

# CCHT Newsletter



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

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## News Round Up

We have had a busy couple of months finalising the draft of the Lonsdale Ward volume, and putting plans in place for the next phase of the project. We will now be turning our attention to updating the VCH for Lancashire North of the Sands, helped by some successful funding bids (see below). We have also been able to arrange more face-to-face events for volunteers of late, which has made a very welcome change to Zoom. CCHT Trustees met in person on 26th September, when we welcomed new Trustee Dr Penny Bradshaw of the University of Cumbria. Finally, many congratulations to project Director Fiona Edmonds, who has recently been made Professor in Regional History and Deputy Head of the Department of History at Lancaster University.

## Funding Success

We are delighted to announce that CCHT have been successful in two recent funding bids. The Friends of Cumbria Archives (FoCAS) have very generously awarded £7,000 towards a new phase of work by VCH Cumbria in what was Lancashire North of the Sands. At the same time, CCHT has also been awarded a contract by Historic England to manage a project on historic buildings in Barrow-in-Furness. From early in the New Year until March 2023, volunteers will be engaged to survey and undertake contextual research into the history of listed buildings in parts of the town. This will involve drawing on rich local archival resources, including the recently digitised Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive and the Sankey Photography Archive.



*Barrow's Town Hall: G © Gerald Massey, 2009*

The volunteers' findings will be used to Enrich the List, and feed into the ongoing work of the VCH in rewriting the history of the town. An exhibition at Barrow Archive Centre and a film by Signal Media will also form part of the project. For more information and how to get involved, please contact Sarah Rose.

Our thanks to FoCAS and Historic England for their support.

# VCH Volunteer Field Trip

This year's field trip took place on 8th September. To mark the completion of the Lonsdale Ward red book draft, we focused on not one, but two townships in Kirkby Lonsdale ancient parish: Hutton Roof and Barbon. Meeting at Hutton Roof village hall, the day began with a talk from Chester Forster about local hero, the Revd Theodore Bailey Hardy VC, DSO, MC (1863–1918), one of the most highly-decorated non-combatants of the Great War.

Earlier in his career, the Revd Hardy had taught in Nottinghamshire, where one of his pupils was D. H. Lawrence. Hardy was headmaster of Bentham Grammar School before becoming vicar of Hutton Roof. His wife died shortly before the outbreak of war in 1914. He applied several times to become a British Army chaplain, but was rejected due to his age. He was finally accepted in 1916. His efforts to rescue men and tend to the wounded



*Volunteers braving the rain in Barbon church-yard*

under fire earned him the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1917, followed by the Military Cross (MC) that same year. The Victoria Cross (VC) followed in July 1918 and he was made Chaplain to George V. He was wounded in action whilst trying to help others and died a week later on 18th October 1918.

After a walk through Hutton Roof, we drove up to Barbon. Sheltering in the village hall for lunch, we escaped the worst of the downpours before heading to visit Barbon church, passing the site of the former railway station. The church is one of two in Cumbria dedicated to St Bartholomew. There was a chapel here by 1610, which had medieval origins. It was rebuilt in 1815, but that was replaced by the present church in 1892–93, designed by Paley, Austin and Paley of Lancaster. The porch of the 1815 church remains in the churchyard. Inside the present church are the Royal arms of 1815, which provoked much discussion. The church stands alongside the driveway to 'Barbon Manor', a shooting lodge designed by E. M. Barry for lord of the manor, Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth, in 1862–3.

Inside the church, it was clear how much of church and village life owed to one former vicar, the Revd James Harrison. The son of a Kirkby Lonsdale innkeeper, Harrison was vicar for 55 years, from 1872 until his death in 1927. He was the first to live in the rather grand vicarage, which had three reception rooms and five bedrooms. Harrison established the village Reading Room in 1884. The lynchgate was dedicated in 1915 to mark his already long service. After exploring the church, we walked through the village, passing several buildings that had once served the community, including the former post office, smithy, Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, police station and school.

