

The grassed areas are no better than they were in my last newsletter report. We have put notices round the village asking people affected by this problem to write to Dan Lochan, 107–111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AB, or ring the Land Agent, Lisa on 01727 817331.

I'm sure by now you will have met or seen our new community policewoman Rachel McKee; she has already had police surgeries in the library and has been to the school.

Our yellow flag was not returned, but Encams gave us a replacement. We got no response from any of you about Trafalgar Weekend. So we flew our Seascale Flag and Union Jack thanks to our Flag Officer.

The Parish Council is currently in negotiations with Copeland regarding the car park – we hope to lease it from them and hopefully we will not have to raise the precept too much.

We are told that the pavements which belong to Villagate are going to be brought up to an adoptable standard soon!

The Parish Council hope to see you all on the 11 December when the lights are switched on.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas. Eileen Eastwood Chairwoman

Seascale Churches' Christmas Celebrations

Thursday 15 December at 6.30pm

United Christingle Service at the Methodist Church

Sunday 18 December at 6.30pm

United Village Carol Service at St Joseph's

Christmas Eve

4.30pm: The Crib Service at St Cuthbert's

5.00 to 6.00pm: Informal 'Drop In' Communion at the Methodist Church

11.30pm: Midnight Communion at St

Cuthbert's

Christmas Day

9.0am: Mass at St Joseph's

10.00am: All-Age Christmas Worship at the

Methodist Church

10.00am: Said Communion with Hymns at

St Cuthbert's

Sports Hall

We received a grant from Sports Action Zone and purchased new lightweight goal posts with safety locking. Don't forget about this excellent facility – if you do not use it we cannot keep going. It is only your support that keeps it open.

Jenny McClemens 28201 Eileen Eastwood 28653 Myrtle Harvey 28915

Seascale Parish Council is happy to accept donations for advertisements placed in the Seascale Newsletter. The expected rate is £10 for a quarter-page, and pro-rata for larger advertisements. Contact: Eileen Eastwood on 28653.

Seascale Swimming Club

Seascale Swimming Club meets at 6 o'clock every Monday night at Wyndham Swimming Pool, Egremont. Lots of different people come along, some to keep fit by swimming, some to help their children learn to swim and some just to have fun. We book into the club in ten week blocks, and at £20 per Family or £12.50 per single member for ten weeks, it offers very affordable swimming!

If you are interested in joining, please ring Jackie Harper on 27211.

Hats off to Seascale Primary!

On Friday 21 October, Seascale Primary School arranged a very special coffee morning for local older people and raised money for Age Concern Northwest Cumbria. All children wore crazy hats to school and arranged for tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits to be served to all the older people that attended. In addition each guest left with a Christmas gift!

Age Concern Northwest Cumbria would like to say a very big thank you to the schoolchildren, teachers and older people for their participation and extra special effort.

Doris McClemens attended the coffee morning and said:

"The coffee morning was absolutely lovely! The children looked wonderful in their fancy hats and the tea, coffee and cakes were beautifully served. The day was a great success and enjoyed by all."

Scottish Country Dancing

Earlier this year classes for adult beginners were held in the Windscale Club. It is good to see that some of those who attended enjoyed the dancing decided to continue and now come to the weekly Club nights.

There are no plans at present for more beginner classes in 2006. However, if anyone would like to come after Christmas, whether or not they have any previous experience of this type of dancing, they would be more than welcome. All beginners would be helped through the dances and classes could be arranged at a later date, according to demand.

Do come and give it a try.

Newcomers should wear flat soled, non-slip footwear.

It is not necessary to come with a partner.

The group meets weekly at the Windscale Club, Seascale on Wednesdays at 8.00pm.

The 2006 start date is Wednesday 4 January.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Christmas is not far away and our celebrations will start on 11 December at 3.00pm, in the Sports Hall, with a concert and carols followed by fireworks. Then the switch-on of lights by the Mayor of Copeland with mince pies and sherry will finish off the afternoon.

Father Christmas will be there!

