

SEASCALE



**OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES
SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY**

SUMMER 2010

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Photo © Gareth Harrison

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PARISH NEWS

Sadly I have to start this newsletter remembering the devastating day Wednesday 2 June. It is not one we will ever forget. Special thoughts go to the victims' families and our community.

I would like to thank Nev. Ramsden, our local historian, for all the articles he has provided for the newsletter over the last ten years. They were so informative and enjoyable. Sadly he has decided that there will be no more.

We were pleased to at last have the Quality Coast Award flag back. We thank our cubs and their helpers for doing a beach clean on 8 May.

Once again I have to mention our selfish dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs. The Parish Council has had two letters from holidaymakers visiting our village, saying what a lovely place it is and a beautiful beach, spoilt by dog dirt.

Next year it will be the Parish Elections. We have three vacancies at the moment. It is voluntary but is rewarding if you want to make a difference. When I started 31 years ago we hadn't a sports hall, bowling green, three play areas, a castle, a jetty a BMX site, swings, benches, picnic table, Christmas lights. All these things were achieved by Parish Councillors and volunteer villagers. The Dell was completely redone. This was the project of another councillor, with the help of others. Every councillor over the last 25/26 years has been involved in some scheme or another and we are very grateful. So, if you think you can spare some time and commitment, why not give it a try?

On another problem, parking on some of our roads has become silly. On Scawfell Crescent lay-bys were provided as the road is too narrow for on-road parking. Please use them. Santon Way is another example, where the other day cars were parked practically opposite each other making

driving through a hazard. The fire and ambulance services tell me it's impossible to negotiate safely when this happens. It can put lives at risk. Please park safely.

Once again we owe a debt of gratitude to David Morgan for all the volunteer work he does for us on the beach and around the village. He has a flag for every occasion. I am sure you will have noticed that they were flying at half mast for us over the sad days in early June. Thank you David.

*Eileen Eastwood
Chairwoman. Seascale Parish Council.*



A THANK YOU FROM HARRY BERGER

I would like to thank the people of Seascale for their massive help and support following the shootings on 2 June. There are various reasons why there was a 90-minute delay in getting an ambulance to the scene, and forgive me if I leave this issue aside, as the point of this letter is to acknowledge the wonderful support shown to both myself and my wife while I was in agony. It is not everyday that this sort of incident takes place, and as a result no amount of training can be had for it, but with the help of the doctors at the Surgery and the local community I was cared for in a very "drilled" manner. I would also like to apologise for the rather indifferent language that was used by me during the ordeal.

My condolences go to all the families who have not been as fortunate as ours, and my best wishes and huge thanks go to all the unsung

heroes who have suffered just as much as the injured, but have not had the good fortune to be looked after with the care and dedication that I have; and especially to the many that helped directly after the shooting – you know who you are, and I only apologise that I do not know you personally to say thank you.

With many many thanks,

Harry Berger, Woolpack Inn, Boot, Eskdale

A SEAT FOR THE VILLAGE

Betterware, in recognition of Jane Robinson's contribution to the company and the village, are donating a seat for the village. The inscription will read: "In memory of Jane Robinson, remembered with love by her family, friends and Betterware customers"



Parish Councillors

Eileen Eastwood	28653
Elaine Dickinson	27288
Rodney Kimber	28723
Ken Mawson	28278
John McElroy	28443
David Moore	27674
Steve Pritt	07792 109658
Clive Willoughby	07741 007495
Andrew Woollass	28218

Clerk

Judith Kirkham	28449
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Copeland District Councillors

Eileen Eastwood	28653
David Moore	27674

County Councillor

Sue Brown	01229 774666
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Other Useful Numbers

Cumbria Highways Hotline	0845 609 6609
Copeland Direct	0845 054 8600

This letter from Northern Rail was received by the Cumbria Rail Users' Group.

WE ARE THINKING OF YOU

Just a short line to say that we at Northern Rail are thinking of you; I know West Cumbria really well and always enjoy my visits over there.

The flooding of last winter, followed by the terrible bus crash of last month were shocking, but the events of yesterday really knocked us all sideways.

Small communities like yours thrive on knowing everyone and everyone knowing you, so undoubtedly this will have affected almost everyone in the area.

Please don't worry about your reports during this time. If anything this teaches us that there are far more important things.

From Angela and me we send you our best wishes and hope that you and the communities in West Cumbria can find a way through this awful period and once again enjoy the wonderful life that your beautiful area can offer you.

*Peter T. Myers
Head of Service Quality*

FROM FORMER HEADTEACHER, SEASCALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

To Eileen Eastwood:

My heartfelt sympathy to the families left behind after these terrible events. I read your tribute in the Whitehaven News and know you are right that in time things will be alright because people pull together. The 4½ years I worked with the community taught me to appreciate everything.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

God bless.

Brenda Holden

FROM SCOUTING HQ

Three messages from Scouting HQ received by Graham Worsnop:

To all members of our Scout family in Cumbria, I just want to reach out and offer you my love and prayers in these difficult times. I know that each of you has been affected in such a painful way by the recent catastrophes but please know that you are part of our Scout family and greatly loved and valued by many. We are here for you if you need any help in whatever capacity. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

You will not know me but I am the chairman of Trustees of TSA.

for 40 years I have been a paediatrician in Newcastle looking after children with cancer and leukaemia.

The young people of west Cumbria have been close to my heart as have their families.

Last week's shocking events have left us all feeling numb and bemused. We want to do something but all we can do is think and pray for you at this difficult time.

I know that the annual meeting of the Second Seascale is this week and perhaps you might like to read out bits of this short note.

Alan Croft, Chair of the Trustees of the Scout Association

Very many thanks for taking the trouble in these difficult times to let us know how you are coping – I for one cannot begin to understand the devastation that individuals, families and the whole community must be feeling as you try to come to terms with events. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, as with our support as you try to rebuild the community.

*Wayne Bulpitt
UK Chief Commissioner*

SEASCALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Eco Schools Green Flag Assessment

We are delighted to inform you that we have received the Eco Schools 'Green Flag' award this week. Thank you to all who worked really hard towards the assessment. We have been asked if our school can be used as an 'exemplar school' to other establishments who are to undertake the same assessment. We are very proud of this. Well done!

Let's Celebrate Friday 9 July 2010

We will be holding our Let's Celebrate event on Friday 9 July 2010. Members from within the community are welcome to attend if they so wish. A BBQ lunch will be served; all orders for the BBQ need to be placed with school by Thursday 1 July 2010. Unfortunately we will be unable to take orders after 1 July as we need to place our food requirements with the catering companies on this date. Please telephone 28403 to place your order.



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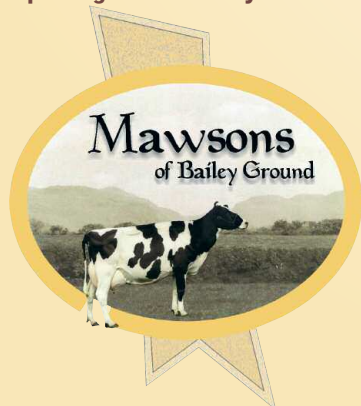
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West Coast Support Group

The West Coast Support Group meets for six indoor and three outdoor meetings each year. The final summer meeting this year on 7 **Wednesday July** will be an annual visit to Clints Quarry Nature Reserve with Rosemary Hutt. Meet at the entrance at 6.30pm. Children accompanied by a responsible adult are welcome. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. No dogs.

