

GOSFORTH

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER



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DECEMBER 2012



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GOSFORTH

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Editor: David Gray 019467 25318. Production: Trevor Preece trevor@trpub.net

After the hard and successful work by Gillian Jackson who initiated this newsletter, the editor-ship of this newsletter has now passed, for the time being, to me David Gray, assisted by David Ancell. Both of us are members of the Parish Council and we will endeavour to ensure that parishioners are informed of what is happening in the parish. It was noted that one of the comments received when the recent parish survey was carried out was “nowt will get done”. Well we accept that this is often the popular conception of parish councils, but we believe we are making considerable progress with the 18 objectives set as a result of the parish survey. We now have additional recycling facilities for cardboard and plastic, foot bridges have been reinstalled in the Bleng forest, environmental surveys and detailed design work are nearing completion with regards the cycleway to Seascale, a grant is available for a Gosforth tourist guidebook, the county council has completed a consultation for a 20mph limit throughout the village, road markings are shortly to be repainted, discussions are in progress regarding the transfer of the car park to parish ownership and there are other projects ongoing which will be reported as they progress.

Thanks Gillian for all your work on the first three issues of the Gosforth Newsletter which you created.

David Gray

GOSFORTH TEN – FRONT COVER STORY

The Gosforth Ten has been held annually for over 25 years on a Wednesday evening in the middle of June. More recently it has been joined by a Fun Run open to all on the same night, and by a 10 Kilometre Race on the first Tuesday in September.

These races are organised, under permits from England Athletics, by Blengdale Runners, Gosforth's own running club.

For the last few years we have been fortunate to have sponsors including Amec, Alan Grey and Associates, Riverside Garage and the Lion and Lamb.

All proceeds from the events are donated to local good causes, including Wasdale Mountain Rescue, the Playing Field, First Responders and Air Ambulance.

For more information contact Rob Quayle on 25617.



ELECTRIC BICYCLES



A new venture was launched in August. With the support of a number of agencies and Muncaster Estate, the Electric Bicycle Network started here in Mid Copeland. This new business, Muncaster Cycles, operated by Jason Donnelly out of Muncaster close to the church, has a number of electric and mountain bikes for hire. Charging points are available at a number of locations in Wasdale and Eskdale.

It is hoped that charging points will shortly be



available in Gosforth and Seascale too. The charges last for a number of hours and David Gray, Parish Councillor, with two others recently did a round trip lasting about three hours without the need to recharge the batteries.

It is claimed Wasdale Head can be reached and returned from on a single charge.

Jason also does bicycle repairs and can be reached on 01229 717989.

NO LONGER A GIANT LEAP — JUST A SMALL STEP!

Nearly six years years after the idea was put forward by members at a Copeland Rail Users' (CRUG) Meeting in Drigg and Carleton Village Hall, easy access ramps have at last been installed on both



platforms at Seascale Railway Station. In addition to CRUG, the Seascale Parish Council and the Community Rail Partnership also pushed to have the humps installed.

At the CRUG meeting on 17 January 2007, Dr Paul Salvesson, then Northern Rail's Head of Community and Regional Strategies, noted with dismay that elderly people or those with limited mobility sometimes had to sit on the floor of the train and lower themselves on to the platform when disembarking. He took this up with Northern and Network Rail and this initiative is finally bearing fruit.

Following the initial suggestion and design work, the first ramp was installed in December 2009 at Harrington, which had even larger drops between train and platform. The so-called 'Harrington Hump' was adopted nationally as a partial remedy for the

problem of low platforms and has been installed at Aberdyfi in Gwynedd and St Albans Abbey stations. Further ramps on our line were provided at Whitehaven then a second one at Harrington, and most recently one at St Bees.

The humps reduce the train/platform step height from about 18 inches (430 mm) to a much more comfortable 4-6 inches (100-150 mm) depending on the type of train.

Many local people have been deterred from going by train because of the low platforms and the feeling of insecurity even when using the wooden steps. It is hoped that the raised platform areas, while they are not a complete solution to the problem, will at least give people more confidence when boarding or leaving trains in the future.

Keith Bradshaw

Northern Rail Volunteer Station Adopter

BROADBAND NEWS

In May 2012 both Fujitsu and BT, the preferred contractors for the provision of Superfast Broadband (SFBB) to Rural Cumbria, submitted, contracts to Cumbria County Council (CCC). Both of these contracts were not compliant with the aims and terms of engagement and were declined by CCC. Shortly after this Fujitsu withdrew from tendering in every County in England and Wales, leaving BT the sole company.

BT continued to negotiate with CCC and submitted a substantially revised contract for approval in September. This contract has been approved by CCC but has not yet been signed as European Union Approval is awaited for spending State Aid with a monopoly company.

In the mean time the Holmrook area has been granted leave to apply to DEFRA for extra funding from the Rural Communities Broadband Fund following a Mori Poll which returned a 75% positive

result of those were asked if they wanted SFBB.

Bootle is the other local area of the six in Cumbria who have been chosen as special cases. If the bid is successful it will increase chances of surrounding parishes "piggybacking" on their success.

We will let you know developments when they happen.

Brian Kennish

And then, on 20 November, just before going to press, we received this email:

"I have just heard that the EU has granted BDUK Approval for their State Aid to BT. This means that Connecting Cumbria can now sign the agreed contract with BT and we have "lift off". The priorities for Roll Out of the new infrastructure will be decided by the CCC Board on the 27th November. The roll out proper will start in May 2013.

I will update as soon as I learn anything.

Brian Kennish, Broadband Area Coordinator"

ROTARY SHELTER BOXES

In addition to supporting a number of local charities and other appeals, the West Lakeland Rotary Club has been providing Shelter Boxes to help families affected by disasters around the world. These boxes are tailored to suit the disaster involved but typically contain a disaster

relief tent for an extended family, blankets, water storage and filtration equipment, cooking utensils, a stove, a basic tool kit, a children's activity pack and other vital items. Rotary Clubs worldwide have over 11 years responded to almost 200 natural or man-made disasters in over 75 different countries.

The West Lakeland Rotary Club has in the last three years provided six Shelter Boxes, the last two going to Peru following the floods there this year. One of these was the result of donations made by apprentices at GEN II. Owing to the severity of the flood waters at that time in Peru, local scouts there assisted transporting the boxes to the affected areas by river boat.

Other Rotary clubs in Cumbria are also supporting this cause for example the Egremont Rotary Club have sponsored 10 shelter boxes over the last eight years. The cost of sponsoring a Shelter Box is £590 and initially they are held in store ready to be sent



immediately to the next disaster area. There is a tracking system associated with these boxes so that clubs can learn exactly where their boxes have been sent to.

The contents of a shelter box and the tent which is included in it were on display at the Gosforth show in August.

The West Lakeland Rotary Club meets regularly at the Red Admiral Hotel and the contact for the club is Bob Owens on 019467 24236.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Many parishioners, when replying to the recent parish survey, expressed an interest in being part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Many also replied that they were already in the scheme. Well the fact is that the original scheme no longer exists, but a new scheme is being promoted by the police. There is now no need to have an area co-ordinator – individual parishioners can now register with the police and they will then receive e-mails or, if they so choose, text messages of any situation the police feel is of interest to those in a particular area. To register, contact should be made with our community policeman Ben Rogerson. His e-mail address is ben.rogerson@cumbria.police.uk. Give him your name, address and e-mail address and also your mobile telephone number if you wish text messages. You can also contact him through phoning 0845 330 0247.



