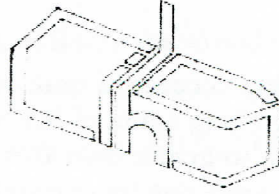


Cumbria Industrial History Society



No. 51

DECEMBER 2001

BULLETIN

CONTENTS

Page 2	Forthcoming Events
Page 3	October Conference report
Page 5	Site News
Page 6	Members Comments
Page 7	November Evening Meeting
Page 8	Committee Members

EDITORIAL

Hopefully we have seen the last of Foot and Mouth for a while, and access to countryside will soon be back to normal. Although we had to cancel both of our main out-door meetings this year, the meetings that have remained were exceptionally good. Both the Swaledale meeting and the Hartsop meeting have been arranged for next year and the enclosed programme looks very promising.

The committee at present is finding it difficult to source suitable speakers for the conferences etc. If you hear a suitable speaker or feel you could do a suitable talk yourself please let the committee know.

The fourth volume of the Industrialist should be with you early in the New Year. Publication has been delayed in the hope that a fourth article might arrive. Input for both the Bulletin and the Industrialist is very slow at arriving. Surely some person out there has been to a site recently (or not so recently) and could write up a short description?

Is nobody doing any worthwhile research that they would like to share with the rest of the world? If you do not publish your work it dies with you and it is all to no avail.

If you have any comments please send them to the editor.

All the committee members' contacts are available on the final page of this Bulletin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY MEMBERS NIGHT TUESDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2002 COCK AND DOLPHIN KENDAL 7.30

This will be a repeat of last year's highly successful quiz organized by Mike Davies-Shiel, and Ian Dunmur will be bringing along some of his historical tools to test your knowledge. Also any members who want to give a short five minute talk or show items of interest can bring them along. This is a meeting for everybody.

APRIL CONFERENCE SATURDAY APRIL 20TH 2002 CHARLOTTE MASON COLLEGE AMBLESIDE.

Subject is TRANSPORT with talks on canals, railways and roads.

See enclosed leaflet for details and booking details.

SWALEDALE LEAD MINING SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2002

This is a repeat of the meeting planned for 2001 but cancelled because of Foot and Mouth.

Meet 10.30 am in car park at Muker grid ref. SD911978. Combine into as few cars as possible and drive to Gunnerside Village. Very limited parking.

The easiest way to Muker is M6 to Junction 38 (Tebay) –A685 to Kirkby Stephen – B6259 to Nateby-B6270 to Muker

11.00 walk up Gunnerside Gill to Blakethwaite smelt mill and return on opposite side of Gunnerside Gill, visiting Sir Francis and Brunton mining areas – dressing floors, buildings and levels, Blakethwaite mill, Priscilla, Dolly and Lownathwaite mines. 6 miles, moderate walking occasionally rough. Stout footwear required plus packed lunch.

15.00 return to Gunnerside village. Optional trip to Surrender Bridge and Old Gang smelt mills or return to Muker and depart.

This will be a long day with a long drive each way, but the quality of the sites to be visited will make it well worthwhile. There may be a possibility of a short underground trip into Brunton Level.

AMBLESIDE EVENING MEETING THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2002

Meet in the main car park at 7.00pm for a walk around the industrial remains of this Lakeland Town.

HARTSOP AND MYERS HEAD SUNDAY 18TH AUGUST 2002

Another repeat of last year's cancelled meeting

Meet at 10.00am. at the car park at the far (east) end of Hartsop village. Grid Ref NY 410 131.

Morning easy walk to visit Hartsop corn mill and Myers Head Mine. Wellingtons more useful than boots.

Afternoon: Walk past Brothers Water and Hartsop Hall Farm to Hogget Gill Lead Smelter, followed by a steeper walk to examine Hartsop Hall Lead Mine. This last site is poorly understood and the visit provides an opportunity for members to offer their expertise in helping to understand the building remains which survive here.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE

To be held at Cockermouth further details to be announced.

EVENING MEETING WENESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2002 7.30PM COCK AND DOLPHIN KENDAL

Ken Broadhurst talking on milestones

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE REACHING A MEETING BECAUSE OF TRANSPORT PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER AND WE CAN ARRANGE LIFTS FROM MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTY.

OCTOBER CONFERENCE REPORT

About fifty members turned up on a wet October Sunday at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. Unfortunately our first speaker was unable to attend due to illness, but Denis Periam valiantly offered to do two talks in the day. So with a quick change in the programme Denis started the proceedings with his talk on The Carlisle Canal.

Denis started his talk by showing that the idea for a canal between the Solway and Newcastle as proposed in the 1990's was not a new idea. It was first proposed in the 18th century. Various schemes involving the canalisation of the Tyne and Eden and various routes have been proposed over the years. Ships could be brought up the Solway and beached at places such as Sandsfield and unloaded. But it was felt that that it would improve Carlisle trade if ships could be brought closer to the city. Eventually a canal was built from Port Carlisle to the basin at Carlisle. Alas today very little remains of the canal

at Carlisle and Denis used a variety of old paintings and photographs to show the position of the canal in relation to the city and its effect upon the development of the city.

