



The first Southbound passenger train for over 30 years. Quite a crowd about to board, and many heads to be seen on the journey. We're told that there were 474 passenger journeys that day.



On Sunday 27 September there was a strange sight in Seascale – TRAINS! As part of the Community Rail Festival, a train service was operated between Barrow and Carlisle for the first time in 30 years. The Bailey Ground Hotel arranged a kite-flying competition and a sand modelling competition. Clay pigeon laser shooting also took place. Even though the weather wasn't very warm it was a good afternoon and there were some very good models and castles and colourful kites.







The Parish Council has purchased another picnic bench for the beach front, and some new seats. We have had two seats donated; one is above the play area on the beach and was donated by Mr Bruce Bates in memory of his wife Hillary, née Worsnop.

The family of the late Tom Davis has replaced the seat on the new road and this is much appreciated as it has a lovely view over the fells.

I am sure you all enjoyed the grand opening of the BMX site – it was a fun day for everyone and the weather was perfect. Congratulations to Vicky and the BMX Committee.

In the last Newsletter I explained that we were no longer doing the front garden competition and asked if everyone would return their trophies. Only one of you has done this so far. Please hand them in to a Parish Councillor.

We are trying to get some response from the county about your worries on the amount of vehicular accidents on Gosforth Road. We have forwarded all your letters to the relevant department with a covering letter from the Parish Council.

Winter is around the corner and we are busy planning our Christmas Lights Switch-on in December – watch the Notice Boards for more information about the 13 December celebrations. We now have a sub-committee who will be telling you all their plans in this magazine.

Eileeen Eastwood, Parish Chairwoman

SEASCALE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

This year's switch on of the village Christmas lights will take place on Sunday 13 December in the Sports Hall area.

The lights will be switched on by Copeland Mayor, Cllr Henry Wormstrup.

The line-up for the afternoon is as follows:

15:00: Traditional and Modern Christmas Carols/Songs performed by Seascale School Choir. Carol sheets will be available on the day for the community to join in with.

15:30: Music and Song by Waymark and the Shackles Off Rap.

16:00: The arrival of Father Christmas escorted by the Village Cheerleaders. The Cheerleaders will perform while Father Christmas gives out sweets to the village children.

16:30: Official switch-on of the Christmas Lights.

16:40: Christmas Firework Display.

16:50: Refreshments in the Bowling Pavilion. Carols will be sung by the bowling green by the Seascale School Choir.

The line-up and times are subject to change but will be available on the village notice boards prior to the event.

We hope everyone will enjoy the afternoon as a spectacular start to the Christmas period.

SEASCALE SCHOOL NEWS

Official Opening of the Outdoor Classroom

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who came, helped and supported our official opening of the Outdoor Classroom. We had a wonderful day. The weather was fantastic, the BBQ was delicious and the children's performances were excellent. A special thank you to Mr Jamie Reed, MP, for officially opening our garden.

Copeland Schools In Bloom Competition

We entered into the Copeland Schools in Bloom Competition, and we came third. Mrs Hartley, Mr Steele and five children were invited to the Mayor's office to collect our prize. Well done and thank you to all who helped to make the garden a success this year.

Wind Turbine

Seascale School has been working towards achieving Eco Schools Green flag status. We are fully committed to becoming more sustainable and a key part of this is looking at the energy the school uses and our overall carbon footprint.

Our school is currently looking into having a Wind Turbine erected to the rear of the school, within the school grounds. We have received grants to help with the cost of this project.

A public consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 6 October 2009.

We are hoping the turbine will reduce our energy bills by 35% of current consumption within school and we may be able to sell Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROC's) back to the national grid.

This is a very exciting and challenging project and we would very much hope that we will receive the support from the local community.



PICTURE FRAMING

AT

THE HOBBY & PET SHOP

CALL IN FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

OR

PHONE CAROLINE

ON

019467 25702



A big crowd enjoyed a traditional Lakeland day out at Wasdale Head on the second Saturday in October to welcome back the local show after last year's cancellation. The weather was kind, with calm dry conditions for all participants and visitors to enjoy, whether enduring the steepest of fell races up the front of Kirk Fell, or just catching up with old friends over a drink outside the beer tent! Wasdale show retains its roots, based on the showing of Herdwick sheep, but there was a lot more for spectators to enjoy on the field, from the extensive show of vintage vehicles and machinery to various art and craft exhibits showing off the best of local colour.

One of the afternoon's highlights, and always the most amusing, was the organised chaos of the

terrier racing – adjudging the winners providing a stern test for the organisers! Show secretary Mike Naylor, in his first year in the job, was pleased with the good turnout of visitors for this year's show, and the increased number of stalls and trade stands on the field was encouraging for all concerned in helping to keep our smaller valley shows alive. People come from all over the country specifically to enjoy Wasdale show, but there is still plenty of room for more local people to come along – so do try to make it a date to remember for next year!

Thanks go to our local farmers and landowners, for use of their fields, without which we would have no shows.

Gareth Harrison

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Seescale



Christmas Preview Evening

at The Windscale Club, 7pm~9pm.

Preview all our new Christmas stock with a complimentary glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

Demonstrations and Christmas stock available to buy or order. Planters, Bedding Plants, Garden Maintenance, Grass Cutting, Landscaping and Fresh Flowers

For all your floral requirements

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as well as planters and hanging baskets planted to your specification.

