



SEASCALE

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Eleven local teenagers master fire-fighting on a UKNWM-sponsored training course in Seascale



SPRING 2009



PARISH NEWS



At last the pavements owned by Villagate are finished. We are still fighting to get the grassed areas sorted out – I hope for all our sakes it does not take as long as the pavements!

Christmas was a great success again. The lights were wonderful thanks to John Garner and Tony Biggins. The School Choir was delightful, and Waymark played really well to entertain us. The Fireworks were spectacular.

Thanks go to the Mayor and Mayoress who switched on the lights, to everyone who helped on the day by decorating the hall, laying the carpets and serving refreshments, and all those who cleared up afterwards.

All of you who lit up your houses and gardens made the village so special and bright. So many of you do it now we just could not carry on with certificates as it would be impossible to choose. I feel that Paul at the garage should be mentioned; his windows are so special to the children.

We are still trying to get a more sensible bus service, but like everything else we have to use whatever they offer or we will not have any service at all. We probably will not get extra buses but hopefully better timed ones.

We are busy getting the beach area sorted out for the spring; new seats will be put in place and some will be repaired. Bike racks are to be placed in the car park for the use of cyclists using the cycle way and the youngsters using the youth club.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 22 April in St Cuthbert's Church Hall; the subject will be the Parish Plan and we will need all of you who filled in the questionnaire, and all of you who want us to move on and improve our environment and facilities, to attend.

Hopefully this year we will see the beach and village well used, as more people will be holidaying in this country.

Eileen Eastwood, on behalf of the Parish Council



Some of the girls who became national dance champions. See page 18.

We have been asked to publish the following letter and we thought it would be nice to recognise as many as we could of our unsung heroes.

UNSUNG HEROES

Our village has many unsung heroes, but I'd like to add one of mine to our list:

Our library and librarians

Our library is only tiny, yet I have recently asked for some fairly obscure books and sure enough the librarians not only made sure that they arrived, but gave me a telephone call to let me know.

What a superb service they provide to us all.

Thank you to our librarians.

P.S. If you don't use our library, give it a try.

David Ritson, Lingmell, Seascale

David Morgan is one of our busiest villagers. Our village and beach would not be so clean if David had not collected 279 bags of rubbish over the winter months. He is also our official Flag Officer.

Mr John Grey also helps to keep our village free of litter.

We have First Responders and all the people who run Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies, Youth Club, Shackles Off, Evergreens, deliver meals on wheels, run the sports hall, run the cricket club and coach our young cricketers, not to mention all the Parish Councillors who are all volunteers and do a lot of work to make sure we have a clean, tidy and safe village. I am sure I have missed someone or some groups - please let us know!

Eileen Eastwood, Parish Council

SEASCALE SPORTS HALL

We are still hoping to get new members for the Sports Hall Committee. It's been a very good year this last year; the hall has been well used and at present there are football coaching sessions on Sunday mornings which are very well attended.

For information on all the facilities please contact one of the Committee members:

Mrs J. McClemons: 28201; Mr B. Dickinson: 27288; Miss J. Caulfield: 21954; Mrs L. Platt: 27335; Mrs E. O'Donnell: 29655; Mrs P. Kirkham: 28929; Mrs J. Caulfield: 28435

BEACH AND VILLAGE CLEAN

Our annual Beach and Village Clean-up will be held on Saturday, 16 May between 10am and 2pm. All are VERY welcome to come along and give a hand for an hour or so! Gloves, grabbers and bags will be provided for adults and children alike and your bags of rubbish can be left on the beach as Allan Massey has kindly volunteered once again to collect it all up with his tractor and trailer. So come on folks, let's have another good turnout like we had last year and get stuck in so that we can feel proud of our clean and tidy village.

It seems appropriate here to say a huge "thank you" to all those people in the village that I'm sure we all see regularly picking up litter. These people do make a difference to our village and we should all be grateful to them.

Elaine Harrison

Parish Councillors

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

Clerk

Judith Kirkham 28449

Other Useful Numbers

Cumbria Highways Hotline	0845 609 6609
Copeland Direct	0845 054 8600

ALLOTMENTS

Currently there are 25 people looking to start an Allotment Society in the village. The problem is land. Is there anyone with land that they would be interested in renting out for this purpose?

Please contact Seascale Parish Council Clerk, Judith Kirkham, on 28449

Seascale Ground Force - The BMX Track is Go!!!

The project has been set up to build a BMX Bike Track Area within Seascale to enable children of all ages to take part in a fast growing outdoor activity that develops individual skills, stamina, agility and technique as well as promoting a healthier lifestyle.

The project started in 2006 when a group of children in Seascale built a make-shift track of 'bumps and jumps' by hand using dirt on a piece of development land on the old 'Scawfell Hotel' site adjacent to the railway station in the village.

PC Rachel McKee was concerned for the individuals' safety and also knew that this area was being re-developed and the make-shift facility would soon be levelled leaving the children without their own make-shift facility to play on. She encouraged the children and their parents to approach the Parish Council to see if an area could be put aside for such an activity. From this initial meeting volunteers including the youths started the organisation which is now known as 'Seascale GroundForce'. Initially we looked for an area of land where the activity could carry on. It became apparent that such a location would be unsafe if not set up correctly.

The organisation applied for a 'Big Lottery' Grant and after many long hours of application were successful in receiving the full grant of £50,000.

In order to complete the application a lot of hard work has gone in completing a Constitution, Child Protection Policy, Soil Sampling, Planning Applications and Approvals from both the Council and the Highways Agency, Lease Agreements and



above all getting quotes and detailed plans that fit with the grant rules.

We have been very successful in fund raising too and we are extremely grateful to the following:

Big Lottery	£50,000
LLWR undisclosed but promised figure	
Cumbria Constabulary	£1,000
Cumbria Foundation	£1,100
Neighbourhood Forum	£400

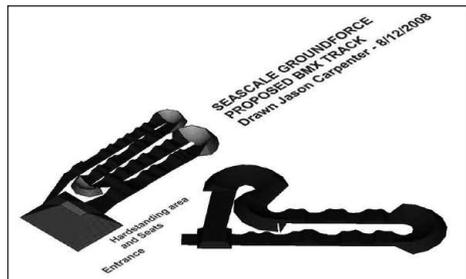
We are also extremely grateful to Seascale Parish Council and Cumbria Constabulary for their ongoing support and help.

We have secured a piece of waste land situated between the Village Cricket Pitch and the United Utilities Water treatment Facility.

We have located a preferred contractor 'Dragon Downhill' from Wales who have built many such tracks of National Standard throughout the UK. They have designed two tracks, one a senior more challenging track and a smaller 'pump' track for the 5-10 year olds who are just starting out.

The area will be safe and secure and have picnic tables located within the secure fenced area. A special gate will be fitted that only allows push bikes to gain access and not motor bikes. We have even quoted for 'sight screens' for the adjoining Cricket Club within the bid to make sure that the cricketers are not distracted when they are playing thus causing a safety issue.

Building will commence at the start of April 2009 and have a potential completion date of July 2009.



We are trying to get British Cycling to send a National BMX Rider to be involved in the official opening and will contact local and national press and TV/radio for coverage too. As far as we are aware the nearest facilities of this type are in Wales, Scotland and Manchester.

The final Go Ahead was given to the project after an open meeting to councillors and villagers where Keith Dowber, Vicki Borrino and Phil Robinson gave a detailed presentation on the whole project.

Our committee is made up of three Parish Councillors (Keith Dowber, Vicki Borrino and Clive Willoughby), and three residents of the village (Phil Robinson, Phil Taylor and Lynne Edwards) of which three of us have children who will use the facility.

We have received a letter of support from Jamie Reed MP who has agreed to attend our opening ceremony later in the year if he is available. Mr Reed's comments are in brackets:

(" I am really pleased with the development of the BMX track in Seascale, which will provide a safe

and secure venue for youngsters to engage in a healthy, exciting activity.

