

Kirkby Lonsdale & District Civic Society

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Course – Autumn 2014 - ‘Aspects of Ingleborough’

This will be led by Dr David Johnson, Independent Researcher, Chairman of the Ingleborough Archaeology Group and author of “Ingleborough Landscape and History”

Course introduction

Ingleborough deserves its status and reputation as an iconic feature of the south-western Yorkshire Dales, dominating the landscape for miles around with its sheer bulk and presence. If it can be regarded as iconic now, it was also clearly of importance in the past – at least from late prehistoric times. The course will use Ingleborough as the focus – or the fulcrum – for exploring aspects of the physical and human forces and processes that have shaped this part of north-west England. It will start with the underlying geological

background, and then progress through ways in which nature has shaped and modified the landscape through the millennia. After all, what people have been able to do in the area has, to a large degree, been influenced by what nature has had to offer, and one cannot look at cultural development without first considering the physical basis of the landscape. It will then move on to explore how Ingleborough was ‘occupied’ and ‘settled’ from early prehistory (the Mesolithic and Neolithic), through later prehistory (the Bronze and Iron Ages and Romano-British period), to evidence of early medieval and medieval activity here. It will conclude with a look at aspects of post-medieval land use and management in the area.

Though Ingleborough is the focus of the course, it will not restrict itself to the hill, but will encompass the whole ‘Ingleborough Triangle’ as well as Upper Ribblesdale and the valleys of Chapel-le-Dale and Kingsdale. In other words, the course will be based on the Ingleborough ‘region’.

Each session will be based on a PowerPoint presentation but will not take the form of formal lectures. Rather it will employ a mix of short talks, discussions and some practical work by participants. In many sessions, issues will be raised and questions asked ... but not necessarily answered. This is a course for anybody with an interest in local history and definitely not aimed at experts.

It will consist of 8 sessions to be held in Casterton Village Hall on Wednesday evenings starting on 24th September 2014 and also 4 optional excursion trips to see the evidence in the field. The cost will be £50 for members and £55 for non-members (to include a year's membership of the Civic Society). Please contact Mike Kingsbury on m.kingsbury455@btinternet.com or 015242 76434 for more details.

News from the Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University

There is an exciting project to investigate the archaeology, ecology and heritage potential of Castle Hill in Lancaster, which is to be financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Regional Heritage Centre has been commissioned to arrange two public events to communicate what has been discovered so far, plans for the future, and the wider context of the project. Full details are yet to be announced, but the first event is on the afternoon of Saturday 26th July, as part of the national Festival of Archaeology, at the Priory Church in Lancaster, and the second event will take place in September, probably on a weekday afternoon at the Storey Institute. The speakers at the first event are Andrew White, on St George's Quay and the surrounding area, and Karl Taylor of Oxford Archaeology North, who will report on the results of geophysical survey work. The second event will probably include Dr John Goodall, who is an award-winning authority on the English castle. He should be joined by Professor Richard Sharpley of the University of Central Lancashire, who will speak about the ‘dark tourism’ potential of the castle and its context.

Although both events will be free you will need to book a place and details on how to book will be on the Regional Heritage Centre website shortly. You can read more about the ‘Beyond the Castle’ project here: <https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/regeneration/beyond-the-castle/>