We are now taking orders for autumn hanging baskets.

Why not phone us to discuss your requirements?

019467 25473

Or call in at 18 Whitecroft
Gosforth CA20 1AY

SELLAFIELD STORIES: AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This extremely exciting venture is just taking off, although it has already attracted a good deal of attention. We aim to record the life histories of a wide spectrum of people whose lives have been touched, to a greater or lesser extent, by Sellafield. Employees, retired workers, farmers, other residents; people who perhaps had no personal connection but felt the influence of Sellafield for a reason, are all in our target area.

The project is funded by a BNFL legacy, and it is being managed by a team at Whitehaven Record Office and Local Studies Library. It will be an honest attempt to present a balanced picture of Sellafield in its physical, social, and historical setting, and will demonstrate its impact, with both benefits and drawbacks, in the words and voices of those people who experienced it. The end result will be a global picture, painted as objectively as we can, of an institution that has become part of the fabric of so many Cumbrian, most particularly West Cumbrian, lives. We aim to create a relevant, local and permanent record that will encourage an enhanced public profile for West Cumbria both locally and farther afield.

During this year-long project we aim to create an archive of recordings of around a hundred interviews. They will be housed at Whitehaven Record Office & Local Studies Library and freely available for the public to listen to. All the interviews will be fully transcribed and the transcripts will be available here too. The only exceptions will be if an interviewee has decided, perhaps for personal reasons, and after discussion with the team, that some part of their interview should remain private for a number of years. Based on this archive material will be a website that's already under construction (www.sellafieldstories.org.uk), a book by a wellknown Cumbrian author, a compilation CD or DVD and a travelling exhibition. So watch this space! If you are interested in the project contact the team at Whitehaven Record Office and Local Studies Library on whitehaven.record.office@cumbriacc.gov.uk or ring 01946 506420 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

Jenni Lister, Project Manager & Local Studies Librarian

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOW THE CUMBRIAN COAST RAIL LINE IS RUN

Train users across Cumbria are set to have a greater say in how the coastal line between Carlisle and Barrow is run to attract more passengers on the line and improve the route to meet local needs.

Transport Minister Sadiq Khan said the Cumbrian Coast Line route had been given Community Rail status.

The Government announcement means the local community rail partnership is to work alongside the train operating company Northern Rail to look at ways of increasing numbers and improving the line to meet local needs.

John Kitchen, chairman of the Cumbria Coast Community Rail Partnership, said: "I welcome community service designation as a further step towards a successful and productive partnership between the rail industry, local authorities and rail users which can only result in further growth in passenger numbers and in improving the service to meet these passengers' needs."

Heidi Mottram, Managing Director of Northern Rail said the Coast line had already benefited from a "much-improved" timetable last year. She added: "Designation will allow us greater flexibility to develop a service which is in tune to the needs of both residents and visitors."

Transport Minister Mr Khan said getting communities involved in how services run would ultimately encourage more passengers to use them.

Anyone wanting to contribute ideas should contact Northern Rail via the email customer.relations@northernrail.org.

Alternatively, they can contact Laurence Hilland at Cumbria Coast Community Rail Partnership via the email m.hilland@btinternet.com Anika Bourley, Parliamentary Correspondent

GUIDES

The second half of the summer term for the Guide unit flew by. The older Guides organised most of the programme and we enjoyed an Indianthemed evening, beach games, a disability awareness evening and at our final meeting of the term we just chilled!

We spent a night away at Santon Bridge Village Hall. This was part of a national event called the Giant Sleepover, the aim of the game being to raise money for children's charities. The leaders would possibly claim that the event was a 'stay awake' rather than a sleepover!

Then, at the end of August we went on 'holiday' to Bootle Station where we stayed in the village hall. The intention had been to camp in the field behind the hall, but as the ground was waterlogged we decided to base ourselves indoors. Girlguiding's strapline is 'Girls in the Lead' and the girls working for their Baden Powell Challenge organised and implemented the whole programme. They held a fashion show (the girls designed and made costumes from an array of material they were given), Guiding guizzes and all sorts of other cooperative and competitive team games. On the Wednesday we caught the train to Barrow, enjoyed a swim and undertook some retail therapy. Our YLs, Katie and Martha, planned the menu, undertook a supermarket shop and oversaw most of the food preparation while we were away. I think that the other leaders would agree that we felt guite superfluous to requirements!

Girlguiding is 100 years old this year this year and nationally all members of Guiding had the opportunity of celebrating over the weekend of 5/6 September. We all left for Keswick at 8am on the Saturday where around 3000 past and present local members of Guiding met up for a day of participation in loads of different activities. We visited four different activity bases spending about an hour and a half at each. At Whinlatter Forest Park we enjoyed shelter building, pond dipping, and a variety of trails; at Keswick School we visited two more themed areas, the first, 'Lets Be Creative' included dance, drama, singing, drumming, and all sorts of glitzy activities; 'Our

World' came next – we 'visited' different countries, enjoyed crafts, food and just finding out about the life of girls our age in different countries. Our last activity zone provided about 40 different environmental activities and this took place in a huge MQ which was pitched on a car park in Keswick.

At the end of the day, everyone met up and we took part in the Finale with loads of singing and dancing – it was a brilliant day – eventually arriving home at about 10pm absolutely shattered. Many thanks to the friends of Guiding in the village who helped run some of the activities enabling our leaders to stay with the girls.

