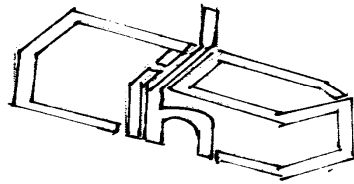


# Cumbria Industrial History Society



## BULLETIN

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No. 56

AUGUST 2003

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### EDITORIAL

This years summer programme is going very well, with a better than normal attendance at the April conference and two very well attended evening meetings. The remains of the programme this year also holds great potential especially the October conference for which booking forms are enclosed.

The committee feels that the Society whilst being very active with its field visits is not at present actively engaging itself in industrial archaeology. In the past the Society has been involved with such enterprises as a lime burn at Jack Scout Kiln, Surveying the remains of Wrengill slate works and most recently the surveying and partial excavation of the tile kiln at Frith. Some suggestions for possible projects for the Society to get involved in are

- 1) Surveying the remains of the warehouses etc. at Canal Head Kendal prior to the redevelopment of the canal.
- 2) Recording barns and other farm buildings prior to their conversion to housing or demolition. More and more barns are being converted to housing at present and it is felt that in some cases although there is still a structure present on the site, it bears no resemblance to the original structure. Most barns are unique and some form of recording should be carried out before their conversion.
- 3) Recording of industrial sites on the North Pennines.

If any member is keen to get involved with one of these topics or has a subject they would like to get the Society involved in please contact a member of the committee.

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

All the committee members' contacts are available at the back of this Bulletin.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> SWALEDALE LEAD SMELTERS**

This is another visit arranged by Tony Keates to look at the remains of Old Gang and Surrender smelt mills. Meet at Surrender Bridge SD 989 999 10 am. Possible underground trip, hats and lights required, also change of socks or Wellingtons.

### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AUTUMN CONFERENCE**

This years conference is a joint conference with the historical Metalurgical Society on the subject of iron making. It will be at the Hundith Hill hotel near Cockermouth the same as 2002. Further details and booking forms will be in the next issue.

### **NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> EVENING MEETING (7.30pm) COCK AND DOLPHIN HOTEL KENDAL.**

A talk by Warren Allison on Greenside Mines at Glenridding. This is preparation to visit to the site in 2004. The talk will include slides of the mine operating in the 1950's and also a video of the crushing mill in operation about the same time.

## **NON SOCIETY EVENTS**

The NAHMO conference in 2004 is to be hosted by CAT and will take place at Coniston. Further details are available from Shiela Barker, the Rise, Alston, CA9 3DB.

Lake District National Park are having another Archaeology day conference on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Details from the Lake District Planning Offices.

### **BLUE STREAK**

This was the British rocket designed initially for medium range ballistic missile launching and later satellites. It was tested at Spadeadam near Brampton in Cumbria. Recently information on the rocket has been drawn together from various sources around the country and also English Heritage have carried out a survey of the Spadeadam site. Tullie House Museum Carlisle has an exhibition of art work associated with it from 4th October 2003 – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

## **INFORMATION REQUIRED**

The Cumbrian Railway Society is attempting to produce a gazetteer of industrial sites that had their own internal railway systems. These could be powered by locomotive, horse, cable or man power. They are not at present interested in underground workings. Anyone who would like to help should contact Peter Robinson. E-mail address [pwr@clara.net](mailto:pwr@clara.net).

## SITE NEWS

### HARRABY GREEN MILL

Work by the north Pennine Heritage Trust archaeologist at this site before re-development of the site, has shown remains of the wheel pit and also medieval wall foundations.

### HUDGILL BINGSTEADS (RECEIVING HOUSE) NY752 463

The North Pennine Heritage Trust has completed the restoration of this site. It consists of six bingsteads, three of which are unusually covered over. This may have been to receive fine grained ore known as cuttings. The building within the enclosure was possible the office and the building outside built after the enclosure was possibly a stable.

