

SEASCALE

Village Newsletter

Seascale in Steam

Extra rail traffic is planned up the
Cumbrian coast line this year –
with a touch of nostalgia.

See page 5 for dates,
and a competition too.



SPRING 2008

PARISH NEWS

It's always a pleasure to write in the Spring issue as we are looking forward to lighter nights, summer sports and holidays. Since our last newsletter we have another new councillor – Clive Willoughby – bringing our number up to 11. As we've had five new councillors since May I'm printing all of their names and telephone numbers in this issue.

I am sure you will all agree that the switching on of the Christmas lights was a very pleasant, if chilly, afternoon.

It was so nice to see so many of you there. The fireworks were spectacular. Our thanks to Chris Burgess for the display and he has just confirmed he will be back on 14 December 2008. Thanks to John Garner and Tony Biggins for all the work they did to install the Christmas lights and keep them working. Last but not least my thanks to all the councillors and sports hall committee members who helped over the weekend. Thanks also to Stephen Harvey who is always there to help.

All over the village the lights were really good. Thank you for brightening up the dark days.

A special mention must be made in recognition of all the work that David Morgan has done to keep your village tidy by collecting through 2007 217 bags of rubbish. What a mess the village would be without David and the other people who help to keep us tidy.

Parish Councillors are:

Eileen Eastwood	28653
Ken Mawson	28278
David Moore	27674
Elaine Dickinson	27288
Bernard Dickinson	27288
Vicky Borrino	29023
Kevin Dowber	21617
Rodney Kimber	28723
John McElroy	28443
Andrew Woolass	28218
Clive Willoughby	07741 007495

We meet on the first Wednesday every month at the Methodist School room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome and can speak at the questions and comments slot. No-one has to stay any longer than they want to.

PARISH PLAN

We intend to try and get you all involved in a Parish Plan. To put you in the picture we have done this three times already, but we have so many new residents in the village we believe we should try again.

To give a brief outline, our three projects were as follows:

The old goods yard was turned into a sporting area by renovating the old shunting shed into a sports hall and a new bowling green with a pavilion shared by bowlers and cricketers. The play area on Coniston Avenue was also updated and the project saw the Wishing Well notice board, play area on the beach, new seats and picnic benches. We also installed a play area behind the pavilion. We obtained a cannon with the help of Eskmeals. For the Millennium we had a great week for the village and a new jetty, a castle to take the cannon, a fully masted flag pole and human clock. A walks booklet was produced and an information leaflet. Projects since then have included two sets of new swings on the beach, donated by Mothers and Toddlers Group.

With the hard work of Barbara Ramsden the dell has been brought up to a standard that is really excellent. Also thanks to Barbara we negotiated a long term lease with Network Rail for the area known as Arch Hill. Bulbs and shrubs were planted and seats have been donated by villagers and supplied by Neighbourhood Forum. Letters have gone out to groups, churches and businesses, and we are sure we have forgotten some of you.

We are therefore asking all of you who have received letters and those we have missed to tell us what you would like to see in your village to improve your enjoyment and quality of life.

The annual Parish Meeting is on 9 April. This is your opportunity to meet your Parish Councillors and ask them questions. We would like you all to come, when your ideas will be discussed in a brain-storming meeting. The business only takes half an hour and the rest of the time will be given to you, the villagers.

Andrew Woolass at the Post Office will have a suggestion box for your ideas as well. All ages are requested to put their ideas forward. Any ideas, however small, are important. An extra street light or a seat – anything you think would improve our village.

Please watch the notice boards for the venue of the annual Parish Meeting.

Seascale Parish Council

TURDY UP

The last newsletter published two posters appealing in a nice way to dog owners to clear up after their pets. Sadly you were still letting your dogs foul our footpaths and grassed areas.

We hoped we wouldn't have to ask enforcement to target Seascale but we've no choice if we want to walk without our eyes glued to the ground.

Seascale Parish Council

SEASCALE SPORTS HALL

This is an appeal for new committee members. It is difficult when there are only five of us to keep the hall ticking over. Jem McClemmens bears most of the workload, and without her input we couldn't manage. If you are new in the village please contact a member and we will show you around.

Committee:

Eileen Eastwood 28653
Jem McClemmens 28201
Bernard Dickenson 27288
Pat Kirkham 28929
Linda Platt 27335

SEASCALE AND BOOTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Forums are held four times a year. These forums are for you and your groups. You can bid for money towards your schemes; we've done well in Seascale over the years.

This year meetings will be held on:

Thursday, 10 April 2008 – Silecroft Village Hall

Thursday, 10 July 2008 – Santon Village Hall

Thursday, 16 October 2008 – Seascale Methodist
School Room

Thursday, 15 January 2009 – Drigg Village Hall

Contact for application forms is Martyn Pritchard,
01946 855020

We believe it to be a good idea to put timetables of buses and meetings in the newsletter. You will find these overleaf. If you would like us to publish times for your meetings please contact a newsletter member.

THE PARISH PRECEPT

The Parish Precept is added to your council tax.
This is an explanation of where it goes.

**Grass cutting all the areas that belong to the
Parish and 14 cuts of the grass verges.**

£3000 to rent the car park.

Clerk's salary.

Maintenance of toilets and cleaning.

Upkeep of play areas.

Insurance is over £3000.

Rent for Arch Hill.

Newsletter three issues a year.

