

GOSFORTH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Photo: David Culley



MARCH 2013

Hardknott Bar & Cafe at the Woolpack Inn Boot, ESKDALE

How far? Not that far, really!



- Good Friday - TGI Friday "Fish, Chips & Rock 'n' Roll" -
- Easter Saturday - Pace Egg Rolling down Hardknott -
 - Easter Sunday - Eco Duck Race -
 - Easter Monday - Real Egg Hunt -
- 5th April TGI Friday - "Fish, Chips & Rock 'n' Roll" -
 - 26th - 27th April - Cider Festival -
 - 25th - 31st May - Eskdale Carnival Week -
 - Sunday 26th - Roman Family fun day with Graham Brown
 - Monday 27th - Roman Chariot Race
 - 6th - 9th June - Boot Beer Festival -

DRINK - DINE - DOZE

B&B from £30 pppn
Free WiFi
Plenty of Real Ales
Guest Draught Lagers

Tasty Pub Grub
Vodka Bar
Woodburning Pizza Oven
Loyalty Card Scheme

woolpack.co.uk
01946 723 230



GOSFORTH

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER

Editor: David Gray 019467 25318. Production: Trevor Preece trevor@trpub.net

With a very wet and misty winter behind us, we hope, it is time to look forward to the coming months so this newsletter is covering some ideas of what can be done or seen in our own area. The parish survey yielded a strong indication that we should boost tourism, which we can do simply by supporting local visitor attractions ourselves and encouraging others to do the same. So I make no apology for the advertising nature of some of the articles. On another note it is very gratifying to see an increasing number of volunteers and regular helpers devoting time and energy to maintaining the ambience of the village. Credit was given in the last newsletter to those who had taken on the responsibility of maintaining the parish benches, the majority of which have now been done. Diane Pomford now looks after two tubs of plants at the entrance of Denton Park, David Moore has provided a replacement notice board in the car park, Paula Waite has redrawn the tourist map of the village and improvements continue to the surrounds of the car park. Thanks to all those who have contributed.

The newsletter gives a big welcome to Graham Parker on joining the parish council, and not only that, he is now a member of the newsletter's editorial team.

I do have an apology to make. Surely I am allowed a mistake occasionally? The flooding photographs in the last issue of the Newsletter were all taken by Chris Himsworth. The mistake came about because the photos were given to me by two different people. Sorry.

David Gray

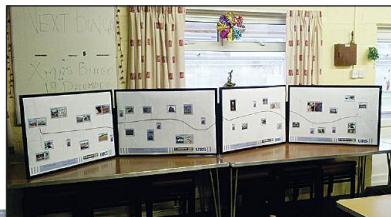
PROGRESS WITH THE VIKING WAY (CYCLEWAY)

On Wednesday 12 December a consultation open day was held. Members of the project team were present initially at Seascale and later in the day at Gosforth. The results of the consultation have now been summarised; they showed a remarkable similarity between the positive and negative comments made at both meetings. The idea which had the highest number of positive comments was "Viking" and the lowest was "Nuclear". Others which received high positive comments were "Romans", "Rural Art", "Inspired Seating", "Rural Signs", "Interpretation

Boards", "School Art" and "Cycle Stands".

There is, however, something to report regarding progress. A planning application for the complete route has now been submitted to the Borough Council. This has been long awaited and comes after over some years of effort to promote the project by the two parish councils involved.

We should all be aware that although this route is continually referred to as the cycleway it is being progressed as a multi-user route for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, pram pushers and wheelchairs. It will be known as the Viking Way.



NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Following the resignation of Gillian Jackson the parish council has co-opted Graham Parker as our newest parish councillor. The February parish council meeting was his first initiation into council matters. Graham has lived in the village most of his life and has strong family connections with the Parish; from youth he has been a member of probably all the local clubs and societies open to boys from Cubs to Young Farmers and was for many years a mainstay on the cricket team.

Attending Gosforth Primary School from the age of 5 and subsequently going on to Wyndham School and 6th form, Graham gained a degree in Project Management which he is now putting to good use working with James Fisher Nuclear Ltd in Egremont. Following his involvement with the 2012 Golden Jubilee celebrations, Graham welcomes joining the parish council to work with the community and play his part in maintaining Gosforth as a beautiful and

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Mike M. McKinley 26267

Councillors

David. Ancell 25232

Claire Gallery-Strong 25114

David. Gray 25318

Graham Hutson 25477

Alan Jacob 25356

Tyson Norman 25646 (home)

01946 841413 (work)

Graham Parker 25470

Ian Rae 25393

Chris Walton 25526

Dick Wright 25296

Clerk

David Polhill 24327

welcoming village and sustaining its future for all its residents and future generations, particularly as he soon hopes to start his own future generation!

LIBRARY NEWS

The Village Reading Room situated on the ground floor of our grade two listed building dated 1623 is leased to the County Council by the Gosforth Public Hall Council of Management to run as a Public Library and has been successfully operating to date giving valuable income to help maintain our Hall.

Last year the County Council ran a consultation to determine local opinion as to how the Library Service could be improved and the resulting information was brought forward to a public meeting in Gosforth Public Hall on 10 December.

At that meeting the question of opening hours was the major topic. For some time now the Library opens on Mondays 09.30 to 12.00, Wednesdays 15.00 to 18.30, Fridays 10.00 to 12.00 and Saturdays 10.30 to 12.30.

With the current financial situation, as there is little possibility of extending these opening hours due to the cost of staffing, the idea of using volunteers to cover additional hours was put forward and discussed. Other issues such as improving the limited range of books available, use of computers as an internet café, and access to tourist information, were also suggested as ways of increasing the footfall through the door.

The County Council advised that a number of Libraries throughout Cumbria had created local user

groups as "Friends of the Library" and this had given beneficial results. As a result of this information it was agreed to hold a further meeting which was held on 28 January and at that meeting, after further discussion, the County Council agreed to look at ways and means of implementing the suggestions made.

There is now a proposal from the County Council to make the opening hours more uniform and change them to Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays 10.00 to 12.00 hours and on a Wednesday 14.00 to 18.00 hours. For those wishing to comment on this proposal, there are comment slips available in the Library.

FLOOD REPORT

The county council engineer's report on the flooding in Gosforth is planned to be presented in draft form at a public meeting in Gosforth towards the end of April. This will be a final draft and the meeting will be an opportunity for the community to comment on the report. The county will use any feedback from the meeting to make any corrections or amendments that the community feels necessary before the final report is published.



BADGERS IN THE PARISH

Interesting information and a number of facts have come to light as a result of the work done associated with the necessary surveys prior to proceeding with the actual construction of the Viking cycleway, none more so than the badger survey. Records of sightings around the Newton Wood area go back to 1969; they have been made mainly by members of the West Cumbria Badger Group and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust Mammal Special Interest Group. An active sett was recorded in 1996, 1990, 1991, 1995, 2003, 2009 & 2012. On many of those occasions cubs were also recorded. Nine deaths on the road were recorded during that same period, a particular one being in March 1998 when a suckling female was found dead but her two cubs were rescued. Other incidents recorded include one when seismic surveys were carried out in 1993 which caused badgers to abandon their sett for several months (or were killed) and another in 1995 when badger digging with spades was recorded. In 1998 there was a case of Cymag poisoning and there is a record of badger baiting with dogs in 2000.

Regarding the cycleway, the only evidence of badgers close to the proposed route is a disused entrance to a sett. The nearest sett has been fully surveyed and all current entrances identified fortunately are at a sufficient distance not to interfere with the construction of the cycleway.

MUNCASTER MICROBUS DRIVERS NEEDED.

Volunteer drivers are wanted for the Muncaster Microbus which operates from Ravenglass, running weekly shopping trips and fortnightly day trips around Cumbria. Once a week, once a month, whatever time you can spare. For full information telephone: 01229 717229.

Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society
presents

LADIES



DAY



a comedy by
Amanda Whittington

Nightly Thursday
6 June
to Saturday
8 June

Doors open 7pm

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets available on the door

Work, love and life are one hard slog for the fish-filleting Yorkshire foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. Their luck changes when they find tickets to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot when it is relocated to York. Out go the hairnets and overalls as the girls do themselves up and head for the races. As the day unfolds, the champagne flows, secrets spill out and their horses keep winning.

By the last race, the girls are on course for a life-changing win.

PURCHASE OF THE CAR PARK

The Parish Council has been responsible for the management and maintenance of the car park (including the toilet block) via a leasing arrangement with Copeland BC from 1993. This lease was due to finish in 2013. The financial burden for maintenance and upkeep, some £8000 per year, has fallen on the Parish Council, paid for out of the annual precept. Some seven years ago the Parish Council made initial attempts to persuade the Borough Council to transfer ownership of the facility; however it was not interested.