This development is an excellent example of the local community, including the youngsters working in true partnership to assess and address the needs of local young people.

This will be a major addition to the village, and I am sure that because of the involvement of the young people in developing the project it will not suffer from vandalism.

Congratulations must go to the members of the Seascale Groundforce for their success in making this project a reality.

I look forward to the opening of the track in the not too distant future", Jamie Reed, MP)

Once the Track has been completed it is the intention of the Parish Council to make the Track and attached play and sports areas DOG FREE Zones (with the exception of the Dog Agility Club) for the safety and protection of the children.

If anyone has any questions please contact Keith Dowber or Vicki Borrino for more information.

Treat yourselves to a meal with a difference in our à la carte restaurant

Darren (our Head Chef) will holding another series of one-day Cooking Workshops/Demonstrations at The Bower House this year. Anyone interested may obtain a list of dates from The Bower House, or check our website:

www.bowerhouseinn.co.uk

THE BOWER HOUSE INN & RESTAURANT

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www.bowerhouseinn.co.uk**

The bar is more than a few steps back in time – crackling logs, ticking clocks, the buzz of conversations about anything under the sun... plus a truly comprehensive bar food menu. Thirty en-suite rooms and a good-sized conference centre complete the picture.

...and don't forget to note the 2009 B'fest – an extraordinary musical event supporting the local First Responders. This year three days: Friday 31 July, and Saturday / Sunday 1 and 2 August.



Community Archaeology

**IMAGINATION; STOUT BOOTS;
WATERPROOF; NOTEBOOK;
PENCIL AND DIRECTIONS TO THE
NEAREST PUB AFTERWARDS...**

Winter is never a good time for archaeologists. It means sitting down at a keyboard and composing reports, when really they would prefer to be in the pub – er, in a trench somewhere, and then in the pub.

The winter can provide some possibilities for escape; especially after a mere sprinkle of snow, or a good frost; both provide a means of looking at landscapes normally unseen; the indications of long forgotten structure and earthworks appear in what is known as a positive negative effect. Hidden structure often causes quicker melt, ditches, even full, offer colder temperatures and the snow lingers longer. This winter has produced a number of “I’ve never noticed that before” moments; notably in respect of continuing research along our stretch of the Western Hadrianic Frontier. But, the winter has brought more than shadows of the past into our thoughts.

In the wider landscape, archaeology and archaeologists are in trouble; the economic downturn is wiping out thousands of jobs; local authorities and commercial archaeology businesses are cutting back, as the need for excavation work grinds to a halt – no new house building, or industrial development sites, equals no more investigatory excavation and lots of diggers at Jobcentre Plus. Archaeology has always been a difficult

choice – you don’t go into the profession to make money; you go into it because you are driven by a desire to understand the past – now there is not even half a living wage to do so.

It’s very grim in archaeology at the moment and most worryingly the government seems to have lost confidence in heritage sites in general and their value to society. A bold statement you may think, but the Heritage Bills due to trundle into Parliament have been dropped, putting marine and coastal archaeology at great risk. There is a genuine sense of government denial as to the state of the nation when it ignores its past, a view not mine alone, but fully endorsed by the Council for British Archaeology.

So, what can the residents in and around Seascale do about it?

The good news is that there is a major research programme in place, from the south bank of the River Calder to the north bank of the river Esk, the eastern boundary being the western side of the A595. No small area to cover.

Firstly

Let us get this straight from the start. There won’t be any digging for a good few years. Researches of many and varied types come first, basically, and then there’s the need to plan where and what in the way of excavation is required. Excavation never comes cheap – it isn’t the digging that is



Tullie House Museum volunteers on a recent course tutored by Clifford Jones.

costly, it is the aftermath. So put the Indiana Jones hat away and get out the walking boots and the notebook.

Some local residents have already taken part in "Introduction to Archaeology", "Landscape Archaeology" and "Resistivity & Magnetic Resonance Surveying". If you have taken these courses, please make yourself known to me asap. Your training and experience is going to be invaluable.

If you haven't been on any formal training courses, but would like to get involved in activities ranging from field walking to desktop research then please come forward. Opportunities for formal training courses may well become available if those nice people with the money come up trumps. Informal basic training to get you started in the art of field walking takes place in the field!

If you are a landowner and are willing to have groups field walk and survey your fields, please also make yourselves known.

And this is all up to you the people of Seascale, because if people don't come forward and access isn't forthcoming, no programme of activities can take place. Help get an archaeologist slim again; get him out from behind his desk!

It's not just fun (the word 'fun' is not always the first on the breath when the rain is trickling down the back and the boots are full of mud), there is a sense of personal and group achievement, because whatever is found is part of this community. Something to cherish and consider. Ultimately there could be jobs, because proper presentation of findings does draw interested individuals and they need services. "Hadrian's Coastal Route" – the long-distance walking guide – has only been in print a year and already the number of walkers passing through Seascale has increased. Just consider how much more we could offer.

Everyone can make a difference. Come on get involved.

Clifford Jones, 'The Archaeologist'

e-mail: greatestromanfrontiers@hotmail.co.uk

mobile: 07779 232368 Monday to Fridays only

THE HADRIANIC FRONTIER SEASCALE TO RAVENGLASS

Archaeological Research Study Outline

Directors of Research: Clifford Jones & J. Alan Biggins

Project Objectives: The study area is based around the West Cumbria coastal area, from Sellafield from the river Ehen, stretching to Ravenglass, at the mouth of the three rivers Irt, Mite and Esk. Its aim is to conduct a study of Roman the frontier system and associated centres and nucleated sites; such as, forts, frontier structures, roadside stations, villages and towns, as well as river and maritime ports arrangements. This research will be targeted using field walking, geophysical and surface survey to understand their topography and spatial organisation. This approach will adopt an integrated systematic surface survey programme, geophysics and a GIS based study, with input from and participation of local members of the community within the research area.

Outline Detail

1. The authors are undertaking archaeological research within the area Sellafield to Ravenglass along the coastal strip between the two points and inland to the A595 which roughly parallels the coast at a distance of approximately two miles to the east of the coast.
2. The boundary of the research is from southern bank of the River Ehen (National Grid Reference: 301348, 505794 100m Grid Reference: NY 013 057 Latitude, Longitude: 54.44, -3.52) to the northern bank of the river Esk (full Grid Reference: 311233, 496420 100m Grid Reference: SD 112 964 Latitude, Longitude: 54.36, -3.37). The eastern boundary is the A595 road to the western side with the northern most limit being the Blackbeck roundabout (full Grid Reference: 302543, 507072 100m Grid Reference: NY 025 070 Latitude, Longitude: 54.45, -3.5) See the map for this area.
3. The purpose of the research is to identify whether the Roman 'Hadrianic' frontier works, known from Bowness on Solway to Flimby, continue to Ravenglass. The reason for considering the stretch of coast for intensive

study – Sellafeld to Ravenglass – is that it has not suffered from industrial change to the extent of other sections (Flimby to Whitehaven) and because very little consideration has been given to the hypothesis that there was a physical frontier at all, in the area specified. This research will attempt to meet the criteria of the Research Framework for North West England; in particular the Roman-British Agenda as outlined in The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Framework for North West England: Volume 2 Research Agenda & Strategy; chapter 3: page 57 Brennan M., Chitty G, Nevell M.; ALGAO NW & CBA North West.

4. The research will combine desktop analysis of known factors and observations along the coast and its hinterlands. The majority of the research is a combination of field walking, general landscape archaeological investigation and geophysical; magnetic and resistivity research in association with TimeScale Surveys.

5. Where considered appropriate, minor exploratory excavation of geophysical anomalies will be undertaken, with comprehensive co-operation with other bodies in respect of data thus discovered. Excavation work will not take place within the National Park boundary.

