

BROUGHAM HALL ANNUAL REPORT : DECEMBER 2011

SILVER JUBILEE In a way, we are able to celebrate a Silver Jubilee in two successive years. Last year was the 25th anniversary of the rescue of Brougham Hall. This year (October 8th) was the 25th anniversary of the birth of the Brougham Hall Charitable Trust (BHCT), the body that now owns and cares for Brougham Hall. The BHCT has now owned Brougham Hall longer than did Lady Anne Clifford (1651-1676).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR Without fear of contradiction, the high spot of this, or any other year, as far as the BHCT is concerned, was the hosting, in August, of the London Globe's splendid production of "As you like it".

Earlier that month, we had made a TV programme, with John Craven, of "Country File" and Jules Hudson, of "Escape to the Country". The programme is called "Britain at Risk" and will be screened nationally, at 6.30pm, on BBC2, sometime in February 2012. On the very same day, we also did a piece to camera, for John Grundy, of BBC Look North.

We were proud to be asked, by Eden Mencap Society, to host their Silver Jubilee celebrations. Many people put a great deal of thought and hard work into ensuring a memorable anniversary. We wish them every success in the next 25 years.

CONGRATULATIONS Kate Phelan (nee Terry), who did so much voluntary work, in the early days, at Brougham, particularly clearing the piles of debris round the Chancellor's Den, produced a daughter, Alice, on 10th April.

Julia Churchill, now a Trustee, celebrated 10 years with the BHCT, on 22nd June. That has to be worth a gallantry medal!

Juno Leigh, one time tenant, who has done so much for Brougham Hall (website, Tate Modern, Globe) married the Hon Charles Lowther, in Wales, on 2nd July. We wish them both enduring happiness.

Jonathan Terry (Jnr), who has known and worked in Brougham Hall all his life, came of age on 31st August.

Chris Berridge, who had been training in the summer, at Brougham, with the rest of the Great Britain shortlist, under Piers Merry's watchful eye, won Gold at the Bi-annual International Skills Competition, at the ExCel Centre, in London, on 5th October.

Alistair Aynsough, our intrepid chronicler, celebrated his 25 years of producing the fortnightly Brougham Hall News, on 1st December. Alistair is the Livy of Brougham and his monumental history of Brougham and its inhabitants, running into 683 issues, in 28 volumes, is our "*Ad urbe condita libri*". This is a brilliant achievement. Well done, Alistair.

RESTORATION AND REPAIR We started off at a cracking pace, clearing tons of rubbish to the south west of the Carriage House, to produce 10 (it will ultimately be 12) more car park spaces. Jim Lockhart, one of the best face workers in the County (having learnt his skills at Brougham) repaired the inner and outer cloister walls, to the east of the Armour Hall. After three months of extreme exertion, he hurt his back so severely that he was told by his doctor (and by his wife!) never to build again. This is a very sad loss of a man who made face work an art form.

Piers Merry and Pat McManus took, de-vegetated and then rebuilt the south east corner of the Carriage House, linking it with last year's work in the south west corner. They then repointed the entire south elevation with lime mortar.

The National Association of Decorative & Fine Art Societies (NADFAS) completed the cleaning of our 1765 Flemish screen and, as a side line, transformed the appearance of our 1894 Brougham Carriage. They put in a total of 511 hours!

Paul Churchill replaced the roof lights above Country Furnishings (now Interlude Ceramics). Annabel Candler completely refurbished Unit 2, which also houses the 18th century Brougham sphinx. Maria Burton transformed Unit 6 into a clinically clean photo gallery. Lindsay Wild and John Turnbull extended their Holistic Empire into Unit 8 and, as we go to press, Steve Mitchell and Jason Hill are moving Eden Brewery back into the 1823 Cottingham brewery, last occupied by Tirril Brewery 2001-2005.

Late in the year, we started to clear the Inner Pele – a project held over from last year. All in all, this has been a very satisfactory season, which would have been even more satisfactory if it hadn't been for Jim Lockhart's premature retirement.

PLANS FOR YEAR 2012 At the time of writing this report, we have just received written consent, from the Eden District Council, to allow us to take up some European (LEADER) funding to enable us to de-vegetate, stabilise and strengthen the raw edge of the Lord Chancellor's Den. That work will keep us fully occupied throughout 2012.

THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR This seems to have been our busiest year yet.

21 st December	Earthquake. 11pm. Epicentre Coniston. 3.6 on the Richter scale.
28 th December	Attempt made to steal Durham Cathedral Sanctuary door knocker, which is identical to our own.
31 st December	So ended the coldest December since 1659, the year in which Lady Anne Clifford re-built St Wilfrid's and St Ninian's Chapels, in the Parish of Brougham.
11 th January	Jim Lockhart started on the new car park, in compliance with Condition 7 of last year's planning approval for the Lord Chancellor's Den.
18 th January	National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) continues work on our 1675 Flemish screen.
1 st February	NADFAS visit.
15 th February	NADFAS visit.
28 th February	Fusion Choir practice.
1 st March	NADFAS visit.
7 th March	Repairs to Carriage House completed. Fusion Choir practice.
15 th March	NADFAS visit.
21 st March	Crafty Monkeys throw a big children's party.
29 th March	32 people attend RNIB pottery course. CycleActive mount intensive mountain bike tuition.
24 th – 25 th March	Dr Norman James and Philip Gale visit from the National Archives, Kew.
31 st March	So ends the driest March for 50 years.
5 th April	Piers Merry started a week's masonry and sculpture coaching, for the UK Skills Council, for 3 short-listed masons, one of whom will represent Great Britain in the "World Skills Contest", at ExCel, on 5 th
7 th April	Lee Page's sister tragically died following a fall, aged just 30. Potty, the Castle cat, returned from her winter holidays.
10 th April	Alice Miller Phelan arrived at 15:33, weighing in at 7lbs 7oz – see "Congratulations".
11 th April	"Woolfy" Wilkins, from Weymouth Stonemasonry College, arrived for one weeks work experience, under Piers Merry's tuition.
23 rd April	St George's Day witnesses "Weddings by Annabel" opening in Unit 3 and the "Holistics" Empire extending into Unit 8. This was the hottest April day since 1949.
24 th April	+/- 800 people attend the 9 th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza in aid of Eden Animal Rescue. Easter Holy Communion is celebrated in St Wilfrid's Chapel.
25 th April	Piers Merry's caravan burnt out. Eden Rural Activities staged archery on the south lawn.
30 th April	So ended hottest April ever recorded.
9 th May	Fusion Choir practice.

- 9th – 10th May Gaynor Bryant visited from Adelaide, with Pastor Christine Manning, en route to St Petersburg. Gaynor, half a Brougham, did months of voluntary work at Brougham Hall in 1990, 91, 92 and 94.
- 14th May Fiona Clayton took part in Radio 1's "Big Weekend", at Carlisle Airport, attended by 20,000 people.
- 15th May Family Day, with archery and pottery courses.
- 16th May Fusion Choir practice.
- 17th May NADFAS visit.
- 19th May Jim Lockhart finished work, on doctor's orders, after 12 years intermittent service at Brougham Hall.
- 21st May Crafty Spirit Paranormal Investigation.
- 24th May "Ghostly Cumbria" published, with a chapter on Brougham Hall.
- 30th May Brougham "Family Day" with archery and pottery.
- 1st June Unit 6 was plastered throughout for Maria Burton (photographer)
- 6th June Fusion Choir practice.
- 7th June NADFAS visit.
- 13th June Fusion Choir practice.
- 14th June Tirril Women's Guild visit.
- 14th – 15th June Transferred six accounts from British Gas to E-ON in protest against punitive charges.
- 16th June Ian and Patricia Fuss (nee Brougham), visited from Adelaide, south Australia. They last visited in July 2010.
- 26th June Annabel Candler staged a "Party Day", in Dale Talentire's marquee, with live band, hog roast, face painting, carriage rides, wine tasting, pottery, archery and holistics.
- 4th July Fusion Choir practice.
- 5th July NADFAS visit.
- 11th July Fusion Choir practice.
- 15th July Sixteen Year 6 children, from Stanbury Village, Yorkshire, came for their annual pottery course.
Paul Harrison recital, in Fusion Café, for 32 guests.
- 18th July Visit from 14 members of the Wigton Wyza (Women's Guild).
Fusion Choir practice.
- 19th July NADFAS visit.
Moved 21 pallets of stone from Brougham into storage.
- 22nd July Tim and Michelle Rowe were married and held their reception, in Dale Talentire's marquee at Brougham.
- 23rd July –
3rd August David Tanner came up from Cornwall and worked most of his holidays at Brougham
- 31st July "Family Day" at Brougham Hall. Archery and pottery.
- 2nd August Filmed "Britain at Risk" with John Craven and "Look North" with John Grundy – see "Highlights"
77 potters came in, including a Christian party from Sedbergh School.
- 4th August 22 Scouts from Heighington, Co. Durham came for their second annual pottery visit.
- 5th August Liesl McViety 30th birthday *fancy dress* party in a bell tent at Brougham Hall, with live music, lovely lamps and decorations.