GOSFORTH BROWNIES

This group has been running for many years providing activities for girls aged 7 -10 years old each week.

However, this Christmas both leaders will be retiring and so far there is no-one to take over the group of 16 girls and will therefore have to shut down. If you are interested or know someone that would like to help please contact Sue Webb on 019467 25003.



Over the summer months there was a request from Gosforth Parish Council for help with the maintenance of the village benches. There are various benches located all over the parish; some benches are used more than others, but all are in useful places allowing locals and visitors alike to have a rest, take in a view, or just have a “crack” on!

There was a tremendous response from local residents, organisations and businesses in volunteering to “Adopt a Bench”. What does this involve?

When a bench was adopted the individual or organisation volunteered to help look after the bench and ensure it is kept in a reasonable state of repair. Some benches require basic maintenance work such as a coat of varnish, or the grass kept tidied around it. Others are of a more costly nature such as replacing the wood, in which case liaison with the Parish Council may be necessary. A small

plaque has been arranged by some to put on the bench to recognise their contribution.

You may notice that some benches have been refurbished already; others not quite yet. Unfortunately one bench which was in a dangerous state of repair and was not adopted was the bench located on Meadowfield. This was found to be beyond economical repair. This bench has now been dismantled and removed.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all the individuals, organisations and businesses that have volunteered to help maintain these important village assets and looks forward to working with them in the future.

Thanks to the following: The Richardson Family, Greengarth Business Park, West Lakeland Rotary Club, John Duckett, The Village Store, Bradbury House, Sarah Graham, Rod Chilton, Rod & Barbara Davies (Gosforth Hall Inn).
David Ancell

BEST PLACE TO SHOP



Gosforth Bakery has recently received the award for The Best Place to shop in the Copeland Pride Awards. These well respected local awards recognise business excellence in six different categories. Gosforth Bakery has won the award for Best Place to Shop.

Gill Unsworth and her loyal team have been serving the community for 32 years, making around 350 pies and pasties four days a week, as well as mouth-watering sandwiches and delicious cakes and breads.

Gill who runs the business with the help of eight staff, was delighted with the recognition and said she “was chuffed to bits ... I do enjoy it, you meet some lovely people,” she said. “I don’t count myself as a boss because I work with the team and I try my best to keep them all in work.”

The award recognises the hard work that goes in to running a business in the current difficult climate. Winners must demonstrate good service and value for money. This has ensured Gill and her loyal team have seen many satisfied customers returning to the bakery time and time again. Well Done Gill and team.

EVENTS CALENDAR

in and around
Gosforth

1 December – Saturday. St Cuthbert's Christmas Fair. 11am. Soup lunch.

1, 2 December – Saturday & Sunday. Taste Cumbria Christmas Fayre, Muncaster Castle. Cookery demonstrations, courtyard festive market, Santa's grotto, walkabout entertainment, "horse and husky" sled dogs, pony rides, shop and café open, castle open (small charge applies). 11am – 4pm. Adults £3, children £1. Free entry to Friends of Muncaster.

1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 20-23 December. Santa Express at the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway. Pre-bookings only from Claire: 01229 717171.

7 December – Friday. Holmrook Reading Room Christmas Buffet and Wine Evening. 7pm. Tickets from David Marsden 24632 or John Dutton 24317. Lutwidge or Tynedale can also supply tickets.

9 December – Sunday. Seascale Christmas lights switch-on. 4.30pm at Bowling Green. Fireworks start between 4.15 and 4.30pm. Lights switch on 5pm followed by refreshments in the pavilion.

9, 16, 21, 23, 27, 28, 29 December. Victorian Christmas Tours at Muncaster Castle. Experience the magic of this beautiful ancient castle, lit by candle light and

elegantly decorated for Christmas. Sneak a peek behind the scenes and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies on this 40-minute tour, guided by servants in period costume from 1885. Pre-booking essential. Please visit www.muncaster.co.uk. Bookings: Sarah Knowles 01229 717614.

13 February – Wednesday. Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group. "That's Ireland", by Maurice Steele. 7.30-9pm, Gosforth Methodist Room. Fiona Galloway: 019467 841313.

6 March – Wednesday. Open Mind West Lakes U3A History Group. "Cumbria in the Dark Ages", Mrs S. Gemmill. 11am, Drigg Village Hall. Contact: David Huyton 01946 841362.

16 March – Saturday. Cumbrian Railways Association spring field trip to the railway relics of Bigrigg and area lines. Details will be at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or 019467 28296.

16 June – Saturday. Cumbrian Railways Association summer field trip to the slate railways in Honister and Fleetwith Pike areas. Details will be at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or 019467 28296.

REGULAR EVENTS

Beavers. Every Wednesday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Blengdale Runners. Outdoor training sessions for all abilities. Meet Gosforth Hall at 7pm every Tuesday and a fairly gentle run on the beach from Seascale Car Park every Sunday at 9.30am.

Brownies. Meet one evening each week in Gosforth during school term time. Contact Lisa Wilford 019467 25425.

Cubs. Every Monday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Drigg and Holmrook Family Group/Playgroup. Every Monday during term time from 9.30 to 11.30am in Drigg Parish Hall. Contact 24376 for details.

Drigg Young Farmers. Every Tuesday 7.30-9pm, Gosforth Methodist Church. Contact Julie Jenkinson 01229 718723.

Gosforth & District Art Society. Meet every Monday, 7pm, Gosforth School Hall.

Gosforth & District Probuc Club. Meets first Tuesday every month at 10.15am for 10.45am at the Bridge Inn, Santon Bridge.

Gosforth All Stars. Meets every Sunday morning in the Methodist Room from 10.00 to 11.30 (now ages 4-11).

For further information ring 25801 (evenings) or 25377.

Gosforth Baby and Toddler Group. Meets Tuesday mornings in Term Time from 10am to 11.30am in St Mary's Room. Contact Norma (25366) or Sheila (25251) for details.

Gosforth Goslings. Meet 3rd Monday of each month, St. Mary's Church, 2.15pm. A short informal service for Under 5's and their families/carers. All welcome. (No service in August).

Gosforth Indoor Bowls. Meet every Wednesday, 2-4pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Equipment provided. Contact Judith Duckett 019467 25659

Gosforth Library. Opening times – Monday 9.30am-12 noon. Wednesday 3pm-6.30pm, Friday 10am-12 noon, Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm.

Gosforth Mothers Union. Meet monthly, usually on a Wednesday. Venues vary – contact Ruth Schofield 019467 25300 for more details.

Gosforth Parish Council Meetings. Second Wednesday of each month. 7.30pm (7pm if there is an invited speaker) in Supper Room, Gosforth Public Hall.

Gosforth Pre-School Music Group. 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, 10am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Gosforth Women's Institute. 1st Tuesday of each month,

7pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact Benita Livesey 019467 25381.

Guides. Every Tuesday during school term time. 7.15-8.45pm, usually at Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sue Smith 019467 28265.

Health Visitor monthly 'Drop In' session. 3rd Friday of each month, 9.30am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Holmrook Reading Room Music Club. Thursdays from 7.30pm. Bring your own instrument and a desire to be better at jazz improvisation. Peter Smith: 01946 822489.

Knit and Chat Group. Meeting second Monday of every month in Woodlands Cafe, Santon Bridge. £3 covers drink and cake. It's a very informal group of varying interests and abilities, with tuition available if needed. Drop in from 2 to 4pm. Contact Sarah Millard 25365.

Line Dancing. Every Monday. 7.30pm, Windscale Club, Seascale. £2.00 donation to charity.

