



My experience as a volunteer on Digging for Millom



BY EDWARD FRANCE

Introduction

- ▶ I am Edward France. I'm 12 years old and I was a volunteer on Digging for Millom.



My way into volunteering on the dig

- Interest in local history
- Discovered the Millom & District History Society website
- Attended a talk at Millom Community Hub about the history society and the dig



MILLOM AND DISTRICT

Millom & District Local History Society

Background

The Society was formed at a public meeting held on 4th February 1972 at the Millom Centre, chaired by Mr Afonwy Davis, District Librarian.

The formation came about as a result of a series of five "Looking Back" lectures held at the Centre the year before. These lectures generated enough interest that 50 people attended the open meeting and formed the Society.

Original committee members included: Mr. Alfonwy Davis (voted Chair), Mr S.F. Killick (voted secretary), Mrs E. Hackett, Mr .E. Bryer, Mrs J.H. Smith, Mrs I. Troll, Miss C. Simpson, Mr W.E. Cowper Johnson. Mr.J.W. Ainsworth of Midland Bank Millom co-opted as Treasurer.

Ideas for lectures included: Millom Town, Millom Castle, Mills, Shipping, Furness Railway, Folk Lore, Place Names, Personal Names, Stone Circles, Land Use, Quarries and the tapping of memories of the older inhabitants. It was felt courses of lectures and visits to places of interest would appeal to all.

Over the years many talks have been given and visits to places of interest. Jane and Colin Micklethwaite were stalwarts for twelve years but ceased their involvement in 2019; we thank them for keeping the Society going for so long. There were a couple more successful events then along came covid.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- ABOUT
- NEWS
- PROGRAMME
- MILLOM THROUGH TIME
- PROJECTS
- GROUPS
- MEMBERSHIP

Day One

- I was lucky enough to be asked to make the first cut in Trench One
- I met loads of new people
- Learned about digging techniques and context sheets
- Biscuits!!



First Week



Cutting the grass!



First Week



Trench 2

First Week



Death Laser!



First Week



Finds

- ▶ Lots of Victorian and later pottery
- ▶ Animal bones
- ▶ Several bits of medieval pottery
- ▶ Kinder Egg!!!



Personal Finds



What did I learn?

- ▶ How to dig, trowel, mattock and use a metal detector.
- ▶ Sieving a spoil heap
- ▶ Layers
- ▶ Scale drawing & context sheets
- ▶ Death Laser!!!



Animals!

- ▶ The cows in the cow shed opposite to trenches one and two were constantly creating a noisy backdrop for the whole dig
- ▶ Another cow related topic is the electric fence testing in Trench Three
- ▶ Marmalade the site dog was keeping everyone in check!
- ▶ Lots of other canine visitors



Canine Visitors



Holy Trinity

- ▶ Bell Ringing! World Wars III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X etc etc...
- ▶ Personal Research



Weather

- ▶ Wind!!!
- ▶ Rain..
- ▶ Sun???



Digging for Britain!

► I was interviewed by them in Trench Seven!



People

- ▶ I met some very friendly and interesting people on the dig



Conclusion:

► Would I
volunteer again?

