inscribed on the spoon handle. From the various records of Birkett Cottage, we do know that a Peter Burnyeat lived here in the early 1800s and there is also a later reference (1840) to Thomas Burnyeat and Mary but nothing to explain the "E".

The name Bragg appears on documents in Ron George's records apparently having associations with Birkett Cottage. Rumour also has it that Birkett Cottage was built by the then "Lord of the Manor" for his Lady friend (and what better place than in the middle of a wood!).

Anyway, where did the name Birkett('s) come from? The map of 1822 - See Newsletter No 2 - gives the name Vernal Cottage. The plot thickens!!

IS THERE A MEDIUM IN THE MEMBERSHIP? HELLLLLLLLLLP.....

Previous meetings

On 14 September we held our second "Members evening" and, glad to say, it was a great success. Many different items were brought along including maps, pictures, artifacts and so on. It was obvious, on looking around, that members were engrossed in what had been brought along. The time went very quickly and the meeting had to be brought to a close - a sure sign of success!

On 9 November, members thoroughly enjoyed a talk by Mrs Jean Ward entitled "A history of

the Whitehaven coalfields". She covered the period from the 1650s onwards and one of the first slides showed the large number of pits that existed in and around Whitehaven which were owned by succeeding members of the Lowther family. Later, some mines went far out under the sea. Points which stand out in the memory include the terrible working conditions and the periodic explosions due to fire damp (methane) which sometimes killed hundreds of workers and which continued until well after the 1939-1945 war, when the last mines were finally closed. Another highlight was the local development of a "safety" light, well before Davy's successful design; it consisted of a flint which rubbed on a metal disc rotated by a handle. So each miner had a young child next to him, producing a shower of sparks for the whole of the shift. Unfortunately, the sparks still could, and did, cause explosions, the only thing in its favour being that the colour of the sparks changed in the presence of methane.

The mines created a great deal of employment and led to the development of the town and port of Whitehaven. They gave wealth to the Lowthers but at the cost of many hundreds of miners' lives. It was a very thought-provoking talk, entertainingly put across.

1996 meetings

All Thursday at 7.30 pm in the Yew Tree Hall.

11 January 1996 - "An historical walk around Derwent Water" by Brian Martland. Please note that this is a talk, not a walk!

14 March - "The big house" - an example of oral history by Sam Forrester.

9 May - yet to be decided. Perhaps a rehearsal of our exhibition?

13 June - the AGM.

11 July - "Canals of Cumberland" by Hugh Turner.

12 September - TBA

14 November - "Lakeland curiosities" by George Bott

Would any members like to give us a talk?

24-27/28 May - "The Lorton Festival": an art and local history exhibition in the Yew Tree Hall and a Flower festival and embroidery exhibition in the church (for the Church Restoration Appeal).