Autumn Indoor Meetings 2010

Wednesday 15 September. 7.30pm at Gosforth Methodist Room.

“Mountain Flowers”

An illustrated talk by the Director of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Peter Bullard

Wednesday 13 October. 7.30pm at Seascale Methodist Church Hall.

An illustrated talk on a wildlife topic; speaker to be announced.

Wednesday 17 November. 7.30pm at Gosforth Methodist Room

“The Watchtree Nature Reserve”

An illustrated talk by Reserves Manager, Tim Lawrence on the creation of this Reserve following the foot and mouth outbreak

Spring Indoor Meetings 2011

9 February at Seascale

9 March at Gosforth

6 April at Seascale

Fiona Galloway, Hon. Secretary, West Coast Support Group

01946 841313

Further information about the work of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, including opportunities for volunteering may be obtained from

Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Head Office: Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX

Telephone 01539 816300

E: mail@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

W: www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No.218711

HOLMROOK READING ROOM PIZZA DAY

As always we plan to relax and have a fine afternoon together on 10 July while we eat pizza and drink wine. Good weather or bad we will have a great time. All monies raised will go towards maintaining our building and the garden/meadow which surrounds it. We hope that you will come and spend time in our 'little garden heaven' and see where your money goes!

Festivities start around 12 noon. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3.50 for children.

If you would like to come call Val on 019467 24105 or 07974 418325

AUTUMN/WINTER MAGAZINE

To be published by weekend
22 October 2010

Please submit articles, items of
general interest and event dates
to
news@epic-gb.com by 1 October

ALL THAT JAZZ

Calder House Hotel hosts a Jazz Jam Session, led by local stars Val and Colin, 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.

On 28 June the magnificent duo No Fixed Abode will play from 4pm. Hopefully the weather will permit an outdoor performance. Check out their music at www.myspace.com/musicnfa

019467 25322 Admission free

3-DAY EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK

The second open art exhibition of the Gosforth & District Art Society is scheduled for August Bank Holiday – 28-30 August, in Gosforth Village Hall.

The group was formed over 25 years ago and has been meeting throughout that time; some of the original people are still with us today. There are varying types of ability within the group from learners to very accomplished artists. Many different mediums are used – oil, watercolour, pastel, graphite and acrylic paints. Some paint in more than one medium and they help and coach each other as and when needed.

The group is quite well known locally and has the privilege of exhibiting all year round at Muncaster Castle and Lakeland Habit.

This year's exhibition in Gosforth is free entry.

There's a raffle with many fabulous prizes including original paintings. Refreshments include

home-made produce for all three days. Hundreds of original paintings by over 40 Cumbrian artists can be seen, with demonstrations and interactive art work for visitors. A catalogue will be available detailing all exhibiting artists and profiles.

For more information contact Jakki Barratt (secretary): Tel: 019467 25838. Mob: 07719 781448. Email: jakki@karletta.co.uk



EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Seascale

26-28 June – Friday to Sunday. Whitehaven Maritime Festival.

28 June – Sunday. Gosforth Hall's Lazy Music Sunday with 'No Fixed Abode': Singer Una and guitarist Tony. 4pm onwards.

3 July – Saturday. Cumbrian Coast Explorer hauled by 71000 'Duke of Gloucester' passes through Seascale en route to Carlisle. See p41

3 July – Saturday. Drigg Charity Hog Roast. 5.30pm. Details from ahmillington@hotmail.com

7 July – Wednesday. Visit to Clints Quarry Nature Reserve. See p11

9 July – Friday. Seascale Primary School "Let's Celebrate" Event. See p14

10 July – Saturday. Calder House's 10-year anniversary celebrations. Bookable.

10 July – Saturday. Holmrook Reading Room Pizza Day, 12 noon. See p12

16 July – Friday. 'Help the Heroes' Charity Evening, Egremont. 7.30pm Live music for all the family. See p14

17 July – Saturday. The Lakelander steam train passes through Seascale.

1 August – Saturday. NGS Open Garden 'Hall Senna' (Chris and Helen Steele) 10.30am - 5pm. Details on NGS website or tel: 019467 25436, or e-mail helen.steele5@btinternet.com.

7 August – Saturday. The Lakelander steam train passes through Seascale.

21 August – Saturday. Gosforth Agricultural Show.

28-30 August – bank holiday weekend. Medieval Muncaster. The Red Wyvern Society Medieval re-enactment group will be camped in the gardens with displays of life in medieval times, including armory, cooking and battles!

28-30 August – bank holiday weekend. Gosforth & District Art Society exhibition. Gosforth Village Hall. See p12

29 August – Sunday. Eskdale Fete, Outward Bound Centre.

30 August – bank holiday Monday. Black Combe Country Fair, Bootle.

3 September – Friday. Muncaster Castle Folk Night from 7.30pm in aid of the World Owl Trust. Tickets available in advance but limited to 120. £12.50 each.

15 September – Wednesday. Talk on Mountain Flowers, Gosforth Methodist Room. 7.30pm. See p11

18 September – Saturday. Egremont Crab Fair.

24 September – Friday. Concert: The Berkeley Ensemble. Westlakes Academy. 8pm. See p18

25 September – Saturday. Eskdale Show.

2-3 October – weekend. Day out with Thomas. Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway.

13 October – Talk on Wildlife. Seascale Methodist Church Hall. 7.30pm. See p11

15 October – Friday. Concert: The Northern Chamber Orchestra. Westlakes Academy. 8pm. See p18

24-31 October – Sunday to Sunday. Halloween Week at Muncaster Castle. Ghost tours and Darkest Muncaster illuminations with a themed sound and light show at night. Daily children's activities.

12 November – Friday. Concert: Prince Bishop Brass Quintet. Westlakes Academy. 8pm. See p18

17 November – Wednesday. Talk on the Watchtree Nature Reserve. Gosforth Methodist Room. 7.30pm. See p11

21 November + December + additional dates 27-29 December – Sundays. Christmas at Muncaster Castle: elegantly decorated. Darkest Muncaster illuminations and sound and light show.

27-28 November – weekend. Ulverston Dickensian Christmas Festival.

December – Sundays (except 26th) plus 27-29 December. Muncaster Castle Victorian tours, guided by servants in period costume. Pre-booking essential.

12 December – Sunday. Christmas Lights Switch-on in Seascale.

FARMING

With a new government formed we now have a lady Minister of Agriculture; first impressions are very favourable. In her first speech she stated that ways must be found for this country to produce more food to meet the increased future demand and make us less reliant on imports. One of the actions she should take must be to stop the proposed shutdown of proposed pumping stations which empty the drainage ditches of hundreds of very fertile acres of farmland on the Solway Plain in Cumbria. This land was reclaimed after the last war to help solve the severe food shortage at the time. If the pumping stations are shut down as proposed this land would rapidly return to boggy wasteland which would be a serious loss.

Another controversial scheme for increasing production which is taking place at the moment is the testing of GM (Genetically Modified) crops. This method involves introducing different plant genes to make crops more resistant to different diseases, and also vastly increasing their yields. The benefits are a massive reduction in the use of sprays, pesticides and fungicides. The argument against is the future effect GM crops might have on humans and also stopping the cross pollination of ordinary crops growing nearby. Present tests are being carried out on potato and grain crops in this country and GM produce is now in common use in many countries including the USA where so far no problems have been found.

