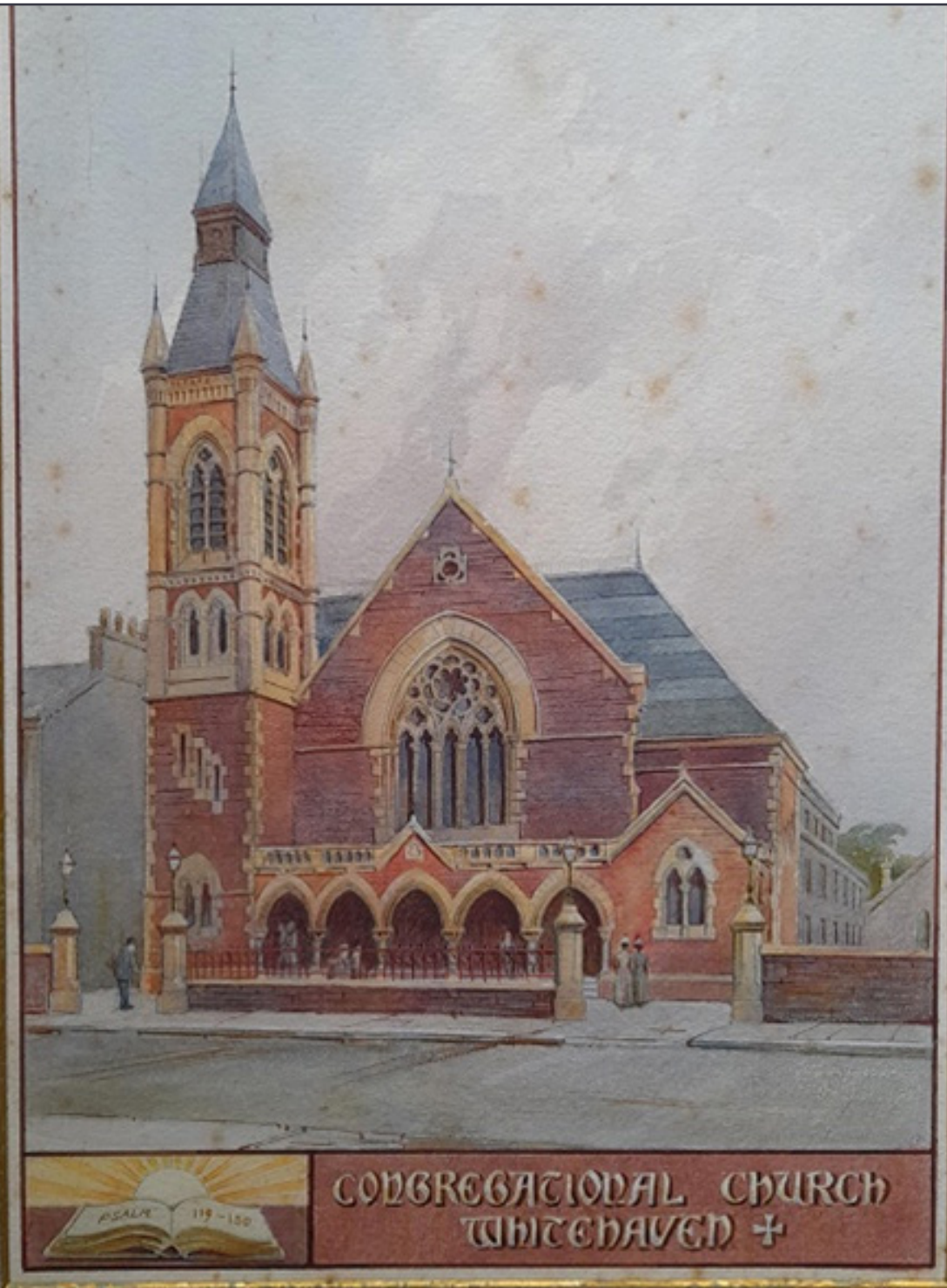


# Cumbria Archives - Newsletter



## November 2023

▲ Whitehaven Congregational Church in 1881

Reference YDFCCL 1-186. For further information see page 14



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## **News from Cumbria Archives: Looking back on a momentous year**

Welcome to the first of what I hope will be many newsletters for Cumbria Archives. One of the great legacies of Friends of Cumbria Archives was the three yearly newsletters appearing in the Spring, Summer and Autumn where we were able to share news of our activities from events such as our 60th Anniversary Celebrations, new collections and other developments. With this new Cumbria Archives News, we want to continue this legacy with a twice-yearly newsletter sharing our news along with inviting contributions from our stakeholders and friends.

2023 has been a momentous year for Cumbria Archives (as we are now called). In April Cumbria and the District Councils of Allerdale, Barrow, Carlisle, Copeland, Eden and South Lakeland were replaced after 49 years of public service. Two new Councils, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness, now manage the responsibilities of both County and District as unitary authorities.

This year will be a year of transition and, along with the inevitable frustrations that come with settling in, new and exciting opportunities are already becoming apparent. We are now a great deal clearer on our position as a single hosted service in both Councils. In Cumberland, Cumbria Archives is now part of the Neighbourhoods Team in a Directorate called Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport. Whilst that places us in a separate department to our Libraries we now work with Historic Environment, Culture and Museums which is already offering exciting opportunities to work with new partners.

These arrangements are mirrored in Westmorland and Furness where we are linked with the Community Infrastructure Team in the Thriving Communities Directorate. Here we have retained our link with libraries and have gained new opportunities to work with new partners including museums. Since April we have established links with a wide range of museums from Tullie House to the Armit Library, Windermere Steamboat Museum and Townend to support a variety of projects around conservation, engagement and sharing sources to support exhibitions and open days.

Cumbria Archives was also successful in renewing its Archives Accredited status. Archive Service Accreditation is a national benchmark of excellence and supported by a partnership of the Archives and Records Association (UK), Archives and Records Council Wales, National Records of Scotland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Scottish Council on Archives, The National Archives; and the Welsh Government through its Culture division.

**Peter J Eyre, Archives Professional Lead, Cumbria Archives**





## Barrow Archive Centre

### The Sankey Archive

Edward Sankey had a remarkable life. He was the son of a horse-keeper brought up next to a dockside rail yard who became one of the region's best-known photographers. Over 70 years, through which they witnessed massive industrial growth and two World Wars, Barrovian Edward and his sons, Raymond and Eric, dedicated their lives to capturing significant moments and everyday life in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria and the wider North West.

Born in Barrow in August 1874, Edward was the son of Edward and Isabella Sankey who had moved to Barrow in about 1860. Edward senior was a groomsmen at Abbotswood, the home of James Ramsden before becoming a railway porter. In 1891 Edward was a printer compositor possibly working for the Barrow News or Barrow Herald. Edward opened a printing business in Buccleuch Street in 1895 before moving the business to Ramsden Square where he began work as a photographer. Edward's sons Raymond and Eric were involved in the family business as was Raymond's son, Jeffrey.

In 1925 the Sankeys purchased their first car which allowed them much greater access to the Lake District. The output of their work from 1925 became more focused on the Lakes and included their 'Tour of the Lakeland' series, sold to the ever-increasing number of visitors to the area. The family also travelled to Blackpool, Fleetwood, Morecambe, Scotland, North Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey and Mont-St-Michel taking photographs of the places they visited.

Not only was Edward Sankey a photographer, he was also a talented engineer, patenting his specially designed Photographic Printing Machine in 1923 across the world. The machine allowed the Sankeys to print more postcards with increased speed. Edward retired in 1950 and died in 1965. The final shop closed in 1970. Raymond Sankey died in 2006 and Jeffrey Sankey in 2014.

The Sankey Archive was originally looked after by Raymond Sankey and then by his son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Joan Sankey. In 2017 Signal Film and Media applied to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant and they were successful. Between 2020 and 2022 the collection was digitised and catalogued by volunteers who were kept busy during the Covid lockdowns. All original photographs, negatives and related material of the Sankey Family Photograph Collection is owned by Cumbria Archives (ref BDB 86).

