



E-NEWSLETTER, August 2019

Welcome to the latest e-newsletter from the Department of History's Regional Heritage Centre. If you have difficulty reading this email please [open it in your web browser](#). [You can also download a pdf version here](#).

You are welcome to forward this email to any groups or individuals you think will be interested in our activities. If you have received this as a forwarded message please [join our mailing list](#) so that we can send you future newsletters directly.

In this edition:

- A report from the outgoing Chair of the RHC Advisory Board
- Good news about our Lancaster Castle MOOC
- Summer is the time to sign up as a Friend or Patron of the RHC and enjoy year-round benefits
- Announcing the first meeting of the new North West Heritage Network
- External events and announcements - including a new book from the RHC-related Victoria County History project

Welcome to the August 2019 newsletter

A special Report from Dr Rob David, outgoing Chair of the RHC Advisory Board



Five years ago the foundation proposals for the RHC consisted largely of ambitions and the purpose of the Advisory Board was not very clear beyond the idea that it was 'a good thing'. In the past 5 years, the RHC under the leadership of Angus and Fiona and supported by Sam, Sarah and Ann-Marie (with Christine in the initial days) has embraced an amazing array of projects and has created an identity for itself which is recognised across the heritage community in Cumbria and Lancashire. Given the activity base of the RHC, the Advisory Board has also hopefully found a useful role for itself, not only in supporting the RHC, but also bringing us all together to share ideas for the general benefit of history in our region. There can be no doubt that Angus's perseverance in creating a successor to CNWRS and locating the RHC within the History Department has been of real benefit to the history community.

I want to take this opportunity to look forward. I have two observations:

I have been continuously amazed at what the RHC has managed to achieve as it consists of 2 staff and an administrator, all working part time, and an academic who has many other roles and commitments. The RHC is the History Department's point of contact with the thousands of enthusiasts of history in its region and thus is in a very strong position to promote the University and the History Department.

The second relates to going out and getting grass-roots involvement. The RHC is working hard to make itself known amongst those who already have a significant interest in the past. The regular study days and other activities, the VCH project, and in particular the success of the MOOC is ensuring that. But how might the RHC bring in new people, casual members of local history societies, or even those with little previous interest in history into its orbit, and thus provide the enthusiasts of the future with a pathway to university level history? In fact the RHC is already doing it. However, unless you are an enthusiastic reader of Cumbria Life magazine you may not realise that Fiona, and in particular RHC associate Chris Donaldson, have been writing regular articles on Cumbrian history. Chris has recently been working through the links of American presidents to Cumbria, and in the July edition has alighted on the interesting juxtaposition of slave trader and slave, both buried in Bowness on Windermere churchyard. Both Fiona and Chris can write brilliantly for both academics and a general public who may have thought they had no interest in history until they read what such good communicators make so fascinating.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the development of the RHC, and look forward to continuing an involvement through being a Patron. I am sure that Alan will enjoy his period of office as much as I have.

- Rob David, July 2019

And since this is the last report from Rob David as Chair of the RHC Advisory Board – he's stepping down after 5 years of sterling service - we couldn't let the occasion go by unmarked...so we expressed our heartfelt thanks with a cake at last month's Advisory Board meeting (pictured left). Rob's valedictory speech summarised five years of intense activity helping to bring the heritage of the North West to an ever-wider public, and laid down some bright ideas for the future. As we welcomed RHC stalwart Dr Alan Crosby to the position of new Chair, we all enjoyed a little extra nourishment in addition to Rob's food for thought. We wish both Rob and Alan the best of luck in their next phase of work. And in case you are wondering, just because it's all change on the Advisory Board doesn't mean our annual Alan Crosby Day in January is up in the air. Alan will continue to delight audiences with his scholarship and flair for speaking. Full details will be provided when the RHC programme card is printed: quite soon, we promise!