Moky. Keep fit dance class on Mondays, 7.15pm, at Seascale School.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A General Meeting. Third Thursday every month 10.15am for 10.45am in Gosforth Public Hall. Membership is £5 per year which covers membership for all the groups. In addition there is a small admission charge for each U3A meeting. Contact: Mrs Jo Foggatt 287759.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A History Group. First Wednesday every month at 11am in Drigg Village Hall. Contact: David Huyton 01946 841362.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Discovery Group. Fourth Wednesday every month 10.15am for 10.45am in St Mary's Room. Contacts: John Hall 28542 or Graham Hutson 25477.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Singing for Fun Group. First Thursday every month 2.30pm to 4pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Seascale. Contacts: Gavin Walker 26474 or Xandra Brassington 225794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Art Appreciation Group. Second Thursday every month 10.30am in St Joseph's

Church Hall Seascale. Contact Jean Taylor 28713.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Mah Jong Group. Second and fourth Mondays every month from 2pm to 5pm in a private house. Contact Xandra Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Reading Group. Fourth Thursday every month between 10.45am and 12.00noon in a private house. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Discussion Group. Third Tuesday every month between 10am and 12noon in a private house. Contact: Graham or Xandra Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Photography Group. Second Tuesday every month in the Beckermert Reading Room at 10.15am for 10.30am. Contact: Tony Bagnall 25595.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Walking Group. Easy walks are regularly arranged usually starting at 10.00am and last about 2 hours. Contact: Joan McIntosh 25459.

Rainbows. Every Monday during school term time. 5-6pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sarah Millard 019467 25365.

Rangers. Every Tuesday during school term time. 7.15-8.45pm, usually in supper room at Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sue Smith 019467 28265.

Scottish Country Dancing Group. Every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Windscale Club, Seascale.

Scouts. Every Thursday during school term time, 7pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

"Waymark". Youth Band meets at 7pm in the Methodist Room every Friday during term time. For further information ring Jill or Keith Hudson on 21592.

West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meetings. Second Wednesday every month. Harrington Fishing and Sailing Club, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Details: 019467 28938.

Yoga Classes. Every Tuesday during Term Time in St Mary's Room from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. Suitable for beginners and people who have already done some Yoga. For more information contact Sue on 01946 861133.

MUNCASTER MICROBUS DAY TRIPS 2012-2013

Date	Day	Destination	Price	Notes
December	8	Sat	Carlisle	£10.00
	12	Wed	Cockermouth/Lakeside/Lights	£8.50
February	2	Sat	Carlisle	£10.00
	16	Sat	Ambleside/Windermere	£9.50
March	2	Sat	Penrith/Rheged	£10.00
	16	Sat	Kirkby Lonsdale	£10.00

Muncaster Microbus runs Whitehaven shopping trips on Tuesday and Thursdays which can call at Gosforth and Seascale. Details from www.muncastermicrobus.org.uk. Bookings: 01229 717229.

OPEN MIND (WEST LAKES U3A)

Avocets, ancestors, art – what on earth might all these have in common?
The answer lies in U3A – the University of the Third Age.

The third age is the “age” after retirement – the first being the age of full time education and the second the age of work. It’s a time to continue our personal learning and development and maybe even pass on some of the skills and knowledge that we have gathered over the years.

The West Lakes U3A, or “Open Mind”, is based around Gosforth and Seascale. We have about 200 members living mainly between Egremont in the north and Bootle in the south.

There are a number of topic groups and a general meeting with a speaker each month.

As well as keeping the mind active, U3A also provides many opportunities for social interaction, which is very important when you reach retirement, especially in rural communities.

There is also a quarterly newsletter, and a website to keep everyone informed of what’s happening.

It is a joy to meet up and we have many laughs. And, of course, we learn a great deal along the way.

DECEMBER

- 5th – Wednesday.** Christmas Lunch and Carols. Venue: Calder House Hotel, Seascale. 12.00 for 12.30pm. Cost: £16 per person. Now fully subscribed. To go on the reserve list contact David Huyton 01946841362 or Tim Austin 019467 25778. History
- 11th – Tuesday.** “Autumn Splendour” competition, with short DVD and “Venice” snaps. Beckermot Reading Rooms, 10:15am. Photography
- 13th – Thursday.** “Jasper Johns : an American Perspective”, 10.30am at St Joseph’s Church Hall, Seascale. Contact Jean Taylor, tel. 28713 for further details. Art Appreciation
- 20th – Thursday.** “The Twelve days of Christmas”. Speaker: Anthony Payne. Gosforth Public Hall. 10.15am. Seasonal refreshments. Talk begins at 10.45am. General Meetings
- 26th – Wednesday.** NO MEETING

JANUARY

- 9th – Wednesday.** “More Cumbrian Curiosities”. Speaker: Mr B. Martland. Drigg Village Hall. Refreshments 10.15am to 10.45am. Talk 11.00am. NOTE: SECOND WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH. History
- 17th – Thursday.** “A Player’s History of Stringed musical Instruments”. Speaker Dr Albert Waterhouse. Gosforth Public Hall. 10.15 refreshments. Talk begins at 10.45am. General Meetings
- 23rd – Wednesday.** “The Beng Access Project, including the New Bleng Bridge”. Speaker: Gareth Browning, Forest Enterprise. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. Discovery (Science and Technology)

FEBRUARY

- 6th – Wednesday.** “Remembering Slavery”. Cumbria’s connections with the trans-atlantic slave trade. Speaker: Dr Rob David. Drigg Village Hall. Refreshments 10.15am to 10.45am. Talk 11.00am. History
- 21st – Thursday.** “How do You Want to Live?” Speaker: Jeff Cole. Gosforth Public Hall. Refreshments 1-1.15am. Talk begins at 10.45am. General Meetings
- 27th – Wednesday.** “Building an Airport on St Helena”. Speaker: Nigel Entwistle West Lakes U3A. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. Discovery (Science and Technology)

MARCH

- 6th – Wednesday.** “Cumbria in the Dark Ages”. Speaker: Mrs S. Gemmell. Drigg Village Hall. 11am. Contact: David Huyton 01946 841362. History
- 27th – Wednesday.** “The Development of Digital Communication”. Speaker: Mike Lawton. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. Discovery (Science and Technology)

The Whitemare

Country House Hotel, Pub and Restaurant

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FESTIVE MENUS

until Sunday 30 December

PARTY MENU

Seafood & Pasta Marinara *with toasted garlic ciabatta bread*

Rillettes of Gressingham Duck

with Cumberland sauce & toasted brioche

Cream of Plum Tomato Soup *with basil oil & buttered croutons*

Gravadlax *home cured salmon served with dill & wholegrain mustard dressing, brown bread & butter*

Fanned Galia Melon *with Cumbrian air dried ham & Cumberland sauce*

Warm Wild Mushroom & Toasted Pine Nut Salad
with garlic balsamic drizzle



Traditional Roast Turkey *served with stuffing & a chipolata sausage wrapped in bacon*

Roast Beef *served with rich gravy & a Yorkshire pudding*

Pork Stroganoff *with soured cream, gherkins, beetroot crisps & saffron rice*

Butterbean Casserole

served with creamed spinach & sweet potato mash

Oven Roasted Chicken Breast *on sweet potato mash, topped with red wine & mushroom sauce*

Baked Salmon Fillet *presented on creamy Irish mussel & prawn chowder*

Served with a selection of Seasonal Vegetables & Potatoes



Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce

Traditional Sherry Trifle Poached Pear with Cardamon & Cream Sauce

Baked Eccles Pie & Warm Brandy Cream

Mixed Berry & Cream Filled Meringue Nest



Mince Pies



Coffee or Tea & Mints

£17.95 per person

Party Hats & Poppers included!