A well-attended Public Meeting in 2003 fully supported the Parish Council in keeping the car park charge-free, and the toilet block as a functioning facility. With much talk in Government circles about 'Localism' and more efficient management of public assets, the Parish Council tried again to get the Borough Council interested in handing over the facility. It has been an uphill fight despite the enthusiasm and support of some of the council's officers. However the latest round of Government spending restrictions has possibly caused reality to kick in, and from a position of 'Not having a policy to transfer council assets' we have now got to the stage

where a draft contract for the asset transfer has been drawn up, and discussions with the Borough Council's legal team have taken place. The Parish Council has been keen to ensure that the terms of the contract are not unduly restrictive and that legal matters, such as an existing way-leave for discharge of sewage are clarified.

One piece of good news is that the actual purchase price, having negotiated all the Government hurdles eg 'Value for money', will be £1. At this moment in time we are waiting to see an amended contract, and following positive advice from the Parish Council's solicitors there seems no reason to believe that the long awaited transfer should not go ahead, although the final decision has to be made by the Borough Council and not its officers. *D.A. Polhill. Clerk to Gosforth Parish Council*

PDFs of back issues of the Gosforth newsletter are available on Trevor Preece's website, who compiles it. There are also recent issues of the Seascale and Drigg Parish Council newsletters/magazines. Go to www.trpub.net and then to the village of your choice.

A NOVEL GOSFORTH PANTOMIME!

In the beginning of December the Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society put on The Pompeii Panto "in the round" with the audience seated on all four sides of the stage. The panto written by Jim Sperinck is set in Roman times around a plot to replace the Emperor with a pompous senator played by Alistair Norwood.

The stars of the show were teenager Matthew

Harper who played the part of Gladioli, the son of the dame, and Karen Polmeare the panto's director who stepped in at the last minute to play Vanilla the dame. Teenagers Joe Barker and Eli Hughes were well cast as the two comics and throughout the panto kept up the pace of the show. Andy Williams (Seascale's butcher) performed his stage debut as the



Emperor Nero. The cast handled the challenge of having the audience all around them by movements round the whole stage and with the audience so close there was more than the usual audience participation. The society has a lot to be proud off particularly as they have over recent years encouraged many youngsters to become involved and to consider acting as a career.

**Andy Williams
as Emperor Nero.**

TAKE THE TRAIN FROM SEASCALE

Seascale railway station has seen some improvements during 2012, including new sustainable waiting shelters and Harrington Humps on each platform to make easier access on and off the train.

In December 2012, the timetable change brought further improvements to the Cumbrian Coast line, with an additional southbound train in the early afternoon on Mondays to Fridays calling at Seascale, and all trains on Saturdays being formed by two carriages.

Taking the train is now easier for everyone at Seascale, whether for commuting to work, visiting friends and family, or taking a shopping trip to Barrow, Carlisle, Whitehaven or Workington. It is also a great way to visit the Ratty and have a car-free day in Eskdale – buy a through-ticket and save £4.00 adult and £2.00 child on the usual combined fares.

Train timetables can be obtained from the Post Office, the Library and Beach Stores in Seascale, or a copy may be downloaded from northernrail.org. Alternatively, for train times and fares, call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50.

For more information on The Cumbrian Coast Railway, please visit www.cumbriancoastline.co.uk

Iain Aldred, Marketing Manager, West Northern Rail Limited

Keith Bradshaw, Northern Rail Volunteer Station Adopter



Around Gosforth there are four gardens participating in the National Gardens Open for Charity scheme.

At **Beckstones** in Eskdale (picture above) there is a one and a half acre mature garden with a large selection of specimen trees and shrubs. It has mixed borders with many interesting and unusual perennials, a wildlife pond and waterfall, vegetable garden and marvellous views of the Eskdale Fells. It is open courtesy of Ron and Audrey Postlethwaite on Sunday 5 May from 10am to 5pm.

At **Galesyke** in Wasdale there is a large partially landscaped garden on the banks of the river Irt with views of the Wasdale Fells noted for its display of

GARDEN OPEN DAYS

rhododendrons and azaleas. Despite not having all the damage repaired which was caused by flooding in 2009 it is open courtesy of Christine and Mike McKinley on Sunday 26 and Monday 27 May between 11am and 5pm.

In Gosforth at **Buckbarrow House** in Denton Park Court there is a small densely planted garden with a number of compartments including a wild life pond, shrub area, cottage garden, borders and a natural stream. There is also a Japanese style garden with a gravelled area, a decorative stone front garden and favourite plant acers. It is also open on 26 and 27 of May between 11am and 5pm, courtesy of John Maddison.

Tucked away within the hamlet of Hallsenna and less than two miles from the village there is a one acre garden at **Hall Senna** which provides the visitor with many different aspects of gardening. The site includes borders fully planted for year round colour and many delightful structures built to provide interest. This garden is open courtesy of Chris and Helen Steele on Sunday 28 July from 10.30am to 5pm.

Further details on these gardens and others throughout the country can be found on the National Gardens Scheme's web site: www.ngs.org.uk

EVENTS CALENDAR in and around Gosforth

- 29 March-1 April – Friday to Monday.** Ratty Teddy Bears Picnic. Easter Bank Holiday. See page 29.
- 30-31 March – Saturday-Sunday.** Santon Bridge Festival. Art, craft and local food fair. 10am-4pm, Santon Bridge Village Hall. Free entrance and parking. See page 25.
- 30 March – Saturday.** World Owl Trust at Dalegarth Station. See panel.
- 4 April – Thursday.** World Owl Trust Conservation Day. See panel.
- 5 April – Friday.** Fish and Chip Supper at Dalegarth Station. See panel.
- 17 April – Wednesday.** Cumbria Wildlife Group. "Why Manage Deer" by Laurie Walton. 7.30pm Gosforth Methodist Room. See page 36.
- 3 May – Friday.** Fish and Chip Supper at Dalegarth Station. See panel.
- 4-6 May – Saturday-Monday.** Muncaster Castle Feast of Flowers. See panel.
- 4-6 May – Saturday-Monday.** Art in Irton Group Exhibition. Santon Bridge Village Hall. Refreshments available.
- 18 May – Saturday.** Steam and Ramble with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. 10.30am. 5-mile guided walk from Irton Road to Dalegarth. Transport included in price £10 adult and child £5. Adult with cream tea £14. Child £7. Book via www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk
- 18 May – Saturday.** Gosforth Nursery Open Day. 2pm at the Nursery. Cream teas a village treasure hunt. Details: 019467 25800..
- 25-27 May – Saturday-Monday.** Eskdale Art Show. 10am to 4.30pm, St Bega's School, Eskdale. Art for sale including paintings, prints, wood turning, ceramics, jewellery, cards and craft. Cafe. Free parking and admission.
- 25-29 May – Saturday-Wednesday.** Muncaster Festival. See panel.
- 1 June – Saturday.** World Owl Trust at Dalegarth Station. See panel.
- 1 June – Saturday.** Steam and Ramble with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. 10.30am. 5-mile guided walk from Irton Road to Dalegarth. Transport included in price £10 adult and

RATTY EVENTS

Ratty Teddy Bears Picnic. Free travel for children who bring teddy bear! See page 29.

29 March to 1 April – Friday to Monday

World Owl Trust at Dalegarth station. 10am-4pm.

30 March – Saturday 1 June – Saturday

27 July – Saturday

Fish & Chip Suppers, Dalegarth. Train departs Ravenglass at 6pm and returns from Dalegarth at 8pm. £10 per person inclusive. Details www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk

5 April – Friday 3 May – Friday

7 June – Friday

MUNCASTER CASTLE

World Owl Trust Conservation Day, Owl Centre, Muncaster Castle. Normal rates of admission and times.

4 April – Thursday

Feast of Flowers. Floral displays in the Church and Castle by Millom & District Flower Club, free garden tours and cooking with flowers demonstrations.

4-6 May (Spring Bank Holiday) – Saturday to Monday

Muncaster Festival. Daily shows, husky rides, outdoor games, storytelling and more. Final day International Jester Tournament and the Fool of Muncaster will be crowned. See www.muncaster.co.uk

25-29 May – Saturday to Wednesday

child £5. Adult with cream tea £14. Child £7. Book via www.ravenglass-railway.co.uk

6-9 June – Thursday-Sunday. King George IV Local Real Ales Weekend. Eskdale. Live music Friday & Saturday. See p13.

7 June – Friday. Fish and Chip Supper at Dalegarth Station. See panel.

8 June – Saturday. Cumbrian Railways Association summer field trip to the slate railways in Honister and Fleetwith Pike areas. Details will be at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or 019467 28296.

21-23 June – Friday-Sunday. Whitehaven Festival. www.richardsonsofwhitehaven.co.uk/whitehaven-festival.

27 July – Saturday. World Owl Trust at Dalegarth Station. See panel.

26 August – Saturday. Black Combe Country Fair, Bootle. For trade stand applications: Anne Fretwell 01946 27117.

REGULAR EVENTS

Beavers. Every Wednesday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Blengdale Runners. Outdoor training sessions for all abilities. Meet Gosforth Hall at 7pm every Tuesday and a fairly gentle run on the beach from Seascale Car Park every Sunday at 9.30am.

Brownies. Meet one evening each week in Gosforth during school term time. Contact Lisa Wilford 019467 25425.

