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Seascale Village

Autumn 2002



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Parish News

Once again we've had changes on the Parish Council. We have three new Councillors – Mr Andrew Woollass, Mrs Vicky Borrino and Mrs Gillian McCurrie. Gillian resigned as Clerk in the Summer as her work commitment didn't allow her enough time for the clerk's duties, but we are happy to welcome her as a new Councillor. Mrs Jane McCrum is the new Clerk; she started in September.

In our last newsletter we reported that the School Children would help us in our campaign to cut out litter. They ran a competition for Best Designed Poster. During the Local Democracy Week, Councillor David Moore and myself judged these and the three winners will have their Posters copied and displayed around the village.

The extra work on the Sewage Works is on schedule and it should be finished by March. The United Utilities Manager has informed me that they are willing to show people around in the Spring if enough interest is shown. If you want to have a look around I suggest you give names and telephone numbers to a Parish Councillor or the Clerk and we will compile a list.

I hope you've all noticed the Jubilee Seat installed on Croft Head Road near the entrance to the School. Six other seats have been purchased and will be installed on the beach area in the near future.

We hope you are looking forward to our Christmas Concert and Christmas Lights. The lights will be switched on

on 15 December at 2.30 – 4.30pm
Mince Pies and Sherry will be served.

Egremont Town Band will be entertaining us for the afternoon; we all hope your support will be excellent as usual. This is our 12th year and I am sure Tony Holman, who is the Co-ordinator for the Lights, will be looking for as much help as he can get.

We will be presenting Certificates again to the Best Display in Private Houses. If anyone has a cup they won last year would be please return it to a Parish Councillor.

The cost of running the public toilets, grass cutting and repairing damage done by vandals may result in the Parish Council having to raise the Precept. We do not want our standards to slip on grass cutting, or maintenance of the toilets and play areas but prices rise every year.

THE COUNCIL WISHES YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HOPE YOU ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

EILEEN EASTWOOD

Seascale School Council

A new school year and a new school council has been elected. Last year's council was actively involved in an 'Anti-Litter' Campaign organising a competition for posters to go round the village. Please look out for them. Thanks go to the Parish Council for providing small tokens as prizes to encourage awareness of the problem. It would help if the older teenagers would leave the litterbins in place and stop breaking them and kicking them around on their way through the village at night!

School is constantly encouraging the children to care for the environment and the young council members take part in Copeland Youth Council meetings and initiatives. They represent their school and community sharing ideas of how to improve our environment.

Sports Hall

Now the colder weather is approaching don't forget you have a Sports Hall.

After nearly 15 years the Sports Hall has had to update its emergency lighting and electricity; this will benefit all the users. The best news is we've installed much better and more efficient heating – this will make it more comfortable for the keep-fit, children's parties and any other users.

If you have never used the Hall and would like to look around please contact a Committee Member.

After persistent vandalism the Parish Council has had to board up the windows. This means the lights have to be on all the time and also means we cannot have the windows lit up with Christmas Lights.

Hope you enjoy using the facilities this winter – the Committee is always looking for new Committee Members and new ideas for the Sports Hall.

SPORTS HALL COMMITTEE

Seascale Preschool Playgroup

Seascale Playgroup meets from 9.10 to 11.30 am every Monday and Thursday, during term-time, in the old community wing at Seascale School (to the extreme left of the main entrance).

We cater for children aged 0-3 years. Anyone is welcome to come along, and after your children reach the age of 2½ years you can leave them with us and have a couple of hours off!

We have lots of activities on offer, such as sand, dough and paint, which most children enjoy, and also a home corner, climbing frame, outdoor play area, etc, and we always have a story time, snack time and music time. We aim to prepare the children for the nursery unit in school.

Our staff have appropriate qualifications, and we try to make people feel welcome. So why not come along and see what we do, or contact Mel on 28626 or Jackie on 27211 for further details? There is a small charge of £1.50 for toddlers, and £3 for children over 2½ years.

Seascale Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

EGREMONT POLICE

A message from the new Sergeant

Upon the retirement of Sgt Malcolm Watson, I have taken over his role at Egremont Police Station. My name is Geoff Gardner and my rank is Acting Sgt, which means that my tenure of this post may only be temporary, unfortunately (although I would like it to be permanent!).

I am a 41-year-old married man with two children and I live in Whitehaven. I have been in the Police since 1980 and have spent all my service in West Cumbria, mainly at Whitehaven and Cleator Moor. I have spent the last 11 years in CID at Whitehaven, during which time I have been involved in numerous enquiries involving the range of serious criminal offences up to and including murder cases.