SENIORS' SPECIAL PARTY MENU

Seafood & Pasta Marinara

with toasted garlic ciabatta bread

Cream of Plum Tomato Soup

with basil oil & buttered croutons

Fanned Galia Melon *with Cumbrian air dried ham & Cumberland sauce*

Warm Wild Mushroom & Toasted Pine Nut Salad
with garlic balsamic drizzle



Traditional Roast Turkey *served with stuffing & a chipolata sausage wrapped in bacon*

Roast Beef *served with rich gravy*

& a Yorkshire pudding

Pork Stroganoff *with soured cream, gherkins, beetroot crisps & saffron rice*

Butterbean Casserole *served with creamed spinach & sweet potato mash*

Baked Salmon Fillet *presented on creamy Irish mussels & prawn chowder*

Served with a selection of Seasonal Vegetables & Potatoes



Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce

Traditional Sherry Trifle

Poached Pear with Cardamon

& Cream Sauce

Mixed Berry & Cream Filled Meringue Nest



Mince Pies



Coffee or Tea & Mints

Courses: three £10.95. four £12.95

Party Hats & Poppers included!

01946 841246 BOOK SOON!

STY HEAD ROAD'S CENTENARY

It was a beautiful day. Just the day to take the vintage open top MG out for a run. The fact that my 18 year-old grandson was keen to get to Keswick was a handy excuse. I had already managed to impress (and possibly terrify) the lad by taking him over both Wrynose and Hardknott so a trip over my favourite road was a must. From the sea, then alongside England's deepest lake, into Wasdale Head, going deep into Mosedale, climbing gradually then turning back, crossing Black Sail Pass, along Kirkfell before passing under the mighty rock towers of Great Gable then soaring up to get an incomparable view from the Sty Head Hotel. I remembered the objections to building this now famous hostelry and was glad that we locals had won our case for more economic development in just the same way as we defeated that daft idea of a Lake District National Park.

It was the same argument that had been used to try and defeat the building of the Sty Head Road. It was thought that the invasion of tourists would be too much and The Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal in 1919 wrote of "the intrusion of the dust raising, stenchy motor car"¹. Indeed some said "the glories of the magnificent solitudes about Scawfell and Great Gable ... will be broken and vulgarised by the incursion of the common herd." Just wanted to keep it for themselves more like! Mind you, in 1895 £1,000 was raised at a public meeting in Keswick towards the building of the road and even the Lake District Association "who constituted themselves

guardians of the Lake District from a picturesque point of view"² subscribed £100 towards the plan in 1897.

Anyway, it's time to get going. First stop Wastwater and the memorial to Mr Musgrave. He was the owner of Wasdale Hall (now the Youth Hostel), a traditional Victorian landowner who saw himself King of Wasdale but he left £7000 for the road provided it was started in two years. If the road had been started when it was originally suggested and surveyed by the Cumberland County Surveyor, Mr George Bell, in 1896 it would have cost £10,000 but after the First World War it would have more than doubled. His vision could be seen from the lake, the cars looking like toys making their way up to Sty Head.

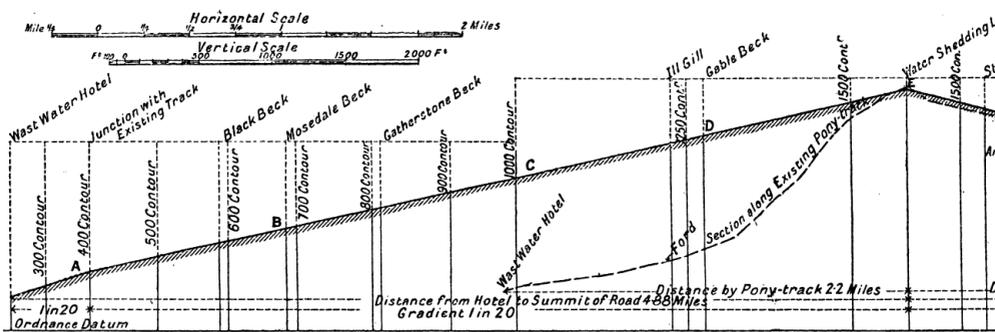
Next stop the Wasdale Head Inn, now a museum to rock climbing, housing the famous collection of photographs of the Abraham Brothers and collections of mountain memorabilia but still possible to get a drink and a bite to eat in Ritson's bar, named after the original World's Biggest Liar. The lad was not keen to visit Wastwater Water World saying it was just a copy of the one in Dubai, even when I said it had the biggest retractable glass roof in Europe and the second longest flume in the world. He just shrugged. Youngsters. Huh. I thought he might be impressed.

Ritson's Force looked good as we journeyed on. I guess the pumping back of the water to create the kayak course helps. Next stop the Head of Mosedale and the cafe at the base of The Pillar Chairlift. We

DEC. 31, 1897

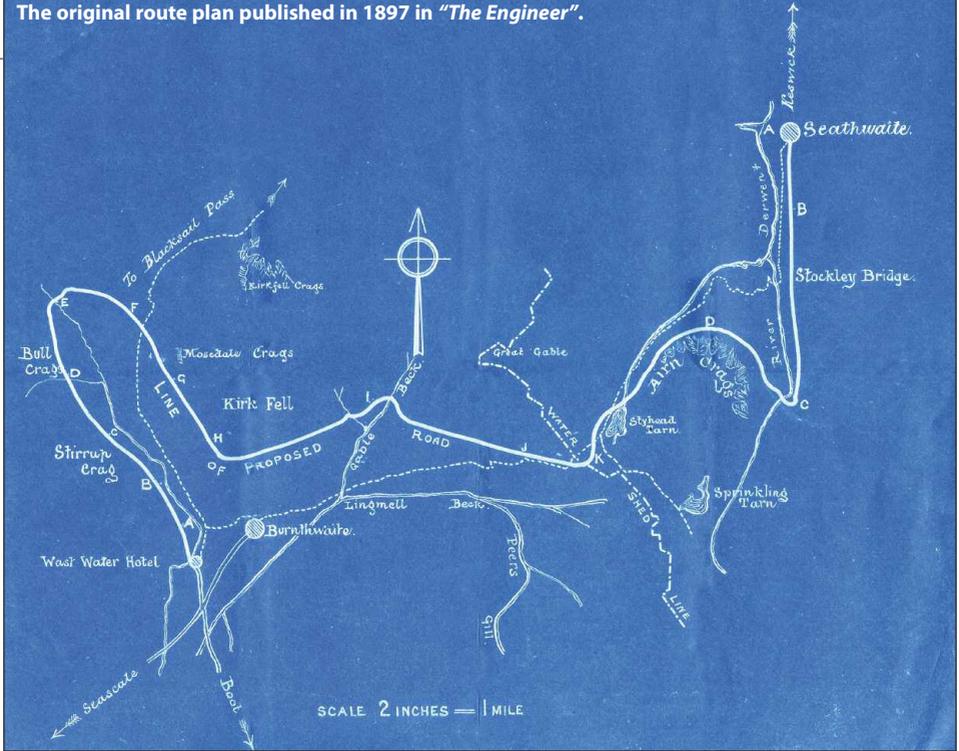
THE ENGINEER

PROPOSED ROAD THROUGH THE STY HEAD PA



STY HEAD ROAD—AVERAGE GRADIENTS

The original route plan published in 1897 in "The Engineer".