Hire of hall for meetings.

Christmas lights.

Weed spraying and mole control.

Miscellaneous office supplies.

**The cost to each household is £25-£30 a year
depending on Band of Property.**

Seascale Parish Council

Monday to Saturday (excluding Public Holidays)

Whitehaven - Muncaster Castle				6
	3D	3D	ST	3D ST/3D
Whitehaven, Tesco's	0837	1327	-	1510 (1753*)
Duke Street	0840	1330	1425	1513 1756
West Cumberland Hospital	0849	1339	-	1522 (1805*)
Moor Row	0853	1343	1438	1526 -
Bigrigg	0858	1348	1443	1531 1814
Egremont	0903	1353	1448	1536 1819
Beckermert	0913	1403	1458	1546 1829
Calderbridge	0917	1407	1502	1550 1833
Gosforth	0922	1412	1507	1555 1838
Seascale	0929	1419	1514	1602 1845
Drigg	0936	1426	-	1609 -
Holmrook	0940	1430	-	1613 -
Ravenglass car park	0947	1437	-	1620 -
Muncaster Castle	0951	1441	-	1624 -
	ST	3D	3D	ST/3D
Muncaster Castle	-	0955	1445	1628 -
Ravenglass car park	-	0959	1449	1632 -
Holmrook	-	1006	1456	1639 -
Drigg	-	1010	1500	1643 -
Seascale	0750	1017	1507	1650 1845
Gosforth	0757	1024	1514	1657 1852
Calderbridge	0802	1029	1519	1702 1857
Beckermert	0806	1033	1523	1706 1901
Egremont	0816	1043	1533	1716 1911
Bigrigg	0821	1048	1538	1721 1916
Moor Row	0826	1053	1543	1726 -
West Cumberland Hospital	-	1057	1547	1730 (1925*)
Lowther Street	0839	1106	1556	1739 1934
Whitehaven Tesco	-	1109	1559	1742 -

Sunday

Whitehaven - Barrow				X6	Barrow - Whitehaven				X6
	Whitehaven, Duke Street			0935 1135 1435 1635					
Whitehaven, St Bees, Station	0945	1145	1445	1645		X7 Walney Road for Asda	-	1207	1515 1707
						X7 Barrow Town Hall		1020	1220 1520 1720
Egremont, South Street	0956	1156	1456	1656		X7 Furness General Hospital		1029	1229 1529 1729
Beckermert	1001	1201	1501	1701		X7 Askam, Rail Station		1038	1238 1538 1738
Calder Bridge	1006	1206	1506	1706		X7 Ireleth, Paradise Cottage		1042	1242 1542 1742
Gosforth, Square	1011	1211	1511	1711		X7 Kirkby, Commercial Inn		1047	1247 1547 1747
Seascale	1017	1217	1517	1717		X7 Broughton		1100	1300 1600 1800
Drigg, Bus Shelter	1023	1223	1523	1723		X7 arr Millom Market Sq,		1113	1313 1613 1813
Ravenglass	1030	1230	1530	1730		Millom Market Square		1120 1320 1620 1820	
Muncaster Castle	1035	1235	1535	1735		Queens Park		1124	1324 1624 1824
Bootle, Village	1044	1244	1544	1744		Haverigg, Harbour		1128	1328 1628 1828
Kirksanton	1052	1252	1552	1752		Haverigg, Prison		1132	1332 1632 1832
Haverigg	1057	1257	1557	1757		Haverigg		1135	1335 1635 1835
Haverigg, Prison	1100	1300	1600	1800		Kirksanton		1140	1340 1640 1840
Haverigg, Harbour	1104	1304	1604	1804		Bootle, Village		1148	1348 1648 1848
Queens Park	1108	1308	1608	1808		Muncaster Castle		1157	1357 1657 1857
Millom Market Square	1115	1315	1615	1815		Ravenglass		1202 1402 1702 1902	
X7 Depart Millom	1120	1320	1620	1820		Drigg, Bus Shelter		1209	1409 1709 1909
X7 Broughton Market Square	1134	1334	1634	1834		Seascale		1215 1415 1715 1915	
X7 Kirkby Commercial Inn	1147	1347	1647	1847		Gosforth, Square		1221 1421 1721 1921	
X7 Ireleth, Paradise Cottage	1152	1352	1652	1852		Calder Bridge		1226	1426 1726 1926
X7 Askam, Rail Station	1156	1356	1656	1856		Beckermert		1231	1431 1731 1931
X7 Walney Road for Asda	1207	1407	1707	1907		Egremont, South Street		1236 1436 1736 1936	
X7 Barrow Town Hall	1212	1412	1712	1912		St Bees, Station		1247	1447 1747 1947
X7 Furness General Hospital	1229	1419	1729	-		Whitehaven, Lowther St		1257 1457 1757 1957	

M - F Mondays to Fridays **Sat** Saturdays only (1753*) on Saturdays only
3D = 3D Coaches (07745 463037) ST = Stagecoach in Cumbria (01900 604589)

Steam Through Seascale

The Duke of Gloucester steamed through Seascale on Saturday 9 February, 7 minutes ahead of schedule and at such speed it proved difficult for our photographer to avoid some motion blur in the photo on the front cover. Maybe you could do better? See below...

