

**Alan Airey** has decided not to stand for a further two years and the committee is grateful to him for his service.

Although **Anne Asquith** has decided to join the committee, members will observe from the AGM notice that there is still space on the committee for anyone who feels they could contribute to the running of the society.

### Something for The Journal?

The next Journal of the Society, edited by Derek Denman will be distributed for the first August and he would be very pleased to receive articles or other content from members for inclusion. The Journal is by and for its members, and all contributions are welcome. It does not seek to be a 'learned journal' but a way of sharing information and projects related to the local and family history of our area. Derek is happy to print a wide range of material; articles, information on current projects or requests for information, or just letters or comments if you wish.

Do not worry about academic standards or qualifications, the Journal is an inclusive publication, and we are concerned to ensure that contributors are supported with any help that they might wish to have. It should just be relevant, and interesting for our members to read. Items for the next

Journal should be with Derek Denman by early July, but he would like to know to save some space for you.  
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### Officers and Committee for 2008/9

Dr John Hudson	01946 861555
Chairman	
Michael Baron	01900 824625
vice-chair	
Sandra Shaw	01900 829812
secretary	
Derek Denman	01900 85551
treasurer	
Alan Airey	017687 76582
Sally Birch house	01900 85680
history	
Ted Gilbertson	01900 85482
talks	
John Scrivens	01900 85287

### The Wanderer

The next issue of the **Wanderer** will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009. Please send any short items to the Editor, Sandra Shaw by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009.  
*The Derwentfells Wanderer is published by the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society, Pardshaw Hall, Pardshaw, Cockermouth, CA13 0SP.*

# The Derwentfells Wanderer

### Interim Report of the Historic Landscape Survey Group

This year we are surveying areas owned by the National Trust on the shores of Derwentwater, led once again by Jamie Lund. This report is written at the halfway stage of the project; we hope to produce a fuller report at a later date.

Group 1 is surveying the area around Brandlehow Woods and Park, the first acquisition by the National Trust in the Lake District in 1902. The survey has revealed evidence of a formal garden on the edge of parkland to the south of Hawes End, an early nineteenth century villa on the shore of Derwentwater. This included edged paths, tennis lawn and a former summerhouse. Further south the group has recorded the remains of a former farmhouse adjacent to Old Brandlehow Barn. This farmstead was probably responsible for the ridge and furrow earthworks seen in many of the open areas along the lakeshore.



Group members investigating a mine adit

Group 2 has been recording Old Brandley mine on the eastern flank of Catbells. This lead mine was first worked around 1570 by the German miners who were invited over by Elizabeth I to prospect for minerals in the area. The surface workings on the ridge of Catbells are likely to date from this period. Below this the group has recorded four tunnels or levels driven into the hillside to reach the deeper mineral ores, each with its own lead crushing and processing area. These remains are thought to be the result of activity during the early nineteenth century. The group has also recorded extensive areas of surface workings in the form of open works and shallow shafts alongside the road beneath Catbells. These remains are also thought to be the work of the Elizabethan miners.



Recording the base of the former miners' accommodation block at Brandlehow Mine

### Our Future Programme 2009

14th May	John Butcher	Thirlmere Aqueduct 1890 – 2008
Saturday 16th May	Outing	Nenthead Mine and museum plus Border Museum, Hexham
11th June	AGM	Followed by talk on Midtown, Lorton by house history group member John Hart
9th July	Ian Tyler	Honister Slate Mine – the history of Cumbria's largest underground slate working
10th September	Peter Schofield	A Land Interpreted – recent discoveries on National Trust land in Buttermere and Loweswater
12th November	Barry McKay	The Cumbrian Chapmen – Chapmen, Pedlars and Hawkers who served the villages of Cumbria 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries

Group 3 has discovered a complex network of mill races or water leets collecting water from the flanks of Manesty Band and Hause Gate to power mining machinery on the site of Brandlehow Mine. In some cases these leets are up to 600m in length and following seemingly impossible lines along the contour of the hill. A number of trial mines and charcoal burning platforms have also been recorded in woodland around Brackenburn.