did not want anything to eat but I wanted to check the MG. So far it had been a gentle climb, just 1 in 20, but after this we climb 1,314 feet to 1,578 at Sty Head but still fairly gently owing to Victorian planning. The lad is muttering something about a pass in Switzerland which does the same thing but double in

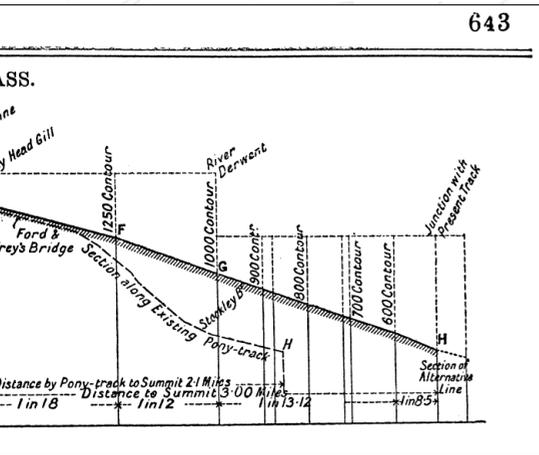
metres. He probably thinks this is easy but I take him over to the digital display board to show him how the road was intended to be constructed. Up comes a copy of the old "Whitehaven News" of 20 January 1898.

"Horizontal distance from hotel in Wasdale to summit, via old pony track, 2.2 miles; via the new road 4.88 miles. Horizontal distance from summit to Seathwaite Tarn via old pony track, 2.1 miles; via the new road 3.00 miles.

The surveyor reports that the line selected involves no engineering difficulties. The road as laid out is a 'side bank' cutting on the face of the hills and can be made with pick, shovel and crowbar, except in a few isolated places and at the summit, where explosives will be used. There will be seven rustic bridges and several large culverts required between the hotel and the summit for crossing the numerous streams and becks. And on the north-easterly descent to Seathwaite from the summit three similar bridges and a number of culverts will have to be constructed."

The piece from the paper finishes with what I think was the best advocate for the road.

643





“The road would open the best part of the lake district to thousands who now never realise that such views are to be found in the country, and there is little doubt that the district generally would benefit in every way from its construction.”

The lad makes the point that economic benefit has to be balanced with the environmental impact but I reckon that lunch at the Sty Head Hotel will persuade him. We move off, crossing one of the “rustic bridges” at Gatherstone Beck with fantastic views of the Scafells ahead. Pushing on, making a sharp left with Burnthwaite Historical Farm a few hundred feet below, we were now about to cross from Kirkfell to Great Gable with Napes Needle and Deep Gill above us. We now approach the underground car park of the Sty Head Hotel. He wonders how many explosives were used to make this. The hotel is clad entirely in shimmering solar panels which provide all the power needs of the hotel and the Scafell Pike chairlift. The views from the revolving restaurant are spectacular and the lad is impressed by the structure, even taking careful notes of how the hotel disposes of its sewage from its 120 bedrooms and restaurants! Not quite my cup of tea but I guess it is important. Before we head down I take him across to the old Mountain Rescue Box, now displayed in the hotel foyer. Not much need for it now but I tell him of the night I spent in it on a rescue. His look tells me I might just have told him that one before. Down to Seathwaite now, passing the Tarn on our left with Derwent Water glistening

ahead, we leave the trace of the old pony track which intrepid walkers still use, and turn under Aaron Crag. My brakes are heating up with a gradient now at 1 in 12, on to the junction of the river Derwent at the head of Grains Gill and then zig zag down to Stockley Bridge. It’s hard work without power steering but we finally emerge at Seathwaite. Then it’s an easy drive on to Keswick where I realise the reason for my companion’s excitement at arrival is not my driving but a very pretty girl. I guess I will be going back on my own!

Well – just a bit of make believe from someone who has won the title of the World’s Biggest Liar competition, but what if the road had been built and later had been extended and widened to take modern day vehicles? Would the economic benefits have really been that great? Would entrepreneurs really invest in summit hotels and water worlds? They do in other countries.

Would the “glories of the magnificent solitudes ... be broken and vulgarised”, or would it “open up the best part of the lake district to thousands”?

Howard Christie

Horse & Groom (Gosforth), Great Gable Brewery, and erstwhile owner of the Wasdale Head Inn.

- (1) *Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal*, 1919
- (2) *Whitehaven News*, 1897

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BLENG BRIDGE REPLACED

As people will know, the old bridge across the River Bleng had to be taken out of use after suffering significant damage. Gosforth Parish Council used this as an opportunity to work with the Lake District National Park Authority (responsible for maintaining the public footpath) and the Forestry Commission (the landowners) to get not one but two new bridges. The first is a replacement bridge over the Bleng, slightly lower down the river than the previous bridge.



ACCESS TO BLENG FOREST

Parishioners are reminded that the route from Wellington to the Bleng Forest is a private road, designated as a footpath, i.e. a right of way for walkers only.

Please do not use it for motorised traffic.

Any groups or organisations who would like to use the road should ask permission beforehand from the landowners at Mill House Farm, Wellington.



The second is a new bridge across Scalderscew Beck which provides convenient access to the other side of the forest. The bridges are installed along the route of the old forest road, allowing re-use of existing abutments. This meant that construction was relatively quick, despite the heavy rain during the construction period. These photos, taken by Trevor Brown, show the bridges during their construction.

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GADS NEEDS YOU NOW!

Our Roots

The original society was called Gosforth and District Amateur Dramatic Society, and was formed in 1932, shortly after the Public Hall was built. Its first production, in December 1933, was "The Farmer's Wife", a three-act comedy by Eden Philpotts. This society was short-lived, being disbanded at the outbreak of the Second World War. The society was resurrected in 1948, inheriting assets of £1.20 from the pre-war society. In 1959, it was re-named as Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society.

What We Do

In 1962 the society settled down to a fixed programme of two full-length plays each year. In 1977 an annual pantomime, involving both adults and children, was added to the programme. As with many other amateur dramatic societies, GADS has come to rely on the profit from the pantomime to subsidise any losses on the plays.

Every spring since 1981, GADS has endeavoured to enter a one-act play in the Cumbria preliminary round of the All-England Theatre Festival, usually held in Grange-over-Sands. We believe that participation in this event is tremendously valuable, since it gives us the opportunity to meet other drama groups, to compare standards, to receive constructive criticism from a qualified adjudicator and, potentially, to compete with the best amateur theatre companies in the country. For those unable to get to Grange, GADS usually also performs its festival entry at Gosforth.

Six years ago GADS added a popular young people's workshop to its schedule. Young people between the ages of 8 and 18 spend five days at the beginning of August working on all aspects of a chosen production, often with a strong musical content, with a final performance before an audience on the Saturday evening.

GADS is a friendly group with a down-to-earth attitude and members from all walks of life. Rehearsals are held on Mondays and Thursdays. In addition to the usual post-production parties, GADS members enjoy a wide range of social activities. In addition to our annual dinner, social events in the past have included barbecues, quiz nights, car treasure hunts, ten-pin bowling expeditions and a wine tasting evening – anything we can think of. At present, it holds a social get-together at the Horse

and Groom on the third Friday of each month.