The Sankey Photo archive website was launched on 7 September 2023 giving everyone access to this wonderful collection of photographs covering 70 years. There are photographs of streets and buildings, fells and lakes, people at work, ship launches and under construction, trawlers and tugboats, animals, family portraits, parades, carnivals and events.

Non-commercial, personal use of the Sankey photographs are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) licence. If you require a high resolution, publication quality image from the Sankey Family Photograph Collection or for any enquiries on publishing the Sankey photographs in books or on the internet or any commercial re-use please contact Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow at [barrow.archives@cumberland.gov](mailto:barrow.archives@cumberland.gov) citing title and reference number: [www.sankeyphotoarchive.uk](http://www.sankeyphotoarchive.uk)

#### Susan Benson, Archivist



▲ Edward Sankey on the right and Mr Fisher (?) at the Lakeland Water Colour and Photographic Exhibition in Barrow Library 1923.



▲ Top Row: Furness Railway member of staff in General Offices and Barrow Tramways Company staff

Bottom Row: MV Swan on Windermere; Pooley Bridge

## Commemorating servicemen who lost their lives in the two World Wars

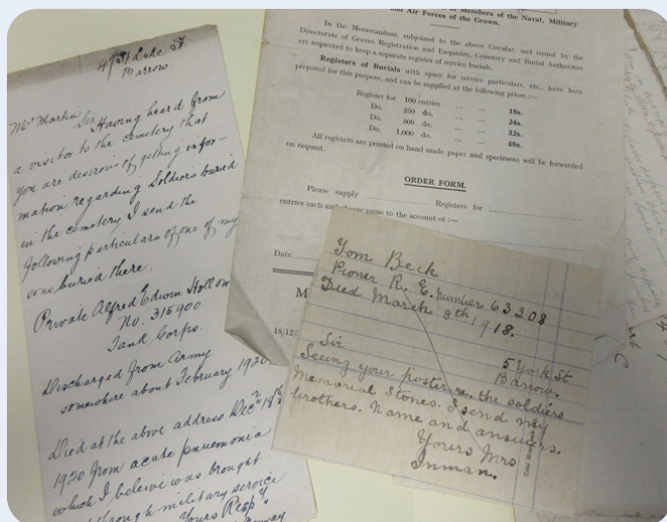
The Archive Centre at Barrow was recently handed a file of documents which give an insight into the painstaking work that went into commemorating servicemen who lost their lives in the two World Wars. Many of the letters, notes and memos originated in the office of the Cemetery Registrar for Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council, but they had found their way into the collections of the Cumbria Museum of Military Life in Carlisle, from where they have now come back to Barrow.

There is official correspondence with the Imperial War Graves Commission, as well as correspondence between Mr Martin, Cemetery Registrar and the families of local servicemen killed in action, as the Cemetery staff tried to collect the details of everyone who should be included in the official memorials to ensure that no name was left out.

A Schedule of War Graves maintained under agreement with the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness lists the 1939-1945 servicemen who are buried in Barrow Cemetery, and a plan of the Cemetery marks the general areas set aside for War Graves.

The documents have been catalogued under reference BDX 927.

**Hazel Gatford, Archivist**



## Carlisle Archive Centre

### Accessions

We have accessioned a range of material over the past six months. This includes quite a sizeable deposit of material (55 metric boxes!) from Theatre by the Lake (ref DB 141). The deposit comprises posters, marketing material, stage management books, production files, and plans and reports relating to the build of the theatre.

The usual deposits of parish council records have also been taken in. These include minutes of meetings, accounts, planning applications and the registration of land from a variety of councils: Kingwater, Kirkbampton, Holme Abbey, Walton, and Scaleby.

In April we received a further deposit of material relating to the Basque refugee children evacuated to the North West of the UK during the Spanish Civil War (ref DROB). Charles and Cecilia Roberts led the organisation of hostels for Basque children refugees in Brampton and Ambleside. As well as containing a large cache of material on the operational aspects of the two homes, this deposit also includes the archives of Charles and Cecilia's son, Wilfred Roberts, Liberal MP for North Cumberland, who was heavily involved in coordinating British support for the refugees during the Spanish Civil War. The material has sparked quite a bit of interest in the local community and amongst historians.

Following the reorganisation of local government in Cumbria and the transition to two new unitary authorities, we have received two deposits of Council and Committee minutes up to and including the end of March 2023 from Eden District Council and Penrith Town Council.

We also received an unfinished thesis on the Cumberland Forest Eyre Roll, 1285 by Peter Gaskins, Liverpool University (ref DX 2617). The deposit includes a transcript of the entire Latin text and a translation into English, both of which were completed, as well as commentary and analysis in draft form. A hard copy of the Latin transcription is available to researchers and all other parts of the study are accessible in electronic format. In English law, the justices in eyre were the highest magistrates, and presided over the court of justice-seat, a triennial court held to punish offenders against the forest law and enquire into the state of the forest and its officers (eyre, meaning 'circuit', refers to the movement of the court between the different royal forests).



Local industrial historians might be interested to hear about the deposit of material relating to Maryport Blast Furnace (ref DX 2620), which includes a blueprint of Solway Iron Works, correspondence regarding the demolition of the mill and the source of the water supply, notes regarding the weight of scrap metal, timber and bricks if the site is dismantled, analysis of the content of three pigs mined in 1973, black and white, and colour photographs.

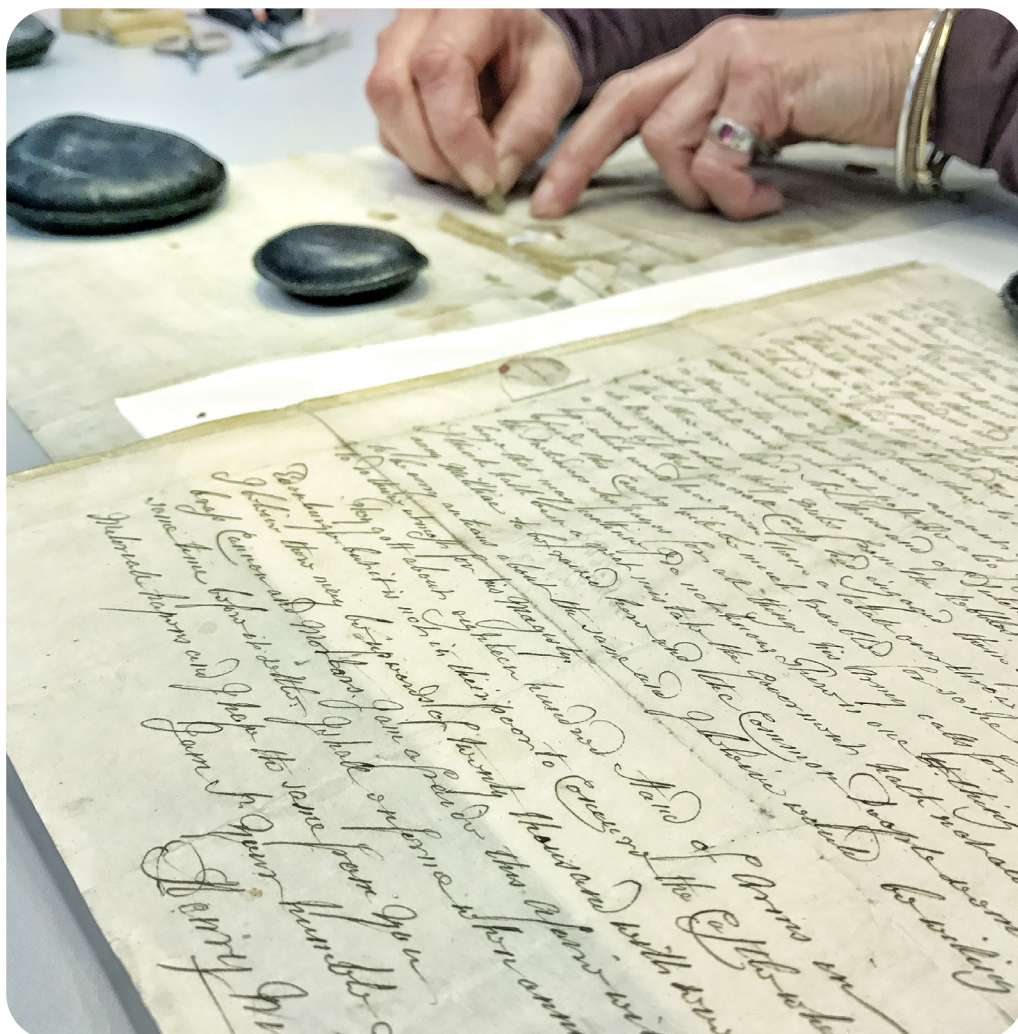
In a deposit of material received from the Twelve Men of Wreay, was a log book for Wreay Church of England School (ref DS 67), 1863-1880. This early book has been a most welcome addition to the existing school collection, and we now hold a complete run of log books (six) from the opening of the school in 1863 until 1962.