Before all this can go ahead we need help for John Garner who has kindly offered to supervise the installation of the lights. We need all of you who have helped before and any new helpers would be very welcome; please contact the Clerk, Barbara Simcock, on 27970 or any Parish Councillor:

Eileen Eastwood	28653
Ken Mawson	28278
David Moore	27674
Bernard Dickinson	27288
Vicky Borrino	29023
Bill Harvey	28915
Barbara Ramsden	28126
Andrew Woolass	28218
Colin Platt	27335
Sue Allen	28433

When you ring up offering your help we will tell you the date and time for putting up the lights.

I'm sure you will all be entering into the spirit of Christmas by lighting up your own properties.

Thank you Eileen Eastwood Chairwoman

The Victoria Hotel

Good Food at the Vic at Drigg



Ian and Rinske have taken over the Victoria and pride themselves on providing excellent accommodation, great atmosphere, but most of all, as from Friday, 18 November, there will be food to tempt any palatte – from inventive bar snacks to a good variety of à la carte served in the restaurant.

Now taking bookings for the Christmas Menu, including parties 019467 24231

CINDER TRACK REFURBISHMENT

If you used the cinder-track recently, you will have noticed that it was an effortless ride/run/walk in.

Prompted by Graham Worsnop's notice on the Marketplace, three people and a 3-year-old turned up on a Saturday in early September, armed with wheelbarrows and shovels.

After only a few hours hard, manual effort, the track is now effectively clear of 'sand-pits' and easily rideable all the way from Seascale to Sellafield.

Particularly notable is the corner immediately after the concrete sleepers, and the big sand trap beside the break in the dunes.

Prior to the storms in January this latter part of the track was just a few yards long. But the storms deepened and lengthened this in to a 30-yard, virtually unrideable section. This is now clear, albeit narrow, down to the tarmac base. Some 'sea defences' have been put together in an effort to reduce the amount of sand being blown from the beach onto the track.

All in all this is now a very pleasant and easy ride. If you previously avoided using this track because of these sandy parts, please give it another try. If you already use it, please continue to enjoy it.

The responsible authorities have failed to achieve anything in terms of improving this track. Three men and a boy have put them to shame. It would be nice if they now took their responsibility seriously and followed up on the hard work done.

However, it is felt that this is unlikely, so it was suggested that there be another such dig, in the spring, once we see what the winter throws at us, and the track. If you are a regular user, or if you start to use the track now that it is clear, please look out for details of the next dig.

Thanks to Graham for instigating this, and to the others who took part.

2nd Seascale Methodist Brownies

We returned after the summer holidays with one of the biggest intake of new Brownies for several years. We now total 26 Brownies, our legal limit. We also have two new leaders; Karen Newbold who has rejoined us as a Unit helper – she moved away last year but obviously missed Seascale Brownies so much she has come back – and Lynn Unsworth is awaiting her CRB check and will then join us as a Unit Helper.

Joan Sim, Christine Bentley, Lynn Unsworth and Jenny McConnel (from Rainbows) accompanied the Brownies to the Lightwater Valley Theme Park in September. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed themselves.

In October, myself, Maggie Huddleston, Christine Bentley, Sarah Huddleston and Laura Huddleston took twelve Brownies along to an Arts and Crafts day at Workington (much more my sort of thing). We all got the chance to try our hands at various crafts and came home with lots of goodies.

Maggie, Christine and Karen recently took the older Brownies to Sellafield to work towards their Discovery Badge. It was lots of fun.

Our Community Police Officer, Rachel McKee, came along to our meeting recently and helped the Brownies with their Safety Awareness Badge. It was a fun-filled evening and everyone got the chance to be handcuffed and fingerprinted! See Crime Watch next week!

We have lots of future events planned and are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas.

Lynn Pattison Brownie Guider

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2ND SEASCALE SCOUT GROUP

When I wrote the last time, we were just about to have our annual group camp at Branthwaite. It was an excellent camp and everyone had a great time, but it seems a very long time ago. The Beaver colony is thriving and now has around 24 members. The Cub Pack has had a slight drop in numbers, but we are shortly to be joined by six of the older Beavers. Three of the older Cubs are in the process of transferring to the Scouts, which is thriving, despite having lost two of our older scouts. Our problem isn't attracting youngsters into the group – it is in getting adults to help run the sections and support the group.