On a more positive note new rules on food labelling are being introduced. Currently, food produced anywhere in the world can be imported into this country, processed and packaged and then sold as British. New EEC rules about to be introduced mean that meat, fruit, vegetables and dairy products must carry a label showing the country of origin. This will stop all foreign produce being fobbed off as British. Farmers have campaigned for this for many years.

Wildlife And Nature

A very rare sight in the village recently was an otter playing in the sea around the jetty. It must have come along the beach from one of the rivers

near Sellafeld or Ravensglass, or possibly down the little stream in front of the hotel. I have never ever heard of one being seen in the village before.

The horrific attack on the two small children in their beds by a fox in London has set alarm bells ringing. If their mother had not heard them crying what might the outcome have been? There are thousands of urban foxes living in towns and cities and people have always thought it cute to have them in their gardens, but they are nevertheless wild animals. At this time of year they will have young families to feed and sometimes they have been known to kill cats and small dogs for food, but never before attack humans. One night several years ago I was going down the yard to fasten the hens in when a fox came round the corner chasing one of the chickens. It was paying so much attention to its prey that it never saw me. I ran across to make it release the hen when it turned round, snarled and showed its teeth at me. None of the hunting men I know had ever heard of this happening before. Anything is possible.

What a brilliant display of flowers and blossom there has been this spring. Does this mean we must prepare for a hard winter or is this just an old wives' tale? The best sight of all was the show of primroses on the banking in the Dell thanks to Copeland grass cutters leaving the area uncut until flowering had finished. Daffodils and snowdrops mark the end of winter but primroses mark the arrival of spring.

Deepest sympathy to those who have had loved ones cruelly taken away from them in the recent gun horror. To those who were injured or witnessed the horrific scenes, wishes for a speedy recovery. To all those who came close to being involved the old saying "there but for the grace of God go I" must apply to many.

Ken Mawson

If you have a date for an event after the weekend of 22 October please email to news@epic-gb.com for publication in the next Seascale Magazine.

MAKING SPACE FOR WILDLIFE ON YOUR DOORSTEP



Holmrook takes part in the International Year of Biodiversity

West Cumbria is not going to be left out of the efforts to 'make a difference' for wildlife and in Holmrook a precious area is being worked upon, with the specific aim of making it a 5* hotel for all flora and fauna. The top of the food chain in this ecosystem are our wonderful birds who we hope will be inspecting properties from this summer. It will be as close to heaven as we can make it and the hope is that our children will be able to develop a passion for nature in the space that we provide!

The venue is the meadow behind the Holmrook Reading Room. Work began back in 2008 when grant funding was first sought. It took until 2009 for the funds to be attained and CWMET (Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust) were the ones who eventually came to our rescue. Cumbria Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (CALSF) is a Defra funded scheme, administered by CWMET on behalf of Cumbria County Council.

I simply could not believe it when we were awarded the whole amount that we needed for the project. At the time I could see local birds fighting for nesting space and hedgehogs dying for lack of a warm place to sleep, and suddenly we were given the means to make a difference. Everyone on the Holmrook Reading Room committee had been anxious to use the land for the benefit of local wildlife and suddenly we were



During the dyke build, with our 'construction star' called Butt.



The starting point – Ground Zero!



in business! It was like a dream that had come true.

The land concerned has always been open to the public to view and is a lovely, quiet spot in the centre of the village, but the value to wildlife had declined in recent years as biodiversity was lost. When this grant was awarded, the race was on to make all the improvements to the space, which included the creation of a diverse selection of habitats, planting native wild flowers and bushes to provide food and providing nesting/resting space for everything from solitary bees to hedgehogs. As CWMET had said, it is no good just providing nesting space – there has to be space

for a whole ecosystem including plant life and insects. An entire food chain is being created in this precious space and it may take years to establish itself, but the first faltering steps have been taken.

Eventually there will be bird boxes tailored for almost every species with food and a safe environment for all.

The Meadow will be brimming with native English wild flowers and will hopefully be a picture, even to us humans being right alongside the River Irt. It's a wonderful spot that we want you to visit and enjoy (provided you remember that in that little space, the animals and plants come first – it's their world!). There are seats and tables so that you can picnic there. Just take care to look where you tread, be very quiet and still and you never know what you will see. We also have a field and a play park, so you can have lots of fun and be noisy there!

We are happy to share our ecosystem with you anytime, but if you want to be a part of the project, you can join the Reading Room Garden Club for just £9 per year. There is no better investment we can make in our future and that of our children. If you want to join, please email johnwrdutton@talktalk.net or call him on 019467 24317. We have many wonderful events a year that you can join in with. If you would like to make a donation to help us improve, please email me valg@esend-it.com or phone me on 019467 24105.



Be part of something wonderful – come and see Butt's Dyke!

Valerie de Gasperi (Secretary of the Holmrook Reading Room) Biodiversity Project Manager.

Val refers you to the following extract from a biodiversity web site:

http://www.birdlife.org/international_year_biodiversity.

"Birds and biodiversity is our business, our passion, our mission", said Dr Marco Lambertini – BirdLife's Chief Executive. "We're working to build a future where people and nature can live in harmony".

2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations – the year that celebrates the diversity of life on Earth, including every plant, animal and micro-organism.

The global campaign is being run by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat which was set up after the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992 to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Nearly 200 countries have now signed up to the Convention. In 2002, these countries promised to achieve a significant reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010.

BirdLife Partners throughout the world have helped their governments to compile national biodiversity inventories, and to develop their biodiversity action plans.

"We ignore the decline of birds and other biodiversity at our own risk – they are the foundations of the functioning of the ecosystems", added Dr Lambertini.



After construction of the Cumbrian Dyke.



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SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN SEASCALE

The Scottish Country Dancing evenings have now finished for the summer months but will start again in September.

Once again we have had an enjoyable season both at our own weekly dances and in other parts of the county. We have particularly enjoyed the two party dances organised by our own club at Christmas and in April. In addition, various members have been to dancing holidays in different parts of the country where they have met up with old and new friends.

Scottish Country Dancing takes place in the Main Hall of the Windscale Club every Wednesday evening from 8 to 10.00pm throughout the winter months. The new season will start on Wednesday 8 September 2010.

Over recent years the membership has decreased, and if the club is to have a future it is important to redress this situation. Have you ever thought of learning to do Scottish Dancing? It is a good way of taking gentle (or sometimes not so gentle!)

exercise, in company with others, all at very low cost. And with no expensive gear or clothing to buy. We give a very warm welcome to anyone who wishes to come along to any of the club nights to see what it is all about, whether or not you have any previous experience. There is no need to come with a partner. It is customary for the regulars to dance with the less experienced and change partners for each dance. You will be given lots of help and encouragement so don't be put off coming if you are tempted.

The facilities at the Windscale Club are first-rate. There is an excellent dance floor, comfortable seating and the music, the activity and the friendly atmosphere make for a very pleasant time. Refreshments are available at the bar either before or during the interval (at about 9.00pm).

Scottish Country Dancing is done in flat-soled pumps, but trainers or other non-slip low heeled shoes are fine to start off with.

Please come along. Looking forward to seeing you.