We recently purchased material relating to Cumberland and Westmorland Constabulary (ref SCONS): correspondence and memoranda from the Chief Constable's Office in Carlisle relating to leave of absence, promotions, transfers, duties, and inspections, 1876-1879. We also purchased the award for the division of Grinsdale Common, 1808 (ref DX 2619). Robert Lumb and John Norman of Kirkandrews, Eden, Enclosure Commissioners, recite the terms of the enclosure of the common made in 1806 and give details of a carriage road to be built across the common and the provision of a public watering place for cattle. The deposit also includes a schedule of allotment holders giving names, acreages, and abutments.

To complement the material previously deposited by Newton Rigg Agricultural College (ref DS 221), we have received further material from the family of a former student. Course papers belonging to James Michael Wilson who completed a certificate course in the Science and Practice of Agriculture at Newton Rigg in the early 1960s. Subjects covered: woodwork, machinery, crop husbandry, dairying, farm management, animal husbandry, book keeping and poultry. In addition there is a black and white year group photograph, student note books, a college prospectus, and a programme for Presentation Day in June 1962.

### Cataloguing

- Maryport Urban District Council (ref SUDM): Building control plans (500)
- Fletcher Vane family, Lords Inglewood of Hutton, Hutton-in-the-Forest (ref DVAN) – title deeds
- Lowther family, Earls of Lonsdale (ref DLONS/L/5/3/2): Estate plans
- Cowans Sheldon, Civil Engineers of Carlisle (ref DB 40): Engineer's drawings (c. 50,000)
- Mounsey-Heysham family of Castletown, Rockcliffe (ref DMH): Title deeds and indictments



## Outreach activity with local schools

Archives are a great resource for supporting learning at Key Stage 2 and 3. Primary schools continue to make use of this resource, and Spring Term saw sessions with Bewcastle Primary School for a workshop on the history of the school; Scotby Primary School for a local history workshop and Plumbland Primary School for a workshop on the history of the school.

### Cumbria Archives takes a fresh approach to its social media.

Local government reorganisation – Cumbria becoming Cumberland, and Westmorland & Furness - has been an opportunity to stand back and look at how we promote the archive service. Traditional marketing routes for us have been posters and leaflets, word of mouth, and use of Council channels such as our website, press releases and residents' newsletters. Social media has allowed us to be much more proactive, targeting communities both geographic and demographic, and the service has had Facebook and Twitter accounts for a number of years.

We're not marketing professionals. We're people who take pride in acting as the curators of Cumbria's memory bank, and our goal is to keep it safe and make it accessible to everybody. Social media allows us not only to raise awareness of our collections, but increasingly to make content available to relevant communities.

To this end we've sat down and devised a new strategy for our social media, while keeping the values of the two new authorities at the forefront of our minds:

- **Guiding and driving access to our catalogue and other digitised and online resources.** CASCAT is the catalogue, our killer app, entrypoint to riches, the gateway to Cumbria's memory. You can find it at <https://archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk/calmview/>
- **Connecting with Cumbria: listening and responding to people's needs and interests, providing channels for residents to speak to us.** Join us on Facebook, X, Instagram and Youtube. Look for @CumbriaArchives.
- **Maximising our value: creating resources that people can draw on, enable access to resources people need for planning or research purposes.** A great recent example of this is the Sankey Archive, wonderful photographs of Victorian Barrow digitised courtesy of a lottery grant: <https://www.sankeyphotoarchive.uk/collection>
- **Demonstrate our worth: demonstrate the value of Cumbria Archives to residents and communities, and manifest the Archives Service's mission.** Storytelling is key to this: telling people about our collections, how they came to Cumbria archive centres, and the people who treasure-hunt within them, both residents and volunteers.

Keep an eye on our channels and you'll see stories emerging—we hope you enjoy them.

**Helen Leach, Digitisation Assistant**





## A library is a thing that will universally please': 17th century Cumbrian connections to the University of Oxford

Recent cataloguing work on the archive of the Mounsey-Heysham family of Castletown, Rockcliffe has identified records highlighting Cumbria's religious and academic links to the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

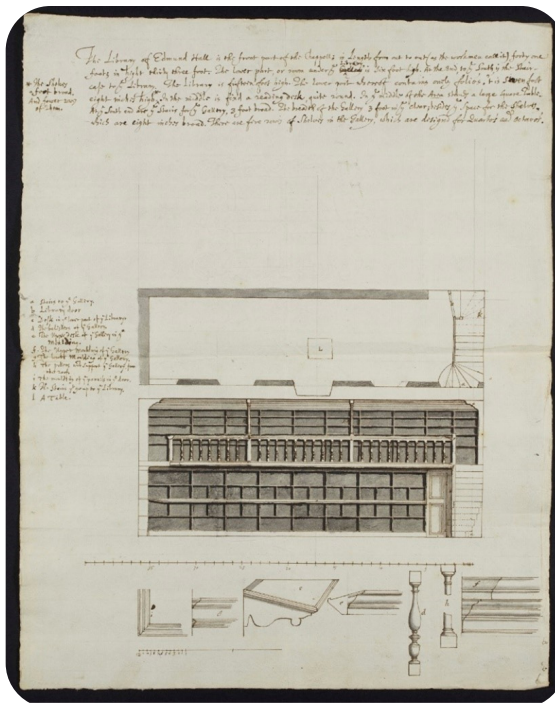
George Gill Mounsey (1797-1784), a Carlisle solicitor and three times mayor of the city, was a keen historian and author. His interests included the Jacobites, the Barony of Gilsland, the city and diocese of Carlisle, and prominent local families.

Among his research papers of copy charters, deeds and correspondence, the cataloguing archivist was surprised to find original 17th century architectural drawings for St Edmund Hall's new library at the University of Oxford. Tucked into a 1695 letter to the Bishop of Carlisle (ref DMH/10/3/3/3), the plans show both the exterior and interior of the library, with annotations to explain the arrangement of the books.

The first library at St Edmund Hall was initiated Dr Thomas Tullie, the College's Principal from 1658-1676 (born in Carlisle and uncle to the Thomas Tullie who became Dean Carlisle Cathedral and commissioned the building of Tullie House). His successor, the Rev. Stephen Penton, then committed to building a chapel and library - part-funded by selling off the Hall's silver plate - with the library finally completed by 1685/6.

The 1695 letter from Dr John Mill (born at Shap, Westmorland in 1645, a noted theologian and Principal of St Edmund Hall following Penton, he later became Chaplain to King Charles II), thanks the Bishop of Carlisle (Thomas Smith) for his gift of £10 towards books for the library. He also praises the Bishop's work in Carlisle 'erecting of a Public Library at your Cathedral, and furnishing it with the Books of your own Study', and notes that 'A library is a thing that will universally please'.

Following this discovery, we contacted the St Edmund Hall archivist who was delighted to hear of the find. The College archive collection contains only one small contemporary illustration of the library exterior and none of the interior (presumably because the original plans had been sent to Carlisle...) so the College librarian was also pleased to see the original interior layout which appears largely unchanged today.



◀ Architectural drawings of St Edmund Hall Library, [1680s] (ref DMH/10/3/3/3)

Carlisle Archives Centre

For more on the history of St Edmund Hall library including photographs of the library interior see: <https://www.seh.ox.ac.uk/asset/The-Old-Library-a-Short-History.pdf>

Catalogue descriptions for the Mounsey-Heysham archive is periodically released to the Cumbria Archives online catalogue as work is completed.