Cubs. Every Monday during school term time, 5.30pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

Drigg and Holmrook Family Group/Playgroup. Every Monday during term time from 9.30 to 11.30am in Drigg Parish Hall. Contact 24376 for details.

Drigg Young Farmers. Tuesdays 7.30-9pm, Gosforth Methodist Church. Julie Jenkinson 01229 718723.

Gosforth & District Art Society. Every Monday but with breaks for Easter, summer and Christmas. 6.45-9pm, Gosforth Village School. Also Thursday mornings 10am to 12am in Seascale Methodist School Room. Contact Jakki Barratt: jakki@karletta.co.uk.

Gosforth & District Probus Club. First Tuesday every month at 10.15am for 10.45am at the Bridge Inn, Santon Bridge.

Gosforth All Stars. Meets every Sunday morning in the Methodist Room from 10.00 to 11.30 (now ages 4-11). For further information ring 25801 (evenings) or 25377.

Gosforth Baby and Toddler Group. Tuesday mornings in Term Time from 10am to 11.30am in St Mary's Room. Contact Norma (25366) or Sheila (25251) for details.

Gosforth Goslings. Gosforth Breastfeeding Group. Every Monday 11am, Gosforth Nursery. Details: 019467 25800.

Gosforth Goslings. 3rd Monday of each month, St. Mary's Church, 2.15pm. A short informal service for Under 5's and their families/carers. All welcome. (No service in August).

Gosforth Indoor Bowls. Every Wednesday, 2-4pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Equipment provided. Contact Judith Duckett 019467 25659

Gosforth Library. Opening times – Monday 9.30am-12 noon. Wednesday 3pm-6.30pm, Friday 10am-12 noon, Saturday 10.30am-12.30pm.

Gosforth Mothers Union. Monthly, usually on a Wednesday. Venues vary – contact Ruth Schofield 019467 25300 for more details.

Gosforth Parish Council Meetings. Second Wednesday of each month. 7.30pm (7pm if there is an invited speaker) in Supper Room, Gosforth Public Hall.

Gosforth Pre-School Music Group. 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month, 10am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Gosforth Women's Institute. 1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact Benita Livesey 019467 25381.

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

Health Visitor monthly 'Drop In' session. 3rd Friday of each month, 9.30am, Gosforth Nursery. Contact 019467 25800 for details.

Holmrook Reading Room Music Club. Thursdays from 7.30pm. Bring your own instrument and a desire to be better at jazz improvisation. Peter Smith: 01946 822489.

Knit and Chat Group. Second Monday of every month in Woodlands Cafe, Santon Bridge. £3 covers drink and cake. It's a very informal group of varying interests and abilities, with tuition available if needed. Drop in from 2 to 4pm. Contact Sarah Millard 25365.

Line Dancing. Every Monday. 7.30pm, Windscale Club, Seascale. £2.00 donation to charity.

Moky. Keep fit dance class on Mondays, 7.15pm, Seascale School.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A General Meeting. Third Thursday every month 10.15am for 10.45am in Gosforth Public Hall. Membership is £5 per year which covers membership for all the groups. In addition there is a small admission charge for each U3A meeting. Contact: Graham Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A History Group. First Wednesday every month at 11am in Drigg Village Hall. Contact: David Huyton 01946 841362.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Discovery Group. Fourth Wednesday every month 10.15am for 10.45am in St Mary's Room. Contact: Graham Hutson 25477.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Singing for Fun Group. First Thursday every month 2.30pm to 4pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Seascale. Contacts: Gavin Walker 26474 or Xandra Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Art Appreciation Group. Second Thursday every month 10.30am in St Joseph's Church Hall Seascale. Contact Jean Taylor 28713.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Mah Jong Group. (House Group Gosforth) Second and fourth Mondays every month 2pm to 5pm. Contact Xandra Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Reading Group. (House Group Gosforth) Fourth Thursday every month between 10.45am and 12.00noon in a private house. Contact: Jean Taylor 28713.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Discussion Group. Third Tuesday every month between 10am and 12noon in a private house. Contact: Graham Brassington 25794.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Photography Group. Second Tuesday every month in the Beckermet Reading Room at 10.15am for 10.30am. Contact: Tony Bagnall 25595.

Open Mind West Lakes U3A Walking Group. Third Friday each month. Easy walks are regularly arranged usually starting at 10.00am and last about 2 hours. Contact: Joan McIntosh 25459.

Rainbows. Mondays during term time. 5-6pm, Gosforth Public Hall. Contact: Sarah Millard 019467 25365.

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

Scottish Country Dancing Group. Every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Windscale Club, Seascale.

Scouts. Thursdays during school term time, 7pm. Gosforth Scout Hut. Contact Jackie Harper 019467 27211.

"Waymark". Youth Band meets at 7pm in the Methodist Room every Friday during term time. For further information ring Jill or Keith Hudson on 21592.

West Cumbria Guild of Model Engineers meetings. Second Wednesday every month. Harrington Fishing and Sailing Club, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Details: 019467 28938.

Yoga Classes. Every Tuesday during Term Time in St Mary's Room from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. Suitable for beginners and people who have already done some Yoga. For more information contact Sue on 01946 861133.

OPEN MIND (WEST LAKES U3A)

Avocets, ancestors, art – what on earth might all these have in common?
The answer lies in U3A – the University of the Third Age.

The third age is the age after retirement. As well as keeping the mind active, U3A also provides many opportunities for social interaction, which is very important when one reaches retirement, especially in rural communities.

MARCH

27th – Wednesday. “The Development of Digital Communication”, Speaker: Mike Lawton. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. **(Discovery – Science and Technology)**

APRIL

3rd – Wednesday. “John Ruskin – artist, writer, philosopher and much much more.” Speaker: Walter Johnston. Drigg Village Hall. Refreshments 10.15 -10.45am. Talk 11am. **(Discovery – Science and Technology)**

9th – Tuesday. Photography Group. Beckermet Reading Room, 10.15am.

11th – Thursday. “Mike Fossey & Joan McMurtree, America Pt 2”. St Joseph’s Church Hall, Seascale, starting 10.30am prompt. Refreshments from 10am. **(History)**

18th – Thursday. “The Humourists”, Speaker Dr David Cross. Gosforth Public Hall, 10.15am. Talk begins 10.45am. **(General Meetings)**

19th – Friday. Bluebell Walk, Netherwasdale, possibly Stag Ends. Meet by the church in Netherwasdale village at 10am. Check with Jean Taylor 28713 if weather forecast bad. **(Walking Group)**

24th – Wednesday. “The Technology of Wind Power in the Irish Sea”. Speaker: Peter Sills, Dong Energy. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. **(Discovery – Science and Technology)**

MAY

1st – Wednesday. “Some High Sheriffs of West Cumbria”. Speaker: Maureen Fisher. Drigg Village Hall. Refreshments 10.15 - 10.45am. Talk 11am. **(History)**

9th – Thursday. ““Edouard Manet, Father of Impressionism” St Joseph’s Church Hall, Seascale, 10.30am. **(Art Appreciation)**

14th – Tuesday. Photography Group. Beckermet Reading Room, 10.15am.

15th – Wednesday. “Isle of Man Transport”. Speaker: David Allison. St Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. **(Discovery – Science and Technology)**

16th – Thursday. “Quarter Session Court Records”. Speaker: Tom Robson. Gosforth Public Hall. Refreshments 10.15am. Talk begins 10.45am. **(General Meetings)**

17th – Friday. Holmrook and Drigg walk. Meet at the small car park in Holmrook just past the bridge at 10am. Check beforehand if the weather forecast is bad with Joan McIntosh, 25459 or Jean Taylor 28713. **(Walking Group)**

JUNE

5th – Wednesday. “The Netherby Outrage – the Story of Rudge, Martin and Baker”. Speaker: Mr L. Holden. **(History)**

11th – Tuesday. Photography Group. Beckermet Reading Room, 10.15am.

14th – Friday. Egremont, Longlands Lake and Clintz Quarry walk. Meet at the Public Car Park at 10am. Check beforehand if weather forecast is bad with John McIntosh 25459 or Jean Taylor 28713. **(Walking Group)**

26th – Wednesday. “Why do we need a National Nuclear Laboratory?”. Speaker: Dr Adrian Bull, External Relations Director, NNL. St. Mary’s Room, Gosforth. Coffee 10.15am. Talk 10.45am. **(Discovery – Science and Technology)**

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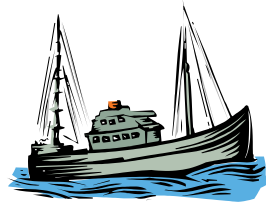
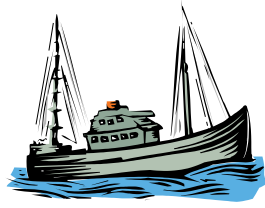
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service is currently looking for volunteers to join its team to get out and about in the community to help spread the community fire safety message. As a volunteer you'll be able to get involved in all sorts of different activities within your community such as:

- Assisting in the carrying out of home fire safety visits and fitting free smoke detectors.
- Helping at community days and events.
- Getting involved with campaigns and speaking to local residents about community and road safety issues.