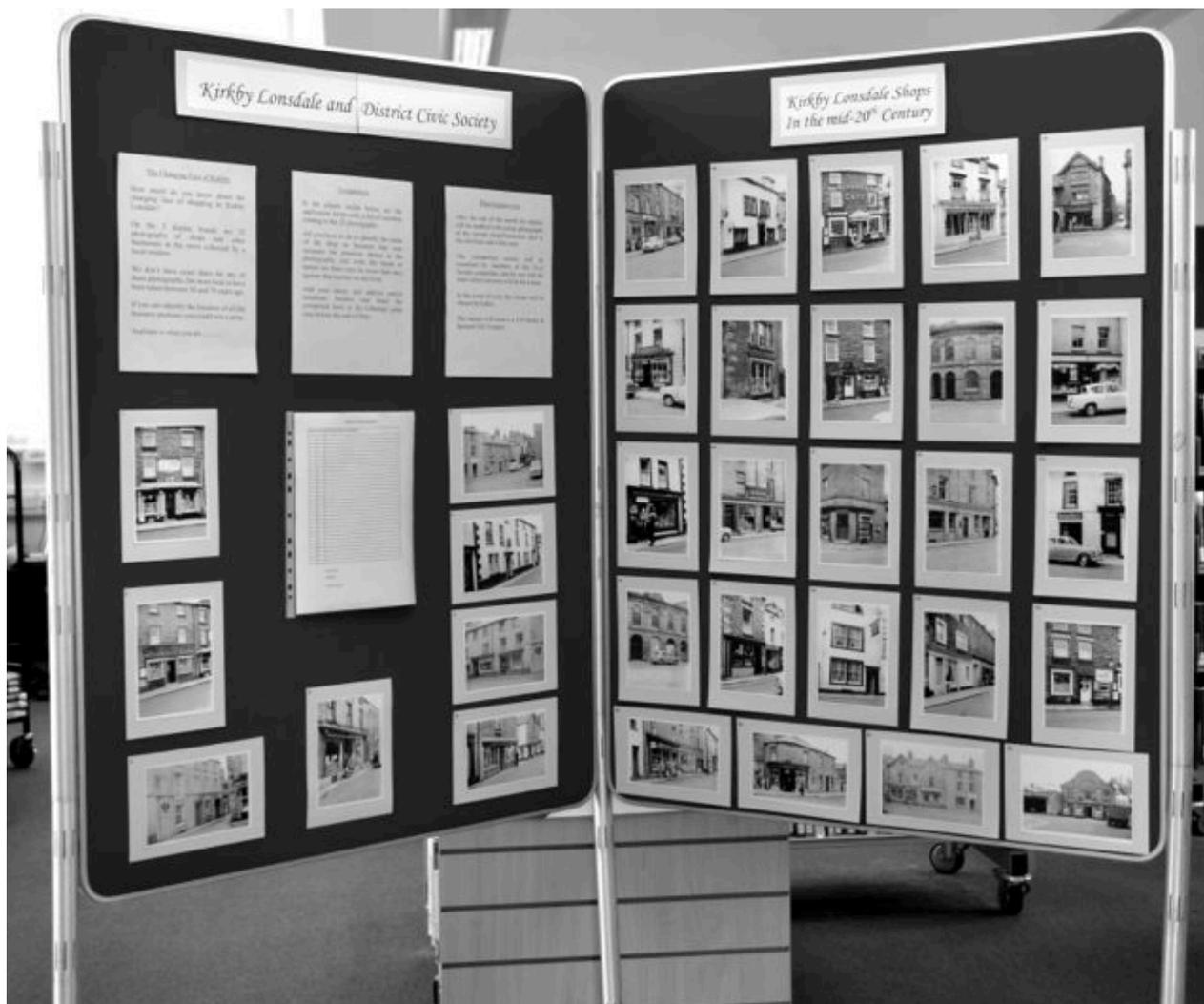
Winter Talks - Start again on September 8th. Make a note in your diary!

Online course in Regional and Local History

The Centre for North-West Regional Studies previously ran a one-year part-time Postgraduate Certificate via distance learning, in the field of Regional and Local History. This course is going to be offered in the coming academic year by the Department of History, commencing in late September: you can find full details at <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/history/postgrad/pgcertificate.htm>

Local History Month

The Civic Society assembled a display of more than 30 photographs of local businesses, mostly taken in the 1950's and 1960's and collected by one of our members, in Kirkby Lonsdale library to demonstrate the changing face of the town to celebrate 'Local History Month'. Visitors to the library were invited to identify which businesses now occupied those same premises, with a small prize offered for the most accurate answer. The winner, who will be announced next month, will receive an M&S voucher.



Next month the display will feature photographs of the current shops/businesses, alongside the historical ones.

Help Wanted

The 'Area of Benefit' defined in our Constitution, in other words the area where we try to be active, comprises the seven parishes of the wider Kirkby Lonsdale Parish. The present committee has members living in Barbon, Casterton, Kirkby and Mansergh who are able provide some local knowledge and insight about those parishes. It would be very helpful if the committee could call on a resident from the other parishes, namely Hutton Roof, Lupton and Middleton for ad hoc help. We would like to hear from any member who would like to act as a sort of 'reporter' - for example bringing issues to the attention of the society or providing valuable local knowledge. It could be a purely informal arrangement as and when needed, or a sort of ex-officio committee member, or something else. Please contact our Secretary in the first instance if you feel you might be able to help.

Planning Matters

SL/2014/0389 - Footpath from Master's Grange, Kirkby Lonsdale

We supported this initiative to create the safe walking route that was overlooked in the original planning for the site. We understand that because of neighbour concerns the application has been withdrawn and a revised application is likely to be made shortly.

SL/2014/0254 Change of use of barn to café, micro- brewery and visitor centre

A new use for this under-used barn is very welcome, and our objection was largely on the grounds of safety issues surrounding the loading/unloading of lorries at the bottom of New Road. Our concerns about possible noise and smell may be able to be mitigated, and a revised application has now been submitted.

CU/2014/0004 - Land off A683, Casterton, Change of Use Barn to Dwelling

This is the first planning application we have commented on under the new "Change of Use" regulations (see below). The location in question is a field that is one in an unbroken sequence from Devil's Bridge to Casterton village that contains no domestic dwellings, and as such retains its rural character. We will watch with interest to see the planner's response to putting such a domestic building beyond an established 'edge of development'.

SL/2014/0218 Folley Farm, Casterton - conversion of barn to 2 dwellings

We regard this as a good use for a group of redundant farm buildings, providing a good safe access can be achieved from the A683. The design, which retains much of the character of the barn when seen from the public road, will fit well in its surroundings.

Barn Conversions - the new rules

Previous planning regulations limited the conversion of barns to dwellings to those in a group of buildings, and even then put constraints on the design. *The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment and Consequential Provisions) (England) Order 2014*, which came into effect at the end of April 2014, allows the conversion of agricultural buildings to residential use ('barn conversions') with minimal constraints on what can be done.