**Kelda Roe, Archivist**

## Kendal Archives

### Highlights from recent accessions

- Independent Order of Rechabites, Westmorland District, minute book of juvenile lodge [Kirkby Stephen, St Stephen's Tent?], 1873-1939 (ref WDSO 134)
- Thomas Fawcett of Kirkby Stephen, poet, four poems, 1880s (ref WDX 1137)
- William Johnson Howson of Kendal, Warrant Officer, 550 squadron, Royal Air Force
- Volunteer Reserve, letters to his uncle in Castle Road, Kendal, 1941-1945 (ref WDX 2080)
- Greenbank Alpine Plant Nursery, Sedbergh, records, 1968-1981 (ref WDB 174)
- Helsfell Rifle Range, Kendal, account book for various shooting events and rifle volunteer corps, including Kendal Volunteers, Westmorland County Rifle Association, 1887-1913 (ref WDX 2082)
- Mary Rowlandson Almshouses, Grayrigg, deeds, account books, etc., 1681-1970 (ref WDEC 52)
- Alfred Wainwright, additional records including visitor books (2) for White Swan pub, Danby Wiske (North Yorkshire) – one featuring an entry by Wainwright, the other with a message from Wainwright on flyleaf, 1988-1989 (ref WDAW)
- Joseph Dover and Sons, Woollen Manufacturers, Fairfield Mill, Sedbergh, Deeds (some relating to Dover family estates), accounts, correspondence, AGM meetings 1905-1937, wages book 1933-1937, ledger 1905-1920, day books 1920-1934 & 1934-1937, etc. (ref WDB175)
- Kendal Natural History Society, minutes 1946-2022; ledger 1951-2015; annual accounts 1981-2023; programmes 1946-2022; constitution; papers relating to Margaret E Wilson paintings; newspaper cuttings of reports of field trips 1965-1981; etc. (ref WDSO 426)

### Miss Mary Rowlandson's Almshouses, Grayrigg (reference WDEC 52)

Kendal Archive Centre recently received a deposit of documents relating to the foundation and formative years of Grayrigg almshouses, along with title deeds and probate papers of the Rowlandson family and of property in Lambrigg, Bretherdale and Orton.

The Rowlandsons were yeomen farmers in the Lambrigg area from at least the 18th century – the earliest title deeds involving the family date from the end of the 17th century, and by the mid-18th century they are labelled as yeomen. They evidently became prosperous enough by the 1860s to endow a charity for the aid of the poor, when siblings John, Richard and Mary Rowlandson of Gillbank built and endowed six almshouses for the benefit of the poor of the Chapelry of Grayrigg and the surrounding parishes. The memorial stone on the building reads 'To the glory of God and to the benefit of the poor. Almshouses erected and endowed by John, Richard and Mary Rowlandson late of Gillbank Grayrigg 1869'.

Like other similar almshouse charities, the inhabitants had to meet strict qualification criteria, be of good behaviour, and follow the rules laid down by the Trustees. Initially, nominees had to be over 60 years old, reside in the Chapelry of Grayrigg, have not been recipients of Parochial relief for the two years prior to their nomination, and be members of the Church of England of good moral character. Preference was given to widows over all others, then to spinsters, then to married persons. The Rules and Regulations stipulated that 'Any Inmate may be dismissed who shall become independent, marry, or be guilty of misconduct'.

## Grayrigg Almshouses

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

To be observed by the Inmates of the above Charity.

1. No Inmate of an Almshouse may be away from his or her house all night without the previous permission of the Trustees.
2. No one but an Inmate may remain all night in an Almshouse without a like permission.
3. All Inmates to attend Divine Service at Grayrigg Church regularly on Sundays, except when in the opinion of the Trustees they are reasonably prevented.
4. Any Inmate may be dismissed who shall become independent, marry, or be guilty of misconduct.

(The Vicar of the Parish may represent the Trustees for the purposes of Rules 1, 2 & 3).

▲ Rules and regulations of Grayrigg Almshouses (ref WDEC 52/1/5)



Mary Rowlandson died in 1892 and is buried in the churchyard of St John the Evangelist, Grayrigg. To date, Miss Rowlandson's Almshouses remains a registered charity, maintaining the almshouses which are primarily available to people over 55 years of age who live within the parishes surrounding Grayrigg or who have a connection with those parishes.

**Hazel Gatford, Archivist**

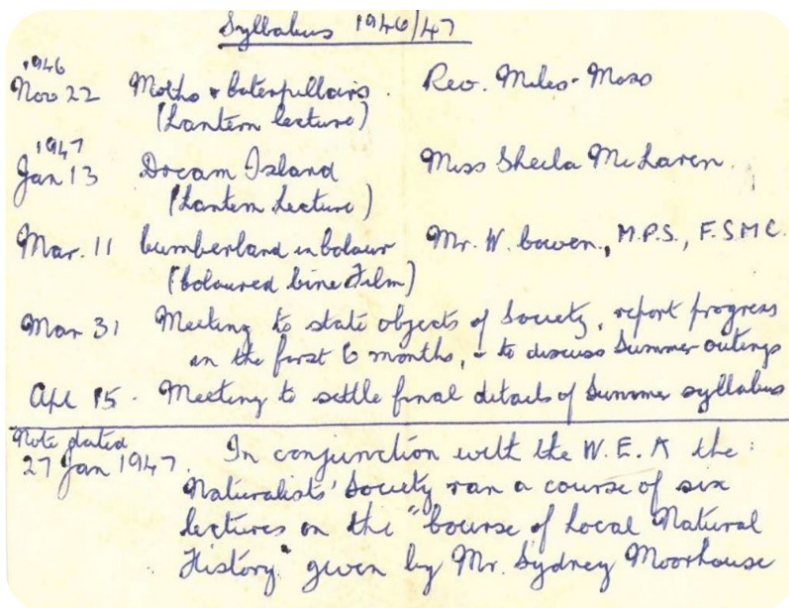
Grayrigg Almshouses, c.1900, courtesy of ► Colin Kendal. The elder boy is his great uncle Alfred Kendal



## Kendal Natural History Society

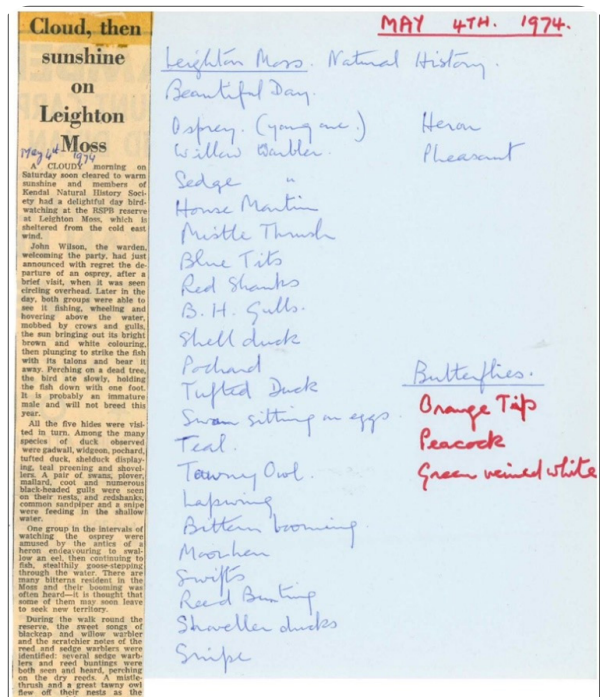
There have existed a few versions of the Kendal Natural History Society over the years, and earlier this year Kendal Archive Centre received the records from the Society that was established in 1946. The Society was set up when eleven people met at Kendal Library to establish a Naturalists Society and Bird Ringing Station for the dissemination and increase of knowledge of the natural history of Westmorland. By the time the constitution was drawn up the name was Kendal Natural History Society and the purpose was the study of nature. The records include minutes, accounts, registers of members, and records relating to the activities of the Society including field reports and some newsletters. The programme for the Society's first year includes 'lantern lectures' for the winter months with titles such as 'Moths and Caterpillars' and 'Dream Island' and the showing of a cine film 'Cumberland in Colour'. The summer months were busy with field days and outings in Cumbria and further afield.

