

CCHT Newsletter



No. 53 Summer 2025

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

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CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND
ANTIQUARIAN AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Lonsdale Ward

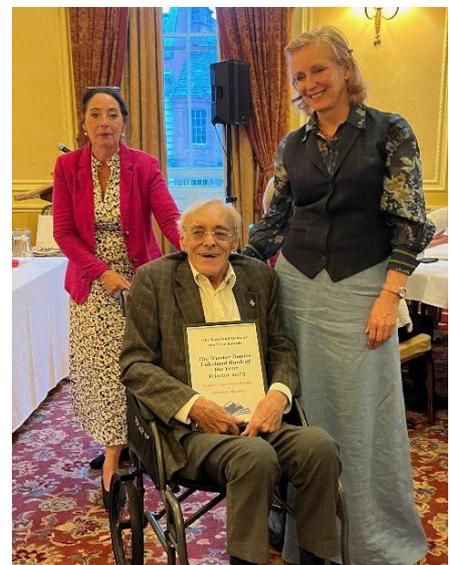
Our long-awaited first Red Book volume finally went to press at the end of June. *A History of the County of Westmorland Vol. 1, Lonsdale Ward* will be published this summer. You should have received your invitation to the book launch, which will take place on 23rd September, 5.00pm - 7.30pm at the Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. We very much hope that members will consider attending this milestone event and would ask that you RSVP to Lorna Mullett, at cchistorytrust.com by the 31st July. To mark the event, the book's publisher, Boydell and Brewer, has arranged a 25% discount on copies purchased via their website for up to a month after the launch. Also, in recognition of this milestone and of her work for VCH Cumbria, the Assistant Editor Sarah Rose, received a prestigious



Outstanding Contribution Award from the Victoria County History. This was presented to Sarah by Professor Catherine Clarke, Director of the Centre for the History of People, Place and Community (pictured opposite, with Sarah) at the Institute of Historical Research, in London on VCH Day May

Lakeland Book of the Year Award

Many congratulations to CCHT Trustee Bill Shannon, who is this year's recipient of the Lakeland Book of the Year Award for his book *Cumbria 1000 Years of Maps*. Founded by writer Hunter Davies in 1984, the award is given annually for a book 'set in or featuring Cumbria in some way'. This year, the award ceremony took place on 9th July in Penrith. Bill is pictured opposite, with his daughter Debbie (left) and Marie-Elsa Bragg, the Honorary Patron of the awards. Described by one reviewer as a 'veritable goldmine of cartographic and historical information', copies are still available to buy.



New Appointments

We extend a warm welcome to Dr Steph Carter who has been appointed to provide administrative support to CCHT regarding membership, fundraising and preparations for the launch of *Westmorland I*. Steph is a Senior Research Associate at Newcastle University working the Music, Heritage, Place project uncovering pre-1850 music in England's county record offices and reimagining them for 21st-century audiences. You may have heard her on BBC Radio 3 recently as part of The Song Detectorists series! She is also the Archivist/Librarian at Carlisle Cathedral and has given a talk to VCH volunteers about the collection. An expert on musical culture in early modern England, Steph also has very direct experience of the VCH, being the County Editor for VCH Northamptonshire as their next red book reaches publication in 2026.

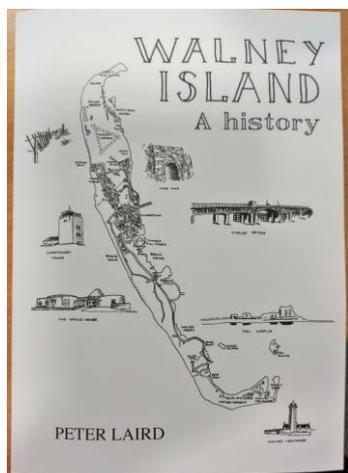
The VCH project has been fortunate to have the help of Dr Christopher Tinmouth. An expert on Furness Abbey and a Barrovian, Christopher has been employed as a research assistant for the past few months to help identify potential new volunteers for the VCH in the Furness and Cartmel areas, and create resources for them. Chris's knowledge and contacts in the area have been valuable for the project. In particular, he has identified the potential for people with neurodivergence to contribute towards research for the VCH. This could form the basis for pioneering community participation project for VCH Lancashire.

Volunteer News

In May, VCH Volunteers visited The Armitt museum and library in Ambleside to learn about its cartographic, pictorial and literary collections. The curator, Faye Morrissey, gave an excellent introductory talk, which focused on the Armitt sisters and their work locally. We were then given the opportunity to look more closely at examples from the collection, which include numerous tour guides and works such as William Green's *Views on the Lakes*. Volunteers from the Armitt will make a reciprocal visit to Lancaster University Library's special collections and archives later this summer.



Volunteers with Faye Morrissey



In addition to Bill Shannon's literary success, it is a pleasure to report that a book by VCH volunteer Peter Laird, was also shortlisted for Lakeland Book of the Year! Building on research done for the VCH, Peter has produced a beautifully illustrated and detailed book on the Island's history, and includes several photographs from the Sankey collection that have never been published previously. Priced £19.99, it is available from The Dock Museum, Douglas Street Stores (Walney), The Queen's (Biggar) and Amazon. Also to make the awards shortlist was former VCH volunteer Lydia Gray's book, *The Illegitimate Thread: A study of illegitimacy in the parish of Addingham, Cumberland, 1820-1939*, published by CWAAS. Many congratulations to Peter and Lydia.

Interesting Facts

Our list of interesting facts continues to grow. The latest looks at Atterpile Castle, now known as Castle Head, near Grange, which may have been an Iron Age promontory fort. A large number of artefacts including Roman and Northumbrian coins have been found there. You can read the full article here: <https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/atterpile-castle-background-grange-over-sands>



Historic England Images

Historic England have launched their new [Local Heritage Hub](#), which gives access to images of listed places. You can search by place (e.g. city, county, district – including historic counties such as 'Cumberland'). Moreover, it is possible to use the Hub's photos—such as the one below of Coombe Gill Mill, Borrowdale— for non-commercial purposes, such as websites and newsletters.



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

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