

Drigg & Carleton

Parish Council Newsletter

JANUARY 2012



**TO EVERYONE IN CARLETON,
DRIGG AND HOLMROOK**

!HAPPY NEW YEAR!



DRIGG & CARLETON COMMUNITY FUND

The Drigg Charity Committee, comprising the local Parish Council together with three independent members, administers the Drigg & Carleton Community Fund. This fund arises from £50,000 annual funding provided by the NDA via the Copeland Community Benefit Fund.

On 11 November 2009, the Drigg & Carleton Community Fund Projects Sub-Committee met with members of the Parish who had expressed interest in working with the Parish Council and Drigg Charity in taking forward a number of projects as part of the NDA socioeconomic support to the community. There was a good attendance at this first meeting.

The Project Sub-Committee had a significant number of projects it wished to take forward, but identified a small pilot group of five or six projects to start the overall programme of investment and improvement. The projects are aimed at benefiting all Parishioners. Indeed, this initial group of projects was formulated based on the results of a Parish-wide questionnaire aimed at understanding the priority needs and aspirations of the Community. A team leader was identified for each of the projects, and he or she is supported by a number of team members from the Community, and of course the Parish Council and Drigg & Carleton Community Fund Projects Sub-Committee. It is the responsibility of the project teams to formulate the details of the proposed project, including seeking approvals and costings where appropriate, before formally presenting to the Charity Committee for approval to proceed to an implementation phase.

The projects being progressed at present are:

- Provision of improved beach facilities
- Provision of a playing field
- Improvements to the Village Hall
- Village maintenance
- Clearance of bridle paths

These projects remain ongoing and are maturing.

The Drigg Charity has also considered additional schemes that have been brought forward, and subsequently supported, including an award towards the much needed refurbishment of St Peter's Church windows, support for the Drigg Local History Group's village archive project, and

new play equipment for Drigg & Holmrook Family Group.

Driving these various projects forward has brought the community together, and many Parishioners are giving up their time and skills freely during evenings and weekends to improve their local environment and general surroundings. The Village Maintenance team is heavily involved coordinating the Cumbria in Bloom entry for the community.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The first Drigg Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 26 November and proved to be a great success with a large number of people arriving eager to spend their cash in aid of West Cumbria Hospice at Home. The generosity and support of everyone involved in these events is amazing and I thank all who helped in so many ways to make it a success. Maybe a Christmas Fayre could become another annual event in Drigg along with our Heritage Day. Days like this bring so many friends and numbers together and raises money for a variety of courses. The final amount raised at the Fayre amounted to £800. Thank you to everyone.

Betty Bolton, 019467 24029

VIRGIN MARY WELL

An intriguing place, on private land near the site of Holmrook Hall is the Virgin Mary Well. It was referred to by local Eskdale historian Mary Fair and by W.G. Collingwood and was first recorded on the 2nd Edition OS map of 1899. It was probably the source of water for the Hall when it was HMS Volcano during the Second World War and perhaps prior to that. It is uncertain as to its antiquity and currently a number of members of Drigg Local History Group are researching historical documents to find out if there is any reason to believe it may have been in use as a religious site in earlier periods.

There could be a Pullman rail excursion to York in Spring, like the one to Chester in December.

It would pick up at Seascale, and possibly, if there's enough interest, Drigg too. Email trevor@epic-gb.com (28449) if you would like to be kept abreast of developments, and also details about a new book on the history of the Furness Railway to be published in February.

DRIGG LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The concept of a local history group for Drigg was first conceived in September 2009 by two residents of the village. It was felt that there would be, perhaps, a dozen or so villagers who would share an interest in the history and heritage of the area. Following further discussions it was agreed that a public meeting should be called to gauge the level of interest.

That meeting was duly arranged for November of that year in the Parish Hall. Almost fifty residents of the area attended that meeting. A committee was duly appointed on the night and set to work writing a constitution and planning a programme. It was agreed that the Group would focus primarily on the history of the Village and the surrounding area, but would also welcome input on all aspects of West Cumbrian history.

By the time of the inaugural meeting in February of 2010 membership was in excess of forty.

At that inaugural meeting local archaeologist Clifford Jones gave a thought-provoking presentation on the impact of the Romans in the immediate area. Since that date presentations have been as wide ranging as was the initial intention. They have included talks on the history of the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway, the history of the Lutwidge family who were influential 18th and 19th century merchants and residents of Holmrook Hall, bottles and containers used by local businesses in the 19th century, a reading and background to a poem written to commemorate the opening of Drigg school, and a non-participatory evening on Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling.