There is a lot of steam activity on our line this year. 71000 is due back on Saturday 8 March, running about half an hour later than February's timetable, which means it should pass through Seascale around or just after noon. As you will see below there is a series of runs up to Ravenglass from May to September, and it's assumed the train will run on to Sellafield to hold and turn the locomotive as usual. Timings are not available as we go to press, but should be available from Kingfisher's website or www.uksteam.info/tours/trs08.htm a few days beforehand.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Are you proud of your photographic prowess? We are setting a challenge to capture the best shot of steam through Seascale. Two categories – one for youngsters up to age 16, and another for adults. Prizes will be book tokens to the value £10 each. Closing date in time to publish the winning two photographs in the Summer Newsletter is Sunday 1 June.

Print, film or CD entries please to Eileen Eastwood, 4 Santon Way, Seascale. Or e-mail to news@epic-gb.com (there is no attachment size limit. But please do not allow Windows to "reduce file size for e-mailing" if prompted).

The Cumbrian Coast Express

Liverpool-Carlisle (returning via West Coast Main Line)

Locomotive: 71000 Duke of Gloucester
Saturday 8 March

Organised by The Railway Touring Company
Tel: 01553 661500
www.railwaytouring.co.uk

The Cumbrian Coast Fellsman

Carnforth-Ravenglass (presumed holding at Sellafield)

Locomotive: not declared at time of going to press

Saturday 10 May

Monday 26 May

Saturday 12 July

Saturday 19 July

Saturday 26 July

Saturday 02 August

Saturday 09 August

Saturday 23 August

Saturday 30 August

Saturday 06 September

Organised by Kingfisher Railtours

Tel: 0870 747 2983

www.kingfisherrailtours.co.uk

MUSIC

ALL THAT JAZZ

Calder House Hotel hosts a Jazz Jam Session every third Friday of the month, commencing at 8.30pm. It's an informal night of music with amateur and professional musicians from the county and beyond.

Admission is free

LAZY SUNDAY

Gosforth Hall Hotel has a live music afternoon on the last Sunday every month.

Admission is free

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

...to be published by July 2008. Please submit articles and items of general interest to news@epic-gb.com (note a small change in e-mail address) by Sunday 1 June.

Seascale Churches Together

We are pleased to welcome Revd John Woolcock and his wife Margaret to Seascale Vicarage after it has lain empty for 2½ years since the retirement of Revd Peter Grime. John's installation as Priest-in Charge of St Cuthbert's, Seascale and St Peter's, Drigg and licensing for his continued role as Rural Dean for the Deanery of Calder took place at a service on Sunday 20th January. The Service was led by The Bishop of Penrith and the Archdeacon of West Cumberland and was attended by over 350 people. Guests included family and friends, clergy, the Mayor of Copeland, and representatives of parish councils and other local organisations. We were especially pleased to welcome representatives from the Methodist & Roman Catholic Churches and hope, with John, to work together with them in the future.

John comments, "Thank you for the warm welcome Margaret and I received in both Seascale and Drigg. We have spent most of our ministry in West Cumbria, in Whitehaven at St Peter's, Kells where I started as a curate, as Rector of Distington, and for the past 14 years Rector of Egremont. Now we are in Seascale we look forward to getting to know this area, these parishes and the people, and to working and sharing fellowship with members of all the churches in the village.

We hope to meet many of you in the coming weeks and months. As Rural Dean I have responsibilities towards all the Anglican churches from Moresby to Whicham. This will take some of my time, but we hope to be available and accessible for you whenever you need us."

Hope 2008 is a national initiative and the Seascale Churches together will be taking part. Its basic tenets are, DO MORE, DO IT TOGETHER & DO IT OUT THERE. Members of the Methodist Church, headed by Lyn Edwards have given us all a flying start by putting together some basic suggestions to build on. The suggestions so far include not only events based in the churches but also village



in our villages, towns & cities

social events such as a 'Village Day' (various events) a 'Music Day' and continuation of the successful 'Beach Clean'. Keep your eyes open for posters bearing the logo above. Whether you are a regular or irregular worshipper or you don't come to church at all, please feel free to visit any of the churches at any time but especially during these events. Everyone will be made most welcome.

*Tom H. Jones
St Cuthbert's Parochial Church Council Secretary
28938*

SEASCALE SWIMMING CLUB

Seascale Swimming Club meets every Monday at Wyndham Pool, Egremont, from 6 to 6.30pm. Some people bring their families along to swim or play in the shallow end, and some adults come along for a bit of exercise.

We currently have vacancies for anyone wishing to join, but particularly for families. The cost for the next 10-week session will be £16 for single adult members, and £28 for each family. Come on, splash out!

If you are interested in coming along for a free trial swim, contact Jackie Harper on 27211.

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Seascale Methodist Church gains a National Environmental Award

Three years after registering as an Eco-Congregation, Seascale Methodist Church has gained an Eco-Congregation Award, one of about 170 UK churches to do so.

The Eco-Congregation movement, developed from a partnership between the Government-funded environmental charity ENCAMS (which runs the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign and the Going for Green brand) and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Churches are assessed on the basis of prominence being given to the environment, in the following aspects of their life, and relating them to the Christian faith:

Finance, Buildings, Gardens, Youth and Children's Work, Worship and Preaching, Fellowship/Study Groups.

The size of church and congregation are all taken into account when the assessment is carried out, so that even small chapels can be successful.

