



PRESS RELEASE

Another chapter in filming the social history of farm life in the Lake District has recently been completed, with the production of a DVD to commemorate the centenary of the Walna Scar Shepherds Meet, near Coniston/Seathwaite, which took place last autumn.

The Lake District is one of the last places in England that still has a network of Shepherds Meets, which were originally established as a way of transferring stray sheep between neighbours' farms at the end of the summer. As well as a few beers, the days involve showing prize sheep, a stick show, hound trailing, pet show and a social or "crack" as the locals call it. After taking their sheep home, all return in the evening for a traditional shepherd's singing competition that includes songs handed down through the generations.

Film maker, Paul Harper said, "After completing the Behind the Scenery fly on the wall films last year, I became fascinated by this rural culture that goes back over 100 years and vowed to take time to try capture as much as possible on film." These special days were once seen in many remote valleys in England where sheep graze on common land, but now because of changes in government support, social pressures and economics, very few areas have been able to keep this tradition alive.

Copies of the films are available from the Cumbria Farmer Network
www.cumbriafarmernetwork.co.uk 01768 868615.

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