

SEASCALE GOSFORTH
DRIGG
& CARLETON

LINKING
THREE
PARISHES

TETHERA

WINTER
2021/22



**02CC10 and 659 XUK plates for
"Pickle" – a Daimler Ferret
visiting Irton Hall recently.
Give Cliff & Louise Charter a wave if
you spy them on the road in our area.
See page 30**

Professional hairdressing in Seascale

newimage

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opening hours

MONDAY

9:30am – 5:00pm

TUESDAY

8:30am – 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY

8:30am – 5:30pm

THURSDAY

8:30am – 5:30pm

FRIDAY

8:30am – 5:30pm

Saturday and later appointments at request

PARISH NEWS

Publisher: Trevor Preece
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trevor@trpub.net
2 Sella Bank, The Banks,
Seascale,
Cumbria CA20 1QU

SEASCALE

As life starts to return to some sort of normality post-Covid and the evenings draw in as we head towards winter, it is pleasing to reflect back on the positive aspects of the summer.

We were able to resume face to face meetings of the Parish Council and have welcomed two new Councillors, John Graham and John Spokes. This maintains our full complement of Councillors.

The Council wishes to pass on its best wishes to Councillor Eileen Eastwood and wish her a speedy recovery from breaking a hip.

'Staycations' brought an increased number of visitors to the village, which was anticipated but welcome nonetheless. Once again we received a number of compliments about the quality of our free toilets and the cleanliness and appeal of the beach area and surroundings. Thanks to our cleaner Dawn, Councillor Catherine Harvey Chadwick and her team of volunteers for their sterling efforts in making our village a welcoming place.

Also over the summer we saw the re-emergence of the popular Coast to Coast Cycle event. Particular thanks go to John McEvoy for taking a pivotal role in acting as Co-ordinator for the event, in addition to the considerable commitment he has given to the Sports Hall Management Committee over many years. We wish John all the best following his decision to step down from these roles. He deserves a well-earned rest.

The Bowling Club held an Open Day that was well attended and has resulted in them attracting several new members.

Both of our Play areas were well used over the summer period and we are aware of visitors travelling to it from all over West Cumbria and beyond. We are currently considering options for further improvements to the Coniston Avenue play area, which is particularly appreciated by our younger residents (and their parents!).

A group of volunteers has formed with the objective of improving and upgrading the BMX track. They have already begun their fund-raising efforts and with the enthusiasm and drive they have brought to this project we have every confidence it can be moved forward to a successful conclusion and provide a much needed resource for teenagers in the village.

The Library volunteers are re-introducing their monthly Coffee Mornings over the Autumn and it is expected this will provide a further opportunity for residents to engage in social activity following the isolation of the lockdown period.

As a village we have plenty to be proud of and can look forward to the New Year with confidence. *David Halliday* – Chairman, Seascale PC

THE RAILWAY BRIDGE – SEASCALE

The saga still continues but here is an update after several concerns which have been raised.

I have been dealing with this for the last two years at least. The footbridge at the station was removed many years ago as it was becoming worse for wear, and at the time no one chased up a replacement. There are two separate issues here – how to cross from one side of the station to the other to get to the car park or ticket machine and pedestrian safety under the bridge.

The prospect of getting a new footbridge between platforms is very poor, even though Seascale is a very busy station. To make a ramped one is difficult owing to lack of room and to have one with lifts is cost prohibitive.

Even getting funding for the required survey isn't easy.

I did commission a new data gathering exercise that has proved valuable in getting discussions started to try and resolve the matter. A lot of suggestions come forward on Facebook and other media but the solutions are all difficult to achieve.

I am talking to engineers to see if there is an option to get traffic lights on a temporary basis to see if that is a viable long term solution. If the solution was easy believe me it would have been done by now.

I am not a Highways Engineer or Rail Network Engineer and can only listen to the advice given.

Paul Turner, County Councillor,
Gosforth & Seascale. Tel: 07795 169637
christopherpaul.turner@cumbria.gov.uk

CMS 1960 MW 512BRM returns to Millom sometime before 1969 when the front grille was replaced by a blank panel. Note the bridge headroom was then 10'6. Photo courtesy of Stuart Emmett. See top of page 6.



PARISH COUNCILLORS & CONTACT DETAILS

DRIGG & CARLETON

John Jennings **(Chair)** 24321
 Andy Pratt **(Vice-Chair)** 24097
 Suey Browne
 Keith Hitchen 24710
 Jimmy Naylor 27841
 Keith Murray
 Jo Whyte
Clerk
 David Millington 24272
Financial Officer (RFO)
 Justine Robinson
CBC Councillor
 Andy Pratt 24097
County Councillor
 Keith Hitchen 24710

www.drigg.org.uk
 Take a look at the new website

D&C PC meet at 7pm on the 2nd
 Tuesday of each month, except
 Aug. & Dec. Drigg Village Hall

GOSFORTH

Mark Fussell **(Chair)**
 Rachel Unsworth **(Vice-Chair)**
 David Gray
 Graham Hutson
 Mike McKinley
 Tyson Norman
 Dawn Pennington
 Paul Turner 07795 169637
Clerk
 Jacqueline Williams 01229 717551
 gosforth.parish2@outlook.com
County Councillor
 Paul Turner 07795 169637

www.gosforthpc.org.uk

Second Wednesday of each
 month at 7pm (online)

SEASCALE

David Halliday **(Chair)** 28027
 Elizabeth Mawson **(Vice-Chair)**
 Eileen Eastwood
 John Graham
 Catherine Harvey-Chadwick 28908
 Paula Leggett 074621 60313
 David Moore 27674
 Ken Mawson 29786
 David Ritson 21668
 John Spokes
Clerk
 Jill Bush
 clerkseascalepc@gmail.com
Copeland District Councillors
 David Moore
 Andy Pratt 24097
County Councillor
 Paul Turner 07795 169637

www.seascaleparish.com
 First Wednesday of the month,
 except Aug., 7pm, in the Library
 as soon as is possible.

FIGHT FOR FAIR TREATMENT FOR RURAL SCHOOL CHILDREN

The creation of the Westlakes Academy Secondary School and their current admissions policy has created an uneven playing field for children in the Gosforth, Seascale and Eskdale areas. The increasing popularity of the Academy, and the failure of Whitehaven School, have resulted in more children applying than can be admitted. Even though this is our only catchment school, school admissions give priority to the children closest to the school so children in our area miss out. Although parents often select Millom as a second choice, the county council will not fund transport to Millom but instead offer free transport to the Whitehaven Academy. Over the last few years concerned parents, with the support of borough and county councillors, have been asking the county council to fund transport to Millom instead, as this is seen as a more natural fit for our children as many of their friends who live in Drigg, Holmrook and parts of Seascale are already in the Millom catchment.

Each year the county council is required to consult on its policy for admissions two years ahead of the school year to which it will apply – this gives time for all statutory processes to be completed. During the last three or four consultations local parents have been highlighting the inequalities in the existing arrangements and the county council have finally listened to us. The current consultation sets out proposals to make Gosforth, Seascale and Eskdale a dual-catchment

area, so that children would be entitled to attend either Westlakes Academy or Millom school and have their transport provided. While this doesn't fully address the problem of local children missing out on places at Westlakes to children who have access to a closer school, it is a step along the way to recognising the problems rural communities face. If the proposals are implemented, parents will be able to make choices without having to think about the cost of transport.

We are hoping that the local community will help us by responding to the consultation by letting the County Council know they support the creation of a dual secondary school catchment area for Westlakes Academy and Millom school. You can respond to the consultation by following the 'Have your say' link at:

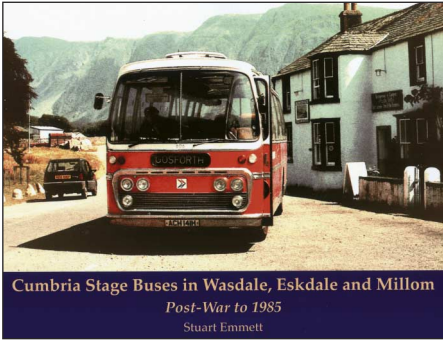
https://cumbria.citizenspace.com/cumbria-county-council/proposed-admission-arrangements-for-community-and-/consult_view/

Parents will continue to need support to correct other inequalities including local children not being able to access their closest secondary school and the complete lack of transport available for sixth form students. While these problems are not caused by our local geography, they are caused by the council's responses to the challenges of this geography and the current level of services are not good enough.

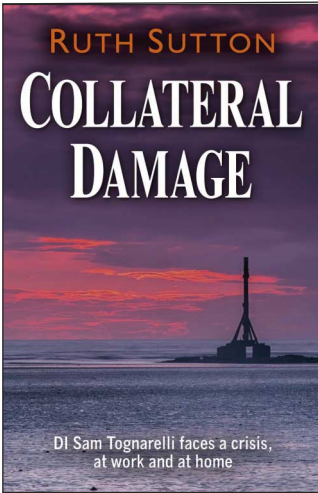
Please take the time to respond and support our children.
Maggs Walton

On 10 July Southern Region 34046 West Country "Braunton" steamed south past Calder House Hotel's beer garden, in Seascale *Photo: Trevor Preece*





In the Spring 2019 Tethera we ran an article entitled “Sim’s Motors and the Eskdale Bus Service” by Stuart Emmett. Stu has now gone a stage further and produced a book “Cumbria Stage Buses in Wasdale, Eskdale and Millom, Post-War to 1985”. It’s largely in colour with numerous illustrations and runs to 56 pages. Of local interest is the chapter “The Route to Millom and the Seascale Bridge”. ISBN is 9781840339062 and the price is £11.95. It contains much updated information on Sim’s Motors. By now Paula of *The Village Pantry* in Seascale should have copies available to purchase.



COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Ruth Sutton’s latest book is now in print. If you’d like to buy it, you can do so with Paypal and free postage through her website www.ruthsuttonauthor.co.uk, or on the Kindle store. By now copies will be available in all Cumbria bookshops. It’s another crime novel ‘starring’ Sam Tognarelli and Judith Pharaoh, set in 1999.