Generous support from the Drigg Charity permitted the purchase of a laptop and associated hardware in order that work could commence on an archive of the information which is being made available to the group.

In accordance with the original concept of being inclusive, work has commenced on strengthening contacts with other local groups (Drigg's History Group held a joint meeting with Eskdale History Group in late 2011) and it is anticipated that this will further strengthen and consolidate its work. There is now a new committee for 2012. Look out for notices of History Group meetings.

'TUESDAY CHAT'

In October, the new monthly social afternoon was launched in Drigg & Carleton Village Hall. A group of locals and friends met and enjoyed catching up with news, over cups of tea and cake. It was also a chance to meet and welcome new neighbours into our community.

Mr Bob Williamson, Vice chairman of Drigg & Carleton Parish Council, gave an interesting talk about our community's successful first entry into the 'Cumbria in Bloom' Campaign. The Copeland Shield, which was awarded to Drigg & Carleton for 'Best in Borough', was also on display.

Our first Tuesday Chat went well, and we hope it will grow as more people hear about it. You will be welcome to join us in Drigg & Carleton Village Hall. Just drop in when you like and stay as long as you want. Everyone welcome.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

7.30pm Monday 23 January 2012

Drigg & Carleton Parish Council is organising an open Parish meeting to discuss possible activities and events for the Queen's Jubilee in June. This meeting is open to all, so please come along to Drigg & Carleton Village Hall and put forward your ideas.



COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE

based in Drigg

**Services: Drigg & Carleton
Ravenglass
Seascale
Eskdale – Bower House**

Doctor/Dentist/Optician/Bank
or whatever you need.

Cars provided by volunteers – currently four.

Cost 35p per mile.

Contact Joyce on 019467 24394

More volunteers are needed.

DRIGG GALA 2012: 35 THIS YEAR!

This year will be the 35th annual gala since it started in 1977. The gala became a focal point for the children of the Parish after the local school closed, when the children were dispersed to several schools outside the Parish.

This annual event is always held on the 2nd Saturday in June, so this year's gala will be on Saturday 9 June 2012.

It starts with a Fancy Dress Parade from the Parish Hall down to the "Gala Field" behind the Station. The landowner very kindly lets the community use this field for the Gala with local farmers pitching in to keep it in good condition. In recent years the Teas have been served in a beautiful marquee donated by the Low Level Waste Repository. The marquee is decorated by entries to the art competition which is well supported by Gosforth and Seascale School as well as other local entries. You will hear the sounds of the local brass band (with members



from the Village) together with announcements for the children's races. Some years you may see a climbing wall towering over the field, which is always popular with the youngsters, perhaps a bouncy castle or rodeo horse, sometimes ferrets or a pony. Whatever is in the field it never fails to be a great event for all ages.

Attracting 200+ visitors the Gala is strongly supported by local businesses allowing it to be free to the community. It is a real community event – by the people, for the people.

The Gala has great community involvement and is a fund raising platform for the likes of St Peter's Church, Drigg Toddlers and Drigg Young Farmers. If not called out on the day (!), local emergency services are represented including the local mountain rescue team and fire brigade.

LOCAL

The Gala Committee facilitates Arts Out West touring theatre events in the parish hall 'Great Sh

THE MARVELLOUS AND UNLIKELY FETE OF LITTLE UPPER DOWNING

**7pm Friday 24 February 2012
Drigg & Carleton Parish Hall**

The most important day in the village calendar is looming and the eccentric inhabitants of Little Upper Downing are all in a flutter. There's gossip in the tearoom, a flurry in the florists and that's to say nothing of the deep seated rivalry on the allotments. The village is pulling out all the stops and the fete hasn't even started yet!

Join Little Bulb Theatre for a theatrical feast celebrating the

unique charms of village life and the people who live there. Expect live music, vibrant visuals and a vast array of unforgettable characters as they prepare for the big day that's getting increasingly out of control!...



...“cunning stagecraft and a great shove-it-in-the-back-of-a-van design ... a little show with a lot of heart and a reminder that rural touring can offer quality work” – Lyn Gardner, The Guardian (see full review)

www.littlebulbtheatre.com

DRIGG YOUNG FARMERS PLANTING PARTY

On Saturday 15 October volunteers from Drigg Young Farmers came along to help members of St Peter's Church with planting Spring bulbs in Drigg churchyard. They did a splendid job and managed to plant more than 2,000 daffodil and crocus bulbs in the old churchyard – between the lych-gate and the south side of the church.