SASRA Music at the Academy

57th Season 2010-2011

24 September 2010	The Berkeley Ensemble (Septet)	Richard Strauss, Berwald, Beethoven
15 October 2010	The Northern Chamber Orchestra with Martin Roscoe (piano) (Orchestras Live, Cumbria Concert Series)	Haydn (Clock Symphony), Beethoven (Emperor Concerto) Mozart (Overture: Don Giovanni)
12 November 2010	Prince Bishop's Brass Quintet	Purcell, Gershwin, Bach, Ewald
7 January 2011	Sam Haywood (Piano), Arisa Fujita (Violin), Richard Bayliss (Horn)	Programme includes Brahms' Horn Trio and music by Schumann
11 February 2011	Chetham's School Soloists and Ensemble	Programme to be announced
18 March 2011	The Atrium String Quartet	Haydn, Beethoven and Shostakovich

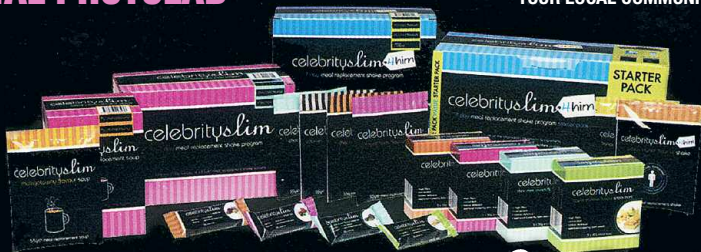
All concerts at Westlakes Academy (formerly Wyndham School), Egremont, on Fridays at 8pm.

Single tickets £12.50, accompanied children free, students £1. Season tickets available.

For details and tickets: 01946 692178, 019467 28724

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Saturday 21st August

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Vintage Machinery, Wrestling,
Horticulture, Handicrafts & Produce,
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Further details from: Mrs Julia Watson, Hawthorn Cottage
Main Street, Ravenglass, Cumbria CA18 1SD
Tel: 01229 717215

Calder House Hotel

10 YEARS

IN THE MAKING

STEVE AINLEY REFLECTS...

This year we celebrate our tenth year as the proud owners of Calder House Hotel. As a child growing up in the suburbs of Birmingham I always dreamed of living by the sea and forty seven years later that dream became a reality.

It was Christmas 1999 when my partner Andrew Gainford invited me to join in the family celebration in his birthplace, the village of Seascale. On a walk along the seafront on Christmas Day a family friend mentioned that the hotel was up for sale. I was impressed by the sheer size of the hotel compared with the small bed and breakfast I ran in the heart of Birmingham and knowing Andrew had recently left employment and was looking for new challenges we arranged a viewing two weeks later.

The rest is history, as the saying goes. On 4 July 2000 we took up residence as the new owners of Calder House Hotel. We set about the task of refurbishment and obtained a full bar licence, opening it up to the general public for the first time.

I must admit it has been a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows during the last decade. The terrible storm in January 2005 did a considerable amount of damage to the hotel and the terrorist attack of 9/11 had almost disastrous consequences as Sellafield went on top security alert and decimated our business for almost three months. Add to that two



fires – one accidental and one deliberate – it did not seem the recipe for success.

Our goal had always been to be part of the community, offering a service beyond just running our hotel.

Reviving the Seascale Fun Day became a highlight for us. For five years we raised many thousands of pounds for our chosen charity, Hospice at Home West

Cumbria. Many local groups and associations have used our function room facilities, including more recently the regular Jazz Jam Session every third Friday of each month (free admission of course).

To mark our 10th-year celebrations we have a spectacular line-up of entertainment booked for our party night on Saturday 10 July.

The last decade has seen us grow stronger and this year is no exception.

Our expansion programme continues with the opening of No. 3 Caldersyde – The Guest House – towards the end of June, offering additional luxurious boutique-style accommodation opposite Calder House.

On behalf of Andrew and myself a big thank you to everyone who has supported us in the past and in the present.

Ten years on ... Living the Dream!

Tel: 019467 28538. email: steveandy@calderhouse.co.uk
web: www.calderhouse.co.uk

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£50 per person

Minimum 6 diners. Maximum 16
diners. Booking essential

HOURS OF OPENING

BAR OPEN

Monday ~ Saturday

12 noon ~ 2pm

5.30pm ~ late

Sunday

12 noon ~ 3pm

6pm ~ 11pm

FOOD SERVED

Monday ~ Saturday

12 noon ~ 2pm

6pm ~ 8.45pm

Sunday

Carvery

12 noon ~ 2pm

Evening Meals

6pm ~ 8.45pm

Calder Ho **10 Y** **A CELEB**



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Curry Night

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Sunday Carvery

NO. 3 CALDESYDE

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Opening July 2010**

No. 3 Caldersyde is a new addition
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Six beautifully-appointed En-Suite
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offering the ultimate luxurious
accommodation.

The perfect choice for visitors
looking for peace and tranquility
with all the benefits our hotel
has to offer.



ODE TO CALDER HOUSE!



There's a little place in Cumbria, just off the 595,
The coastal village, Seascale, where the lights of disco thrive!
Along The Banks, on the left hand side, there stands a Hotel grand
Where Steve and Andy, hosts sublime, survey their merry band!



'Twas back in the year 2000 when said hotel was bought.
It has hosted celebrations, consolations, and who'd have thought
In the summer of the Millennium when a party great was thrown,
From that 'do', unknown to us then, a tiny seed had been sown!



So way back in the Wild, Wild West (July two thousand and three)
Such fun was had, that was revived the Seascale Fun Day Committee!
From the weekly class of line dancing – still going to this day,
To the events run by Hospice at Home – fund raising all the way!



The Fiesta night of two thousand and four – our hosts resplendent in feathers!
With sumptuous banquets and cocktail bars they entertained us all together.
Two thousand and five saw us going back to the war years and the forties,
From the Fun Day to the party – 'twas a proper Seascale sortie!



Two thousand and six saw glamour as Las Vegas hit the town,
With music acts and dancing girls – our hosts didn't let us down!
The hotel has hosted weddings – happy couples full of bliss!
And Ladies Nights (if you're up this way) you really shouldn't miss!



From movies shown upon the screen, with popcorn thrown in free!
The sing-a-longs, the fancy dress – so many memories!
The late nights in the Racquets bar with friends sat all around;
The dancing in the Tivoli – our hosts have done us proud.



The Jazz Jam nights, the disco lights, with the boys behind the bar,
If you want a celebration thrown, there's no need to go far!
So here we are, some near, some far, but Calder House still handy!
For the ten great years since you appeared – THANK YOU, Steve and Andy!

Hilary Davis-Ballard



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GOSFORTH – A PIE HAVEN!

Gosforth village is becoming recognised as 'Britain's Favourite Pie Village' through its offering of 'Lunch Time' and 'Supper Pies'!

The Gosforth pies were first introduced by Gill Unsworth some 30 years ago. Gill, who owns and operates Gosforth Bakery, offers a well respected pie during the day and provides a range of fillings that entice locals, holiday makers and workers from the nearby Sellafield site. On many a day you will see people gather outside the Bakery waiting to get their hands on one of Gill's pies.

Then came the offering from Gosforth Hall Inn – a 'Supper Pie' which was first put on the menu back in January 2008 and has since gained a following from pie lovers across the country.