Although I have not worked in uniform in the Seascale area I am old enough to remember when Seascale (and other places) had its own Policeman. I am acutely aware that many people would like to see the return of those days, however it is unlikely to happen. The loss of the locally based officer to communities such as Seascale no doubt increased the fear of crime in many people, particularly the vulnerable and elderly. All is not lost, though, as the Chief Constable is proposing to introduce a new rural policing initiative in the near future, and I know that Seascale is in the forefront of this initiative.

In the meantime I shall endeavour to ensure that Seascale and the surrounding area receives the policing it deserves, and I hope to meet as many people as I can in the time available to me.

GEOFF GARDNER

Seascale Fun Day

Total raised to date
£570, this with a
handful of
volunteers from the
Seascale Village Fun
Day Group – BUT!
(isn't there always
one!) we need a few
more intrepid bodies
to donate time and
ideas to make the
Fun Day a bigger
success next year
than it was this! If
you would like to
get involved please
call Hilary Ballard
on 21329 or Steve
Ainley on 28538.

GARDEN BONFIRES – A CAUTION

The bonfire gets its name from medieval bone-fires of animal bones – and while modern day bonfire ingredients may not be as gruesome, they still cause pollution and local nuisance. They can be very irritating to neighbours – the smoke, smut and smell are the subject of many complaints to local authorities. Smoke prevents your neighbours from enjoying their gardens, opening windows or hanging washing out, and reduces visibility in the neighbourhood and on roads.

Burning garden waste produces smoke, especially if damp and smouldering. This will contain pollutants including carbon monoxide, dioxins and

particles. Burning plastic, rubber or painted materials not only creates an unpleasant smell but also produces a range of poisonous compounds. These can all have damaging health effects, but serious harm is unlikely if exposure to bonfire smoke is brief. Problems may be caused, however, for asthmatics, bronchitis sufferers, people with heart conditions and children.

Weather conditions affect air quality. If the air is still, particularly in the late afternoon or evening, smoke will linger. A dry blazing bonfire will lift smoke and fumes upward. If it is too windy, smoke can blow into neighbours' properties and into open windows.

What is the Legal Position?

It is a common misconception that there are specific byelaws to prohibit bonfires – there aren't. An outright ban would be difficult to enforce and occasionally a bonfire is the best practicable way to dispose of garden waste. If used sensitively, the occasional bonfire or barbecue should not cause a major problem. If a neighbour is causing a problem by burning rubbish, the law is on your side. Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*, a statutory nuisance includes "smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or nuisance".

If bothered by smoke, approach your neighbour and explain the problem. You might feel awkward, but they might not be aware of the distress they are causing and it will hopefully make them more considerate in the future. If this fails, contact your local Council's environmental health department. They must investigate your complaint and can issue a nuisance abatement notice under the Environmental Protection Act. The same Act allows you to take private action in the magistrate's court. If only occasional it is unlikely to be considered a nuisance in law. Finally, under the Highways Act 1980 anyone lighting a fire and allowing smoke to drift across a road faces a fine if it endangers traffic. Contact the Police in this case.

This information was taken from one of a series of environmental leaflets by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection, www3.mistral.co.uk/cleanair/

ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL POST OFFICE

With the ever-increasing pressures of rural life and forthcoming changes to the way benefits and allowances are paid, I have been asked to provide some notes on the advantages of having a local Post Office. Direct access to a vast array of products and services has to be the short answer; however such simple statements have to have some sort of explanation.

The equipment required to enable sub post offices to continue to deliver benefits and allowances when the system changes is rapidly being installed. I am pleased to say that offices in West Cumbria were amongst the first to be equipped and when the time for the change comes, our offices will be ready to continue to offer that service – your benefit, in cash, free of charge.

It is not often realised that there are a number of banking facilities already available at Post Offices – cash and cheque deposits along with drawing cash is possible from a number of high street and internet bank accounts. This is backed up by the more traditional National Savings accounts and savings schemes, like Premium Bonds.

Villages without post offices have lost the access to the worldwide postal service. This is a bitter blow to a rural community; something as simple as a birthday gift has to be taken to town to be sent. We in Seascale are fortunate in having the Royal Mail based in the village. This means that undelivered packets and such like are

not returned to a large centre (which, incidentally, has much shorter opening hours than our post office!).

As motoring becomes more expensive and congestion increases many more people will need to carry out their business locally. Village post offices give access to travel services such as E111 forms, Travel insurance, Currency and Passport checking. Many types of licences are available locally; TV and Motor vehicle are the most common.

The way that bills are processed today is changing, more and more companies are turning to the Post Office to provide a free or low cost account paying point, modern barcode readers enable simple quick and secure transactions, magnetic and smart card systems are a safer and simpler replacement for the once common saving stamp.