Why We Need You

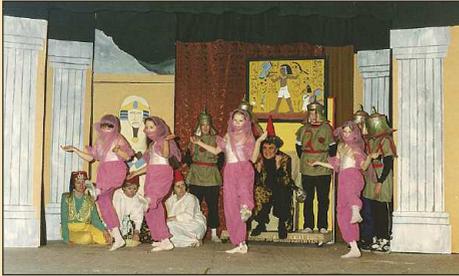
In recent years, in common with many other leisure organisations, GADS has suffered a gradual decrease in membership to the extent that we are finding it more and more difficult to stage our full programme and for the last two years have only managed to put on one play and a pantomime. Although the society is particularly short of male actors between the ages of 20 and 40, it would welcome any new members with open arms, whether they have previous stage experience or not!

Even if you don't fancy "treading the boards", you can still be very helpful to us, just by doing whatever you do best! If you can handle a saw, hammer, screwdriver, paintbrush, wire cutters, soldering iron, needle and thread, scissors, pen, musical instrument, operate a sound system or lighting console, make a decent cup of tea or coffee – or almost anything else, then we would like to meet you.

Classes of Membership

GADS has three main classes of membership: full members, junior members and patrons. Annual subscriptions are good value at £10 for full members and £5 for juniors or patrons. Children of full





members and patrons may take part in the society's activities without becoming members themselves.

How Do I Join?

There are many ways of joining GADS. The obvious way is to speak to anyone you already know to be a member. If you don't know any of our members, why not come and meet some of us at one of our Friday evening social get-togethers at the Horse and Groom? Usually these are at 7.30pm on the third Friday of each month but, to be certain, look on our notice board outside the Public Hall. If you're nervous about coming on your own, then why not bring a friend?

A second way to get in touch with GADS is to contact our secretary, John Larkham or our treasurer, Jim Polmear. You can ring John on 019467 28242 or Jim on 019467 28392. The names of other committee members are listed on the "The Organisation" page of our website, www.gads.org.uk.

A final method is to buttonhole anyone who looks like a member at any GADS production.

However you choose to introduce yourself to us, you can be sure that we will welcome you with open arms. So don't delay – Join GADS today!

John Larkham



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GOODBYE TO JONATHAN AND SHEILA FALKNER

On 28 October we said farewell to Jonathan and Sheila, their last Sunday as Priest in Charge and Reader at St Mary's Church, Gosforth, as well as the churches at Nether Wasdale and Wasdale Head. It was certainly a Sunday to remember as we had a full church at both the morning and the special evening service. At the 10am morning service two babies were baptised – Adam and Eve! – Adam Walton and Eve Clarke, both from the village. This was the first time that Jonathan had baptised an Adam and Eve at the same service! The Farewell Service in the evening had been carefully planned by Jonathan to include his favourite hymns and bible readings and at the end he and Sheila were presented with a framed calligraphy of a well-known Celtic Blessing and a cheque as a token of our thanks for their ministry in the Gosforth Benefice.

Jonathan and Sheila moved to Gosforth seven years ago from the Solway Plain but many of us already knew them, and their families, as they had both grown up in Seascale. The church in Gosforth had experienced a difficult couple of years prior to their arrival, but their gentle ministry and loving care towards all who came into contact with them, has healed many wounds. During their time here they have been very much involved with the school, taking assemblies and teaching the children new songs, as well as being a part of Fishingstone, our church music group. They have contributed to many activities in church including Gosforth Goslings, the local Fairtrade Group and Sheila has helped to run Gosforth Baby and Toddler Group. They will both be greatly missed but, as they are retiring back to Seascale, I am sure we will bump into them from time to time when visiting the Post Office and Surgery!

Norma Hughes

PDFs of back issues of the Gosforth newsletter are available on Trevor Preece's website, who compiles it. There are also recent issues of the Seascale and Drigg Parish Council newsletters/magazines.

Go to www.trpub.net and then to the village of your choice.

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Many may not know or realise, but Alfie has an interesting family tree, with many of his ancestors enjoying extensive travel on the seven seas. Many on the shoulder of a pirate, and no, not all were called Polly! It is with this in mind that Alfie caught up with Mike Barrett, Gosforth resident, erstwhile sailor (perhaps pirate!) and knowledgeable aficionado of Captain Cook and of the islands and peoples of the Pacific Ocean. With the anniversary in February of the death of the well known explorer and sailor Captain Cook approaching, Alfie recounts Mike's story of his visit to the Hawai'ian Island.



On one of his visits to the islands, the great American writer and humourist Mark Twain was asked his opinion on the incident and replied that, on reflection, he considered it "Justifiable Homicide." Who knows? Maybe he was right.

On the day I was born, 13 January 1944, in the east end of a war weary London, thousands of miles to the West, in the Hawai'ian Islands of the north Pacific, a writer of popular songs called Jonny Noble died. I was born that day; he was fifty-two.

As a lad of ten or twelve I'm watching my father dancing around the living room of our London flat singing the words to a popular song of the day with the title: "My Little Grass Shack in Kealakekua Hawai'i!" A happy, childhood memory.

It is the morning of 14 February 2005 and, after a hot and tiring two-hour trek over volcanic scrub and elephant grass, down an increasingly steep and narrow track, I find myself on the lip of a wide and beautiful bay. I was looking out across a cobalt and aquamarine sea, in which a small handful of trippers from one of the dive boats splash and glide, snorkelling among the kaleidoscope of brightly coloured fishes. On the opposite shore, cliffs dotted with caves climb into a hot, blue sky.

Here is the link. I stood that morning on the beach which fringes the bay on the west (kona) coast of the big island of Hawai'i, called Kealakekua (it translates as the Pathway of the Gods). I remember my late father singing that song about here, on more than one occasion. I remember, also, that the Jonny Noble who died on the day I came into this world, was the very man who wrote the song, and finally I recall that the comment of justifiable homicide from Mark Twain referred to the great explorer and navigator, Captain James Cook, who died yards from where I stood, in an avoidable fracas with hundreds of Hawai'ian warriors, 226 years ago to the day.

In front of the fringe of coconut palms at the beach stands a white obelisk, a homage to Cook, with a cartouche around the squared base, commemorating his discovery (sic) of these islands in 1778. Graffiti exhorts: Haole (white man/ Caucasian) go home! The same clichés always from a subsumed people.

My interest in the Pacific, and Polynesia especially, has been lifelong, and although I admire the European navigators who have set their prows to this ocean, since Magellan (November 1519) and Captain Cook in particular, my admiration lay with those pre-European voyagers who settled on this island ocean in their great double-hulled voyaging canoes, from New Zealand in the West, to Hawai'i in the north, and Rapa Nui (Easter Island) far to the east; the so called Polynesian triangle. However, on this day in 2005, I was here to pay my respects to Cook, certainly the greatest sea explorer of his generation.

There is not, alas, enough space for me to explain the detail of the situation leading up to his killing, so I must give you the bare facts only. (Gosforth library has a couple of books on Cook, for anyone who is interested in knowing more.)

So, this third of his great voyages was, ostensibly, to search the North West coast of North America for a strait connecting the Pacific to the Atlantic, the so called NW passage which had been sought from the Atlantic side since Elizabethan times.

However, on his way north from Tahiti to begin this survey, he made what was perhaps the first European discovery of the Hawai'ian Islands.

Now, because his ships' arrival coincided with that section of the Hawai'ian year when the god of crops and fertility, Lono, was expected to appear, Cook was taken for the manifestation of that God (this is still fiercely debated by some historians). In any event he was treated with extraordinary reverence while he

was there, and eventually the ships set sail, and once more headed north and east.

Cut to the chase – a couple of days out, the foremast of the Resolution was damaged, and Cook decided to return to Kealakua in search of timber to replace the damaged mast.