The second speaker was Peter Robinson who showed the development of the complex railway system that occurs in the city. At one time the city had seven railway companies entering it. Each had their own goods yards and engine sheds. Peter showed how over time these were eventually amalgamated and the various lines in the city altered until the present railway system appeared.

The last speaker of the morning session was Susan Dalloe from Tullie House Museum. She spoke on the history of the museum which opened in 1893 (although some of the collections had started 40 – 50 years earlier). Originally the collections had been archaeology, natural science and fine arts, but later they began to collect items of social history.

The main problem of the museum is storage and she explained how they had a policy of not acquiring items that were too large to store or that required a lot of conservation either now or in the future. The collection was meant to illustrate the evolution of the city and of North Cumbria.

Susan Dalloe then went on to show how the different collections illustrated the industrial history of the city. The fine art collection has paintings showing industrial scenes and the sites of various industries through the ages. Also the museum has a large photographic collection, parts of which are industrially based. The textile collection contains a number of banners of various guilds that occurred in the city. Its sister museum the Guildhall contains displays on the various guilds of Carlisle.

One gallery of the present museum is devoted to industry with examples of farming, the State Brewery Scheme, fabric printing, clog making etc. They also have special displays and at the time of the visit, there was a display on Carrs biscuits which also illustrated a number of the tins made by Hudson Scott.

The museum also works closely with the archives and the library and between them they have an oral history project on-going. Part of this involves recording the memories of people who worked in various Carlisle industries. Susan Dalloe illustrated this with a short passage from a lady who had worked in Carrs Biscuit factory. They are also working on producing a list of various archive deposits throughout the country with regards to various Carlisle industries. At present they are working on "Blue Streak" the prototype rocket.

After lunch the next speaker was Peter Messenger who spoke on the water mills of the Eden Valley. A paper based survey had found 109 sites in the Eden catchment area. A look through the SMR had reduced this to 63 standing buildings. This was further reduced to 19 that had not been converted to houses.

He then took us on a quick tour of some of these sites to show us what remains. They varied from the totally derelict shell at Low Mill at Parkhead Renwick to the recently restored example at Acorn Bank and the still working example of Little Salkeld.

The reason why Peter had carried out this survey was to decide the relative local importance of the Warwick Bridge corn mill, which is hopefully going to be conserved. He pointed out that he had no means of finding out what the relative importance of different sites were. He hoped that this was possibly an area in which societies such as the CIHS may have a role to play, in recording and forming lists of important sites throughout the county or region.

Denis returned as the second speaker of the afternoon and gave a whirlwind tour of just some of the industries that had taken place in Carlisle over the years. He started in medieval times when Carlisle was famous for the Carlisle Axe and how New Bank Lane had previously been called Bladesmiths Lane after the Bladesmith family who had lived there and produced edged weapons at Bridge End Mill.

Carlisle had also been famous for the production of fishing hooks. Timber had been imported and produced locally and there was even the St Nicholas Firewood Company which chopped old railway sleepers up and sold them as firewood. He used a variety of sources such as maps, old billheads company records etc to go on and illustrate a wide range of industries from brewing , hat manufacturing to tanning and bicycle manufacturing.

After a coffee break, and luckily it had stopped raining, Denis then set off on his third mission of the day to lead us round the remaining industrial sites close to the West Walls of the city. These included railway goods yards and engine sheds (now a car park) cotton mills now parts of a hotel. The site of the city jail, Porters founderys and a quick tour of the Citadel railway station before returning us to the museum to finish a splendid day.

SITE NEWS

MARYPORT BLAST FURNACE SITE

Further to the report in the last Bulletin, our member Jack Lancaster has reported that the Blast Furnace at Maryport were demolished in April 1963 and the site covered by the co-op supermarket. The only slight remains near the site including parts of an early coke oven.

TINDALE SPELTER SITE NY 618 593

This site has now been designated a site of historic interest and has been listed to preserve it. This has probable happened just in time, Carlisle City Council under the Contaminated Land Regulations 2000, have found the site to be heavily contaminated with heavy

metals. Now there is a surprise!! They are now asking for the site to be fenced off to stop access.

The site consist of a large area of dumped waste from the both the Victorian spelter and from the early 20th century re-workings of this waste. A large amount of this waste was removed when Spadeadam was being developed for testing the Blue Streak rockets. The concrete foundations of the 20th century processing plants also survive.

The area is rich in industrial remains including the private railway of the Earl of Carlisle (along which Rocket once worked) numerous coal mining remains and also lime works.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

MINES OF THE LAKE DISTRICT.

Mike Davies-Shiel has supplied the following mines to add to the list printed in the last Bulletin.

