

The AGM will be held on Monday 11 April followed by a Dinner, at Clapham Village Hall.

Please do come, to the AGM (starting at 7.30) and/or the Dinner which will start at approximately 8.15.

Your dinner needs to be booked by 7 April. Please contact David Gibson (61942 or cdgibson@talktalk.net). The cost is £15. Money may be needed for a drink (glass of wine or fruit juice) and for a tip.

The AGM: further to the altering of our Constitution last year, we need to rotate our officers. Nominations are made but it is not too late to take an interest in this and to join the Committee. We are very glad to have representatives from each village in the Ancient Ewecross Wapentake as well as those over the border into Lancashire if necessary!

Before turning to coming events, tribute must be paid to two long standing members of the Committee. (SM)

Sadly, **Geoff Brown** died during this winter. Geoff had farmed at Westhouse and he continued to live there after his retirement. He and his wife were long-standing members of the Society. At the 1985 AGM (which we used to have in December) members had been invited to bring along and speak about objects and I was fascinated to see the selection that Geoff had produced, particularly documents relating to his family and his land. In 1999 he led a walk round Thornton and Westhouse, and the following year, he gave a talk on that area. He spoke on the history of St Oswald's Church (with which he was closely connected), the Redmayne and Foxcroft families, the Burrows family and the manufacture of oil cloth which had taken place on the site of his family's Westhouse farm. Added to this he pointed out the Conan Doyle/ Sherlock Holmes connection with that area!

John Wilson is very much with us! John is the longest-standing member of the Ewecross Historical Society. The Society was founded in 1968 and John (probably a student at this time) was one of the two junior members. Down from Cambridge and grounded in the area, John was a member of the Committee by 1977 and its Chairman from 1982 until time present – 29 years!

John, with his passion for history, especially local history, has brought a wealth of experience to the Society, both on the ground and from documentation. He has a prodigious and accurate memory with, so far, a penchant for quick retrieval! He is Chair of the Lancashire Local History Federation and is on the Committee of the Friends of the Lancashire Archives. Attending a huge number of day-schools, he is well-connected to the great and the good of the Local History World of Professionals, thus, through him we have no shortage of suggestions for good speakers.

As it is healthy for a Society to welcome all expertise, we have agreed to an updated constitution and to the concept of change and John has offered to stand down, as each officer will do over the coming years. We're sorry about you not getting your 30 years in just now, John, but hope that you will make up the extra year, and another few, when you are next in the hot seat. And that, in the meantime, you will stay on the Committee.

Summer outings

Contact number: 015242 61382 or saramason@btinternet.com with names and contact details for the outings, please.

Sunday 15 May: Browsholme Hall

cost £7

Meeting at 1.45 for 2pm start. This will be a led walk around a very interesting house owned for 14 generations by the Parker family, park-keepers of the Forest of Bowland since 1507. The cost will be hopefully less if we achieve the numbers needed (20-25) Please do come as it will be a very enjoyable afternoon out. Refreshments.

More can be found, together with directions, on the Browsholme website:

www.browsholme.com/browsholme_hall.php

Saturday 16 July with Tom Clare:

Long Meg (OS NY570372) and Mayburgh (OS NY519284)

cost £5

Meet at Little Salkeld at 11am either in the village or at the Water Mill (the Mill is open from 10.30-5pm and is also open for lunches and teas) or at the site of the circle where there is parking by 11.15am

Following Tom Clare's excellent talk this winter, we have planned a visit to the above sites of stone circles and standing stones. We will be 1.5 hours at Long Meg and 2 hours at Mayburgh.

Local walk

There is also a possibility of a local walk in August – details later. Please enquire or see the website. <http://www.tathamfells.me.uk/ewecross/index.htm>

Next year's programme:

Monday 26 Sept	Prof. Bill Shannon	Early depictions and descriptions of Hadrian's Wall.
Monday 31 Oct	John Dickinson	Misericords: Manchester and Lancaster compared.
Monday 28 Nov	Mrs Diana Matthews	Log boats to Edwardian Steamers in the Lake District
Monday 30th Jan 2012	Stephen Counce	Business and Pleasure Combined: Hiring Fairs in the North-West, 1870-1939
Monday 27 Feb	Ms Rachel Newman	The Dark Ages
Monday 26 March	Mrs Margaret Dickinson	Anthony Hewitson (diarist)

This year, circulation of the Newsletter is electronic to those who have indicated they would like this