

PROCEEDINGS.

I. SUMMER MEETING, 1961.

THE Summer meeting was held in the Keswick and Cocker-mouth district on 7 and 8 July 1961, the headquarters being the Queen's Hotel, Keswick.

Arrangements were made by a committee composed of the President, the Chairman of Council, Professor Birley, Mr H. Duff, Mr H. J. Chandler and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

A meeting of Council was held at the Fitz Museum, Keswick, on the evening of 6 July, Miss K. S. Hodgson presiding.

Friday, 7 July.

Though the weather was uncertain in the extreme, a very large number of members was present on both days, and at TALLANTIRE HALL, where Mrs Barraclough most kindly entertained us to coffee and light refreshments, the attendance was the largest for many a long day. While members were enjoying Mrs Barraclough's hospitality, the President spoke on the former owners of the estate, with particular reference to the Fletcher, Partis and Browne families.

From Tallantire we drove to BRIDEKIRK CHURCH, where unfortunately neither of the advertised speakers was able to be present. The President read the notes which had been supplied by the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, and Professor Birley deputised for Miss Rosemary Cramp.

Mr. Dickinson's notes were as follows:

"Bridekirk, like Kirkbride, is 'the church of St Bride', a name that must have originated in the 11th or 12th century. The name is Scandinavian and Bridekirk stands in an area thickly populated by the Vikings who landed on the Cumbrian coast. Of the history of the original church very little is known but it occupied a site just east of the present one, a few ruins of its east end being still visible. It was given to Guisborough priory in Yorkshire in the mid 12th century and it is clear that here, as in so many churches of our district, the latter half of the 12th century saw an important rebuilding though this church was probably largely rebuilt in the middle ages. But we have important remains of it in the south door of the present church — probably in a position corresponding to the original one the door in the east wall of the south transept (which may have been a priest's door in the south wall of the chancel of this early

church) and the famous font which from the 17th century has been one of the main objects of antiquarian interest in the area. The south door has a tympanum with a figure of the Risen Christ which appears to have been very much recut.

"There were certainly later medieval alterations to a church which, as early ecclesiastical valuations show us, was quite respectably endowed, but the only documentary reference to these yet noted is the bequest in 1371 by Robert Marshall of Tallentire of the considerable sum of 33 marks to the church should the parishioners wish to 'make a new belfry'. The ruins of the old church have what may be late medieval masonry albeit much altered. There is little doubt that the church was never an imposing one and was in considerable need of repair by the 18th century. Hutchinson, writing at the end of the century, describes Bridekirk church as 'a plain and humble structure and does not seem entitled to the famous piece of antiquity it holds' but gives no details, reserving most of the space available for Bridekirk to a lengthy and curious discussion of the font. The Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland for 1829 describes the church as 'an ancient structure . . . modernised a few years ago by the erection of a new tower and the enlargement of several windows.' The patron was the Rev. J. B. D. Dykes, and his family were evidently concerned in a radical decision to pull down the old church and build the present one on a new site. This was evidently accomplished in 1868-70. The new building is a rare example of 19th-century Romanesque in our area, but calls for no special comment.

"Besides the relics of the old building already noted, there are preserved here a piece of Roman carving, a fragment of a cross. Ferguson's *Old Church Plate* draws attention to a fine silver cup and cover of repoussé work with the London date letter for 1550-1 which is there termed 'probably the oldest example of silver plate, ecclesiastical or secular, in the county of Cumberland' (p. 74).

"Outside the eastern end of the church are preserved some interesting stones including quers and a number of medieval grave slabs. One of these has a very fine floriated design of unusual luxuriance, probably of about 1330."

After a picnic lunch in Cockermouth we went on to CASTLE-HOW (PIELWYKE), where Miss Hodgson spoke. She said that this rarely visited site was one of the most interesting in our area. It is on a long-backed ridge, running nearly east and west. The long north and south sides are extremely steep, the ends less so, though quite formidable. Consequently the ditch and bank systems are confined to the east and west ends of the ridge. The first ditch on the east is very slight, but the inner one is a real defence — six feet deep and ten wide. The sides are nearly vertical and the bottom flat with a well marked

causeway, slightly north of the middle. To to the north of it is a flat space, roughly triangular. The defences on the west are more elaborate. The first ditch is only 45 ft. long and tapers out at both ends.

There was a cobble pitching along the north end. Castlehow belongs to the series of small hill-forts or refuges such as Shoulthwaite, Whelter Crag in Mardale and Castle Crag. In situation it most closely resembles Dunmallet at the foot of Ullswater, As to date, it seems most likely that it belongs to the Dark Ages. The late Mr J. F. Curwen thought so, Professor R. G. Collingwood seems to have agreed, on balance, and when the Prehistoric Society came here Dr Bersu at once exclaimed: "Carolingian".

Something hangs on whether the scarping and flattening of the top is original, or whether it is a piece of landscape gardening — an idea to which Professor Collingwood seemed to incline.

Miss Hodgson added that she had scrambled along the shore of the lake to see if there was any sign of a dock for a dug-out canoe. There was one place which might possibly be such, but she had been unable to remove enough moss to make sure that the rock had been cut. A careful examination of the whole north side in time of drought would be useful to look for the stumps of an ancient landing-stage.

Arriving back in Keswick, members paid a visit to the FITZ MUSEUM, and after tea members walked to CROSTHWAITE CHURCH where the vicar, the Rev. F. H. Marshall, was waiting to receive them.

