

# Newsletter

No. 8

December 2012



Welcome to the eighth CCHT e-newsletter intended to keep you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.



Merry Christmas to all CCHT members and VCH Cumbria volunteers!

## Digesting Cumbria's Past

A big 'thank you' to all who have completed and submitted 'Jubilee Digests' in recent months – we are making excellent progress: digests for 244 townships/parishes, compiled by no fewer than 98 volunteers have now been posted on the project website (access them by clicking on the map at <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/map>). These are creating a truly important new resource for everyone interested in Cumbrian history: when they are all complete (and we are well over half way there now) basic historical data on every place in the county will be available at the click of a mouse.

Preparing the digests has been a real communal effort. Volunteers beavering away across Cumbria (some tackling a bunch of parishes; others concentrating on a single place) are gathering information from the prescribed sources and digesting it into a succinct summary before emailing it to Sarah Rose. Sarah then formats the material, to give it the shape we need for the website. Then she and I edit the digests, checking for glaring errors or omissions and trying to ensure that they share a reasonably common style. Sarah is looking after rural Westmorland and Furness; I'm dealing with Cumberland and the towns. Bill Shannon then prepares the extract from *Cary's New Map of England and Wales* (2nd edition, 1816) to act as a banner at the head of each digest, showing the exact location of the place in question.

*(continued on p.2)*

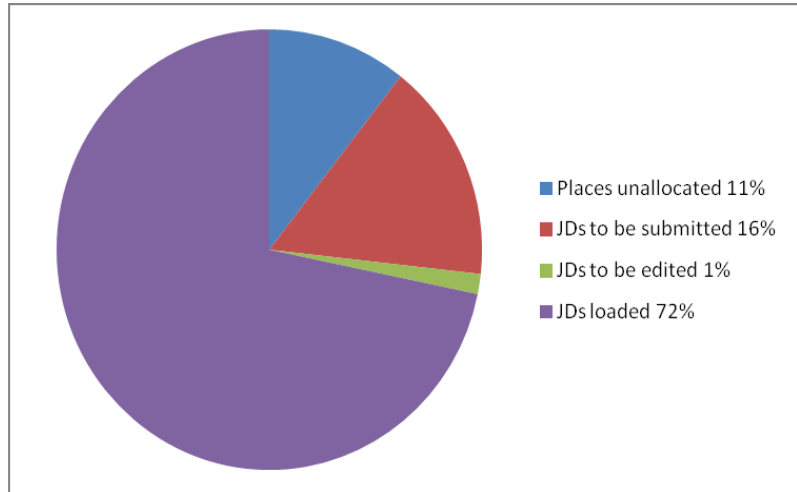
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Meanwhile, one of our volunteers, Eric Apperley, is creating a simplified map of each place, showing its boundaries and major features. These maps, which are a model of clarity, are then linked to the digest, as Eric

completes them. All-in-all, it is a major collaborative exercise, which is generating new knowledge and making it available to all.

If you have not yet completed a digest you have undertaken to write, please can you try to do so within the next few weeks. If your circumstances have changed and you are now unable to complete a digest previously assigned to you, please let us know straight away so that we can allocate it to someone else. Many thanks. We are planning to 'launch' the digests officially at the Cumbria County History Trust's AGM at Rheged on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013, so it would be great if we had the whole county (or, failing that, all but a handful of places) completed by then. Let's go for it!

*Angus Winchester.*



JD Progress 30.11.12

## Renwick Online

We are very pleased to announce the first draft parish/township article to be completed by a VCH volunteer has been posted on the CCHT website. Richard Brockington has been working hard over the past 18 months researching and writing a draft article on the history of Renwick. The result of his labours can be accessed on the right-hand side of the Renwick Jubilee Digest page, or via this link: <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/renwick-draft-article>

As well as the full draft version (opens as a pdf file), each section of the article has also been made available separately.

# Cumbrian Woman of the Year

We are delighted that June Hall has been made Cumbrian Woman of the Year. June is a Trustee of CCHT and has also volunteered for the project, producing Jubilee Digests for all the townships in Dacre and Greystoke ancient parishes. The award was given in recognition of her “outstanding commitment to the Cumbrian community and its heritage over the last decade, as well as her generosity of spirit and willingness to nurture the talents of others”. You can read more in the *Cumberland & Westmorland Herald* website [3<sup>rd</sup> December edition].

## Latin, anyone?

One of the skills necessary for medieval (and, to a certain extent, 16th- and 17th-century) local history is a basic knowledge of medieval Latin. It's not as difficult as classical Latin (the word order is as in English and the vocabulary needed for local history is comparatively limited) but it takes some time to master it sufficiently to interpret original documents. We are currently looking into the possibility of offering training in Latin but, before pursuing this further, would like to gauge how much interest there is among VCH volunteers. If you are interested and would be able to commit the time to studying introductory Latin, please drop Sarah a line ([s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk)).

## Census Help

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to check Census data previously gathered by volunteers, which is available on the CCHT website. The process of compiling the Jubilee Digests has brought a few errors to our attention, mostly due to changes in the administrative unit used by enumerators. This work will require a meticulous approach and may take some time to complete. However, if you are interested, please get in touch ([s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk))!

## Starkey Success

Almost 180 people attended a very fine lecture given by David Starkey at Rheged on 6<sup>th</sup> November. Dr Starkey enthralled the audience with his story of Margaret Beaufort, Henry VII's mother. His vivid account will live long in the memories of all those who were there. The event - the first public lecture organized by CCHT - resulted in eight new Trust members with net proceeds over £1,200. We would like to thank all those who came and helped to make it such a tremendous success!

# Jubilee Digests: Christmas Quiz

A quiz to test your knowledge of Cumbrian history! All of the answers can be found in the Jubilee Digests posted on the CCHT website so far (go to <http://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/map> and click on the map). The initial letters of the places which are the answers to these questions spell out a **pair of words** much used by VCH volunteers in Cumbria during 2012.

1. a township and manor, held at one time by the Wyvill and Williams families, within a large ancient parish which was seat of a medieval barony – the township in question does not have a Jubilee Digest of its own!
2. has a grammar school founded by William Marshall in 1585 and an iron Congregational chapel in one of its constituent villages, opened in 1873.
3. home of the Bryce Institute.
4. airport opened 1961.
5. population peaked at 325 in 1891 when the Thirlmere aqueduct was being built.
6. in 1847 it had a ‘female free school’, supported by Lady Musgrave.
7. John Dalton Memorial Church, built 1891.
8. the parish contained places famous for mustard and alpacas.
9. only a village now, but it gained a market charter in 1237 and the former moot hall survives.
10. a new Anglican church built 1852 but its clock tower wasn’t built until 60 years later.
11. an estate purchased (appropriately!) by Ewan Christian of Milntown, Isle of Man, c.1638.
12. in 1951 an art college took over the site of the Cumberland Reformatory for Boys, built in 1854.
13. The Granite Quarry School opened in 1897.
14. a mill, at one time manufacturing horse blankets, was built 1796 but burnt down 1967.

Please submit your answers (and the mystery words!) to [s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk). Answers will be published on the website in January once the winning entry has been drawn. The winner will receive a copy of the commemorative publication *The Victoria County History: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration 1899-2012*