



Welcome to the CCHT e-newsletter. Keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.



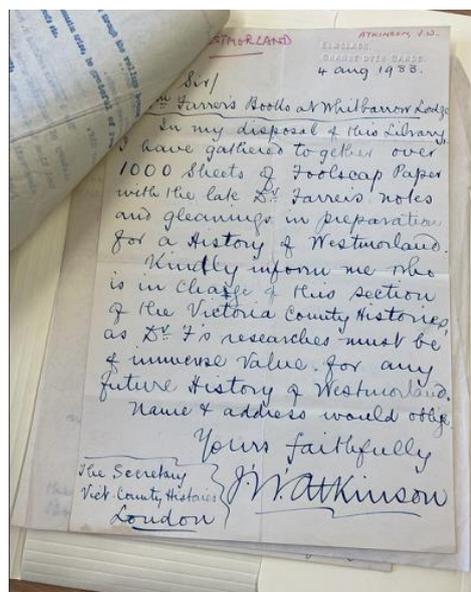
www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

✗ [@VCH_Cumbria](https://twitter.com/VCH_Cumbria)

News Round-up

This is the 50th issue of the CCHT Newsletter, which comes in what is the 125th year since the VCH was founded. The early history of the VCH in Cumbria, and particularly the role of William Farrer, has been the subject of recent research by Fiona Edmonds, who spoke to VCH volunteers about her findings at a meeting in May. This included discussion of records and correspondence in the keeping of VCH Central Office, as well as original slips referring to records at what was formerly the Public Record Office. These slips were compiled in the early 20th century in preparation for research on VCH Cumberland. They are held at Carlisle Library and we hope to visit there with volunteers later this summer.

We are now awaiting the first proofs to be prepared for the Lonsdale Ward Red Book. VCH Volunteers Richard Brockington and Harry Hawkins are soon to complete their article on the civil parish of Ainstable, which will be posted on the CCHT website. Several new volunteers have come forward in recent weeks. One of them, Alan Sayer, has agreed to work on Stanwix. A warm welcome to all.



VCH Westmorland correspondence from the 1930s in relation to Farrer's papers [Ref. VCH/2/38/2]. Image credit: Adam Chapman

CCHT AGM

The CCHT AGM took place on 1st July at Penrith Methodist Church. Fiona Edmonds gave her last report as Director of the VCH Cumbria project, with Chris Donaldson stepping into the role. Mark Blackett-Ord and Nicholas Coulson were elected as new Trustees. Roland Jackson acknowledged the sad loss of Jane Penman, who died in April. Jane was a long-time supporter of CCHT, having been a Founder member, Volunteer, and Trustee. Members are reminded that we are still in need of a Membership Secretary and anyone who is interested in the role should contact Lorna Mullet at cchistorytrust@gmail.com

Chairman's Report

As I write these words, the final text of our first Red Book, covering Kirkby Lonsdale, is being submitted. Publication is expected around May 2025, and it is likely that the book will be the 250th Red Book to be published since the inception of the Victoria County History in 1899. Bringing this work to fruition is a major achievement. I should like to thank Fiona Edmonds, Sarah Rose, and others who have worked on this volume, based on the original research by the late Emmeline Garnett. This leaves us with just fifteen volumes to produce! The likely next volume, covering the Furness area, is already well advanced, and we are carrying out scoping work in the Solway area preparatory for a possible bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in a year or two. Other work by volunteers is under way, and I shall outline further plans at the AGM itself.

Our focus is still on three areas: supporting volunteers as principal authors of our county's history; investing in our website, with additional attention to social media this year; and our partnership with Lancaster University. Fiona Edmonds is stepping down as director of the project at this AGM, with enormous thanks from all of us for the work she has done over many years. We wish her all the best for a two-year sabbatical. In her stead, we are delighted to welcome Chris Donaldson, who has been working with us in parallel for a year and is well placed to take over the leadership. I should also like to thank all the members of the steering group, and the board of Trustees, for their work and contributions over the past year.

The publication and launch of this Red Book in May 2025 will offer us a real opportunity to raise awareness of our long-term project and to seek additional funding. Our approach to resourcing CCHT has been to secure funding for three-year periods to provide security and avoid continual fund raising. This has proved to be a successful strategy to date, and we are grateful to the many individuals and organisations who have supported us, but the environment is becoming more challenging. We are exploring new means of securing longer-term support to coincide with publication and launch and will welcome any help you are able to offer in that process.