6. The research timescale will be a period of five years, commenced 1 January 2009 and reporting no later than 31 December 2014. Summary interim progress reports will be produced annually.

7. The research will be compiled as a report in electronic format, the primary point for accessing the material will be via the Archaeology Data

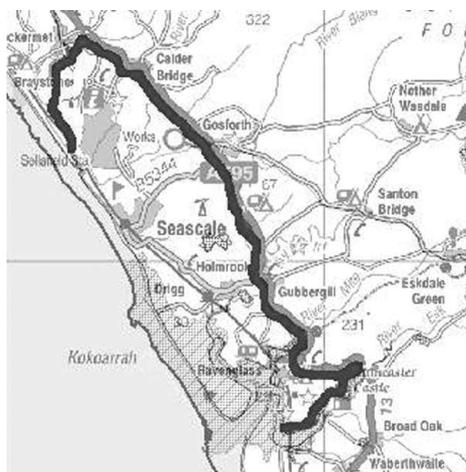
Service. Copies in appropriate format will be made available to persons and organisations contributing to research funding. Wider publication will be sought in a recognised local or national archaeological journal.

8. It is hoped that this research will go some way to assist the wider knowledge of the Western Frontier and meet the criteria contained within the Hadrian's Wall Management Plan (2008 – 2012) and the Hadrian's Wall Research Framework (final draft 2008).

9. Address for correspondence:

Clifford Jones BA (Hons)
 Greatest Roman Frontiers, Great Gable, 3 Links Crescent, Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1RB

10. Map defining area of research.



Map reproduced under Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100030361; Crown copyright reserved.

Keep an eye out for Clifford Jones' latest book – 'Walking the Eastern Hadrianic Way': Ravenglass to Ambleside. This is due to be published in April. Price £9.99. This is a sequel to his book 'Hadrian's Coastal Route': Ravenglass to Bowness-on-Solway.

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

SUMMER NEWSLETTER
 To be published by 4 July 2009
 Please submit articles and items of general interest to news@epic-gb.com by 12 June

More Trains – so let's Use Them!

The new Northern Rail Timetable (Guide 6) for the Cumbrian Coast Line between Barrow and Carlisle started on 15 December 2008.

After several years of tinkering with the timetable by First North Western and now by Northern Rail, some big changes have been made to address some of the failings that have been annoying rail users and potential travellers for many years.

These changes are best for those of us living between Whitehaven and Millom, although of course all users will feel the benefit. The new timetable has ten trains a day each way between those points, as well as an extra train in the mornings each way between Barrow and Sellafield, returning to Lancaster at 09:07. This reduces the morning southbound 'gap' from 3h 13m to 1h 19m. The previous northbound morning 'gap' in through services has been reduced from over three hours to just over two.

The Managing Director of Northern, Heidi Mottram, said recently that passenger numbers on our line are 'going up and up'. So it would be a shame if the train operator concluded that there were not enough passengers to justify the improved timetable.

With these more frequent trains, roughly every hour each way, how can people best make use of them and the excellent offers that are available on this line and elsewhere in Cumbria? Here are a few suggestions:

The pocket timetable gives details and prices of Day Ranger tickets valid on the Cumbrian Coast Line; national railcards give discounts on all tickets. There are Day Ranger and Rover leaflets obtainable in some public libraries and at manned stations or available to download from www.northernrail.org

Cumbrian Coast Day Ranger: valid from Barrow and stations to Carlisle via Whitehaven, any train, any day.

Cumbria Round Robin: valid for a circular journey in either direction Barrow – Whitehaven – Carlisle – Penrith – Lancaster – Barrow, any train, any day.

Hadrian's Wall Country Line Day Ranger:

Whitehaven, Carlisle, Hexham, MetroCentre, Newcastle and Sunderland; available on trains timed to depart from 08:45 Weekdays, any train at weekends and Bank Holidays.

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway: Combined tickets for travel on Northern Rail and the Ratty save Adults £3.00 and children £1.50 off the Ratty full line return fare when you travel with Northern to Ravenglass. There are even greater savings for railcard holders.

By far the best value is:

The Lakes' Day Ranger: freedom to explore the Lakes by bus, train and ferry; valid from Workington and stations to Morecambe/Heysham Port via Barrow; also Lancaster to Windermere/Penrith North Lakes via Oxenholme Lake District, Windermere Lake Cruises, all Stagecoach buses within Cumbria (except school buses) and service 555/556 to/from Lancashire; discounts on Ratty, Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, Keswick Launch, Coniston Launch and Ullswater Steamers. Any train, any day. Family tickets are available.

Other ideas

Duo tickets: The Duo gives you one return train ticket, plus a second for half the price when two adults travel together with Northern. Available on trains timed to depart from 09:00 Mondays to Fridays – return any time the same day. Weekends and Bank Holidays, available on any train. Duo tickets not available weekends during December. No further discounts available with Duo.

For more information on tickets and special offers visit www.northernrail.org

Seascale to: Whitehaven – Anytime Day Return £3.70. Carlisle – Anytime Day Return £12.80, Duo £19.20. Barrow-in-Furness – Anytime Day Return £8.10, Duo £12.10. Ravenglass & including a day's unlimited travel on the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway – Anytime Day Return £10.10.

The Coastal Line is ideal for combining walking or cycling with train travel. The Cumbria Cycleway, Hadrian's Cycleway and The Cumbria Coastal Path all follow the line closely. One popular idea is to catch the train from St Bees to Whitehaven or vice

versa, then walk back along the coast over St Bees Head. If you like cycling, but don't want to struggle against the wind, just go by train one way and cycle in the other, more favourable, direction. You can use the train with the increased timetable frequency during the day to go shopping in Barrow, Whitehaven, Workington or Carlisle and you don't have to spend hours waiting for the return train.

More trains but...

Although there have been improvements in the timetable, there still remains an absence of late evening trains, and of course there are no Sunday services between Whitehaven and Barrow. Copeland Rail Users' Group has been instrumental in getting the timetable changes just introduced and is continuing to press for further

improvements. We would also like to acknowledge the work of John Kitchen, the Cumbria County Council Rail Officer and Laurence Hilland, Cumbrian Coast Community Rail Partnership Officer.

CRUG has also been largely responsible for persuading Network Rail, The County Council and Northern to set up a platform-raising ramp experiment at Harrington. This is one of three national trials which, if successful could be introduced at 250 stations nationwide. It reduces the step from train to platform from 15 inches or more, to six inches, and makes boarding or leaving trains much easier for the elderly, incapacitated or those with luggage.

Tony Potts and Keith Bradshaw, Copeland Rail Users Group, website: www.crug.org.uk

CUMBRIA COAST COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

As I said in my last report to CRUG members, the first phase of my role is to concentrate on community development to encourage local people to use our railway more often. I'm pleased to say that community reaction to date has been excellent, with groups becoming active in all areas. Dot Williams is forming a Friends of Millom Station and similar projects are being developed at other stations. This is great news – and wouldn't it be wonderful to see all the stations along the Cumbrian Coast maintained and looked after by their local community?

An article featuring both Chris Cutts and myself in Allerdale Borough Council's local magazine 'Outlook' provoked much reaction. There were both complaints and compliments, all of which prove that our railway is close to people's hearts. As a result I'm maintaining close contact with members of the community which bodes well for the future.

The project to transform Askam station into a Youth café and waiting facilities is proceeding well. The development plan will be completed by the end of March and we can then move on to the next phase. The committee will be holding a public meeting once the architect has produced detailed drawings of the scheme.

Another flagship project that is being developed is Maryport station. In the words of one e-mail I

received 'waiting for a train here is a grim experience'. In response we're developing a variety of community projects based upon the latest developments at the Camp Farm Roman site. This development is scheduled to bring in 50,000 visitors a year to Maryport, and we hope a substantial number will arrive by train. Consequently, and with the help of the payback team and other groups, we're looking at introducing a Roman theme both to the station and car park areas. More news on this as things develop.