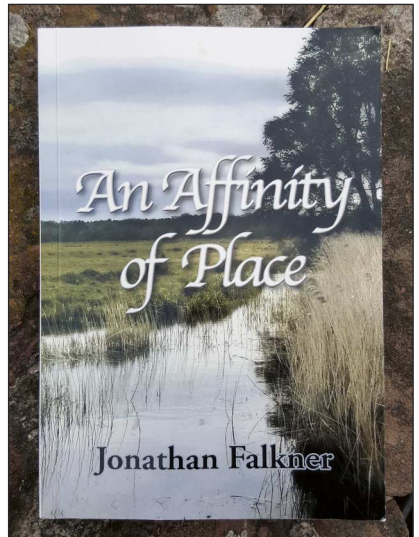
Set in 1988, this novel, written by local author Jonathan Falkner, transports the reader deep into the heart of the Norfolk Broads.

The story meanders like a lazy river in no particular hurry to get to its destination. It follows the fortunes of Lorna Banningham and her struggle to come to terms with her father’s death and start a new phase in her life.

Jonathan leaves no stone unturned in his endeavours to describe the Norfolk Broads’ unique environment, its people and places. With each page turned, the reader is drawn deeper and deeper until it’s possible to hear the bird song, and feel the breeze.

This book will appeal to readers who have always wanted to visit the Norfolk Broads, giving them a unique insight. For those lucky enough to know this wonderful county, you will recognise places, pubs and landmarks and want to return as soon as possible.

A good read on a hot summer’s day sat under the shade of a tree. *Vivienne Tregidga*



DRIGG NEWS

Drigg village has remained active during the pandemic, with Alan Bell, who is the secretary of the U3A here in west Cumbria, organising 60 zoom meetings for members to attend from the safety of their own homes, while also ensuring they had access to 30 invited zoom meetings within the organisation.

U3A is a UK wide, cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment. If you want to join either go on line at West Lakes U3A: Home (u3asites.org.uk) or pop along to any event and join up then.

Alan, who is 81, is keen to welcome new members on to the committee, "it would be nice to have some younger people bringing fresh ideas to the table, and let us oldies take it a bit easier" says Alan.

Meanwhile the Village Hall has started to open up again with numerous activities for both young and retired, even puppies and dogs have regular training classes there run by Mrs Potter. The 'babies and mothers' group has started up again on a Thursday providing support. And the History group have also got back into the swing of things with guest speakers.

Drigg Church News

Family friendly Services are held in Drigg at 11am every Sunday. Resources for children's activities will be available.

Family Christingle Service

Our Family Service at 11am on Sunday 28 November, will be a Christingle celebration, organised jointly with Seascale Messy Church.

People of all ages will be welcome. For more information, please look out for posters.

December Diary Dates in Drigg:

Tuesday 7 December: Tuesday Chat *Christmas Party & Carols*

2-4pm in Drigg Village Hall.

Saturday 18 December

Drigg Carol Service at 3pm, followed by Christmas Refreshments & Raffle Draw in Drigg Village Hall.

Christmas Day:

Christmas Family Communion, probably at 10am.

Sunday 26 December:

The Feast of Stephen: Holy Communion at 11am.

Tuesday Chat

This is a monthly social afternoon for people of all ages, held in Drigg Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, from 2 to 4pm. This provides a chance to chat with neighbours, make new friends and enjoy a cuppa and cake. It's free to attend although donations towards refreshments will be welcome. There always a raffle. Everyone is welcome.

SEASCALE WI

Seascale WI returned to their meetings in September and would be delighted to welcome some new members. Please feel free to come along and join us at one of our meetings. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7pm in Seascale Methodist church hall.

We have a varied programme of speakers, and sometimes have a cookery demonstration or a craft evening. Each month there is a competition which is usually based on the topic for the evening when members bring along an item such as an ornament, a photograph, some baking, an example of a craft or a flower arrangement. Points are awarded for the first, second and third places; these are added up at the end of the year when members with the most points receive a gift for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Following the talk each month we enjoy a social time over refreshments, often with delicious home-made cakes and hold a small raffle.

When possible, we have a spring outing and usually go out for lunch at Christmas. Recently we enjoyed a meal at Seascale Golf Club to celebrate the 99th Birthday of our WI.

Jackie Folkes



Examples of glass painting from a WI craft session.

LAUGHS, COURAGE AND FAITH

When Annette Marie Barker walked into my living room for a chat it was like someone suddenly turning on a thousand lightbulbs. Her smile and bubbly nature filled the room instantly making me feel happy. This was the first time I had met Annette, or Netty as she is affectionately known, because I rarely visit the surgery in Seascale. Of course, I had seen her from a distance but didn't really know who she was. Until today, that is, when she agreed to an interview about her recent early retirement from the Seascale and Bootle surgeries.

There's been a plethora of news written about Netty. She's even been interviewed on BBC radio Cumbria by Val Armstrong. So many of you will already know that Netty started her career in May 1981 in Bury General Hospital, and has been; a practice nurse, data impute clerk, learning disability lead and hypertension nurse.

"It all kicked off when my manager put something on Facebook about me retiring, then Jason Rushworth got hold of me wanting to write about it for the Whitehaven News, and then the radio got me! All I wanted to do was sneak quietly out the door." Netty laughed "But oh boy, did it all blow up!"

It's obvious this lady is so well loved that there was no way she could leave without a huge outpouring of affection from her work colleagues and friends. "It's been completely mad." Netty said sipping her herbal tea.

So, what made her want to take early retirement?

"I had three sudden family deaths and I thought, you know what, life's too short! So, I put in for early retirement, but then Covid hit and I knew I had to stay on and help my colleagues with what was to prove a very demanding time." This delayed her retirement by 14 months.

But then on 28 May this year Netty finally retired and was looking forward to completing her long bucket list. "We have a campervan that we love going away in, and we also love cruising, and I'm looking forward to having the time to finish my dolls house and do more knitting and cross-stitch."

But then out of the blue everything was put on

hold when her husband Alan was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer.

Netty talked about this most difficult time in their lives with such down to earth practicality that I realise all her training must have been preparing her for just this moment. "I have nursed people all my working life, but never nursed

anyone with cancer, so this is a huge learning curve for me." Netty is determined to stay positive and take each day as it comes. I had an overwhelming desire to hug her.

We got talking about her husband and how they met all those years ago. "It was the early 80's and we were both working in Bury General Hospital, I was doing my nurses training and Alan was an electrician. I remember the day we met; it was very romantic," Netty laughs. Alan was up a ladder changing a lightbulb when he spotted me walking down the corridor pushing a gurney on my way to the mortuary with a deceased patient!" We both burst out laughing and I realise she has a keen sense of humour. She composed herself and continued. "He asked around and found out I was separated and going through a divorce so he asked me out. And the rest is history as they say."

Well, I've heard it all now, that has to be the most unique and unusual way two people ever met!

Netty still has a very strong Bolton accent putting th in front of words. It's soft and musical and lovely to listen to. "It was a bit of a culture shock when I first moved up to Ravenglass," explained Netty. "I would get serious withdrawal symptoms and had to visit the city as often as I





could to get my fix of big shops, cafes and theatres. But you know what, it wasn't long before the city life became too much and when I was there, I would long to return to my lovely quiet village of Ravensglass."

A huge influence in Netty's life is her faith.

"I'm not a Born-Again Christian like some of my friends, because I really enjoy just being able to pray when I want, plus I love all the singing, clapping and dancing to gospel music that happens in our Christ Central Church. It really is such a joyful place to be. If you want to be outspoken you can, there's no judgement, that's why I love it. It reminds me of my childhood." Netty continues "I do struggle though when they ask me to read a certain chapter in the bible." Her face became animated. "So, I downloaded an app onto to my phone and now I can go directly to the passage without hunting for it!" There was a mischievous twinkle in her eyes as she laughed.

As Netty talks about her faith I begin to understand where she gets her inner spark of love and compassion and how these elements drive her on to look after others. "I was deeply affected by the film "I Daniel Blake," and that's when I realised there is so much help needed."

Not many people have the strength and

courage to look poverty and despair directly in the eyes and ask, "how can I help you?"

For almost four years Netty has volunteered for a homeless charity regularly visiting unfortunate people living on the streets of Penrith, Carlisle and Preston. For the first time I see a sad light in Netty's eyes as she continues "When it's cold and I'm going round talking to the homeless, making sure they have what they need, you know, get to a doctors and opticians regularly, and that they have clean clothes, I think to myself, why do you live like this? And why in this day and age do we have people so desperate they live on the streets! That really gets to me and I just want to take them all home. I always feel a pang of guilt when I get back to my own warm home and I realise just how lucky I am. My mum always said, so long as you have a roof over your head, bread and minced meat you're all right."

During lockdown Netty was working full time at the surgery, "It was long days because after work I would drop prescriptions and supplies to my neighbours and friends." said Netty "But now they have all repaid in bundles by supporting me recently when I had to isolate for ten days before Alan went into hospital for treatment." Netty continued "I now appreciate just how hard it must have been for everyone who had to stay at home for 14 months during the lockdown, I found just ten days incredibly hard!"

Netty tells me how much she has enjoyed working with all the amazing GPs and staff at both Seascale and Bootle surgeries. "I'm going to miss them all so much."

Now it's Netty and Alan's turn to receive support as they embark on the next phase of their life's journey.

Netty arrived earlier that afternoon as a stranger, but when she left, we hugged as friends and I felt as if I'd been touched by an angel.