During the summer, Paul had come to the conclusion that he simply could not give the time which planning and leading a section demands, and decided to step down, although he will continue to help with the group. Paul will be very sadly missed as he has made a great contribution to the success of the group. We obviously need a new scout section leader and an assistant. We have had a name suggested, but that person is not yet able to commit to taking on the section.

Unfortunately, as you will all be aware, days before we started the autumn term, we discovered that we no longer had a Cub Leader. I am proud of the way the group leaders and supporters have rallied round to keep the pack running, an effort which has been acknowledged by the County Commissioner, Ivor Hughes himself. We are hoping to have a visit from Ivor later this year.

I am very grateful to Andrew Woolass for helping to keep parents informed of what is going on, and we are grateful to Alan Dodds of the Church Army who is in the process of taking out an Assistant Cub Scout Leader's warrant. I would also pay tribute to Kim Waugh, Assistant District Commissioner for Cubs who has helped to run a meeting while I have been unavailable, and to Jacky Harper who has assisted when Alan has not been available (we always need two adults present, who have been CRB cleared).

Unfortunately, that still leaves the question of a Cub Leader to run the section. I have been standing in for this term, but cannot continue to do so indefinitely. We desperately need someone to take on the mantle of Cub Scout Leader, They will have our support, and training will be provided as it is for all leaders. If no-one comes forward, then I will have to consider closing the pack. If you think that you might eniov working with 8 to 10 and a half-yearolds (and it can be great fun), do give me a call - if you've been through Cubs and Scouts (or Brownies and Guides) you'll understand our way of doing things, but you don't need that experience. Obviously anyone working with voungsters will need to have the normal child protection vetting carried out - exactly as our school teachers do - but we will arrange that.

It would be very sad if we had to close the pack, after all the hard work which everyone has put in.

Graham Worsnop Group Scout Leader

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Dinner Monday to Saturday

6.30pm – 9.00pm £18.95 per person

Four-Course Christmas Cabaret Carveries

Friday 9 December – Vivien Lee Saturday 17 December – Heartline (featuring Graham Brown) £21.50 per person

Christmas Day 2005

Superb Five-Course Lunch 12.00noon – 2.00pm £35.95 adults £19.95 children under 12 years

New Year's Eve

Cabaret Carvery featuring Super Singer "Jackie" £25.00 per person Over 18 years only

Parties of 10 or more – £1 off per person excluding Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

RESERVATIONS tel: 019467 28538

SEASCALE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Jill Reece has recently taken over as Manager of the CDC and would like to remind you all of the courses available; some may have already started by the time the newsletter comes out but please contact her for more information if you are interested.

There is a Homeopathy Grassroots course starting on 17 November for anybody wishing to learn how to make remedies and treat common ailments. This is run by qualified homeopaths and runs for five weeks on a Thursday evening 6.45pm – 9.15pm. The course has excellent handouts with a certificate on completion. The cost is £45.

The first aid course for child carers arranged for November is now fully booked but names are now being taken for another course, date to be arranged.

An introduction to IT is also to be arranged and there will be a digital photography course for beginners in the New Year. For those of you who are thinking about buying a digital camera, it is hoped to run a 'taster' session before Christmas. For those who would like to

do the ECDL course part 1, it is hoped that this course will run again in May next year.

Craft sessions have been such a success that they are going to be held weekly.

On Saturday 10 December there will be a decoupage day for anybody who wishes to learn how to do this. The cost is £18.00 per person which includes prints, frame, mounts, glue and lunch and the session will run from 10.00 am to 4.00pm.

There are excellent conference facilities available, and the room is available for hire for small groups and clubs who are looking for somewhere to get together. Also, the CDC is open for use for the internet on Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 11.30am – fast and free with coffee or tea!

Information about up and coming courses will be displayed on posters around the village, at the Post Office, the village stores and chemist.