Our Post Office in Seascale is able to offer a huge range of products and services and that range is set to increase further. Banking services will be leading the way, early next year will see the launch of the Post Office card account – an account designed to be simple to use for your benefit payments. From April next year access to virtually all the main banks basic bank accounts will be possible. The added benefit, of course, is that Post Offices are open much longer hours, and Saturday mornings, than the majority of rural bank branches.

ANDREW WOOLASS

Seascale Horticultural Society



Members of the Society can currently order seeds, plants and even hardware from Suttons at discount prices. To become a member all that is required is a yearly subscription of £2. Discounts range from 30% for all seeds to 10% off plants and hardware and the final ordering date is 10th December. To obtain a catalogue, or if you require further information, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

We enjoyed yet another successful Flower Show, despite having a poor start to the summer, and I would like to say a very special thank you to all those who entered. It requires a lot of dedication from our exhibitors to produce such a wonderful display when the weather has done its utmost to thwart them. We were also particularly well supported in the handicraft sections this year, so altogether it made for a very successful show.

We are currently looking for new committee members to help with the Flower Show, and in particular a new secretary as I am hoping to retire from the job after 16 years. If anybody is willing to help in any way we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact any of the following committee members:

Mr J.D. Fearon 51 Wasdale Park, Seascale. Tel 28431

Mr R. Harrop 4 Wastwater Rise, Seascale. Tel 27151

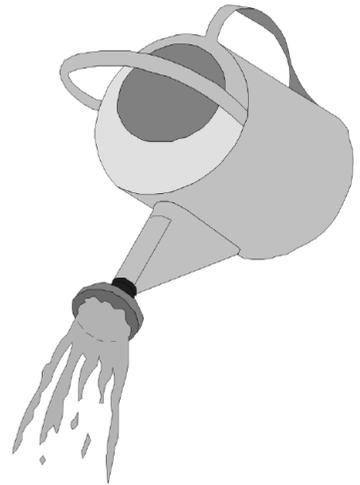
Mrs L.J. Holman 15 Wastwater Rise, Seascale. Tel 28941

Mr D. Moorhouse, Longacre, Santon Bridge Road, Gosforth. Tel 25328

Mr C.L. Tuley, 50 Santon Way, Seascale. Tel 28100

Other members are:

**Mr G.A. Holburt, Mrs L. Mckenzie, Mr T. Porter,
Mrs A. Rudd, Mr G. Rudd, Mr N. Todd and Mr P. Weightman**

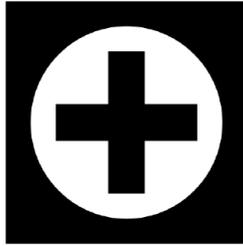


Newsletter Committee

We are currently looking for new members to be on the Newsletter Committee as well as people to deliver the newsletter. If anybody is able to help in any way please contact either Lois Holman on 28941 or Eileen Eastwood.

SEASCALE FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

I recently attended a meeting at the Windscale Club for anyone that was interested in being part of a First Response Scheme for Seascale. A scheme has already been set up in Gosforth by Nicholas Speed-Andrews since



March, thanks to the support and fund raising for pagers etc. from their village. I thought that it would be very well supported, but how wrong I was – only eight people bothered to turn up, which I thought was very disappointing.

WHAT IS A FIRST RESPONSE TEAM?

I hear a lot of you ask. Well, it's a group of volunteers from the village willing to give up their time and who are trained by our local ambulance service to attend emergency 999 calls and help a person in a life threatening situation until the ambulance arrives. This fast response could mean the difference between that person surviving or not.

WHY DO WE NEED A FIRST RESPONSE TEAM – WE HAVEN'T NEEDED ONE BEFORE?

Latest figures show that death by heart-related illness has increased by 20% and that the rate of survival if that person gets first aid treatment within 8 minutes could rise to as much as 50%. We live in a remote area and an ambulance can't always get here in such a short period of time – a time span that could mean

the difference between a loved one surviving or dying. If a medically trained volunteer was to be on the scene quickly, to provide help to that person until the ambulance arrived, then there would be a significant improvement in the chances of survival. This fast response is what the team aims to achieve.

WHAT SORT OF EMERGENCY CALLS WOULD A FIRST RESPONDER ATTEND?

The types of emergency calls they would attend would be patients suffering from chest pain, at risk of cardiac arrest, unconsciousness, choking and victims of drowning. They would not be asked to attend traffic accidents, violent situations or dangerous emergencies.

If you think you would like more details on becoming a member of a First Response Team and are caring and sympathetic and willing to attend training sessions, CONTACT Mr Nicholas Speed-Andrews on Gosforth 25721 or Mr Rod Kimber on Seascale 28723.

If you don't want to be part of the active team then why not become part of the committee or help in the vital fund raising for Pagers and other vital equipment! Please prove that the village of Seascale can respond to a worthwhile cause!