- Assisting with youth engagement events.
- Supporting us in the delivery of HeartStart Basic Life Skills Training.
- Raising awareness of the Fire Service at community events with our Firefit activities (climbing wall and soccer cage).

Community Volunteers are given training, a uniform and are paid any out of pocket expenses. For more information about becoming a volunteer with Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service please telephone 01768 812549 or email volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk





Ravenglass Fish & Game Ltd

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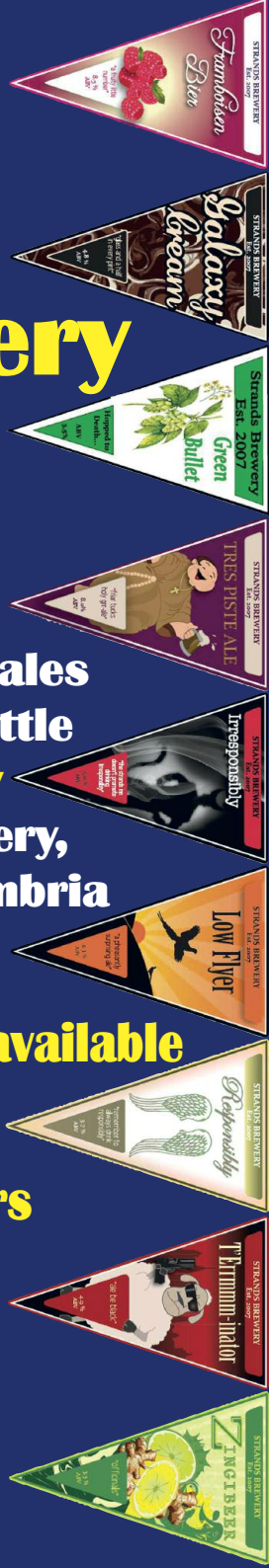
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HEAR THE HOOT

OF BRITAIN'S NATIVE TAWNY OWL

by Millie Clarke

Conservation Officer
World Owl Centre
World Owl Trust

Muncaster Castle



The Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* is our most common owl but because of its excellent camouflage and ability to “freeze” in thick foliage, it largely goes unnoticed.

Although the actual bird is seldom seen, the Tawny Owl’s “hoot” is a familiar sound. The short, broad wings and short tail of the Tawny Owl allows it to manoeuvre easily among branches in mature wooded areas. It is a very nocturnal bird and is rarely seen flying in the daytime.

The familiar hooting of the male acts as a territorial and courtship call, and the male also often hoots when bringing the female food in the breeding season. The female is known to also make a similar hooting sound, especially in the autumn. However, the contact call “kewick” is the usual female sound and in spring is her usual reply to the males’ drawn

out quavering, “hooo” as they perform a lovely duet.

Head out at dusk to enjoy this very special performance! Just to confuse the matter further, “kewick” can sometimes be used by the male! Tawny Owls rarely call during the day but I have heard them.

Tawny Owls are very territorial and will stay within their nesting territory all year. An established pair is often faithful to the same nest site. As with other species, Tawny Owls will defend their young but the Tawny Owl seems to be infamous for its reputation of attacking humans who get too close to the nest site. In Britain, the bird photographer Eric Hosking lost an eye to an attack from a Tawny Owl, but such behaviour is very rare.

A Tawny Owl’s diet includes rodents, frogs, small birds flushed from their roost, beetles, earthworms and occasionally fish. A Tawny Owl is one of the few

predators which do not find moles distasteful. The varied diet and adaptability of the Tawny Owl has meant that it has colonised our parks and even large gardens.

Finding a Tawny Owl pellet is much harder than finding a Barn Owl pellet in a barn. Studies have shown that Tawny Owl pellets can be found at nocturnal roosts and feeding stations but these places change and are often well scattered. The moist woodland floor means that pellets soon disintegrate.

Natural nest sites are becoming harder for this owl to find as a result of Dutch Elm disease which has resulted in a lot of large hollow trees being cut down. I have known a Tawny Owl nest in a blocked up ventilation slot in a barn. On another occasion, a Tawny Owl tried to take up residence in a barn that a Barn Owl was occupying; after a few nights it was the Tawny Owl that was forced to look elsewhere.

As is widely known, young Tawny Owls leave the nest early and their calls enable the adults to find and feed them. From about 25 days old, owlets although unable to fly, hop to nearby perches – a stage known as “branching”. A new sound will echo through the woods as the fledged owlets spend much of their time on a perch waiting to be fed by the parents. The owlets are sometimes referred to as “squeakers”, as this best describes the high pitched sound to listen out for. If you find a “squeaker” that has fallen to the ground, by all means try and place it up out of danger from foxes or dogs, but then leave it alone, as you are probably being watched by two anxious adult birds, and the owlet is quite capable of climbing back up the tree with the help of a hooked beak and very sharp talons.

Locally, Blengdale is a good place to listen out for Tawny Owls. These owls take readily to nest boxes



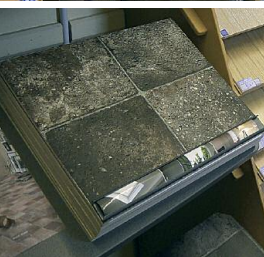
and this is one way we can help this owl and do our bit to ensure that future generations continue to hear its familiar “hoot”.

The Tawny Owl is part of a large collection of owls that can be enjoyed by a visit to the Owl Centre, based at Muncaster Castle – but please check opening dates and times.

The World Owl Trust is holding a Conservation Day on 4 April at Muncaster Castle – normal Muncaster opening times and admission charges apply.

Photos by Ian McGuire

**For more information about the Trust
go to www.owls.org**



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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COPELAND RAIL USERS' GROUP, 16 JANUARY 2013.

Chairman's Report. There were two points in RAIL 712 (26/12/12 - 08/01/13) of interest to us. The first is that DRS have bought two Driving Brake Standard Open (DBSO) from British American Railway Services, to add to its coaching fleet. Although not specifically mentioned, the article says that the carriages are for DRS's planned services on the Cumbrian Coastal Line, although no definitive sign-off for this has yet been agreed.

If DRS means to use these carriages, it would not have to run the train engine round at Barrow like it did on last year's trial, making operations much easier.*

The second point comes in an article by "Industry Insider", where he says that the railways are well on the way to achieving the target of 75% of the operating cost being paid by passengers. However, regional services are different, in that only 40% comes from passengers. This is because on a comparative basis, distances travelled are relatively short, with fare levels lower than elsewhere. As a result, investment cases are weaker, something reflected in the lack of new rolling stock operated by Northern.

I feel that our line, with its much longer average distances, should be the exception to the rule.

Train crew shortages are still causing cancellations, or trains terminating short of their destination. A landslip at Braystones on Tuesday 8 January meant that a TSR had to be imposed, making delays to trains. Northern had a bus on standby at Whitehaven in the morning, but it wasn't needed.

Northern have distributed leaflets advertising Duo tickets between Whitehaven and Carlisle.

** A trial run by DRS of a train of six carriages top'n'tailed by two Class 47 locos was planned for week commencing 7 January, but, at the time of writing, had not taken place.*

Editor's Notes

A Driving Brake Standard Open or DBSO is a type of railway carriage, converted to operate as a control car (Not to be confused with DVTs as used in Intercity 225 sets). Fourteen such vehicles, numbered 9701 to 9714, were converted from Mk2F Brake Standard Open (standard class coaches with brake van) carriages. Modifications included adding a driving cab and TDM equipment to allow a locomotive to be driven remotely. Using a system known as push-pull, the driver in the DBSO can drive the locomotive, even though it is at the rear of the train.

Direct Rail Services (DRS) is a freight operating company created by British Nuclear Fuels Limited. The company started rail operations in 1995 using five heavily refurbished Class 20/3 diesel locomotives. Since then it has expanded greatly, and has acquired many more locomotives, most bought second-hand and subsequently refurbished. Ownership of DRS was transferred from BNFL to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority when the NDA was created on 1 April 2005, under the terms of the Energy Act 2004. DRS is the only remaining publicly owned rail freight company in the United Kingdom.

DECEMBER'S PUZZLE

The mystery car in the Holiday Snapshot Puzzle in the newsletter's last issue is a "Brivido" – a 360bhp gasoline/electric hybrid concept car with a top speed of 170mph designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro of Italdesign. Brivido means thrill in Italian. It was unveiled at the 2012 Geneva



Auto Show. Italdesign is now part of the Volkswagen Group. There was no winner identifying the mystery car, so the prize will go to a good cause.

GOSFORTH VILLAGE WEBSITE

The Parish Council's minutes and a detailed What's On guide for local events can be found on the village website.

www.gosforthvillage.net

There are also links from this site to websites of clubs and other organisations in the area.