The Seascale work was assessed by Dr John Biggs (a past President of The Baptist Union) of Grasmere and Mrs Pam Martin of Kendal. Their visit was arranged to coincide with an Eco-Coffee Morning held at the Church on 7 December last year.

At the well-attended Coffee Morning there was an exhibition of the work done by the Church, stalls manned by Copeland Borough Council Recycling Department, The Cumbria Energy Efficiency Advice Centre and The Cumbria Wildlife Trust (West Coast Support Group). Many people took the opportunity to find out information from the stallholders.

As a direct result of the event, Copeland Borough Council have agreed to provide a cardboard-recycling skip on Seascale beach car park.

The following are some examples of the work done to qualify for the award:

The life and worship of the Church

Bible Study – a group has completed the Psalms Bible Studies by Dr John Biggs in the original Eco-Congregation material.

Special services – special Creation Care, Harvest Festival and All-age services have been arranged to involve the whole Church family, The Junior and Young People's Groups, The Children's Club and The Brownies.

The 2007 Harvest Festival took as its theme: *'All good gifts around us – near and far.'* The church was encouraged to promote fair trade at home by highlighting milk production and vegetables grown at two local farms. The 'Farm Crisis Network' was publicised and a donation sent to the FCN from the proceeds of the regular church coffee morning on Saturdays. Traidcraft was taken as an example of Fair Trade abroad.

The management of the Church buildings and grounds.

The use of low-energy light bulbs

Making sure that the boiler is properly maintained and the heating is on a reliable time switch

Recycling of all Church waste paper

Maintaining the gardens and church surrounds: faithful gardening and caring for the grounds has been carried out for many years by Barrie Robinson.

Work with the local and global community

An 'eco-quiz' was prepared for the Village Harvest Supper in October 2006.

A village 'Tidy Day and Beach Clean' was initiated and organised in June 2007, working with the Parish Council, the Primary School and the other churches.

Traidcraft and other fairly traded products are used at all Church events where refreshments are served. There is a regular Fair Trade stall at coffee mornings and after morning services once a month.



A plastic milk bottle top recycling scheme was launched on 7 December 2007, with provision in the church grounds for collection of suitable tops.

Encouraging environmental groups who use our premises

The West Coast Support group of The Cumbria Wildlife Trust regularly use our premises, and church members try to attend the meetings.

Acting responsibly as individuals on energy and transport matters

Some members are involved in the local Rail Users' Group which promotes the Cumbria Coastal Line from Millom to Whitehaven

Some have joined the Northern Rail Station Adopters' Scheme to take responsibility for individual stations on the local line

Some Church members work as volunteers on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway.

When the New Sustrans Hadrian's Cycleway from Ravenglass to South Shields opened in July 2006, 75 cyclists on the inaugural ride called in for refreshments at Seascale Methodist Church.

A group from the church responded to the recent Government Consultation on 'Our Energy Futures'.

Energy Study Pack – a Ladies Ecumenical Group has been through the Methodist Church Energy Study Pack published in 2003.

Publicity

There is a display of relevant leaflets and brochures covering many of the aspects described above.

The Award will be formally presented at a special service in the spring – watch out for details.

The work now begins to qualify for a second award! The Church plans further social responsibility projects under the 'HOPE 08' banner.

Keith Bradshaw

Seascale Churches' Special Services during Holy Week and Easter Day

Palm Sunday (16 March)

6.30pm at St Cuthbert's: Music and Readings for Passiontide (United Service)

Tuesday (18 March)

7.00 pm at St Joseph's: Passover Meal (Tickets from Ann Harrop, Tel. 27151)

Wednesday (19 March)

7.30 pm at St Joseph's: Stations of the Cross (Churches Together United Service)

Maundy Thursday

7.00pm at St Cuthbert's: Holy Communion
7.00pm at St Joseph's: Sacrament of the Last Supper
7.00pm at Gosforth Methodist Church: Holy Communion

Good Friday

10.00am at St Cuthbert's: United Good Friday Service
2.00pm at St Cuthbert's: The Last Hour at the Foot of the Cross
3.00pm: Holy Hour

Saturday 22 March

8.00pm at St Cuthbert's: Service of Lights and Renewal of Baptismal Vows
8.30pm at St Joseph's: Vigil Mass of Easter

Easter Day 23 March

8.00am at St Cuthbert's: Holy Communion
9.00am at St Joseph's: Easter Sunday Mass
9.30am at St Cuthbert's: Parish Communion
10.00am at the Methodist Church: Holy Communion
6.30pm at St Cuthbert's: United Festal Evensong

The Wartime Years

Many years ago I heard a Seascale resident reminisce about her early years living in Seascale. This lady had married into one of the established local families just before the war and had therefore lived and worked in the village throughout the war while her husband was away serving in the armed forces. What surprised me was her description of that time as – “By and large Seascale had a good war”.

She went on to say that throughout the war Seascale was bursting at the seams with every room taken either by workers from the ROF factories at Sellafield and Drigg or families who wanted to escape from the threat of bombing elsewhere in the country.

