

# The Constitution of the Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society

1. **Name:** The Lorton & Derwent Fells Local History Society ('the Society').

2. **Aims:** The aims of the Society are:

2.1 To study, for enjoyment and enlightenment, the past and present history and culture of (i) the townships of Brackenthwaite, Buttermere, Embleton, Lorton, Loweswater, Mockerkin, Pardshaw and Wythop and (ii) the historic lands of Allerdale and Copeland and the Border Counties.

2.2 To hold meetings at regular intervals for talks by guest speakers and members.

2.3 To provide a forum for members to meet, discuss and exchange information regarding individual interests and researches.

2.4 To promote and organise exhibitions, workshops and field work.

2.5 To produce periodic Newsletters.

2.6 To promote the publication of members' work.

2.7 (i) To create and maintain an archive of relevant local historical data from any source and of current events and (ii) to allow local history students access to the archive.

3. **Membership:** Membership of the Society is open to any person or organisation supporting the aims of the Society upon payment of such annual subscriptions as the Committee may from time to time decide.

4. **The Committee:** The policy and general management of the Society, including the setting of subscriptions and other fees, shall be directed by a Committee which shall meet not less than three (3) times a year. It shall consist of not less than six (6) nor more than twelve (12) made up as follows:

(i) six (6) members to be elected from amongst and by the members at an Annual General Meeting

(ii) the Honorary Officers (other than the President) to be elected as provided hereafter

(iii) such other members not exceeding two (2) whom the Committee shall co-opt from time to time.

One half of the Committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election or co-option at any time.

The Committee shall have the power to create and fund specialist sub-groups for specific local history subjects.

5. **Honorary Officers:** At the Annual General Meeting, the members shall appoint a President and elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

6. **Meetings:**

6.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of June or as soon as practicable after that month by giving to the members not less than 28 days' prior notice for the purpose of (i) receiving and approving the Chairman's Report and the Annual Audited Statement of Accounts for the Society's financial year to the previous 31 October and (ii) appointing honorary officers and electing members of the Committee and (iii) if need be, altering this Constitution in accordance with Clause 8. The Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time by giving not less than 14 days' prior notice.

6.2 A quorum at a Committee meeting shall be not less than four (4) members present. A quorum at a General Meeting of the Society shall be not less than ten (10) members present.

6.3 Resolutions put at any meeting (other than a meeting for the purpose of altering this Constitution) shall be decided by majority vote of members present and voting and the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

7. **Notices:** The Hon. Secretary shall have responsibility for, and an absolute discretion over, the form and manner of service of notices on members.

8. **Alterations to the Constitution:** Any alteration shall require the approval of a two thirds majority of members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting properly convened.

9. **Dissolution:** If the Committee, by a majority, decides that on grounds of expense or otherwise that it is desirable or necessary to dissolve the Society, then it should convene a Special General Meeting and if such decision is confirmed by a majority of those members present and voting, then the Committee shall have power to offer the Society's archive to the Cumbria Record Office; any other assets of the Society, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be applied towards such charitable or other organisations having the same or similar aims as the Society and, in default or disagreement, as may be decided by the Director for the time being of the Cumbria Record Office.