Roland Jackson

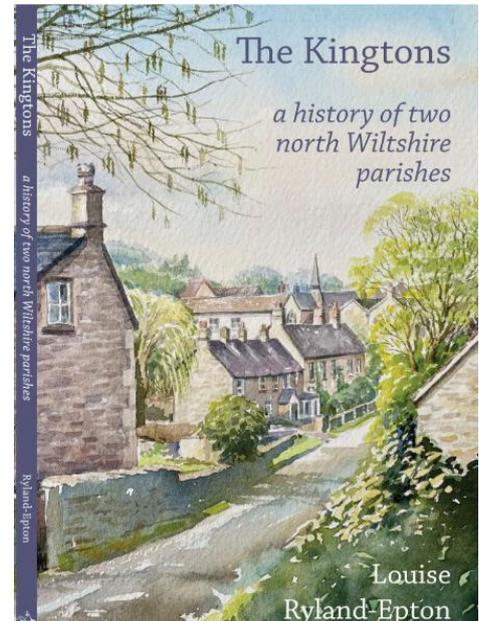
Chairman

6 June 2024

- ❖ Other papers from the officers were circulated to members prior to the AGM

VCH Day

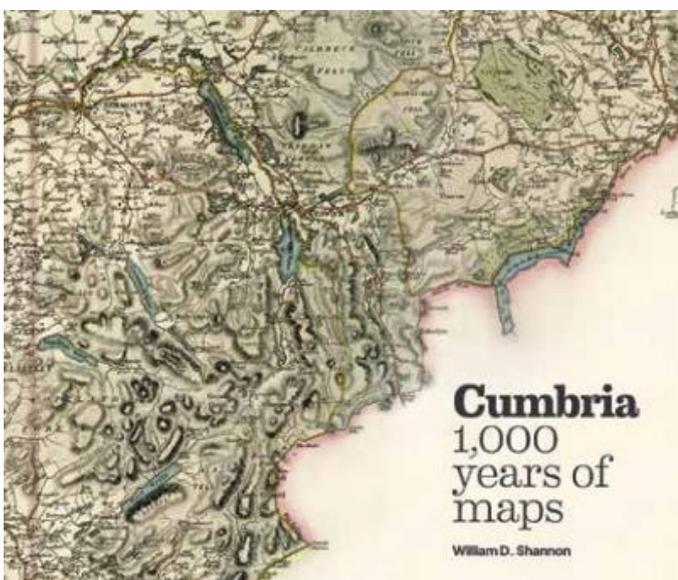
VCH Cumbria was represented at the annual VCH Day in London on 2nd May. Held at the Institute of Historical Research, the event enabled staff and volunteers from different VCH counties to meet and discuss their work. It was also an opportunity for VCH Central Office staff to give a presentation about the future of VCH publications. The University of London Press has decided to no longer publish the parish history paperback series, known as VCH 'Shorts', of which our *Kirkoswald and Renwick* book was one. Instead, individual County Trusts will be free to make their own arrangements for publication. One recent example given was from VCH Wiltshire, who had engaged Hobnob Press to publish a parish history, *The Kingstons*. These outputs can still include the VCH branding providing that the content has been approved by Central Office, and has undergone peer review. This change will enable the Central Office team to devote more time to supporting counties in terms of research and training, as well as editorial work on the hardback Red Book series, which will continue to be published by Boydell and Brewer.



Recent publication by VCH Wiltshire

Self-Publishing for Local Historians

The Institute of Historic Research is offering a free, online training session on the topic of self-publishing for local historians. This will be held on 23rd July 2024, 5PM — 7PM. Adam Chapman, principal editor for the VCH, is a contributor. If this event is of interest, please book a place via this link: <https://www.history.ac.uk/events/academic-self-publishing-how-why>



New book on Cumbrian Maps

CCHT Trustee, Bill Shannon has produced a new book celebrating the cartographic history of the county. *Cumbria – 1,000 years of maps*, by William D. Shannon, edited by David Felton is priced £29.99 and will be published in early August. It is available for pre-order

<https://www.bookscumbria.com/product/uk-books/pre-publication-orders/cumbria-1000-years-of-maps/>

Access to Carlisle Archive Centre

Researchers should note the new access arrangements at Carlisle Archive Centre:

- ❖ Researchers are asked to give 48 hours' notice to view original records.
- ❖ Any additions to orders on the day of research will be limited to three items.
- ❖ If there are no researchers booked in, the map room will be closed.
- ❖ Researchers without a booking will be permitted only when the map room is already open for booked researchers.
- ❖ Drop-in researchers will be limited to three items.

<https://cumbriaarchives.org.uk/archives/whatsnew/default.asp>

Invitation from IHR

We previously reported that two Lancaster University students, Divij Ingale and Gabriela Lungoci have been making great efforts to overhaul our X account. Their work has been noticed and applauded by Catherine Clark, Director of the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community at the Institute for Historical Research, who has invited Divij and Gabriela to contribute to the IHR blog and say something about the approach they have taken. Well done to both!

Supporting CCHT

Your support of CCHT is greatly appreciated. If you know anyone who you think might be interested in helping our work, please ask them to consider becoming a supporter. There are several ways they can help:

- Keep in touch with us: sign up to receive our newsletter and keep up to date with the project. You can also follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) [@VCH_Cumbria](#)
- Come and support us: by giving any monthly or annual donation through our website www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk
- Come and join us: membership is open to any interested individual, society, or organisation for an annual subscription of at least £25; life membership is a one-off contribution of £1,000.
- Come and work with us: anyone interested in researching local, regional or family history can contribute to the VCH Cumbria project. Training and guidance will be provided by the project team at Lancaster University. To find out more, please email cchistorytrust@gmail.com or visit our website www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk

CONTACTS

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CCHT Membership Secretary: Position Vacant