The western coast of Cumbria was inhabited with defence related projects during the war because of its position well away from the threat of disruption by enemy bombing. It was well served by the railway and there was plenty of land available because of the sparsity of the population. There were training air stations at Millom and Silloth for the Air force, and an Army gunnery training unit on the coastal strip adjacent to Nethertown. Just before the 1914-18 war a gun and munitions proving establishment was built at Eskmeals, which became busier than ever during the 1939-45 war. In turn Eskmeals was serviced by a shell-filling unit situated in the area to the north of Hycemoor near Bootle. The Royal Navy was represented at Holmrook Hall (HMS Volcano), along with the adjacent Greengarth Hall, which was an underwater explosives training establishment with an outstation at Ravenglass to provide the seawater part of the training. What is amusing is that the cover story for these secret activities was that Holmrook Hall was recuperation centre for naval personnel suffering from shell-shock brought on by their war service. Perhaps the noise from daily explosions was part of their rehabilitation process! Very little has been



Holmrook Hall was quietly commandeered by the Admiralty and converted into a “stone frigate” for use as a bomb disposal training establishment and christened “HMS Volcano”.

written concerning all these establishments and their activities.

During the war a quarter-mile strip of land starting from the high water mark was under the control of the army. This land and the sea-shore was heavily mined all along our coastline to prevent any possible landing by foreign nationals and was not removed until 1946/47. What it did achieve was a control mechanism for the local dog population when they inadvertently strayed onto the beach. Having to keep your dog on a lead must have had a whole new meaning in those times.

Sellafield was built and operated as a TNT (the explosive tri-nitrotoluene) manufacturing plant for the Royal Ordnance branch of the Ministry of Supply (MOS). Drigg was a follow on plant to Sellafield in that it took the liquid TNT and converted it into stable explosives that could be used in filling shells or bombs for the armed forces. It has been claimed that in the period before the blast-proof storage bunkers were built at Drigg the finished product was stored close to the Screes at Wastwater. Such a site would have been safe if there had been an explosion and it was well protected from attack from the air.

Obviously the two factories could be manned from the local population after they were trained to do their tasks. The scientific staff were a different matter as they were brought into the area from all parts of the country and many of them found lodgings in Seascale. The Scawfell



A consignment of bombs at a side-gate within the grounds of Holmrook Hall.



One of the many shafts dug in the grounds of Holmrook Hall for the training of defusing unexploded bombs.

Hotel apparently served two or three purposes, as a hotel for visiting personnel to the plants, as an administration/training unit for Sellafield and as a staff hostel-cum-recreational-facility for the young scientific staff brought into the area. These activities took place in the large buildings situated behind the hotel that had started out life as stables and carriage garages with the large function room above. I have heard it said that Irton Hall served a similar purpose for the Drigg establishment. A small amount of family accommodation was provided when the 20 bungalows were built on Gosforth Road.

When the bombing raids along the West coast eventually started in 1942 – centred on Liverpool, Barrow-in-Furness and Glasgow – the usual civilian war time activities arrived in the village. Royal Observer Corps members and ARP wardens had to be recruited and assigned to their duties and Dr Parker of Gosforth was responsible for running the local Home Guard. A retired Naval Officer, who just happened to live on the seafront, along with his team kept an eye on activity in the Irish Sea. Apparently there were two air raid

observation groups in the village. The mainly ladies group was centred on the railway water tower which apparently had a glass-fronted observation room fitted at the top – while the men were centred at the Golf Club. I think that we can assume some inter-group rivalry was involved with these arrangements! The Observer Corps members, centred on their observation post on the high ground adjacent to the golf course, would have reported the passing of bomber formations, both on the way to, and returning from, bombing Glasgow. It goes without saying that the ladies of the village knitted and sewed for Victory as was standard practice in those times.

The arrival of the extra personnel needed to man the two factories put a strain on the village school on Hallsenna road. When the 98 evacuees arrived in the village from St Johns Church of England School in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, breaking point was reached, so teaching classes in village church halls was essential. I understand that the Newcastle children were accompanied by their own teachers when they came to Seascale. The two private schools in the village also expanded to take in children from similar establishments elsewhere in the country.

No bombs are remembered as falling on the village, but at least three are recorded as being dropped in the near surrounding area. The fisherman's hut at the mouth of the River Calder took a hit one evening and became the centre of attraction, particularly for the boys from the prep. school searching for souvenirs. The Red House at Drigg had one fall nearby and a third dropped on land adjacent to the doctor's house now known as the Westlakes Hotel at Gosforth crossroads.

Although there was no damage to any buildings in our village from falling bombs the same cannot be said for the testing activities carried out at Eskmeals. The range fires shells along the length of its firing range to test both the guns and the munitions used by the gun. This firing range extends along the coast from Eskmeals to St Bees. Apparently during the war the skills of the firing crew left a lot to be desired and the shells fell to earth not 100 yards out to sea but on the beach itself.

continued on page 14

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23 Mar ch

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Ever y Thur sday

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Before the beach was closed to walkers it was recorded in the local press that, on occasions, visitors had been showered by sand when a shell had landed on the beach instead of the sea. At the resulting enquiry the authorities took the view that there was no risk to the populace provided they observed the red flag used to warn people to keep off the beach during firing operations. There was at least one occasion when golfer(s) on the Seascale course had a similar experience.

When the shells were fired from large Naval guns (12-inch or larger) the explosion was considerable. So if the shell fell on to the sand instead of out at sea the possibility of shock damage was greatly increased; consequently the buildings on the seafront took a severe buffeting from the shock wave produced by the exploding shell. House owners claimed that their dwellings suffered with structural cracks appearing in the masonry resulting from this action. It should be noted that during the war years the firing tests were carried out throughout daylight hours on an almost daily basis.