Please contact Jill via email on admincdc@seascale.cumbria.sch.uk or by phone on Seascale 21003.

Seascale Bowling Club

Another season came to a close in mid September, even though the weather was still good for bowling.

The winter maintenance had to be carried out before the weather turned, and as the members volunteer to carry this work out, we had to let them get busy on the green and surrounding areas which have looked splendid all summer.

The club has had a good and busy season. We have two teams who play in the West Cumbria Triples League, but it was not one of our best seasons, as both teams finished in the bottom half of the league. One of the teams reached the semi-final of the league knock-out cup, but was beaten by the eventual winner, Cockermouth Croft.

As well as playing friendly games against local

teams, we have also played two touring teams, Oxford County Bowling Association and Bath & Bristol Barbarians – both games were played on very pleasant summer days.

This year, one of our members, Mrs Maureen Eccles, has been President of the Cumbria Ladies Bowling Association. This has been a very busy time for Maureen, travelling all around the county and further afield to other counties with the County Ladies Bowling team, and also playing in the team.

The team won through to the quarter finals of the John's Competition, which is the England National Competition, where unfortunately they were beaten.

The club AGM will be held in the Pavilion on Wednesday 23 November at 7.30pm.





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Girlguiding – Gosforth Guides for girls 10-14

As many people will be aware, the Guide Unit in Gosforth welcomes girls from Seascale (around half of our membership) and all the surrounding areas as well as from Gosforth. The decision to combine Seascale and Gosforth Guides was made a few years ago for several reasons, primarily though because we wished to strengthen both the number and skills base of the leaders and thus be able to give the girls a more varied programme. I would at this point like to thank all the unit leaders for the volunteer time that they give so willingly.

Six girls have completed the Baden-Powell Challenge, the highest award that can be gained in the Guide section, and were presented with their certificates at the County Awards Evening. Several more girls are due to complete this challenge during the next few months – all of them are now looking forward to moving up to the Ranger Unit where they intend making a start on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our programme has been varied. In additional to our weekly meetings, girls have been involved in an international opportunities selection weekend near Ullswater, a four-day residential held locally during the school holidays, a trip to Lightwater Valley Theme Park (arranged especially for Brownies and Guides

from the North of England) and at half term, a trip to the BIG GIG. This was a pop concert held at the NEC in Birmingham for 26,000 Guides at two performances. We were entertained by Girls Aloud, Liberty X, Friday Hill, Rachel Stevens, Jenny Frost, Jo O'Meara, Simon Webbe, Lee Ryan and, to humour the more mature members present, Tony Christie! A very noisy occasion, but wonderful to see so many Guides together under one roof. We stayed in a youth hostel in Shropshire overnight – an old mansion called Wilderhope Manor – and then on Sunday morning visited Blists Hill Victorian Village, one of the Ironbridge Gorge museums.

Guiding is not just about having fun though. The girls all participate in some form of community action each year. So far they have organised competitions and activities at the Gosforth and Eskdale Shows as well as at the Gosforth Village Fun Evening to raise money for our chosen charities.

Some of the older girls help out regularly with other Girlguiding units within the District, while others take part in various local projects.

If you would like to know more about Girlguiding locally, please give me a ring on 28625 or e-mail me at ian.smith67@virgin.net.

Sue Smith Guide Guider



Seascale Post Office: Personal Banking Facilities. Deposits and Withdrawals without charges for LloydsTSB, Barclays, Smile, Cahoot, Coop, Alliance and Leicester, National Savings, Clydesdale, Bank of Ireland

Seascale Post Office: HomePhone, Car and Home Insurance, Holiday Insurance, Travel Money, Motor Vehicle Licence Office, Royal Mail and Parcelforce Worldwide access point.

Seascale Post Office: Open at lunchtime Monday to Friday 9:00 to 5:30. Saturday 9:00 to 12:30 49 Gosforth Road, Seascale CA20 1PQ. Tel: 019467 28218

FOOTPATHS

I would like to appeal for footpath walkers. In 1996 The Countryside Commission along with Cumbria County Council asked Parish Councils to join a new project called the Parish Paths Partnership – we were to walk and survey the paths and 'they' paid for the repairs to stiles, gates and signposts, etc.