This term we have been practising for our Talent Show and this took place last week – our first fund raiser of the year. In a few weeks time 30 of us are going by train to London for the weekend to meet up with 25,000 other Guides at our annual pop concert, the BIG GIG. This is taking place at Wembley Arena and acts such as JLS, the Noisettes and Scouting for Girls are booked to appear.

Later in the year we shall have the opportunity to go to a camp which will be open to all Guides in the County. This will be taking place in Keswick during the first week in August and on the Wednesday we hope to travel to Harewood House in Yorkshire to meet up with 30,000 other Guiding members for a National day of celebration.

There will be plenty of other activities taking place during the year and we hope that ex members of Guiding will be able to join us at different times

Sue Smith 28625

DRIGG COFFEE MORNING

Drigg Village Hall will be the venue for another coffee morning on Saturday 31 October between 10.30am and 1.00pm. It's a lively social occasion – time to enjoy the coffee and a chat. There will be another huge cake sale as well as locally-made Christmas cards of views taken in and around our area. The Drigg Calendar will also be on sale and all proceeds go to St Peter's Restoration Fund. We look forward to seeing you there.

Betty Bolton, 019467 24355

2ND SEASCALE METHODIST BROWNIES

What a busy time we've been having at Brownies recently. No sooner had we returned after the Easter break than we packed our rucksacks and set off for our annual pack holiday. We boarded a Sims coach and headed off to Braithwaite Methodist Hall, just outside Keswick. It was a very different type of pack holiday to our usual ones as only three of the Brownies had been away with us on a Pack Holiday previously. Over the weekend we went into Keswick by public service bus, which proved guite an experience – especially for the public who joined in with the 'communal singing' on the journey into Keswick! We enjoyed a swim at Keswick Spa followed by a picnic in the park and an afternoon of fun, games and crafts at Keswick Museum. In the evening we all enjoyed a treasure hunt around Braithwaite. The following day we stayed local and enjoyed a walk and a visit to the village store to spend the last of our pocket money. It was a most enjoyable weekend, enjoyed by both Brownies and leaders alike.

Then Mrs Lara Bragg, a Brownie Mum, came to one of our regular Tuesday night's meetings to tell the Brownies about her homeland, Italy. We can now all sing 'A spoonful of sugar' in Italian. It proved very entertaining and enjoyable evening.

The village clean was next, and several Brownies accompanied by their parents and grand-parents turned out on a very wet and windy Saturday to help. Well done girls.

We have recently recruited a new young leader into our midst – Jane Eccles, an ex-Brownie – who came to us at Easter to help out and earn some hours towards her 'service' for her Duke of Edinburgh Award. She has enjoyed her time with us so much she has decided to stay on and become a young leader.

Sarah Huddleston (one of our leaders) has been selected to join an international camp in Denmark in the summer. She will be representing not only Seascale Brownies but Cumbria North. Well done Sarah. We wish her a safe journey and hope she has a great time.

Finally I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer, Maggie, Joan, Sarah H and Sarah S,

for all the hard work they put into running Brownies while I was absent for three months earlier this year. Well done ladies.

Lynn Pattison, Brownie Leader

GIRLGUIDING: GOSFORTH RANGERS

The Rangers and local Young Leaders (the Senior Section of Guiding that caters for the 14+ girls) have been busy over the summer. Ten of the girls joined a County trip to a 20,000-strong Guide and Scout camp in Denmark. As well as spending a week at the camp the girls enjoyed home hospitality, time in Copenhagen and a visit to Legoland where several of them made their Promise (upside down on a ride so I am led to believe!).

Fourteen members of the group helped at the County's Centenary Launch Day in Keswick and then stayed overnight before enjoying a day of activities such as horse riding, raft building, makeup and inevitably shopping! Some were awake enough to enjoy a dawn hike.

There are many Centenary activities available to the Senior Section age group. Some of the girls are taking themselves off to Southport next year to meet up with members from all over the Country; some hope to walk 100 miles around the Isle of Man. There is the opportunity to join a leg of a tall ship voyage around the UK which is to be crewed by members of Girlguiding.

The Ranger Unit is undergoing several changes at the moment as all three of its leaders are off to University. We wish Hannah, Vicky and Sarah the best of luck. The 16 and 17 year-olds are taking over and already have made plans for the next few months.

Sue Smith

SCOUTING

We ended last term with our Summer group camp at Ennerdale. We had good weather – some of the time! However, the rain didn't dampen the enjoyment, which included canoeing on the lake, hiking round the lake, making a Trebuchet to throw missiles across the field, backwoods activities in the forest and all the fun of camping. Many thanks to all the adults who gave their time and weekend to help the camp, and especially to Steve (and Eskdale Outward Bound) for the loan of canoes and his skill to lead the water activities.

The camp followed the opening of the cycle track, which we were very pleased to be able to support. An excellent day, and great to see such a facility in our village – which many of our members (and some leaders) have made use of – the members seemingly getting hurt less than the leaders!

The term should have ended with a group BBQ on the beach, but as you may know, circumstances overtook us, and with very short notice to allow us to make a choice we had to cancel it. Were we beaten? No – the BBQ opened the Autumn term. It was different – the rain was horizontal, and it hurt! You wouldn't believe how wet you can get running from the beach to the hall. However, everyone enjoyed it, and the beach art by the Beavers and Cubs was truly amazing.