His reappearance disconcerted the Hawaiians, whose spiritual year now dictated that the war god Ku, with the departure of Lono, had ascendance in the islands.

During their return visit, there were minor incidents involving stealing and truculence until, the night of 13 February, the sister ship to the Resolution, the Discovery, had her cutter stolen from its mooring. Upon hearing the news the following morning, Cook, accompanied by two boatloads of seamen, and a contingent of marines, went ashore to expedite the recovery of the cutter.

During his voyages, in times of trouble, particularly of theft, Cook had always resorted to the same action. He would take the local chiefs into custody until the stolen objects were returned. It almost always worked (the chiefs, incidentally, were treated with the greatest respect and hospitality).

During the previous sojourn he had made friends with the most important chief of the district, an old man called Kalanio'pu'u, and it was this man he now sought out on that fateful morning.

Having, at the chief's house, raised him from sleep and invited him to join Cook on board the Resolution, which the old man was happy to do, they got as far as back to the beach where the wives of Kalanio'pu'u and some of the warriors, forced him to sit on the beach and not to enter the ship's boat.

From this moment panic turned into chaos. The warriors (some say there were now several thousand) began to threaten Cook and his people with stones and spears, and Cook now had his marines drawn up in line, muskets at the ready. One adventurous warrior threatened Cook personally and received a shotgun blast of birdshot which, doing him no harm because of the Pandanus reed chest armour he wore, emboldened the others.

One man, threatening Cook at close quarters with a spear, was shot dead with the other barrel of Cook's shotgun containing ball. Now a general melee ensued, during which the marines fired a volley, and where then overwhelmed in a terrifying rush of warriors, hurling stones and wielding daggers.

Cook turned seaward to call in the two ships' boats and, as he did so, was struck on the back of the head by a stone and went down on to his knees. Hawaiians swarmed upon him forcing him down on



to his knees. All hell was breaking loose around him. Sailors and marines plunged into the water in an attempt to reach the boats. One man remembers seeing his commander raise his head amongst the screaming knot of Hawai'ian bodies, before he went down again succumbing to knife blow after knife blow.

Here was the death of James Cook, ignominious and bloody, on an island nobody in Europe had yet heard of. Over the next few days they recovered bits and pieces of his body, returned by the now rather disconsolate Hawai'ians.

Great chiefs were, in death, dismembered and burned, and their bones distributed among the spiritual sites on the islands. So, even in death, Cook retained some of the importance he had acquired amongst these people in life.

I spent several hours at Kealakekua thinking about Cook and, amid the watery shouts of laughter coming from the tourists in the bay, laid a flower at the foot of the memorial before setting off on what would be a four hour trek back to my starting point, on the road far above the beach, in the sleepy little community of the town called Captain Cook.

That evening in the bar of the hotel, a local man asked me about my day, and I told him where I had been. He was of Hawai'ian blood and said to me. "What did Cook give us? Non indigenous animals and venereal disease." I sipped my beer and remained quiet. He had, after all, a point.

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Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group

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Wednesday 13 February 2013, 7.30-9.00pm in Gosforth Methodist Room
That’s Ireland

A trip round Ireland, looking at different aspects, history, scenery, flora of the Burren etc. with Maurice Steele.

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Fiona Galloway, Hon. Secretary, West Coast Support Group 01946 841313

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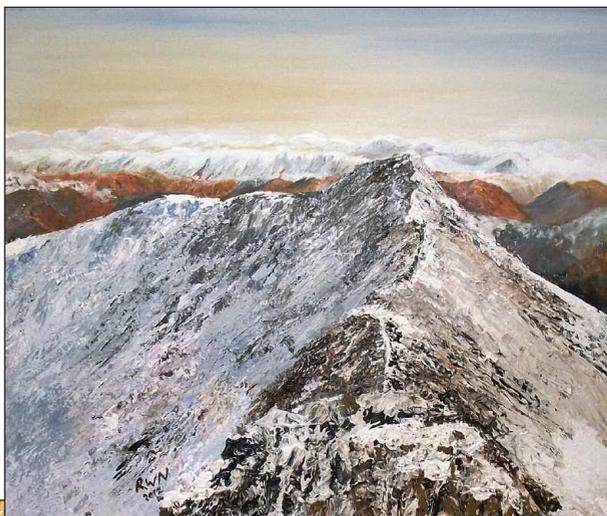
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Gosforth & District Art Society is holding a members'-only christmas exhibition (details above) and has also opened another meeting – along with their usual meeting – from 7 to 9pm on Mondays in Gosforth village school they have introduced a Thursday morning one from 10 to 12pm in Seascale Methodist church hall. Some members go to both and any new members who prefer daytime only are catered for in Seascale. After only the third week the meetings are going well in Seascale. Anyone interested may contact Jakki Barratt 019467 25838 for details of membership of both groups.



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A GYM ON OUR DOORSTEP

Last December the Windscale Club opened the doors of a purpose-built gym. Those of us who are not SASRA members can easily become associate members and have full use of the facilities there. Use of the gym has steadily increased since it was opened not only by the outwardly fit youngsters but those of us who just wish to maintain a good level of physical activity regardless of age.

It is designed with specific zoned training areas – cardio, resistance, free weight all with the very latest Cybex equipment, the most advanced technology in the fitness industry. There is a ladies-only fitness suite for those who are reluctant to exercise in a mixed environment. Linda who manages the facility and her staff will ensure that guidance will be given to anyone who wishes it.

Already a number of Gosforth residents are making use of the facilities there. The gym is open 7 days a week and can be contacted on 019467 27882.



PONSONBY AUTHOR

BOB ORRELL

Bob was inspired with writing after having a play accepted by the BBC Children's Hour when he was a boy in the 1940s. He has been a writer most of his life. His first book "*Saddle Tramp in the Lake District*" was made into a documentary for BBC television. He has written thirteen books, the last being "*Cumberland's Rum Butter Coast*", which is told in his relaxed and entertaining style, exploring picturesque hamlets, villages, and towns along the Rum Butter Coast.

Bob Orrell was born in Manchester in 1934 and at the age of fourteen ran away from home and worked on a deep-sea trawler off Iceland and on various Scottish fishing vessels.

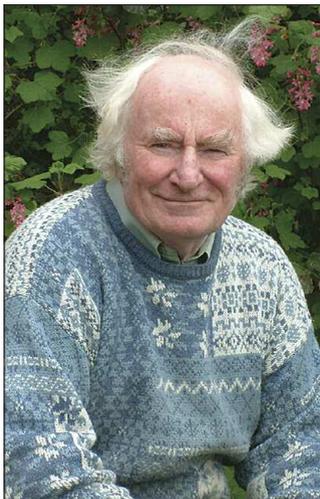
He learnt to handle sailing boats in the turbulent waters of western Scotland while living on the Isle of Skye. At age eighteen, when called up for National Service, he volunteered for the RAF Air Sea Rescue Service but owing to a mistake he was sent to join an RAF Mountain Rescue Unit in Wales.

After four years in the RAF he became a lighthouse keeper, working at the Butt of Lewis lighthouse. He later joined the Forestry Commission. After two years an offer of a post as a sailing instructor at Brathay Hall Outdoor Centre at Ambleside in the Lake District drew him back to boats and eventually he joined the staff of a Merchant Navy Training School as an instructor in seamanship.

He moved on to join the Outward Bound Trust as a rock-climbing and sailing instructor at a school in Wales.