*John Hudson*



### Loweswater and Lorton Memorial Inscriptions

The Committee has decided, with permission from the compilers, that the Loweswater and Lorton Churchyard transcriptions should be published on our website, so that they should be easily available to the interested public. Ellen Bentsen and Heather Thompson, building on earlier work by Roz Southey, completed the Loweswater transcriptions in the 1990s. They are now being prepared in electronic form by Susan Hundleby. However, there is still some checking needed of a part of the Lorton transcriptions against the stone originals, and we are looking for one or two people who would be willing to complete this checking at some time during the early summer. This is important to family historians because there is no other record at present, just the stones. Would anyone who would like to take this on, alone or with others? Please contact Derek Denman for information.

*Derek Denman*

### Visit to Nenthead and Hexham Saturday 16 May 2009

We shall travel by coach to Nenthead to visit the Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, where there is a museum dedicated to the local lead mines. There will be an opportunity to take a guided underground mine tour.

Lunch will be provided at the nearby Miners Arms at Nenthead. After lunch we shall travel to Hexham to visit the Border Museum in the Old Gaol, where we shall be given a costumed guided tour with special emphasis on the Border Reivers. The coach will leave Lorton (outside the shop) at 8.45 am and return at approximately 6.45 pm. The cost of the trip will be £22.50, to include entry to Nenthead Mines (museum and tour), the Border Museum, and lunch at the Miners Arms. Drinks at the Miners Arms, or at the tea shops at the museums, are not included. Please note that the mine tour involves a considerable amount of walking on uneven surfaces in tunnels with low headroom in places.

To reserve a place please send me with a cheque for £22.50 per person made out to LDFLHS. Please also include your name and address, telephone number, and email address if you have one. I will contact participants nearer the time with full details.

*John Hudson, Graythwaite, Loweswater, Cocker mouth, CA13 0SU.*

*Tel: 01946 861555:*

*email: johnhudson25@hotmail.com*

### Events of interest to members

**First, there are three courses at Higham Hall College.**

**Discovering Cumbria** – Monday 25 to Friday 29 May – Brian Martland - £200 non-residential.

**Lakeland Life and Landscape** - Thursday 18 June or Monday 6 July

7.45 to 9.15 pm - Brian Martland - £9 or £27 with dinner.

**The World of John Ruskin** – Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 September – Howard Hull - £125 non-residential. Further details are available from Higham Hall College. Tel 017687 76276.

### In addition, there is an Exhibition.

The Wordsworth Trust's exhibition 'Edward Lear the Landscape Artist: Tours of Ireland and the English Lakes' opens at Grasmere on 2 July and continues until 4 October. Amongst the many drawings on show will be the views of Loweswater (see article by Michael Baron on Lear's visit to Loweswater in The Journal (No.9) of February 2007) and views of Buttermere, Crummock Water and Ennerdale.

Fuller information will be found in due course on the website [www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk)

### Our talk after the AGM, 11<sup>th</sup> June



### Midtown, High Lorton – 'A property of some consequence'

*This post-AGM talk is to be given by John Hart, as a member of the House History Group after the AGM on 11 June 2009.*

Midtown is known to most residents by its well preserved rear elevation facing west overlooking Lorton Park.

The above, however gives no indication of its early development in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the talk will use photographic evidence of the interior together with archive sources to investigate if the house has a concealed history predating its 1678 decorated lintel.



### Committee News

The committee was sorry to receive the resignation of long standing committee member **Ted Petty** at its January meeting. Members will probably know that Ted moved from Lorton to Aspatria in the New Year, so it is no longer feasible for him to make the journeys to and from Lorton for committee business. Ted's wise advice, local knowledge and sheer hard work will all be missed. He intends to remain an active member of the society despite his move.

Apologies to **John Hart** for omitting his name from the committee list in the Journal. He is still very much with us!

**Derek Denman** has indicated that he would like to stand down as our treasurer when a replacement can be found. The accounts are all well organised and do not use a computer – all paper. Derek would be happy to discuss this with anyone interested and there is the opportunity for a substantial hand-over period.