This term has seen us with full houses in Beavers and Cubs – and you may have seen us around the village practising our mapping and navigating skills. Some of the leaders were took advantage of a skills weekend to improve their existing skill, and try out new ones – anything from jewellery making to kayaking, and a very enjoyable time was had by all – helping with scouts can be fun.

We're pleased to see Deema (Sara) back with us, and on the mend. It has been something of a challenge coping with the number of leaders who have had to manage health problems, but so far, we haven't had to cancel any meetings. Many thanks to the parents who have turned out to help us keep the show on the road – we literally couldn't have done it without you.

This term the Troop's (10½-14½ years) numbers

have remained steady. We lost a few who have moved to schools further a field, but have also had some cubs come up.

The week after being driven off the beach by the rain, we ventured out again. This time we had the scouts lead us on a walk from Calder Abbey. Aside from navigating us successfully, their mission was to locate the Explorer Scouts, who were doing the same walk in the opposite direction. They managed both objectives, but we did end up getting back somewhat later than planned (sorry parents)!

Our friends from the First Responders joined us again to progress our Emergency Aid badges. The troop was divided into three, and the Responders successfully took the groups through levels 1, 2 and 3 of the E.A. badge respectively. The evening culminated in the scouts having to deal with four 'real' accident scenarios. Two of the group mums did a frighteningly realistic job of creating wounds. (You may also have seen their facepainting work at the recent Postman Pat weekend at L'al Ratty). Hopefully the lacerations, electric burns, scalds and axe wounds, will heal quickly, or at least wash off.

We will be building Guys, and making a return to the Drigg Rifle Range in the coming weeks.

The newly formed district explorer scout unit ages (14 to 18) is starting to meet on a regular basis and has participated in the Ennerdale camp where two intrepid explorers undertook a night bike ride around the lake and refreshed their skills in pioneering and fire lighting, managing to light the camp fire in the rain. They have tried their skills at archery and took part in a mini dragnet trying to avoid the eagle eyes of Seascale scouts.

They have all started their planning for participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award and they are looking forward to starting their activities in the coming months.

We are very pleased to be able to welcome Susie as an Assistant Beaver Leader – but there is still space for you, if you want to help. We do need support for the Cub section, so if working with 8 to 10½ year-olds and getting wet and muddy interests you, then do let us know.

Following the success of our Bag2school (or in our

case, Bag2scout) collection last scout year which raised us just over £200, we are just gearing up for our next one on 14 October, as we said in the last newsletter, and the one after that will be the 12 March. Thank you to everyone who has helped with these – your cast offs come in very useful. This illustrates how donating your old clothes, etc. to Scouts, rather than taking them to a charity shop, helps to generate real income for this extremely worthy local cause.

Don't forget if anyone has any queries about the group – or want to know if we can accept your child or even if you want to join us, you can contact us on info@seascalescouts.org.uk as well as by phone on 28296.

Graham Worsnop, Group Scout Leader

CALLING ALL LADIES

Would you like to join the WI? We are not all Jam and Jerusalem. We would love some younger members. Seascale WI has been in existence since 1922 and it would be a great shame if, in a few years time, it had to close owing to a lack of members. There are new WIs springing up all over the country and surprisingly more in urban areas than rural. There are amazing opportunities to be gained by being in the WI so why don't you get a group of your friends together and come and see what we do?We meet on the second Monday of every month, except August, in the Methodist Church Hall at 7pm.

To give you an idea of what we do, here is a list of our further meeting subjects:

January – Jo Walker on 'My Life as a Vicar's Wife'.

February – Diana Stewart on 'The History of Inn Signs'

March – William Marshall on 'Antarctica'

April – Alistair Herd on 'Old Egremont'

June – 'The Fabulous Forties' given by ladies from The Beacon

July – A demonstration and 'give it a go' on Line Dancing.

For further details speak to Judy Hall on 019467 28542

HELP AN ARCHAEOLOGIST HAVE A DIRTY SUNDAY MORNING

Autumn and Winter provide an excellent opportunity for archaeologists to get their boots in the mud

Field walking provides the best way of understanding the landscape and all it requires is a ploughed field and a group of lunatics to walk up and down the furrows muttering to themselves about pot sherds and when is the pub going to open?

The key components:

A ploughed field.

Permission from landowner to walk up and down it

Volunteers willing to get out of bed early on a Sunday morning, put a pair of boots on and some sandwich bags and plastic carrier bags in the pocket along with an old toothbrush and a small bottle of tap water – though this is often unnecessary as the rain hurtling past horizontally is adequate to clean a pot sherd of the Cumbrian mud clinging to it.

Field walking is easy and gets results without the need for hi-tech equipment – a simple, regimented traversing of the field and recording finds as you go. It works remarkably well.

So if you like the idea of taking part in some hands on (often blue with cold – a good layer of mud keeps them warm) archaeology, or would like to support such activity by letting me know when a field is available to walk - contact Clifford Jones at wtecp@hotmail.co.uk

Dont just lie there, do something dirty on Sundays!

SPRING NEWSLETTER

To be published by weekend of 20 March 2010

Please submit articles and items of general interest to news@epic-gb.com by26 February 2010

SELLAFIELD LTD CONTACT DETAILS

In the event of a requirement to contact Sellafield Ltd, please note the following quidance.