Tour of Hoghton Tower Delights RHC Patrons



We at the Regional Heritage Centre really appreciate the support of all you heritage fans...but especially the generous donations of our Patrons. That's why from time to time we like to organise something special for those who choose to support the RHC in this way. This year's Patrons' Event featured a visit to the spectacular setting of Hoghton Tower. A select group gathered for delicious tea and scones, followed by a private tour led by Sir Bernard de Hoghton himself. Sir Bernard, who is the RHC Honorary Patron for 2019-2020, gave us the insider's view on this historic house, treating us to fascinating anecdotes from his own family history as it entwined with key events of the day. By the time we'd enjoyed a peek at some seldom seen corners of this amazing property, including the impressively deep water well, we'd done our 10,000 steps for the day and filled our heads with history and heritage. We couldn't resist taking advantage of the glorious weather for a quick snapshot gathered on the steps in the beautiful Inner Courtyard.... Our thanks to Sir Bernard and all the team at Hoghton Tower for making us so welcome - and of course, to all our wonderful Patrons who help to make our full programme of events possible. Cheers!

RHC MOOC Runner-Up for Prestigious National Award



Our first-ever online course 'Lancaster Castle and Northern English History: the View from the Stronghold', produced together with Lancaster University's History Department, was shortlisted for a national 'Learning on Screen' award. It was one of four nominees in the 'Online Education Resource' category - up against the BBC and two other universities. The judges described the Lancaster University resource as 'professional and engaging'. They also praised the 'well-produced videos which featured enthusiastic presenters and created a sense of anticipation'. Even though we didn't win, we think that's very high praise indeed. The Learning on Screen awards are the UK's only celebration of film and media in education. This is the first such award nomination for an online course produced by Lancaster University. The winners were announced at a ceremony at the Curzon Soho on 25 April. Dr Fiona Edmonds and Dr Chris Donaldson of the History Department (pictured left with filmmakers David Blacow and Martyn Hollingworth) were there, and Fiona said *"It was a great ceremony, and the standard of nominees in every category was amazingly high. So I'm just pleased we were recognised by the nomination for this award, as well as by the many learners worldwide who took the course, and we are very grateful to the Duchy of Lancaster for their support during the creation of the course, which enabled us to showcase the Castle's fascinating buildings and history."* To read the full press release [click here](#).

And don't forget, our MOOC will be running again this October, in a new and improved five week version...but still absolutely fascinating and best of all, absolutely free. Our website will be updated with the launch date soon, and of course, we'll keep you posted in future editions of this newsletter.

Annual Enrolment of Patrons and Friends of the Centre

Yes, it's that time of year again...time to think about taking your relationship with the RHC to the next level. We know you enjoy our regular e-newsletter, but enrolling as a Patron or Friend of the Regional Heritage Centre entitles you to discounts on our events and other great benefits - not least the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting local history and

heritage. Our subscription year runs from August to July. If you are currently a Friend or Patron and pay by Standing Order or Direct Debit, your membership will automatically renew, but if you pay by cheque you will need to contact us in order to renew your membership. If you have not been a Friend or Patron in the past, **please do consider supporting us in this way.** Take a look at our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc or contact us, and we will be happy to send you the relevant forms. The best way to reach us is via email rhc@lancaster.ac.uk or, if you would like to speak to someone, call the Centre on 01524 593770 (the phone is usually staffed Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30am to 3:30pm, but you can always leave a message).

New North West Heritage Network

The Regional Heritage Centre is delighted to announce that the new **NW Heritage Network** for Trustees and Friends groups of museums, archives and cognate organisations has held its first meeting at the Maritime Museum in Lancaster. Established with the support of Museum Development North West, the plan is to hold themed meetings quarterly, travelling to heritage organisations around the region, with a focus on sharing best practice around the skills and challenges that Trustees and the officers of Friends groups need to support Heritage Projects, especially in their work with professional Heritage staff. The first meeting featured a presentation on Legacy strategy, which will help trustees and Friends' Groups to make the most of this valuable source of support. To join the new mailing list, please send an email to nw-heritage-network@lancaster.ac.uk stating your name and the Heritage organisation/s that you are associated with. Future meetings will be publicised here in the newsletter, so watch this space for more information.

External Events and Announcements

Please note that the RHC cannot provide further information on these events and announcements, nor be held responsible for any inaccuracies in what is posted below. If you have queries or wish to book for any event listed here please contact the organiser/venue/promoter directly.

