

BROUGHAM HALL ANNUAL REPORT : DECEMBER 2010

SILVER JUBILEE The fate of Brougham Hall was sealed on 25th November 1985. On that day, the slow road to recovery commenced. If it weren't for Alistair Aynsough's splendid, fortnightly, illustrated "Hall News", it would be almost impossible to visualise the state of devastation that existed then. For those that weren't there, at the time, Brougham Hall, and what is now known as Brougham Hall Gardens, looked like a village on the Somme, or Ypres battle fields, at the cessation of hostilities, in November 1918. Not a building stood intact; there were 4,000 tons of rubbish and 200 dead trees. With wells and cellars all over the place, Brougham was a deadly playground for the youth of Penrith. The Local Authority had granted full planning consent and listed building consent for the demolition of the Hall to make way for 26 unlandscaped, speculative "council houses", but had done absolutely nothing to ensure site safety. Such was the municipal mindset in those enlightened times.

ANNIVERSARIES On 17th July, Hazel Walker celebrated 21 years of Country Furnishings. As such, she beats all Rona Newsome's records and is the first member of our community to come of age!! Jon Boston celebrated a decade with us, on 7th July and Cumbria Scouts moved to larger premises, in central Penrith, on the exact tenth anniversary of their arrival at Brougham.

GENERAL Fittingly, our Jubilee year has been the most adventurous yet. We now have a brand new website, thanks to Juno Leigh and Associates. Juno also had a hand in ensuring that the Tate Movie Project came to Brougham. Channel 4 made a half hour programme at Brougham entitled "*The Lakes on a Plate*". The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society (NADFAS) have made wonderful progress on cleaning our C17th Flemish screen. We obtained LEADER (European) funding to enable us to survey and draw the Lord Chancellor's Den to create one of the few modern site specific archives in the country. Full Planning Consent was granted on 4th November. On the very same day, we concluded a twinning arrangement with the Candili Craft Centre, on the Greek island of Euboea. The robbed out south-west corner of the Carriage House has been repaired and stabilised, thanks to the JF Eilbeck Chemist Charitable Trust and to Ian Lowes. Brougham was properly written up in the latest version of Sir Nikolas Pevsner's guide to Cumberland and Westmorland, compensating for its previous omission. Finally, the Trust, while turning in its best performance for eight years, passed the £1m milestone in cash receipts – while this was hardly sufficient to pay a hall porter at Lehman Brothers, it meant a great deal to us.

CONGRATULATIONS Go to the Hon. Charles Brougham, who married Nicola Moore, in the Palace of Westminster, on 6th March, proceeding thereafter to their reception, at the Institute of Directors, in a Brougham Carriage. Charles and Nikki last visited Brougham Hall on 1st May 2009.

RESTORATION While we fell well short of our declared objectives for 2010, Patrick McMannus and Piers Merry made a splendid job of repairing and stabilising the south-west corner of the Carriage House. We also obtained the necessary funding to procure full consent for the restoration of the Lord Chancellor's Den, as a site specific archive. Malcolm Cundy restored the double gates onto the south lawn. Dale Talentire, and his men, levelled the lawn with top soil, to facilitate future functions.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR 2011 Our aim of repairing and making safe the Armour Hall chimney breast and the south wall of the Pele Tower, in 2010, were not realised and will have to be carried over until next year.

Our most pressing obligation, however, is to capitalise on success, satisfy the conditions attaching to the LPA Consents, in respect of the Lord Chancellor's Den, - and, in particular, the provision of ten more compensatory car park spaces to the east of the footprint of the Mansion.

THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR Night – 31st December – 1st January. So ended the coldest December for 13 years. A clear night also revealed a "blue moon", the very rare 13th full moon in a calendar year.