During normal office hours (Mon-Fri 08.00am/17.00pm) please contact the Sellafield Ltd Stakeholder/Public Affairs Dept on 019467 85849/85828/84846.

During silent hours (17.00pm-08.00am) and at weekends please contact the Sellafield Ltd switchboard on 019467 28333 and ask to be put through to the Site Shift Managers Office.

When calling in silent hours please leave your name and contact details with the Site Shift Manager plus a brief description as to the nature of the call i.e., concern/complaint/inquiry.

The Site Shift Manager will log the call and if appropriate, contact the on-call Duty Press Officer/Stakeholder Relations Manager for further guidance.

Depending on the time and nature of the call (but no later than 24 hours after the initial inquiry) the Duty Press Officer/Stakeholder Relations Manager will contact and respond to the person/s directly.

Sellafield Ltd Stakeholder Relations Department

MEET YOUR LOCAL POLICE

Any person wishing to meet their local Police Officer and discuss local issues or problems can see Fran from 1100 to 1200hrs at Seascale Library on the following dates:

Saturday 14 November 2009

Friday 12 December 2009

Also, Police are working with the local schools regarding the issue of parking at school starting and finishing times. Anyone caught could be issued a Fixed Penalty Notice and a fine. Police are asking parents and guardians to be considerate when parking at these times.

Brockbanks



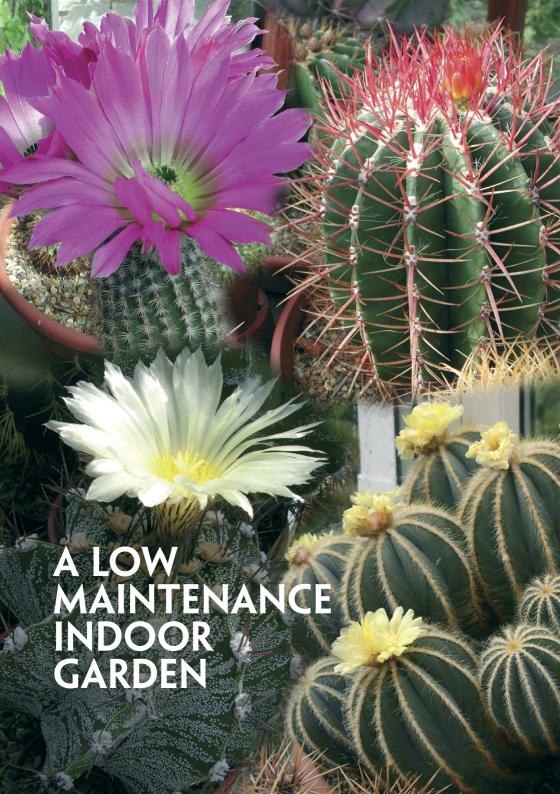
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AN INTRODUCTION TO CULTIVATING CACTI AND SUCCULENTS by Ken Smith

Although I've been growing cacti and succulents for forty years and don't consider myself an expert – just a very keen amateur in this fascinating hobby – I hope that this article will encourage some new recruits, especially the younger generation. It's a sad fact that although the British Cactus and Succulent Society has over three thousand members, most of us are getting on in years. An influx of younger members is sorely needed to ensure its future viability and success, and so I will try to keep this article simple and avoid too much reference to the botanical aspects of the plants and the apparent complexity of the naming systems!

My current collection of plants was started in Seascale in 1979 and came with me to Gosforth in 1992. It now comprises a wealth of cacti and a few other succulent plants housed in two greenhouses and a conservatory (a magnificent sight, especially when in flower – ed).

What are succulents?

These are plants that have evolved to withstand considerable periods without water. As I will describe later, this is an important aspect of their successful cultivation. Succulents may occur in widely varied plant families and one family may contain only a few species. Whilst they developed mainly in the warmer climates they are also found in this country, e.g., the well known sempervivums and sedums which are popular as house or garden plants. The spurges are also common as wild plants in the British Isles and are part of the euphorbia family which has extremely succulent members that grow in Saudi Arabia and the deserts of Africa.

Where do cacti fit into this family of plants?

It is a very old adage that all cacti are succulents but not all succulents are cacti. Cacti are a particular form of succulent plant and are characterised by the presence of arioles on the plant body. Arioles are the small woolly cushions from which the spines grow and are unique in the plant world. Some other succulents appear to have spines but as these grow from the surface of the plant body and not the arioles they are classed as thorns. Cacti comprise around ten thousand species and varieties, with new plants still being discovered. Despite their successful existence in many parts of the world all cacti evolved initially on the American Continent and associated islands from as far north as Canada to Tierra Del Fuego in the South of Chile.

Why are they grown in cultivation?

I was recently in the company of some of the best growers in the country and asked this question. Their answers can be condensed to:

- a) A hobby which is simply a specialised extension of gardening;
- b) This hobby caters for people who are natural collectors:
- c) There is an element of conservation since many species are threatened in the wild and are becoming exceedingly rare;
- d) Some species are notoriously difficult to flower and there is a feeling of great achievement when a grower achieves this.

There may be other reasons for taking up this hobby but there is certainly a feel-good factor in establishing a collection of plants which grow well for you.

How do you start?