Mr Marshall said that his parish once stretched from the top of Bassenthwaite Lake to Dunmail Raise, with five chapels all run from the one church. In this parish there were six new parishes. The origin of Crosthwaite Church is shrouded in antiquity and tradition. There is, however, a firm belief that over fourteen hundred years ago, in about the middle of the 6th century, St Kentigern planted his cross in the "thwaite".

In 1181 Joceylin of Furness wrote about a basilica at Crosthwaite. The basilica must have been a large church and parts of it are to be found in the north wall and part of the east end. Some stones of the chancel arch of those days still remain, showing that the building was of the transitional rather than of the Norman type. In the 14th century chapels were added to the north and south sides of the chancel and that the tall three-light east window replaced the narrow lancet windows. Early in the 16th century the church was rebuilt with a clerestory but without a chancel arch. In 1915, during redecorations, foundations of the former Norman wall of the north-east chapel were discovered. The 1523 rebuilding is proved by the Manor Rolls

of Cockermonth. The tower was probably built about 1530. The main pillars, therefore, are 16th century, the clerestory has plain battlements on the south side and a straight parapet on the north. It has square-headed, three-light windows at strangely irregular intervals. The roofs were renewed in red pine at the restoration by Sir Gilbert Scott in the middle of the 19th century. The porch is mid-19th century and the east window dates from 1889. Crosthwaite is one of the few churches to retain consecration crosses. In 1915 twelve of these were found outside the church and nine inside. They marked the places where the Bishop anointed the walls during the consecration service, and the outside crosses round Crosthwaite Church indicate that the old English use rather than the foreign one was used.

The baptistry, which was formerly the vestry, was turned into a baptistry as a memorial to Canon Rawnsley, vicar from 1883 to 1917. The font used to be near the north-west door but about 1909 it was moved and placed on the lovely marble steps where it now stands and an oak panelling was put round the baptistry. The ewer dates from a later year, 1917, after the Canon's retirement and was made at the School of Art which he himself founded. The font is a remarkable piece of 14th-century work, almost certainly the memorial to a former vicar, Sir Thomas D'Eskhead, who was here at least from 1374 to 1390. It consists of an octagonal basin on a square stand which becomes, lower down, octagonal. The sides are very richly carved and although the carving is now badly worn there is a complete description of it in Dr Eale's book. The alternate Latin inscriptions on the chamfered edge below the bowl describe the four shields and give a prayer for the soul of Sir Thomas D'Eskhead. It is worth noting that the three children of S. T. Coleridge were baptised at this font. The alabaster effigies in the corner of the baptistry are of Thomas Radcliffe, who died in 1495, and his wife, Margaret, who was the daughter of Sir William Parr of Kendal and the great-aunt of Queen Katherine Parr. The head-dress of Margaret dates from the end of the 15th century. On the window-sill there is a fragment of a small cross-bearing sandstone slab, which dates from the end of the 13th century. The 16th-century oak bolt used to resist the encroachments of Scottish invaders is still used to bolt the church door at night. Moving up towards the east end of the south aisle, the most prominent memorial is the white marble effigy of Southey. It is signed by the sculptor, J. C. Lough, and dated 1846. It bears at the west end of it Wordsworth's inscription and at the east end his poem about Southey. Southey's grave in the churchyard was recently restored by the Brazilian Government because Southey wrote the first and perhaps only authentic history of Brazil. Just above Southey's effigy there is a pre-Reformation candlestick and underneath are stones from the chancel arch dating from c. 1175. The south-east corner of the chancel is what was once called the Mary

Magdalen Chapel. The floor was originally much lower, as is proved by the old piscina now only seat high. On the window-sill is the famous Loweswater bell dating from the 14th century. In the east window of the south aisle there is a fragment of medieval glass depicting the head of Mary Magdalen, and it is interesting to note that lower down a little piece of the Radcliffe quarter has been replaced, after renovation, the wrong way round. The large altar tomb here is a fixed slab of Silurian marble and in the centre there are inlaid brasses of Sir John Radcliffe and his wife, Alice, in the armour and dress of the period, 1527.

The sanctuary has a beautiful tiled floor with four emblems, sacred to the memory of St Kentigern. There is a piscina in the south corner of the sanctuary. The reredos has three embossed bronze panels and two wooden figures of St Kentigern and St Herbert, all this work being inspired by Canon Rawnsley. Just before the sanctuary steps there is a gravestone in the floor to the memory of Edward Stephenson, who is famous for being the Governor of Bengal for one day only. In the northern wall, level with the reading-desk, there is another piece of medieval glass called the St Anthony window, part of the 16th-century restoration work.

Between the Devil's door and the vestry door the old charnel-house used to exist. The bones were buried in the floor here in the south-west corner of the church but were removed a long time ago and buried in the graveyard. In the vestry is a fragment of an old medieval service-book of the 14th century which was used as a cover for the first book of registers. Also there can be seen a fine old chalice, presented to the church in 1662, presumably to commemorate the Restoration.

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The General Meeting was held in the Moot Hall, Keswick, at 8.30 p.m., with the President in the chair. Thirty members were present. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed the President referred to the deaths of two members, Mr F. R. Burnett and Mr Harold Skelton, and members stood in silence in tribute to their memory. The President announced that it was hoped that Professor Birley's volume on the Roman Wall would be published towards the end of the year.

Seven new members were elected.

Major Scott-Little announced that it had not proved possible to make arrangements for the Autumn meeting to be held at Morecambe as planned. The excursions committee was con-

sidering alternative places and members would be advised as soon as this had been decided.