DRS employees are helping us at Sellafield station. Those of us who use this station will know that facilities are below standard, and the partnership is looking at various ways of improving the general air of neglect that hangs across this high-footfall station.

25 children and their parents went to Carlisle to see a play at Tullie House. Many hadn't travelled by train before and the response was excellent. Also, a group of Young Carers is going to Ulverston during half-term and then will be attending a workshop based on the experience of rail travel.

As always we're looking for ideas and help from CRUG members so don't be shy in coming forward. We're definitely looking to establish a 'Friends' group at Seascale so if you know anyone, or would like to start something yourselves, just get in touch with me, Chris Cutts or Tony Potts.

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Support your Local Shop

Seascale's Churches by Nev. Ramsden

THE PARISH CHURCH

Seascale prior to 1904, at first a hamlet and then a village, was part of the parish of Gosforth. In that year, under an order of the Privy Council, the separate religious parish of Seascale was created.

Before 1904, the delivery of a religious service for the people of Seascale had gone through several intermediate phases. Firstly as a Quarter of the parish of Gosforth, then in any available space in Seascale that would hold the congregation, followed by the two prefabricated iron churches and finally the church we see today.

Although it had enjoyed rail communications since the 1850s, Seascale, then a tiny hamlet of farms in the parish of Gosforth, developed slowly and it was not until 1869 that Church of England services were initiated here. The services were conducted by the Rector of Gosforth (Rev. J.A. Cheese) and held on Sunday afternoons in the railway station waiting room, then no more than a wooden shed. The congregation increased and for the period 1872-1873 this service was held in the railway goods shed, today the sports hall, with wagons and trucks for seats.

Thanks to Daniel, the son of John Tyson of Gosforth the grocer/builder, services were held in a barn belonging to the Scawfell Hotel until Easter 1874, by which time the Church School had been built in Hallsenna Road, and for the next seven years the services were held there.

The school, in turn, became too small for the increasing congregations and, on 11 July 1881, a corrugated iron building with seating for 300 was constructed at a cost of £450. The Iron Church was opened by Bishop Harvey Goodwin, of Carlisle, and the Rector of Gosforth appointed the first resident curate of Seascale.

The Winter Gales of 1883/84

This prefabricated church was damaged in the severe gales of the 16/17 October and 11 December 1883, when the church was partly unroofed. It finally collapsed in the great storm of 24 January 1884. The church was rebuilt at a cost to

the parishioners of £80 during 1884.

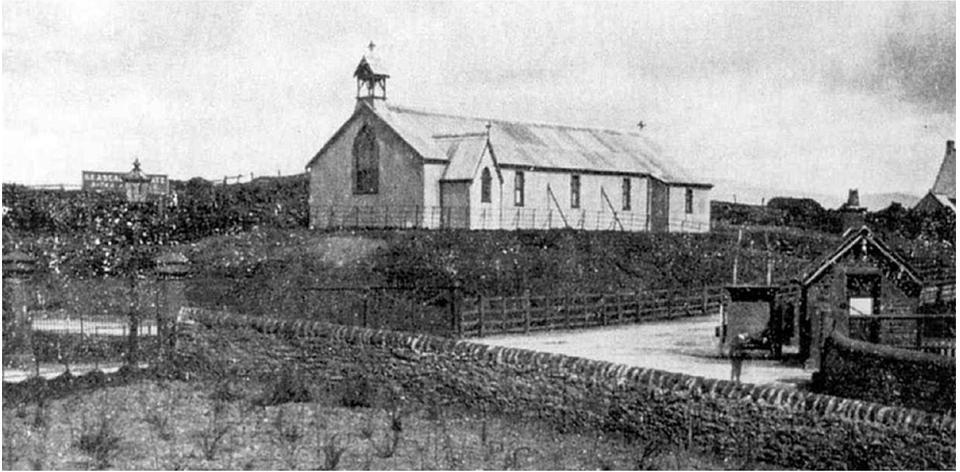
The Whitehaven News ran the following reports in January 1884:

"The extreme violence of the storm on Saturday 24 January 1884, was experienced at Seascale, and in addition to the damage done to house property, the most deplorable accident was the complete destruction of the little iron church. The property of Mr William Henry Tyson, Falcon House and the Ferns, suffered very much, the roofs being torn open and some of the windows smashed. Scawfell Hotel (Mr John Tyson) also came to grief, part of a back roof and glass roof being broken. Property in the neighbourhood of the "Neb" suffered considerable damage, being one of the most exposed part of the village; and in some instances the repairs of damage done on the night of the 11 December 1883 were disturbed.

The railway station at Seascale, and the other places along the coast, though exposed to the full blast of the storm, remained intact; but many telegraph posts were blown down and communication interrupted. Several gangs of men were immediately placed on different parts of the line, and the injury to the posts and wires repaired as soon as possible. A young woman received a rather serious shaking by being thrown on to the ground by the force of the wind on approaching Seascale Station.

The worst and the most regretted misfortune that befell that was the entire wreck of the Iron Church. The wind was considered to have been much stronger on Saturday night than on the night of the 11th. ult., when only two or three sheets of the corrugated iron were torn from the roof. The destruction of the church was not seen by anyone, but up to midnight it was standing complete. It is supposed that the turret first fell, and that some time after the whole of the structure was demolished, beyond all hope of being restored to its former condition.

It was first observed in a ruined condition at 5 o'clock in the morning. The corrugated sheet iron was torn in pieces like as much paper, and it and the felting were to be found for a considerable



The Iron church before it blew down.

distance away, scattered in fields and on the road. Luckily it was that the misfortune happened during the night time, as it would have been most dangerous had it occurred when the inhabitants of that locality were astir. Most of the woodwork of the building is completely destroyed; but what remains not damaged – which is very little – will be taken down and stored away until it is decided what course to take for the erection of another building. Of course divine service on Sunday morning was out of question, there being no time to arrange for another place of worship. In the evening, however, service was held in the school-room, when the Rev. W.L. Taylor, curate, feelingly referred to the catastrophe.”

On Monday evening a church committee meeting was convened by circular, and held in the school room, to consider what steps ought to be taken. The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. Wordsworth of Gosforth rectory, and there was also present the Rev. W.L. Taylor, Dr Parker, Captain Landsborough, and Messrs J. Wrigley (secretary), Muncaster, John Sherwen jnr., Henry Leech, Isaac Mossop, Joseph Fearon, W.H. Tyson, R. Tyson, John Tyson, John Porter, etc.

A long conversation ensued, during which two schemes were mooted. A proposition was made by Mr Wrigley, and seconded by Mr Mossop, to build a brick structure of a temporary nature on the present site, and to apply for a 20 years’ lease of the ground to the owners, the Furness Railway

Company. The other scheme was proposed by Mr James Muncaster, and seconded by Mr John Tyson, and was that a site be purchased, and that a permanent building be erected. The latter proposition found the most favour amongst those present, and on Monday evening next another meeting would be held, and the matter further gone into.

It was nearly three years since the iron church was erected by public subscriptions. The total cost was £500, and a good portion of that sum was subscribed by three parties, viz., £100 by the Duke of Devonshire; £50 by Sir James Ramsden; and £20 by the Duke of Buccleuch; and the inhabitants the most heartily subscribed. It was built to seat 300, and though adequate for the requirements of the place at that time, owing to the rapid rise of Seascale as a seaside resort, within a very short time it became patent that it was too small. In winter time the room had been found limited, and it was not uncommon in summer time, with a large influx of visitors, for many to be unable to gain admittance.

