

MILLOM AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AGM: 28th November 2025

WELCOME!

- Present
- Apologies

2024 AGM MINUTES

- Hand out copies of last year's minutes
- Are they accepted as a true and accurate record

OBJECTIVES

- To promote and encourage interest in and research into the local history of Millom and its surrounding areas.
- To arrange events and activities which will cater for the above, including lectures, outings and exhibitions.
- To acquire funding to commission relevant geophysical surveys and archaeological digs within Millom and its surrounding areas.

FACEBOOK

- 1,655 members of Facebook – 307 more than last year
- Several posts each week, sharing activities, posts from members and publicising other History Group events throughout the year

WEBSITE: Dec 2024-Oct 2025

- Unique visitors: 2,286
- No of visits: 2,804
- Hits: 34,260
- Pages: 4,880
- Have removed groups as the Society no longer runs any groups
- Have added new section: Millom Footprints which includes access to Duane Farren's impressive footprint photograph archive (a major task)
- Medieval section of Millom Through Time added
- Two new sections in Projects: Father John Huddleston; The Huddlestons and Cotherstone; plus the Sykes Project and Millom Names Project updated.

PUBLICITY

- CUMBRIA LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION NEWSLETTER: Winter 2024; Summer 2025; Winter 2025
- LOCAL NEWS MEDIA (The Mail):
 - [BBC series Digging for Britain covers Bronze Age axe heads | Times and Star](#) 22 December 2024
 - Cumbria Life: [BBC's Digging for Britain to feature Millom in January 2025 | Great British Life](#) 31 December 2024
 - [BBC's Digging for Britain features Millom's 'very rare' finds | The Mail](#) 9 January 2025
 - [Cumbrian historians worried by nuclear waste dump plans | The Mail](#) 22 February 2025
 - ['Millom's No.1 historian', Duane Farren, passes away age 59 | The Mail](#) 13 March 2025
 - [Millom: Art exhibition set to bring town's industrial past to life | The Mail](#) 29 May 2025
 - [Millom: Descendant of Millom Lords returns to trace family legacy | News and Star](#) 6 August 2025
 - [VJ Day: Rare WWII India photos to be shown in Millom | The Mail](#) 12 August 2025
 - [Millom and District Local History Society to hold AGM | The Mail](#) 11 November 2025
 - [New publication focuses on Millom's prehistoric footprints | The Mail](#) 13 November 2025
- CWAAS: Summer 2025: Sykes Update and David Bates;
- BBC2: Digging for Britain

EVENTS

- Digging for Britain, Millom Baptist Church, 14 January 2025
- David Bates exhibition and talk, Holy Trinity Church, 14 June 2025
- Medieval Millom, Holy Trinity Church, 16th August 2025
- Tribute to Duane, Holy Trinity Church, 27th September 2025
- Dorian Players, Holy Trinity Church, 1st November 2025 - CANCELLED
DUE TO ILL HEALTH
- AGM Father John Hudleston

GROUPS

- After having run several groups at Millom Library for 18 months, due to a disagreement with a member, the Chair of the Society decided to hand the History Group over to its members. It is now run by Kathryn Miller. The group has continued to meet (successfully) but have recently changed venues and now meet at Millom Heritage and Arts Centre.
- The same group are now organising regular events at the Pensioner's Hall in Millom.
- Unfortunately, because they are called Millom History Group many people are confusing them with the History Society and vice versa.

PROJECTS

- The **Sykes Project** has been completed with the exception of some documents held at Carlisle Library which is currently closed. An update on the project was included in CWAAS News Bulletin.
- The **Heritage Triangle Project** has been abandoned as the CiC were unable to acquire funding to buy the Old School from the Diocese (£150,000) and to renovate it, which would have cost around another £250,000. We really tried to save the school for Millom and to help ensure the future of Holy Trinity Church but after three years we gave up.
- **Millom Castle and Holy Trinity Church Archaeology Project** was completed when the dig appeared on Digging for Britain. Unfortunately, two farmers did not give us written permission (we thought we had verbal permission) to dig investigative sites identified in the first two stages of the project. Perhaps with a change of heart this project can be completed and who knows what we might find. But we were happy with Millom appearing on Digging for Britain.
- **Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil Wars** has now been split into two books and further research is needed.

PROJECTS CONTINUED

- The **Millom Names Project** came out of the archaeology project; permission was gained from the National Archives, Cumbria Archives, and the Lowther Estates to photograph extracts from the Manorial Records and place these on our website: it seems highly likely about a third of families who live in Millom can now trace their heritage back around 500 years.
- In response to feedback from Professor Angus Winchester, the chapters on the Huddlestons and Cotherstone and Father John Huddleston have now been taken out of the book and placed on the website.
- Finally, two new Projects have arisen: a new book, **Medieval Millom**, much of which has already been written and **The Prehistoric Footprints of Millom**, a booklet on the incredible photographic archive of the human and animal footprints Duane Farren took over eight years of monitoring.
- Two memory sticks full of local photos and footprint photos: now available on website.
- Dr Alison Burns has agreed to read the draft before print:early next year.

MEMBERSHIP

- In order for locals to support the work of the History Society, the Committee agreed to bring back a membership scheme but with a token membership fee of £1.
- We would like you to ratify that decision please. ALL IN FAVOUR. Anyone against?
- To date we have 17 members but that is because we have not yet promoted the scheme if you have not joined, please complete a membership form and give the treasurer £1.
- Membership is purely a statement of support for the Society
- But it is only members who can vote at an AGM.

EVALUATION: 2024-25 OBJECTIVES

- Complete and publish: Josh Carr's Best Finds/Digging for Millom: unable to complete as not acquire right kind of photographs, nor did Prof Alice Roberts get back to us with a comment for the book.
- Continue exploration of finds: completed as much as possible – unfortunately not able to find more information about the wonderful little badge (boar's head)
- Complete and publish: Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil Wars: draft submitted to Professor Angus Winchester who suggested to split the book into two – Medieval Millom and Millom Castle, the Huddlestons and the English Civil Wars. This requires further research which has yet to be completed.
- Organise series of events to uncover and celebrate history of Millom: five events organised.

ACCOUNTS: TREASURER'S REPORT

CHAIR'S REPORT

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Other Members

THANK YOU

- Committee members
- Volunteers
- Funders – CGP
- Greenlane Archaeology
- Sharon Farren
- Geoff and Margaret Edmondson, church wardens, Holy Trinity Church
- Whitehaven, Carlisle and Barrow Archives

LOOKING FORWARD

- Complete and publish Millom Prehistoric Footprints
- Complete and publish Millom Castle, the Hudlestons and the English Civil War
- Complete and publish Medieval Millom
- Continue to update facebook and the website
- Possibly small archaeological dig, if funding, specifically to see if we can find anything that predated Holy Trinity e.g. a monastery.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

DUANE'S TWINE

ASSESSMENT