Miss Clare Fell referred to the work in progress on the new axe-factory sites on Scafell and gave a brief account of Mr R. G. Plint's forthcoming paper on the Langdale sites.

A spear head of the Middle Bronze age, found in the River Caldew, was exhibited by the President.

Suggestions from a number of members present regarding the reading of papers at future meetings were forthcoming and the President promised that these would receive consideration by Council.

The following papers were communicated: "A Lakeland journey of 1759" by B. G. Hutton (Vol. LXI, Art. XX); "A trip from Drumcrief to Carlisle in 1734" by W. A. J. Prevost (Art. XIV, above); "Stone axe-factory sites in the Cumbrian fells" by R. G. Plint (Art. I, above).

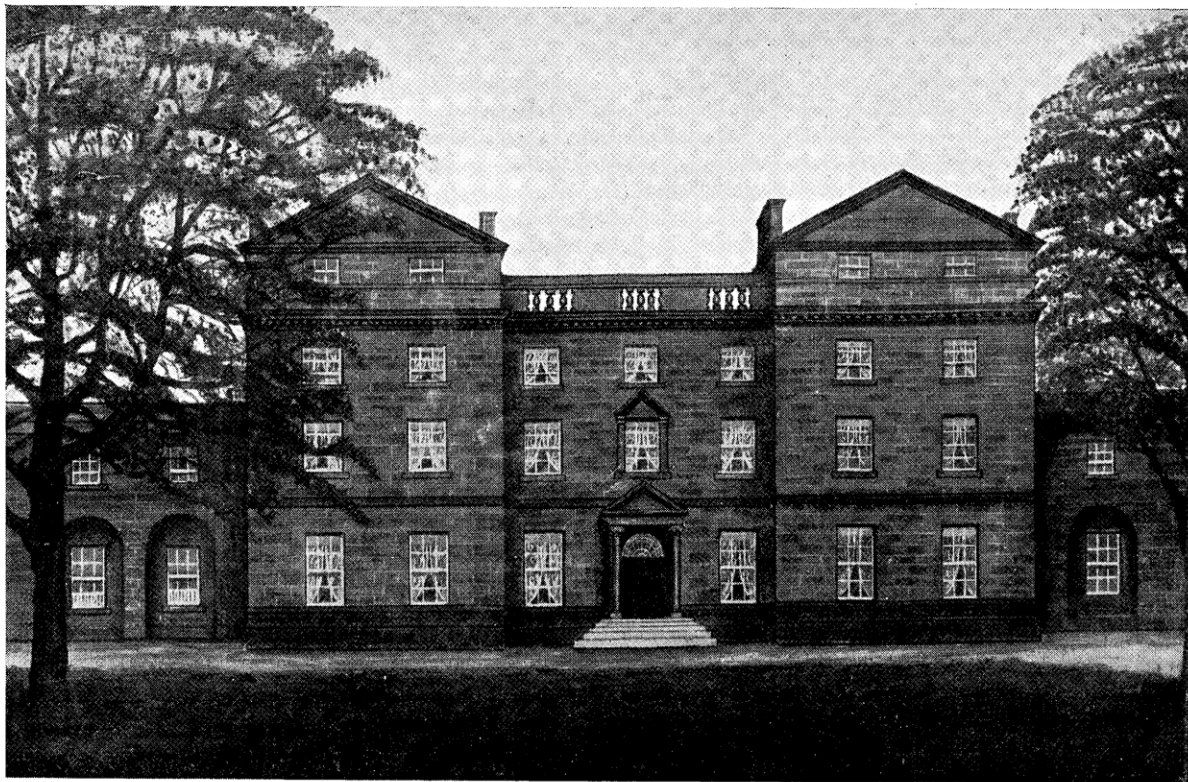
Saturday, 8 July

Our first visit was to BRIGHAM CHURCH, where the vicar, the Rev. F. W. Camp, received us and gave an interesting account of the building. Miss Rosemary Cramp, F.S.A. (who had motored from Durham, leaving at 7 a.m.) described the crosses in the church. She did the same service at DEARHAM CHURCH, where the vicar, the Rev. R. St John Fisher, described the church.

From Dearham we went to EWANRIGG HALL, where the President spoke on the Hall's former owners, the Christians. An oilpainting of the Hall, before large parts of it were demolished, was exhibited by Mr T. Carey, grandson of our much respected member, the late Mr Thomas Carey of Maryport. The painting is here reproduced, through the kindness of Mr Carey and the good offices of Mr Brian Ashmore.

The weather was not kind, and became both cold and wet. Many members were thankful to enjoy the warmth and hospitality shown to them by Mr and Mrs Ashmore in their home at Camp Hill, Maryport.

After lunch we visited CROSS CANONBY CHURCH, where the vicar, Canon Marsden, described the building and Miss Cramp the Anglian crosses and the hogback. From Cross Canonby we went to HAYTON CASTLE, where Mr and Mrs J. D. Mitchell received us with great kindness. The Castle was described by Mr C. B. Martindale, and the President spoke on the former owners, the Musgraves. Mr and Mrs Mitchell entertained members to tea, and were thanked for their hospitality by Miss K. S. Hodgson.