It was suggested that the next building erected should afford sitting accommodation for 500; and even this space would, it was thought, be pretty well drawn upon by the inhabitants and visitors in the immediate future. In the meantime the usual services were to be held in the schoolroom. The iron church was insured, but only against fire, and consequently nothing



The architect's draft of the proposed church, Seascale's St Cuthbert's, built in 1890.

would be recovered by the insurance.

It was obvious that a permanent church building must be provided and on 18 June, 1889, Lady Muncaster laid the foundation stone of the present church which was built on a site given by Mr Henry Tyson, of Town End farm, and adjacent to the iron church which remained in use until the present church was completed. This Henry Tyson died on 12 December 1896 at Johannesburg in South Africa.

The church was built to the design of Mr C.J. Ferguson of Carlisle in the decorated and perpendicular styles. St Bees stone was used and the external walls were insulated by filling the cavities with pitch. The church consisted of a chancel, nave, south aisle and a gable bell cote at the west end for two bells; it had 500 sittings which have always been free and unappropriated. The cost of the church and fittings was about £4,500, raised by public subscription.

The gypsum stone font and carved oak cover were given by children of the district; the carved oak communion table was given by the Misses

Johnson of Sunny Bank; the original lectern, cross and carpeting were given by Mr and Mrs Whittle of Falcon House; the pulpit and chancel seats were given in memory of Mr Daniel Tyson by his widow and children.

On 18 August, 1890, the church was consecrated as the parish church, with St Cuthbert as its patron saint, by Bishop Harvey Goodwin. At this time St Cuthbert's was only a chapel of ease to St Mary's Church, Gosforth, whose Rector appointed the Curate, until 1904 as mentioned earlier.

Finally the church clock; the Rev. John William Akam, Vicar of Seascale 1920-1945, Frank Ridley Burnett and Isaac Wilson Turner did petition the Bishop of Carlisle for permission to erect a striking clock on the west wall of the Parish Church, and for placing on the clock case a bronze tablet bearing the inscription:

"The clock was given by the people of Seascale to commemorate the Coronation of their Majesties King George the Sixth & Queen Elizabeth May 1937."

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Young Fire Fighters' Training Scheme



Eleven teenagers, eight boys and three girls, from the Seascale, Gosforth, Waberthwaite and Bootle areas recently took part in a young fire fighters' training course at Seascale Fire Station. The aim of the course was to develop their self-confidence and encourage teamwork whilst learning skills used by Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services. These skills, under the tuition of qualified fire fighters, included the rescue of casualties from crashed vehicles, first aid and casualty handling as well as fire fighting techniques and the wearing of fire breathing apparatus. To demonstrate these skills

they had to cut up a scrap car under controlled conditions to release a dummy casualty and become competent in resuscitation and recovery techniques. The young fire fighters wore mock breathing apparatus whilst they took part in a realistic exercise that involved recovering a dummy casualty from a confined space in total darkness. The fire fighting techniques included the climbing of ladders into the drill tower and much squirting of water, from which everyone ended up wet, but a lot of fun was had by all! These practical skills were supplemented by



presentations on Road Awareness, Home Safety and the importance of early smoke detection.

The young fire fighters were fully equipped with protective clothing and helmets similar to that worn by professional fire fighters and they really looked the part.

The course ran over several weeks and ended with a passing out parade in front of an audience comprising of very proud parents and grandparents, the Deputy Chief Officer of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services, local dignitaries and Mr Dick Raaz of UKNWM (Low Level Waste Repository) who very kindly sponsored the course. The day ended with the presentation of certificates to all the young fire fighters, followed by refreshments in the fire station.

The young fire fighters made up their own ground rules at the beginning of the course and stuck to them religiously. We were all extremely impressed by the attitude and enthusiasm shown by all those taking part. The fire fighters of Seascale thoroughly enjoyed running the course and are very proud of what the youngsters achieved.

They should be very proud of themselves!

Thanks go to Dick Raaz for sponsoring the course and Cumbria Fire and Rescue Services for providing specialist equipment and allowing us to take part in this national scheme.

Fire fighters from Seascale are currently helping to run a course at Egremont fire station.

We intend to run a second course in the autumn at Seascale fire station. If any more youngsters aged between 14 and 16 are interested in taking part, contact any Seascale fire fighter or call in at the fire station on any Monday evening between 7 and 9pm for a chat.

Tony Holman



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Local Village Dancers become National Champions

Last November, at Blackpool's Winter Gardens, 25 girls from Seascale and the surrounding villages took part with other dancers in the AAD National Troupe Dancing Championships representing Principal Joanne Dougan's Step by Step School of Dance.

They were entered in two sections, the Babes dancing to 'Busy Bees', and the Juniors dancing to 'Enchanted' and 'Tribal'.

After a lot of effort and hard training on Wednesdays and Sundays they finished as follows:

Babes:	'Busy Bees'	–	First
Juniors:	'Enchanted'	–	Joint First
	'Tribal'	–	Joint First

The attached photos show some of the younger girls dressed as Bees for 'Busy Bees' (Sarah and Emily Martin, Abigail Dowber and Beth Reece) and Fairies (Emily and Sarah Martin, Abigail Dowber, Beth Reece and Amy Miller) for their part in 'Enchanted'.

Step by Step School of Dance teaches in Seascale on a Friday evening as well as other areas

throughout the week, including Troupe dancing on a Wednesday and Sunday in Cleator.

The Friday sessions are split into age groups ranging from 3 years old up to teenagers, with volunteer over 5s joining the troupe sessions.

The dancers are looking forward to appearing in the AAD Gala at Blackpool in early April reward for winning their groups. Then in May the whole school is taking over the Civic Hall in Whitehaven for three nights for the Step by Step Annual Gala where the dancers of all age groups get to perform.

The Parish Council would like to give a huge Well Done and Congratulations to Joanne and all her dancers for being crowned National Champions. It is a great success and we are proud to have the Dance School in our Village.

School History

The School was established in 1990 by Joanne after she returned from several years dancing professionally in Greece, Cyprus as well as in the UK.

Joanne felt she could bring a wealth of

experience she had gained from both the professional world and her years teaching dance schools throughout Cumbria to all ages and encourage young talent with new and exciting choreography in tap, ballet and modern dance – a breath of fresh air in to the dance world of West Cumbria!

So with help from the Prince's Trust, Step by Step was opened for business.

Classes boomed straight away and after such an encouraging start Joanne



was asked to represent the Prince's Trust at a Reception for Prince Charles.

The Prince was keen to point out to Joanne the importance of young children being involved in a team and keeping fit.

From those early days the School has grown and prospered, winning many awards and Joanne now teaches over 250 children and adults each week.

Some of the awards the school has won include: the national troupe award for babes (4 times), the national troupe award for Juniors (6 times) and the most prestigious; the national senior troupe award – which was won with outstanding performances at the Blackpool Opera House twice.

The school has also won national awards for its examination results in Ballet, Tap and modern as well as training girls who have gone on to win high awards in national ballet and tap scholarships.

Some of the school's senior girls are currently working towards dance teaching exams as well as some training at various performing arts colleges.

Two Step by Step trained girls have recently returned from professional contracts in Mexico.

Step by Step award winning troupes have performed all over the country in some of the finest theatres in England (including the Dominion in London's West End); what a list of achievements over the past 19 years.

Step by Step hold classes in Seascale, St Bees, Egremont and Cleator Moor.

For more details of Step by Step classes please contact Joanne on 01946 811183.

**Step by Step Annual Show
Civic Hall, Whitehaven**

**Friday 8 May and Saturday 9 May at 7pm
and also Sunday 10 May at 3pm**

Tickets on sale now at the Civic Hall

**Performances will be made by all the
various village groups as well as the
combined troupes**

FIRST WORLD WAR FLYING ACE

20-year Adventure of Harry Chisam
1912-1932



by
Andy Milne
&
Margaret Chisam Partington

A former pupil of Calder Girls School, Seascale, Margaret Partington has published a book revealing the exploits of her father as a flying ace during the First World War, and some of his adventures later in life. Harry was trained to fly by the Wright brothers, in Dayton, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia. Unlike most biographies this is written as a narrative – some speech known and some assumed – by author Andy Milne – and makes very easy and interesting reading. It is profusely illustrated. Margaret's family lived for 50 years in Norse Range (Drigg Road), built in 1909 by Harry's grandfather.