The Society closed in 2022 because of falling membership numbers. Researchers can view the collection by booking an appointment in our searchroom.



▲ The first programme of the Society; printed programmes were used after 1948 (ref WDSO 426/5/1)

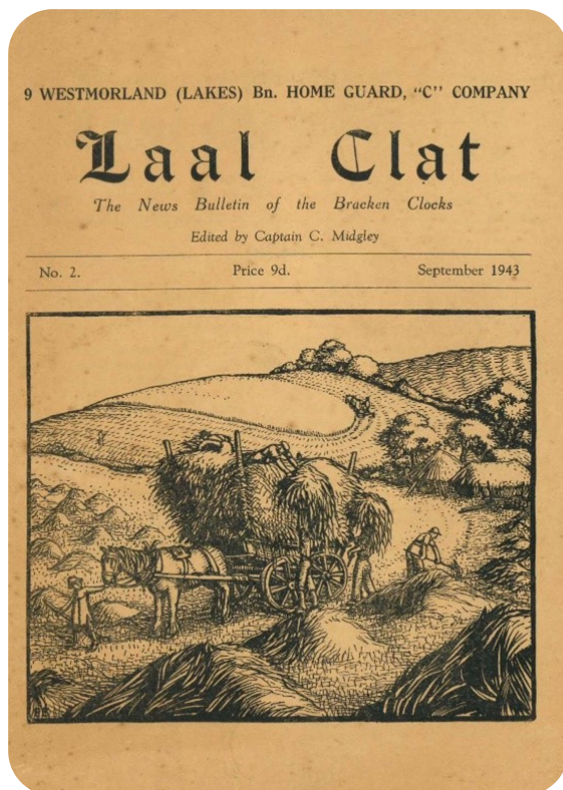
Field report of a visit to ► Leighton Moss from the Westmorland Gazette with Society's own notes of species seen (ref WDSO 426/5)





## Outreach round-up

We have welcomed pupils from Morland, Staveley, Culgaith, and Kendal schools to Kendal Archive Centre this year. Pupils have learnt about Kendal, the wool trade, and Alfred Wainwright. We have also given a talk to Ambleside U3A group and will speak at the Upper Eden History Society meeting in November. We have accommodated visits from the Save Grange Lido and Grange Natural History groups and staff have attended dementia awareness events in Ambleside. Finally, we were pleased to be invited to take part in a Heritage Open Day at Townend in Troutbeck where we displayed copies of documents relating to the Browne family who owned Townend and showed items on a 1940s theme including cine film footage of Home Guard exercises around Kendal. The Heritage Open Day at Townend marked the 75th anniversary of the house passing into the ownership of the National Trust in 1948. You can view items from the Browne family collection (ref WDTE) at Kendal Archive Centre.

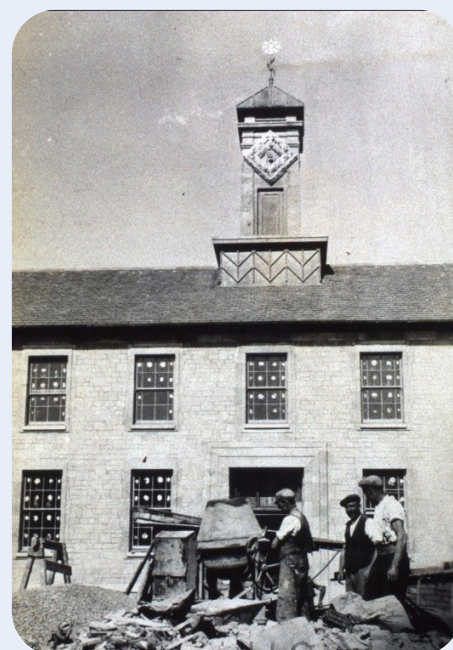


◀ Items shown at Townend Heritage Open Day: a newsletter of the 9 Westmorland (Lakes). Battalion Home Guard (ref WDX 1193) and a page from a diary in the Browne of Townend collection (ref WDTE)

## Volunteers at Kendal

We are very grateful to our volunteers for all the time and effort they have contributed over the past year. Three volunteers have been cleaning and repackaging the Browne family of Townend collection (ref WDTE) and another volunteer has been cataloguing the photographs in the Margaret and Percy Duff collection (ref WDMPD). A huge 'thank you' to our volunteers for helping us preserve and widen access to collections in our care.

County Hall, Kendal, from the Duff collection (ref WDMPD). County Hall opened in 1939 and this photograph shows the final stages of construction ▶





## Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk and the White Swan, Danby Wiske

The Wainwright Collection (ref WDAW) is one of our favourite collections and we were delighted to receive additional documents from the Wainwright Society earlier this year. The documents include two visitor books, typescripts of Wainwright's later publications, and items relating to Animal Rescue Cumbria. The visitors' books are from the White Swan pub in Danby Wiske, North Yorkshire; one book features an entry by Wainwright and the other has a message from Wainwright on the flyleaf. Danby Wiske is on the popular Coast to Coast long distance path and the White Swan offers a welcome break to walkers attempting to complete the 190-mile route.

Date	Name	Address	
25-4-89	Mike Ryan	UXBRIDGE - M.SDU.	W-E
26-4-89	Harry Bragg. Stanley Dottle George Sawle	Egerton, Kent Harrietsham, Kent New Romney Kent	First here, but kept the seats warm for you. Good in your spit.
26-4-89	Dick Sherman Les Lykes	Northampton Selph - Oldham	
28-4-89	Pat and Derek Glew	Austwick - North Yorks.	W-E Wainwright should come here now!
	Al Wainwright	Kendal	He did!!!

▲ The images above are taken from Visitors' book, White Swan, Danby Wiske (ref WDAW)

Don't give up!  
Al Wainwright  
28/4/89

The books are full of messages from people walking the route and contain much gallows-humour such as 'after 131 miles I can honestly say the only bit I have enjoyed was the 20-yard dash to the White Swan' and 'not as flat as Lincolnshire'. One walker asks 'who needs feet and knees anyway?' and another simply writes 'pain!' Alfred Wainwright made his mark on 28 April 1989 when he was in Danby Wiske being filmed for a BBC documentary. A Mr and Mrs Glew from Austwick signed the White Swan visitor book and wrote 'Wainwright should come here now!' Directly underneath the entry Wainwright signed his name and wrote 'He did!!!' The owners of the White Swan must have asked Wainwright to write something in another visitors' book so on the flyleaf he wrote 'Don't give up! A Wainwright, 28/4/89'. These two books are great additions to the Wainwright collection, and we are grateful to the Wainwright Society for depositing them with us.

**Anthony Hughes, Archivist**

## Whitehaven Archives

### Outreach

This year has seen another popular talk from Dr John Little on his book *Riotous Whitehaven* which had 40 attendees. We've also delivered a well-attended talk on the role and work of Cumbria Archives to Dean WI at the Kirkstile Community Centre in May. In June we held a Coronation Tea Party for King Charles III, with plenty of cake and a quiz accompanied by a Royal-themed display and original documents.

Year 5 pupils from Monkway School came to the archives in June to learn about Georgian Whitehaven and have a tour of the strongroom. In July, our Archives Discovery Evening was on the theme of swimming with an exhibition by the Cumbria Amateur Swimming Association and a display of original documents as well as two trophies from the Association. Staff were able to confirm that one of the trophies has been designed the Keswick School of Industrial Arts. The event was attended by several swimmers who had never set foot in a record office before and featured two talks, one on the display and one on the centenary of the association.

We also hosted a student, Arran, from Lancaster University who, over a two-week period in the Easter holidays, listed the letters of Percy Kelly, which were written by Kelly to retired scientist, Joan David, in 1985. We've also had another group of A-Level History students from St Benedict's School in Whitehaven visit us recently to learn about sources on public health and workhouses in Whitehaven and Workington in preparation for their coursework. Through the course of the year, we have posted content on social media relating to the 'Explore Your Archives' - themes like Education, Protest and Love as well as for local events and anniversaries such as the closure of the Natwest branch in Whitehaven and the centenary of Whitehaven Rotary Club.