The site was built by the Commissioners of the Greenwich Hospital to receive their portion of the ore mined on Alston Moor. This varied between 1/5<sup>th</sup> and 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the ore raised. The site was built in about 1826 to receive ores from the surrounding mines. The largest producer of which was Hudgill Burn Mine which then mined and dressed about 4000 tons of lead ore per annum, 1/5<sup>th</sup> duty went to the hospital.

Ore from this site was transported to the Hospitals smelt mill at Langley.

The site is open to the public on the road side.

### HUDGILL BINGSTEADS

### WATER CORN MILL, BOOT, ESKDALE

This site owned by Cumbria County Council is on the market for sale. It is the only working corn mill within the National Park and at present the sale conditions do not require that the mill is kept working or public access is allowed.

### BOOT CORN MILL

### **DESCRIPTIONS OF MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES, PREMISES, PROCESSES, AND PRODUCTS IN THE CARLISLE JOURNAL, 1807-9**

(Continued from the Bulletin of the Cumbria Industrial History Society, No. 55, April 2003)

Compiled by G. W. Oxley

59. Warping in Carlisle

Check and gingham warpers and a person capable of undertaking the management of a warping room

Advertised for by Messrs. Ferguson of Carlisle, CJ, 429, 10 Jan. 1807

60. Weaving at ?

1. A newly built manufactory containing 38 loom stands, a warehouse, a warping room, and a stone room, occupied by James Bell under a lease for fourteen years, seven unexpired, at a yearly rent of £25

2. Three weaving shops adjoining containing together fourteen loom stands occupied by David Lamb and others as tenants at will at a yearly rent of £9.16.0

Advertised for sale by the holder of a lease for lives under Sir James Graham, CJ, 434, 14 Feb. 1807

61. Textile printing at Weary Holme, Carlisle

Buildings and grounds occupied by Donald, Carrick, Shaw & Co., calico printers. The buildings are in excellent repair and exceedingly well adapted for the printing business and contain about fifty tables, three printing presses, with stoves and all the necessary appurtenances for the business. Also a dye house for eight dye coppers, six of which are set; a bleaching house with three boilers and the necessary steeping reives; a large dry house; a very good waterwheel which carries two pair of stocks, a callendar, an indigo mill, an alum mill, and two printing presses, all in good condition; a blue dye house containing seven vats with a boiler and sour system adjoining; together with warehouses, colour house, pencilling shops, cutter's shop, singeing house, a stable, and in short everything complete for carrying on the business. The premises are at all times supplied with plenty of water from the River Caldew. Apply to William Donald at the premises or to Henry Shaw at High Crosby, near Crosby on Eden.

Advertised to be let, CJ, 444, 25 April. 1807

62. Brewery at Town End, Dalston

Newly built, occupied by Taylor & Co., and comprising brew houses, malt kilns, granaries, stables, outhouses, all other suitable conveniences, and several dwelling houses generally occupied by persons employed at the brewery. Vats, tuns, butts, and barrels (all perfect and new) will be sold with the brewery. The purchaser can be accommodated with a large quantity of hops and malt. Edward Stinton of Dalston Hall will show the premises, further particulars from John Sutherland of Blackhall.

Advertised for sale or to be let if unsold, CJ, 455, 11 July. 1807

63. Water wheel and associated machinery

The water wheel has an axle tree fourteen feet in length, a diameter of twelve feet and three sets of arms and the halves/hafts? are nine feet in length; an eight feet six inches pit wheel with cast iron segments; head stock and framing of oak with sluice frames, sluice and roller, upright tumbling shafts and drums, fly and crown wheels, glasses, brasses, etc.

Advertised for sale by John Rigg, of Carlisle, the owner, CJ, 456, 18 July. 1807

64. Corn mill at High Wool Oakes Farm in the parish of Hesketh in the Forest

Large corn mill built ten or eleven years ago. It has two overshot waterwheels; two pairs of grey stones; one pair of blue stones; and two stones and cases for making shelled and pearl barley, one four feet in diameter and the other three feet seven inches;. It has good connections with Liverpool, Manchester, etc.

Advertised to be let, apply Mr. Dixon of Cardewthwaite, CJ, 456, 18 July. 1807

65. Cotton machinery at Carlisle

Machinery and utensils for cotton spinning and muslin manufacture offered for sale. The purchaser may be accommodated with a number of weaving shops in Carlisle at a reasonable rent.