The walkers cut back brambles covering signs and stiles. Bigger jobs were reported to me and I contacted Cumbria County Council for action. About six years ago the Countryside Commission pulled out of the partnership and CCC was left to foot the bills.

In the last nine years some of the walkers have moved away or become too old and stiff and no longer wish to be involved in this activity.

We now find ourselves with paths with no walkers. In August the Parish Council received a letter along with 22 forms requesting someone to walk all Seascale's paths and complete a form for each path providing information on its current condition.

This is part of an on-going survey to check all 500 paths in Cumbria. Seascale is fortunate in that our footpaths are still in a reasonable condition – so our task was not a real problem.

I would like to thank Mr & Mrs E. Davis of Seascale Park, Mrs K. Polemear – who has already volunteered for more paths – and last but not least Mrs V. Borrino who did more that her own paths and was a great help to me.

If any of the existing walkers would like to retire from their path walking then please contact me on 28126 or drop a note through the door of 64 Santon Way.

Barbara Ramsden

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Girlguiding

Seascale Rainbows – for girls 5-7

Following a request in the summer newsletter for new Rainbow Leaders, I am glad to report that we had an excellent response. The new team is now up and running and the girls have enjoyed a varied programme over the last half term. Rainbows celebrate their 18th birthday this year and the girls all had fun at a special party at Bootle, travelling by train and meeting up with other Rainbows from Gosforth, Millom and Haverigg.

We would like to thank Julie and Kirstin for their commitment over the last five years and wish them good luck as they further their careers.

If your daughter/ward would like her name placed on the Rainbow waiting list, please ring me on 28625 and I will pass your name on to the new leaders so that they can contact you.

Sue Smith

WINTER WELL-BEING

Prepare to keep SAFE & WELL this winter by following our useful tips!

Keep warm, dress well

- Wear several thin layers of clothes rather than one thick layer.
- When outside, wear something on your head and warm, dry, flat, non-slip boots.
- In bed, wear socks and a night cap, as well as thermal underwear and a warm nightdress or pyjamas.

Keep warm, eat well

- Have at least one hot meal a day.
- ► Have hot drinks regularly through the day and one before bedtime.
- Prepare a thermos flask of a hot drink to have by your bed in case you wake up in the night feeling cold.

Keep warm, keep moving

- ▶ Don't stay sitting still for long periods.
- Spread chores out through the day so you can alternate between rest and activity.
- Try to go for a walk for increased health, without taking risks in wet or icy weather.

Keep warm, heat well

- Try to reduce draughts by sealing gaps around windows and doors.
- Keep your living room at a temperature of 21°C (70°F) using a room thermometer.
- ➤ Warm your bedroom before going to bed and ensure all windows are closed.

- Use an electric blanket OR a hot water bottle in bed; make sure you turn your electric blanket off before you get into bed.
- ► If you have a heating timer set it to come on before you get up.
- ► Put guards on all open fires and don't hang washing to dry too close to fires.

Coping with flu

- Stock up your medicine chest to be prepared for treating coughs, colds, and flu.
- See your GP about getting a flu jab.
- If you go down with flu during the winter:
- Stay at home and rest
- ► Take plenty of non-alcoholic drinks to replace fluids and eat what you can.
- If you live on your own, let a friend, relative or neighbour know you're ill.
- ▶ If the flu symptoms persist or you start to feel worse contact your GP.

Looking out for neighbours

If you have an elderly neighbour or relative, look out for them during the winter months.

GENERAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Contact Age Concern Northwest Cumbria on 01946 68999 for details of any of our services or for free advice and information on a wide range of issues.

FREE Winter Well Being packs can be picked up from the Post Office.