This depends on the facilities you have available. Whilst plants can survive (with an emphasis on survive) on window sills and in bathrooms etc, the best results are without doubt obtained in a greenhouse or conservatory with good light for as many hours of the day as possible. Your next decision is the choice of starting plants. I suggest a visit to a collection or a look at plants in a nursery. It is worth remembering that although plants in small pots can look very appealing the columnar varieties can eventually grow into very tall specimens and height restrictions may become a problem. The same problem can occur

with some of the prickly pears (Opuntias) which can become very invasive of space both laterally and vertically. Many varieties of both these species are of tree-like proportions in their natural habitats. As for visiting collections these are sadly quite sparse in our area. As far as I know mine is the only large assembly of plants in our district but, for those prepared to travel, a friend of mine at Biggar Village on the South of Walney Island has an even larger collection. Both of us warmly welcome visitors. My phone number is 019467 25313, and I can also arrange a visit to Walney.

With respect to buying plants from garden centres or specialist nurseries I must introduce an element of honesty here. The price of even beginners' plants in this country is becoming prohibitive. It is a better idea to get on the learning curve of plant growing with seedlings, spare plants and cuttings from experienced growers. Such growers are always prepared to get people started and I still have many plants in my collection which were donated in my early days as a grower.

What do you grow?

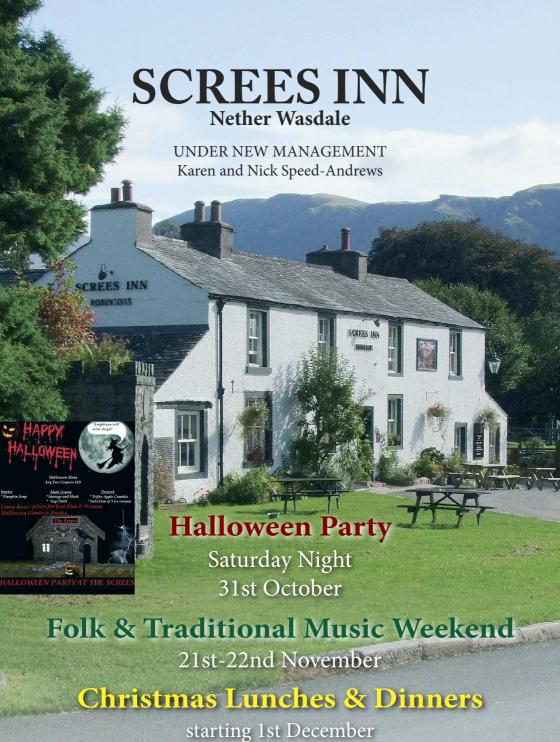
The best answer to this question comes in a round-about way from my own experience. When I first became interested in the hobby I collected everything that could be defined as a succulent plant and this gave me a lot of pleasure. Over the years I have come to realise that space and time are both limited and I have gravitated mainly to cacti. Another factor to consider is winter temperature tolerance. A minimum winter level of 40°F is regarded as safe for most cacti (with some notable exceptions) provided the compost is dry. Some plants are quite happy at temperatures down to freezing point and even several degrees below in dry compost. I would recommend starting with cacti that are happy with a 40°F winter temperature and also relatively easy to flower. These include Mammillarias, Echinopsis, Rebutias and Notocacti. The situation with other succulent plants is quite complex in that some plants from the southern hemisphere will grow in our winter months and will require water and warmer temperatures than those required for cacti. The bottom line is that a mixed collection of cacti and certain other desirable succulents can be difficult to manage in a single greenhouse.

What are the cultivation requirements?

It seems now strange to realise that in the world of horticulture plastic pots are a relatively recent innovation. When they first became available in the 1960s (I think) there was considerable controversy as to their suitability for cacti with the diehards sticking to clay pots until they were no longer available. I don't think the container is particularly important provided there is adequate drainage and thereby lies one of the main requirements for successful cultivation. For the plants mentioned above a John Innes No.2 compost together with an extra 30% horticultural gravel to give this drainage should be adequate. With some of the more demanding species this percentage is raised to 50% to ensure the best results. There is a modern trend to grow plants in mixtures of pumice and I have seen some excellent results.

The second and probably the most important aspect of the cultivation of cacti lies in the watering and feeding regimes. Quite simply cacti grow in our spring and summer months and rest during the winter. I normally start watering and feeding with a high potash fertiliser on a fortnightly basis about mid-March depending on the external temperature and finish in August for plants in big pots and in September for smaller specimens. This hopefully ensures the plants are essentially dry for the coldest parts of the winter. During these cold periods I heat my greenhouses with thermostatically-controlled electric heaters and minimise the costs involved by lining the greenhouses with bubble wrap. This appears to be a very efficient form of insulation and produces considerable savings. A final note on composts is from a specialist publication reporting on observations of plants in the wild in Canada: 'I found the plants growing in cow droppings, in pure clay, in pure gravel and on the old wood of a fencepost.'This amused me. Perhaps we are not as clever as we think we are!

There is much more I could write about this hobby but will leave it there for now. I hope the photographs demonstrate the success of my methods and encourage some new growers to enjoy the plants they have grown and their flowers.



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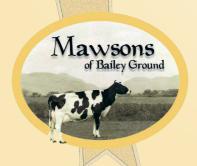
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A WEIGHTY SUCCESS!