11 th January	Malcolm Cundy, our longest serving (25 years) volunteer, had a successful operation on his right knee.
19 th – 21 st January	Dale Talentire, and his men, levelled the lawn with 20 tons of top soil as a base for future marquees and, as it turned out later, a 26 ton Tate Movie Project.
21 st January	Piers Merry started work on three new pinnacles for the Chapter House, at Westminster Abbey.
27 th January	NADFAS inspected the C17 th Flemish screen for the first time.

6 th February	Fusion hosted an evening of Rob Steel.
6 th February	Peter Brougham-Wyly died. See obituary.
11 th February	Visit by Nick Grimshaw, English Heritage's Historic Environment Officer.
13 th February	The Lib Dems (Peter Thornton) launched their Penrith & Border Election Campaign from Brougham Hall.
15 th February	Elaine Griffiths MBE, the saviour of Gorton Monastery, visited Brougham Hall.
15 th February	Three pinnacles left on their journey to Westminster Abbey.
6 th March	Fusion hosted an evening of music of Rory Connor.
9 th March	Philip Noel-Baker (Trustee) flew into Carlisle Airport, with "Capt". Kedros, to review progress.
13 th March	Fusion hosted an evening with Jilly Jarman and Sarah Wall.
15 th March	Weekly Choir Practice at Fusion It has been the coldest winter in England since 1978 – 79 and the coldest winter, in Scotland, since 1962-63.
26 th March	We had the visit of direct descendants of George Nelson, who was born at Brougham Hall Farm (obviously in an earlier building), in 1771, son of John Nelson.
1 st April	The BHCT secured 80% LEADER funding in respect of the cost of surveying and drawing the Lord Chancellor's Den.
3 rd April	Fusion dinner to the music of Sarah Morton and Jesse Reid.
4 th April	Our annual Easter Eggstravaganza, in aid of Eden Animal Rescue.
4 th April	James and Tessa Dow visited with their children and Mrs Storey (James and Tessa were married, at Brougham Hall, ten years ago).
9 th April	Abi Calland held a "Body Shop" party, in Fusion, with the proceeds going to the BHCT.
24 th /25 th April	John Turnbull, of Eden Rural Activities, held an inaugural archery session, for children, on the south lawn, something that he then maintained, at weekends, throughout the summer.
26 th April	Choir Practice at Fusion.
1 st May	Splendid Irish evening, at Fusion, with Maurice Dixon and Catherine Ashcroft.
1 st /2 nd May	Archery on south lawn.
6 th May	General Election. Rory Stewart OBE (Con) 24,071; Peter Thornton (Lib Dems) 12,830. Con majority 11,241 leading to a "Con-dem-nation".
14 th /16 th May	Visit by Charlie Terry (Trustee).
16 th May	Lib Dem Party at Brougham Hall in two tents.
19 th May	Darota Zebrowska, a post-graduate in International Politics and Economics, started a season of voluntary research, on the Feudal System, abolished by Henry Peter Brougham in the 1832 Reform Act.
19 th May	Coincidentally, Nick Clegg, the deputy Prime Minister, announces "the greatest raft of reforms since the 1832 Reform Act!"