With a business partner he opened one of the first Royal Yachting Association approved sailing schools in the north of England. He later withdrew from the partnership to go into business delivering sailing and motor yachts between the UK and the Mediterranean. Work became scarce so he worked as a Radio Operator drilling for gas on a rig off Yarmouth. The rig suffered a blow out and he was rescued by helicopter.

Back at home in the port of Ravenglass on the



Cumbrian coast, the offer of the loan of a small fishing boat led to a life as a lobster fisherman but the engine broke down in heavy seas and the boat was wrecked on a reef. He managed to find employment as the radio operator on a rig working between Shetland and Norway. When the rig he was working on broke away from its moorings in storm force winds and one of the engines seized up on the helicopter that was flying him and the rest of the crew back to Shetland in a snow blizzard, causing the helicopter to crash-land at the airport, Bob decided that rigs were not for him and opted for a less hazardous

occupation. He rented a Forestry Commission farm in Ennerdale in the Western Lake District.

Following an invitation to join BBC Radio, he worked as a producer/presenter with BBC Radio Cumbria, and was also seconded to BBC Television to write the script for, and present, a TV documentary about the Lake District National Park. He was later commissioned by BBC Radio Cumbria to produce and present a daily farming programme.

Resigning from the BBC after five years he bought a 40ft steel ketch, and for three years he and a new partner operated skippered charters from a base in Oban, taking paying guests on weekly cruises around the Western Isles. Very expensive repairs to the engine eventually put the enterprise out of business and the boat was sold.

Back in Cumbria he was offered the post of Editor of the house magazine of Harrison and Hetherington, Europe's largest livestock auctioneers based in Carlisle, but the sea soon called again when he acquired a 26ft wooden yacht that was in very poor condition in. He spent the next two years restoring it and then sailed it from Cumbria to the Hebrides and back.

He is the author of thirteen books and lists his interests as sailing, mountaineering and film-making. He holds a Mountain Guides Certificate and a Mountain Leadership Certificate. *Jakki Barratt*



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HOLIDAY SNAPSHOT PUZZLE

Are there any takers for guessing what car this is?

It was seen being manhandled into the Enzo Ferrari museum at Modena in September this year.

Hand in any suggestion in an envelope marked Modena to the Village Store (include your name and contact details). The most correct answer will win a prize. The Editor will judge the winner.

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Whitehaven News

BOB ORRELL

CUMBERLAND'S RUM BUTTER COAST



A STATEMENT FROM CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL ABOUT THE RECENT FLOODING IN COPELAND

"In the early hours of 30 August, during exceptionally heavy rainfall, over 100 properties across Copeland suffered internal flooding. More were hit by flooding to gardens and highway areas reducing access.

Cumbria County Council has new duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flooding within the county and publish the results. Officers from the Council have been working closely with the Environment Agency, Copeland Borough Council and those residents affected by flooding to understand the causes. Throughout September, October and early November investigations have been carried out in Gosforth, St. Bees, Ravenglass, Seascale, Moresby Parks, Whitehaven, Sandwith, Cleator Moor, Egremont and many smaller settlements in between. Council officers have engaged a local drainage



contractor to clean and inspect highway drainage systems to provide some short term resilience to any future flooding threat. But the causes of the flooding are not limited to highway areas. All landowners are responsible by law to minimise the risk of flooding on their property and on land; and this includes maintenance of any watercourse they own as 'riparian' owners.

In Gosforth, many highway areas acted as conduits for the fast flowing water during the flooding caused by the lack of capacity of watercourses and 12 properties flooded internally as a result. On-going investigations have focussed on jetting and CCTV examination on the extensive lengths of culverts carrying watercourses under the village. The flood investigation report for the village will be completed by the end of the year and is expected to provide recommendations on the capacities of the watercourses, the features they contain and the need for numerous 'riparian' owners to maintain them."

As well as the houses in Gosforth which were flooded some businesses here were also affected and at least one cellar. Houses in Meadow Close were flooded up to a depth of 2ft and it is understood nine cars there were written off. Some village residents residents have not been able to return to their properties at time of writing. DG

Photos by Chris Himsworth.

Bookings now being taken for Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Day Carvery Luncheon
£55.00 per head.

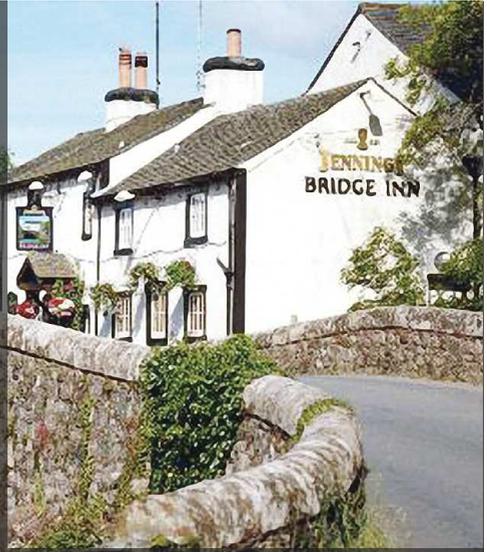
New Year's Eve Dinner – £45.00 per head to include 3-course dinner, bottle of wine per couple and bubbly at midnight with light music in the bar 'til late.

Function Room with Private Bar Facilities available up to 100 for your Christmas Party.

Christmas Party Menus available (see our website for details).

Special menus & discounts available for early 2013.

Special Winter rates for accommodation – stay 2 nights any Friday & Saturday during Jan, Feb & March (excluding 15 & 16 Feb and 29 & 30 March) in a double room for £150 B&B and get Sunday night FREE – subject to availability.



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GOSFORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

ECO COUNCIL

Last year Gosforth School achieved the Bronze Flag award. Gosforth School has been given this award to recognise its achievement in working towards a sustainable lifestyle.

To achieve the Bronze Flag award there are a number of things we had to do, like:

- The school has an eco committee consisting of pupils and adults.
- The group meets at least once every term and we keep records from our meetings.
- The school has a prominent, designated notice board, detailing Eco-Schools activities and lots more.

Last summer we set aside an area of the school field in which we planted wild flowers seeds to encourage wildlife into the area.

This year's project is to sort out the woodland area and thin out some trees that are dead. We hope to have minibeasts' shelters and are looking for funding to buy native blue bell bulbs to plant around the school ground.
by Hollie and Ashley, Year 6

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Mr M. McKinley 26267

Mr D. Ancell 25232

Mrs C. Gallery-Strong 25114

Mr D. Gray 25318

Dr G. Hutson 25477

Mr A. Jacob 25356

Mr J.T. Norman 25646 (home)

01946 841413 (work)

Mr I. Rae 25393

Mr C. Walton 25526

Mr R. Wright 25296

Clerk

Mr D. Polhill 24327

CARDBOARD RECYCLING

A Cardboard Recycling skip is now available in Gosforth car park. Space has been found for it by removing the large can recycling skip and replacing it by two smaller skips which are now positioned next to the clothes bank.



Christmas Lunches at The Woodland's Tea Room, Santon Bridge

~
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~

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NEW DOG EXCLUSION

There has been a change in the status of the playing field with regards to dog exclusion. Last year Copeland Borough Council issued a dog exclusion order for that area of the playing field where the children's play equipment is situated. As other areas of the playing field are used for games and events, many involving children, the parish council asked that the order be extended to cover the whole of the playing field. This has now happened so the entire playing field is now designated as a dog exclusion area.

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We are now also serving a Brasserie menu alongside the à la carte for the more informal evening with friends. The price of a 3-course meal now starts from £16.95.

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