An imposing Victorian residence on The Banks became Calder Girls School in 1884. It closed its doors to pupils in 1967, but in its heyday the school was patronised by well-to-do society of the day who sent their offspring to board in the flourishing seaside resort of Seascale. The Girls School is now Calder House Hotel. Margaret makes many visits there to this day, especially for some of Calder House Hotel's exotic functions.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy you are welcome to make contact with Margaret on 01753 543597. Cover price is £18.00. It runs to 128 B5 pages, with many in colour (mostly sepia).

Watch Your Step!

We make no excuse for reprinting the following poem that appeared in 2003. The problem is getting worse not better and we feel what would be a pleasant and clean village to visit is spoiled by selfish dog owners.

*Whenever I stroll down a Seascale street
I'm very unsure where to put my feet,
As I watch for the goo,
And the doggie's big poos
That are sprinkled all over like some giant loo.
As I edge my way round
Some big pile on the ground
I wish the Dog Warden would take heed and sue!*

*And the more that I look and I'm sure you'll agree
There are mountains of turds and rivers of pee!
Deposited there by some cute canine chap
Who knows where I tread when he has a big crap!
And the air that's around me gets bluer and bluer
As the village is turned to an open-air sewer!
It's almost as if they all talk, dog to dog,
Disguised as dumb animals chasing a mog!
'That one's wearing trainers, with ridges below!
It's hell to clean off of their carpets, you know!'
For nothing more pleases a simple dog's wit
Than to hear the familiar cry of 'Oh, Shit!'*

So...
*As you stroll down the street
And glare at poor Rover!
Remember to spare a cold glance for his owner!
It's him who's at fault
Not the guy with the tail,
It's he who won't pick up his mutt's canine trail!
With an on-the-spot fine of twenty-five pounds!
A substantial sum when the poo hits the ground.
And the point where it seriously hits the fan?
When they take you to court, it goes up to a grand!
Pick up after your dog as you stroll down the street,
It belongs in the bin – not under my feet!*

(with apologies to Christopher Matthew and A.A. Milne!)

Seascale School children are doing a poster competition on the subject to try to encourage people to clean up after their dogs. You are reminded that it is the law that no one should let their dogs foul within the 30-mile per hour limit and this is very likely to become more far-reaching soon.

Parish Council

SEASCALE SCHOOL NEWS

The School Council recently organised a fundraising event in school. We held a 'Pirate SOS Day' where the children dressed up as pirates, mermaids, and anything to do with the sea. The children played pirate-related games during break times, and we raised £146.19 for the RNLI. A great day was had by all.

The Mayor of the School Council, Patrick Brennan, spent the day with the Mayor of Copeland. He was invited to the Mayor's Parlour where he had a chance to wear the Mayor's Regalia. He visited a nursery at Egremont, a recycling depot, had a tour of the Beacon and had lunch at the Wellington Bistro. Patrick attended the visit with another child from Bransty School.

The Friends of Seascale School have organised an 'Easter Bingo' event, which will be held on Friday 27 March 2009, 6.30pm in the Windscale Club. Please come along if you can and support the Friends.

PARKING ON CROFT HEAD ROAD

The parking on Croft Head Road is causing Seascale School major problems. We have had several 'near misses' reported to us in the last few weeks. The problem are occur when parents are bringing and collecting their children from school.

We regularly put items on our school newsletters asking parents to refrain from parking their cars in this area. The police have been informed and will be monitoring the situation.

May we ask that all cars are parked well away from this area? I am sure you will all agree that we do not want to be reporting a major accident in future correspondence. Please help us to keep all our children safe while arriving and leaving the school premises.

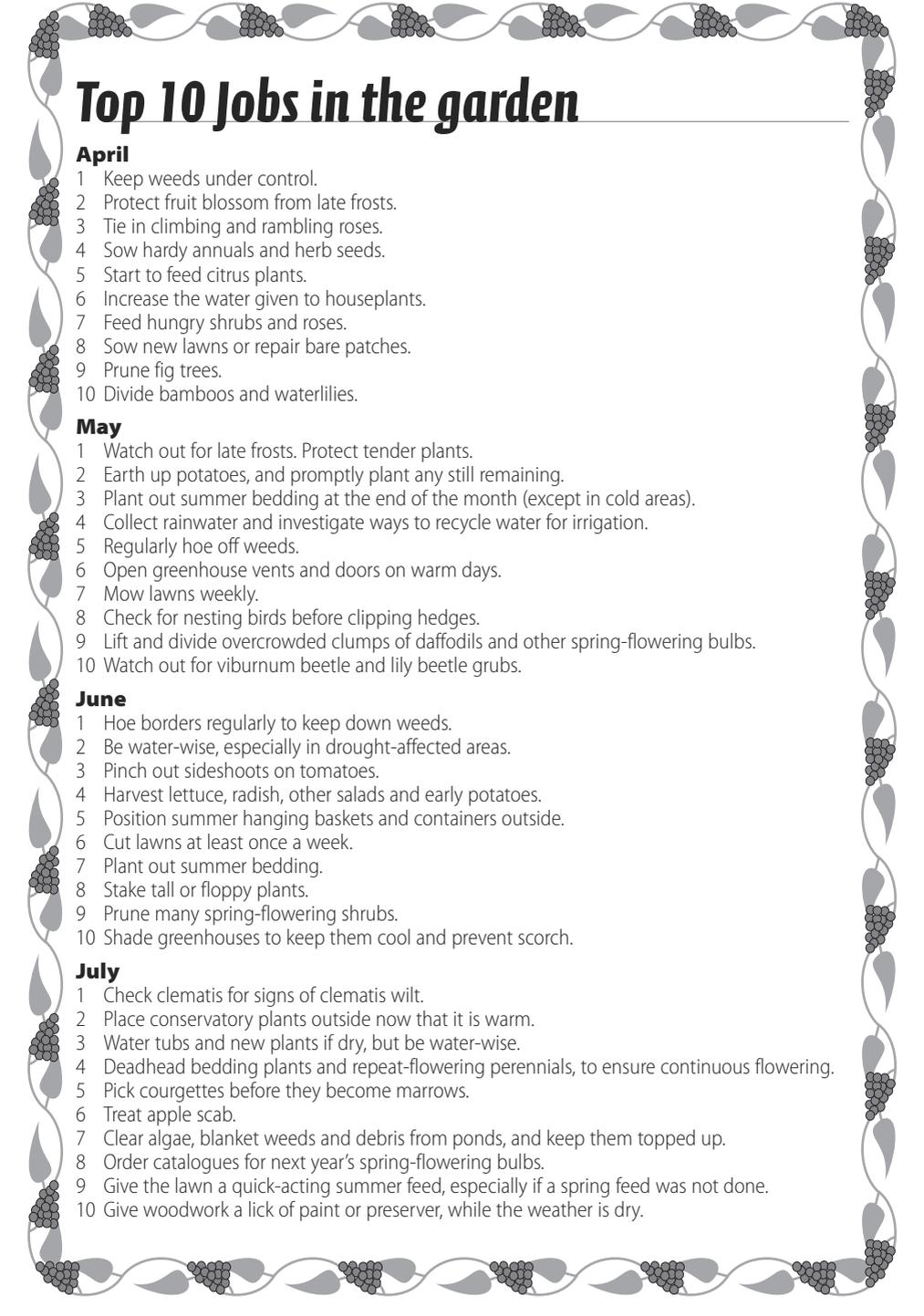
POLICE SURGERIES

PC Francesca Geer will do the following Police Surgeries at the Seascale Library.

