

LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2010

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Celia Norman died last month. Celia had been our cheerful and tireless treasurer for the last six years and her absence is a major loss for our committee. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. In particular, our thoughts are with her husband, Rick.

Maureen Leach has agreed to take on the position of treasurer for the rest of the current year. She is preparing a financial report for our first meeting, the opening part of which will constitute an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Members of the committee have willingly undertaken the extra work that has arisen from the recent deaths of three of our members. However, we do desperately need further volunteers to join the committee. In particular, David Cox has agreed to carry on for an extra year as Speakers' Secretary and we are anxious to find someone who can take over from him in April 2011. This is a crucial post for the running of the society, but the work is not complicated and David will be there to provide advice. PLEASE consider whether you could take this on, or alternatively whether you could become an ordinary member of the committee. The society can of course only continue if its members are prepared to assist in its running. Anyone who is interested in joining the committee is very welcome to give me a ring (01524 61108) to discuss what is involved.

Copies of *Contrebis* 32 have now been distributed to those members who were not able to collect them at the AGM in April. If you have not received your copy, please contact David Shotter (01524 412445).

As reported at the AGM, the next publication by the society will be a history of Lancaster Castle. Following this, there will be a regular edition of *Contrebis*; number 33. We are at present collecting contributions for this issue and would particularly welcome articles submitted by members. *Contrebis* 32 contains advice for authors under the heading 'Instructions to Contributors'.

The last event of the current year is the excursion on 18 September to Furness Abbey and Swarthmoor Hall. To avoid disappointment, please make sure that you return the booking form, which you will have received from George Howson, to him by the end of August.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an application form for renewing your membership. Please return it with a cheque for your subscription to Sandra Burr, who will then send you your membership card. Alternatively, you can pay at the first meeting of the new season and collect your membership card then.

Our first meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 30 September at the St Paul's Centre, Hala Square, when Andrew Lowe will speak about 'Lakeland Architecture through the Centuries.' The speakers at the following two meetings are Jamie Quartermaine (28 October) on 'The Ribble Valley: its Geomorphology and Archaeology' and Stephen Counce (25 November) on 'Business and Pleasure Combined: Northern Hiring Fairs, 1890-1950'.

I do hope that you do decide to renew your membership – and that I'll see you at our forthcoming meetings, which I am confident will be as entertaining and informative as those of last year.

Mike Derbyshire,