Vivienne Tregidga



EVENTS CALENDAR

in and around Drigg, Gosforth & Seascale

- 16 November – Tuesday.** Drigg Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start. Drigg Local History Group. Talk on Gypsum Mining presented by Ian Tyler. For Covid precautions and more information please visit <https://drigg.org.uk/events> or email driggLHG@gmail.com.
- 27 November – Saturday.** Seascale Methodist Hall. 10am – 3pm. Christmas Craft Fair. Proceeds from sale of refreshments, coffee and Christmas tombola in aid of Hospice at Home (West Cumbria)
- 4 December – Saturday.** Gosforth School Hall. 10am – 2pm. Christmas Market. Many local traders will be in attendance.
- 1 December – Wednesday.** Group tickets go on sale for Beauty and the Beast – the GADS Pantomime in January.
- 11 December – Saturday.** St Cuthbert's Church. 11am – 6pm. Christmas Tree Festival. Free entry, crafts for children. Watch out for posters for timings of entertainment. Refreshments available.
- 12 December – Sunday.** St Cuthbert's Church. 12noon – 6pm. Christmas Tree Festival. Free entry, crafts for children. Refreshments available. "Carols by candle light and Mulled Wine" will close the festival. Watch out for posters for timings.



- 14 December – Tuesday.** GADS Pantomime tickets for Beauty and the Beast go on sale to GADS members and Patrons.
- 28 December – Tuesday.** GADS Pantomime tickets for Beauty and the Beast go on sale to the general public.
- 19 January – Wednesday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Pantomime Beauty and the Beast. Doors open at 6:30pm.
- 20 January – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Pantomime Beauty and the Beast. Doors open at 6:30pm.
- 21 January – Friday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Pantomime Beauty and the Beast. Doors open at 6:30pm.
- 22 January – Saturday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 1pm. GADS matinee performance of Beauty and the Beast. Doors open at 12:30.
- 22 January – Saturday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 6pm. GADS Pantomime Beauty and the Beast. Doors open at 5:30pm.
- 22 February – Tuesday.** Kellbank function room. 7.30pm. GADS Plays for Pleasure play readings. Free to attend
- 24 February – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group.
- 3 March – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group.
- 10 March – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group.
- 17 March – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group.
- 24 March – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group.
- 29 March – Tuesday.** Kellbank function room. 7.30pm. GADS Plays for Pleasure play readings. Free to attend.
- 31 March – Thursday.** Gosforth Public Hall. 7pm. GADS Youth Theatre Group. Last session of the term.

REGULAR EVENTS

Please check with contacts for any of these entries to confirm that they are still happening

- Badminton – Seascale.** Wednesdays mixed from 6pm. Thursdays mixed 7pm. Beginners very welcome. Seascale Sports Hall. Details from 019467 28435
- Depression Support Group.** Day Centre, Bradbury House, Gosforth. Third Tuesday every month at 7.30pm.
- Depression Support Group.** Bailey Ground ice cream parlour, Seascale. First Tuesday morning each month 10.30am-12.00noon.
- Drigg Young Farmers.** Tuesday nights, 7.30-9pm in the Methodist Hall at Gosforth. Membership age = 10-26 years. If you would like to join or find out more about Drigg Young Farmers please contact us on the club mobile 074961 26771 or email driggycf@yahoo.co.uk
- Fishing Club.** Holmrook Reading Room. Contact David on 24632 for details or to join.
- Fitness Classes.** Tuesdays 6-7pm, Seascale Sports Hall. Tuesdays 7.30-8.20pm Beckermeth School. Thursdays 7.15-8.05pm Kettlecise, Seascale School. £4 a class. Contact Gill 07511 995184.
- Flo Jazz.** Third Friday every month, Florence Mine Art Centre, Egremont. 7.30pm for 8pm start. All welcome to listen or contribute.
- Freestyle Fitness Yoga.** Tuesdays 6pm. Gosforth School. £4 each.
- Gardening Club.** Holmrook Reading Room. Contact Henry Stewart on 24652 for details or to join.
- Gosforth and District Art Society.** In Gosforth. Every Monday but with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. 6.30-8.30pm, Gosforth Village School. Contact Marlene Partridge. marlene.partridge@btinternet.com
- Gosforth and District Art Society.** In Seascale. Every Thursday morning 10am to 12am in Seascale Methodist School Room but with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. Contact Marlene Partridge. marlene.partridge@btinternet.com
- Gosforth Brownies (2nd Gosforth).** For girls aged 7-10. Meet term-time Mondays 6.00-7.30pm in Gosforth Scout Hut, next to the school. Contact Samantha Milliner at sam.milliner@hotmail.co.uk or register interest on www.girlguiding.org.uk
- Gosforth Guides (1st Gosforth).** For girls aged 10-14. Meet term time 6.00-7.30pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Seascale. Contact Abi Waller at abi.waller@hotmail.com or register interest on www.girlguiding.org.uk
- Gosforth Karate.** Wednesday classes. 4.45pm. One free taster class available. to book call 01946 694751 or visit www.eskk.co.uk
- Gosforth Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.** Scouts Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm, contact Dave Marsden 24632. Cubs Wednesdays 6.15pm to 7.30pm, contact Jackie Harper 27211. Beavers Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm, contact Kathryn Ketchen 25912. In the Scout Hut next to the school.
- Gosforth Short Mat Indoor Bowls Club.** Every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm in Gosforth Village Hall. New members welcome, spare bowls available. Flat soled shoes preferred.
- Gosforth WI.** Monthly meetings are held in the public hall on the First Tuesday of the month at 7.15pm March-October, 2pm November-February.
- Holmrook Reading Room Bookings.** The Reading Room has a fully equipped kitchen, facilities for people with disability, in fact everything you would need for a great party. See if it is available for your next event? To book the room please contact David on 019467 24632.

Holmrook Reading Room Table Tennis Club. Meets on a Wednesday – 6:30pm to 7:30pm. All welcome, young or old. Contact David on 019467-24632. Other times can be arranged.

Holmrook Reading Room Fishing Club. Fish on our Reading Room stretch of water. If you want to join this club, or simply want some more information, please contact David on 019467 24632.

Holmrook Reading Room Playground. Come and see for yourself.

Holmrook Reading Room Wild Flower Meadow. Enjoy a walk or just sit and relax in the peace and quiet of the meadow. Supervised children are welcome.

Jam Side Up Jazz Jam Session. First Friday every month. The Kellbank Hotel, Gosforth. From 8.30pm. www.jamsideup.net or 01967 28619 for more details. Admission free.

Line Dancing. Every Monday. 7.30pm, Windscale Club, Seascale. £3 pp donation to charity. Contact 019467 28849 for details.

Messy Church. Run jointly between St Cuthbert's and Seascale Methodist Church and meets on the third Saturday of each month in school term in the Methodist Church Hall at 2pm to 4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Moky HIIT/Core Blast. Seascale Sports Hall. Monday 10-10.30am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

MokyZEST. Seascale Sports Hall. Monday 10.45am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

MokyHIIT/Core Blast. Gosforth Public Hall. Thursday 5.45-6.15pm. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

Moky HIIT Class. Seascale Sports Hall. Friday 10.00am-10.30am. Contact info@mokyfit.co.uk, 01946 721166 or 07724 240179

Muckypups Baby and Toddler Group. Thursdays 10-12 during term time, Drigg Village Hall. Friendly group with baby zone, craft activities, messy play, ride-ons, dress-up and more! £2.50 for first child, 50p for additional children.

Open Mic Night – Strands, Nether Wasdale. First Wednesday every month. 9pm start. Live music by various singers and groups.

Open Mic Night – Florence Mine, Egremont. Third Wednesday of each month. Great atmosphere, all gear provided. Just turn up.

Open Social Run. First Sunday every month, 9.30am. Seascale beach or cinder track, starting from car park. Organised by Blengdale Runners and open to all who can run 3 miles or more any speed.

Phoenix Praise Worship Band. Meets in Gosforth Methodist Church Schoolroom, 7pm Fridays during school term-time. Come along and sing, play or help technical support. All welcome – no church affiliation necessary. Jill or Keith Hudson 019467 21592. jillfhudson@hotmail.co.uk

Pilates Class (mat based). Mondays, 6.00pm (beginners/intermediate) 7.15pm (intermediates). Gosforth Public Hall (Main Hall). £5 per week or £25 for 6 weeks. Contact Amy on 07510 104508 or amyf1sher@hotmail.com (note 1 not l). Now also qualified to teach Pilates to ladies at all stages of pregnancy and postnatally.

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

Saturday Coffee Morning. Seascale Methodist Church Hall, 10-11.30am.

Scottish Country Dancing. Windscale Club, Seascale. Every Wednesday from September to April at 7.30pm. Beginners very welcome.

Scouts/Cubs/Beavers. 2nd Seascale Scout Group. Every Thursday night in school term time. St Cuthbert's Hall. Beavers (6-8 years), 5-6pm. Cubs (8-10 years), 6-7.30pm. Scouts (10-14½ years), 7.30-9pm. Contact: 28296 or info@seascalescouts.org.uk

Seascale Art Group. Monday mornings (except Public

Holidays) 10am-12noon in the Games Room at the Windscale Club. Call in.

Seascale Knitting Group. Fortnightly meetings on Wednesdays 6.30-8pm at the Windscale Club. £1 per session. For more information contact Penny Cater penelope_cater@btinternet.com

Seascale Memories Group meets on third Wednesday of the month (during term time) in Seascale Methodist hall at 2:30pm. Informal group that have a friendly chat with tea and biscuits talking about all sorts of memories. All are welcome. Allison Hanshaw 019467 21935 ajhanshaw@outlook.com for further details.

Seascale Men's Keep Fit. Tuesday, 10.30am. 45-minute session in the Sports Hall. Target range is 55-85 years. Work at your own rate and set your own goals. One free session available. Alan Bell, 24250 or John Calvert 28936.

Seascale Parish Council Meetings. First Wednesday every month. 7pm in the Methodist Schoolroom. No meeting in August unless there is urgent business.

Seascale Tea and Chat. Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

Seascale WI. Seascale Methodist School Room. Mondays 7pm every month except January. Details from Allison Hanshaw, 21935, ajhanshaw@outlook.com

Seascale Women's Outlook. Alternate Tuesdays in term time at 8pm in the Methodist Hall. All ladies welcome. Contact Glenda on 28404 for programme. Table Tennis Club. Wednesdays. Holmrook Reading Room, 6.30-7.30pm. All welcome to turn up or contact David on 24632.

Shackles Off Baby Group. Mondays, 11am-1pm.

Tuesday Chat. First Tuesday every month. 2-4pm. Drigg & Carleton Village Hall. Special events and entertainment. All welcome.