*It was on returning from the field trip that we learnt the sad news about the passing of Her Majesty The Queen. The Victoria County History of England (VCH) was dedicated to Queen Victoria in 1899. In 2012, Her Majesty The Queen agreed to the rededication of the project, in her name, to mark her Diamond Jubilee.*

## In Memoriam

Sadly, over the past few months, several of our supporters have passed away. They include Adrian Allan, who had written for VCH Cumbria on the landownership of Stanwix parish, and Stephen Read, founding secretary and stalwart of Levens Local History Group, and a long-standing member of CCHT. Emmeline Garnett, who you will know, drafted many of the articles in the forthcoming red book on Lonsdale Ward, died 21 July, following a fall outside her home earlier in the year.

Emmeline had been among the first to volunteer on the Victoria County History (VCH) of Cumbria project, taking on Kirkby Lonsdale and several surrounding townships. Her reputation as a local historian preceded her. From her home in Wray in North Lancashire, she ran an informal history group, and she was a much-noted local historian of the area with which she had strong family ties. After completing a Diploma in Local History, she went on to publish several works including *Dated Buildings of South Lonsdale* (1994; revised 2009) and *The Wray Flood of 1967* (2002). Emmeline was also one of the founding members of the Friends of Lancashire Archives.

Emmeline had an amazingly full career as an educationalist, broadcaster and author. After graduating from the University of Oxford at the end of the war, she became teacher, spending three-years in New Zealand from 1954–1957. In 1970 she took a job in Leicestershire, researching and creating teaching materials before being appointed head of Wreake Valley Community College, making her one of the few women at that time to head a large, mixed secondary school. Emmeline was a published author from as early as 1950, writing adventure stories and history books for children, as well as serious biographies, including *Florence Nightingale's Nuns* (1961, reissued 2009) and *Indira Gandhi* (1967). She was also an educational radio broadcaster from the late 1950s, and then editor and later producer of religious programmes for Associated Television.

Emmeline wore her learning lightly. In her work for the VCH, she accepted our (few) editorial comments with good grace. At times it was hard to keep up with the speed at which she submitted her drafts! Her resourcefulness at finding out information beyond the Archives was remarkable. Her contributions to the VCH volume on Lonsdale Ward will be published in the next few years, and it will hopefully serve as a fitting tribute. She will be very much missed.



*(Marie) Emmeline Garnett (1924-2022): image courtesy of the Garnett family*

*Sarah Rose and Mike Winstanley*



## Books and Bishops



On 19th October, VCH Volunteers headed to Carlisle Cathedral where Dr Stephanie Carter, editor of VCH Northamptonshire, gave a talk on 'Sir Daniel Fleming, Bishop Thomas Smith, Music and Books in 17th-Century Westmorland'. Speaking in the Cathedral Library, Stephanie showed us a small selection of the 1,500 books that had belonged to Bishop Smith (1614-1702), several of which had been acquired through the region's book traders. Many had been annotated by him, sometimes with music. We were then treated to a tour of the Cathedral's archive room.

## 60 Years of Cumbria Archive Service

There will be an open day at Carlisle Archive Centre on **Saturday 12th November** to celebrate 60 years of Cumbria Archive Service. From 10am until 3pm there will be talks, tours, family-friendly activities and stalls from local historical groups and organisations. CCHT will be there, so please come say hello! To book the free talks and tours and find further details, please visit

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/archives/whatsnew/events.asp>

## Celebrating 900 Years of Carlisle Priory and Cathedral

The Regional Heritage Centre has arranged a Study Day event on **Saturday 26th November** at Carlisle Cathedral, to mark the 900th anniversary since the foundation of the priory in 1122. To buy tickets for this in-person event, please visit Lancaster University's [Online Store](#).

## Calling all curious local history detectives!

Cumbria County History Trust and Historic England are looking for volunteers to take part in a new project researching important and historic buildings in Barrow-in-Furness. We need volunteers to work as part of a team to check the accuracy of information held on the National Heritage List for England, and to undertake contextual research. Some volunteer roles require site visits, while others are desk-based. Full training will be given. The project will take place between January and March 2023 and it offers a great opportunity to learn more about the rich history of Barrow, meet new people and take part in an exciting research project. Interested in finding out more? Please email Sarah Rose [s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk) for more information.

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