Ewanrigg Hall. Reproduced from a painting, 30" x 20", by James McKay of Maryport. On the back is the following inscription: Ewanrigg Hall, Maryport, demolished during the months of January, February and March 1903. This painting is from a photo by Mr R. Baxter, taken a few years before demolition, painted by J. McKay, Maryport, 1915 for Thomas Carey, Esq., J.P., C.A., Maryport, who is now 82 years of age and still takes a very active part in all public affairs of town and county. Has since a boy taken a great interest in Ewanrigg Hall. Has at present in his dining-room at 23 Curzon Street a very beautiful mantelpiece taken from Ewanrigg Hall at the demolition. We are grateful to Mr Carey's grandson, Mr Thomas Carey the present owner of the picture for his permission to reproduce it, and to Mr P. C. Bentley for photographing it.

II. AUTUMN MEETING, 1961.

The Autumn meeting was held in the Lancaster-Ulverston district on Thursday and Friday, 31 August and 1 September 1961, with the Grange Hotel, Grange-over-Sands as the headquarters. The arrangements for the meeting were made by a committee consisting of the President (Mr C. Roy Hudleston), Miss K. S. Hodgson, Professor Birley, Miss Clare Fell, the Rev. J. C. Dickinson, Mr H. Clegg (General Secretary), and Major R. Scott-Little (Excursions Secretary).

A meeting of Council was held at the Grange Hotel on Thursday, 30 August, Miss Hodgson presiding.

Thursday, 31 August

From Grange we drove in glorious sunshine to CONISHEAD PRIORY, where Mr J. L. Hobbs was the speaker.

Mr. Hobbs said: "As will be seen, the present mansion is modern, but it stands partly on the site of an ancient priory. Besides Furness Abbey there were two other religious houses in Plain Furness, one being a hospital at Bardsea dedicated to St John of Jerusalem, of which little is known, the other, the priory here. This is sometimes said to have been founded by the second William de Lancaster, Baron of Kendal, but it is more usually accepted that the actual founder was Gamel de Pennington (he who had already founded Pennington church) although he did so with the encouragement and help of de Lacaster, who gave the site and endowed it.

"The actual date is not known, but probably was in 1180 or within a year or two thereafter. At first established as a hospital for the poor, sick, and lepers, it was entrusted to the Augustinian canons and was raised to the status of a Priory between 1185 and 1188, when the canons were charged with the care of the sick. The land on which the hospital at Bardsea stood was given by William de Bardsey to the Prior of Conishead, and probably this foundation already had ceased to have a separate entity, and had been merged into that at Conishead. The Priory also had care of the sick and lepers at St Leonard's Hospital, Kendal, the patronage of which had been given to the Prior by William de Lancaster, and the canons continued to serve it until the dissolution.

"Unfortunately, nearly all the Conishead documents appear to have been lost, but many endowments and grants were made to the Priory and a list of them as compiled by Dugdale is given in detail by West in his *Antiquities of Furness*, to which I must refer those interested. A 13th-century illuminated copy of certain of the Epistles of St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, belonging to the Priory, prized by the Braddyll family and kept, according to C. M. Jopling, in the library of the present mansion,

came eventually to our late member H. S. Cowper through a Leicester bookseller. He published it in CW2 xxvii where those who wish, can find details. The MS. is now at Tullie House.

"Apart from the land immediately surrounding the Priory most of the canons' possessions consisted of estates held outside the district, which may have been as well, for the Furness monks seem to have been jealous of the existence of another religious house within a few miles, while the canons at Conishead may have been uneasy at the proximity of their powerful neighbours, and ill-feeling came to a head in 1200 with a dispute between the Abbot of Furness and the Prior of Conishead.

"The whole of Furness, the lands granted to the le Flemings excepted, had been granted by Stephen to the Abbot and monks, but as a result of dissension between them and William de Lancaster regarding the boundaries in Furness Fells, exchanges were made whereby de Lancaster obtained the lordship of Ulverston and adjacent lands including Conishead, which he gave as part of the original endowment. Both the Abbot and Prior now claimed jurisdiction, Ulverston (with Hawkshead) having been included in the parish of Dalton, and consequently under control of the Abbey. An ecclesiastical commission arbitrated and in 1208 awarded the tithes of both Pennington and Ulverston to Conishead, but charged the Prior to pay from the revenue 50s. yearly to the Abbot 'for the sake of peace'. As the Priory was thus confirmed in its holdings, but the canons were constrained to agree not to accept future grants of land over which the monks exercised control, except under stipulated conditions and with the consent of the Abbot; and agreed to limit the number of canons at the Priory to a maximum of thirteen (thereby ensuring that they would play a subservient part to the Abbey and that their house would never grow large enough to become a rival), it might have been hoped that future relations would be less strained, particularly as Conishead surrendered the chapelry of Hawkshead to Furness Abbey — apparently voluntarily.

"In fact, that happy result was not entirely obtained, further disputes resulting in litigation during the next hundred years. In 1230 William Grey, Archbishop of York confirmed the chapelries of Dalton and Urswick to the monks, and Pennington and Ulverston to the canons, subject to a further payment of nine marks annually to the Abbev. and from that time Conishead remained in undisputed possession of its rights, secured again in 1307 under Edward II.

"Among several benefactors who desired to be buried in the Priory church was William Haryngton, and it is probable that the Haryngton tomb in Cartmel Priory is his and his wife's, removed from Conishead at its dissolution.

"An interesting obligation of the Priory was that the canons were charged with the duty of guiding travellers across the Leven or Ulverston Sands, the shorter but more dangerous section of

the ancient oversands route. The guide they appointed was paid fifteen marks a year and held three acres of land, with other perquisites. So important was this duty regarded that after the Priory was dissolved, the Crown continued the responsibility, although the money payment was reduced to ten marks. The first guide appointed under the new order was a Thomas Tempest, but it is believed that this was merely a confirmation of the office he had already performed for the Priory, although he may not have continued very long, as John Hartley, yeoman of Conishead, was granted a patent by the Duchy of Lancaster in 1538 to continue the office of guide. It still nominally exists.