West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meetings. Second Wednesday of every month at the Clubhouse at Curwen Hall Park Track starting 7pm. If you are interested contact Tom Jones on 019467 28938.

West Lakes U3A. Membership is £5 which covers membership of all West lakes U3A groups. For further information www.u3a.sites.org.uk/west-lakes. Contact: Vera Lowrey 25213 or Membership Tony Bagnall 25595.

West Lakes U3A Open Mind. A General Meeting on the third Thursday every month at Gosforth Public Hall 10.15am for 11am start.). Contact: Vera Lowrey 25213 or Alan Bell 24250.

West Lakes U3A Art Appreciation. Second Thursday every month at St Joseph's Church Hall Seascale 10.30am. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

West Lakes U3A Discovery Group. Fourth Wednesday every month at St Mary's Church Hall 10.15am for 11am. Contact: Graham Hutson 25477.

West Lakes U3A Discussion Group (House Meeting). Third Tuesday of the month 10.45am until 12 noon in a private house contact Graham Brassington 25794.

West Lakes U3A History Group. First Wednesday every month at Drigg Village Hall 10.15am for 11am start. Contact: Mary Holbrook 25466.

West Lakes U3A Reading Group (House Meeting). Fourth Thursday every month at Gosforth 10.45am until 12 noon in a private house. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

West Lakes U3A Singing for Fun. First Thursday of the month at Seascale Methodist Hall at 2.15pm. Contact: Xandra Brassington 25794. To attend you will need to join the Open Mind Group of West Lakes U3A for £5.00 per annum. Contact is Xandra Brassington: 019467 25794.

Wild Flower Meadow. Holmrook Reading Room. Phone 24632 to be involved. Supervised children welcome.



GADS AND COVID-19

What an unusual year or two we have all had. Our last full production was our pantomime “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” in January 2020 and the lockdowns started pretty much as soon as we had cleared the set away. Since then we have not been able to run a play or the 2021 pantomime but we have had some limited success with our Youth Theatre Group. Sessions have been held sporadically between lockdowns and miraculously we have managed to hold both Summer Youth Workshops in August 2020 and August 2021.

Now that there is some prospect of getting back to a new normal, we have a number of members who can't wait to get going again and a number who are understandably still a bit reluctant. We clearly have no idea what the rules (if any) will be next January, but given the current rules (or lack of them) we are planning, trying and hoping to put on a “normal” pantomime. If the rules change, then obviously we will have to apply them but if the rules stay as they are, the pantomime will be normal in terms of audience capacity and participation. It just wouldn't be a pantomime otherwise. This would mean no compulsory mask wearing, no social distancing in the audience, singing on stage and a good deal of noisy audience participation. There will also be the usual complimentary refreshments at the interval. If you are in the clinically vulnerable group, or in any way uneasy about attending under such conditions, we completely understand and respectfully suggest that you just stay away this time. But we do promise to welcome you back with open arms next time. There are so many challenges us facing



us for this production – but we are planning for success. And if all goes to plan...

GADS PANTOMIME – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, BY TOM WHALLEY JANUARY 2022

Beauty and the Beast by Tom Whalley will run from Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22nd January 2022 and is suitable for all ages. As it was so successful last time, there will be another Saturday afternoon matinee. Tom wrote our “Alice in Wonderland” (2019) so you can expect a good one. Beauty and the Beast is a tale as old as pantomime. Beautiful Belle dreams of living the adventures she reads about in her books. When she becomes the prisoner of a monstrous beast, her hapless father and best friends Brie and Nanny Nightnurse must rescue her from his clutches and from his collection of enchanted objects!

However, the beast was once a handsome yet vain prince cursed by a wicked enchantress; doomed to remain a monster until he learned to love. If he could have a change of heart before the final rose petal fell, the spell would be broken ... but who could ever learn to love a beast? This pantomime is an all new tale as old as time and guaranteed to raise the spirits towards the end of a gloomy winter.

We will have auditioned in October by the time this goes to letterbox and rehearsals begin in early ►

► November. Tickets will go on sale to groups (Scouts, Guides etc) on 1 December, to GADS members on 14 December and to the general public on 28 December. Ticket prices will be the same as last time (£7.50 for adults and £5 for u18 / students) with a 50p per



The cast of The Rocky Monster Show at the finale.

ticket discount for groups of 10 or more. Wednesday and Thursday shows are usually very busy with several good humoured groups from the local scouts, cubs, brownies, beavers etc. Either is a great night to come along if you want to support their energetic audience participation. Friday and Saturday performances have also been well attended in recent years and the Saturday afternoon matinee has eased some of the congestion as well as being popular with the younger ones. We will still be able to take BACS and card payments (in person, but not by phone unfortunately) for tickets and on-line booking will be back as that worked well too. Seating plans and ticket sales will once again be visible on (or via) the GADS website for those of you who like to pick the best seats. www.gads.org.uk. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday shows will start at 7pm. The Saturday performances will start at 1pm and 6pm – but watch out for posters and advertising nearer the time in case things change. For all shows, the doors will open 30 minutes before the start. We really are looking forward to welcoming you back.

GADS Youth Theatre Group

If our pantomime goes to plan, Youth Theatre Group will shut down at the end of October for panto rehearsals to begin. All being well, we will resume after the February half term on Thursday 24 February 2022.

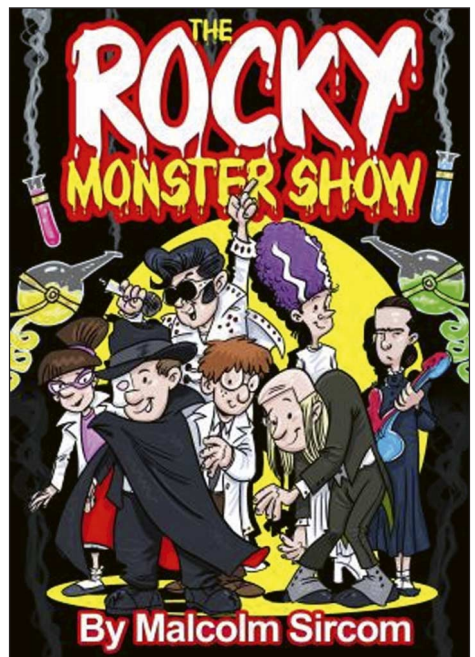
Summer Youth Workshop, August 2021 – The Rocky Monster Show

Despite the odds, the GADS Summer Youth Workshop kept us busy for a week in early August 2021. Twenty three youngsters, under the direction and watchful eyes of Tosh McGregor, Mary Wake and Peter Gaythorpe spent the week preparing for, and then performing “The Rocky Monster Show” by Malcolm Sircom. During the week, the group had great fun learning about all

aspects of staging a show. As well as learning the lines and songs for their parts, we dabbled in stagecraft, costume, scenery, making props, make-up, sound and lights. Their performance at the end of just one week was just astounding and the only downside was that we could not open the doors to members of the general public. The week was partly funded by a generous grant from the Blue Spark Foundation, to whom we extend our gratitude and thanks.

Plays for Pleasure

Plays for Pleasure is also suspended for the pantomime run, but should be back on the last Tuesday of each month starting 22 February 2022. If you are not sure what to do on a Tuesday night, fancy having a laugh and meeting new friends or



even catching up with old ones, want to have a go at reading or listening to a play, we would love to see you at our Plays for Pleasure (P4P) sessions at The Kellbank in Gosforth on the last Tuesday of the month – but not until after pantomime. We read a variety of plays and it's always a fun and relaxed evening. Just turn up on the night, you will be warmly welcomed. Who knows, we might even persuade you to say a few lines on stage one day in one of our productions! If you want any further information please contact p4p@gads.org.uk or via the gads website. The dates pencilled in so far are 22 February and 29 March. We meet at 7:30pm, all are welcome and they are free to attend.

For more information

To get involved with GADS, find out more about what we get up to, contact us, or just to look for embarrassing photos of family and friends from years past, please see our website www.gads.org.uk. On Facebook we are [gads1948](https://www.facebook.com/gads1948) and you can follow us on Twitter [@gadsgosforth](https://twitter.com/gadsgosforth). We're also on Instagram.

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Tel: 019467 28101

Email: GP-A82024@nhs.net

Out of hours: 111

Emergency calls: 999



Bootle Surgery

Monday and Wednesday:

9:00am – 12:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am – 12noon
(Reception and Dispensary only,
no Doctor or Nurse on site)

Tuesday 9:00 – 12:30 – Nurse,
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Tel: 01229 718711

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Tuesday & Thursday

8:45am – 1:00pm 2:00pm – 6.00pm

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The Seascale dispensary phone 019467 27451 to order repeat medication is available

9:30am – 12:00noon

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Seascale Dispensary now has an answerphone for prescription requests. This is available all day Monday-Friday for messages to be left.

TRAINING DAYS

Bootle closes at 12:30pm on Wednesdays

and 12:00noon on Thursdays

Seascale closes at 1:00pm on both days

Thursday 13 January 2022

Thursday 10 February 2022

Wednesday 16 March 2022

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Website: www.seascalehc.co.uk

Twitter: @SeascaleHC

Facebook: Seascale and Bootle Surgeries

The next Tethera is scheduled to be published ready for the weekend of 12 March (and online about 10 days earlier), and we will be on the lookout for stories – and event dates too – which hopefully will be more plentiful this time. The closing date for all contributions, editorial and advertising, is Thursday 10 February 2022.

Tethera and previous issues of Seascale, Gosforth and Drigg Parish Council magazines are available to view and download in PDF format at

<http://www.trpub.net/html/tethera.htm>

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ZOOMIES AND TREATS

Just as those grand masters were able to paint magnificent pictures on canvas, so it is that Catherine Harvey-Chadwick has an equal talent. Not for oil painting I might add, but for being able to read dogs, understand their behaviour and make them feel calm and relaxed. “I don’t know what it is? I’ve always just known instinctively what to do.” Says Catherine as we walk along Seascale beach. “My mum says that as a child I always had animals hanging round me.”