19 th May	Smith, a “Most Haunted” medium, who featured at Brougham Hall, and whose children were murdered in Spain, yesterday, was extradited to Carlisle Crown Court on unrelated charges.
21 st May	Charles Starmer-Smith gave CycleActive a write-up in the Daily Telegraph, entitled “The Lycra Files”.
22 nd /23 rd May	Paul Churchill screeds the Carriage House and Pat McMannus starts dressing the Carriage House ashlar.
24 th May	Horrific Lakeland crash kills 3 teenagers + car driver, with 35 injured.
2 nd June	Flag at half-mast for the thirteen Cumbrians shot dead and eleven injured, by Derek Bird, in West Cumbria.
10 th June	Mark Powell, Channel 4 Director and Peter Sidwell, “celebrity chef”, visit Brougham Hall on a reccé for “ <i>The Lakes on a Plate</i> ”.
15 th June	First NADFAS workshop.
16 th June	Kendal Classic Cars visit.
17 th June	Solway History Society visit.
2 nd July	Double gate, on to south lawn, restored by Malcolm Cundy.
6 th July	Second NADFAS visit.
15 th July	Channel 4 filmed “ <i>The Lakes on a Plate</i> ” all day and evening in nothing much short of a tempest.
17 th July	Mr & Mrs Fuss and their daughter, Belinda, from the Australian branch of the Brougham family, visit Brougham Hall.
19 th July	15:30hrs Broughams’ new website went live.
29 th July/3 rd August	The Ancient Men, Morris Dancers from Oxford University, camped on the west terrace.
10 th August	150 children came to Brougham for mountain bike skills, organised by Adventure Capital and tutored by CycleActive.
15 th August	Best in Eden – Brougham Festival featuring <i>The Tate Movie Project</i> . 1,000 visitors.
17 th August	NADFAS visit.
24 th August	Another children’s cycling day as per 10 th August above.
29 th August	Paul Churchill starts painting and decorating the ladies and gents.
5 th September	Annual visit of Cumbria Classic Car Club.
7 th September	NADFAS visit.
8 th September	Visit from the Little Strickland Ladies Group.
14 th September	HM The Queen unveiled a plaque, hand-carved by Piers Merry.
21 st September	NADFAS visit.
30 th September	We were very sorry to say “goodbye” to Adam Bowns, who is moving to Lancashire. Crafty Monkeys are expanding, from Units 6 & 8, into the Brewery. The Cumbria Scouts are moving out exactly ten years after they arrived, and Peter and Julia Oliphant are moving into their unit. Paul Lewis, a National Trust surveyor, is taking Peter’s old office. <i>So much for this year’s “musical chairs”.</i>

4 th October	Lord Inglewood visited Brougham Hall.
5 th October	NADFAS visit.
5 th October	Syd Walker died. See Obituary.
6 th October	Helm Wind Tours brought a party of severely disabled women to Fusion.
12 th October	Pevsner's "Cumbria" was published, twenty-four days ahead of schedule.
19 th October	Potty the cat arrived to replace Scruffy, who left with Neil Harrison.
19 th October/ 2 nd December	A BHCT team went out to work at Candili.
30 th October	All-day Halloween party at Crafty Monkeys.
30 th October	Paranormal Investigation by Extreme Ghost Hunting and the Psychic Biker
31 st October	A Brougham Reform Bill commemorative bottle appeared on the Antiques Roadshow.
2 nd November	NADFAS penultimate visit for 2010.
4 th November	The Eden District Council granted full consent for the Lord Chancellor's Den.
4 th November	The BHCT twinned with the Candili Craft Centre, on the Greek Island of Euboea.
11 th November	90mph winds recorded at Great Dun Fell, Cumbria
16 th November	NADFAS. Last meeting of 2010.
25 th November	Silver Jubilee of commencement of restoration of Brougham Hall.

THANKYOU Starting as usual, with those people who have made cash donations, we would like to thank the following:-

Hugh Brougham
Miss A C Buckham
Miss Mary Burkett OBE BA (multiple donor)
Miss Abigail Calland
Don Cameron & Mrs David Weston
Mr & Mrs Doug Chappels (multiple donor)
Mr and Mrs Paul Churchill
Dr A W Galer (multiple donor)
Julian Ince ACA
Mrs Kathryn Kimball (multiple donor)
Stephanie Lawton and Lyn Wilman (multiple donors – 7th year in succession)
Mr & Mrs Syd Monk (multiple donor)
Mr & Mrs Geoff Oxland
Chris and Anne Stacey

The Ancient Men
DEFRA
Drummonds Bank (11th year in succession)
The JF Eilbeck Chemist Charitable Trust (3rd year in succession)
LEADER. Solway Border and Eden Leader Programme
Little Strickland Ladies Group
Park Hill Charitable Trust
Rothay Manor Hotel
Solway History Society

If you would like to make a donation, cheques should be made payable to the Brougham Hall Charitable Trust, Brougham Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2DE. If you are a UK Tax Payer, and would be kind enough to include a note to that effect, we can reclaim 25% of the tax from the Inland Revenue, under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme. For those giving through their Self Assessment returns, our unique code is UAD20QG. All donations are

always acknowledged by return. We would also like to encourage people to consider remembering us in their Will. Most bequests of this nature are free of Inheritance Tax.

