

The History of Arnside Lecture Group

The Arnside Lecture Group started life as part of the W.E.A. (formerly known as the Workers Educational Association). The W.E.A is a nationwide adult education organisation providing a multitude of diverse courses available for all. See www.wea.org.uk for more information.

In 1999, in part to meet the needs of a changing population, interest groups and education needs the WEA decided that it was time to reorganise and restructure. As a consequence of the restructure, funding for the Arnside W.E.A. ceased and joint lectures with Lancaster University ended.

The Arnside W.E.A. consulted with its members and, following a ballot, the independent group, to be known as the Arnside Lecture Group, started life. The first meeting was held in September 1999. This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary.

The enthusiastic group members worked hard to develop and coordinate a lecture programme. To coincide with and celebrate the start of the new millennium, the first lecture series commenced in the Spring of 2000 with a history of Victorian architecture followed in the autumn by a series of talk on Egyptology which included a trip to Manchester Museum's ancient history department.

The talks have focussed on many aspects of local interest: Lake District geology and archaeology; the Romans in Westmorland and Lancashire; Rural Westmorland, industrialisation and the aftermath and latterly John Ruskin and William Wordsworth and friends.

We cover a wide variety of topics and we aim to vary these as much as possible to cater for all interests. In 2023, lecturers from Lancaster University undertook a series of talks about local environmental issues. You can view these lectures [here](#).