IAN RIGG

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Seascale Cricket Club – 2005 Review

Seascale Cricket Club had another successful season, the first XI competing in the Cumbria Cricket League First Division following their promotion as Division II champions the previous season. Victories over the second teams from Egremont (twice), Penrith, Cockermouth, Whitehaven, Wigton and Carlisle and over Gosforth First XI brought mid-table respectability. Six batsmen made the League averages: Phil Knott, Mark Farries, Paul Knott, Lee Fleet, Clayton Lee and Steve Brown Jnr. Three bowlers made the League bowling averages: Daniel Lee, Paul Knott and skipper Steve Brown. Others who more than played their part were Robin Sparshott, Andy Lee and youngsters Andrew Holburt, Adam Brown, Matthew McEwan and Greg Bedford. The club continues to be indebted to Andy Lee for running both under 11 and 13 teams in the local league.

The annual Three's Company competition was held at Seascale and was played under a changed format. Calderbridge were invited to replace Eskdale and joined Seascale and Gosforth in playing a round robin series of matches. Seascale won both their matches to win the competition for the first time since 2001. To their credit Calderbridge beat Gosforth in the other match. Hopefully the change in format will secure the competition's future.

The club is now looking forward to next season where they will be playing in another league – the North Lancashire and Cumbria Cricket League Division II. This has been brought about by the sad demise of the Cumbria Cricket League in which Seascale had competed since 1960. Defections to the Eden Valley League by a majority of teams in the League meant that the club was forced to change leagues to secure regular Saturday cricket. With the majority of teams in the division from the south of the county this will provide a fresh challenge.

The club will be running outdoor nets from the beginning of April. For details ring Steve Brown on 28352 or for information on juniors, including under 15s, Andy Lee on 28292.

No. 6 Bus, Whitehaven to Muncaster

In the summer Stagecoach announced that they were cutting the No 6 Bus, Whitehaven to Muncaster, to one a day, starting at Seascale at 7.50am, and returning at 17.56pm.

AA Travel of Workington have taken over the 10.17am from Seascale, arriving in Whitehaven at 11.06am. This bus returns from Whitehaven at 12.20pm and on reaching Seascale the bus goes through the Railway Arch, and will stop when requested as there are no bus stops. The bus continues on to Drigg, Holmrook, Ravenglass and Muncaster. This bus is run by AA Travel six days a week and needs support if we wish to continue to have more than one bus a day. Anyone who wishes to comment on any aspect of the service should write to Cumbria County Council's Public Transport Team, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA.

Timetables should be found in the usual outlets in Seascale – the Post Office, the Mace Shop and the Parish Council Notice Boards.



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SOUTH COPELAND RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORUM

GIVE US YOUR EARS AND PLEASE LISTEN TO US

This Forum campaigns on issues of interest to young people such as community awareness, transport, crime reduction and nuisance, drug prevention, raising standards of achievement and involving young people in local decision making, democratic and participatory activities, service design and delivery.

We seek to challenge age discrimination and to ensure that rural young people have a voice. There are many forums throughout the country, contributing to local policy on issues of importance to young people.

In South Copeland we are working hard to raise awareness among local people. Our aim is to provide a voice for young people about the services they require and to try to influence local providers in the provision of these services.

The Forum will cover the parishes of Bootle, Beckermet, Ennerdale and Kinniside, Drigg and Carleton, Eskdale, Gosforth, Haile and Wilton, Irton with Santon, Lamplugh, Millom without, Muncaster, Ponsonby, Seascale, Ulpha, Waberthwaite, Wasdale, Wicham.

This population is estimated at 12,500 people of whom approximately 2,000 are aged between 12-25 years.

Although the size of the area covers 1000sq.km, public transport is either minimal or nil.

The aims of the Forum are to hold open meetings on topics of interest and to develop a powerful network of local young people.

This information was put together by the youth of the Seascale group.

For more information contact **Jim Skivington** at Mobex.

Tel: 01900 734777, mobile: 07901700907 or 07918084521

Seascale Women's Institute

Our WI is far from being all *Jam and Jerusalem*, why not come along and meet us and see what we do – come on your own or bring a friend with you! We welcome ladies of all ages.

Our meeting is on the 2nd Monday of every month, except for August, in the Methodist Church Hall at 7pm.