7 th August	Crafty Monkeys entertained 22 potters from Sedbergh School.
12 th August	Mencap Silver Jubilee, opened by George Bowman – see card.
16 th August	NADFAS visit, interrupted by Mrs Adele Ewart departing in an ambulance, fortunately quickly to recover and back at work next visit.
18 th August	Bad day for tourism. The Local Authority decided to purge signage (they later recanted).
19 th – 20 th August	Globe Theatre's production of "As you like it".
20 th August	TVR Club visit.
21 st August	Eden Rural Activities archery.
27 th August	The launch of "The Extreme Ghost Hunter", with a chapter on Brougham Hall by Paul Green and Stephen Lambert, followed by an Extreme Ghost Hunting investigation.
31 st August	Jonathan Terry's 21 st birthday. Brougham Hall appeared on BBC's "Look North", with John Grundy.
4 th September	Cumbria Classic Car Show.
5 th September	Eden Rural Activities archery. Visit by Mr & Mrs George Young, he 25 years Clerk to the Court of St Katherine's by the Tower. Queen Caroline appointed William Brougham Master of St Katherine's in 1820. Visit by Kathy & Vicky Gray, descendants of Christopher Brougham of Askrigg.
6 th September	NADFAS visit. Adele Ewart safely back in rude health!
9 th September	John & Marion Harrison visit.
10 th /14 th September	Intensive days of CycleActive mounting bike tuition.
12 th September	Fusion Choir practice.
14 th September	Visit by Little Strickland Women's Guild to the Holistics.
17 th September- 2 nd October	C-Art. Cumbria Artist's Open Studios involving CycleActive, Maria Burton, Gwen Bainbridge, Mary Chappelhow and Arwyn Jones.
16 th September	CycleActive Mountain bike leadership course. Hazel Walker left Brougham Hall for the last time, after 22 years, 1 month and 10 days.
18 th September	Piers Merry left Brougham Hall to work in York.
24 th September	Visit of 48 people from Voel Mystery Tours, Rhyl.
2 nd October	Space Designed Solutions left Unit 10, after 3 years and 10 months.
4 th October	Visit by Charles Dingwall, son of Lt Col J J Dingwall DSO, wartime Adjutant at Brougham Hall, to Brig BV de Liscombe.
4 th October	NADFAS visit.
5 th October	Chris Berridge won gold in the International Skills Competition, at ExCel see "Congratulations".
8 th October	BHCT Silver Jubilee.
18 th October	NADFAS visit.
24 th October	Fusion Choir practice.
29 th October	"Hallowe'en" paranormal investigation by Extreme Ghost Hunting.
30 th October	So ends the coldest summer since 1993.
1 st November	CycleActive send expeditions to Morocco and Cuba. Annabel Candler launches Cumbria Women in Enterprise.

4 th November	Hazel Walker died – see “Obituary”.
7 th November	Fusion Choir practice.
9 th November	Women's Rural Network visited Holistics 7pm. British Gas sent the BHCT a bill for £4,714.65, being one month's consumption of 87,773 units (British Gas were fined, by their Ombudsman £2.5m for misleading their customers!!)
11 th November	Hazel Walker's funeral, at Barton Church. Jilly Jarman classical & jazz concert in Fusion.
22 nd November	NADFAS visit.
27 th November	Wedding Fayre in Edward's 30m x 9m marquee.
1 st December	25 th Anniversary of the first issue of Alistair Aynscough's fortnightly “Brougham Hall News”.
6 th December	NADFAS visit
10 th December	Christmas Party in Edward's marquee.

