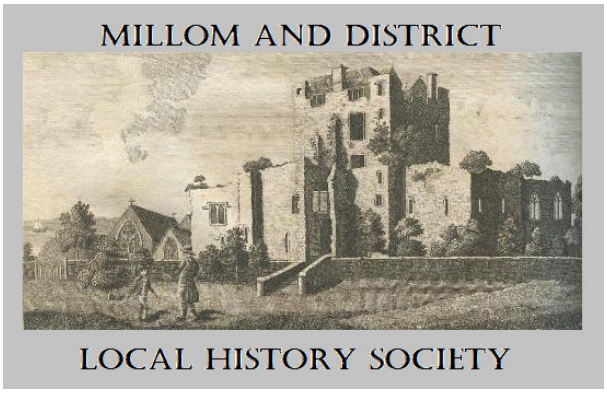


ANNUAL REPORT: 2025-2026

PUBLICITY

Website: Several new additions to the website in the News, Programme and Projects sections and a new Publications section added.

Facebook: We now have 1,958 members, an increase of 303 on last year. It remains an important platform to share both news and for members to interact with the Society.

Local news media:

5th March: Haverigg floods photos
https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/25905711.historic-1967-haverigg-flood-photos-released-online/

6th March: Duane's slides, especially of HMS Ajax

https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/25907776.photos-hms-ajax-dismantled-millom-pier/
1st October: footprints grant https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/26597176.millom-heritage-project-gets-850-grant-date-footprints/

11th June: metal detector is finds, carved Roman entaglio stone set in silver mount, Huddleston stamp, knights's spur and hundreds of lead shot.
https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/26183674.millom-metal-detectorist-unearths-roman-gem-papal-seal/

?17th July: Medieval talk
https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/25317619.talk-inspired-dig-explore-millioms-medieval-history/

29th July: Thomas James Diary

https://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/26418477.diary-offers-valuable-insight-development-millom/

We had short pieces published in the newsletters of CWAAS, and Cumbria Local History Federation.

We also had our events publicised in local newsletters, Out and About and Broughton's Parish Pump.

Further, the Kendall book was reviewed in the November Cumbria Life magazine and is due to be reviewed in the Battlefields Trust newsletter.

EVENTS

We held the following successful events:

28th February: launch of The Prehistoric Footprints of Millom.

29-31 May: Jim Billsborough exhibition

25 July: Medieval Music with the Dorian Players

10 October: Science Viking

And at the AGM on 21 November, a talk on the Furness Civil war book.

PROJECTS

Footprints: As well as publishing the Millom Footprints book, we set up a new project to continue monitoring the footprints. With a small grant from the CGP Trust we were able to commission Greenland Archaeology to train six volunteers in scientific ways to monitor the footprints should they reappear.

As part of the training, four core bores were taken by Dan and with a grant from CWAAS are being processed and any organic material found sent off to Professor Emeritus John Andrews at Colorado University Boulder, for radiocarbon dating. It is so exciting that we are working in collaboration with Colorado University, thanks to John. Hopefully we should get any results early in 2027. This will be very important as it will help to date Duane's footprints and any future ones we may find.

Kendall: the unpublished lecture, *Furness, and the Civil War between King and Parliament,* was discovered by the Chair whilst researching the English Civil Wars at Barrow Archive. Jan saw the importance of the lecture as little information about the subject had been published, so the Society decided to publish it. It has been well

received and further talks are planned in the new year including at Dalton Castle and Dalton History society.

The History Society were contacted by the descendant of Cornish miner Thomas James who had left a diary. This was posted to the Society and with permission from the doner, was digitised and put on our website. It has since been donated to the archives at Whitehaven. A talk will be given about it in the new year at the Tin Chapel in Millom.

After reading about PhD student Charlotte Bell conducting research using a new photographic technique on Roman headstones, the Chair contacted her and asked her to use the technique on the ANTEF stone found during restoration of Holy Trinity church in 1930. The Society paid Charlotte's travel expenses and she conducted the experiments and produced a report. As a result, she proposed an alternative interpretation for the stone being linked to the early Christian church. We are hoping Charlotte will be able to come and give a talk in the new year. The Society have applied for funding for a small dig next year to see if we can find any evidence of a pre-Conquest building on the site of Holy Trinity Church. This will happen next year should we acquire funding and we hope Charlotte will be able to give a talk about her research and her interpretation of the ANTEF stone.

TALKS GIVEN ELSEWHERE

The Chair gave a very well received talk at Askam and Ireleth History Group about the Kendall book - most of the audience were unaware about the various incidents in Furness (apart from a bit of information about the skirmish at Lindal Cote).

Another talk about Millom Castle, the Huddleston and the English Civil Wars was given to the Duddon Valley Local History group. In Broughton.

EVALUATION

We were rather ambitious to think we might be able to publish three books this year; in the event we did publish Millom's Prehistoric Footprints, dedicated to Duane Farren. This was well received by Millom folk and particularly appreciated by Duane's family.

We did, however, have a very successful year responding to exciting but unplanned events as already described, e.g. publishing the Kendall Civil War in Furness book, digitising Duane's slides and the Thomas James' Diary. We were also successful with the CWAAS funding bid to progress the Footprints project and managed to submit a further funding bid to CWAAS in October for the small dig.

So with all of that, plus the publicity achieved, we have, in fact, had a hugely successful year. But one very sad occasion: one of our most active volunteers, Jonathan Brind, died. In response we helped his family to organise a memorial service at Holy Trinity church for him and our forthcoming book, *Millom Castle, the Huddleston and the English Civil Wars* will be dedicated to him.

We would like to thank our volunteers and members for continued support as well as our funders, CWAAS and the CGP Trust, as well as Greenland Archaeology, Charles Harcourt for donating his ancestor's diary and Stuart Kendall for giving us permission to publish his ancestor's book.

LOOKING FORWARD

1. We are excited to be working with Emeritus Professor Andrews and Colorado University, Boulder, and should hear about the radiocarbon dating for the Footprints Project possibly by the end of 2026 or early in the new year and the volunteers will continue to monitor for more footprints.
2. We are planning an event at the at Tin Chapel to show Duane's slides and share some research about the James's diary.
3. If the funding bid is successful we will be organising a small dig in the Spring.
4. And, at last, we are hoping to launch *Millom Castle, the Huddleston and the English Civil Wars* book
5. We also look forward to giving further talks about the Civil War in Furness book.

So, another exciting year to look forward to.

ACCOUNTS