

Newsletter

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

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Celebrating Magna Carta: David Starkey's Lecture for CCHT

More than 200 people gathered at Rheged on 11th June to hear David Starkey speak about the origins and legacy of Magna Carta. This was a particularly timely event, being just days away from the 800th anniversary of the sealing (not signing!) of the document itself on 15th June. The topic was made all the more entertaining and relatable given the parallels drawn between medieval and more recent political figures.



David Starkey's new book on Magna Carta is now available.

Eighty-two guests stayed for supper after the lecture – the maximum that could be seated. David also signed copies of his new book. In all, the evening repeated the success of the lecture Dr Starkey kindly gave for CCHT in 2012, and we would like to thank him for doing this again. Thanks also to the Dunning family and staff at Rheged for hosting the event, and to all those who helped support CCHT by attending on the night.

CCHT at BALH Local History Day

We are delighted to announce that former CCHT secretary, Richard Brockington, has received a personal achievement award from the British Association for Local History (BALH). Richard was presented with the award at the BALH annual conference in Birmingham on Saturday 6th June. The award acknowledges Richard's many achievements in the field of local history, but particularly his vital contribution in helping to establish CCHT and get the VCH Cumbria project off the ground. Our warmest congratulations to him. The presentation of the award was followed by the annual BALH lecture, given this year by our very own Angus Winchester. In his lecture, *'By ancient right or custom': the local history of common*

land in a European context', Angus outlined some fascinating similarities between rights relating to common land in England (including the example of Nether Wasdale common, opposite), with those from across Europe, including Italy, France and Spain.



Jubilee Digests: Moving Forward

As previously reported, CCHT plans to collate and publish the Jubilee Digests in hard copy. Angus Winchester has already begun the huge task of editing and revising the online digests entries in preparation for this. If you discover any errors or omissions in the Jubilee Digests on the CCHT website, please contact Angus with the details as soon as possible by emailing a.winchester@lancaster.ac.uk

RHC 2015-16 Programme of Events

The Regional Heritage Centre is currently working on their programme for the coming academic year. Highlights will include an event focusing on Lancaster Castle and the Duchy of Lancaster, a study day with Dr Alan Crosby on early industry in the North West and a symposium on record publishing. If you would like a copy of the programme but are not currently on the mailing list, please email rhc@lancaster.ac.uk

Two More VCH Draft Articles Now Online!

Two more draft VCH articles have been posted to the CCHT website in recent weeks. The first of these is the article for Angerton, written by Bill Shannon. For those who don't know it, Angerton is a tiny extra-parochial place on the west of the Furness peninsula, which was home to just 14 people in 2001. Also known as Angerton Moss, its size and shape had been much affected by changes to the Duddon channel and reclamation of the marshes. Impressively, despite Angerton's small size, Bill has written over 4,000 words about it. In fact, we have recently identified an even smaller place for which a VCH article needs to be written: Skiddaw Forest. This area of extra-parochial fell pasture was a separate civil parish until 1934, and was home to less than a dozen people at any one time. If anyone wishes to write the article for this place, please get in touch!

At the end of May, Sarah Rose completed and posted the draft township article for Natland. Lying just to the south of Kendal, Natland's history has many points of interest, including the Roman fort at Watercrock. Before the boundary changes of 1934, Oxenholme Railway Station also lay within Natland civil parish.

Bowness Book

Hot off the press is a new book by CCHT member, John Campbell, entitled *Village by the Water. A History of Bowness-on-Windermere from the earliest times to 1963*. It is a substantial tome of some 600 pages, and deals with all aspects of the village where John grew up. It includes 17 maps in full colour and 24 pages of coloured plates. This is the first time that a comprehensive history of Bowness has been written and it will be priced at £39.50.

Local History Surgeries

Sarah Rose will be in the Kendal or Carlisle Archive Centres on the following days should you wish to speak to her about your research.

Kendal Archives:

18 June; 16 July; 30 July

Carlisle Archives:

9 July; 13 August

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