Saturday 11 April 2009 @ 11.00 - 12.00.

Saturday 16 May 2009 @ 11.00 - 12.00.

Anyone wishing to discuss their concerns or local issues will be welcome there.



Top 10 Jobs in the garden

April

- 1 Keep weeds under control.
- 2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts.
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses.
- 4 Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds.
- 5 Start to feed citrus plants.
- 6 Increase the water given to houseplants.
- 7 Feed hungry shrubs and roses.
- 8 Sow new lawns or repair bare patches.
- 9 Prune fig trees.
- 10 Divide bamboos and waterlilies.

May

- 1 Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants.
- 2 Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining.
- 3 Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas).
- 4 Collect rainwater and investigate ways to recycle water for irrigation.
- 5 Regularly hoe off weeds.
- 6 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days.
- 7 Mow lawns weekly.
- 8 Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges.
- 9 Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.
- 10 Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs.

June

- 1 Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds.
- 2 Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas.
- 3 Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes.
- 4 Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes.
- 5 Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside.
- 6 Cut lawns at least once a week.
- 7 Plant out summer bedding.
- 8 Stake tall or floppy plants.
- 9 Prune many spring-flowering shrubs.
- 10 Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch.

July

- 1 Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt.
- 2 Place conservatory plants outside now that it is warm.
- 3 Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise.
- 4 Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering.
- 5 Pick courgettes before they become marrows.
- 6 Treat apple scab.
- 7 Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up.
- 8 Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs.
- 9 Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if a spring feed was not done.
- 10 Give woodwork a lick of paint or preserver, while the weather is dry.

Guides and Rangers

Around the time that the last newsletter was published, the Guides and Rangers were due to spend a weekend visiting Blackpool and Manchester. Fifty girls and leaders arrived in a rather damp and chilly Blackpool late on a Saturday morning and split into two groups; one group hit the Pleasure Beach while the other group, after a brisk walk along the promenade, enjoyed a visit to the Sealife Centre followed by a tram ride and a lively session at the Sandcastle Waterpark. Later in the day we set off for Manchester where we stayed in the Youth Hostel for the night. Sunday's programme involved a visit to the Science and Industry Museum and of course, a tour of the shops before returning to Cumbria in a state of happy exhaustion. Thanks are due to our local Neighbourhood Forums for supporting us with this opportunity.

We have a number of Guides working on the Baden Powell Award at present. This is the highest award that a girl can gain in the Guide section. Several of the girls have recently spent a night under the stars. I'm not quite sure who it was that

declared that they would like to feel the rain on their face, but their wish was granted, fortunately for just a brief moment.

Most of the Rangers are completing different challenges for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and seven of the group will be joining 20,000 other Guides and Scouts from around the world for a trip to an International camp in Denmark this coming July.

The usual round of Christmas events took place – the Christmas Fair, the Christingle Service, the Christmas party and then, in the New Year, the Gosforth pantomime. Some of the girls were performing and the rest of us went along to enjoy a most pleasant evening of entertainment.

During the last couple of weeks we have been thinking about Guiding worldwide and learning a little about the history of our organisation. Plans are now well underway for Girlguiding's Centenary celebrations and most of us are going to Keswick on 5 September for the Launch event.

Finally, at this precise moment in time we are finding out more about Fairtrade. An evening of awareness activities will be followed up by taking part in the local 'Go Bananas' event at Gosforth. More news of this in the next newsletter.
Sue Smith – Guide Leader. 019467 28625

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 31 August 2009

Blackcombe Country Fair, Bootle, Cumbria

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Contact Jen or Kath on 019467 28303

ALL THAT JAZZ

Calder House Hotel hosts a Jazz Jam Session, led by local stars Val and Colin Graham, every third Friday of the month, commencing at 8.30pm. It's an informal night of music with local musicians.

All are welcome to come and listen (or play!)
Admission free

LAZY MUSIC SUNDAY

Gosforth Hall Inn has a live music afternoon on the last Sunday of every month – on the patio when weather permits.

**29 March: Angie Palmer
26 April: No Fixed Abode**

019467 25322 Admission free



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Seascale Cricket Club

Seascale Cricket Club is looking forward to the new season after its hugely successful year in 2008. The first XI will again be playing in Division 2 of the North Lancashire and Cumbria Cricket League and start the season off with a home fixture on Saturday 18 April against Vickerstown, ironically the last team to inflict a defeat on Seascale back in 2007. Although the club will be looking to repeat its recent successes, the team will be losing two of its best players – Daniel Lee and Robin Sparshott. It is a measure of the club's success that both are moving to bigger clubs to play cricket in the county's Premier Division and the club is very proud of this and wishes them every success. The club will again be entering two teams in the West Allerdale and Cumbria Cricket Association midweek league – the Windscale Club team in Division 1 and Seascale Juniors in Division 2. Both teams will play their home league games on Thursday evenings starting 7 May with pre-season adult practice taking place on Thursdays beginning 2 April. The club will also be entering two teams in the local junior leagues – the under 11s playing on Monday evenings and under 13s playing on Sunday mornings.

Unfortunately there are not enough numbers to run the under-15 team this year but those of that age group will be playing for the Junior's midweek team instead. Outdoor junior practice will start on Tuesdays beginning 7 April and there'll be a meeting of junior players and parents at the end of March. The junior section is indebted to a recent donation from DBpx Fellside (the company which runs the Combined Heat and Power plant on site) which will help pay for some much-needed training equipment for the juniors. In the off-season the club has been busy improving the facilities for spectators and players at the end of the cricket/bowls pavilion by building a raised patio viewing area. All the work has been done by club volunteers with the cost being mainly funded by the club, but also helped by a generous donation from the Neighbourhood Forum and continuing sponsorship from the Windscale Club. On a more worrying note the club has recently noticed a significant increase in dog fouling on the cricket outfield and surrounding areas. Considering the large numbers of village children that will be playing and practising cricket on the field and given the well publicised dangers to health, especially children's, this is becoming a major problem.

Club Contacts: Andy Lee 28292 , Dave Stubbings 841641, Steve Brown 28352



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Wildlife

Recent wildlife surveys have shown that there is a marked decline in the numbers of several species of birds. Farmers often get the blame for this with their modern methods of farming. However, there are now lots of grant-assisted schemes available to landowners which have resulted in miles of hedgerows being repaired and planted. Ponds have been dug and areas of land fenced off and planted especially for wildlife habitat to live in and breed safely.

A more likely cause for the decline is the vicious nature of some of the birds themselves. A friend of mine who lives in the Fairways estate last year had nine different types of nest built in his garden, yet not a single young one lived to fly. Jackdaws and magpies robbed every nest, taking both the eggs and the young birds. This must be happening everywhere. A nest of swallows in a porch were also killed and eaten by magpies even though the owner had put wire netting on the porch to protect them. Last year I saw a herring gull swallow an adult swallow (head first, like a

snake). I don't know how it caught it. Shortly afterwards we found a nest of young swallows in one of our sheds, all dead. Obviously the gull had killed the mother and the young ones had starved to death. Sparrow hawks and kestrels take a considerable number of birds around our gardens.

A rare type of duck hatched out a brood of ducklings beside the river at Calderbridge. They were quite an attraction then, one by one, they all disappeared – a mink had been waiting for them every day. Several mink have been seen recently in this area – they have got to be the most vicious animals in Britain. With no predators they are roaming up and down the waterways and they massacre any small wildlife they come across. Nothing is safe from them. If trapped they would not think twice about attacking a human being. They make a loud screeching sound if threatened – if you hear this you are far too close! There used to be a mink farm near Eskdale where they were reared for their quality fur. Unfortunately some of them escaped into the wild where they rapidly bred and spread over large parts of Cumbria. Grey squirrels also rob any nests they come across and then, of course, there is the household cat which

OPEN MIND (WEST LAKES U3A)

Open Mind is a group for retired people from the villages of Seascale and Gosforth and the surrounding area. It is affiliated to the U3A movement, hence its double name.