I joined Catherine, a professional dog walker living here in Seascale, and her clients; two Schnauzers, Alan and Stevie, and two whippets 2-year-old Jamie and his older companion Toby. As we reach the sand Alan vocalised very loudly for the group that it was time they were let off their leads. Once free they ran and played, Jamie kicking sand all over us as he flew past. Catherine likes to call this exuberant behaviour ‘zoomies’ which sums it up perfectly.

I don’t know if I’d be brave enough to let other people’s dogs off their leads. “You have to be extra careful when walking other people’s dogs, but I know all my clients so well,” explained Catherine just before she shouted to Alan to change his direction and come back, which he did instantly. “That’s why I like to pick the emptiest part of the beach to let them off, although sometimes they will see a person in the distance and run over to them.” She reaches inside her little bag that’s clipped conveniently to her waist and gave Alan a treat. Jamie, seeing this, came racing over at break-neck speed, almost bowling me over in the process, to nuzzle the bag, “What about me?” Jamie implored. “Here you are Jamie, now off you go and run.” She gently pushed his

muzzle away before he sprinted off enjoying his freedom. “That dog should be called a ‘whoppit’ instead of a whippet!” said Catherine laughing at Jamie’s mad antics. “I’m sure he must reach 30mph!”

Ten-year-old Toby was still on his lead and I saw

Vivienne Tregidga interviews Catherine Harvey-Chadwick.



regret in his old eyes as he watched his young companion racing around. But there was no way he was able to take part.

"I had thought about giving up dog walking and getting a job at the coop," she laughed "but my friends and family rightly pointed out that I would be; inside all day, have to deal with people, which I hate, and worst of all, there'd be lots of rules to follow! So, I decided against it." She laughed. "I have to say it was only a fleeting idea, because I would miss my friends," and she lent down to stroke old Toby who nuzzled her hand. It must have been on one of those horrible wet windy days that prompted her to think like this.

Catherine created West Cumbria Dog Walking five years ago at a time when there were no other dog walkers in the immediate area. "This has to be the best job ever." She said gesturing to the wide-open sun-drenched sands.

"Dog walking is very unregulated, which I can't understand," explains Catherine, "anyone can say 'give me some money and I'll take your dog out.' And I don't understand those dog walkers who take out lots of dogs. If anything kicks off, and it does with dogs, it's impossible to control and keep a lot of dogs safe." This is why Catherine will only take out four dogs at a time. Her day will start at 8.30am when she walks her own dogs, one of whom is not tolerant of other dogs, and then finishes at 3.30pm. She can walk anything between 5 and 10 miles a day. "Some dogs are really nervous of saying hello to other dogs, so It's good to be aware and respectful of these dogs." explains Catherine. "Even if you have a really nice friendly dog that you know isn't aggressive, you shouldn't just allow them to run up and greet a strange dog without asking its human first."

Despite living in Cumbria for 15 years Catherine's southern accent gives a clue to where she was brought up. "As far south as you can go before hitting the ocean between the mainland and the Isle of Wight." She tells me. "We then moved to Oxford for Terry's teaching job and that's where our twins were born.

"Alan come back this way!" The errant Alan was pushing the boundaries thinking his minder was too pre-occupied to notice him. As he ventured back, she continued. "Then we moved to Brize Norton and later on to Milton Keynes. But the area we lived in there was going downhill fast and

wasn't a good place to bring up children," said Catherine as she threw the ball and the dogs raced happily after it.

"It was lovely to get back to living by the sea again, and look at this place, it's so beautiful. On days like this you could believe you were on an exotic Mediterranean beach."

How did she survive during the pandemic?

"It was horrible, I had to shut down for a month, but really looking back I needn't have done that, but none of us knew did we? It was all very strange and uncharted waters. We all thought that if we opened our front doors, we'd instantly get Covid." Catherine was concerned about her customers, many of them elderly, and who relied on her to take their dogs out. She soon found a way to work around it, "I just collected the dogs from customers' gardens and we'd chat over the gate at a safe distance. They were very grateful because in many cases I was the only person they ever saw. I would deliver prescriptions and supplies for them when I picked up their dog."

"Things have changed since Covid though," said Catherine. "Before I would have a meeting with the owners and their dogs and they would give me a key to their house, which I always think is very brave." Then I would just pop in and pick up the dog and hardly ever see their owners. But during the pandemic a lot of people were working from home, so I've built up a stronger relationship with the owners than ever before."

Catherine claims she's no good with humans, preferring dogs' company. But that's not what I found. Catherine always stops for a chat whenever I see her, and has an easy humour and light personality that's warm and caring and community minded. She will often lead litter-picking expeditions along the beach and through the village, and has the responsibility of flying the flags from our esteemed flag pole on the fort. Catherine also sits on the parish council, a thankless job at times, and will always be the reasoning voice for conservation and down-to-earth common sense. You might also remember, years back, that she was once our Lollypop lady.

Catherine's canvas is a moving collage of living pictures containing numerous dogs, her colourful woolly hats in the winter, and a ready smile for everyone she meets as she walks along the beach at Seascale and Drigg, and through the village.

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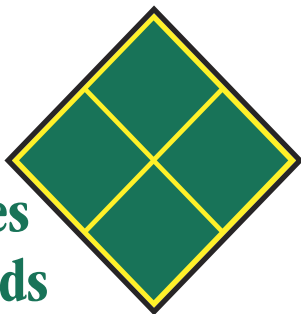
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WHAT A PICKLE?!

O2CC10
&
659 XUK
"Pickle"
Daimler Ferret
seen at the
Rotating Wheels
Rally in
Gosforth
on Sunday
8 August



What made us buy a 4 tonne Daimler Ferret MK1/2 armoured scout car? It wasn't because we had made lots of enemies, honest. We had been taking our Series 3 military Land Rover to military vehicle shows and had seen other people turning up in Ferrets and we thought, "We'd like one of those when we retire!"

When lockdown hit and we couldn't go to any shows, Louise started looking on the Internet and found this one advertised on an ex-military sales website. Most women would have been shopping for hats, handbags and shoes, but Louise found us an armoured car instead!

We visited the guy selling it and spent a lovely Sunday afternoon in his garden having tea and cakes while discussing the vehicle and listening to the cricket in the field next door. It was a bit sad in a way as he was ex-Royal Signals REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) and had owned it for 20 years since he retired, but had Parkinson's and couldn't drive any more. He still owns two Centurion tanks, though!

We've driven it all over the place, although we avoid motorways and try to only go out when it is not too busy. We've taken it to Tesco's a few times to do the shopping – there are large storage bins on each side, so there's plenty of room for a week's supply of Guinness and the food shop. We haven't had a chance to take it to any military shows yet, but we hope to do that more next

year. We also have to be aware of any terrorist alerts so we don't frighten people. We phoned Sellafield security when we moved here to tell them that we would try to avoid the roads near them, but if we inadvertently wander that way don't worry, we're not invading. They said, "Thanks for letting us know – we've seen it already!"

Our model would have had a crew of 3; driver, commander and radio operator, but they would have to be very good friends! The normal crew would have been 2, the driver (me), and the commander (Louise, of course)! It's a bit cramped in there with all the radio kit and storage boxes for grenades etc., but once you get settled in it's quite cosy and you get good views out of the front. We have an intercom in there for when I can't see too well at junctions.

It has a Rolls Royce 4.3 litre straight six petrol engine which produces 120 brake horsepower, but with the weight the maximum speed is just below 60mph for short bursts, normal cruising speed being about 40 to 45mph. It was designed for reconnaissance work, so it would sneak up behind hedges to get a look at the enemy, then radio the information back to base. If spotted, it has 6 smoke grenade launchers and closing the hatches makes it bulletproof. The way the gearbox is arranged means it can go as fast backwards as forwards, to get out of trouble. It would have been fitted with a machine gun on top, but being

a reconnaissance vehicle, if the gun had to be fired then it means you've been spotted and your mission has failed! We have all of the equipment that would have been on it apart from the gun, but including a 15-inch machete, which we leave at home. We fit a Nerf gun on it for shows.

The normal way in is through the hatch at the top, but the driver has an escape hatch at the front, although it's a bit tight. When we park it in our garage that's the only way in or out! There are escape hatches on both sides, but using them loses the storage bin and the spare wheel so they are for emergencies only. Getting in and out does keep you fit!

It was made in 1959, so it is now tax and MOT exempt, although we do keep it up to better than MOT standard for our own and everyone else's safety. Over 4,000 were made from 1952 to 1962 in various types, including anti-tank missile versions later on. It is still used in many commonwealth countries. The Ferret was a replacement for the very successful Daimler Dingo but had a lower profile, making it harder to spot. They were very agile, and could be used cross-country or in urban situations. It was eventually replaced by the Fox Armoured Car.

We have the MOD history documents saying where it has been used, and it hasn't really been in a 'war' as such – it was mainly used to avoid conflict. It spent quite a while with various Royal Signals units with the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) patrolling the Berlin Wall watching the Ruskies, then used for forward air control where it communicated with the land forces and aircraft, then to Beirut for peacekeeping duties for a short while, and Cyprus doing more peacekeeping with the UN and probably listening to the local radio stations while keeping the Turks and



Greeks apart. Finally to the air transport test establishment at RAF Brize Norton, where hopefully they didn't drop it out of an aircraft. It was purchased by the retired Royal Signals REME guy, who maintained and used it for about 20 years before selling it to us about a year ago.

It needs to be driven at least once a month to keep the engine running well and to spread the

grease around the suspension. If you see us out and about please wave, and feel free to ask us any questions – we try to give people as much information about it as we can. It is a really good way to get to talk to people, especially as we have only moved to Gosforth quite recently.

We've christened her "Pickle", by the way.

Cliff & Louise Charter

Daimler Ferret Armoured Scout (Liaison) Car MK1/2 Information

Built in 1959 and used by the Royal Signals Regiment, this vehicle would probably have been used as a 'relay station' to receive radio transmissions from one place and retransmit them at 30 watts to another place. Men standing near the aerial for too long could have been rendered sterile!

