

Lazonby History Society

The History Society was formed in 1997 after villagers joined in two village walks, looking at buildings and the history of the village. There was sufficient interest to suggest the formation of a society to promote information gathering and sharing of the history of the village and surrounding area, covering all aspects of local history.

For more than twenty years the society has grown in membership and had a variety of interesting talks by speakers on wide-ranging topics. The society has also undertaken numerous research projects, including a Cumbria -wide oral history project in 2000. A survey of pre-war housing in the village promoted by John Moores University, Liverpool was undertaken by 19 villages in the Eden Valley including Lazonby (1999-2000)

Other projects included Eden River Crossings; Lazonby Bridge; Settle-Carlisle railway; Employment in the village 2010; Local families and buildings and others of very local interest. A village history leaflet was produced in 2011 and a booklet of oral history in 2017.

Recently, as older members were not able to attend and younger villagers not forthcoming, the membership has dwindled, although some speakers attracted bigger audiences of visitors. The present committee is down to three, including the secretary and treasurer/acting chairman, who have served since the society's formation. The Committee believe it is not possible to function effectively with such a small number and have found it impossible to recruit new committee members. With much regret, the decision was taken to close the society after the meeting in March 2020.

Sheila Fletcher and Valerie Halsall,
Acting Chairman
February 2020

Some local history-connected work will continue, with visits to the school and guided walks for villagers.

Information about any aspect of village history will be answered by Sheila Fletcher sheila@merciful.plus.com ; or telephone: 01768 898 804