Gosforth Hall Inn

new Lunch Menu introduced

served Tuesday-Saturday 12.30-4pm

Evening Meals

served Monday-Saturday 5-8.30pm

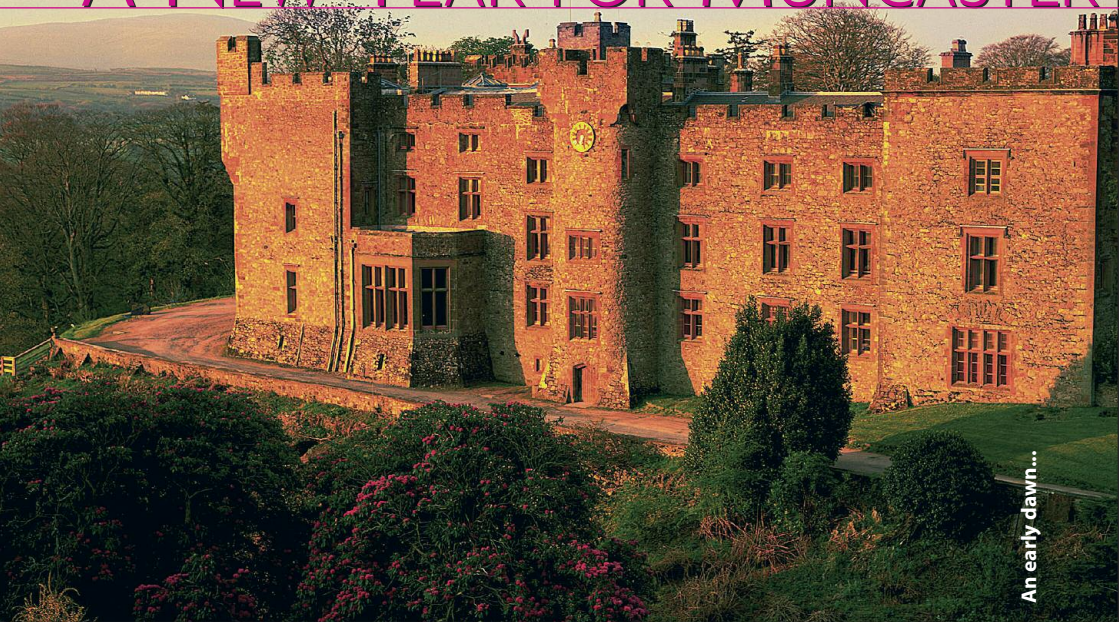


Rod's pies are coming up for their 15,000th sale
A prize is being offered for whoever orders it!

March Offer - free bottle of house wine for
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to book, please call 019467 25322

A NEW YEAR FOR MUNCASTER



An early dawn...

Springtime is always an exciting time of year at Muncaster Castle. New life, new hope and a new visitor season. It is wonderful to see the bulbs pushing up through the dark, bare earth, the owls in their aviaries making nests and laying eggs, our fabulous rhododendrons from all over the world bursting with buds and our redoubtable Castle Housekeepers Bron, Bev and Jan finishing off the extensive spring cleaning. Just one example of the tasks that face them through the long cold months

of January and February each year is that every one of the 6,000 books in the Library has to be taken off the shelves, dusted and put back again!

Days are getting longer and the dawn chorus each morning can be almost deafening. No doubt our gardeners and foresters are looking forward to the warm and dry weather to come... we can but hope! This winter in particular they have been working hard through all the wet and cold conditions on controlling the invasive spread of ponticum rhododendron in the gardens of Muncaster and wider estate. This is part of a long term project to try and clear the Gardens of the invasive plant introductions from abroad to enhance the setting for the delightful collection of specimen rhododendrons and exotic trees from all four corners of the earth.

The Muncaster Offices through the winter have also seen a lot of activity. Managers Andy and Sandra along with their Customer Support team of Sarah, Jo, Jane, Sam and Paul have been working hard to design and print leaflets, arrange and plan all the special events coming up for the next 12 months, plus endless hours are spent sending and replying to emails, updating websites, making phone calls, thinking up new ideas as well as booking acts and exhibitors. Muncaster is a crazy place to work – you



DAWNS



...then Spring.

never quite know what is going to happen next or what will be the next strange request from a member of the public. One thing is for sure, you never complete in a day what you were determined to achieve at the start of it, but it all gets done – eventually!

Muncaster is a wonderful place, with a magic all of its own. My work is very varied. I can be negotiating with a TV film crew one minute, the next I may be feeding our free-range pigs, hosting black tie dinners or unblocking drains, being pelted in the stocks by kids on too much sugar or performing as a Victorian Butler. We do it all, sometimes all in one afternoon!

Don't miss your chance to "Pelt a Pennington" this Easter Monday when the official "Fool of Muncaster" will be in residence. Our Feast of Flowers in early May will this year be focused on the Church – definitely not to be missed with its theme of Children's Books. So much to do, so much to see through the year, our "Friend of Muncaster" season ticket is a must if only to see if all the frantic activity behind the scenes has worked!

Visit and enjoy, we aim not to disappoint.

Peter Frost-Pennington



MADGE NELSON'S SCHOOL DAYS

In 1999 Glenn Gray and Elizabeth Hutson as a project for the West Cumbria Oral History Project interviewed Mrs Madge Nelson and recorded her answering questions regarding her schooldays and early life in Gosforth during the 1920s and 1930s. Mrs Nelson's father was the miller in mill lane and later she and her husband farmed land just outside the village which her son still farms to this day. Mrs Nelson sadly passed away in 2003.

Mrs Nelson were you born in Gosforth?

"I was."

And how long have you lived in the village?

"Well I was born in 1917 and I was born at Blengside and I owned the houses after my parents until six months ago (1998) I just sold them. I've always lived in Gosforth."

Did you go to school in Gosforth?

"In Gosforth school. Yes."

What are the first memories you have of your childhood?

"I think catching an eel in the river. We brought it on to the lawn at home, I would be about five, it barked like a dog then took two leaps back into the river. Then someone told us it was a conger eel as only conger eels bark. It gave a definite bark like a husky dog."

Have you ever see these eels again?

"Often, if you put herring heads in a hessian bag and weight them down with a stone in about oh five minutes you see about twenty eels all chewing at the hessian bag."

Your parents had the mill?

"My father was a miller and a corn merchant. They didn't use a lot of cattle cake in these days but a little. Father bought it from Norson Fiddler and people bought it in a half stone paper bag. There was so little used mostly in this area for perhaps for a cow that had been poorly and they were tempting it to eat again. Otherwise father milled the grain, made sem ground and made what they called crush, which was corn with very roughly the kernel crushed ground out if it and it was fed to cattle that way. The sem ground was the husk completely taken away and they were just getting the kernel and that was ground down to quite a



meal and that cost twice as much as the crush."

Did you help in the mill as a child?

"I was a nuisance I think but as children. Father didn't work at weekends, then as children, the bags went up two floors to the stop top for storage, then as children we used to put a piece of wood through the chain at the bottom the bit a bag would be put on and then someone worked the lever and we travelled up through two floors. My parents didn't know. My father would have gone mad because a S link could break as easily could be, well we probably would have been killed. It was rather serious but we did enjoy it."

Right. What age did you start school?

"Five."

And what was school like? Do you remember?

"It was very nice, I loved school. I would even stay when I was poorly because I did not want to stay off. I loved the high jinks of school more than the work I might say. There was quite a crowd of us all quite

**Back row left to right
?, ?, Anne Pennington,
Hilda Benn, ? (teacher
perhaps), Jeannie "Tiny"
Moore, Ella Richardson.**

**Front row left to right
Elsie Stewart, Marjorie
Plummer, Eleanor Pharaoh,
Mary Plummer,
Madge Nelson (nee Farish),
Nancy Heron.**



friendly. And we had a netball team of which I was captain. Why I don't know because I was only a little fat thing. I wasn't very agile but I was made captain of the netball team and we played other villages. I remember playing Haile and they beat us oh way up about twelve to nothing and I had to stand up and say three cheers for Haile well done and I didn't feel it."

How many teachers were there in school in those days?

"There was E.T. Sharp. Oh no that's a bit later. I would be about nine when he came. Prior to that was Jobby Birch and he lived where Celia Davis lives. He was a Welshman and that's why they called him Jobby. He was a lay reader in church and Mrs Birch took quite a prominent part in church organisation."

How many children?

"At school? Well I am guessing when I say fifty, but perhaps seventy, but the children coming from far off Hallsenna, the Pooles came from Hallsenna, children came from Wasdale but they had to get here the best way they could. There was no such thing as the school car. If you were lucky father was coming to the mill and he brought in his horse and cart as far as the mill, then they had to walk up to the school and together they had a packed lunch which was a tin, a sandwich tin with perhaps sandwiches in and the days of eating an apple were not in, you might have a banana. But if you lived near enough you went home for your lunch but the children from more than a mile away brought their lunch with them and they sat in a room at school, and they used to have in the early days a bottle of tea. Well it had cold by then but they still drank it and later on some of the teachers brewed some tea. There was a wood stove in the headmaster's room and they brewed tea there

and gave it to the children. There was no such thing as free milk or anything like that. You took to school what you needed to eat for that day."

Right. What about classes? What sort of subjects did you do?