Ferrets were generally used for reconnaissance missions, where they would go over any terrain to observe enemy positions and report back by radio. Having permanent 4 wheel drive, independent suspension and a 4.3 litre Rolls-Royce engine would have helped to get there, but if discovered and attacked, being completely bullet and shell-splinter proof with the windows shut and the roof closed, having 6 smoke grenade launchers at the front and being able to do nearly 60 MPH backwards would have helped to get out of trouble!

The Ferret was a replacement for the very successful Daimler Dingo but had a lower profile, making it harder to spot. They were very agile, and could be used cross-country or in urban situations. It was eventually replaced by the Fox Armoured Car.

This is a MK1/2 version. The MK1/1 was similar but without the turret on top and it had no protection from above. The MK2 version onwards had a rotating turret with a Browning machine gun. Later versions had Swingfire wire guided anti-tank missiles.

The engine is a Rolls-Royce B60. RR had the brilliant idea of producing a range of engines that share the same parts and made the B40 (4 cylinder), B60 (6 cylinder) and B80 (8 cylinder) engines, which all use the same pistons, cranks, valves, springs, push rods etc. and were used in a lot of military vehicles. The B80 even uses two B40 exhaust manifolds. This meant the Army

could carry a lot fewer spare parts and could keep vehicles mobile using parts from disabled vehicles.

Specifications

- Rolls-Royce B60 4.256 litre water cooled straight 6 cylinder petrol engine, 120 bhp
- 5 speed preselector gearbox with fluid coupling power transfer - no clutch
- Forward/Reverse lever - same gears and speed backwards as forwards!
- 21 gallon tank, 9 MPG on road, 4MPG off-road, range about 190 miles on roads
- Permanent 4 wheel drive, independent suspension on each wheel
- All transmission parts are inside the armoured compartment, noisy but safe!
- Realistic safe top speed for cruising is 40 MPH
- Weight 4 Tons 6 cwt, 4,394 kg fully laden
- Length 12' 7"; width 6' 3"; height 4' 9"; fording depth 3' 0"
- MK 1/2 version, with turret added, normally armed with a .303 Bren light machine gun
- Crew of 3: Driver, Commander and Radio Operator
- Classed as an 'Historic Vehicle', so tax and MOT exempt
- Armour between 6 and 16 mm steel plate for crew and engine compartments
- Run flat tyres, good for 30 miles if shot or otherwise punctured
- Fitted with a Larkspur radio and Clansman intercom system for the crew
- Developed in 1949, 4,409 Ferrets were made between 1952 and 1962
- Still in use in many Commonwealth countries
- 'Standard Equipment' includes a 15" machete - we leave it at home!
- Windows and Commanders seat double up as finger removers!

Please do not climb inside - this was built a long time before health and safety were invented!

ROTARY CLUB EVENT RAISES OVER £3,000 FOR BEEP DOCTORS

West Lakeland Rotary Club held their very popular 'Rotating Wheels Show' on Sunday, 8 August. Only 24hrs earlier the monsoon-quality of rain would have ruined the show. However, Sunday morning and sunshine helped bring the crowds

to attend this charity-benefiting extravaganza ... vehicles on display ranging from belt drive single engine, a glorious display of tractors, Ferrari, Rolls Royce, Bond 3-wheeler, rally and sports cars of various makes.

The tractor trundle took place prior to the show with 7/8 tractors completing the run and joining the show on completion.

Brian James, a fellow Rotarian, provided excellent music/entertainment for the day.

A novel idea for the judging was to have a designated entrant in each class to be the judge, thereby avoiding favouritism. Winner in the car category was Rotary member Anthony Millard with his lovely little Morris 8, a car he lovingly



Rotary President Rob Douglas, Trudy & family and Dr Theo Weston MBE.

restored 35years ago. This was the first award he's ever won!

Our local MP Trudy Harrison (a previous visitor to the show) brought some of her family along and having spent time visiting all the displays and vehicles, presented the awards.

Best in show award went to Paul Crone and his Model T Ford. This Award was presented by Dr Theo Weston MBE, who is a member of the BEEP Doctors.

Monies raised are in excess of £3,000 and will be distributed between BEEP Doctors and other local charities.

Next year's event is to be on the third Sunday in July 2022.

Dave Culley and Mike Beaty



What a lovely pair of headlights!



Best in show award (model T Ford) of Paul Crone.



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Rob Steele with his well known wee babe!



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MY SUPPORT FOR NEW NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

I was delighted to bring colleagues together recently to make a compelling case for Copeland to be the location of the first small modular reactors (SMR) in the UK.

I chaired a meeting of key personnel – including Sellafield Ltd, the NDA, Copeland Council and proposed reactor developers Rolls Royce SMR Ltd – in which the joint vision and justification for hosting SMRs in Copeland was outlined to officials from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

SMRs will deliver clean, low-carbon, affordable energy and will play a significant role in the Government's net zero ambitions. Copeland has the required local expertise and skills to manufacture and run the reactors. It also has an extremely knowledgeable and supportive local community.

I am committed to the delivery of a strong nuclear future for Copeland, and bringing SMRs to the borough is the most important achievable priority for the nuclear sector.

This community knows more about nuclear power than anywhere else in Europe. We have a deep talent pool with a track record of safety and delivering nationally-significant projects, and I am lobbying strongly for Copeland to be at the forefront of this new and exciting approach to nuclear.

It was fitting that our meeting took place on the 65th anniversary of Calder Hall – the world's first civil nuclear power plant – being connected to the grid.

The benefits the nuclear industry has brought to our

workers and communities has been felt ever since – and will be long into the future.

It was also my privilege to meet so many talented and enthusiastic young people from Copeland who visited Westminster for the first Nuclear Week in Parliament.

The Nuclear Skills and Apprenticeship Fair was one of the highlights of the week in which apprentices and graduates – including a very sizeable contingent from Copeland – showcased the range of careers and opportunities available in the industry.

There was a real buzz in the room as our area's nuclear expertise and talent – from science and technology to innovation and manufacturing – took pride of place courtesy of the nuclear firms, supply chain and unions in attendance.

Further to showcasing exciting opportunities and innovations, Nuclear Week in Parliament was about reminding everyone that we need nuclear – the most sustainable and efficient clean-energy we have – to achieve our net-zero ambitions.

Trudy Harrison, MP



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“LET ME TELL YOU A BIT ABOUT COPELAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY (CPS).”

We are a relatively small club with about thirty members who enjoy photography at all levels from beginner through to highly qualified and experienced. Most of us simply enjoy photography for fun and pleasure, and weekly club meetings on a Monday evening from September to the end of April give an opportunity to be with like-minded folk.

As a club we offer a full and interesting weekly programme, and members can come as they please, or opt out of a particular evening. During each month we have a guest speaker, or a member shares something of his or her own photography, and we have a monthly club competition with an external judge – always good fun and a great learning experience. We also have the opportunity to take part as a club in one or two external competitions within the region. These

evening presentations offer an excellent opportunity to learn and get new ideas.

We have been meeting on Zoom during Covid restrictions and whilst not all members can have access to this kind of meeting, it has proved to have its advantages. We have been able to have experienced speakers from farther afield, some of whom we could not afford to invite in person because of travel costs. Also for many of our older members it is attractive not to have to travel on a winter's evening. We are continuing to meet via Zoom from September 2021 until Christmas and very likely even after Christmas.

Come and join us and try a couple of sessions before you make a decision to join. We welcome visitors. If you decide to join, our membership fee is £45.00 for the season – September 2021 to end of April 2022. If you would like to have a taster visit on Zoom, or if you would like a phone chat, contact me, *Mary Thompson*, on *01946 841239* or *mobile 07799 033115*.

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THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. It encourages people across the UK to "plant a tree for the jubilee".

Gosforth Parish Council applied for a tree pack through Woodlands Trust and will be receiving 125 free trees in early November 2021. After discussions with The National Trust, we have been given permission to plant the trees on an area of meadowland approximately 0.8 acres (grid reference 1056 0379), near Gaterighow Sawmill, CA20 1ES on the road leading to Wasdale. The land is situated between the River Irt and a new permissive footpath that National Trust is putting in place.

The woodland "Platinum Wood" will become an area for future generations to enjoy. Over the next year we hope to sow meadow flowers and create seating using ash wood from the surrounding woodland. By creating this area, we hope to encourage wildlife and create a peaceful place for you and your families to enjoy for many years.

Planting is due to take place on Sunday 14 November 2021 between 11am and 2pm. Please come along and be part of "Platinum Wood" creation. Bring along family members from all



generations and "plant a tree for the jubilee" together, and then take future generations to show them your tree and to enjoy the area you helped to create. If you have a creative side and would like to help build some seating, please contact Gosforth Parish Council using email address gosforth.parish2@outlook.com

Planting equipment will be provided, but if you have your own shovel then please bring it along. Limited parking will be available on the day at Gaterighow Sawmill.
Rachel Unsworth

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Or if you're a student wanting to research for homework, come in and use the library computer, again free to use and available to everyone.

Need any photocopying, well the library is the place for you, our photocopier does A4 and A3 sizes, black and white or colour, pop in and we'll be happy to help.

And what about the kids, I hear you say. Well we've got that covered too, with a good selection of books in an area where they can sit and draw and colour in too. That should keep them entertained on a rainy day.

And last, but not least, the Library is available to hire. As a community hub, why not consider it for your local club? Knit and Natter, Chess, Sewing Circle, it's the ideal place.

And if all this excites you, why not come along and be a Library Volunteer. It's a great way to meet people and serve your community at the same time.

And it's only for a few hours a month, so what are you waiting for!



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DRIVING MISS DAISY

“Some of our clients do think that we are their very own personal car service!” laughs Viv Kendal who is the Seascale Co-ordinator for the Voluntary Social Car Scheme. “So, it can feel a bit like driving Miss Daisy.”

The Voluntary Social Car Scheme provides essential transport for all members of the community of any age (under 18’s must be accompanied by an adult). This Scheme is intended for those people who have no other means of transport. It provides door-to-door service transport to take people to their chosen destination for a reasonable cost. This can be connecting with public transport, doing the weekly shop, medical appointments, or just to visit friends.

