

Newsletter

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Welcome to CCHT'S e-newsletter - keeping you up-to-date with the VCH Cumbria project.

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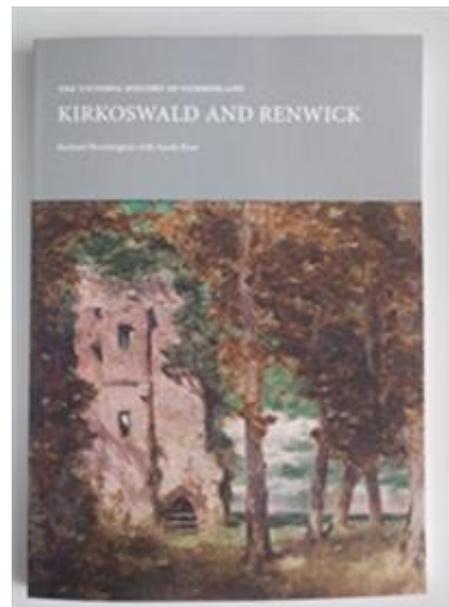


Happy Easter! Spring is finally in the air. It has been an extremely busy few months for VCH Cumbria. As well as helping prepare *Kirkoswald and Renwick* for publication, several volunteers have submitted some excellent work for comment. We have also had several new volunteers join us – a very warm welcome to them!

Sarah Rose

Kirkoswald & Renwick is here!

It is a great delight to be able to say that after months of checking proofs and making corrections, *Kirkoswald and Renwick* has finally been published. Never underestimate the intricacies of the publication process! Richard Brockington and I are extremely pleased with it. The maps, which we had specially produced, are particularly impressive. We plan to sell the book, priced £12, via Lancaster University's online store and other outlets from the end of April.



The book had its first public airing at the CWAAS AGM on Saturday 13th April. I gave a short talk on how the VCH project has progressed over the past 12 months and our future plans for the 'big red book' on Lonsdale Ward. This was followed by an excellent performance by Gladly Solemn Sound, a choir from Lancaster who focus on West Gallery Music and who have been supported by CWAAS. The event was a

great opportunity to publicise *Kirkoswald and Renwick*, with considerable interest being shown in the book. An official launch will be held in May.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The CCHT AGM will be held at Penrith Methodist Church on Friday 28th June, 2pm - 3.30pm. This will follow on from a volunteer drafters' meeting there in the morning. There will also be an opportunity to buy *Kirkoswald and Renwick*.

VCH Day Event Report

In early March I attended the annual VCH Day in London. This is an opportunity for contributors and organisers in different VCH counties to hear about progress being made elsewhere around the country, as well as developments at Central Office. On this occasion, it was also a chance to meet the new Director of the VCH, Professor Catherine

Clarke, who also heads the new Centre for the History of People, Place and Community at the Institute of Historical Research. Of the several presentations made at the event, the most inspiring was by Pam Fisher of Leicestershire, whose enthusiasm for the VCH has led her to produce not one but two shorts in one year! This is in addition to co-ordinating volunteers on the project and undertaking fundraising drives. We are very lucky in Cumbria to have CCHT to help us with that.

This year is also the 120th anniversary of the VCH. In order to celebrate this and help promote the project nationally, the Central Office team asked all VCH counties to participate in their exhibition at 'Being Human – A Festival of the Humanities' in November. This will require each county to fill a red box with quirky objects that can help illustrate the history of the county. This is intended as a playful response to the iconic VCH 'Red Books'. We will need your help to fill our box. Nothing priceless or perishable please! If you have any ideas or contributions to make, please get in touch.



Website Resources

Some of you will have (hopefully) noticed changes to the Resources section on the CCHT website. The indefatigable Eric Apperley has provided an index to all the 'Miscellaneous Resources' on there – no mean feat considering there were 1,300 separate documents! There is also a section called 'Tools and Tutorials'. This includes links to The National Archives Currency Converter and their Palaeography Tutorial. There is also a link to a website which will convert regnal years into an ordinary date for you. A very useful tool! If you know of any more similar resources, please let us know so that we can make this section of the website even better.

Personal Achievement Award for VCH Volunteer

It is a great pleasure to announce that Eric Apperley has been awarded a Personal Achievement Award from the British Association for Local History. Eric became a VCH volunteer back in 2011 and produced a draft history of Papcastle. A published historian in his own right, with expertise on Roman Papcastle, Eric has also written a number of pieces for the project about diverse aspects of Cumbrian history, including leisure and tourism. Eric then turned his attention to helping populate and maintain the CCHT website, particularly since its re-launch in 2016.

Eric single-handedly drew outline maps for every civil parish and has been instrumental in identifying and adding links to historical resources on each of township page, including relevant articles in *CWAAS Transactions*. All this work, which requires not inconsiderable technical skill (all self-taught), has taken a vast number of hours – far more than the project team could spend! As a result, Eric's hard work has been fundamental in making local history resources more accessible in Cumbria and helping our project website become one of the foremost hubs for information on Cumbrian history. Eric remains enthusiastic about the website and is full of ideas about how to make further improvements. Long may his support continue!