"In connection with the oversands crossing, at some time the canons erected a small chapel on nearby Harlside or Chapel Island for the benefit of mariners and travellers, as referred to by Wordsworth in *The Prelude*, Book X.

"The ancient entrance to Furness by the oversands route, known as Red Lane, from the staining of the haematite ore carted to Conishead Bank for shipment in the 18th century, is less than half a mile away. Once claimed as of Roman origin, excavations as recorded in CW2 xxx, indicated that this paved road was far more likely to have been constructed in the middle ages, perhaps by the canons of Conishead and the monks of Furness, as part of a way across the peninsula towards Cumberland. From the proximity of the way oversands, it has been suggested that its existence was a reason for siting the Priory close at hand, where succour for distressed wayfarers would be readily available. Although only conjectural, the theory is of interest, but cannot be developed now.

"The Valor of 1535 returned the revenues of Conishead Priory as £97, but when, as one of the smaller religious houses, it was dissolved in the following year, the valuation was revised to £161. 5s. 9d. At that time only eight canons with forty-seven servants were in residence. Timber, lead, and other materials including the bells, was then sold for £333. 6s. 3½d. It is believed that one bell is at Colton church, one at Urswick, and two at Aldingham.

"The canons had not endowed a vicarage at Ulverston, and in consequence, when the king passed over the church to the town it was, for a time, a heavy liability, the building being in a bad state and in need of considerable repair. By 1540 much of the Priory had been dismantled, and stones from the church were carted to Ulverston to aid the restoration there — the yellow sandstone blocks in the tower of Ulverston church are identified as part of the Conishead material.

"The holders and descent of the Conishead Priory estate forms too long a story to be related now, but briefly, in 1548 William Sandes, bailiff of the Liberty of Furness, obtained the site from the Crown, from whom it continued in the reign of Elizabeth through marriage to the Doddings until 1683, and afterwards to

the Braddylls. Thomas Braddyll owned the property in the 18th century but dying unmarried, left all his estates to his cousin Wilson Gale, who took the name and arms of Braddyll in 1776, and by marriage increased his estates, further added to on the death of his father, when he owned a territory described as 'almost princely'. He was Groom of the Bedchamber to George III, a Colonel of the Lancashire Militia, and M.P. for Carlisle and Lancaster.

"On his death in 1818 he was succeeded by his son, Thomas Richmond Gale Braddyll, the last of his line to live at Conishead. He was a Colonel in the Coldstream Guards and a friend of royalty; William IV as Duke of Clarence acted as godfather to his only son. George IV as Prince of Wales, Frederick Duke of York, and Queen Adelaide all stayed with the Braddylls at Conishead.

"At some date apparently unrecorded, a mansion had been built on the site, described by West, who called the place the 'Paradise of Furness', comparing it with Mount Edgumbe, Plymouth, and in 1777 the local architect, Hird of Cartmel, made some alterations, at which time some portions of the church were said to be still visible. An engraving in Briggs's *Lonsdale Magazine* shows the old mansion as it was about 1820 shortly before Col. Braddyll demolished it, and rebuilt Conishead Priory in its present form, under the superintendence of the noted architect Wyatt. This work took fifteen years to complete and cost the then enormous sum of about £140,000. A special feature is the painted glass windows over the principal entrance bearing life-size figures of Edward II, St Augustine, William de Lancaster and his wife. On either side are the shields of the benefactors to the Priory. Full details were published by our late member, Mr Harper Gaythorpe, in *Proc. Barrow Naturalists' Field Club*, Vol. XVII.

"Unfortunately, Col. Braddyll indulged in unwise speculation, and had become financially embarrassed soon after his new mansion had been completed, the cost of which no doubt increased his difficulties. It is ironic to learn that had he been able to carry on for a few more years, the iron-ore existing beneath some of the family estates would have recouped all his losses and much more. As it was, most of his possessions were lost, and Conishead with its contents, came into the market, *Soulby's Ulverston Advertiser* during 1850 containing a number of interesting advertisements and accounts of the sales.

"The property remained unsold until 1854 when Henry Askew purchased it, continuing here until 1878, when he disposed of the mansion and much of the land to a Scots syndicate, who used it as a Hydropathic until 1925, when it was sold again to Dr John Wishart and associates, who proposed to form it into an ideal holiday resort, but the scheme failing to achieve success, the Durham Miners' Welfare Committee took over in 1929 for use as a Convalescent Home. Thus, after many centuries, and

in perhaps a somewhat different manner, Conishead Priory reverted to its original purpose of caring for the sick.

"In conclusion, I should mention very briefly, one or two further points. Dr Wishart, having antiquarian tastes, undertook certain excavations to trace the foundations known to exist beneath the south lawn and as a result much knowledge was gained regarding the church. Our late member Mr P. V. Kelly took a share in the work and published a full account in CW2 xxx. It is interesting to note that the conventual buildings at Conishead were, like the later cloisters at Cartmel Priory, on the north side.