Viv’s group of drivers cover all the local villages and outlying communities and has done so for many years. “I took over about 5 years ago from Joyce Dolton who retired aged 80 after running the service for 17 years” explained Viv. “Even though most of our drivers are based in Seascale we pride ourselves on being inclusive, treating all the villages the same. Of course, I make sure to ask a driver living as close to the client as possible which cuts down the expense to the county.”

When Viv, a retired teacher, moved into Seascale she looked for a way to get involved with the community. “The VSCS was perfect, and when Joyce asked if I would take over the co-ordinator’s role, I really wanted to do it. But I knew I couldn’t do it alone, so I asked hubby Mel if he would support me, and he said “yeah, ok go on then” in his usual nonchalant fashion.” Viv laughs, “and he’s been amazing running it when I go away to visit family, so I don’t have to worry cos I know he’s going to sort out the driving really well.”

It costs just 45p a mile to the client. “The county pays for us to get to the client and then back to base after we’ve dropped them back home, so the client only pays for the mileage after we have picked them up” explained Viv.

These drivers cover a huge area, from Barrow to Carlisle. “We are not allowed to go out of the county,” explains Viv “of course we can but then it would have to be a private arrangement between us and the client.”

“Some days I can have five drivers on the road at any one time” says Viv, who tends to do the lion’s share of the driving herself. “But then some weeks we hardly have any driving.”

Lockdown help

“When the first lockdown happened there were no appointments, so no call-outs. But there were still people who needed to go regularly to hospital for treatments.” Viv herself is vulnerable owing to diabetes.

Most of Viv’s drivers are in their 70’s which meant they couldn’t drive clients during the pandemic. Therefore, all driving fell on Viv’s husband Melvyn who, as a retired police officer, was no stranger to stressful situations.

Viv looked seriously at me and said “but then I decided to take extra precautions and started driving again ‘cos I felt terrible that he was having to do it all. Sue White in Stubble Green also did a few trips, but then her husband is also vulnerable you see, which meant she was unable to do much even though she really wanted too.”

Lockdown became an extremely busy time for the VSCS drivers as they continued to deliver prescriptions and shopping to as many people as they could.

“I remember a young mother, who’d recently moved to Bootle, rang the surgery in a panic because she’d ran out of baby milk. The surgery gave her our number and I said ‘yes of course I will get some to you shortly don’t worry, is there anything else you need?’ She almost started crying with relief. “But that’s what we are here for. I will help anyone out, and glad to do it.” Viv said.

“It’s quite disturbing,” she continues, “that even though everything has opened up again and we are all double jabbed, that some older people continue to be too scared to venture out.” Viv sighed, “But we will go on supporting them as best we can.”

Viv continued. “I really want to thank our drivers because they all do such a fantastic job, I mean we all have lives and things to do, but they are all very committed to helping others.”

“Michael Borwick, Joyce Cummings, Jean Caulfield, Marion Thorton, Jill and Scott Davnall,



Carol Holmes, Cherill Thornton, Susan White and Melvyn Kendal. And a big thanks to David Batten, who has recently retired from the scheme but drove all last year.”

Viv’s bubbly personality is infectious and there’s nothing she enjoys more than spreading it around. “I will often go and have coffee and a biscuit with some of my old ladies, because I feel terrible that they are all alone. So, we sit and have a chat and a laugh.”

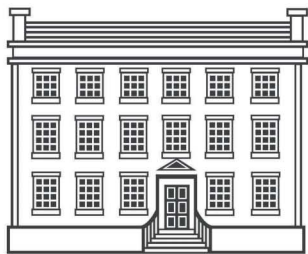
It was lovely meeting up with Viv and finding out about the Voluntary Social Car Scheme that I’d no idea was available in the area. I found it heart-warming to learn about the wonderful group of dedicated volunteers who give up their time to support others in need. The Voluntary Social Car Scheme is a vital service that’s filling the gap left by the lack of public transport.

During 2020 I witnessed so much caring and support that it was off the scale and the VSCS drivers played a huge part in that effort. It made me very thankful that I live in Seascale during what have been unprecedented times.

Vivienne Tregidga

More drivers are needed

Viv desperately needs more drivers, especially in Gosforth, so if anyone would like to volunteer please call Katie Wood, the Cumbria County Council Voluntary Transport Officer, on 0333 240 69 65 option 5, mobile number 07788 396 194 or email: integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk and get your name down; even if you can only do one drive a week, that would be extremely helpful to Viv.



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Realising Development Potential

DESTRUCTION OF THE FISHERMAN'S BRIDGE ON THE RIVER IRT

(A FOLLOW-UP TO AN ARTICLE IN LAST SUMMER'S EDITION OF TETHERA)

Since writing the previous article we have been on a Roller-Coaster ride of Highs and Lows.

After addressing Gosforth Parish Council via a Zoom Meeting in April, where I expressed my concerns that as the project was going ahead without planning consent, the usual platform whereby people could raise objections wasn't there. That was because the West Cumbria Rivers Trust was being funded by The Environment Agency. They believed that the project could be completed by using The Environment Agency's permitted development clause. We checked this with The Lake District National Park and their initial response was that rerouting a river the size of the Irt would require an Environmental Impact Assessment, but later decided that this might not be the case. However, if The Environment Agency is allowed to dictate to The Lake District National Park what does and doesn't need planning permission within the bounds of a World Heritage Site and National Park this begs many questions... Regardless, Gosforth Parish Council came to the conclusion that provided the West Cumbria Rivers Trust wasn't acting illegally, then until (and if) the project came before them under planning, there was nothing further that they could do.

Meanwhile, we had been trying to contact both the Environment Agency and National Trust to try and establish a dialogue. This we were unable to do, and we even resorted to writing to Jane Saxon, the local National Trust General Manager, sending letters by a tracked service, but still no replies were forthcoming.

We then contacted the offices of our local MP, Trudy Harrison, and they were very helpful. Trudy also wrote to The National Trust, but just had the same lack of response that we did.

It was then suggested to us that, as we were unable to establish a dialogue with The National Trust over keeping this much-loved riverside route and bridge open, we should attempt to have the route registered as a public right of way. So we started gathering evidence from people who had



The hole where the bridge used to be. Carolyn Sayers



Red and Ben heartbroken by removal of the bridge. Carolyn Sayers

been using the path over the past decades, downloaded and printed off multiple copies of The Lake District National Park Form E's and distributed these to the people who had contacted us and expressed a desire to keep the route open. On 7 July we submitted our application.

The terminology is an application for a Definitive Map Modification Order – or a DMMO. This was picked up the following week by the Countryside Access Adviser for The Lake District National Park Authority.

Then on 17 August two things happened:

- 1) Closure notices were posted on the approach to The Fisherman's Bridge and barriers erected to prevent people crossing it.
- 2) Work by the West Cumbria Rivers Trust continued with trees being felled into the river Irt, upstream of the bridge.

Although this wasn't what we were hoping for we continued doing what we could, but with little



Trees felled across the River Irt.

effect and then in August received a letter from the offices of Trudy Harrison – Trudy had written to The Lake District National Park and received an encouraging reply from them stating that they were “aware of local community concern about the proposal by The West Cumbria Rivers Trust and The National Trust”. The letter went on to say that if there was clear evidence one way or another that a decision on the DMMO might be made as soon as March 2022, but if evidence was in dispute and/or appeals were launched that it could go on a lot longer than that. But, that if our application for the DMMO is eventually successful that “The Land Owner will have to reinstate the footpath along the legal line.”

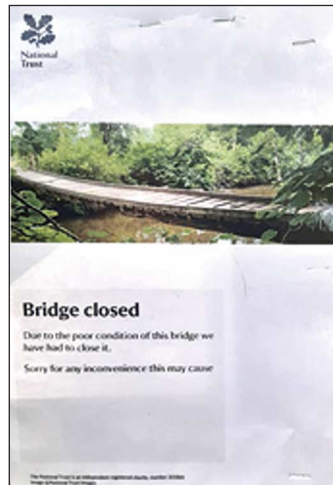
So, our thinking was that there is every chance that, eventually, the route will be both reinstated and protected against future development.

Therefore, we were very disappointed to see Chris West of The West Cumbria Rivers Trust, overseeing the demolition of the footbridge on Thursday, 16 September.

So, I’m afraid it’s a case of Watch This Space,

but at the same time, don’t hold your breath as this looks as though it could take some time to resolve. Meanwhile we have lost a popular and well-used riverside walk, but hopefully only temporarily!

Rob Steele



Bridge closure notices on the gate into The Black Wood.

REMEMBRANCE

In Gosforth church there are memorials to a number of servicemen who died during the Second World War.



reason being that there were concerns that the manufacture of Merlin engines was vulnerable to German bombing and that those being

One of particular interest is for Pilot Officer John Birnie (aged 20) who was piloting a Lancaster bomber to when it was shot down approaching its base at Witchford with a loss of all seven on board. They had been returning from a bombing raid on a rail marshalling yard at Rouen in France. The bombing raid had consisted of a flight of 273 Lancasters and 16 Mosquitoes from a number of different squadrons with Wing Commander Leonard Cheshire leading the pathfinders, much destruction was caused, and it was classed as a success. No aircraft were lost on the raid itself however two Lancasters were intercepted by German night fighters as they approached to land at their home base.

What actually happened was the undercarriage of a Lancaster collapsed on landing and Birnie had to start circling to enable the runway to be cleared, it was then he was shot down; he was the third youngest on board. This was followed by a further Lancaster being shot down half an hour later, again with all its crews being lost. The German pilot who shot down Birnie was himself killed three days later over Norfolk and Suffolk when attacking American planes returning from raids on the Continent.

John (Jock) Birnie had been a member of the Home Guards and the Gosforth Air Training Corp. He was the son of Walter and Bessie Birnie of Spout House, he had a sister and sung in the church choir.