Measuring the point where the shells came to rest was an important part of the tests and this was the reason that we have a cinder track running from Seascale to Sellafield. Eskmeals had a number of observation points along the coastline stretching as far as St Bees. Their observers would make triangulation measurements of the position where the shells fell into the sea. This was carried out from more than one observation point and they were then able to calculate the distance back to the gun at the range. The cinder track was established to facilitate access to these observation posts by Land Rover for the transport of the observers and their measuring equipment.



The team at Eskmeals during wartime.

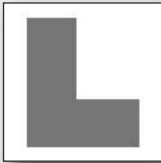
Today those same measurements are made using milli-metric radar equipment situated at Eskmeals.

As previously mentioned there was an Army gunnery training unit based at Nethertown and the RAF provided targets for their practice. These consisted of an aerodynamically stable structure that could be towed behind an aeroplane – usually based at either Millom or Sillioth. These targets were flown along the coastline while the trainee gunners attempted to hit the target and the shells fired could then fall into the sea. If you think that this was a dangerous occupation for the pilots you would not be wrong, as several planes were damaged and crash-landed in the area.

On 2 May 1944 a target-towing aircraft flying down the coast got into difficulties, it lost a propeller and then crash landed into a field adjacent to Whitriggs farm, coming to a stop on the field dyke. All this was witnessed by Harold Moore. There was a young man belonging to the farm working close by and he saw one air crew clamber out and work his way along the wing to safety from the flames. This lad, Leonard (Bomber) Wells of Wyndham Terrace, Egremont and a member of the Egremont branch of the ATC, got to the plane and dragged out the unconscious pilot before the plane was engulfed in flames. This action had been observed and he received the BEM for his action. It was reported that there were 3,500 accidents involved with the training of air-crew on and around the airfields in Cumbria during the war years.

Of course everyone dug for victory to provide the food needed to keep body and soul together. This was essential when food became scarce because of both the destruction of the merchant fleet as well as the agricultural workers being called up into the armed forces. There were three allotment schemes provided in the village to enable people grow their own crops. One was on the Nebb on the land where Wasdale Park housing estate is situated (the Wansfell Hotel end); another was on some land adjacent to Coveness Bank. The third was at the corner of Hallsenna Road and the now Santon Way, which then

continued on page 17



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was a lonning leading to Bailey Ground farm. This allotment eventually became Borwicks market garden. At the conclusion of the War the villagers celebrated both VE day and VJ day with a party organised at the Pretoria pavilion and Reading Room on the sports ground. By then rumours were already starting to circulate concerning the future of the village in the momentous changes scheduled to happen in our area.

Neville Ramsden

Seascale Parish Council is happy to accept donations for advertisements placed in the Seascale Newsletter.

The expected rate is £10 for a quarter-page, and pro-rata for larger advertisements.

Contact: Eileen Eastwood on 28653.

Scouting

I have to start this newsletter with some very sad news. After 56 years we had to close the scout troop at the end of December. This is not due to any problems with the youngsters. It isn't due to any lack of interest by the youngsters – we had 12 active members and some more cubs due up shortly. No, it was due to a lack of adult support. Following Alan Dodd's departure for Radlett in Hertfordshire and Andrew Hawke's departure for a school in Durham we had no leader, and despite a couple of people being willing to have a look and see what was involved, no-one came forward. With no leader, we can't run a troop, so we had to close and try to make arrangements for the members to go elsewhere.

We had a visit from the Gosforth Troop leader, who joined us in fire-lighting and cooking on the beach – in December, no less. (As I write, that seems very remote – it is blowing a gale, and they have just rescued snow-bound motorists near Brough!) Fortunately, some have joined the Gosforth troop and are settling in well.

For the residents of Fairlawns, who may have wondered what on earth was going on in late November and early December, we were teaching the scouts to use axes to cut firewood – which they subsequently used to light their fires – and they did succeed.

We do rely entirely on volunteers giving up their time to run and help run sections. It can be very rewarding, and there is always room for more to help, both as leaders or assistant leaders in all sections, or as occasional helpers. We do need a rota of parents to ensure that there are always at least two adults present, and we are very grateful

to the parents who have helped us out here – the more who can help, the easier it is for all. I won't hide the fact that it takes more than a couple of hours on a Thursday evening to run a section, but if there are several adults to share the load, it isn't too demanding. I would like to re-open the troop if we can find leaders, so if you might be interested, or would like to help with cubs or beavers, do let me know.

On the positive side, both Cubs and Beavers are thriving. Eve, our Beaver leader is getting well stuck in with the leader training, and will have her Wood badge by the summer camp, if she continues at the present rate. As she is planning the camp – Branthwaite in June, for the Cubs and Beavers – then she should also be awarded her 'Night's Away' permit, which will allow her to run sleep-overs and camps under her own steam.

Last Term Beaver and Cubs joined together for an evening of fun. The evening started with a torch-lit walk along the cinder track, the rain held off and the sound of the waves made it a beautiful evening walk. Once back at the hall, some of the cubs showed us how to prepare our food without the use of utensils and pans (backwards cooking). The stew was delicious and all were pleasantly surprised. While waiting for the food to cook the cubs put up a tent with Beavers being the tent pegs! To finish off the evening we all sang songs around the camp fire and melted marshmallows. A fun evening was had by all and helped us achieve our Outdoor Challenge. We would like to thank all our parent helpers to make this possible..