Rod Davies, who owns and runs Gosforth Hall Inn, first made the 'Supper Pie' with the help of Australian Chef Jamie Shepley. The first home-made pie served at the Inn was the well renowned Steak, Bacon and Mushroom, filled to the brim with large diced Lakeland steak and slow-cooked for at least four hours.

Rod has experimented with many fillings and now offers a changing repertoire of pies, including Pulled Pork & Sweet Thai Chili, Moroccan Lamb, Wild Game with Plum & Port, Venison and Haggis and Wild Boar with Apple & Wholegrain Mustard, along with Chicken & Leek and Chicken & Ham to example a few.

Owing to the interest received in the 'Supper Pie', Rod keeps a pie-chart in the Bar and at the time of writing this the Gosforth Hall Inn has served in excess of 6,000 pies since the launch of the Supper Pie.

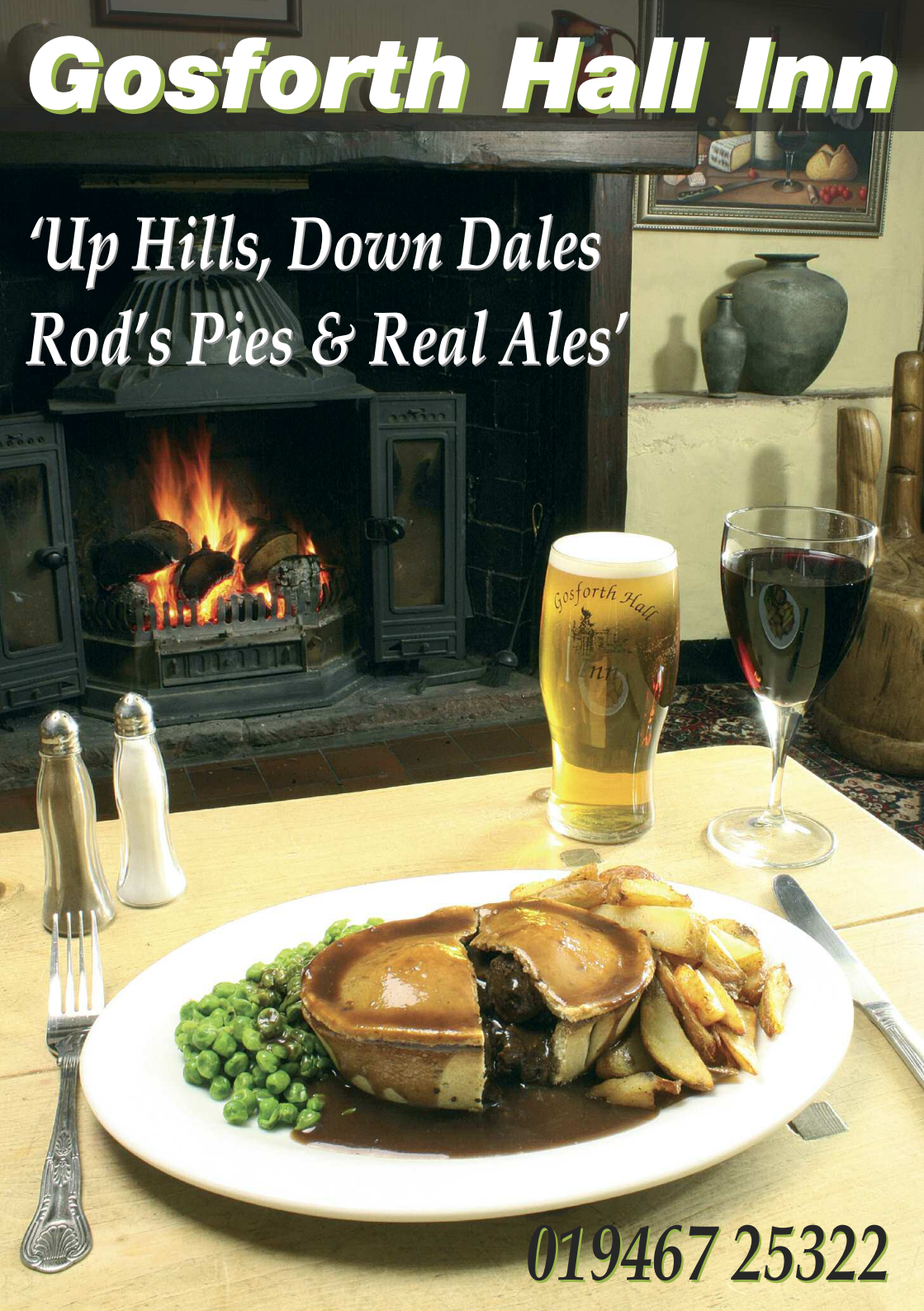
To complement the pies a selection of four real ales, usually sourced within Cumbria, are available from this Inn that was voted runner-up Cumbria CAMRA Pub of the Year in 2008.

Those of you living in Seascale, Drigg and Holmrook who find it difficult to get over and visit the Hall may like to take advantage of their Courtesy Bus service, which operates free of charge and is bookable by phoning Rod or Barbara on 019467 25322.



Gosforth Hall Inn

*'Up Hills, Down Dales
Rod's Pies & Real Ales'*



019467 25322

SEASCALE AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW

This year's Horticultural Show will take place on Saturday 7 August at Seascale School.

There will be classes for vegetables, flowers, pot plants, produce, art and crafts, photography and many classes for children. There are novice classes for those who have not entered before. There were very few entries in the novice classes last year and there are trophies for the taking – SO COME AND HAVE A GO!

The show is open to the public from 2pm when refreshments will be available. The prizegiving at 3.30pm will be followed by a raffle draw and auction of exhibits.

Show schedules are available from Beach Stores, Seascale Pharmacy, Post Office and Library. Or ring Graham Anderson on 29525.

It takes a lot of preparation to put on this annual show, and we have an ageing and diminishing committee! If you feel you would like to join our committee, or just lend a hand to set up the show, we really would like to hear from you.

Please ring: Graham Anderson 29525, Rick Harrop 27151 or Tom Porter 25389. It will help to ensure that the show, which has a long history, will continue in future years.



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

The expected rate is £10 for a black & white quarter-page, £20 for half page and £40 for a full page. A colour full page is £60, and £30 for half-page

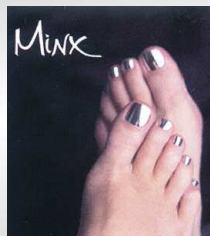
Contact:

Eileen Eastwood on 28653
or Trevor Preece on 28449

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2ND SEASCALE METHODIST BROWNIES

The Brownie year is almost over, but we still have lots to fit into our busy programme.

We recently returned from our annual Pack Holiday. This year we stayed at The Hope Memorial Camp just outside Keswick – a fantastic building set in a wonderful location. As always everyone had a brilliant time. The weather was kind to us and after the first morning rain the sun shone although it was very cold. We did a variety of craft activities: map reading, laying trails and of course we had to visit Keswick Spa for a refreshing swim. It was a great fun weekend for us all.

On our return we held a coffee evening with a slide show of the Pack Holiday. This proved more technical than I had thought but thanks to Sarah Huddleston and David Davis's IT wizardry it turned out 'alright on the night'!