"Well I don't remember the very early but next I remember when you got to one and two you did some arithmetic, reading and writing and they were very keen on who was the best writer. They were rather keen on teaching you to write properly. You spent many many lessons learning how to make Es and Cs and I think at that period they would produce one or two quite good writers."

What about sewing classes?

"Yes there was a sewing class and I forget who took that one. I think Miss Robinson. I think she took another subject in school but she took the sewing class as well and you hand the handkerchief round when you became well quite proficient. It was all hand sewn. There was no sewing machine used but when you became quite good you made a petticoat and if it stayed under your dress all round you, very lucky."

What about cooking?

"Yes, there was a cookery class and it was held in the upstairs of what is now the hobby shop and there used to be steps up to it from the bottom on the outside where they now have Mrs Gate's house. The steps went up there one flight and a landing and another flight that took you into the premises where the cookery was held and we used to have a Scots teacher called Miss Laidlaw and she was very Scots. You really had to concentrate to know and she quite often said to us 'your my 'worst' class easily' so that really meant we were bad. Then we heard the class that came from Calderbridge the following week

were told 'your my 'worst' class easily' so we didn't mind very much about it."

How did these children travel from Calderbridge?

"When it came to the cookery class I think they walked or had bicycles and they used to go out rather earlier because in the winter days they had to home before it was dark. And you got to wear a proper white pinny which either your mother managed to buy it from somewhere or she made for you and it was just a white pinny with a pocket on the front and bib and it had got to be clean each time. You had always to say to your mother, be sure my cookery apron is clean because if it wasn't you immediately got told off that 'you don't come to cook in a dirty apron.'"

What did you wear as clothes?

"My mother made most of my clothes very often in the winter jumper and skirt, a warm material skirt and a hand knitted jumper and if it was very cold weather a cardigan on top of that. My mother made all my clothes coats and everything until I was about twelve then I began to feel it was very childish for your mum to make your clothes and it much better to have a bought coat so I expect I harped and my mother bought me a coat."

On your feet, what did you have on your feet?

"We'll I couldn't wear clogs and it used to upset me because most people wear clogs but I have a very low ankle bone and it caught on the clogs so I had to wear broad shoes and when they were

A LOCAL WALK FOR SOFTIES

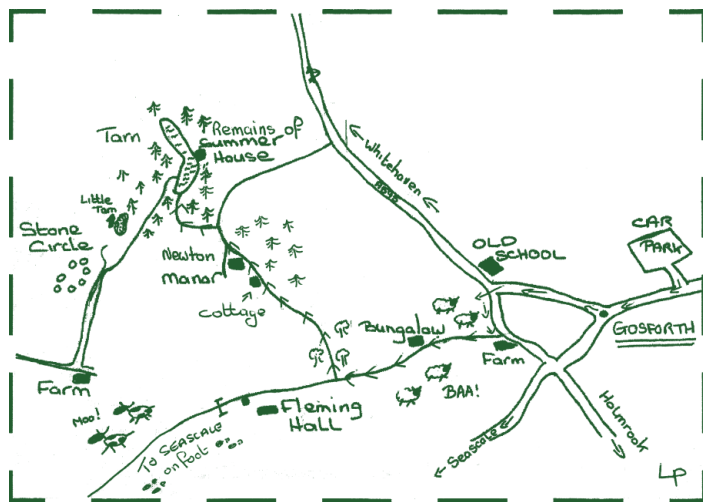
When I was asked to write up a local walk for 'Gosforth' I was spoilt for choice – there are after all so many to choose from. I finally decided on Ponsonby Tarn, mainly because it's one of my favourites. I feel it has everything you could want from a gentle half-day outing.

It's mainly on well marked lanes and tracks, has fantastic views, there's even a glimpse of the bygone splendour of Newton Manor and when you reach the tarn there's a bench to rest on before retracing your steps to Gosforth.

This linear walk is about 4 miles in total, and whilst a little undulating in places it's well worth the effort.

Enjoy!

Lynn Pattison



PONSONBY TARN

We set off from the main car park in Gosforth and head for the 'village square'. Sided on each of its three sides by public houses, it's more of a triangle than a square but whoever heard of a village triangle? Gosforth was once a main stop for the mail coaches to and from Whitehaven, and it was here in Gosforth that the horses would be changed over.

We turn right, staying on the main road and heading up hill towards the A595.

When we get to the top of the hill, keep left. The house on our right standing on its own little island was once the High School, built in 1760. However as the population of the village increased an additional classroom was needed to house the girls, who were taught separately, and in 1861 a new classroom was

added. There's an inscription in the end wall which commemorates this.

We cross the main road and head down the hill for a few yards to pick up the bridleway on our right, at the entrance to Town Head Farm. Continuing along this surfaced track, we pass a bungalow on our right, 'Sides', which must have one of the most enviable views in the area. Looking back towards Gosforth we have spectacular views of some of Lakeland's most famous peaks. Starting on our left, we have Seatallan,

new I had to take them to Jake Williamson who was a cobbler. He had a hut where Gillian Unsworth has her baker's shop and I had to have all studs put in the bottom so that they would last longer."

This transcript is only from the first part of the recorded interview which exists. Mrs Nelson continues to answer questions on her schooldays as she grows up, many of the games children played and businesses in the village.

Thanks are given to Thomas Nelson for supporting the publication of this article. If anyone else would like help to record memories from the past please contact Elizabeth Hutson or Glenn Gray.

then Buckbarrow and the Scafell range followed by The Screes and the distinctive pyramid of Harter Fell. In the far distance, if it's a clear day, we can make out the Coniston fells over to our right and the outline of Stickle Pike, Corney and finally Black Combe. What a wonderful backdrop for this gentle walk.

We now start to drop down hill slightly. Take the lane off to our right leading into a small coppice. We have now entered what was one The Newton Manor Estate. We continue on along this lane passing an attractive but secluded sandstone house on our left. Soon afterwards we come to Newton Manor. Once a splendid country mansion and home to the Newton family it is now stands neglected and forlorn, surrounded by an unsightly metal fence.

The trees start to thin out now, and recent deforestation has left the area to our right almost clear. Approximately 200yards past the manor house we take the track off to our left to head downhill. Follow this track as it curves round to the right at the bottom of the hill and very soon we reach the tarn. Here we can sit and enjoy the magical atmosphere of this secluded spot. The tarn, so I'm told, was man-made especially for the Newton family, and these grounds would have formed part of their 'garden'. When I first did this walk many years ago there was a summer house a little further along the track on the right, but owing to neglect and vandalism, all that remains now are a few bricks that once formed part of the chimney stack.

Once rested, we return the way we came. If you have enjoyed this walk and would like to explore more of the area, my books 'Walking for softies' are available in The Village Store and other local shops.

A Guide to Wasdale Netherwasdale and Gosforth

The area's History & Places of Interest
with some of its Finest Walks and Viewpoints



GOSEFORTH GUIDE BOOK

The above local guide book has been revised and republished by Chris Jones of Eskdale and should be available shortly in village retail outlets.

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Fruit Crumble & Custard
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GOSFORTH PROTESTATION ROLE 1642

The English Civil War period began in 1640 when Charles I summoned Parliament to avert a financial crisis. Charles was very unpopular and was forced to agree radical reforms which gave Parliament a more prominent role in the constitution. As the political crisis escalated, in 1641 Parliament split into opposing parties, forming Cavaliers and Roundheads. On 3 May 1641 it was agreed that every member of the House of Commons should make protestation (deed of loyalty). A letter was sent by the speaker of the House of Commons to sheriffs of each county, requiring everyone over the age of 18 to make his protestation. Each parish incumbent was to read the protestation in church and have each person sign it.

There was a total of 158 names in the parish of Gosforth who took the protestation, given in charge by the Justices of Peace at private sessions held at Cockermouth on the eleventh day of February AD 1642.

Here is a selection of the names who signed their protestation:

John Senhouse	Thomas Atkinson
Perhavil Irton	Richard Parker
John Leece	Thomas Powe
Peter Hudson	John Moore
Richard Singleton	Henry Beeby
John Drinkall	Thomas Benson
John Sherwen	Joseph Tyson
John Mawson	Robert Ponsonby
John Jackson	John Eilbeck
Richard Benson	William Tubman
John Hudleston	Thomas Bragge
John Hartley	Richard Kendall
Nicholas Dixon	William Pridmore
William Wilson	John Posthlewthwaite
John Norman	Nicholas Parke
Robert Sharpe	Edward Ashburner

It was finally signed.

“This is a true list of all the names of those who have taken this protestation. There are none that refused to take it. *Petrus Hudson Rector de Gosforth*”

The giving of these names which are copyright has been provided by the Parliamentary Archives ref HL/PO/JO/10/1/82.

This article has been provided by Geoff Snape.

GOSFORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL SPRING NEWS

Mr Corran returned to school after the February half term with his new knee and is looking forward to being able to cycle and walk up mountains again. He has decided that he would like to pursue these activities more frequently and has therefore tendered his resignation and will be retiring from school at the end of the summer term after over 20 years as Headteacher. All the staff, governors, pupils and parents both past and present would like to thank him for his commitment to school over the years and wish him well in his retirement.