Advertised by W. Wood who intends to retire from business, CJ, 456, 18 July. 1807

66. Calico print shop at Willow Holme, Carlisle

A three storey building nine yards square and formerly used as a calico print shop, with a half share of a callender and the partial use of a waterwheel

Advertised to be let, CJ, 468, 10 Nov. 1807

67. Bleaching at Maryport

Wanted, a man capable of conducting a bleaching concern in the common method. He should understand mill washing

Advertised for by Harris and Dickenson of Maryport, CJ, 483, 23 Jan. 1808

68. Calico printing shop at Weary Holme, Carlisle

1. All the printing and bleaching utensils of Donald, Carrick, Shaw & Co. of Weary Home consisting of printing presses, blocks, copper boilers, tables, both of wood and stone, with a variety of other vessels

2. Premises suitable for any business requiring a copious supply of water comprising print shops three stories high and thirty one yards long by twenty eight feet wide, a dye house for eight coppers, bleaching conveniences, warehouse, and land for bleaching

Advertised for sale, CJ, 486, 13 Feb. 1808

69. Manufacturing in Carlisle

'It is doing no more than common justice to that respectable body of men, the manufacturers of this city, to mention that notwithstanding the unprecedented depression of trade not one bankruptcy has taken place amongst them. This circumstance we believe is without parallel in any manufacturing town in the kingdom of any extent. And what further speaks greatly in their favour, rather than throw their workmen out of employment they have retained the whole of them, though the manufacturers thereby weekly suffer a considerable loss. This is genuine patriotism'.

Editorial matter, CJ, 489, 5 March 1808

70. Corn mill at Cummersdale

A house, land and a mill containing three pairs of stones-French, blue, and grey, with dressing machines, drying kilns, and all conveniences. Apply to John Forster, owner.

Robert Pattinson at the cotton mill at Cummersdale will show the premises

Advertised to be let, CJ, 508, 16 July 1808

71. Bleach field at Dalston

Items stolen from the bleach field of John Robson at Dalston: a damask tablecloth with a grape border and a middle festoon three yards by two and a half yards, No. 777; table napkins with a clover leaf pattern eighteen yards long and seven eighths broad, No. 855; table napkins with a clover leaf pattern sixteen and a half yards long and seven eighths broad,

Advertised, CJ, 513, 20 Aug. 1808

72. The Old Brewery and Malting at Kendal

A large, modern, well constructed, brewery, malting and granary well suited to the business and in good repair; also two dwelling houses, a good counting house and a cooperage. The frontage to Wildman Street is 40 yards and the other three sides are 34½ yards. The yard within the buildings is 18 yards by 13 yards and adjoining to the south-east side there is a handsome fruit garden. The malt house consists of two growing floors 27½ yards by 12 yards within the walls, two couching floors and two lead cisterns which will wet 216 Winchester bushels at one time. The withering floors and barley granary are of the same dimensions as the growing floors and adjoining to the end of these floors are two drying kilns 6 yards square. The brew house is ten yards square within the walls. In it are a large copper and lead boiler which will contain 2,280 gallons, an iron boiler, a mash vat which will roast 150 Winchester bushels, a lead and copper underback, two lead pumps, a liquor back, a hop back, three large wort backs or coolers containing together 19 yards and one foot by 6 yards and one foot. There is a convenient tun room adjoining. The mill house is 6½ yards square within the walls, and contains a horse mill for grinding the malt and pumping the liquors over which are two malt granaries 17½ yards by 6½ yards within the walls. The beer cellar is 10½ yards by 6½ yards within the walls and contains a large new working square or vat, and two new vats 7½ yards by 6½ yards and 4 yards square. Stocks of malt, hops and ale, 40 barrels, 600 ½ barrels, 500 firkins and a number of other casks of different sizes, 20 stillings, a cutting mill, a hand mill, and other articles not enumerated to be sold to the purchaser at a valuation. Also four dwelling houses on the north side of the brewery, two fronting on Wildman St. and two backwards and two good stables with haylofts above, all let to sundry tenants and capable of improvement.