Birnie had been flying an Avro Lancaster Mk II which was the only version of the Lancasters which did not have Rolls Royce Merlin engines. It had Bristol Hercules radial air-cooled engines. The

made in America (by Packard) may be diverted if America entered the war. Ironically it was Armstrong Whitworth's works where the Mk II Lancasters were being built that suffered bomb damage causing delays while Rolls Royce was free from serious damage. The Mk IIs could only achieve an altitude of 18,400 feet against the Mk I which could operate at 22,000 feet. The Mk II was more robust than the Mk I and was a welcomed improvement on the Wellingtons which the squadron had been flying. A second problem was that the Mk II could only carry a 14,000 lb bomb load against the 18,000 lb capability of the Mk I. Squadron 115 which Birnie was attached too consisted of personnel from various cadet groups across the country and was in the process of upgrading their Lancasters to ones with Merlin engines. Witchford is a village close to Ely in Cambridgeshire.

**Another
airman
remembered
in Gosforth is
Sergeant
William
Casson**



(aged 21) he has the only official War Graves headstone in the churchyard. His grave is rather unusually marked, with the headstone appearing to be facing the wrong way.

It can be deduced that he has been buried in a family plot and rather than blocking the front of the rather fine family headstone his headstone has been planted at the foot of the grave. The most recent marking on the family headstone is for Dorothy Franklin who died in 2014 aged 100, could this be his sister or cousin.

Casson's parents were Henry and Olive Casson who lived in Sothorn Rhodesia. He was the Wireless Operator/Air Gunner on a Halifax. There is quite a story to tell about him and his brother which is being left to a later time.

Another is Lieutenant Commander Austin Keene (aged 39) son of the Gosforth vicar Revered Rees Keene and Louisa Keene, he was husband to Euphemia Keene of Torphins, Aberdeenshire. He was lost in June 1940 with the sinking of the aircraft carrier HMS Glorious off the coast of Norway by a German battle group including the battleship Scharnhorst. The incident was such an embarrassment for the Government and the Navy that the files on it were marked "Closed until 2041".

However there is sufficient information available to write about it before then.



Finally we have Donald Percy Vincent Gibb (aged 21) he is one of the three servicemen listed here by the War Graves Commission. He was attached to the RAF Volunteer Reserve as an aircraftsman 1st class. There is no record of him in the Gosforth Church or Churchyard but his name appears on the war memorial at Muncaster.

Unfortunately he along with four soldiers lost their lives as a result of a road accident between an army lorry and a brewer's wagon in Yorkshire in November 1941.

David Gray



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The Seascale & Sellafield Royal British Legion Branch can help you if you are ex armed forces and need a hand up in life.

We also put the fun back into fund raising, both through the annual poppy appeal and at events throughout the year.

We are the custodians of remembrance in the area, organising events to remember the fallen in all wars or conflicts and mark several occasions for the public to join in on, throughout the year.

If you would like to help our fund-raising efforts or be trained to become a community support worker – helping the veterans' community around here, please go online and join this branch today on this

[linkhttp://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/seascale-and-sellafield-branch/photo-gallery](http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/seascale-and-sellafield-branch/photo-gallery)

then click on 'join a branch' at the base of the page.

The Seascale & Sellafield branch meets on the 2nd Tuesday in even-numbered months at the Lion and Lamb's side room, Gosforth at 18:30.



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ANCIENT TIMBERS ON DRIGG BEACH IN 2018



1. Timbers washed ashore in January 2018.



2. Timbers washed ashore in January 2018 showing the Furring construction.

When Storm FIONN hit the beaches around Drigg during January 2018, five ship's frame timbers were washed ashore. Drigg Local History Group committee member Alan Bell discovered them and investigated their age and construction further.

In some examples, the planking was over 6 metres in length, and the timbers were fixed using Trenails (a hard wooden pin used in ship building for centuries). Alan contacted Gustav Milne of the CiTIZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) project at the Museum of London who sent two Archaeologists from York to record, photograph and measure the timbers as well as to take samples. (See pictures 1 & 2).

It was later discovered that a further 21 timbers had been brought to the surface and deposited near the low tide mark in February 2018. When further details and measurements were sent to CiTIZAN a stronger team was despatched. This consisted of the two York archaeologists, a marine archaeologist and English Heritage dendrologists. (See pictures 3 and 4)

The expanded team set off from Drigg beach car park in the dark to give maximum time on the low tide wrecks. Many samples were taken from the both sets of timbers and planks and sent to Lampeter University for dendrochronology analysis.

There was a possibility that the timbers could have dated from Tudor times which would have been a rare discovery. The five Timbers on the beach showed a rare example of 'furring'. The 'Gresham Ship' built in 1574 and discovered in the Thames in 2003 is the only example of 'furring' to be seen in modern times. 'Furring' is a shipbuilding process which involves taking off the outer planking in order to increase the breadth of a ship by doubling the frames and then re-planking, so increasing the buoyancy. This corrects the poor design of a ship, which are difficult to sail.

Sadly, this 21-plank wreck turned out to be a much later example of correcting a poor ship design to improve the handling of a so called 'cranked ship'. The timbers were dated late 1700

3. Timbers washed ashore in February 2018 – subsequently dated as 1775-1825.



to early 1800 (1775-1825) as no growth rings near the bark were found. Such old ship-wreck timbers are still rare, 96% of wrecks being post 1840. Remnants of these wrecks can still be found on Drigg beach although they have been moved up and along the high water mark.
Chris Gigg

4. Another view of the timbers washed ashore in February 2018.





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WHY CAN'T RED AND GREY SQUIRRELS CO-EXIST?

As well as eating all the same foods that red squirrels can eat, grey squirrels are able to supplement their diet with food that is unsuitable for red squirrels, and can live at a higher population density than the reds. As a result, the arrival of grey squirrels in an area occupied by red squirrels tends to cause a reduction in red squirrel breeding and survival rates through competition for food.

Red Squirrels

The red squirrel is native to Britain, but its future is increasingly uncertain as the introduced American grey squirrel expands its range across the mainland. It is thought that at the beginning of the 20th century the British red squirrel population was 2-3 million but now it is estimated at less than 120 thousand, with the majority of the British population being located in Scotland.

Red squirrels are primarily seed eaters. They prefer to eat nuts, seed cones from pine, larch and spruce, fungi and the fruits of shrubs and trees. When food is plentiful they put on weight in the autumn to help them through the winter. This is important for females so that they are in good condition for producing young in the spring.

The red squirrel may have two litters of around 3 to 4 young (kittens/kits) per year but their breeding is affected by food shortages owing to competition from grey squirrels and, if food is scarce, only one smaller litter will be produced.

The red squirrel is a protected species in the UK and is included in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is an offence to intentionally kill or injure a red squirrel or intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any structure or place a red squirrel uses for shelter or protection, or disturb a red squirrel while it occupies such a place.

Grey Squirrels

Since its introduction to the UK the grey squirrel population has steadily expanded and has drastically decreased our native red squirrel numbers in England to the point where only a few small pockets of red squirrels remain.

The grey squirrel will eat all the same foods as the red squirrel but will also raid the nests of birds

In addition, grey squirrels can also carry the squirrel pox virus (SPVP) which causes severe disease and mortality in red squirrels without causing any symptoms in the grey carriers. Outbreaks of squirrel pox in red squirrel populations cause absolute devastation.

We have also suffered outbreaks of SPVP locally in West Cumbria, where we have seen the populations of reds almost totally wiped out.

and eat eggs and young chicks; they will eat the bark of some trees and they can digest seeds with high tannin content, such as acorns, more efficiently than reds. The greys are able to eat much of the red squirrel's diet at an earlier stage of ripeness, leaving much less available for the reds when they are able to digest it.

The more varied, and therefore more abundant, food supply means that grey squirrels will typically have two litters of 4 to 6 young per year but may have up to 8 in a litter in favourable conditions.

Grey squirrels feature in the IUCN's list of the world's 100 worst invasive species. If they continue to spread there may come a time when red squirrel numbers fall below the point of recovery and the species may become extinct in the UK.

The Grey Squirrel Order of 1937 made it illegal in the UK to import, keep, provide veterinary support to, or release grey squirrels into the wild. However, the population of grey squirrels continues to grow and expand into the red squirrel habitat.

What's being done for Red Squirrels?

Red Squirrels Northern England is a partnership organisation between the Red Squirrel Survival Trust, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Wildlife Trusts. As well as the main project partners, it also incorporates local volunteer groups, under the umbrella organisation of Northern Red Squirrels, working together to help conserve red squirrels through the humane culling of grey squirrels and supplementary feeding of red squirrels in areas where red and grey squirrel populations are converging.

Culling of animals as a means of population control is controversial; however it is a necessity if we are going to conserve red squirrels and right

now it is the only effective means by which we can control the grey squirrel numbers.

On a positive note, it has been shown recently and widely reported in the press that red squirrel populations are increasing in areas where grey squirrel numbers have been reduced.

What can I do to help locally?

The volunteer group that operates across the Copeland area is the Copeland Red Squirrel Group (CRSG); the members of this group refill and monitor dozens of feeders across the region. They are also available to respond to reports of grey squirrel sightings and to carry out control activities where this is viable.

Group members fund their own transport, equipment and insurance costs but public donations are needed to help fund the purchase of feed, which is the main expense, but also the feeders themselves, monitoring equipment and humane live capture traps.

By donating directly to CRSG you would be helping them to continue their work to save the red squirrels in our area and you can be assured that all monies donated will be used solely for red squirrel conservation work in West Cumbria.

You can donate via PayPal to copeland.rsg@hotmail.com or by cheque payable to Copeland RSG and posted to CRSG, 16 Townfield Close, Ravenglass CA18 1SL

Pauline Sanders



Painting by Pauline Sanders



TODAY'S TUFTY



In today's climate it is difficult to find funding when there are so many other worthy causes, but if we don't try, future generations of children will see the red squirrel consigned to just photos in a book. When our native red squirrels have disappeared from our countryside it will be too late; grey squirrels are already seen as 'normal' in most parts of the country and have been seen often in Seascale. Here is Pauline's painting of our reinvention of Tufty in schools – not only as a road safety campaign but for children to know about the plight of the red squirrel and how important it is. For more info about reds and greys turn back to pages 54 and 55.