The Cumbria Local History Federation will be holding its annual convention and AGM on **Saturday 5 October** at the Helena Thompson Museum in Workington. The theme is "All at Sea - the local history of the Cumbrian coast", and speakers include RHC Advisory Board member Dr Rob David. [Click here for more information.](#)

Judges' Lodgings Museum in Lancaster announces a new exhibition on the Lancashire Witches. Featuring the original copy of The Wonderful Discoverie of Witches in the Countie of Lancaster and a host of activities for young witches and wizards, the exhibition runs until **3 November**. Admission is £3 adults/£2 concessions/free for children. For more information, call 01524 581241 or email judgeslodgings@lancashire.gov.uk.

Lancashire Archives announces some important changes to their parking policy, as Lancashire County Council intends to introduce charges this summer. The car park will still be designated for use by Archives and Certificate Services visitors only; it is not the intention for it to become a public car park. The good news is that there will be parking permits for volunteers and other valid purposes, including deliveries to the building. The parking charges will apply any time the building is in use. If the gates onto Bow Lane are open, parking charges will apply, including evenings and Saturdays. This will also apply to FLA events. For more information please see the website: www.flarchives.co.uk

The Lancashire Local History Federation reports that one of their members has compiled a list of sites associated with the Peterloo massacre. For full information, email zoe.lawson@talktalk.net. The LLHF also draws your attention to a Peterloo website being promoted by Manchester Histories Festival (www.manchesterhistories.co.uk), which is at www.peterloo1819.co.uk which has details and images of the proposed memorial to be erected in August, but the Campaign is more regularly updated [on their Facebook page](#). And check out the [Working Class Movement Library's](#) commemorative events for more interesting possibilities. [Click here for details.](#)

The Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society announces its programme for 2019-2020. The first event is set for **Thursday 26 September**. John Zant, of Oxford Archaeology North, will be presenting "Digging up the Romans: Archaeology in the Lanes, Carlisle". Other talks as follows:

31 October David Ratledge (Roman Roads Research Association) "Travelling with the Romans: Roman Roads in North Lancashire and South Cumbria"

28 November Sam Edwards (Manchester Metropolitan University) "Warton, George Washington and the Anglo-American Special Relationship 1885 - 1976"

The venue for all talks is St Paul's Parish Hall, Scotforth Road, Lancaster, LA1 4TS. Limited parking is available. Meet at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors welcome at £3 per lecture.

If you're in Manchester over the summer, why not walk the [Manchester Peace Trail](#)? This fully guided and flexible walk (it can run from 1 hour to approx 2 and a half hours) covers sites connected with the growth of Manchester as the world's first industrial city and its importance as a centre for peace and radical political activity. Themes can include places connected to the Peterloo massacre, suffragettes, the campaign against slavery, or gay rights, or be tailored to suit a group's specific interests. Fees vary accordingly. For more information and to book, call Steve Roman on 0161 434 2908 / 07939 059844.

And if your travels take you to the Lune Valley, you could check out Kirkby Lonsdale's new community heritage project, [the Vault](#). This wonderful interactive exhibit unlocks the stories of Kirkby Lonsdale using evocative objects from the past to trigger entertaining and educational short films on a variety of historical subjects. Located at the Kirkby Lonsdale Information Centre 29 Main Street, it's free and fun. The project was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and will hopefully expand

to include more untold stories. For more information, visit www.kirkbylonsdale.co.uk.

Mirador, the arts and heritage organisation, announces a new Vimeo link to the award-winning film they made about the RHC's Elizabeth Roberts Working Class Oral History Archive. 'Give Me Today, Anytime' was part of the Walking in Others Footsteps project, which was supported by the Regional Heritage Centre. You can enjoy watching it [here](#).

Cumbria Archives Services is planning improvements to some of its venues. Ongoing construction means some closures and changes to archive services, particularly in Kendal and Whitehaven. [Click here for more information on their website](#).