Turning to those who have given in kind, we would like to thank:-

Alistair Aynsough for splendid archive work
The Churchill & Woolger families for continuing kindnesses
Malcolm Cundy for sticking with us despite operations
Yvonne and Rodrick Hartley for the loan of ladders and gardening
Ian Lowes for exceedingly generous gift of stone
NADFAS for splendid work on the screen
Dale Talentire and staff for levelling the lawn
Dianne Tanner for keeping us clean
The three Tanner brothers for a great deal of help
Jonathan Terry (Trustee) for the gift of a laptop
Darota Zebrowska for archive research

COMINGS AND GOINGS During the year, we lost Adam Bowns, a very gifted metal sculptor; the Cumbria Scout Development Office and Stuart Laverick, a software specialist, in their place, we are pleased to welcome back Julia Oliphant, an employment consultant; and to welcome Paul Lewis, a surveyor and Lindsay Wild and her Brougham Holistic Team.

OBITUARY Peter Brougham Wyly, the Brougham family genealogist, died on 6th February, aged 88. Peter devoted his life to researching the Brougham family history and collaborated, very closely, with Mark Thomas in the publication of "A History of Brougham Hall and Highhead Castle" (Philimore. 1992), for which Peter provided the genealogical tables. He also produced "The Brougham Family: An Extension" (1986) and "A Gathering of Broughams" (unpublished). Broughams would come to Brougham Hall, from all over the world, enquiring about their ancestry and Peter, with a phenomenal memory and a forensic mind, would patiently explain where the enquirer fitted into the overall jigsaw puzzle. For a quarter of a century, Peter was a frequent visitor, an even more frequent communicant and a generous benefactor. We will not see his kind again. He was unique.

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Sydney Walker died, on 5th October, aged 71. The Trust was represented at his funeral, at St Andrew's Parish Church, Penrith, at 11am on Monday 11th October, very well conducted by the Reverend Clive Pattinson. There was a large turn out, testament to the esteem and affection in which this hard-working and gentle man was held by all. Syd rebuilt more of Brougham Hall than anyone else, working there between 1986 and 2000. He even came to work on his 60th birthday! Served by a good labourer, Syd could build 1m² an hour. He had had his trowel so long that his fingers had carved deep grooves into the wooden handle. Syd said that he would retire when the trowel fell to pieces. The trowel won! There are unmarked monuments to Syd from Mungrisedale to Aira Force. The Trust will make sure that he has an appropriate, marked one, at Brougham.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 18 th January	10am NADFAS first visit of 2011
Sunday 24 th April	Easter Eggstravaganza – Eden Animal Rescue
Tuesday 14 th June	Tirril Women's Guild – 7pm

BOOKS Mark Thomas's scholarly hardback "A History of Brougham Hall and Highhead Castle" (£30 + £2.90p&p) and Ben Furnvial's "Windsor of the North" (£9 + £2.50 p&p) are both available from the Brougham Hall Charitable Trust, Brougham Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2DE or can be ordered on-line, using the "contact us" form.

WEBSITE We invite you to visit our brand new website www.broughamhall.co.uk which has many new sections, such a history of Brougham since Neolithic times and the Rectors of Brougham since 1310. It also carries a copy of this Annual Report, primarily for the benefit of our overseas friends. As of 27th November we have received 19796 hits, at an average of 151.11 per day.

CARS Victor the red Volvo, the Trust's trusty work horse, has overtaken it's blue predecessor's 265,000 miles and, at 268,000 miles, is now heading confidently for the 300,000 target!