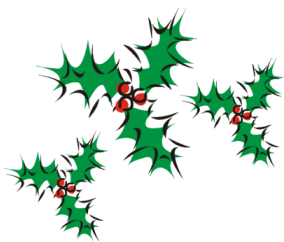


Founded in 1948



Preston Historical Society



December Newsletter

We wish all our members and visitors a very happy Christmas and New Year. See you in February.


You will also be pleased to know that the boiler in the Minster has been replaced and is now working!

Our next meeting on Monday (December 5th) is a rather special affair with Paul Swarbrick presenting an hour long film of Preston, some of which will not have been seen by you before. The film will be followed by a supper and refreshments. The film will start promptly at 7.15p.m. So please arrive early to get your place.

Please remember that we do not have a meeting in January and that our next meeting will be on Monday 6th February 2017. Dr Alan Crosby will be with us talking about "Family life in the Industrial Revolution" – The autobiography of Benjamin Shaw of Preston 1772-1841.

If any member has an article or story for the newsletter, please get in touch with Karen Doyle (Secretary) at info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk . We have purchased a new laptop over the summer and have moved all your contact details over. If any of you used to receive an electronic newsletter and now do not please send an email to the address below and we will rectify the situation. info@prestonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Regional
Heritage Centre

Lancaster
University 



Welcome to the latest e-newsletter from the Department of History's Regional Heritage Centre.

In this edition:

Voices from the past: diaries, autobiographies and local history in North West England, with Dr Alan Crosby, will be held on **Saturday 21 January**. This study day will focus on the range of evidence that is available to us in sources that relate to individuals who recorded aspects of their lives, often in private documents that were never intended for publication. These types of primary sources are incredibly valuable, but need to be used with care as their rarity is often a sign that the author had a life experience that was not typical of their times. Full details of the event are available [here](#) and you can book online [here](#).

NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE REGIONAL HERITAGE CENTRE AND THE CUMBRIA COUNTY HISTORY TRUST

We are delighted to announce the publication of *Cumbria, an Historical Gazetteer*, edited by Angus Winchester. This volume is the product of work by the Victoria County History of Cumbria volunteers, carried out under the auspices of the Cumbria County History Trust.

The Gazetteer consists of short summaries of historical information for every single community in Cumbria, from Carlisle and the other larger towns to the smallest rural parishes. Arranged alphabetically, it provides a digest of facts about population, landownership, local economic history, places of worship, schools and other community institutions across the centuries. The aim has been to ensure consistency of coverage by providing short, pithy statements about each settlement in turn, and we envisage it as the sort of concise work of reference which people will want to keep close to hand on their bookshelves or in the glove compartment of their car, to turn to when travelling around the county. We are confident that it will be of interest to all who know and love Cumbria – and it would make a wonderful Christmas gift for residents and expatriates alike.

A5 format; softback; 339 pp; 7 maps. ISBN: 978-1-86220-330-3. The retail price for the book is **£9.99**, but discounts prices are available as follows: £7.99 to members of the Cumbria County History Trust; £6.75 to Patrons and Friends of the Regional Heritage Centre (and also to bookshops). A searchable electronic version of the *Gazetteer* (sold as a PDF file on a USB pen drive) is available for £7.99. Printed and electronic versions may be purchased together as a package for £14.99. Please order through Lancaster University's online store [here](#), where all these options are available:

EXCLUSIVE VISIT TO DOWNHAM HALL FOR PATRONS OF THE CENTRE

We are pleased to announce that The Honourable Ralph Assheton, son of Lord Clitheroe, and his wife Olivia have graciously invited Patrons members of the Regional Heritage Centre to visit Downham Hall in the unspoiled village of Downham in the Ribble Valley for a private tour of the house, gardens and village on Friday 26 May 2017. Downham Hall is not open to the public; the visit will start with a tour at 2pm and there will be tea and coffee afterwards.

This event will allow us to acknowledge our Patrons for their tremendous support for the Centre with an exclusive opportunity to meet each other in wonderful surroundings and view a notable property in the company of its owners. All current Patrons have been personally invited by letter from our Director, Dr Fiona Edmonds. We will have a few spare places on the day so if you have considered becoming a Patron of the Centre then please don't hesitate to contact us. Patrons of the Regional Heritage Centre make an annual donation of at least £100 (often by convenient monthly payment); in return you will receive a free copy of each new RHC book as it is published, in addition to the discounts on our events and all other benefits enjoyed by the RHC Friends. Our subscription year runs

from August to July, but if you wish to upgrade your Friends membership for 2016-17, or to subscribe for the first time, please let us know. The best way to reach us is via email to rhc@lancaster.ac.uk or do call the Centre on 01524 593770.

We are pleased to tell you about the recent publication of ***An Improving Prospect? A History of Agricultural Change in Cumbria*** by Dr David Johnson. David is a longstanding supporter of the Centre, and his latest book is available from Amberley Publishing at £17.99.

Over the years several notable authors have published books on various aspects of the farmed landscape in Cumbria, such as the processes and impact of parliamentary enclosure, and the ways in which the uplands have been managed in the medieval and post-medieval periods, but this book takes a different approach by focussing on the concept of Improvement. The geographical coverage is wide ranging by homing in to discuss specific manifestations of agricultural change across Cumberland and Westmorland, Furness and those parts of the former West Riding that now sit within Cumbria.

The author uses documentary sources – estate papers, manor court records, submissions to Royal Commissions, enclosure award papers and Land Tax returns – alongside contemporary accounts and his own field surveying to examine how farming across Cumbria developed, and retracted, from the monastic era to modern times. After an initial consideration of what improvement means, and an examination of natural factors that helped shape what farmers can do with the land – geology, topography, soils and climate – he takes a chronological approach to show how agricultural improvement took hold, how landowners large and small responded by adopting new methodologies and by experimenting to bring about economic and aesthetic change to their estates. Changing fortunes within farming over the centuries are discussed and he concludes by addressing the question in the book's title.

The book contains 54 black and white and 30 colour photographs, all taken specially for this book, 14 line drawings and maps, and 10 tables. It can be ordered from all good bookshops or online direct from the publishers.

On the first Thursday of every month, there is a FREE 30 minute talk at Keswick Museum and Art Gallery, Station Road, Keswick CA12 4NF. Everyone is welcome, and there is no need to book – just drop in to find out more about Keswick's fascinating collection, history and characters!

The next talk is on Thursday 1 December at 1pm: '**The Commander of Curiosities: the True Story of Peter Crosthwaite of Keswick**', an Illustrated Talk by Jamie Barnes.

We hope to see you at a Centre event soon.

Best wishes,

Sam

RHC telephone & voice-mail: 01524 593770 or to contact Dr Sam Riches: 01524 594841

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