Since our return we have been working on our Pet Lover Badge. We held a 'Pet Show' (soft toys only) one evening, followed by a very another enjoyable evening when Joan Singleton of Fairview Boarding Kennels came along in her capacity of RSPCA volunteer, together with her helper Linda, and a selection of rescue animals. Joan told of terrible stories of unbelievable cruelty that some of the animals she has in her care have suffered. But also gave us a very informative talk on looking after domestic pets.

Our 100 years of Guiding celebration will soon be drawing to a close and we will be back in our regulation navy and white leader's uniform again after a year of bright pink. However at 20.10pm on 20 October 2010 (2010 – get it?!) we, along with the WHOLE country, will be remaking our promise in a well co-ordinated and synchronised ceremony. So watch this space for more details.

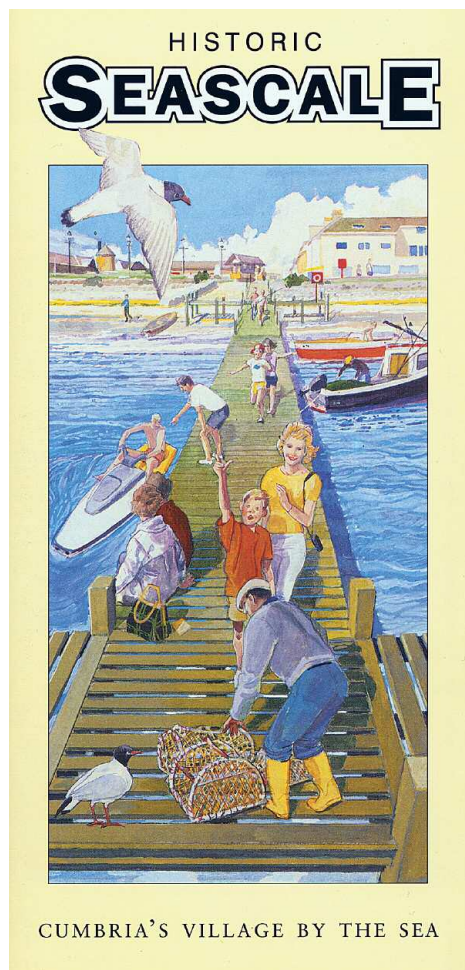
Summer break next but will be back in September with lots of ideas for the coming year.

Lynn Pattison, Brownie Leader

TOURIST BROCHURE FOR SEASCALE

Even before our recent tragic events, we were considering production of a new Seascale DL-size foldout tourist brochure/leaflet. Seascale produced one for the Millennium, but that's now out of print, and attractions/facilities have changed.

The Parish Council would love to receive your suggestions for the content of a new one. Any ideas – please email news@epic-gb.com. Or jot down some notes and drop them through Eileen Eastwood's letterbox at 4 Santon Way, Seascale.



The Millennium brochure, now out of print.

NATTERJACKS AROUND SEASCALE



The natterjack toad is the UK's rarest amphibian. There are only about 50 sites where they occur throughout the country and here in Cumbria we're lucky enough to have half of these, making the county a real stronghold for them. They are scattered all along the coastal fringe from Barrow up to the Solway.

They are also Britain's noisiest amphibian! On warm spring nights the males gather round suitable pools and emit a loud rasping call to entice the females. This can be heard up to two kilometres away. The Cumbrian nightingale some folk call them!

This is the best time of year to see them as they hide away during the day. They are a lovely looking animal with bright yellow eyes and a yellow stripe that runs right down the back of their greenish body. Common toads by contrast have brown bodies and orange eyes.

In the Seascale area there is a good population of natterjacks. At the moment the two key populations are at Drigg and on a small nature reserve at Sellafield.

At Drigg the natterjacks live on the dunes and saltmarsh where they breed in shallow pools that, ideally, dry up after the tadpoles have metamorphosed and the toadlets have safely left the pools.

Natterjacks are, in ecological terms, a 'pioneer species'. They can quickly take advantage of changing conditions then move elsewhere when conditions become too stable. On the dunes at Drigg cattle play an important role in breaking up the ground, so allowing the sand to be blown around and new pools to be formed.

The Reserve at Sellafield is a nine-acre site leased from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARCT), and managed specifically for natterjacks. The water levels in the two breeding pools can be controlled and the dune grassland is kept short, ideally by sheep, but sometimes by mowing. This is important as natterjacks can't hop! They need to



be able to see their invertebrate prey, which they then run after to catch.

A key element in the efforts to conserve natterjacks is to try to link existing populations so maintaining a healthy gene swapping pool.



The limiting factor is the availability of breeding pools so to fill the gap between Drigg and Sellafield the ARCT, together with Natural England (the Government's conservation agency), are working together with farmers and Seascale Golf Course. The farmers can enter a Stewardship scheme whereby they get paid to create natterjack-friendly conditions.

The Golf Course staff are a great, wildlife-friendly bunch and have been really enthusiastic about getting involved in helping natterjacks. The fairways and greens provide ideal feeding areas and to improve things three new pools have been created on the site over the last year. So far frogs are breeding in them, but it shouldn't be long before the natterjacks find these perfect family homes! One has been seen in Seascale car park so they're on the way!!

Have you seen or heard a natterjack in the area? If you have, or want some more information, please get in touch with either Bill Shaw or Les Robertson.

Also, next winter (09/02/2011!), Bill is giving a talk to the local Cumbria Wildlife Trust Supporters Group in Seascale. Details will be advertised locally nearer the time.

Bill Shaw, Cumbria Conservation Officer
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
Tel: (01229) 719658
william.shaw@arc-trust.org

Les Robertson
Sellafield Reserve Honorary Manager
ecocumbria@btinternet.com

Photos – Les Robertson, Pete Minting, Bill Shaw, Scottish Natural Heritage.

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TOP 10 JOBS IN THE GARDEN

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.

August

- 1 Prune Wisteria.
- 2 Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits.
- 3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly.
- 4 Watering! Particularly containers, and new plants – preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater.
- 5 Collect seed from favourite plants.
- 6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready.
- 7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries.
- 8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners.
- 9 Keep ponds and water features topped up.
- 10 Feed the soil with green manures.

September

- 1 Divide herbaceous perennials.
- 2 Pick autumn raspberries.
- 3 Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals.
- 4 Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them.
- 5 Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway.
- 6 Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible.
- 7 Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering.
- 8 Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn.
- 9 Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting.
- 10 Give evergreen hedges a final trim.

October

- 1 Clear up fallen autumn leaves regularly.
- 2 Cut back perennials that have died down.
- 3 Divide herbaceous perennials and rhubarb crowns.
- 4 Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into the greenhouse.
- 5 Plant out spring cabbages.
- 6 Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts.
- 7 Prune climbing roses.
- 8 Order seeds for next year.
- 9 Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas.
- 10 Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf.

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BLACK COMBE & DISTRICT BEAGLES HISTORY IN WEST CUMBRIA

In 1837, the Whitehaven Harriers commenced operations at the instigation of Mr Joseph Harris of Greysouthen. This was a mounted pack, although many people attended on foot, hunting an area between Bridgefoot and Gosforth. The mastership passed through several local families such as Ainsworth, Lindows, Dixon and Jeffersons, until they were finally wound up in 1901, the hounds being sold to a Lord Hastings in Norfolk after giving many years of fine sport to the local community.