Eileen Marshall had no desire to learn how to use a computer, using the usual phrases – I'm too old, what do I need one of those for, they're too complicated – until the day when she came to Seascale Community Centre asking for help. The company she works for – Slimming World – was moving into the 21st century with modern up-to-date equipment and everything was going computerised.

First she panicked. Then she panicked some more and only when she had calmed down and realised that she was going to have to do something about it, she was ready to find out what she needed to do. She had seen courses for beginners advertised in the past and enquired when the next course was. The date and time didn't suit and the solution was a one-to-one session with Eve West, the tutor.

She began her sessions with Eve. After the first week she was a little apprehensive, but after the second week she was buzzing. By the time she had completed her five sessions she was confident that she would be able to understand the training that Slimming World were going to provide her.

Slimming World gave her a laptop, and all the gadgets required for her new role. Eileen attended their one-day training session and when she came home she felt confident enough to carry out all the things they had asked her to do. Inputting personal data, sending information to head office via email – all things she had covered at her sessions at Seascale Community Centre.

So what's the secret of her success? Of course the desire to learn came from the fact that the company she worked for was moving on and up in the world. She could have easily thrown in the towel and called it a day, time to retire, that kind of attitude. But Eileen says — "This has given me a new lease of life and at the age of 70 I realise that you're never too old to learn new things; I'm looking forward to learning more."

Eileen has Slimming World classes in Egremont on Thursday Evening at 7pm, in the Parish Church Hall If you would like to be a success story like Eileen, contact the Seascale Community Centre on 019467 28403, or email

admincdc@seascale.cumbria.sch.uk for available courses or choose to learn on a one-to-one basis. We'd love to hear from you.

DRIGG LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The newly-formed Drigg Local History Group will have a table at the coffee morning in Drigg. This is a small group of local enthusiasts who hope to encourage the study of the history and heritage of the area surrounding Drigg.

The Group will be happy to hear from like-minded souls. The inaugural meeting will be held in Drigg Village Hall on Wednesday 4 November at 7pm.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Contacts: Dek Palmer on 019467 24709 and lan Coates on 019467 24387.

All that Jazz

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

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

Lazy Music Sunday

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

019467 25322 Admission free

FARMING CRACK

August turned out to be the wettest month for over sixty years. The farmers were desperate about crops being wasted as the ground was waterlogged, but thankfully we had a dry spell in September so thousands of acres of grain and second cut silage were gathered in. And in some cases Fell Farmers got their first cut of hay. As the harvest was a month or two late the quality was poor but farmers were very relieved to have got it.

August is the favourite time for agricultural shows and apart from the war years none were cancelled in over a hundred years owing to weather conditions. During the past three years, however, very few have managed to go ahead because of the wet weather or waterlogged grounds. This could spell the end of the road for some, which will be a sad loss for the countryside.

The seasons are changing. Could it be global warming? Whatever the reason we now get very little snow or frost during winter and lots more high winds and rain during the rest of the year. Other parts of the world are suffering severe droughts and people are dying of starvation, some have experienced the worst fires ever known and others severe flooding, destroying both life and crops.

With plants not knowing when to flower and birds not knowing when to nest it is a most confusing time for all. During the last weekend of September I saw a hen pheasant with a brood of chicks between Seascale and Gosforth; they stand very little chance of survival being hatched at this time of year. No one I have spoken to has heard of this before.

If you have travelled over the Corney Fell or Cold Fell roads recently you will have noticed all the gorse bushes are now in full flower – a mass of yellow. What a sight to see when the sun is shining. These normally flower at Easter.

Wildlife

A bee-keeping friend of mine is very concerned about his future because last year a large percentage of the bee population died from a mystery illness that swept the country. This year,

just as they were starting to recover, a new mystery has happened – whole hives of bees disappearing without trace. He has ten hives, but four have gone. Normally when a hive gets too crowded they swarm and start a new colony, and someone will spot these and tell him. This year there is no trace. They have just vanished. On television the other night bee keepers in the USA and other parts of the world have experienced the same phenomenon. What is happening to them? It's a very worrying time. If bees were to become extinct whatever would happen to plant life, with bees being responsible for pollinating most of the world's food? A solution must be found soon.

This year has proved to be very disappointing regarding bird life in the area. Only nine swifts were counted compared with over 30 last year, and only half the number of swallows nested on the farm. For the first time in living memory there were no sand martins nesting in the banking below the Croft – the only suitable site in Seascale.

The reason for the dwindling numbers is not known; possibly bad weather during their 2000-mile treck from Africa.

Having been told to finish on a high note, all I can say is that after my recent operation I realise just how lucky I am to be alive!

Ken Mawson

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

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

A colour full page is £60

Contact: Eileen Eastwood on 28653 or Trevor Preece on 28449

SEASCALE'S SHORE by Ken Mawson

Thanks to everyone who sent cards, good wishes and visited me during my stay in hospital, also while I have been convalescing at Bailey Ground Hotel. After having worked seven days a week on the farm it has taken some adjustment in not being able to do anything, especially during the first few months. However, my time has not been wasted.

After living all my life in the top end of the village where it is fairly quiet I did not realise that life down here in the village was so busy; there is always something going on and plenty of people to talk to. While staying at the hotel I have seen and noted some interesting sights.

Among them was the day the fisherman was missing and the lifeboat and helicopter were carrying out a search. The lifeboat pulled into shore to be refuelled, and volunteers waded out carrying containers of fuel.