Mrs Lindsay Martin will be taking over as Headteacher from September 2013; she will be coming into school over the summer term to get to know the school and pupils. We all look forward to working with her.

The community lunches have been going down well with an average of 12 people attending each week; we have also had the community policeman attend as well as several parents. The feedback has been very positive and many of the members return each week. We are always reviewing how it is running and following discussions with Bradbury House, who run a similar system twice a month, we have decided that after Easter we will be operating our community meals on the Wednesdays that Bradbury House does not. We do not want to compromise their facility, and will publish dates before the Easter Holiday.

We support several charities each year and Red Nose Day (Friday 15 March) is one of them. The children are invited to come to school in non-uniform for a donation to the charity.

The choir was in great demand before Christmas and has continued to be busy this term, the highlight of which was taking part in the Sing Up event at Whitehaven Civic Theatre with schools from all areas of Copeland. The choir will also be taking part in services at St Mary's Church, Gosforth and St Peter's Church, Drigg.

On Friday 8 March the pupils of class 4 invited their Mums/Grannies/Aunties to their Mothering Sunday service that they organised and ran themselves. In the afternoon members of the Mothers Union came into help the older pupils make posies for the Mothering Sunday Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 10 March. This is a tradition that has gone on for many years and we are very grateful to all the ladies for their time and patience with the pupils.

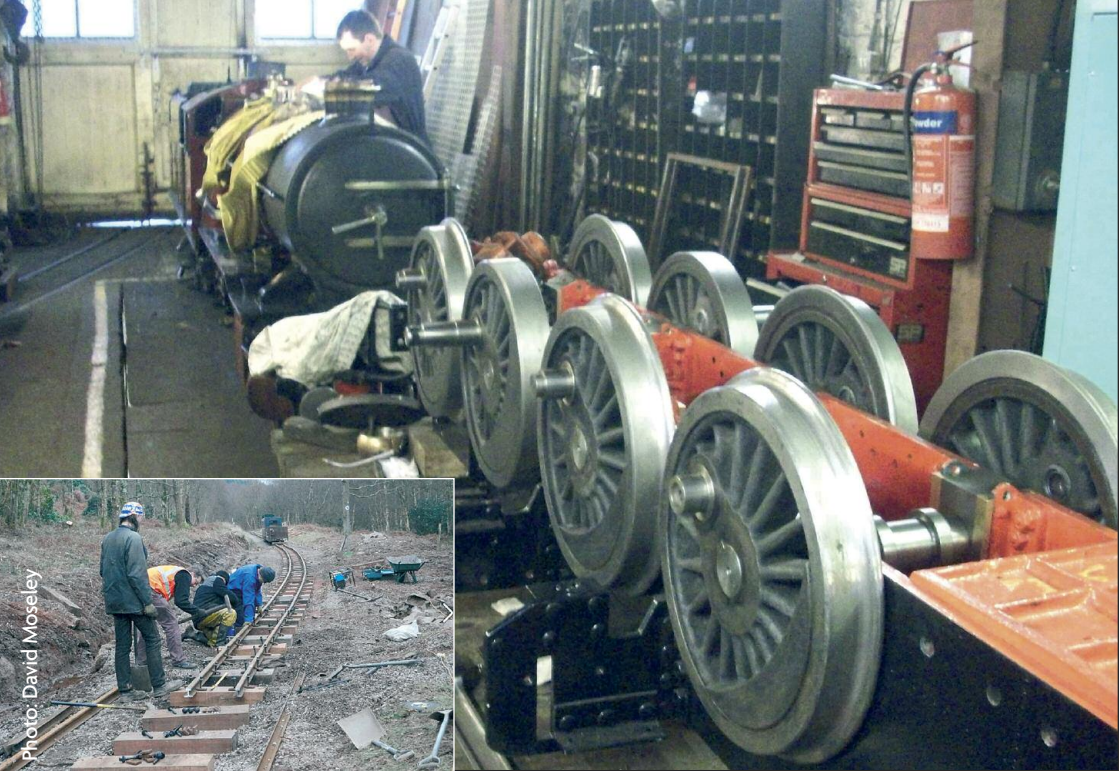


Photo: David Moseley

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE RATTY

There is more to the Ratty railway than simply running the trains between Ravenglass and Dalegarth. Seven miles of track have to be maintained, major overhauls of steam engines have to be carried out, carriage heating systems have to be serviced, rolling stock has to be painted as well as being cleaned daily and signalling equipment serviced. There are also two cafes, a museum and ticket office to run. One unseen activity at Ravenglass is the construction of carriages and steam engines. In recent years three steam engines have been built there, two of them for export to Japan, the third "Northern Rock" remaining at the Ratty and is in regular service.

Each of the four steam engines which are in regular service are fully overhauled every five years. This involves removing their boilers for full inspections and wheels to check bearings and axles. The engineers there are involved in all aspects of steam engine maintenance which includes manufacturing and fitting cylinder liners, replacing

boiler tubes, casting white metal bearings, reprofiling wheels and inspections of steam valves and motion linkage running gear as well as all the daily minor attention necessary to keep the engines running such as packing steam glands and maintaining water injector valves. In addition to maintaining the steam engines there are six diesel engines, some being used for passenger service and some for shunting duties so it is not unusual to find a diesel engine stripped down and being overhauled in the workshop. The workshop engineers are assisted by locally based part time engineering volunteers who carry out a

Photo: David Culley





range of work from manufacturing fitted bolts to fabrication work. In addition to the main workshop there is a paint shop, a joiner's shop and a carriage workshop.

Driving a steam engine is normally done by a permanently employed member of the railway staff but some volunteers are certificated to drive them, in fact one steam engine was driven by a volunteer throughout the season last year. Drivers start work at 8am as it takes two to three hours to prepare an engine for service – this is mainly due to the time it takes to raise the necessary steam pressure. However this time is put to good use by the driver cleaning and polishing the engine. Between each trip oiling of the motion gear is carried out. At the end of a day's service the ash has to be removed, the smoke box cleaned out, the tender stocked up with coal ready for the following day, the boiler blown down and the water topped up ready for the next day. Guards are usually volunteers and are trained to perform a numbers of safety duties as well as ticket checking.

The bulk of the track maintenance is carried during the winter months, sometimes with a gang of as many as 12 people consisting of the permanent way supervisor, drivers when no trains are running and volunteers. During winter periods between a third and a half a mile of track is lifted, sleepers replaced and rails relaid. During the summer months the work consists mainly of cutting back the vegetation, lobbing off branches and ditching work as well as greasing the moving parts of points.

Local people can support the Ratty in a number of ways. Becoming a member of the Preservation Society is a worthwhile approach as it has funded and owns two of the locomotives "Douglas Ferreira" a diesel built in 2005 and the "River Mite" commissioned in 1967. These are leased to the company for regular service on the railway. As the

summer approaches why not have a day out on the Ratty? The views are magnificent and time can be spent in Eskdale either walking or visiting a hostelry; one can also encourage friends and relations to do the same. If you have spare some time volunteering can be a very satisfying experience. The railway welcomes such help and volunteers can be found in every section of the railway, including even in the office.

If you wish to help by volunteering call the Railway on 01229 717171.

Contact for joining the Preservation Society is Phil Taylor, 12 Wholehouse Road, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1QY

Ratty Teddy Bears Picnic

**Easter Bank Holiday Fun
29 March – 1 April**

Bring your favourite cuddly toy and join in an exclusive Teddy Bears Picnic from 29 March to 1 April. Enter your beloved bear into our "Best Bear" competition to win a prize. This is a free event as part of the scheduled La'al Ratty service. Standard fares apply. Children under 15 who bring a teddy bear with them over the holiday will travel free all day.

For the rest of the Easter Holiday keep your eyes peeled for Mascot La'al Ratty who may make an appearance with his cousin Sammy the Squirrel from Ullswater 'Steamers'.

...for services to the Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team where he was a member for 33 years (1979 to 2012), serving as Team Leader for ten of them. Julian is now a member of the specialist Cumbria Ore Mines Rescue Unit (COMRU) which sits within the Lake District Search & Mountain Rescue Association – so he's still on call 24/7/365 days a year in much the same way as he always has been. Julian is also very much involved with the local Community First Responders.

During his term in the mountain rescue Julian has been involved at the sharp end of many thousands of rescues and dealt with all kinds of situations. Recent notable events included the Cockermouth floods and the response to the West Cumbria shootings, but he says "there has been immense variety in the challenges I've faced."

His life has been based around mountaineering and he has been delighted to use what experience and skills he gained to support and help others. Julian adds, "I've always been very aware of how quickly life can change for casualties and their families and I simply couldn't help but be focused on trying to do my best to help them when they needed it."

He's conscious that his nomination for a Queen's honour had to be supported not just by local people but also by people within the regional and national mountain rescue organisation, so he admits being tremendously humbled to feel that his contribution has been recognised and valued so highly.