Seathow	Lead	NY 223258
Thornthwaite or Walkergate	Lead	NY 223256
Ladstock	Lead	NY221253
Borrowdale (Seathwaite)	Graphite	NY230129- 233122
Brandlehow	Lead and Zinc	NY251196-249205
Dale Head	Copper	NY223153-221155
Embleton	Lead	NY182308, 159305 148301, 181302
Force Crag Mine	Iron	NY192214
Grains Gill	Iron	NY238102
Honister Quarries	Slate	NY203132-221145
Tallentire Hill	Copper	NY123357
Manesty	Lead	NY252184
Troutdale	Lead	NY261176
Brunt Knott	Lead	NY333284
Potts Gill	Copper	NY318369
Carrock Mine	Tungsten	NY332329
Iron Crag Mine	Iron	NY129124
Bowscale Beck North	Copper	SD173916
Brankenwalls Gill	Iron	SD102978
Low Iron Crag Wastwater	Iron	NY161054
Waterblean E Millom Park	Iron	SD175825
Park House	Iron	SD170824
Bank springs	Iron	SD138814
Chappels	Iron	SD170850
Kinmont	Iron	SD133898
Ore Gap Esk Pike	Iron	NY240072
Mecklin Park	Iron	NY130021
Eskdale Moor Mine	Iron	NY195013

Stoupdale Beck	Lead	SD165863
Staveley Head	Lead	NY458017-467013
Eagle Crag	Lead	NY356142
Greenside	Lead	NY3617 & 3618
Load Pot Hill	Iron	NY458187
Tongue Gill	Iron	NY346106
Hartsop Dodd	Lead	NY409125
Cawdale	Iron	NY475176
Guerness Gill	Copper	NY480135 (in Haweswater now)
Pull Beck	Copper	NY355019/352017/347019
Appletreeworth	Iron	NY246927
Coniston	Copper	SD278989/284988/286992
Tilberthwaite	Copper	NY306007/296005
Red Dell Head	Copper	NY285004
Trover High Common	Copper	NY263948/259940

Are there more mines in the Lake District? Can anyone add dates of opening and closure to any of these mines? Or which companies worked them?

The Cumbrian escarpment of the N. Pennines was also mined for minerals can anyone supply the start of a list for that area?

LAKE DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Society has been asked if we would like to nominate a person to represent ourselves on this forum that is being set up at present. We are looking for a suitable volunteer. If you would like details please contact Helen Caldwell.

NOVEMBER EVENING MEETING

The turn out this at evening meeting was one of the largest seen for many years. Mike Davies-Shiel spoke on the topic of iron and ironmongery in both the Cumbrian area and also further afield.

He started by handing out a map showing the foundry and forge sites in S. Cumbria and explaining how each site was responsible for employing directly up to 20 people and then other ancillary people such as sellers and colliers to make charcoal. The ironmongers were at one time the third largest gild in Kendal. They started by selling their wares off barrows in markets etc. and eventually moved into shops. Alas there are none of the old foundries left in the county but Mike showed slides of the inside of Stouts foundry at Whitehaven prior to it's closure.

He then moved on to talk for a short time about cast iron and the start of blast furnaces in the county and how late they were to other parts of the country. He described the process

of blacking to make moulds very smooth and so produce smooth castings. For very high quality castings graphite from Borrowdale was added.

He looked at the sites of various foundries in the county and their various cast iron products. He then moved on to look at wrought iron work and the type of products produced and the processes used. These included slitting mills, which allowed the production of long thin pieces of iron that could be converted into nails, also wire drawing started with the slit iron, and also the use of trip-hammers in foundries.

He then went on to look at the production of bar iron for blacksmiths and the role different blacksmiths had in the various communities. He described how the various forges eventually started to employ their own blacksmiths rather than just selling the bar iron on. In this way they made more value-added products and so larger profits. Eventually these concerns started to open their own shops to sell their own products. This took the story round full circle.

He finished the evening by showing how it was possible using various documentary evidence to follow whole families through generations doing the same business. The local ironmongery business was eventually killed off by the coming of the railways. Local businessmen thought that railways would allow cheaper raw materials to be brought in. But, unfortunately it also allowed much cheaper, mass produced finished items to be brought in, which killed off local competition.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roger Baker
4 Barnes Cottages
Back Lane
Preesal
Poulton FY6 0HT
Mbarb@freenetname.co.uk
Tel. 01253 811324

Geoff Brambles, Chairman
21 Derwent Drive
Kendal
LA9 7PB
Tel 01539 728605

Mrs Helen Caldwell, Secretary
Low Ludderburn
Cartmel Fell
Windermere LA23 3PD
lowludderburn@btinternet.com

Dr Ian Dunmur
Croft House
Mosedale
Penrith CA11 0XQ
Tel 017687 79100

Mrs Jan Bennett, Treasurer
& John Bennett, Membership Secretary
Broombank Cottage
Lindal-in-Furness
Cumbria LA12 0LW
cihs@btinternet.com

Graham Brooks, Bulletin Editor
Coomara
Carleton
Carlisle CA4 0BU
gbrooksvet@netscapeonline.co.uk
Tel. 01228 537379

Miss Juliet Caldwell, Programme Secretary
Sayles Cottage
Spark Bridge
Ulverston LA12 8BY
juliet.caldwell@btinternet.com

Mr Chris Irwin, Vice-Chairman
The Book House
Ravenstonedale
Kirkby Stephen CA17 4NQ
chris@thebookhouse.co.uk
Tel 015396 23634