

Newsletter

No.4

April 2012

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

Professorship for Angus Winchester

All our members and volunteers will share with us, the officers and trustees of CCHT, our very great pleasure in the wise decision of Lancaster University to confer on our director Angus Winchester a personal chair in Local and Landscape History. The appointment is effective from 1st May 2012. The VCH Cumbria project was Angus' idea, and the substantial progress made in the first year is very largely due to his hard work and inspirational leadership. Well done Angus! A richly deserved acknowledgement of your service to local, regional and landscape history.



Palaeography Training Day

A training day on palaeography has been arranged at Whitehaven Archives Centre for Tuesday 1 May. The session will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Refreshments will be provided in the morning, but you will need to take lunch in town as the Archives building closes 12.30-1.30pm. There are still places available. If you would like to attend this free event, please contact Marion McClintock.

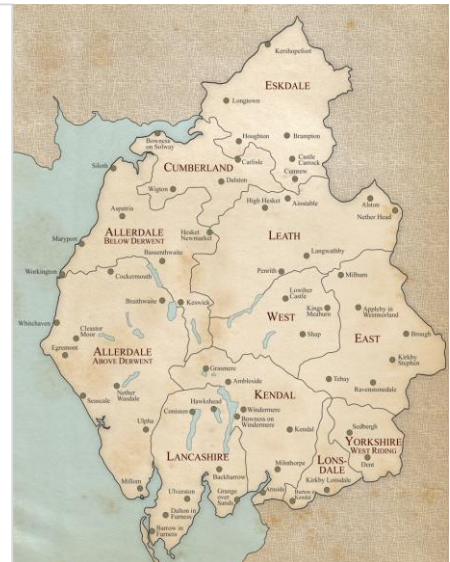
Email: m.mcclintock@lancaster.ac.uk

Lunch with David Starkey

Dr David Starkey will attend a lunch for CCHT members on Wednesday 7th November (details to follow). The lunch follows on from the lecture Dr Starkey will give for CCHT at Rheged on the evening of 6th November.

Interactive Map for CCHT Website

Work has begun to create an interactive map of Cumbria for the CCHT website. This map will enable users of the site to locate their place of interest and access information about it. The map will serve as a gateway to the Jubilee Digests, with links to completed VCH articles, bibliographies and other local history websites.



Draft Articles

Volunteers working on draft articles met with Angus Winchester on 22nd March to discuss sources for the Social History and Local Government sections. Detailed guidance was provided in Briefing Papers 6 & 7 (now on the CCHT website). A final briefing paper dealing with the introduction to VCH articles will be produced for the next drafters' meeting in May. This will complete the series of briefing papers on writing a VCH article. The papers will then be collated to create a VCH Cumbria volunteer handbook.

Jubilee Digests Progress

VCH volunteers have been enthusiastic in offering their help with the Jubilee Digests exercise. There are now 57 volunteers involved in producing Digests. To date, 143 (72%) townships/parishes in Cumberland have been allocated and 41 (36%) in Westmorland. We also have teams working on places in Cartmel, and for Sedbergh and Dent. In particular, we need volunteers to take on more Westmorland townships. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sarah Rose.

Email: s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk

VCH Jubilee Publication

The VCH is preparing a Diamond Jubilee publication, which will contain a double-page spread on each county in which work being done is currently underway. An article for Cumbria has been submitted and will be published (electronically) in June 2012. This will coincide with a fundraising Lecture to be given in London by David Starkey on 25th June.

A TRIP TO THE ARCHIVES.....

Photographing documents at TNA:

TNA allows you to take photographs of original documents (with the flash turned off!). There is no charge for you to use your own camera.

In the Map and Large Document Room located on the second floor, there is a computer controlled camera. You place your document underneath it, and you will see on the adjacent screen what the camera is seeing, so that the height of the camera, and the position of your document, can be adjusted for the best result. When your picture is taken you can check its quality on the screen.

Once you have taken your photograph, you then have a choice. You can send the picture to the TNA printer (in the same room), for which a modest charge is made; or (provided that you have registered your e-mail address with the staff at the desk - they will guide you through the process) you can order it to be sent to you by e-mail, free of charge. When you get home you will find that you have received a series of web addresses, one for each image, from which you can download your photographs one at a time.

If you have taken many photographs, you must be careful to download them all, and you will need to have a procedure for indentifying each photograph for future use (I relabel each photograph when downloading - a slow process but perhaps best in the long run). Note that this procedure avoids the risk of overloading the transmission process: and, given that it is free of charge, it is well worth the time and trouble when you get home. A remarkably helpful service in my opinion.

Richard Brockington

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