The following season the Harrier's country was taken by the St Bees Beagles under Mr J.J. Thompson, with kennels in the shadows of St Bees Head. Other small packs of beagles had existed in the 19th century, including Mr Hartley's of Moresby, Mr Ponsonby's of Haile, Miss Parkins's and the Black Combe, The Cockermouth and the Furness & District, but West Cumbrians would not be deprived of their sport for long.

In 1920, Mr Harry Boys founded the West Cumberland Beagles and extended the old St Bees country with the help of a 'new-fangled motor van' to Blencathra, Buttermere, Ennerdale and Eskdale from their kennels at Crab Head Farm, Seascale.

In 1959, Stanley Ellwood, Bruce Porter and other keen local beaglers got together and founded the Black Combe Beagles. Mr T.J. Cowman of Eskdale was Master from the first season until 1977, when Mr J. Smith of Waberthwaite took over. He was succeeded by the present Master Mr Stanley Ellwood who also hunted hounds himself.

The Black Combe Beagles activities will be in accordance with the Hunting Act 2004 and will cover an extensive area of the county, ranging from the heather-clad hills to the rich pastures or sand dunes. Hounds and staff no longer walk miles to meet as they did in days gone by, but robust build and stamina are still prized assets in both man and hound.

Our main fund raiser is Black Combe Country Fair, this year to be held on 30 August Bank Holiday Monday at Millstones, Bootle, Cumbria. This usually includes Foxhound, Beagles, Terriers, Lurcher and Gundog shows; children's pets and children's sports; Terrier and Lurcher racing, plus trade stands and many other attractions.

Despite being a small pack based in a largely foxhound area, the future of the Black Combe Beagles as we celebrated our 50th year in 2009 looks bright. We have a keen young huntsman in Michael Cummings, supported by an experienced and well known Master in Stan Ellwood and joint Master Stan Miles. We also have a small but hard working committee under the leadership of Chairman Graham Dicker.

NO STEAM PACKET SAILINGS THIS YEAR

We made an enquiry to the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company about sailings between Whitehaven and Douglas, Isle of Man, this year but have been told none are planned. We regard those day trips as pleasant adventure. Shame.

Likewise, except for the Balmoral trips between Whitehaven and Douglas on the Whitehaven Festival weekend, Waverley Excursions know of no further sailings for the rest of the year.

GET NOTICED!

The Calder House Hotel notice board in the covered entrance way is available to anyone wishing to promote an organisation, event, business and even items for sale, free of charge.

Just call in and pin it up.

BLACK COMBE COUNTRY FAIR

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30 August at 12 noon**

TO BE OPENED BY JOSS NAYLOR



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Variety of trade stands and many other attractions

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www.blackcombecountryfair.co.uk

SCOUTING

It's hard to believe that in the last newsletter we were reporting on the Frostbite Camp – now we are getting sunburned and there are warnings about droughts! All the sections have been out and about over the last few weeks in preparation for the group camp in the middle of June.

Beavers this term investigated nature and their environment. They have been working hard on learning to identify leaves and birds. Eve West decided that rather than her telling you that the Beavers had fun they could tell you themselves :-)

Irton Forest Walk

On the Irton forest walk we made tepees and we made them out of branches, sticks and bracken. We found loads of little tadpoles in a kind of dirty dreary swamp. We saw some different kinds of insects when we were walking and we saw green lines on the trees. There were loads of big stacks of big big chunky logs and the piles looked like a mountain. We all enjoyed the walk and are looking forward to the next one. By Jamie (Esk River Bank)

Beaver Dens

I really enjoyed the walk through the forest. We saw tadpoles in a little pool and even had a snack in the trees but the best bit was building our Beaver Dens. We did it in our River Banks groups so there were lots. We put big sticks up against a tree all around, just leaving a gap for a door so we could crawl inside to hide. We didn't get ours finished so I went back with Mum, Dad and Beth

to make it better. Ours even had a washing line!
By Benjamin (Calder River Bank)

Beach Clean

When we were cleaning the beach with Beavers, I found lots of strange things like an Action Man head, an old training shoe, a baby's dummy and bottle top, a supermarket receipt, a pen lid, a poooper bag and lots and lots of sweetie wrappers. With Mum and Dad we found enough rubbish to fill two and a half bin bags. It was lots of fun and I liked doing it because it was really good for the environment. By Jack (Esk River Bank)

The Beavers are all excited about Group Summer Camp – they are looking forward to knocking on the Scout tents in the early hours of the morning (sshh don't tell them!). Let's all hope for the lovely weather we have had recently for our outings.

On a personal note, today I have spent the afternoon with our Scout Leader Neil, helping Seascale School with their Activity Week. We did a couple of sessions of Pioneering and had a exciting afternoon making Ballisters, Friction Bridges and using the Team Pulley Game. I hope the children enjoyed themselves too and hope that those who are not Beavers, Cubs or Scouts are now thinking that it might be fun to join our group. – Eve West (Derika Beaver Scout Leader).

A quote from Ewan, one of our Beavers in the Irt River Bank: "I really like being in Beavers because we go for walks, build dens, play games and make things."

How the cub pack has grown since last year. We



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Our small relaxed and intimate dining room seats up to 28 guests including two additional private dining areas.

Our extensive à la carte menu which changes with the seasons is designed with a modern twist on traditional food, using local food whenever possible.

The restaurant is open from 7pm to 8.30pm daily.

We are now serving traditional Sunday lunches between 12 noon and 3pm, with prices starting at £8.95.

Please call to reserve a table to avoid disappointment.

Geoff and Debra Armstrong

Westlakes Hotel & Restaurant, Gosforth, Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1HP
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now have 30 cubs, most of whom will be taking part in the Group Scout Camp in June.

As our Assistant Leader has been unavailable this term I have been lucky to have had the support from all the adults in the group who are taking it in turns to support a cub meeting. This has led to some new and exciting things being planned; the cubs are enjoying trying new things and meeting the other leaders...

So what have we been up to? Recently we have visited the Lifeboat Station at St Bees where we joined with the St Bees cubs. The St Bees cubs have laid down a challenge to us and challenged us to a game of cricket! The cubs have been preparing for our annual group camp by learning about lighting fires, and how to cook simple and nutritious meals on a camp fire (and very tasty too were the chicken casserole and bolognese – Graham). They have evenings planned to further develop their pioneering skills, and putting tents up – all we need now is fine weather! They have been working towards a variety of the challenge badges, and should have completed areas for quite a few of these badges soon.

We had some cubs take part in the Annual Village Beach Clean, which, luckily was a sunny day making it more enjoyable, after which the cubs were invited to the unveiling of the village's new Clean Beach award flag.

With a pack of 30 it has been quite a challenge leading the pack, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been helping out with the pack your support has helped make the meeting enjoyable for all the cubs, and without you I couldn't manage on my own.

The Scouts have done a couple of walks, including a very muddy walk at Drigg. We have also had a



Eileen Eastwood, Chairwoman of the Parish Council, presenting a cheque for the beach clean. The two cubs who received the cheque were Reece Robinson (centre) & James Devine (right).

couple of joint meetings with our friends from the Beckermert troop. Recently we took part in a district camp-cooking competition, on open fires, where our two teams produced some delicious meals, which we look forward to enjoying on summer camp.

We also ran a mountain bike orienteering event around the village. This was going to be for the scouts, but we threw it open to the beavers and cubs, then to the school, then to other local scout groups and Gosforth school. In the end we had over 70 riders from the village and from as far a field as Whitehaven and Cockermouth. It is hoped that some of them will be running the BBQ for the 90th birthday celebration of an ex-Assistant Scout Leader of this group.