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

Gwen Bainbridge
Mr & Mrs Doug Chappels (multiple donor)
Peter Fuchs Esq
Dr A W Galer (multiple donor)
P G Harris Esq
Rev'd J A Hurd
Arwyn Jones
Stephen Lambert (multiple donor)
Stephanie Lawton and Lyn Wilman (multiple donors – 8th year in succession)
Mr & Mrs A Phelan
Adrian Robson
Mr & Mrs H Terry

Drummonds Bank (11th year in succession)
Eden Mencap Society
The JF Eilbeck Chemist Charitable Trust (4th year in succession)
LEADER. Solway Border and Eden Leader Programme
Tirril Women's Guild
Voel Holidays
Wigton Wyza

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:-

Acorn Agricultural Finance Ltd for invaluable storage space
Alistair Aynscough for splendid archive work, in his 25th year
Mary Burkett OBE BA for wise advice
Andrew & Julia Chatfield for volunteer work
The Churchill & Woolger families for continuing kindnesses
English Estates for a generous gift of stone
Mr & Mrs Syd Monk – generous gift of daffodils
NADFAS for splendid work on the screen
John Rogers for volunteer work
Dianne Tanner for keeping us clean
The three Tanner brothers for a great deal of help
Mrs E Weaver – painting of Frejus by third Lord Brougham

COMINGS AND GOINGS During the year, we lost Helen Atkinson-Skinner, Hazel Walker, Tim & Michelle Rowe, Piers Merry and Lee & Emma of Space Designed Solutions. We are also very sorry to say goodbye to Marion Hudson, who retires, after several years at Country Furnishings. In their place, we welcomed Annabel Candler (Weddings), Gwen Bainbridge (Porcelain), Mary Chappelhow (Pottery), Arwyn Jones (Pottery), Stephen Mitchell and Jason Hill (Brewery) and Edward's Marquees. Hilda Ratcliffe returned, on 1st November, after an absence of two years.

OBITUARY Hazel Walker died on 4th November, aged 67, after a long and painful illness. She realised, in March 2011, that she was unwell and she knew, better than anyone, that she wasn't going to last very much longer. It was typical of her that she spent the next few months downsizing Country Furnishings and withdrawing in good order. She left Brougham Hall just 49 days before her death. She walked away, with her usual measured step, head held high, straight back, never once looking back over her shoulder. She knew, and we knew, that she would not be coming back. Shortly thereafter, the edict went out "no cards and no visits". Hazel was one of those people that Churchill described as the "bulldog breed". She didn't want anyone feeling sorry for her. She wanted to be remembered for all those English qualities of yesteryear.....modesty, industriousness, loyalty and a wicked sense of humour. She had submitted to three punishing courses of chemotherapy and it was appropriate that her funeral, on 11th November, was on a day for remembering the bravest of our island race. The Brougham community was extremely well represented at Hazel's funeral and Jonathan Terry (Jnr) was accorded the honour of being a pallbearer. To borrow from the Bard, "nothing in her life became her like the leaving it".

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8 th April	Easter Eggstravaganza – Eden Animal Rescue
Saturday 26 th May & Sunday 27 th May	Body, Mind & Spirit fayre
Saturday 14 th July	18 th birthday party – Jess Lightfoot
Saturday 21 st July	Ian Clayton's 50 th birthday celebrations
Saturday 18 th August	
Sunday 19 th August	the Globe Theatre – perform <i>Hamlet</i>

BOOKS Mark Thomas's scholarly hardback "A History of Brougham Hall and Highhead Castle" (£30 + £2.90p&p) and Ben Furnival'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 25th November we have received 79211 hits.

CARS Victor the red Volvo, the Trust's trusty work horse, has done 281,000 miles and is still heading confidently for the 300,000 target!

THE GLOBE THEATRE Following the success of "As you like it", at Brougham Hall, in 2011, The Globe are returning to Brougham to play "Hamlet" on the 18th and 19th of August.