The project to improve Drigg churchyard area was inspired by Drigg & Carleton's 2010 'Cumbria in Bloom' Campaign. We are very grateful to the Young Farmers working party for their help with this first phase of our project and we look forward to the welcome sight of a display of daffodils & crocus flowers in Spring 2012.

Wardens & PCC



THEATRE

owns in Unexpected Places'. In Spring 2012 there are two Arts Out West events coming to Drigg.

CRAIG AND WILLOUGHBY

**7.30pm Thursday 19 April 2012
Drigg & Carleton Parish Hall**

It's quite a few years now since Brian Willoughby and Catherine Craig appeared on the old West Cumbria Rural Touring Scheme, but they still have fond memories of it.

Brian has been 40 years in the business. He started out on tour with Mary Hopkin, and was lead guitarist with the Strawbs for 25 years. He is a consummate musician, a joy to watch and listen to.

Catherine Craig is a singer and songwriter from Virginia (they met in Nashville) and her songs, in a style somewhere between Folk and Country, deal sensitively with our common experiences travelling the roads of life.

www.craigandwilloughby.com



For tickets or further information please contact John 24321 or email info@drigg.org.uk



SETTLED IN DRIGG

'And the company settled down as they usually do at Drigg for some serious card playing.' *Whitehaven Gazette*. Thursday, 1 July 1897.

When we moved to our house in Drigg in 1967 we were met by overwhelming kindness by our neighbours and reserved friendliness by the people in the village. We realised that they had to get to know us and weigh us up to see if they really wanted us as friends.

It didn't take long for them to find out that we were pretty normal people and not snobby like 'that posh lot who lived in your spot and wouldn't let their kids play with ours.'

I was soon invited to join the W.I. and David walked down to The Vic for a pint at night. The acme of our acceptance though was to be invited to neighbours' Whist Nights. I hadn't realised that card games were so important to locals. People met on a weekly basis to play cards at each other's houses. We would all meet for a tatie-pot supper in the kitchen, the card tables were already set up in the living-room, and then a night of really serious Whist followed. I can't say I'm a really serious card player having little competitive spirit and so the card evenings were not my cup of tea. It was interesting to study traits in the players that were not noticeable in ordinary life, especially as the games took place mainly in high ceilinged rooms with 40-watt bulbs dangling from ceilings. Shadows cast sinister lines on normally good looking faces, furtive expressions on handsome ones.

It was rather a blessing to me that television became so popular that the card games petered out in favour of Bonanza.

The Whist didn't fade so quickly in public places. As the new head at Gosforth School I was landed with organising the Annual Charity Whist Drive in the Gosforth Public Hall. This really was a magnificent event which had its roots planted deep in village history. The event took the same course each year. Head and teachers up on the stage supervising and placing tickets on the

prizes of the evening. Card tables set out by the caretaker and cards, pencils and score cards by the school staff. Local farmers and shopkeepers provided wonderful prizes, fat geese with flopping heads left on, huge turkeys, large fresh hens, a big home-made Christmas cake, meals for two from the local innkeepers, hairdressing vouchers and a bottle of 'good' whisky provided by the headteacher. Me, 'no rubbish' I was told firmly.

The event was held on the evening of the last day of the Christmas Term and the school staff were absolutely worn out after the excitement of parties, concerts and carol services. Nevertheless, the show had to go on and it always did.

I never quite got the hang of this annual Whist Drive. It was called a 'Military Whist Drive' and for some reason players at the closely packed tables stood up and moved around every now and again. It was deadly serious, no sound, no laughter for what seemed hours at end. One year serious complaints were made because a group of carol singers entered and sang 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' before being told, quite rudely I thought, to buzz off. This annual event was slowly suffocated by television, lots of new families in the village and hence new governors who were younger and more sophisticated. They raised money for the school funds in different ways, It's a Knock Out and Fun Evenings.

Looking back, there was a great deal of innocent enjoyment in the card game evenings. A throwback to when meeting up with others on cold dark evenings was a real pleasure, it saved heating bills and provided a night of fun without having to get the car out and travel for miles to see the latest American movie.