Advertised for sale, apply to Messrs. Whitwell, Pennington & Co. at The Old Brewery, CJ, 514, 27 Aug. 1808

73. Corn mill at Warwick Bridge

An action brought by --- Earl, tenant of Henry Howard of Corby Castle of a water corn mill at Warwick Bridge which had been granted to the Howards by James I and rebuilt about five years ago, complaining that --- Harding an occupier of land owned by Wm. Ebdell upstream of the mill had diverted the river to irrigate his land returning the water to its former course lower down thereby infringing his exclusive right to the water. The court found that the mill did not own the water and that all could use it providing that he did not injure his neighbour

News Report, CJ, 514, 27 Aug. 1808

74. Tannery at Damside, Carlisle

A dwelling house, stable, garden, two tan yards, a bark mill turned by a powerful stream of water, four cottages, drying houses, and everything requisite for an extensive tanning business, formerly occupied by Thomas Spooner, deceased

Advertised to be let for 14 years by Mrs Spooner, CJ, 520, 8 Oct. 1808

75. Weaving at Kirby Stephen

1. A messuage fronting the street plus large weaving rooms capable of holding 200 pairs of looms, warping and winding rooms, stables, hayloft, and other buildings enclosing a spacious paved yard; also a garden extending to the River Eden. All erected in the last ten years

2. A leasehold mill for dressing warp at Stenkrith, one mile from Kirby Stephen, with a steam boiler and conducting machinery, all complete; a plentiful supply of water; also a corn mill worked by the same waterwheel, and land. Five dressing frames are erected and at work. The machinery may be purchased at a valuation. Kirby Stephen is a populous market town where plenty of good workmen and children may be had at a small expense. Advertised for sale by order of John Dand of Kirby Stephen, a bankrupt, CJ, 530, 17 Dec. 1808

#### 76. Textile printing at Carlisle and Harraby

The print field, etc. of the Old Print Company of Carlisle comprising:

1. Counting house, warehouse, dye house, stable, offices, and building ground forming a square below the south walls of the City and the dam race
2. A small enclosure of land to the north west, well adapted for building, also between the walls and the dam race
3. Printing shops, cutting shops, warehouses, dye houses, callender house, offices, and bleaching grounds between the dam race and the River Caldew containing fourteen acres (eight including the buildings are customary tenure, the remainder leasehold).
4. An elegant and commodious dwelling house with out offices and gardens, two fulling mills, two dye houses, two callenders, extensive warehouses and offices, and thirty acres of bleaching ground intersected by the River Petrel, all freehold.
5. Machinery and utensils to be sold at a valuation

‘The calico printing business has been carried on upon these premises for near fifty years on a large scale and from the great variety of good buildings, fine streams, waterfalls and extensive grounds, are convertible to almost every manufacturing purpose’

Advertised for sale by the owners, Mesrs. Lamb, Scott, Waldie, & Co., further particulars from Mr. Waldie at the company’s counting house, CJ, 535, 21 Jan. 1809

#### 77. New Sandsfield in the parish of Beamont, also known as Port Carlisle

A public house; barns, stables, etc.; a large warehouse, a timber yard, five houses all brick and blue slate; a wharf or quay; 147 acres of land.

Advertised for sale by the owner, Joseph Liddell, CJ, 537, 4 Feb. 1809

#### 78. Water power

The bays (i.e. weirs) at Netherby and Armathwaite were destroyed by unprecedented floods

News report, CJ, 537, 4 Feb. 1809

#### 79. Bleaching at Denton Holme

Unprecedented floods caused serious injury to the bleaching premises of Mr. Robson Clarke. Two hundred yards of the embankment which served to prevent the encroachment of the River Caldew onto the Holme were carried away by the current. The water formed a new channel and rushed against the premises carrying away or destroying sluices and several pieces of machinery. One of the water wheels was lodged on the other side of the river a few yards below and is expected to be recovered. The drying house has sustained considerable damage: one of the angles several yards in height and one yard in breadth was brought down by the current

News report, CJ, 537, 4 Feb. 1809

About four months ago we announced in our paper that the bleaching premises of Mr. Robson Clarke of Denton Holme had sustained considerable injury by the Caldew

overflowing its banks. We are extremely sorry to have again to relate the occurrence of a similar calamity by the present flood. A weared bank belonging to Miss Grahams of Ann's Hill giving way by the impetuosity of the torrent, the water violently rushed against the bleaching house and carried away a great part of the back wall, the remainder of which is completely undermined. The end wall is also much shattered, and the whole in momentary danger of total destruction. The foundation of the new store (the former having been destroyed in the last flood) was also swept away, likewise several materials which were collected for the same. We sincerely commiserate with Mr Clarke who is acknowledged to be a tradesman of great industry and ingenuity. His machines and apparatus were of the very best construction and possessed several valuable improvements of his own. By the stoppages of Mr Clarke's business a very serious inconvenience will be felt by the manufacturers though from our knowledge of his activity there is no doubt that he will rear up another building without delay; but from the great price of wood, his loss we are confidently informed will exceed £2,000  
News report, CJ, 554, 3 June 1809

#### 80. Textile manufacture

Twenty-four pairs of strong looms for ginghams and muslins, an excellent warping machine for cops and hanks, a good warping mill, also slays, gears, and other utensils used in manufacturing.

Advertised for sale, CJ, 544, 25 March 1809

#### 81. Textile manufacture in Globe Lane, Carlisle

A ware room and two adjoining rooms for warping and winding

Advertised to let, apply Mr Wm. Smith, manufacturer at the premises, CJ, 544, 25 March 1809

#### 82. Weaving in Carlisle

Daniel Crory was convicted by the magistrates and sentenced to three months in the house of correction for embezzling a yard of broad gingham, the property of Matthew Brown, manufacturer, of Caldewgate, from the end of his cut and substituting a new mark  
News report, CJ, 545, 1 April 1809

#### 83. Dyeing in Ritsons Lane without Irish Gate, Carlisle

Joseph Thomas, dyer, gives thanks to the public for past support and announces that he has taken over the premises formerly occupied by Joseph Graham in order to continue his woollen, linen, and cotton dyeing business: His blues are all real indigo blue and fancy colours are also available. He will continue to attend the markets as usual to take in woof to card, to spin, and to weave into cloth and linen and cotton yarn and cloth to bleach.

Advertisement, CJ, 547, 15 April 1809

#### 84. Fulling mills on the River Kent etc. at Dockray, near Kendal

1. A mill for rasping and clipping with room over, forty one feet by seventeen feet three inches, with a waterwheel and utensils

2. Two fulling mills (thirty feet by twenty seven feet six inches and twenty nine feet by twenty four feet nine inches) containing five pair of stocks, with carding rooms above and a wood loft on the third (sic) floor

3. A friezing mill containing four single and two double frieze boards, with large rooms over.



4. Three houses, cottages and land  
Advertised for sale, CJ, 548, 22 April 1809

85. Water power at Denton Holme  
Estimates sought for carpentry and masonry work required for the construction of a weir at Denton Holme. The plan and specification will be furnished by Mr. Peter Nicholson, architect to the contractors.  
Advertisement, CJ, 549, 29 April 1809

86. Water cotton mill at Crook near Kendal  
Mill fitted with excellent cotton machinery, also a small mill, six cottages, a good dwelling house, and yards  
Advertised for sale by the owner, Thomas Robinson of Kendal, CJ, 551, 13 May 1809

87. Weaving at Catcoates  
A dwelling house, weaving shops and garden having a frontage of forty eight yards and backing onto a rivulet for forty yards, occupied by Thomas Ellery, also ten looms with flies and other apparatus  
Advertised for sale, CJ, 552, 20 May 1809

88. Woollen manufacture at Caldbeck  
Hudson Scott has purchased the woollen manufactory at Caldbeck, late Dover: wool carded, white and mixtures and dyed on the lowest terms; wool spun into web yarn, hosiery yarn (single or double), lindsey weft to any number, soft or hard twisted; blanketing finished, wove plain or quilted; finished duffles of all kinds and colours; double milled, double dyed, dressed and pressed goods of all descriptions; carpets, flannels, pladdings, stripes and horse checks on the most reasonable terms. Wool taken in at his market day shop: Jacob Johnson's Spread Eagle in Carlisle, T. Mar's, dyer and J. Graham's at Brampton, M. Southward's at Wigton, J. Smithson's at Bothel, J. Cown's at Irby, and at J. Shiel's, dyer at his market day shop at Penrith  
Advertisement, CJ, 559, 8 July 1809

89. Woollen manufacture at Kirkoswold  
William Crampton returns thanks for past support for his business of carding and spinning wool. He has engaged experienced workmen from Yorkshire and is carrying on the following branches of woollen manufacture: carding and spinning web and hosiery yarn, single or double; blanketing plain or quilted; linsey weft to any number, soft or hard twined; finished duffles of all kinds and colours; double dressed, double dyed, dressed and pressed goods of all descriptions; flannels, pladdings, etc. Goods taken in at Ralph Pickering's, warehouse, Globe Lane, Carlisle; Bullman and Park at Brampton; Forsters at Castle Carrick; Nicholas Car and George Wallace at Alston; and at Nicholas Farr's shop at Dockray, Penrith  
Advertisement, CJ, 560, 15 July 1809

90. Dye house in Caldewgate, Carlisle  
It has eight new lead vats, a large boiling house with two boilers, one large woad vat and indigo mill, storehouse, dwelling house and one acre of drying ground with posts and pales all complete and ready for use; also ware rooms, offices, a weaving shop with twenty four looms, a dwelling house with other conveniences for manufacture, two warp

mills and winding machinery.  
Advertised to be let, CJ, 561, 22 July 1809

91. Water power at Carlisle

A waterwheel of twelve feet in diameter with three sets of arms half nine feet in length, an axle tree fourteen feet long, a pit wheel of three feet six inches with cast iron segments, head stocks, framing, etc. of oak, with sluice frame, sluice and roller, upright tumbling shafts and drum, fly and crown wheels, glasses, brasses, etc.

Advertised for sale, CJ, 561, 22 July 1809

92. Textile printing at Cummersdale

On Wednesday evening a party of men in the employ of Mr. Gardiner an engineer from Manchester were repairing some machinery at the print works at Cummersdale when part of it gave way and fell on the head of a man who was stooping down engaged in an under part of the work. He was completely scalped and his face severely bruised but he is on a fair way to recovery.

News report, CJ, 568, 9 Aug. 1809

93. Brewery at Wigton

The new brewery with a malt kiln, stables and other offices and grounds, as well as all casks, boilers, coolers, and other utensils. The malting convenience is calculated for steeping thirty Carlisle bushels at a time with good lifts for steeping barley and malt; a dwelling house is also available.

Advertised to let by the owners, R. & T. Hodgson, CJ, 577, 11 Nov. 1809

94. Bleach works at Harraby

Messrs Beeby, Hough & Co. have taken over the works lately occupied by Lamb, Scott, Waldie & Co. and intend to start the business of bleaching and finishing cottons and linens and of bleaching and boiling of cotton and linen yarns on 1 Jan. next.

Advertisement, CJ, 581, 9 Dec. 1809

### **APRIL CONFERENCE REPORT**

The April conference was well attended and a very enjoyable day was had by all the delegates. The first Speaker was Colin McCourt from the Beacon Museum Whitehaven who gave an overview of the development of the harbour at Whitehaven. The first pictorial evidence of shipping at Whitehaven is the 'Bee' in 1566 at Whitehaven. The next available picture is in 1642 which shows Whitehaven as a small hamlet. The first part of the harbour to be built was the old quay to protect shipping mainly exporting salt. Coal hurries were first built in 1732 as coal mining developed and the old quay light house was built.

However before this in 1710 the Bullock quay was built followed in 1722 by the West Strand and in 1733 by the Sugar Tongue. The Sugar Tongue was used for the unloading of cargos such as tobacco from the Americas. However the trade with America was short lived due to the American war of Independence. But during it's short life Whitehaven was the second largest importer of tobacco after London.

Further developments at the harbour included the New Quay in 1742 and the Lime Tongue in 1754. The main problem encountered with the harbour was silting and the Pow Beck was widened and deepened on many occasions.

Harbour developments continued into the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the West Pier being built in 18245 and the Queen dock in 1872. This was mainly to help the coal trade and also export of iron ore from the Cleator area.

Other industries at Whitehaven which depended on the harbour included ship building by the Brocklebank family, the Beacon Mill and finally the Marchon who in the 1970's imported phosphorus rock into the harbour.

Tourism and travel always played a part in the history of the harbour with regular sailings to Liverpool and day trips to the Isle of Man and it is now tourism that the harbour is used for with the development of the marina.

The second speaker was Margaret Robinson who looked at the evidence for early trade at Whitehaven using the Port Record books. She showed that in 1688 it was rare for trade to come from south of Chester although there was regular trade to Liverpool and some trade with south west Scotland although it was possible that smuggling was rife at this time.

By 1739 the number of trips had doubled with trade to the Americas and the Baltic increasing greatly. The Irish trade had decreased and trade with Scotland had also increased. This was probable due to the fact that Scotland was now part of Great Britain and so Customs did not apply and so smuggling had reduced.

Trade to London, the south coast and Holland had also increased over this period. The American and Dutch trade was very low volume but of very high value when compared to the coal trade. But the coal trade was maintained for a long period.

The coal trade worked by ship masters buying the coal off the colliery owners and then reselling it themselves in Ireland. This caused the ship masters to be squeezed and they needed a return cargo to make the trips profitable. These were such items as raw leather and linen. This led to the development of industries to process these products. Once processed these items could be re-exported from the port as items to the West Indies etc. and the tobacco was brought back on the ships.

She then went on to look at the effect trade had on other industries in the area, these included ship building and all its related trade, provisioning of ships and the production of sacks and barrels etc. to hold provisions. The building of ships required the importation of timber from the Baltic and the main export to the area was lead and wool cloth.

She went on to look at the slave trade which was significant in the 1750 – 60's. But it did not pay well because Cumbria did not have products suitable for export to Africa and therefore there was a need to import the products first. This was the main reason for the reduction in the use of the harbour at Whitehaven there was a low population with no inland markets and suitable products to export against the consumer type products being brought in.

After a break for lunch and a browse of the book stalls the Afternoon session was started by Janet Snell talked about the morecombe bay prawners and in particular the Hearts of Oak which was the last Ulverston built prawner which has now been restored

The last speaker was Graham Sharpe who gave a very high tech talk on the history of ship building at Bsrrow. James Ramsden opened the first ship yard in 1871 but since then it has been known by 25 different names. The first boat built was the Duke of Devonshire, with the first naval vessel built being HMS Foxhound. The first naval submarine Holland 1 was built in 1901 and grahams high tech presentation included a digital reconstruction of it.

During the First World War the yard built 132 submarines 35 warships and 12 merchant ships. At the end of the war they changed to other products including passenger ships including the Orion and a short video clip showing the building and launch of the ship was shown.

During the Second World War over 200 ships were built. Again after the war the yard diversified and built such items as cement kilns and railway wagons

!960 saw the Launch of HMS Dreadnought the first nuclear submarine was launched and in 1963 Polaris ballistic missile submarines were started to be built. In 1984 the Devonshire dock was covered in and now all construction takes place inside and the ships were launched by the ship lift. But again a change in the 1990's saw a return to dynamic launching from the new superberth.

This brought another successful conference to a close.

### **JUNE EVENING MEETING BACKBARROW**

A large number of members and friends turned up on a pleasant summers evening to view the remains of the iron works at Backbarrow. It was a bit of shock when we arrived at the site to find 'For Sale' notices had been erected recently. This has dashed the hopes that some form of consolidation of the site may have taken place in the near future.

We first viewed the remains of the store shed on the topside of the road and also the water storage tank above the railway. This was used to provide water for the hydraulic lift that was used to feed the furnace.

We then entered the site proper and examined the remains of the furnace which quite clearly shows the different phases of development and alteration that occurred on the site. The waterwheel pit was also examined and the remains of the small steam engine and the boilers.

The end of the site also contains the remains of the turbines that were used to produce the electricity for the site. The evening was drawn to a close by the savage attack of the local insect population.

## THE BACKBARROW IRON WORKS COMPLEX

### **MAY EVENING MEETING GOODACRES CARPETS KENDAL.**

Goodacres Carpets (of Kendal) has been weaving Spool Axminster in the mill between the river and canal in Kendal for over 50 years. The founder – William Goodacre – reached Kendal from London via Holme Mills to take over the old established mill in the 1930's, weaving chenille at first, then narrow loom Axminster after the Second World War, then broadloom in the 1950's in widths of 9', 10'6", and 12'.

A full complement of 16 members of the CIHS enjoyed a tour of the mill on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May this year. I personally had seen other textile mills at work, even experienced weaving a couple of rugs myself, but this was different. I had to forget any ideas of warp on a frame, and the weft moving to and fro, or a material base into which threads of material are woven (or stuck!). Here the three main ingredients come together in one operation – cotton warp, jute weft and the wool – and combine to make one row of carpet. Then again for another, and another – at the rate of 3 yards an hour.

But that's nearly the end of the process which starts with the delivery of the spun yarn to despatch of the finished roll:

The mill sources yarns from around the world. Darker yarns for darker blends (colours), dark grey becoming burgundy for example. Only 10% of production is all wool, the rest is 80% wool/20% nylon which has already been mixed in during the spinning process before reaching the mill.

The jumbo hanks of oily yarn are scoured (washed) in a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and detergent, through four baths with repeated soaking and squeezing. They are then transferred on stainless steel rods to the dye house. Here 8 vats of different sizes, all used approximately twice a day, handle 20,000 lbs of yarn per week. Different yarns need different chemicals to produce different blends, with each load taking about an hour to produce the blend required. Automatic colour testing procedures calculate whether more or less time is needed.

The damp wool is then loaded into hydros (spin driers), then on a frame into a drier and then to the winding department where 3 machines take 6 hanks each to produce 5 bobbins from each hank.

The bobbins of different coloured wools are transferred to the setting department. Here (in the old weaving shed with north facing lights) the spool setters follow a pattern from the design shop and feed the correct colours of yarn onto a "spool" which will later in the process create one row of the pattern. The quality of the finished product is determined by the number of rows in a 3' repeat – an amazing 342 of them in the best quality Royal Kendal.

The spools are individually loaded onto the massive chain driven mechanism which feeds the weaving operation of the loom, where warp, weft and yarn are woven together row by

row. The “weaver” at the front monitoring the operation, and the “tuner” at the back checking the feed.

The woven carpet is checked for mistakes, repaired if necessary, the pile is brushed, steamed and brushed again. Latex is inserted into the base and baked in the oven, and the cropping machine ensures an even finish. The carpet is graded, measured, and stored as rolls on racks.

The whole process takes about 10 days from start to finish, and employs 160 operatives.

Rodger Baker

### **CUMBRIAN MILESTONES**

Further to the excellent talk given to us at our Autumn meeting by Ken Broadhurst on the subject of milestones, I have been keeping a eye open for them as I have travelled around the county.

This example is on the A69 in the north of the county, at NY 493 581. This is the main road from Carlisle to Newcastle originally passing through the Small market town of Brampton. Although this may not be its original position due to modern road development. Other examples can be seen along the road. But they are not so easily accessible due to the amount of traffic on the road and the narrow grass verges.

The monument consists of a rectangular dressed red sandstone column, set at an angle to the road. The angle to the road has been chamfered of and the top of the column is also chamfered. The directions and distances are on cast iron plates, which are recessed into the sandstone. The plates show the respective distances to Carlisle and Brampton.

### **PLATE ON MILE STONE**

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