"Finally, to clear up any misapprehensions which may exist on the part of those who have heard of it — although it can hardly be claimed as a true item of local history — mention should be made of the Hermitage. Whether an ancient hermitage existed is not known but seems doubtful, and the first mention of Hermitage Hill seems to have been in 1843. Full and not unamusing information is given by the late J. F. Curwen in CW2 iii, wherein it is recorded that in 1820 Col. Braddyll (surely a man of curious tastes) built or restored a small building on the hill and there maintained, for twenty years, an old man who never had his hair or nails cut during that period. He was regarded by the Colonel as a kind of show, and often exhibited as such. What happened in the end is not recorded, but for what it is worth a tradition of this countryside has it that the hermit died, and no successor being prepared to undertake the appointment under Colonel Braddyll's conditions, the post remained unfilled during the last years."

Mr Hobbs was also the speaker at ALDINGHAM MOTTE and GRANGE, to which we next went. He said:

"Our Society has paid five previous visits to the Aldingham earthworks and the information given at various times has altered with the increase of knowledge. No new discoveries have been recorded however, since the late Mr P. V. Kelly gave an account in 1923, and Mr John Dickinson in 1938.

"In or about 1107 Henry I granted land lying in and around Aldingham to a member of the le Fleming family. The first holder probably was William le Fleming, but his son Michael is better known as from him the manor received its name, Muchland — Michael's land. The grant consisted of a coastal strip about five or six miles long, extending inland for upwards of two miles, including that part of Urswick lying near the tarn, correctly known as Much — Michael's — Urswick. The grant was subject to a rental of £10 yearly, but on the occasion of the centenary of Furness Abbey in 1227, Henry III transferred the crown rights to the Abbot, thus reducing the Lords of Muchland to the position of vassals, the rent and homage now having to be paid to the Abbey.

"Through the female side the manor eventually descended to

the Cancefields and then the Haringtons, and in 1340, during the reign of Edward III, Sir John Harington obtained the royal licence to empark certain wastes in Muchland, afterwards known either by their situation — Gleaston Park, Scales Park, etc. — or by the purposes for which they were presumably used — Sheep Park and Colt Park. The farm below us is known as Colt Park Farm and the house is modern, bearing the date 1830, but there thus has been a Colt Park here since the middle of the 14th century.

"In 1464 Cecily Bonville, then the holder of the manor, was espoused, at the age of four years, to Thomas Grey, Marquess of Dorset, the Abbot of Furness having exercised his claim to her guardianship, as overlord. Thomas Grey died in 1495, and from a case recorded in the Court Rolls of the Duchy of Lancaster, we learn that the Abbot was in possession of Colt Park in 1512, which Henry, Earl of Wiltshire and Cecily his wife held of him, apparently as tenants. In 1554, the third Marquess of Dorset and Duke of Suffolk, the father of Lady Jane Grey, to whom Muchland had descended, was executed in connection with Wyatt's rebellion, shortly after his daughter had been beheaded, and the manor was forfeited to the crown. Much of the area still remains crown land.

"Thus, even this quiet and remote countryside has had its connection with some of the tragic figures of national history."

"Turning to the series of earthworks, the most prominent feature is the large artificial mound shaped like a truncated cone, raised 15 ft., above the original surface of the ground, the material for which was obtained from an encircling ditch 10 ft. deep, giving a total height of 25 ft. The extreme diameter of the ditch is 210 ft., and that of the flat top of the mound 100 ft. The mound stands upon the most prominent headland on this side of Morecambe Bay and is now on the edge of a cliff 60 ft. high, the encroaching sea having removed that side of the ditch and some portion of the mound. A comparison of measurements published by Dr William Close of Dalton in 1802 with those taken in 1889 shows that 20 to 30 ft. were lost in that period, but no recent survey appears to have been made.

"To the north of the mound may be traced a line of earthworks which must have been continued to enclose a fairly level area, but farming operations have obliterated much of the evidence and the extent and form of these outer works cannot be determined.

"Still further north appear remains of another ditch with a passage across it, from which a low artificial bank runs parallel to the cliff top, past the present farm, which it has been suggested was also stockaded to guard the conjectured landing place. This is not marked on the plan, however, as H. S. Cowper in *VCH Lancashire* doubted if these earthworks are ancient. It is conjectured that much of the low ground beneath the hill was swampy and impassable in medieval times.

“A number of theories have been proposed regarding these earthworks. West, in his *Antiquities of Furness* (1774) suggested that the mound was a Roman signal-station from which messages might be transmitted to Lancaster, but Dr Close in the added material published with his edition of the *Antiquities* was already doubtful of West’s Roman theories and stated that the intention and antiquity of the works were uncertain, an opinion repeated by C. M. Jopling in 1846 in a letter communicated to the Society of Antiquaries of London, dealing with Furness remains ‘ascribed to the Druids’.

“He wrote: ‘The Moat or Moot-hill is a mound of earth nearly 30 ft. in height, raised upon the edge of a steep declivity to the shores of the bay of Morecambe. Of its first intent, or subsequent use, little can be gathered; but from the name it seems very possible that it was converted by the Saxon lord, in after years, into his moot-hill.’ His accompanying illustration of the mound is published in CW1 ix.

“Although the beach has altered, the bay beyond the farm is known as Vikings’ Bay, and in the 19th century was supposed to be the landing place of a body of Northmen who settled here, it being ingeniously suggested that the place-name was, correctly, *ALTHINGHAM*. The Thing was a Norse meeting for council and law-making, the Althing the most important meeting of a district, hence the *ham* or settlement near the mound on which was held the Althing.

“As place-name study became more scientific it was realised that *ALDINGHAM* was a ‘middle *ing*’ Anglian name, the settlement of the descendants of one *ALDA*. From this it was widely held that Aldingham was the landing place of the Angles in Furness who established themselves here and nearby, and that the mound was their fortified home and meeting place of the Moot. This was the explanation of Chancellor Ferguson when the Society visited the site in 1887.