Thank you.

MRS S. WEATHERSTON

Trials and Tribulations of a Footpath Walker

*It was nineteen ninety, when it all began,
To start a new hobby was the plan.
I would walk every West Cumbrian path,
Looking back now, that's quite a laugh.*

*A retirement hobby, next was the plan,
So further afield, we then began.
We followed the maps little green lines,
And kept to all the footpath signs.*

*In '97 "adopt a path" was mooted,
By Seascale Council old ways were routed,
At a meeting we were asked to walk,
And agreed on a path, at a footpath talk.*

*On some paths we are chased by cattle,
Snakes that hiss, but never rattle,
Winter mud, and summer rain,
Lightning, thunder, rain again.*

*Wild flowers alter as the seasons change,
Ducks and herons over it range.
Very few people, do we ever see,
Stiles are getting too high for me!*

*Mosquito bites, and wasps that sting,
The joys of walking, they all bring.
It's a wonderful hobby, and when I get home,
I write about, what I see, when I roam.*

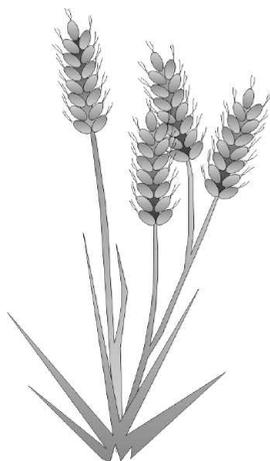
PAM DAVIS



FARMING CRACK

AUTUMN BONUS

Making hay and silage this year has been extremely difficult in the unfavourable weather conditions. Very little hay will have been made, owing to the amount of rain. Thank goodness we had a wonderful six weeks in autumn enabling the harvest to be completed in record time. We were very lucky compared with a lot of farmers in the North and West of Scotland who got little or, in some cases, no winter food, putting them in a desperate plight this winter.



THE GOSFORTH SHOW

The show was very fortunate in getting one of the few sunny days. After missing last year because of Foot and Mouth the attendance at this year's show was far better than we could have expected. A full timetable of events kept everyone entertained. The Local History Tent contained the biggest collection of old photographs and ephemera of this area ever displayed. Anne Hopper from Radio Cumbria proved to be very popular as she toured the show ground.

Victoria Routledge is a Seascale girl who is making quite a name for herself writing best selling novels and freelancing for some of the top newspapers. She wrote an article about the Gosforth Show in the Sunday Times, which created a lot of interest around the country. A family from Manchester had driven up for the day on the strength of this article. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the show. It is one of the countryside traditions that we are struggling to keep alive.

FOOT & MOUTH

The Foot & Mouth saga rumbles on. If you buy any livestock a 20-day Standstill Order comes into place. Nothing can be moved or sold from the farm during that time making it impossible for some to continue trading. Now the Government is proposing to introduce a law making every farmer insure against Foot & Mouth. So far only one company will provide this type of insurance and will only pay 25% of the value of the animal. Neighbouring farms that have to have their animals culled would receive nothing. A medium farm like ours will have to pay approximately £10,000 for this insurance per year, making it likely that we and our fellow farmers will go to the wall, like many have already.

The Government would not allow a National Public

Inquiry into the cause of the last outbreak so each County involved ran one of its own. The blame for the cause and spread was put at the Government's door! Even now little or nothing has been done about food that is being imported into this Country. British animals are reared, farmed and slaughtered under very strict guidelines for the safety of the general public, unlike imported food that has little or no restriction on the use of drugs, welfare or disease. I think the Government should address these issues before imposing more unnecessary regulations on an industry that is already struggling to survive.

Farmers are leaving their land at an alarming rate. The Farmers Guardian estimates that 11 farmers a day are leaving the industry. In Seascale Parish there were, until recently, 11 full-time working farms. Now only four survive.

SWALLOWS

On the brighter side the first swallows arrived here on 12 April and the last one left on 30 September.

A group landed here several days later, probably on its way south from Scotland.

This year we had eleven nests on the farm, each one with at least two sittings of four or five eggs. A bumper crop. It is unbelievable that they travel 2,000 miles to get here (they return to where they were hatched).

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

KEN MAWSON



SEASCALE BEACH

Nothing to do with farming, but have you noticed how the beach is changing? A lot of the sand from the front of the car park has shifted along the beach and is now burying some of the big rock pools in front of the Boat Yard. Two wooden posts have appeared – does anyone know anything about these posts? They look too old to be connected to the sewage works.

PHOTOS PLEASE

When the sewage outfall pipe was being buried, the contractors uncovered beds of peat containing branches and leaves several feet under the sand. It is fascinating to think what things must have been like in the distant past. Did anyone think to take any photographs of this, please?