It was a fantastic and slightly surreal day for him at the Palace. "I was allowed up to three guests so I ended up going along with my brother Samuel and friend (and mountain rescue colleague) Saffron Price-Walter. We'd to be there for 10am, so we opted for a train the day before and a night in a London Hotel. I'm afraid I was full of cold, so a tourist trip to Harrods and an early night after a hotel meal was all I was up for."

In the morning he enjoyed a taxi ride right into the inner courtyard at Buckingham Palace, passing tourists with cameras as they drove in. Even the taxi driver was impressed that all had passes and invites to get through security – he'd never been in before!

The taxi pulled up right at the front door and all got out on to red carpet leading into a rather



fantastic hallway. He just had time to notice Ben Ainsley and his nephew posing for the press photos as they walked in.

Once in, the group was met by various uniformed characters, some in Beefeater and Horse Guards dress and others in military or household service type outfits.

Julian was separated from his guests and directed along with other recipients to a waiting area, while they were escorted to seats in the main Ball Room. He was able to meet and talk to other recipients and all were briefed on the protocol that would follow. From a 'holding area' (a large picture gallery) they were taken in small groups along to wait their place before actually entering the Ball Room. One by one, they were each called forward to meet the Princess Royal and to have a couple of minutes of conversation and to be awarded the medals.

Julian concludes. "I have to report that Princess Anne didn't think I looked old enough to have done mountain rescue for as long as I have! I just smiled and told her that I'm older than I look. I remember her asking if I'd been involved in the Cockermouth floods and I replied that I had. She also asked about how training and equipment has changed over the years, but to be honest she probably said more and we probably spoke for longer. It seems to go by so very quickly! All too soon it was time to step back, bow again and to exit right, where immediately staff were on hand to escort me to my seat and get to watch the rest of the ceremony. Then, I'm afraid, it was a bit of rush to get official photographs done, catch another taxi and to get the train back to Cumbria. Back to a normal life..."

By way of background, Julian adds:

"I was born in Seascale and moved (with my parents) to live in Gosforth in 1965, so I've got a strong connection with the village. I think I'd mapped the whole of the Bleng valley before I left Gosforth primary school and I started cycling up to Wasdale and walking the fells from around 13 yrs old. I would have started rock-climbing by the time I was 16 and I'm still extremely active, fell running and climbing as much as I can. I work at Sellafield as an Environmental Performance Manager within the Infrastructure Directorate.

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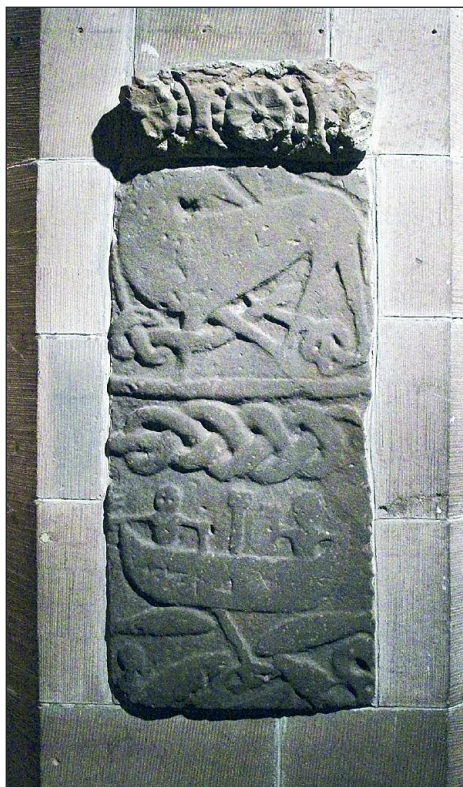
THE FISHING STONE

There are many artefacts in and around Gosforth Church. We have all seen the Viking Cross and most of us The Hogbacks. But one of the best artefacts is tucked away in a corner. It is the Fishing Stone.

It was found in the churchyard in 1882 and could have been part of a cross but some experts believe that it is too wide to have been part of one and it could have had some long forgotten purpose. Whatever it was, it is a good reminder that early Christian preachers used Viking tales familiar to their listeners to help illustrate the Christian message.

The stone illustrates a popular legend which is depicted in various forms on carvings in Scandinavia, as well as here. This version seems to follow the saga compiled by Snorri Sturluson, a Christian Icelandic scholar of the 13th century. It concerns Thor the thunder god who was immensely popular striding through the world destroying giants and trolls and other forces of evil. His hammer, Mjollnir, was famous. His final enemy was the World Serpent. The stone depicts Thor out fishing for the World Serpent with Hymir, one of the giants. Using an ox-head as bait Thor caught the Serpent and in the ensuing struggle Hymir panicked. Thor lifted his hammer and finished the brute off with it but Hymir cut the line with his axe and the Serpent fell back into the sea. The tale goes on until the mutual extinction of both Thor and the World Serpent.

This has been prepared from a pamphlet available for purchase in the church which gives a fuller version of this tale and includes information on the

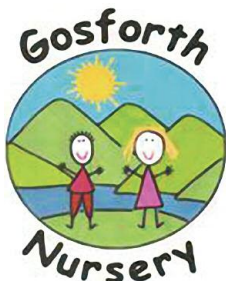


cross and other artefacts around the church. Further reading about the Vikings locally can be found in "The Viking Trail – A Journey to the Dark Ages" available in some of local tourist shops.

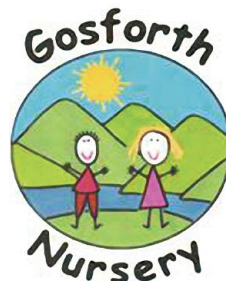
MUNCASTER MICROBUS DAY TRIPS 2013

Date	Day	Destination	Price	Notes
April	13	Sat	Coniston/Hawkshead	£8.00
	27	Sat	Keswick/Cockermouth	
May	11	Sat	Maryport	£8.50
	25	Fri	Windermere Cruise	£9.00
June	1	Sat	Holker Flower Show	£9.00
	22	Sat	Barrow – Roa Island	£9.00
July	6	Sat	Ullswater Steamer	£10.00
	20	Sat	Mystery Trip	£9.50
August	3	Sat	Grange/Cartmel	£10.00
	18	Sat	Carlisle	£10.00
	31	Sat	Lancaster	
September	17	Sat	Penrith	£10.00
	28	Sat	Coniston/Hawkshead	£8.00

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WEVA UPDATE

WEVA, alias The Western Valleys Exchange Association, is a twinning association between the area centred on Gosforth and Seascale and their associated valleys and the village of St Martin d'Auxigny in the Cher district in central France.

We are currently preparing for our next visit to St Martin, which will be held from Friday 23 August to Wednesday 28 August 2013.

The reason for these dates for the visit is to coincide with the Comice which St Martin is hosting. This is the “agricultural show” of the area and its hosting is passed around seven different areas. So this is our first opportunity to experience the event since the twinning began. The main events will be the big parade on the Saturday, fireworks that night, various other events on the Sunday. Monday and Tuesday will no doubt involve other activities. It certainly promises to be a visit not to be missed – a marvellous opportunity to become closely involved in French village life. We will be expected to “role ourselves up” and become fully involved. This will be great fun.

The dates are ideal for those of our members travelling by car and calling in at St Martin at the end or the beginning of a holiday in France. Those finishing a trip in St Martin will be able to arrive home before the start of the new term, those starting their holiday will be well placed to continue in France at the end of the main French Holidays.

Travel is more awkward to organise this time for those wishing to use public transport. The most convenient flight we can currently find leaves from Stanstead. However it appears that to travel by rail could be a more convenient option since Ryanair has moved all its departures forward, the outward flight from Liverpool to Limoges leaving at 08.55, and the return at 10.30. Another alternative may be to take a coach to Stansted. We are still researching the options.

Firm timings and costs will not be available until 12/13 weeks before departure.

It would greatly help us to have an idea of the number of people who might be wanting to participate in the visit either independently or by public transport. If you could let us know in the near future that would be greatly appreciated, as would your view on other routes, etc. No firm commitment is required at this stage but such an indication will help us and our hosts develop arrangements.



Chateau-d-Amboise.

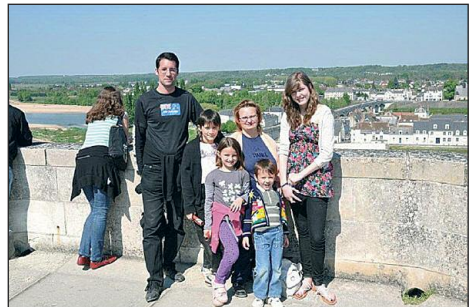


Pot-de-bienvenue.

We are organising a social event in the form of a French meal on Friday 12 April in St Joseph's Hall, Seascale, cost being £15 per person. This will be an excellent opportunity for both existing and prospective new members to learn more about the visit to St Martin and other WEVA activities.

For the latest news please see our website “weva-cumbria@spodbox.org”

Will anyone requiring further information please contact Graham Hutson, email “hutson521@btinternet.com or Steve Mcleod, email “steve.mcleod@ymail.com”.





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Fiona Galloway, Hon. Secretary, West Coast Support Group 01946 841313

Further information about the work of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, including volunteering may be obtained from Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Head Office: Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA8 8LX

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