Pam Clatworthy

Drigg Parish Council

John Jennings (Chairman)	24321
Bob Williamson (Vice-Chair)	24546
Adrian Dalton	24394
Val de Gasperi	24105
Keith Hitchen	24710
Rob Little	24376
Jimmy Naylor	27841
Andy Pratt	24097

EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Drigg

Find updates at: www.drigg.org.uk

- 20 January – Friday. West Cumbria MRWS Partnership drop-in meeting. See below.
- 8 February – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk by Bill Shaw about his 6 months on St Kilda island. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.
- 24 February – Friday. Arts Out West theatrical performance. See pp4-5.
- 7 March – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk by Mike Douglas on the Uplands Juniper Project. Gosforth Methodist Room, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.
- 17 March – Saturday. Cumbria Railways Association spring meeting. County Hotel, Carnforth. Details will be on www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk
- 18 March – Sunday. Cumbria Railways Association spring field trip to the eastern section of the Lord Carlisle Railway. Details will be on www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or 28296.
- 18 April – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. Illustrated talk on Golden Eagles by Neil Harnott, Senior Conservation Officer, CWT. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. £1.50 includes refreshments.
- 19 April – Thursday. Arts Out West music performance. See pp4-5.
- 1-3 June – Friday-Sunday. The Whitehaven Festival.

- 9 June – Saturday. Drigg Gala. Behind The Victoria Hotel.
- 16 June – Saturday. Cumbrian Railways Association summer field trip around the Railway History of Carnforth. Details will be on www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or 28296.
- 18 August – Saturday. Gosforth Show.
- 27 August – Bank holiday Monday. Black Combe Country Fair, Millstone's, Bootle. 11.30am.

MRWS DROP-IN

A series of drop-in events are being held across Cumbria to give people the chance to find out more about the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership's public consultation on geological disposal of radioactive waste and share their views. The date for our local venue is as follows (other venues are available):

Friday 20 January Gosforth – Village Hall 1pm – 7pm. Discussion sessions will take place at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm. Refreshments will be provided.

If you need help with transport please let us know and we may be able to help. We hope you will come along to find out more and share your views.

For more information, or to request a copy of the consultation pack, visit the Partnership's website at www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk, email contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk, or call for free on 0800 048 8912.

TUESDAY CHAT

A social afternoon in Drigg & Carleton Village Hall, 'TUESDAY CHAT' is held on the first Tuesday of the month, from 2-4pm. Come along to meet up with friends and neighbours or make new friends, over a cuppa. There's no charge (a donation if you wish).

We know there are people in our parish, such as the elderly and those who live alone, who do not get the chance to regularly get together with friends & neighbours and so might feel isolated. Please encourage them to come along too.

We do have volunteers willing to offer transport or a helping hand for the elderly and those who can't easily get out and about. We will also welcome people to join the rota to help with refreshments. If you'd like to help out, please contact Hannah (24021) or Adrienne (24272).

Come along on and bring a neighbour with you!

EVERYONE VERY WELCOME

DENNIS THOMPSON PICKS UP THE REIGNS AT LLWR

Dennis Thompson succeeded fellow American Dick Raaz as Managing Director of the Low Level Waste Repository in October 2011. Dennis, who lives in Whitehaven with his wife Julie and their three children, was Dick's deputy for the first three years of the NDA's contract to operate the site and the natural choice for the top job.

Although Dennis has a very different style to Dick he is just as passionate about community engagement and being a 'good neighbour'. He is determined to continue to nurture and enhance LLWR's good relationship with the local community and has been quoted in the press as saying "Drigg village is our near neighbour and we want to be seen as good neighbours." He is also quoted as saying "we want to really know the village, for them to know us and to keep the doors open, make sure we remove any areas of secrecy, generally letting people know what we are doing and where we are going."

The Repository faces an exciting future, much of it revolving around, and underpinned by, the Environmental Safety Case (ESC). The ESC puts the case for phased development of further

engineered vaults and construction of a final restoration cap for the historic trenches, current vaults and future vaults. The Environment Agency is currently reviewing the ESC and will make a decision on whether to issue a new Disposal Authorisation in 2013.

A planning application has been submitted to Cumbria County Council in support of the ESC for 'site optimisation and closure works' and information days were held in Drigg Village Hall earlier this year to explain the detail of the application and the potential impacts on the village.

Dennis gives his assurance that LLWR will continue to operate in the transparent way it did during construction of Vault 9, with every attempt being made to manage the transportation of goods and minimise disruption to village life.



Drigg school group photo, c.1936. But can anyone identify the pupils?