### New Material at Whitehaven Archives

- Historic Building Report on barn at Barwickstead, Beckermest, 2022 (ref YDSO 194)
- St Bees School governors' minutes and headmasters' reports, 1935-1982 (ref YDS 60)
- Photographs relating to North West Water and Sellafeld site, 1970s?-1984 (ref YBNFL, YNWW)
- Photographs and newspaper articles relating to Millom, 20th century-2009 (ref DH/507)
- Ullcoats No 7 mine: horizontal plans [A3 size], 22 transparencies, undated [1960s-1970s] (ref THSE)
- The Alexander family and Wilson family of Lorton deeds, correspondence and probate, 1650-c.1974 (ref YDX 710 additional)
- Allerdale above Derwent and Workington Petty Sessions depositions, 1902-1903 (ref CQPWH; CQPWO)
- Archaeology reports on land off Curwen Road, Workington; Queen's Court Cockermouth; Seascale Mill; Newton Manor, Gosforth; Ennerdale Mill; Seascale Hall Farm, 2015-2021 (ref YDX 439)
- Moresby Parish Council minutes, 2009-2020 (ref YSPC 5)
- British Bible Society & Christian Literature Society minutes and papers, 1961-1987 (ref YDFCCL 1)
- Cockermouth Civic Trust: Town Trail (revised edition), 'A Gem Town' and '50 Years On', 2017-2022, DVDs (ref YDSO 29)
- Oral history recordings of former miners and residents of Newhouses, Whitehaven made by Haig Colliery Mining Museum, 1999-2002 (ref YDSO 195)
- Research files on Lindow properties include Calder Mansion and Irton Hall, 1868-2012 (ref YDX 778)
- Maps and plans relating to Beckermest Mine and other West Cumberland mines, 1900-1976 (ref YDX 775 additional)
- Papers relating to the Singleton family of Gosforth, 1858-1925 (ref YDX 780)
- Engraving of Whitehaven Harbour by William Daniell, 1816 (ref PH/1472)
- Photograph album of the workings of Honister Slate Mine, 1977 (ref PH/1685)
- Irton Right of Way Case: original witness statements to Bootle District Council's solicitors,
- Newspaper reports, Brief for the plaintiffs, 1897-1899 (ref SRDMA)
- Papers of Mrs Helen Richardson, councillor and former Mayor of Copeland, 1997-2002 (ref SDCO)
- Aerial photograph of Whitehaven, view from above Rannerdale Drive, looking towards Kells and Marchon [early 1990s] (ref PH/1687)
- Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church, Workington and Workington Methodist Circuit records, inc log book, accounts and Souvenir of Sunday School Centenary celebrations, 1910-2023 (ref YDFCM 1; YDFCM 4)
- Farming diaries, 1871-1904, copy photographs of John Wilson and Mary Wilson (nee Alexander) of Fairfield, Lorton (ref YDX 398)



- Title deeds and documents relating to Barwickstead and surrounding land, Beckermest, 1723-1909 (ref YDX 398)
- Dean Women's Institute record books, accounts and attendance registers, 1950-1994 (ref YDSO 196)
- Dean Mothers' Union minutes and scrapbook on life in Dean, 1966-1983 (ref YDSO 197)
- Workington Rugby Football Club management committee minutes and AGMs, 2000-2015 (ref YDSO 49)
- Individual diary entry 'The day Covid came to an end' by Alan Cleaver. Illustrated. Supplement to the 'Journal of the Plague Year', 5 May 2023 (ref DX 2441)
- Whitehaven Methodist Circuit / Western Fells Methodist Circuit property records, 2004-2019 (ref YDFCM 2)
- League of Friends of West Cumberland Hospital attendance register, minutes and accounts, correspondence, 1998-2016 (ref YDSO 73)
- Whitehaven and District Amateur Operatic Society executive committee meeting minutes and AGM minutes, 2019-2021 (ref YDSO 13)
- Church of Christ / Scotch Baptist Society, Whitehaven: title deeds for land and a chapel in Whitehaven, 1836 and 1843 (ref YDFCCC 1)
- Wyndham School science block plan, 1962 (ref YDS 93)
- Photographs of the Stout family and their garages in Egremont and Workington, early 20th century (ref YDX 785)
- Whitehaven PROBUS Club: committee and AGM minutes, correspondence, list of officers and photographs, 1986-2023 (ref YDSO 63)
- Whitehaven Congregational Church: pocket plan of pews 1881 and address presented to Revd Alexander Nairn upon his retirement and pew plan, 1896 (ref YDFCCL 1)
- Records relating to William Carter senior and junior and John Henderson: apprenticeships: certificates of service, discharge and letters of recommendation – seamen and flax worker, 1815-1875, (ref YDX 786)
- West Cumberland Choral Society programmes, 1960s-1970s (YDSO 56)



◀ Portrait of the Stout family (ref YDX 785)

Stout's Garage, early 20th century (ref YDX 785) ▶



## Cataloguing

Additional estate papers and title deeds from the Curwen estate have been added into the collection but there are access restrictions on some of the more modern material. The 18th and early 19th century title deeds concern property in Distington, Flimby and Claife near Windermere.

We have received several NHS publications via the Council's Records Management service. Many of these were produced by the West Cumbria Health Authority, 1977-1993, which has a new collection reference – YTHOS 4. Local history material relating to Millom, including programmes of events in the town and photographs, came from Millom Library during its move to a new location in the town.

Depositions of witnesses in cases heard before Allerdale above Derwent Petty Sessions, 1902-1903, were transferred from Carlisle Archives and concern theft of all manner of goods, from clogs and geese to keys and teapots.

There has been more cataloguing of the Workington Borough archive, particularly records on the town's water supply and highways. Staff have worked on detailed listing of building licence applications for Millom Rural District Council (ref SRDM). Detailed descriptions of Marchon photographs (created by a volunteer and former employee) have now been added to the existing YBD 59 catalogue online. We have finished listing files and plans of opencast mine working of the British Coal Corporation, stored at our out store at Houghton. These include records relating to enquiries and complaints, research, purchases and sales of property, land surveys, marketing and operational files.

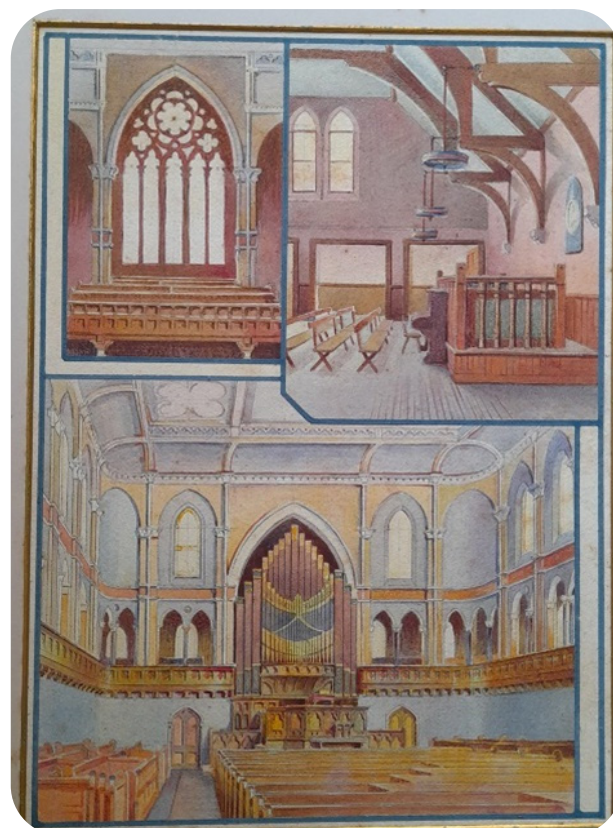
A London-based charity which accepts donations of books sent us a pew plan and a beautifully illustrated volume addressed to the Reverend Alexander Nairn on his retirement from Whitehaven Congregational Church (ref YDFCCL 1). We have also received comprehensive collection for Dean Women's Institute (ref YDSO 196) along with a couple of items for Dean Mother's Union with a scrapbook on 'Life in Dean' which has an embroidered cover (ref YDSO 197, see image below). The full catalogue for Bernard Bradbury's photographic collection on Cockermouth (ref YDX 310) is now listed to item level and has been digitised as part of the West Cumbria Industrial Heritage project (currently accessible in-house only).