Drafters' Meeting Report

There was a great turnout at the latest VCH Drafters' meeting in Penrith on 20th March, with 16 in attendance. There was much discussion about the new appointment system at Kendal Archives, about which a number of concerns were raised, as well as ideas for future training sessions. It was a great pleasure to welcome two of our latest volunteers, Amanda Hames and Angela Langridge, who are currently looking into which townships they would like to take on.



Kendal Archives

You may be aware that Kendal Archive Centre has now reopened. However, for various reasons, including budget cuts, there have been a number of changes, including the introduction of an appointment system. There is a 6-12 month trial period and the Archive Service welcomes feedback. I will be liaising with them on behalf of CCHT, and so would like to hear from volunteers and members who have visited the Archives recently. Please contact me (s.rose2@lancaster.ac.uk) about your experience, good or bad, so that I can pass it on as part of a collective response.

Volunteer Profile: Chris Craghill



Christine Craghill

Nottingham born, ex RAF wife and Cumbria resident, Christine Craghill, became a VCH volunteer in 2015, encouraged by Professor Angus Winchester, shortly after she moved back to Cumbria after ten years living in Tiptree, Essex. Chris does not have an academic background but had a keen interest in history from an early age, which developed over the years to take in both family and traditional buildings history. After retirement from the military and back living in the family home in Grange over Sands, Chris enrolled on Lancaster University's part time postgraduate diploma course in local history, 1993-95, led by Angus Winchester.

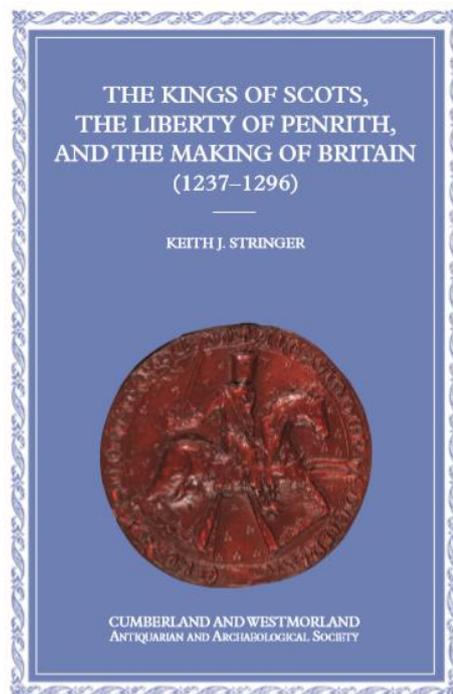
Chris moved to the village of Uldale in 1996 after graduating. Her dissertation was based on deserted farmhouses in Cumbria using the manor of Uldale as a case study. She followed her local history interests and undertook family history research for overseas descendants of Cumbrian families, including the Harriman Association in the USA and the Quaker Fell Family of Longlands, Uldale, whose son Joseph was one of the early settlers in Pennsylvania. This included some stateside research in Pennsylvania and Maine where she was invited to speak at a Harriman annual reunion. Whilst in Uldale Chris gave talks to local history societies, ran house history workshops and ran a number of house history courses for the LEA. Also during her time in Uldale Chris organised and hosted a family history holiday for several Harriman descendants, which proved a great success.

For her VCH research Chris is lucky to have many Uldale manorial documents already copied as the Leconfield Archive in which they are stored is now very difficult to access. She has also been lucky enough to have access to some locally owned papers including one estate map of Uldale village dated 1699. Chris traced and copied this very faded watercolour and eventually put together a digital presentation showing how certain features on the map that are now lost in the landscape, could be matched against other later maps and documents, giving some surprising results. A study day on the map took place in Uldale last March for West Cumbria Archaeology Society, followed by a geophysical survey in two fields, searching for evidence of a late medieval brewing complex. A short report has been written by Mark Graham of Grampus Heritage and Training but to date there has been no further action. What is known so far is touched on by Chris in her VCH work, which should be completed in draft form by this summer.

Chris has lived in Askham near Penrith since her return to Cumbria, where she is an active member of Lowther and Askham History and Archaeology Society, Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group and West Cumbria Archaeology Society and continues with her talks, study days and local history research.

New Book on Medieval Penrith

The liberty of Penrith was created in 1237 for the king of Scots, in return for abandoning his claim to the north of England. In this new book - the first on the subject - Keith Stringer examines the nature of the liberty's privileges in theory and practice, the relationship between its lords and tenants, and its treatment at the hands of the Scottish and English states. The findings of this research offer a new perspective on the reasons for the outbreak of the Wars of Independence in 1296. [*The King of Scots, The Liberty of Penrith and the Making of Britain \(1237-1296\)*](#) is published by CWAAS and costs £18 + p&p (£15 to CWAAS members). Copies can be ordered from Ian Caruana, 10 Peter Street, Carlisle CA3 8QP (Tel. 01228 544120).



Future Events in the Region

The RHC is now taking bookings for its next study day on 18th May: [‘From Farm to Table via Railway and Road – feeding the towns of the North West in the 19th and 20th centuries’](#).

Cumbria Industrial History Society's Spring Conference will be held at the North Lakes Hotel, Penrith on Saturday 27 April. Visit www.cumbria-industries.org.uk or for more information. Non-members very welcome.

The Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry is hosting an exhibition on Child Labour: Hidden Stories of Cumbria from 18 May to 28 September. Visit: www.lakelandmuseum.org.uk

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