

# Cockermouth & District Civic Trust Newsletter

President: The Lord Egremont, Chairman: Phil Campbell  
Secretary: John Dent, Treasurer: Elizabeth Silman  
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When we issued the January newsletter, we were unable to confirm the topics for the March and April lectures, so this is an additional update. Both of these lectures will be at the Friends Meeting House.

## **Covid Precautions**

For both lectures, we will continue with the precautions that we implemented last year for the November lecture at the Friends Meeting House. These are:

- For everybody's benefit, could you please wear a face mask, at least on entry and exit and moving around the room. (unless exempt).
- You will be asked to sign in so that we will have a record of who attended.
- We will arrange the furniture to allow socially distanced seating and will have at least one window open for ventilation.
- We will not be providing refreshments at the end of the meeting.

## **Lecture Meeting, 7.30pm, Wednesday March 2nd**

'In search of the Border Reivers' by Peter Nicholson.

The Border Reiver is a figure unique in British history, a professional cattle-thief who left to posterity a legacy including defensive towers that became the towers of some of our local churches, including Brigham and Dearham, with book-a-bosom priests, cattle rustled to The Devils Beef Tub, and homes violated in the black of night when the Reiver demanded 'The Black Mail' - protection money.

The Reiver was a merciless racketeer and plunderer who was also his country's vanguard in time of war but with allegiance only to their clan; even when hired by one side, they would, in the middle of battle, change allegiance and capture and ransom the captains that hired them.

The Reiver was a murderous pursuer of feud who held little sacred and who vanished four centuries ago, leaving behind a blood-line which has included, among others, Presidents Nixon and Johnson, Sir Walter Scott, the footballers Bobby and Jack Charlton, Billy Graham, Robert Burns, Deborah Kerr, Thomas Carlyle, T S Eliot and the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong. Your surname may link you to those lawless families where you may be like the Border Reiver, "English at your leisure and Scottish at your will". We will search for pele towers, barmkins and battle sites and records written during 1550 – 1620.

## **Lecture Meeting, 7.30pm, Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>**

A speaker from Allerdale GDF Community Partnership will talk about the search for a potential site for a Geological Disposal Facility, (GDF), in West Cumbria. In particular, the Partnership are taking forward discussions with the community about whether Allerdale could be the right place to host a GDF, and whether a GDF would be right for Allerdale.

Nuclear Waste Services manages the delivery of the UK's first GDF and this involves working with communities to find a suitable site and a willing community to host the site. Radioactive waste must be managed safely for the long term and a GDF is recognised internationally as the safest long term solution. It involves putting the waste hundreds of metres underground.

## **Committee Meeting, Zoom, 7pm, Wednesday February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

All Civic Trust Members have the option to attend and observe one of our Committee Meetings. You will be able to fully participate in the discussions although not to formally vote. For those of you on Zoom, our Secretary John Dent will be sending you a special invite to participate in our February Committee Meeting. Simply respond to him and he will forward to you the joining instructions.

***Phil Campbell, Chairman.***