“But for over 40 years now modern antiquaries have agreed that the Aldingham mound is an example of the Norman Motte and Bailey, the forerunner and embryo of the Norman baronial castle, and the first, early 12th century home of the le Flemings.

“The Norman conquerors, on taking up the lands granted to them, needed some erection which could be thrown up quickly yet be a formidable defence against a hostile countryside. The bailey or courtyard was a stockaded enclosure at the foot of the mound, containing shelters for retainers, horses, and workshops, while the motte itself would be stockaded also and surmounted by a strong wooden blockhouse, in which lived the lord and his family. Here, on the highest point of the coast, they would be capable of withstanding all local assault but that of fire.

“While it seems unlikely, we cannot say that it is impossible that the mound stands upon the site of some still older earthwork. At present we have no evidence suggesting a Roman

occupation of Furness, but our much loved member, the late Miss Mary Fair, always hoped that some would turn up, and in discussion with me suggested that this might prove a hopeful site, pointing out that the mound in shape is similar to a Roman barrow or burial place. But as she had a distinct twinkle in her eye, I was never quite sure how serious she was, and as it is accepted that the mound is a Norman motte, the shape seems merely coincidental.

"The matter can only be settled, if it can be settled at all, by excavation, which has never been properly attempted. The only work was a one-day effort directed by Col. Braddyll well over a century ago, which Chancellor Ferguson charitably described as unsatisfactory. An account of it is published in CWI ix. Burnt bones were found, and the place therefore claimed to be one of sepulchre. But as the excavation failed to reach the original level of the ground, where any ancient interment must be, an interment, *if any*, near the top of the mound, must have been of later date. Thus, *if* Aldingham Moat Hill has any secrets, they have still to be revealed."

"The remainder of the site can be best described from a point lower down the hill, where we can see a small moated island, an area about 90 sq. ft., with a slightly elevated area of about 50 sq. ft., in the middle. The ground slopes in every direction towards the moat, formerly 30 ft. wide at the top, 20 ft. at the bottom, and 6 ft. in depth (but now much silted), which surrounded the island on three sides, the west side being enclosed by boggy ground. By tradition, the moat was cut through a spring, which seems possible enough, as it never appears to lack some supply of water. This, later in date than the other works, is known as the Grange, or Hall, and in the 17th century the estate was known as Aldingham Hall farm.

"Life in the motte blockhouse, while safe, can hardly have been one of comfort and ease, and when the natives became accustomed to the rule of the le Flemings, the need for residence in it would become less. A move, at some date it is impossible to assign, could then be made to a more commodious dwelling which, if less strong, was still defensible and far more comfortable.

"As at the motte, no trace remains of fortifications or buildings. The structure would still be of wood, consisting of one large apartment — the hall — common to all, with a few small apartments for the lord and his lady.

"Little is recorded of the history of the occupants of the sites of the first two homes of the Lords of Muchland. Substantial coast erosion is known to have occurred in the past thousand years, and there is a strong tradition that a village of Aldingham once existed between the church and this point, but that at some date in post-Conquest times it was washed away, and the threat from the sea caused the abandonment of this site.

"However that may be, in the first half of the 14th century a

move was made to Gleaston, where a new home was erected, and Aldingham was deserted thereafter."

Miss Clare Fell was the speaker at HOLME BANK SETTLEMENT, URSWICK, which she said was characteristic of a series of small farms, many of them originating in the late pre-Roman Iron Age, others occupied during the Roman period and continuing in use in the early centuries of the Dark Ages. An enclosing wall — more often to keep cattle in than men out; an entrance, or sometimes two; the area within divided into yards or pens for stock and also containing the foundations of one, or more huts, usually of circular form. Here at Holme Bank the enclosing wall is somewhat angular in outline, there is a single entrance on the east side and on the west a natural outcrop of limestone delimits the area enclosed, which measures approximately 225 ft. north to south and 150 ft. east to west. The ditch outside the eastern wall is more formidable than usual at these sites, and there are the remains of at least one circular hut towards the south end and a stock-pen at the north. Beyond the limestone outcrop at the north-west are traces of an additional enclosing bank.

A plan of the site was published by the late H. S. Cowper in *Archaeologia* liii (pp. 7-8, Fig. 2). It is scheduled as an ancient monument, and, apart from some unpublished digging done in the hut-circle in 1927/8 by the North Lonsdale Field Club, nothing is known of the site. It lies in close proximity to several others of similar type in this limestone area of Furness — Stone Close, Stainton, on the west, now blown away by the Devonshire Quarry but yielding evidence of occupation from Neolithic to Early Iron Age times (CW2 xii 277-284); Urswick Stone Walls, partly excavated by W. G. Collingwood (CW2 vii 72-86) and rather shakily dated by Mr Reginald Smith of the British Museum to 1st or 2nd century B.C.; Appleby Slack, Birkrigg, to the north-east (*Archaeologia* liii and CW2 xxxvi 150-151) and the isolated hill-top of Skelmore Heads, Urswick, to the north of this site. Skelmore Heads, like Stone Close, has yielded evidence of occupation from Neolithic times throughout the pre-historic period. Recent work there by Mr T. G. E. Powell of Liverpool University, shortly to be published in *Transactions*, has shown that a palisade enclosed the hill-top before the more formidable rock-cut ditch on the northern slope turned it into a small hill-fort. No dating evidence was found, but probably the final phase was contemporary with the larger hill-fort at Warton Crag, near Carnforth, at the other side of Morecambe Bay, from which a sword pommel and hilt of 1st century A.D. has been

recovered (CW₂ xxxvii 67-71; *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.* xvi 1-28).