**Diane Hodgson, Archivist**



▲ Dean Mother's Union.  
Embroidered cover of 'Life in  
Dean' (ref YDSO 197)

Whitehaven Congregational ►  
Church, pocket plan of pews  
1881 (ref YDGCCL 1)



See also the cover image showing the frontage of the church



## Digitisation & Conservation Update

### There's never a dull moment in digitisation!

On the 7 and 8 Sept David Govier from Manchester came to see us, along with sound artist Emily Peasgood and her assistant Theresa Smith, all the way from Ramsgate. They were here to install a listening desk in the foyer. This piece has been touring the UK as part of the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project and we're lucky to be able to have it here until----- It looks very intriguing, with a large red horn, under which the listener can sit and arrange sound clips to create their own soundscape. You can check out Emily's other work here: <https://emilypeasgood.com/>

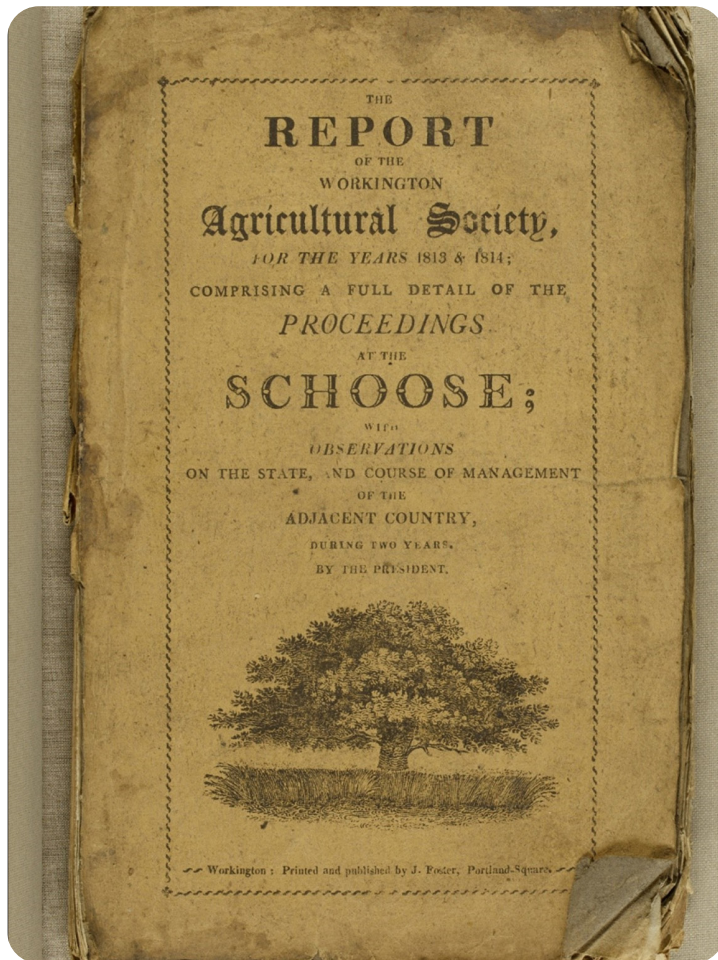
Come and have a listen next time you're in Carlisle.



David Govier has been running the North West Hub of the UOSH project, which is a British Library initiative, he's kindly supplied us with some audio equipment to add to our existing studio.

We now have a Studer 807 reel to reel deck, three cassette decks - a Tascam 122, a Denon DRM 700A and a Yamaha KX-393 & a MZ-RH1 Sony Minidisc player. So, along with our CD ripping software we can now do digital transfers from various different media. I have a list which I'm working my way through, but do let me know if you want something added on. Of course, all the open reels, cassettes, Minidiscs and CDs will be stored in the modern media store. From a preservation point of view CDs can be the first to degrade, do you have any 'bronzed' discs at home, that won't play anymore? Me too.





Dealing with requests from customers means we get to see a lot of different material. Recently, George, Francesca and Guy have digitised documents regarding the sale of land, enclosure awards, building plans, Garland's hospital records, crew lists, Thomas Mawson garden drawings, engineers' drawings, items for a forthcoming BBC programme, information for a bomb disposal company (!) and lots and lots of wills.

Helen is currently working on photographing the reports written by the president of the Workington Agricultural Society around the 1810s. It was a period of great change, driven by the industrial revolution and the Napoleonic wars, and makes fascinating reference to both.

To the left you can see the cover of one of the reports, centred around Schoose, a model farm built around 1800 using the very latest ideas for John Curwen of Ewanrigg Hall. Amongst other things, he introduced horse engines and a windmill, experimented with animal feeds, and planted 800 000 trees.

The agricultural reports are bound to be fascinating to Workington residents. As well as listing all the members of the Society, the reports go into details about local farms and families which still exist today.

## Conservation Update

The Conservation Unit was delighted this autumn to welcome Fay's newest accession - her baby Hetty was born in September. We are so delighted, and we hope that Fay and Hetty have a wonderful year together, although we miss her in the office!

Claire Dean joined the team at the beginning of October, to cover while Fay is away, from Tullie House Museum and Gallery, where she was working as a Project Curator. Claire worked in academia before retraining as a Conservator and is thrilled to be joining the archives for the year. At Tullie, her work included cleaning and repairs of taxidermy and herbarium specimens, and condition checking and repacking objects in the social history collections. Claire's very excited about getting to work with parchment, paper and photographs in the archives. She's also looking forward to encountering the archives of Carlisle companies she is already familiar with from her time at Tullie.

We also have an item away on loan at the moment which is part of the new exhibition at the V&A; 'Gabrielle Chanel: Fashion Manifesto'. I bet you didn't know the archives are in fashion!

The first UK exhibition dedicated to the work of French couturière, Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel, charting the establishment of the House of CHANEL and the evolution of her iconic design style which continues to influence the way women dress today. Featuring over 200 looks brought together for the first time, this exhibition explores Gabrielle Chanel's iconic design style – from her first millinery boutique in Paris, to her final collection in 1971.





© Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

The collection item loaned for the exhibit is a book of textile samples (DB 110), from the collection of the Ferguson Brothers; Textile Manufacturers and Printers of Holme Head, Carlisle. The selection of fabrics, chosen by Queen Mary and the Duchess of York to be made into dresses by the radical new designer Gabrielle Chanel, are shown in the book along with press cutting of the royal visit to the Ferguson exhibit at the British Industries Fair. The samples are of a luxurious and exciting new textile, fit for a queen: Polyester!

The book of textile samples was conserved by Fay and Erika, and will be shown at the V&A until the exhibition closes in 2024.



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## **Kendal Library refurbishment**

Kendal Library has recently been through a £875,000 refurbishment and was officially reopened on September 16th. The second phase of the refurbishment included work on the Local Studies area on the first floor. Much of the local studies collection was unavailable between April and the end of July and we wish to thank our customers for bearing with us whilst this work was being carried out. The result is a much brighter, cleaner well laid out first floor with improved lighting, more seating and study tables and laptop recharging facilities. Some items which previously had to be on closed access due to space constraints are now on open access. The microfilm reader printers have been relocated and we offer a spacious workbench where our researchers have space to carry out their research. You may remember that back in 2018 the parish registers on microfilm and other microfilm resources and transcripts moved over to the local studies Library from Kendal Archive Centre. At the time we managed to fit these resources into the available space, though it was a bit cramped for the microfilm reader printers. We now have a new 'Herdwick Room' which is a research space housing the parish register transcripts, trade directories, will indexes and monumental inscriptions. The room has tables for consulting maps, research space and sockets for charging laptops.

The local studies area also provides a flexible space that can be used for study as well as for author events and school visits. There will be a digital screen in due course which will allow us to display photographs from our collections and digital images of other 'treasures' not normally on open access.