Graham Worsnop

Group Scout Leader, 0845 0944 256

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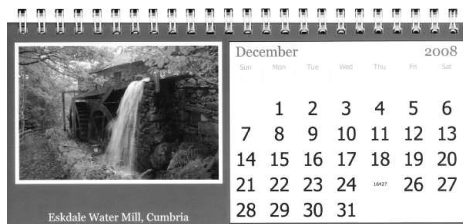
WESTON SPIRIT CALENDARS **- A GREAT SUCCESS**

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me during my charity calendar fund raising event. From the sale of the Weston Spirit calendars we raised an impressive £900. This is a result of the kindness of those helping to sell and those agreeing to buy the calendars. I would like to say a special thank you to Ellen and Andrew who kindly displayed and sold calendars in Seascale Post Office, Kevin and Pauline who did so in Rapunzels florists (the shop sadly no longer in the village), to Caroline in the Hobby Shop in Gosforth and to all of the staff in the Lakeland Habit, Gosforth. Also to Trevor Preece for his eye-catching article in the Seascale newsletter, allowing us to reach over 900 homes, and the colourful posters.

All of the proceeds have been forwarded to the Weston Spirit charity and will be used to give valuable support and guidance to vulnerable young people and I have received a personal thank you from Julia Turley, head of corporate sponsorship. I hope that you will continue to enjoy the calendars throughout the year and know that we will all be looking forward to better weather so that we can visit some of these favourite places.

Thank you all again,

Phill Bearman



NSPCC

Over the last year we've raised a record amount of over £2000 – this is with the generosity of everyone who supports us. This year we would love to do even better with your help again. A very big thank you from all of the committee. Watch for posters of our forthcoming events.

Joyce Roberts, Chairperson

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National Archaeology Week 2008

Location: Ravenglass

Date: 12-13 July

The Council for British Archaeology holds a very popular national week of events to promote community involvement in archaeology.

The annual "Roman Ravenglass" walk, offered by Seascale's very own archaeologist, Clifford Jones (as part of his role with Lancaster University DCE), is being extended to a series of field walks, lectures and a general opportunity for the public to get to know what's going on in the world of archaeology and how they can get involved.

A venue for the event is presently being finalised, but the majority of the lectures will be 'in the field'. Presentations are being offered by the Council for British Archaeology, Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited and a *trench* of archaeologists with a wide range of specialisations.

The development of the Western Hadrianic Frontier has a specific resonance for all of the communities along the Cumbrian coast down to Ravenglass, the accepted terminus of the frontier. Whilst the better known "Hadrian's Wall" has seen the majority of tourist visits over the years, there is a clear need to redress the balance and see investment in a considerable number of sites which are either currently unrecognised by the public, or have very poor interpretation.

The continuing re-profiling of the coast has considerable implications for the understanding of the Roman western frontier. The Roman military need to protect estuaries, inlets and river crossing points has created some interesting archaeological problems. Between Drigg and Seascale there are indications of potential watchtower enclosures, of a type excavated between Bowness-on-Solway to Flimby, that only make sense if the landscape clock is turned back. These towers looked out over a very different coastline than that of today. There are indications that the frontier between Drigg and Calder was, to the most part, slightly back from the coast with emphasis on observation, rather than the need for abrupt and immediate stopping of an intrusive force; with a reasonably straight path between the Drigg crossing point and Whitriggs, from

whence there seems to have been a necessary slight north easterly diversion to allow for the crossing of the Calder, via a potential fort site, at a natural pinch point currently at the upper edge of the Sellafield site.

Interestingly the Roman road appears to run on the coastal side of the frontier suggesting the availability of the route to rapid deployment of cavalry. There are some extant tracks that run to the landward side of the frontier suggesting a support network, that is more readily seen towards St Bees.

Clifford has been busy with other sites, filling in some of the gaps in this frontier, for some time and Seascale is no exception in this work. The opening of the Hadrian's Wall Cycle Route "Route 72" is already seeing more adventurous visitors enjoying the cinder track and using the local shops. More customers can only be good news all around for Seascale and archaeology is playing its part in promoting the delights of the area. But much more can be done and attending the July event will give everyone an idea of the national and immediate local issues – how community archaeology is a key component in promoting the area's heritage.

CBANorth@bedesworld.co.uk



Probable coastline of Seascale around 2000 years ago. The present coastline is displayed as a constant white line; the railway as the small dotted line and the present main road through the village as a dashed line.

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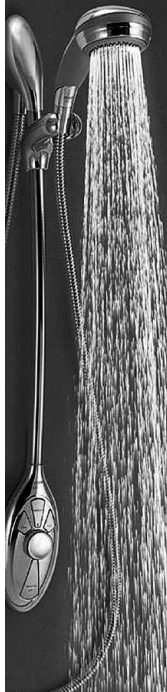
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FARMING CRACK

As predicted in the last newsletter, food prices are rising fast. This is a result of world-wide shortage of almost everything, especially grain. During the last three months food prices have risen by 17%. Coupled with the rising price of fuel oil, gas and electricity is starting to make things difficult for some. Blue tongue, the newest of animal diseases to hit this country, continues to spread. Large parts of the country are under movement restrictions, making things very difficult for some farmers to run their farms in these areas. The north of England is, at the moment, clear, although there have been several scares. If the vaccination that they are working on at the present is not in production by spring nothing will stop it spreading over all of the British Isles. It only took 15 months for it to spread over Europe. So far this mild winter has not helped kill off the midges responsible for spreading the disease. A cold frosty spell is needed.

