

# LANCASTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 26 April 2012 at the St Paul's Hala Centre at the usual time, 7:30 pm. Formal notice of the meeting is included with this newsletter. For the coming year, we are seeking a volunteer to take over as Speakers Secretary. After five years in the job, David Cox deserves to be allowed to stand down and I do hope that someone will come forward. David is happy to explain what is involved to anyone who is interested. Otherwise, it appears that we will have a reasonably full committee, although volunteers are always welcome. We are proposing some changes to the constitution to bring it up to date and a note of these is enclosed. If you have any further changes to propose to the constitution, you should send them to Sandra Burr by 29 March. After the business part of the AGM, Lynn Wilman and Stephanie Lawton will give a talk about *World War I and II Memorials in the Lake District*.

I am sure everyone will be delighted to know that David Shotter is progressing cheerfully and well through his medical treatments. He hopes to be able to join us for the February meeting.

There is some good news about Lancaster Castle. The Duchy of Lancaster, which owns the castle, has arranged for an early termination of the lease for the prison. This has enabled the Duchy to plan for the Castle to be open to the public in early June during the Queen's jubilee celebrations. It is intended that access will be provided to areas previously closed to visitors.

The latest information with regard to our search for funds for a digital projector is that we have made a grant application to the Galbraith Trust and are awaiting the outcome.

We are planning three excursions as usual this year. The first, on 12 May, is a rare opportunity to see Bewcastle, followed by a visit to Carlisle. Bewcastle is a remote location north of Hadrian's Wall. The site of the Roman fort contains the famed Bewcastle Cross, in its original position, a medieval castle and a medieval church. This is border-reiver country and the gravestones of their descendants can be seen in the church yard, complete with mock coats of arms. In Carlisle we'll see the Tullie House museum, with its new nationally-acclaimed Roman gallery. There will also be time to visit the Cathedral, the Castle or the shops. Tullie House and the Cathedral each have an excellent café. An application form for the trip is enclosed. Although the last date for booking is 21 April, places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis – so book early to avoid disappointment. We are planning a half day trip in July to Fox's Pulpit (the site of George Fox's major sermon) and Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House, near Sedburgh. We are also planning a full-day excursion in September to the Wirral.

Our programme of talks for 2011/12 is now being finalised. Among the highlights that have already been confirmed are David Mason on the *Roman Navy in Britain* and Bill Shannon on *Early Enclosures of the Commons*.

Our next meeting takes place at 7:30 pm on Thursday 23 February, when Paul Clark will speak about *Tridents and Microliths* from excavations at prehistoric Stainton, near Carlisle. The following meeting is on 29 March, when Stephen Rowland will talk about *The 'Other' Coronation Street*; excavations of a post-medieval cemetery at South Shields.

I look forward to seeing you at these meetings and at the AGM.

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