

North Craven Heritage Trust

Summer Outing 2022: Westmorland Ho!

8 June 2022

This year's Summer Outing, the 19th I have organised, will focus on part of Westmorland with three venues in the itinerary, the first of which will be different from any of my previous Outings.

Meet for a 10.30 departure at the public car park by the toilets in the centre of Shap village, on the right-hand side of the A6 – you can't miss it!

We will drive in convoy 8km (5 miles) from Shap via Crosby Ravensworth to our first destination. En route, after the M6, look out for the roadside Thunder Stone (a huge Shap Granite erratic) and a stone circle in the field to the right at the first junction on the right at Castlehowe: it's embellished with a metal cattle feeder!).

Maulds Meaburn

This is a delightful and unspoiled village sitting either side of Lyvennet Beck with a broad green running the full length of the village. We will park up at the south end of the village, by the village hall and walk up one side of the beck and back down the other, on roads throughout. I know the village well and will interpret its various elements. I would encourage you to look at it either on Google Maps or Bing Aerial or the 1:25,000 OS map all of which portray its preserved medieval field systems and layout. On arrival, I will give you a photocopy of a map that interprets its earlier features. The walk is less than 2km (just over 1 mile) and is level.



Maulds Meaburn, looking north

On our way north, just out of the village, we will pass Meaburn Hall on the left – this was on the itinerary of my first Summer Outing in 2003. We are not stopping there this time. The hall was owned and occupied by the Lowther dynasty from 1602/07 till they upped sticks and moved to Lowther Castle in 1750, though I think it is still owned by them. At its core are the remains of a pele tower.

We then proceed another 8km to the village of Morland on Morland Beck.



St Lawrence's, Morland

It is a rather pretty little village with easy access from the road along part of the beck. The highlight is the Grade I-listed, red-sandstone-built parish church of St Lawrence which has the only pre-Norman tower in any church in Cumbria with access through a Saxon-style arch from the 12th-century nave. The aisles, transepts and chancel are Norman. Though restored in 1896 it has retained much of its historical fabric. We will have time in the church before lunch ...

Lunch

The Crown Inn is currently only open during the evenings but I will check again nearer the time. The Mill Yard Cafe serves light meals and eating there gives access to the gardens of the former vicarage, now Morland House. Otherwise it's a picnic lunch. After lunch we will drive just over 1km south to the tiny settlement of Newby with its collection of mainly 17th-century houses and a walled Quaker burial ground from the same era. We have been invited to the home of Philip and Amy Chapman which is ...

Newby Hall

This Grade II-listed former manor house, formerly a hotel, has been described (by CWAAS in 1956) as 'Probably the most perfect surviving example in the district of a non-fortified' house of the 17th century. We have been offered access within the house and gardens and refreshments at the end of the formal visit.



Newby Hall, north elevation

After which ...

The most direct route home is to turn left out of Newby Hall and follow the road that crosses the M6 and joins the A6 at Shapbeck Gate – follow the A6 southwards to join the motorway south of Shap.

Costs

Given that the 2020 and 2021 Outings were kiboshed by Covid, I have kept this outing simple in case the same happens. There will obviously be no charge in Morland; I hope you will drop something in the box in Morland church; and the Chapmans said they do not want to levy a fee but we agreed we will make a donation to a charity of their choice – if the Outing actually happens I will let you know how much to give me. (I have cash from what a few of you paid for the 2020 Outing.)

Note

Bookings close at the end of March – I must give the Chapmans plenty of advance warning if the Outing is not viable.

David Johnson

01729 822915, evenings only and no answerphone messages please.