Its aims are to provide social interaction and activities for both men and women by means of daytime meetings, occasional trips, special lunches etc.

There is a monthly general meeting starting at 10.45am, usually involving illustrated talks on a variety of subjects, and a series of Special Interest Groups on subjects such as History, which provides talks on historical subjects and occasional outings to historic houses. This takes place on the first Wednesday of the month in St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Seascale. Also in Seascale at St Joseph's Church Hall on the second Thursday of the month is an Art Appreciation Group. There is also a Bird Watching Group, a Reading Group which reads and discusses a book borrowed from the Country library each month, and a small but

lively Discussion Group; all of the last three groups take place in Gosforth.

There are also occasional theatre trips and group lunches. Members receive a quarterly newsletter which gives details of meetings and events.

The annual subscription is £5.00 and there is a charge for meetings varying from £1 to £1.50 depending on the venue. The Membership Secretary is George Taylor, tel: 28713, who can provide further information if required.

Jean Taylor, Group Organiser

Running out of Steam

After last year's quite intense steam rail workings, this year we can only see one outing on the calendar - Saturday 30 May. The Cumbrian Coast Express: Birmingham New Street to Ravenglass. 48151 (our familiar 8F) between Carnforth and Ravenglass, turning of course at Sellafield. Electric 86259 between Birmingham and Carnforth.

is the biggest killer of all. Facing all these dangers, it is lucky that there are any small birds around.

Nature should be left to take care of itself and not interfered with by man. A group of conservationists have recently introduced beavers to a remote part of Scotland. They have also established a herd of reindeer which would be nice to see, but the most creative scheme of all is that they are proposing to introduce a pack of wolves into a very remote part of the Highlands. What are they going to eat? Local wildlife, sheep or the odd Scotsman maybe?! This plan should be stopped now! Fish eagles in the Western Isles have been blamed for taking newborn lambs – a visit to one of their nest sites last spring revealed a large number of remains of lambs. The Hebridean sheep are a lot smaller than most breeds and their lambs would make easy prey. The eagles were released several years ago and there are quite a few in the Western Isles now.

Last year workmen working on the new motorway improvements near Carlisle unearthed large numbers of adders – approximately 80 of these were captured and later released on heathland near Penrith. What effect would this have on small wildlife in the area? They should have been left where they were. Several years ago work to widen and strengthen the mouth of the river Calder at Sellafield had to be postponed because of the large number of adders unearthed that were hibernating on the river bank. Work was completed in the summer once the snakes had come out of hibernation.

If you have any bushes or hedges to remove or cut down in your gardens they should now be left until autumn. Most types of birds start nesting in March and it would be a crime to destroy them. *Ken Mawson*

Cumbria Wildlife Trust West Coast Support Group

FUTURE MEETINGS

All indoor meetings start at 7.30pm
£1.50 to cover room hire includes refreshments.

11 February 2009 at Seascale Methodist Hall
“THE NORTHUMBERLAND WILDLIFE TRUST”
An illustrated talk by Dr Duncan Hutt, Head of
Land Management for
Northumberland Wildlife Trust.
The Group’s AGM will take place before
this meeting.

◆
11 March 2009 at Gosforth Methodist Room
**“A CUMBRIAN RAMBLE IN SEARCH OF
ORCHIDS”**
An illustrated talk by Maurice Steele

◆
22 April 2009 at Seascale Methodist Hall
“WILD ENNERDALE”
Rachel Oakley will give an illustrated talk on
“Wild Ennerdale” which she hopes to follow with
an outdoor meeting in Ennerdale in May,
date to be announced.

◆
May 2009 – date and time to be announced
“WILD ENNERDALE”
A walk in Ennerdale following Rachel’s talk
in April

◆
17 June 2009
“A BOTANICAL WALK”
Another visit by Mike Porter to show us the flora
and fauna along the cycle way at Beckermeth.
Meet at St Bridget’s Church at 6.30pm.

◆
July 2009 – date and time to be announced
“CLINTS QUARRY”
An outing to Clints Quarry led by Rosemary Hutt

◆
There is no charge for outdoor meetings and
accompanied children are welcome
Hon. Secretary: Stella Cookman 9 Denton Park,
Gosforth, CA20 1BG
01946 725655 – stella.cookman1@btinternet.com

Scouting

Our new leadership team is bedding down, and working well together. We've also been joined by Sarah Servant in the Cubs, and have a new treasurer picking up the books on 1 April (welcome to Lisa Henderson) and a welcome back to Pete Simcock on the about to be re-formed parents committee, where his experience will be very welcome.

Last half-term Beavers (6-8 years) had lots of fun being creative and using their imagination. They created lovely salt-dough animals, homes for animals out of cardboard and junk, and created posters. They had lots of fun finding out about the impact of humans on our environment and our wildlife. Most Beavers will be awarded their Creative and Imagination badges this half-term. Along with some of our beavers achieving challenge badges. The half term culminated in a visit to Darkest Muncaster, where Sophie and Karen (Assistant Beaver Leaders) were invested.

For the rest of this half-term, they will be looking at the daffodils they planted before Christmas, at how some of them have flowered already and some still need to flower. For part of their Friendship Challenge Badge, they are raising money for Marie-Curie Cancer Care. They are going to join in the fun of Red Nose Day by having a Dressing Up Night and they will be icing biscuits with red icing!!!! They will also be working towards their Safety and Emergency Aid Badges.

Cubs (8-10½ years) are now heading towards 3 sixes again, and are getting out and about – on a recent walk in the dark round the lanes and across to Whitriggs farm, seven cubs and Tracey (Assistant Cub Leader) were invested, standing in the mud near the beck. The cubs have had a busy time recently completing their astronomy badge. We did manage to have a clear night for some star gazing. We obviously have some budding chefs as we now have eight cubs who have completed their Chef badge. They all gave a presentation about the meal they have cooked at home – just a shame I (Sara – the Cub Leader) don't get to sample the fantastic meals they prepared!

They have planned a hike for the pack to participate in, with the cubs deciding they'd like to board the train at Seascale, travel to Ravenglass and go for a walk around Muncaster castle before returning home on the train. Hopefully we will find a weekend to do this activity soon. All the cubs have now completed level 1 of the Emergency Aid badge and we are looking to complete level 2 in due course.

The Troop (10½-14½ years) continues to grow, now being up to around 16 members. Recent activities have included bike rides around the lanes and green roads in the area and would have included a trail quest, but this had to be cancelled at short notice due to the imminent arrival of snow. The middle of February (and the middle of a heavy wintery shower) saw the Scouts going up Irton pike in the dark and investing two new members and re-investing a returnee. The first camp since the re-launch of the Troop will be held this term. There are plans to start a District Explorer Scout Unit in our area, based on ourselves, Gosforth and Beckermet/Calderbridge. This will cater for over-14s – watch this space.

It is very gratifying (if expensive) to report that I have just registered 43 youth members in our annual census (and 10 leaders) – with some eight more awaiting investing. Since then, even more have come along to join the troop. Who said young people aren't interested in scouts?

Our Bag2school (or in our case, Bag2scout) collection in December raised us almost £70, and we have another planned for 28 April, so if you are clearing out your winter wardrobe to make way for your spring collection, let us take your old things. Clothing, belts, shoes, but not bric-a-brac.

Don't forget the group's website www.seascalescouts.org.uk, and if anyone has any queries about the group – or want to know if we can accept your child or even if you want to join us – you can contact us on info@seascalescouts.org.uk as well as our group phone number of 0845 0944 256.

*Graham Worsnop
Group Scout Leader*



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