In the north of our area work by Mr Brian Blake and Miss Hodgson on native settlements has been reported in CW₂ lix 1-14, where it was shown that a homestead of Early Iron Age type at Wolsty Hall, near Maryport, preceded a farm dating from the 2nd century A.D. In Northumberland, Mr G. Jobey has recently published work on a series of rectangular enclosures with circular huts and on an oval enclosure at Huckhoe (AA₄ xxxviii 1-38 and xxxvii 217-278). The angular outline of Holme Bank may bring this settlement into line with their Northumbrian counterparts of rectangular form which seem to have flourished in the 2nd century A.D., primarily engaged in stock-rearing rather than in a grain growing economy.

After a picnic lunch at Holme Bank we went to PENNINGTON CHURCH, where the vicar, the Rev. J. W. Blair, described the building. From Pennington we went to GRAYTHWAITE HALL, where our member, Col. G. O. Sandys, and his wife received us. Col. Sandys acted as guide to the Hall and its treasurers, and members were entertained to tea by the Colonel's son, Major Sandys and Mrs. Sandys, who were thanked by the President.

In the evening the annual General Meeting was held in the Grange Hotel, with the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President said that the Society had had a successful year. He spoke of the urgent necessity of providing indexes to the Old Series of *Transactions* and appealed for members to volunteer to assist in this work.

The resignation of Mr Roger Fulford as a member of Council was received, and in view of his valuable work for the Society, on the proposition of the President, seconded by Miss Hodgson, he was unanimously elected a vice-president. On the proposition of the President, Miss Hodgson seconding, Lady Henley was elected an honorary member to mark her 50 years' membership of the Society. The Hon. Treasurer submitted the accounts for 1960/61, which were accepted, subject to audit.

It was resolved that a message of sympathy in his illness be sent to Professor Birley. It was announced that it was hoped that his book, *Research on Hadrian's Wall*, would be published towards the end of the year.

Friday, 1 September

For the second day of the meeting we were again favoured with glorious weather. Our first call after leaving Grange was at HEYSHAM, where the Rev. J. C. Dickinson was the speaker

at the church. He also spoke on the rock tombs in the churchyard and on St Patrick's Chapel, adding that a theory had recently been advanced by a Belgian scholar that St Patrick's birthplace was Ravenglass.

At LANCASTER PRIORY CHURCH Professor Ian Richmond was waiting to receive us, and he described the excavations carried out at the Roman site. Members enjoyed a picnic lunch in sunshine in the churchyard and afterwards many took advantage to visit the Priory Church before a conducted tour of the Castle by the Court Keeper, Mr. J. T. Smith.

The last visit of the day was to COCKERSAND ABBEY, where the Rev. J. C. Dickinson described the scanty remains.

III. SPRING MEETING, 1962

The Spring meeting was held in Kendal Town Hall, on the afternoon of Saturday, 7 April 1961. Council met earlier in the day. The chair was taken by the President, Mr C. Roy Hudleston, and 41 members were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and 19 candidates for membership were elected. The President spoke of the heavy losses the Society had suffered by the deaths of Dr. J. E. Spence, Mr T. Gray, Major R. E. Porter, Bishop Williams and others. (See In Memoriam.)

The President announced with regret that, owing to ill health, Major Scott-Little had been obliged to resign the post of Excursions Secretary. Mr Joseph Hughes, of Carlisle, had been invited to take over the duties and had kindly agreed to allow his name to be submitted for election at the annual General Meeting in September. Mr Hughes outlined the programme for the July meeting to be held in the Millom and Gosforth area.

A donation of £20 to the Society's funds from Mr G. S. H. L. Washington, F.S.A., was gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr R. G. Plint, who said that the Society's finances were in a satisfactory state.

The following papers were communicated: "A food vessel from Springfield, Ainstable" by Miss Clare Fell and Mr Robert Hogg (Art. II, above); "Figured samian from Birdoswald" by Mr A. P. Detsicas (Art. III, above); "Moricambe in Roman times and Roman sites on the Cumberland coast" by Mr R. L. Bellhouse (Art. IV, above); "Roman pottery from Brough-under-Stainmore" by Mr W. G. Simpson (Art V, above); "Strathclyde and Cumbria" by Mr D. P. Kirby (Art. VI, above); "The parentage of William de Lancaster, Lord of Kendal" by Mr G. Washington (Art. VII, above); "The Border heritage, 1066-

1292" by Mr Washington (Art. VIII, above); "The Deeds of Burblethwaite Hall, 1561-1828" by Professor G. P. Jones (Art. XI, above); "The decline of the Yeomanry in the Lake counties" by Professor Jones (Art. XII, above); "An American in Westmorland" by Miss Jane Ewbank (Art. XVII, above).

The President announced that the next volume to be printed in the Parish Register section would be baptisms and burials of St James's, Whitehaven, which Mr H. B. Stout had transcribed. Mr Stout had also copied all the inscriptions in St James's Church and churchyard, and a volume containing these would be issued in the extra series.

Mr J. Cherry exhibited a number of fine flints found by him on the Drigg and Eskmeals sites, and Mr H. Clegg some pottery sherds thrown out by moles on a site approximately two miles west of Whittington, Lancashire. Mr Hogg had dated these to the mid 13th century.