There have been 10 cases of bird flu so far this winter, all of them involving mute swans that have recently arrived from Poland and the Czech Republic. Once again strict movement control of poultry is in force. There is still concern this could spread to humans.

Wildlife

A reminder to anyone planning to cut back or remove bushes or hedges in their gardens, do it now before wildlife, especially birds, start breeding and nesting. The season for this is from the middle of March to the end of July. Although with the changing seasons, this may become sooner.

A survey has just been completed regarding children's complaints and illnesses. The children brought up on farms easily came out top of the league, in these being the healthiest. The reason given was that they eat and drink more things in their natural state. Modern food is, in general, too sterile and does not allow for the natural build-up of antibodies. How much damage to people, especially children, is caused by additives and colourings added when food is processed? Are they really needed? Stricter

controls should be implemented.

One of my hobbies is collecting old postcards, mainly Cumbria and farming ones. I used to visit a small antique shop, run by a couple near Grange over Sands. They also sold postcards. One day they showed me their own private collection. One card showed 28 farm horses lined up on Cark railway station, held on halters by women and small children who had come to see them off. It was a beautiful card I never forgot. On researching into the history of this card they found they were waiting to be transported to France at the start of the Great War in 1914. War Office vets visited all farms in the country to compulsory purchase horses for war work pulling gun carriages, supply and ammunition wagons. They used to select one in every six horses and always took the youngest, fittest and strongest. There was no way of stopping them – it was compulsory. The horses were branded so that at the end of the war they could be returned to where they came from, but only one of the 28 ever returned, the rest being killed in the horrors of the war. It is said that when the horse returned it recognised the farmer and family and when they shouted its name it ran towards them. When postcards are printed, usually several are printed with the same picture. I was so impressed with this card I have spent 15 years looking for a copy. Last summer I was looking at some postcards at the Ravenglass Antique Fair run by Joan Lowther, and the box I was looking at split open and there unbelievably was this card. After I had bought it I told Joan the card's history and she told me the couple who



had owned the shop had both died and that their postcard collection had been sent to a specialist postcard sale at Warwick. After seeing the advert for a Cumbrian collection she then bought them. So it was in fact the same I had seen all those years ago. Joan said that if she had known the history before I bought it she would have doubled the price! The Great War was horrific, not only for

all the people involved, but also for the horses and other animals used. My father served in the Royal Horse Artillery as did David Moore's grandfather. It was usual for farmer's sons and farm workers, because of their knowledge of animals, to be assigned to regiments that used horses. They were both fortunate to survive.

Ken Mawson

Guides and Rangers

The Guides and Rangers have been busy during the winter and we currently have 40 Guides and 16 Rangers. We are very lucky to have eight trained adults involved in the leadership of these two units, with three of our older members, ie 16+'s, just about to embark on the leadership training programme.

As the last newsletter went to press, the girls were just off to the BIG GiG pop concert in Manchester. Two performances took place at the MEN arena – around 26,000 screaming Guides from all over the UK... It really gives the girls a taste of the size of the organisation that they belong to.

Last weekend we went to Liverpool to take part in the World Thinking Day celebrations. There were 7,500 participants at this event and everyone participated in one of the music and dance workshops which were held in the two Cathedrals, St George's Hall and the new Liverpool Echo Arena. The day concluded with everyone taking turns to perform in the arena – 7½ thousand participants – no dress rehearsal – amazing!

On a smaller scale, a number of our Rangers and Young Leaders helped at an event at Dalemmain to celebrate Paddington Bear's 50th Anniversary. They oversaw activities with 600 Rainbows, Beavers and Brownies on the Saturday and then on the Sunday took turns at wearing the Paddington bear costume, mingling with 1500 members of the general public who were supporting the Marmalade Festival. The proceeds from this event went to Hospice at Home.

Nearer to home, the girls provided activities for the St Mary's Christmas Fair in Gosforth and also took part in the Christingle Service. At the end of

January, the six Patrol Leaders attended the welcome service for the new vicar in Seascale. At our unit meetings we have taken part in craft sessions, arranged parties, listened to speakers and are currently undertaking activities which examine the right to work together. The Rangers also enjoyed a night out at the Bridge Inn just before Christmas.

We congratulate Emily, Martha, Katie and Laura who completed their Baden Powell Challenge Awards before Christmas and enjoyed their Celebration Adventure to York in January. Well done girls. Seven more Guides are just starting to work towards this award, which is the highest that you can attain in the Guide section. It usually takes about two years to complete.

We have just returned from a sleepover at Santon Bridge Village Hall where our younger members celebrated World Thinking Day and all gained their World Guiding badges. Rebecca, Sarah B, Sarah J and Sam all made their Promises too. In a few weeks time the older Guides will be spending a night at Wasdale Youth Hostel and just after Easter, the Rangers will be undertaking assessed and practice expeditions for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

In the summer, two of the Rangers are travelling to Eastern Siberia and Mongolia via Beijing, as part of a County trip. Whilst there they will be camping with local Guides as well as experiencing home hospitality. If any local group would like to support these girls by way of a donation towards their fundraising, please let me know. They would be more than willing to come and give a talk to you after the event.

Sue Smith, 28625

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