We are pleased to be able to welcome regular and new customers alike to enjoy our unique Local Studies collection.

**Kate Holliday, Local Studies Librarian**



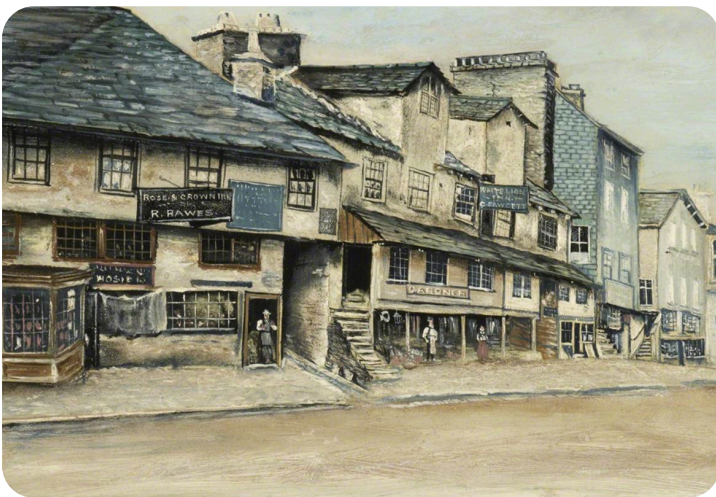


## The Reading Associations of 18th Century Kendal

Today, Kendal's public library stands proudly on Stricklandgate, within the grand sandstone building partly financed by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in the early 20th century. The modern public library in Britain as we know it today, state funded and freely accessible to all, did not exist until after the 1850 Public Libraries Act. Prior to this, books remained expensive and valuable commodities, with libraries financed by individuals and groups for profit, religion, philanthropy and mutual self-improvement. Despite its relative rurality, Kendal in the 18th and early 19th centuries was a thriving regional centre for print and libraries and home to a number of reading associations. Kendal Archives holds a number of these records relating to societies in the town including the Kendal Library (from 1794), the Kendal Coffee Room (established 1779) and the Kendal Book Club (established 1761). These were private societies, formed by those who were able to pool their resources together in order to purchase printed material that could then be collectively shared amongst the paying members.

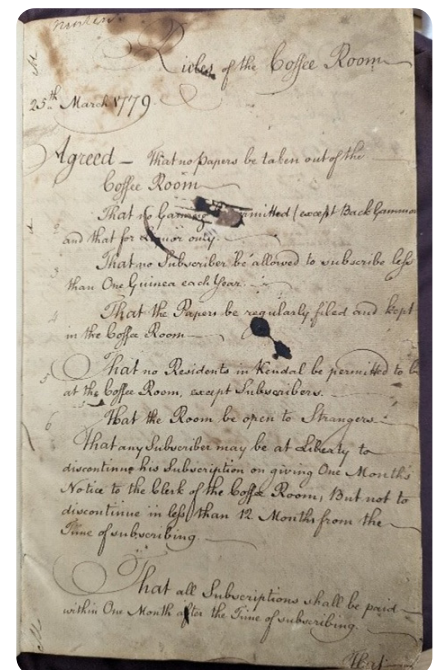
As well as providing a more affordable access to newly-printed books, the opportunities such associations provided for conviviality and sociability were also a major part of their appeal. The Kendal Book Club was famed for its two annual dinners. Kendal Archives holds a printed invitation from 1779 for the club's 'Venison Feast', to be held at the White Lion Inn, sent to Sir Michael Fleming (1748-1806) the MP for Westmorland. These dinners would have drawn together various members of the gentry and professional classes from Kendal and the surrounding area. Indeed, this may have included William and Dorothy Wordsworth, both of whom were Kendal Book Club members.

A subscription library, the Kendal Library, was founded in 1794. Kendal Archives holds three of its minute books, spanning a period from 1794 until 1908, recording which books were purchased by the library and its day-to-day administration by an elected committee. The library would have operated in a similar respect to the book club, although it aimed to keep and accumulate a permanent stock of books, rather than sell these off periodically. Rather than acting as a competitor, it is likely to have been used by many of the same members as the book club. The library clearly had a close relationship with another of the town's associations, the Kendal Coffee Room, which served as a venue for its general meetings. The Coffee Room was a private society in its own right, which specialised in the provision of newspapers and periodicals. Two of the Coffee Room's minute books survive in Kendal Archives, in addition to a visitors' book from the late 19th century. As in the case of the Kendal Library, the Coffee Room's minute books record when a new member was admitted, as well as to which members the newspapers and periodicals were annually sold off to. Together, these three associations provide a record of how Kendal's historic residents accessed books and printed material in the time before the public library.

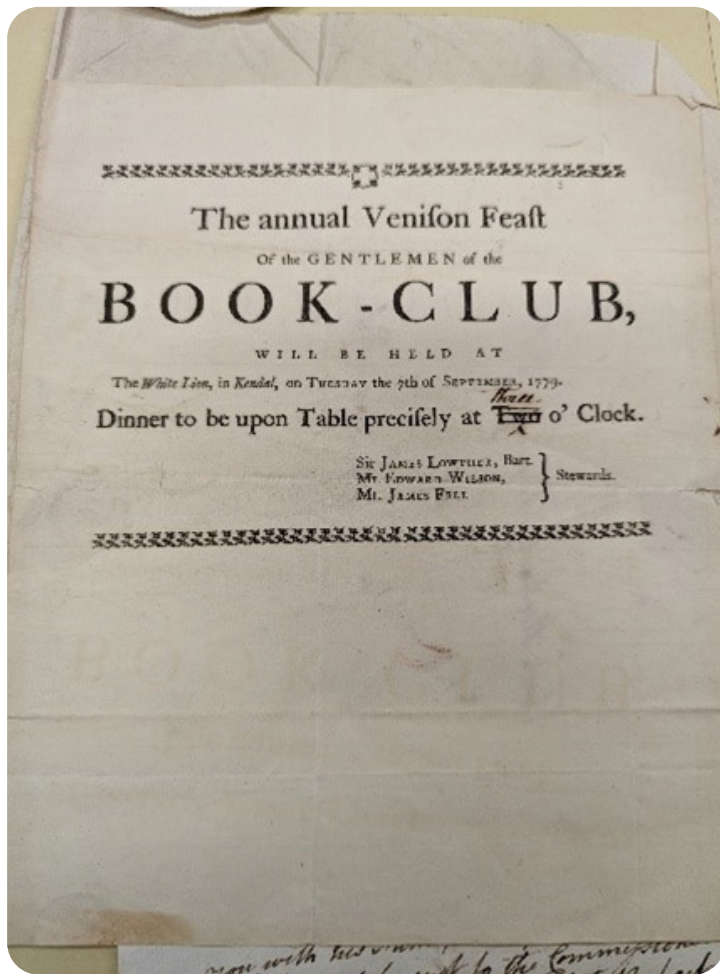


◀ Depiction of the east side of Stricklandgate, with the White Lion Inn on right, in the 19th century. 'Part of Stricklandgate, Kendal', oil on canvas, © Kendal Town Council.

▶ Minute book caption image 2 Kendal Archives, WDK/17 or WD/K/189, Minutebook of the Kendal Coffee Room 1779-1879.



**Joshua Smith** is in his final year as a Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities-funded PhD candidate based at the University of Stirling. His research examines the politics of reading and membership in subscription libraries in the 18th and early-19th centuries.



◀ Book club cover caption. Kendal Archives, WDRY/1/10/5/7 or WDRY Box 5, Letters to Sir Michael le Fleming, 1779-82.

## Cumbria Archives – opening hours

**Barrow Archive Centre:** Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am to 1pm; 2pm to 5pm (closed between 1pm to 2pm)

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

**Kendal Archive Centre:** Wednesday to Friday: 9.30am to 12.30pm; 1.30pm to 4.30pm (closed between 12.30pm to 1.30pm)

**Whitehaven Archive Centre:** Wednesday to Thursday: 9.30am to 12.30pm; 1.30pm to 4.30pm (closed between 12.30pm to 1.30pm); Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm