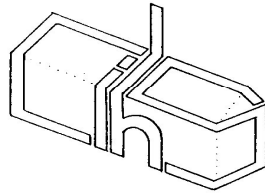


Cumbria Industrial History Society



BULLETIN

www.Cumbria-industries.org.uk

No. 67

APRIL 2007

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EDITORIAL

We are now well into spring and the weather is good. The spring conference looks like it will be one of the best yet and thanks have to go to Ron and the rest of the committee for all the hard work required in organising the event. The autumn conference programme is coming on well and booking forms will be in the next Bulletin. This Bulletin has the booking form for the September weekend trip to Sheffield. This promises to be another great weekend and thanks have to go to David for his work in organising it. There is also an addition to the programme for the summer with a visit to Goldscope and the Newlands valley in August to be lead by Sam Murphy probably one of the leading authorities on early Lake District mining and smelt sites.

The next copy of the Industrialist is well on its way. This will contain the papers from the conference a few years ago at Cockermouth on the iron and steel industry in Cumbria. However after this the file for papers for volume 8 is empty so I am looking for all possible contributions. If you have an idea for a paper and would like to discuss it please feel free to contact me. I am also getting short of articles for the Bulletin and any contributions would be gratefully received. So if you are visiting a site in or outside the county and can produce a few words on the subject they would be most appreciated.

The committee which works very hard to run your Society is always on the look out for new members and so any volunteers to help in any way would be gratefully accepted.

Graham Brooks.

SOCIETY EVENTS

SPRING CONFERENCE SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2007

For contact Ron Lyons for last minute registration.

CROPPERS PAPER MILL BURNESIDE TUESDAY 5TH JUNE 2007 2PM

It is essential to book a place with Geoff Brambles if you wish to go by 25th May 2007 (limited to 20) Tel. 01539 728605.

THIRLMERE DAM AND WATERWORKS WEDNESDAY 13TH JUNE 6.30PM

Meet at the dam for a tour led by Tony Liddell.

HARTSIDE FELL WALK SATURDAY 28TH JULY 2007.

Meet at 10.30 am at NY 624 426 parking available in lane end. A walk up the fell on rough tracks to look at limekilns, barites mines and coal mining remains. Depending on time taken should reach café at top before return.

GOLDSCOPE MINE AND STONEY CROFT SMELTER SITE SUNDAY AUGUST 12TH 9.30 AM

Note the earlier than normal time for this visit. This is to allow parking at Littleton car park NY 232 194, which can be very busy during the summer.

A Walk of about 4 miles with Sam Murphy.

TRIP TO SHEFFIELD– 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH SEPTEMBER 2007

See enclosed booking form for details.

AUTUMN CONFERENCE 14th October 2007 HELENA THOMPSON MUSEUM.

IN AND AROUND WORKINGTON

Speakers include Richard Byers Workington Iron and Steel, David Powell Rowrah and Kelton mineral railway, Mike Gregson Clifton industrial heritage project.

Further details in next Bulletin.

NOVEMBER'S EVENING MEETING 15TH NOVEMBER 2007 COCK AND DOLPHIN KENDAL.

David Ramshaw will speak on West Cumberland Shipping.

NON SOCIETY EVENTS

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTH WEST

Lancaster University are running a four day course in Kendal in July 2007 over two weekends including field trips, Stotts Park Bobbin Mill and Nenthead. Details from Dept. of Continuing Education, Lancaster University, Ash House, Lancaster, LA11 4YT.

AIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PRESTON 10 – 16 AUGUST 2007.

The conference consists of a series of lectures and visits to local sites.

Details from AIA website.

UNLOCKING HIDDEN HERITAGE

Grampus Heritage are looking for enthusiastic volunteers and community groups with an interest in archaeological survey, to take part in a three year project focusing on the Bassenthwaite water catchment area commencing March 2007. This will involve undertaking a series of historic landscape surveys using GPS handsets, maps and tapes with each year concentrating on predefined areas. In addition to survey fieldwork, there will also be the opportunity to get involved in a number of related archaeological-research tasks, including archival research. These methods will identify and record historic landscape features and provide information on the history and development of the landscape of the Bassenthwaite water catchment.

The first year will focus on the woodlands of Derwentwater, with 'Hog's Earth' (located near to the market town of Keswick) as the starting point for groundwork survey. During the summer months, there will also be a more detailed exploration at the site of Caermote Roman Forts, encouraging volunteers to gain a higher level of surveying skills through geophysics, topographic survey, environmental sampling and archival research.

In years two and three when the project has matured, the areas either side of the river Derwent to the North West of Bassenthwaite Lake will be encompassed into the survey. The findings and achievements of the project will be submitted to the National Trust and National Park Historic Environment Records and an exhibition will be held at the Keswick Museum in 2008/9.

Those interested in volunteering should complete the form below and send it back to Grampus Heritage. We will then inform participants of regular updates and an 'Unlocking Hidden Heritage' launch preparation meeting to which all volunteers should attend at 10:30am Saturday 31st March 2007 at the Theatre by the Lake, Keswick. The aim is to provide volunteers with a more in-depth understanding of the project and their role within it.

Details from:-Grampus Heritage and Training Limited, Ashgill, Threapland, Wigton, CA7 2EL.Telephone

Number: 016973 21516

Fax: 016973 24030. Email: enquiries@grampusheritage.co.uk

Website: www.grampusheritage.fsnet.co.uk

JOE SCOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE COMPETITION 2007

Open to everyone, Choose your own topic, Prizes to the total value of £100

Will be awarded for the best pieces of historical writing on any topic in Cumbrian Local History.

- It must be your own original work but you may use any help and advice.
- It must not have been published, or submitted for any diploma or exam, or be closely related to any such publication or work.
- It must not be over 5,000 words long.
- Work must be submitted by 30th June 2007.
- Awards will be made at the Federation's Annual Convention on 22nd September 2007.

For further information and an outline of the criteria to be used in the assessment of the essays and for an entry form please see the Federation's website www.cumbrialocalhistory.org.uk or send a s.a.e. to Valerie Halsall, Fox How, Townhead, Lazonby, Cumbria, CA10 1AT

If you have any queries about the essay prize please contact Valerie by email, vhalsall@ktdbroadband.com or telephone 01768 898046

BOOK REVIEW

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH WEST ENGLAND

An archaeological research framework for North West England
Volume 1: Resource Assessment

Edited by Mark Brenand for the Council for British Archaeology North West. Published 2006, 238pp, A4 paperback. Extensive bibliography.

This ambitious and important work “offers the first comprehensive synthesis of the archaeology of this region, from the beginnings of prehistory through to the industrial age and the twentieth century”. Perhaps this hasn't been attempted before simply because the north west has not always been seen as a natural unit in terms of historical development, but now it may be the key to unlocking sources of funding available at this level of government.

This book has been written as part of a major project to take stock of what we know now, and identify what we need to find out in the future. This is part one - “a statement of current knowledge and an overview of the region's archaeological resource up to 2005”. It will form the basis for part two – due out in April 2007 – which will suggest priorities for future research based on the gaps and weaknesses identified in this volume.

This “resource assessment” looks at what has been discovered over the years through archaeological research by professional, academic and amateur research projects. Who did most has changed over time, and the introduction makes the point that most work today is

driven by and tied to the planning process rather than research driven, and that this developer-funded work needs to be placed in its proper context.

The book is divided chapters for each of six historical periods, and the “resource” is identified under similar headings for each chapter :- land-use, settlement, religion, technology, trade, and defence. Examples from each sub-region, including Cumbria, appear under each of these headings. It is important therefore not to see this as a totally comprehensive guide to all the archaeological investigations undertaken, although the result is pretty close to it. And – from our point of view – remember that this is about archaeological evidence rather than historical research that lacks accompanying excavation.

The early chapters include references from Cumbria to the development of Botchergate, Carlisle in the Romano-British period; over 200 known bloomeries and coastal saltworks in the Medieval period; and the woodland industries of Furness in the Post-Medieval (AD1600+) period.

Chapter 7 is the “Industrial and modern period resource assessment”, written by Robina McNeil and Richard Newman, County Archaeologist for Cumbria. This ranges over the mining of metal ores and the manufacture of iron, to the use of water power in gunpowder and bobbin mills, all with examples of research from this county. The authors are not content just to describe what has been done, but give examples of what hasn’t. So, for example, “the archaeology of the end-product of the nineteenth century iron industry has been little studied, whether the local smithy or engineering works”. And again with reference to the lack of work that has been carried out into Whitehaven as a port – “the town has lacked excavations from which to gain data on its wider contacts and imports”. Cumbria features strongly under the heading “Defence” – ROF Gretna, Spadeadam, Glenridding mine, Calder Hall, Sellafield, and the work by Russell Barnes on coastal defences is all mentioned.

A number of our members responded to the invitation to contribute their knowledge and experience to this project, and others have their research mentioned in the text. Perhaps as a Society we can look forward to having a role to play in filling the gaps highlighted in the next volume. The present work relates how “professional archaeologists have engaged with the subject, in many cases working closely with local enthusiasts”. Let’s hope for more of the same.

A very useful and stimulating guide.

Roger Baker

ABSTRACTS.

A fluid landscape: Lead mining and river systems in the northern Pennines. S Ainsworth & A Hunt. Research News English Heritage Winter 2006-07.

This short article looks at the effect of erosion on the remains of the lead mining industry in Scordale. This is a little known area due to it being in the Warcop Military area. The article explains the problems with damage to the sites due to flash flooding and the survey work being undertaken in the area.

Anglo-Romanian lime burning in the Pennines C&WAAS Newsletter No 54 Spring 2007 p.7

This short article reports on an experiment to reconstruct a Romanian type limekiln at Bowes and compare it to the use of a renovated traditional Pennine limekiln at Cowhill in Weardale.

Pottery Park, Dearham C&WAAS Newsletter No 54 Spring 2007 p6.

This is a short report on the excavation of a pottery at Dearham dating possibly back to the mid 1700's.

The use of water power for compressed air generation at brewery shaft, Nenthead part 2. By Paul Thorne Heritage no. 59 spring 2007.

A 2 page article on the remains at the bottom of Brewery shaft and their function.

MEMBERS EVENING

Over twenty members turn out for the members evening at Penrith Conservative club. The main part of the evening was the showing of two old films now converted onto DVD by Ian Dunmur. Once the technical problems of the computer and data projector were sorted out both films provided very entertaining. The first dealt with the hand making of scythes at a water-powered mill at Stourbridge. The second film by far the most entertaining especially for its commentary was on a water powered spade mill near Tipperary Ireland. Both films showed the use of waterpower to forge metal using a variety of tilt hammers. Ian had also brought along a selection of spades from his large collection to help illustrated the wide type.

Geoff Brambles had brought along part of extensive clay pipe collection, which he has gathered from a wide range of places through out the country.

PROFANE COMMUNICATIONS

When attempting to email the CIHS committee minutes and agenda to the County Archaeologist, I received the following automated response:

"This notification has been sent to inform you that Cumbria County Council has blocked an email sent by you because it contains a profanity.

If you wish to resend the email to the CCC recipient, please remove the profanity..."

Puzzled, I checked my brief covering message and changed "regards" to "best wishes" (with little hope of success) but got the same message again.

I then turned my attention to the agenda itself and the minutes. No expletives had been recorded in the notes of the meeting. I was about to give up and print out copies to send by post.

Then it dawned – it was the venue! Changing the pub's name did the trick.

So please note that in future, in order to avoid having to create a separate version of every document for County Council employees and others of similarly sensitive natures, our favoured venue for Kendal meetings will be referred to as the C**k & Dolphin.

Helen Caldwell, Hon. Sec.

INDUSTRIAL GHOSTS?

The following letter was received in the autumn, but the committee have not come up with any suggestions. If you know of any stories which could be investigated by this group, please get in touch via the Secretary:

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Paul and I am a member of the Ashfield Paranormal Investigation team based in Sutton in Ashfield in north Nottinghamshire and I was wondering if you had any details of locations that may warrant a Paranormal Investigation from our group.

We are a serious group of 12 volunteers, some believers & some sceptical about the existence of the paranormal but all are lead by a desire not to just assume everything is ghostly but to prove or disprove paranormal occurrences and events. We boast two mediums, one with over 7 years experience in the field.....and best of all we offer to investigate FREE of charge regardless of whether we spend a full night or run off screaming after a couple of hours!

We are a new group and have bookings throughout the remainder of 2006 but are looking to broaden our scope to the rest of the UK, we have an investigation coming up in Whitby, Yorkshire that we are all looking forward to and by the close of the year our résumé will include visit's to several residential properties, a court house, a museum, a pub and many more.

Old industrial buildings such as disused factories, mills and furnaces have always fascinated me particularly those with ghostly tales and I think they have a lot to offer ghost hunters and sceptics alike which is why we are trying to gather as much information about possible locations as we can.

If you have any information regarding suitable venues please reply as soon as possible so we can discuss this within our team and look at making possible arrangements to come and investigate, likewise if you have details of any organisation I should contact please advise.

Obviously any information I receive will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

Best Regards *Paul Nunn*

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LIMEKILN ON HARESCOUGH FELL PART OF THE JULY FELLWALK.