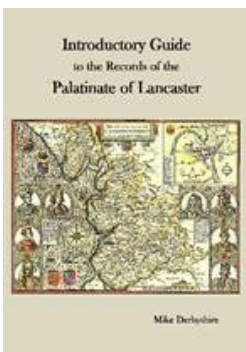
The Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust announces the launch of a fascinating new website www.exploremoresettlecarlisle.co.uk that allows you to explore one of the world's greatest railway journeys - the 72 mile run takes you through the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria's Eden Valley to Carlisle - from the unique vantage point of the air, stopping whenever you wish to see the line in high definition images taken by Network Rail and laid over both a map and the original plans of the Midland Railway Company dating back to the 1870s. Features such as stations and archaeological sites are highlighted. Clicking on one opens up image galleries and information about the line and the people who lived and worked on it. Some features - such as the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct - can even be viewed in 3D. New images and information are being added continuously to create a valuable source of information for anyone interested in the railway, the countryside through which it passes, the history of the line and family historians. 'ExploreMore' is available online, but there are also large touch screens at the [Ribbleshead Visitor Centre](#) and the [Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly in Settle](#).

The Blackpool Museum Project announces some good news - the final piece of the funding jigsaw is in place with a £4 million pound grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Blackpool has been working on the idea of a museum celebrating the entertainment history of the seaside resort for the last six years...but now the project can definitely move ahead, with plans being released in the autumn. The Blackpool Museum Project will celebrate Blackpool as the UK's most popular seaside destination and its role in the development of British popular culture. Located in the Sands Building on the Promenade, it will be a hybrid between museum and visitor attraction, open year round and filled with memorabilia, film, music and live performance, giving visitors an opportunity to look behind the scenes as what it took to make Blackpool special.

The Viking Age in the North West is a free app which allows you to discover a range of sites in the Wirral that shed light on the history of Viking settlement and integration. These sites range from place-names and archaeological finds to stone sculptures. The app comes with a map to help you locate sites, or you can browse through the alphabetical list. There is a brief description and image for every featured site, as well as references to find out more information. It is hoped to expand the geographical range of the app in future, and feedback via the app is welcome. You can download the app for free from Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.liverpool.vikingspoi> or the App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/viking-age-in-the-north-west/id1459386342?ls=1&mt=8>

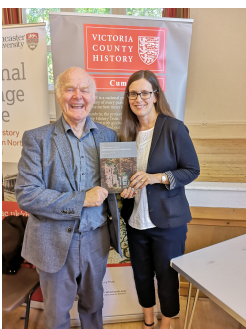
Books for Heritage Fans - Including a New Publication from the RHC-related Victoria County History Project

Introductory Guide to the Records of the Palatinate of Lancaster by Mike Derbyshire



This publication by RHC stalwart Mike Derbyshire is an invaluable guide to the rich variety of records relating to the Palatinate of Lancaster. Useful photographic illustrations make clear how to use these records in your own heritage research. ***Introductory Guide to the Records of the Palatinate of Lancaster*** is available by contacting Mike Derbyshire by email mike.rowtonbrook2@gmail.com (cost £12.50, plus £3 p&p). Also, ***The Lands of Lancaster***, another valuable work by the same author, available for just £5.00 plus £1.50 p&p.

The Victoria History of Cumberland: Kirkoswald and Renwick by Richard Brockington



The Victoria County History project has just published a new book *The Victoria History of Cumberland: Kirkoswald and Renwick*. Produced by the Cumbria County History Trust in collaboration with Lancaster University's Dr Sarah Rose (pictured left with author Richard Brockington) and published by the Institute of Historical Research with full colour illustrations. This book covers the modern civil parish of Kirkoswald, which lies nine miles north east of Penrith. Once the seat of the powerful Barons Dacre of the North, Kirkoswald enjoyed a long period as a market and business centre. The book was launched with much fanfare at the Kirkoswald village institute in May, and is now available through the RHC - it's the newest edition to our Online Store (£12 plus £3 postage). [To order, just click here](#).

We hope this newsletter gives a good idea of the range of heritage activities on offer locally, and rest assured we are hard at work developing the next season of RHC events for the coming autumn, but for now, enjoy the last of the summer holidays.

Best wishes,
Ann-Marie

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Administrator

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For more details of our activities and publications visit our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc

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