At each meeting we have interesting speakers covering wide subjects. Additionally, Seascale WI is part of the Esk Group of WIs with whom we have larger meetings a couple of times a year. Sport is important to our WI, our Darts and Bowls teams have had considerable success and our County Federation offers taster days and courses in many different sports as well as craft and cookery. So, as you can see there is something for everyone!

We are part of a nationwide organisation which has just celebrated its 90th Anniversary. I was fortunate enough to attend the National Federation's AGM at the Albert Hall in June and to be part of such a huge meeting of WI members from all over the country was a tremendous honour and pleasure, particularly as two of the speakers were Jane Fonda and Bill Bryson.

The WI has always been interested in the issues of the day and at the AGM the two resolutions dealt with were Farmgate Milk Prices (we are losing our Dairy Farmers at a worrying rate as a result of the poor price they are getting for their milk) and secondly, Care of our Environment when WI members were asked to take action to reduce waste and conserve resources in their homes and communities.

So, you see, we are an organisation that is always moving forward. Why not come and move forward with us?

Judy Hall President Tel: 28542

SPRING NEWSLETTER

All articles and adverts need to be handed to a committee member by Friday 3 March.

FARMING CRACK

Britain has been importing thousands of tonnes of beef from Brazil. This is produced at a fraction of the cost it takes to produce here, with very few regulations, giving them an unfair advantage over the British producers. This week a ban has been introduced on all imports from that country because of a major outbreak of foot and mouth over there. The risk of another outbreak here is certainly increased by such imports.

Last year we reared a pet lamb, called Tracy. Not being reared with other sheep, it attached itself to the cows, obviously thinking it was one of them. Eventually it changed its mind and became a member of the flock. The other morning when I was milking it appeared in the milking parlour, climbed into a stall and started eating the cow's food. Since then it has lived and slept with the cows. It is very amusing to see. Milking cows is one thing but I certainly do not fancy starting to milk sheep. Some people do and they reckon that cheese made from sheep's milk is very good for people with skin complaints.

Wildlife

A grey squirrel was recently spotted in Santon Way. There have been several more sightings in the Gosforth and Calderbridge areas. The speed at which they have spread is remarkable. Two years ago there were none in Cumbria. The local red ones are almost certainly doomed in West Cumbria.

Have any of you seen the seal or seals that have been spending some time recently in the rock beds on the beach? It is a nice sight to see them basking on the rocks; pretty rare to see them in this area.

A friend of mine was fishing in the river at Cleator recently whilst the river was in full flood, the water being really dirty and brown. When using a spinner he caught a good-sized salmon. I asked how could the fish have possibly seen the spinner when the water was

so dirty; he said fish sense the movement of the bait and do not see it. This one in fact was blind. Is this a fisherman's tale, or is it really true? They say that a fish can sense someone walking on a river bank. When fishing you have to keep perfectly still if you hope to catch anything, I'm told.

So chicken flu has been detected in this country, in a poor old parrot imported for a pet. Fortunately it was still in guarantine, so there should not be any risk of it spreading. Unfortunately the 2000 other types of bird imported with it had to be destroyed. This is surely a trade that should be stopped. Wild birds are trapped and then transported thousands of miles, kept in captivity, to become pets in other countries. At the time of writing this article at the end of October chicken flu has been found in several European countries in ducks and geese that have migrated from infected places, so you would think it is only a matter of time before it reaches here. The Solway Firth and the marshes in Lancashire become the winter home for thousands and thousands of these types of birds. Last year at the Mere, a large bird sanctuary near Preston, a count revealed 2500 whooper swans, which migrate from Russia, and 20,000 widgeon (a small duck). There are also many other types of geese and waterfowl that migrate. As a precaution this country has banned all poultry shows and sales. What effect is this going to have on pigeon racing, a very popular sport in West Cumbria? They race them from all over the country and also countries abroad.

Someone we know was playing a rough and tumble game with his young daughter. When he stopped for a rest she asked him why he needed a rest and he replied it was because he was getting older. "Does that mean you will soon be going to heaven to live with the angels?" she asked. A sobering thought considering he was only 30-ish.

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