The Order introduces a new Class 'MB' which authorises change of use of an agricultural building and any land within its curtilage and the building operations reasonably necessary to convert the building to residential use.

Permission is subject to a number of conditions:

1. The site must have been used solely for an agricultural use, as part of an established agricultural unit on 20th March 2013. If not then it must have been as such for 10 years prior to the date the development begins.
2. The cumulative floor space of the existing building(s) must not exceed 450 square metres, and no more than three separate dwellings can be developed within an established agricultural unit.
3. The site must not be occupied under an agricultural tenancy, unless the express consent of both the landlord and the tenant has been obtained. To avoid 'winkling' of agricultural tenants by rapacious farm owners, change of use is also precluded if less than one year before the date development begins an agricultural tenancy over the site has been terminated, and the termination was for the purpose of carrying out development under Class MB, unless both the landlord and the tenant have agreed in writing that the site is no longer required for agricultural use.
4. Change of use is also not permitted where the erection or extension of agricultural buildings has been carried out since 20th March 2013, or within 10 years before the date of development under Class MB begins, whichever is the lesser. The idea is clearly to prevent building or extending agricultural buildings with a view to converting them soon afterwards to residential use.
5. The external dimensions of the converted building must not extend beyond the external dimensions of the existing building at any given point; so it has to be wholly contained within the envelope of the original building.
6. Building work that is allowed includes the installation or replacement of windows, doors, roofs, or exterior walls, or water, drainage, electricity, gas or other services, for the building to function as a dwelling, and partial demolition to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out these building operations. This suggests that wholesale demolition of the building and its entire replacement is not permitted.
7. Development is specifically excluded for Listed Buildings, or in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas etc or if the site is or forms part of a SSSI or a scheduled ancient monument.
8. Development must begin within 3 years.

Before beginning conversion of an agricultural building the developer must apply for the local planning authority (LPA) to determine whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to the following:

- Impact on transport and highways
- Noise impacts of the development
- Contamination risks on the site
- Flooding risks on the site
- Whether the location or siting of the building makes it impractical or undesirable for the building to change from agricultural to residential use.

Before beginning the development, the developer must also apply to the LPA for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to the *design or external appearance* of the building. However there is no requirement for such applications to have regard to the local development plan, so it would seem that the LPA has a very great discretion to permit or resist change of use.

Like all legislative changes the way this order works will gradually emerge as planning decisions are made, and appeals made to the planning inspectorate are determined. However it functions, there is no doubt in the Editor's mind that this new order represents a seismic shift in planning at a local level.

The development of isolated field barns in tranquil high landscape-value settings, and their conversion to dwellings with access roads and all the trappings of human habitation, has the ability to alter our landscape in a major way that was not possible prior to this order. Those parts of the Lune Valley which may in future be incorporated in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (which is exempt from Class 'MB') can expect to see a considerable number of such applications in the near future.

BOOK REVIEW - COUNTRY HOUSES OF LANCASHIRE AND THEIR BUILDERS by John Champness

Lavishly illustrated with over 150 images – photographs, Victorian prints and specially-drawn plans – this is more than a guide or gazetteer. It is a comprehensive introduction to the rich heritage of Lancashire's country houses, from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. John Champness provides a lucid account of how and why the layout and decorative details of these houses evolved, how they reflected the attitudes and ambitions of their owners, and how they were built and financed. This book is the product of thirty years' research; it was completed shortly before the author's untimely death. Lancashire's architectural heritage has long been underappreciated – John Champness was one of the foremost experts on the subject, and this attractive and informative book is his legacy.

- Softback
- Full colour cover, 150 b/w figures, 6 ground plans, 1 map
- ISBN: 978-1-86220-292-4
- 200pp plus xvi
- **Price:** £15.95 plus postage and packing

Available from: www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/books/booklist.htm



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John Champness, an architectural and buildings historian, was the County Conservation Officer for Lancashire County Council for nearly 25 years. He also taught courses on Country Houses on Lancaster University's Summer Programme for many years.

<p>Editor: Dr Ken Humphris The views expressed are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Civic Society Committee as a whole. The Editor would be delighted to receive comments or articles from members of the Society for inclusion in the newsletter. Registered Charity No. 502315</p>	<p>Committee Chairman Dr Ken Humphris Lowgill, High Casterton LA6 2SD Tel: 015242 71983 Mr Mike Marcznski Tel: 015242 73318 Mrs Audrey Phillips Tel: 015242 72514</p>	<p>Secretary Mrs Sue Pelter Rigmaden Farm House Mansergh LA6 2ET Tel: 015242 76216 Miss Pat France Tel: 015242 71740 Membership Secretary Mrs Judith Manifold Tel: 015242 73457</p>	<p>Treasurer Mr David Dalgoutte Delph cottage Jingling Lane Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2AW Mr Peter Stockdale Tel: 015242 76443 Mr Mel Mackie Tel: 015242 71644 Mr Tom Felix Tel: 015242 72248</p>
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