Things may seem to be running fine, but we always need more adult support, not just to run the sections, but to help organise the group. We do need support for both the Scout and the Cub

sections, so if working with 8 to 10½-year-olds and getting wet and muddy interests you, do let us know. But we also need people simply to help organise things. More hands make light work.

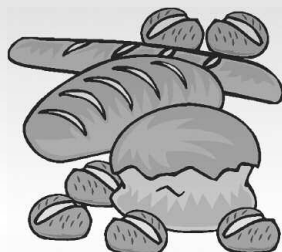
Graham Worsnop, Group Scout Leader



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THE WELLINGTON PIT DISASTER

Tuesday 11 May 2010 was the 100 year anniversary of the Wellington Pit Disaster 1910, the worst disaster in Whitehaven coal mining history. 136 men and boys were lost in the explosion.

The youngest boy was 15 years old.

Named after the Duke of Wellington, Wellington Pit stood on the south side of Whitehaven Harbour, sunk in the early 1840's and closed in 1932, it wasn't dismantled until later on in the 1950s.

Wellington pit was designed by the eminent architect Sidney Smirke whose other work includes what is now Mansion House Surgery, and more significantly the circular reading room at the British museum, The Carlton Club on Pall Mall, The Imperial War Museum and the Nave roof at York Minster.

Wellington Pit had 3 shafts and also used the former Duke pit as an upcast shaft.

The shaft was 100 fathoms, or 600 feet deep and the workings extended nearly 4 miles out under the sea.

Wellington Pit was part of the extensive collieries around Whitehaven, mostly belonging to the Lowther family.

It was built in the form of a castle, with a great keep, turrets and enormous crenellated walls

The only remaining buildings are the candlestick chimney (ventilation for the workings), the Wellington Lodge which is now used as a base for the Coastguard, and some of the retaining walls.

The explosion on Wednesday 11 May happened at 7.40pm in the 3 north district and has been attributed to an underground fire and explosion of firedamp propagated by coal dust.

The first indication that something was wrong was a cloud of coal dust ascending the shaft and Mr Henry the Deputy was sent for.

For 18 hours the rescue attempt persisted, with men working in relays, only to be driven back repeatedly by the smoke.

A last inspection of the situation at midnight on Thursday 12 May convinced all the officials of the impossibility of succeeding in any rescue attempt, and the main air intake was blocked up in the early hours of Friday 13 May 1910.

It was not until late September 1910 that the pit was carefully re-opened and the work of exploration began. On 27 September the first bodies were brought to the surface.

In the two years run up to the 100-year anniversary a memorial committee was brought together to co ordinate a series of memorial events in the town.

On Sunday 9 May at 2.30pm a memorial service took place at Wellington Car Park on the harbourside during which there was the unveiling of a memorial obelisk on Wellington Terrace overlooking the harbour. The unveiling was carried out by Mr Weighman, the last remaining survivor of the William Pit Disaster 1947.

Also at this service there was a dedication to two memorial books which have been prepared, these books name all the known coal dead in the Whitehaven district. The names have been hand written, and leather bound and placed in two specially-made display cabinets in St Nicholas Centre and Haig Colliery Mining Museum, where they will be on permanent public view. There are in excess of 1,700 names in the books.

There has also been a new mining banner produced, as Wellington Pit didn't have its own banner, and this is currently displayed in The Beacon, Whitehaven.

On Saturday 8 May at 1.30pm in Whitehaven Cemetery there was also a short dedication ceremony and placing of a headstone on the grave of the three previously unmarked miners from the disaster. This poignant ceremony was attended by the direct descendants of the men buried in the three graves, some coming from as far as Australia and Canada for the occasion.

Whilst not in direct living memory, many have come forward with stories and memories handed

down from generations bringing to the fore the reality of this disaster.

During the week of the memorial there was also a variety of activities and exhibitions throughout the town, in the Miners Colliery Mission, Whitehaven Library, Whitehaven Records Office, The Beacon, and Haig Colliery Mining Museum.

Currently the mining art exhibition by Paul Schofield can still be seen in The Wellington Bistro, Whitehaven.

On Saturday 15 May there was a “Pit Pride Parade” through the town, involving children who have taken part in banner making activities, music, song and dance. This parade began at Whitehaven Castle Park and finished at the Wellington Terrace on the harbourside, stopping to perform at Whitehaven Library, The Hub on the Harbour and Wellington Pit Car Park.

The aim of the committee was to produce a memorial that everyone in the town could be part of, commemorating the solemnness of the disaster then the following week commemorating and celebrating the towns pride in its coal mining history.



STEAM THROUGH SEASCALE

The magnificent new locomotive “Tornado” graced our shoreline with its presence on Wednesday 14 April en route to Carlisle and then down to Settle. It drew a big crowd at Seascale, and many at Drigg too, and we’re told a massive audience gathered in Carlisle. A DVD of its journey is being compiled (the videos already shot are on HF Railtours website: www.hf-railtours.co.uk), although Gosforth’s Andy Orland, who was filming Tornado crossing Ravenglass viaduct wasn’t so happy that the video crew’s helicopter hovered right over him and ruined his sound track! HF Railtours have held up their hands as guilty and apologised!

A locomotive also with a guilt complex – the Carnforth-based 8F 48151 – which burned parts of two Ravenglass viaducts back in May 2008, made a reappearance on Saturday 29 May this year as the “Lakelander”. Fortunately all went well this time except for the weather which alas was drizzly and dreary. There will be more sightings of the “Lakelander” on Saturdays 19 June, 17 July and 7 August.

An exciting new working will be the return of the Duke of Gloucester, 71000, on 3 July. It was last seen here in February and March 2008, and hitherto on 24 February 2007 – the day of the Grayrigg train crash, which meant DoG had to return south in the evening back down our west coast line, refilling with water at Seascale station from a milk tanker! We noticed a lady taking several pictures of that scene, but have never been able to track her down. DoG will be making a similar excursion to that of Tornado, heading north to Carlisle and back south through Settle.

But there’s more to come. HF Railtours have taken on board a big hint of ours that we in West Cumbria can’t easily take advantage of these steam-hauled excursions because we are too far away from the starts. There’s now a plan afoot to run one south from Carlisle, down the coast, and on to Manchester. The loco almost certainly will be the Duke of Gloucester, which will be serviced in Manchester and then return later in the day to Carlisle via Settle. We don’t have a firm date, but if it does go ahead this year it is likely to be late



October. Full dining facilities will be available of course. It will not be cheap, as there is much organisation involved in manoeuvring the loco and stock to run from Carlisle, and staffing the train. But we’re sure it will be a memorable event.

If we can muster enough support/enthusiasm from Seascale to fill at least one carriage, with little doubt we’ll be able to arrange for it to pick up at Seascale for those who don’t wish to journey early to Carlisle in the morning. In the evening coach return transport will obviously be arranged as we don’t have that much-desired evening rail service.

Anyone potentially interested in being on board this excursion (without obligation of course) may contact HF Railtours direct via www.hf-railtours.co.uk. Alternatively let me (Trevor) know on 019467 28449 – or preferably at news@epic-gb.com – and I will build up a list and keep you all posted with information.



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