Another day the Russian timber boat that had been hijacked was seen passing down between Seascale and the Isle of Man.

And I have noticed that the jetty has turned out to be one of the most popular places in Seascale. Everyday people are seen walking along it. One day there was a party from Pakistan, and on another one visitors from Russia. Both parties in their National Costumes were taking photos on the jetty – a very colourful scene! Another rather interesting sight was tourists (maybe) swimming of the end of the jetty starkers. I am not aware of any photos...

On one particularly hot day I saw people kept peering over the edge of the jetty. On investigation they were looking at large shoals of fish about two inches long. Someone suggested that they may be young mackerel. On another evening four seals were playing near the water's edge opposite the hotel; unfortunately they were scared off by children before they could be photographed.

During a few days in early summer I saw arctic terns dive-bombing into the sea to catch the fish; this was quite a spectacular sight that I had never witnessed before.

In the last week in September quite a number of dead dogfish (they look like little sharks) were washed up. No other types of fish seemed to have been affected. Environmental Health could not suggest any explanation.

A fisherman who had returned in his boat told me that he had seen thousands of jellyfish less than a mile off shore, but none of them came ashore here. Preumably they got blown back from whence they came, but where did they come from and got to?

One young lady from Seascale often swims from here to Sellafield and back – that's at least three miles – without stopping. That's an achievement that very few of us could equal.

The last Sunday in September was first Sunday in forty years that we had a train service. To celebrate we had sand modelling, egg throwing, kite flying and laser shooting on the beach. It was so good to see crowds enjoying themselves and many thanks to all who attended and helped.

But in my opinion by far the best sights to be seen down here are the sunsets, especially when they set behind the Isle of Man. They are breathtaking. A sight unequalled in the UK.

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by Nev. Ramsden

SEASCALE'S CHURCHES SEASCALE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

During the building of the atomic research establishment at Sellafield large camps were built at Nethertown and Sellafield for the accommodation of workers engaged on its construction – and it soon became clear that a considerable proportion of these workers were Irish Catholics. It was therefore seen to be desirable to have Catholic services nearer than Egremont, and, in the Spring of 1950, Father Thomas Carey was appointed to the charge. He took up residence in the Nethertown camp where a building was specially prepared as a chapel; again at Sellafield he arranged to say Mass in one of the constructor's huts which, again, was specially set aside for use as a chapel. In Seascale Mr Burnett graciously offered the use of the gymnasium at the Boys' Preparatory School for the same purpose, and this was gratefully accepted by Father Carey.

The construction workers' living quarters at Sellafield was known as South Camp, consisting of a collection of wartime-style wooden Nissan huts situated between the then Site boundary and the railway sidings alongside the main railway line.

With the enlargement of Seascale to house people employed at Sellafield along with their families, it was felt that something permanent in the way of a Catholic Church was needed. Early in 1952, with funds generously provided by the construction workers at the Nethertown and Sellafield camps as an act of appreciation, Falcon House on the Neb was purchased. By means of a little reconstruction, a chapel to accommodate about eighty people was provided in the house. Soon after he had moved into Falcon House Father Carey was succeeded by Father Francis Carter.

When plans were being prepared for the further development of the village in 1954 the County Planning Officer allocated an area with frontage on to Gosforth Road as a site for a Catholic church. On this site the dual-purpose Church and Hall was built, and in March 1954, was opened as St Joseph's Catholic Church by Bishop Pearson, Auxiliary Bishop of Lancaster, and later the Bishop in Cumbria. The Parish Priest then was Father John Harrison, he having succeeded Father Carter in

1958. On its completion in 1961 he took up residence in the new presbytery and Falcon House was subsequently sold. Because of its dual purpose character the church does not possess any special architectural features but reference must be made to the two very attractive stained glass windows which were designed and donated by Miss Helen Thornton. Art Mistress at Calder Girls' School.

The altar, which came from St Mary's, Egremont, embodies a beautifully carved frontal, being a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper. The wooden statue of St Theresa, which came from St Begh's, Whitehaven, is the work of Joseph Schmalzl of Ortisei and the statue of St Joseph is also of Tyrolean origin. The altar rails were made by a parishioner, the sanctuary lights were donated by a parishioner, and the statue of Our Lady has been embellished by a parishioner to form a shrine. The lectern was made and donated by a former parishioner who now lives at Workington.

Most villagers will probably know that St Joseph's is in the diocese of Lancaster but the actual extent of the parish may be less generally known. The northern boundary is a straight line running due east from the coast to Calderbridge whence the boundary line follows the Bleng to its source and then goes on to include Pillar, Great Gable, Bow Fell and Crinkle Crags before turning in a more southerly direction to meet the Duddon at Wrynose Bottom, and to follow the course of that river to just downstream of Ulpha; from that point the southern boundary is a straight line running due west to reach the coast slightly north of Stub Place. There are 200 parishioners but the attendance at St Joseph's is greatly augmented by visitors, and at the height of the holiday season, when just over 150 attended the 9.30am Sunday Mass, its accommodation was taxed to the limit. The hall portion of the building, which can be completely separated from the Sanctuary by a screen, is used for Sunday parish functions and, after the 9.30 Mass each Sunday morning, it accommodates the Methodist Sunday School.

This article is based upon information in *CONTACT* magazine – Volume 26 issued in September 1977.



November



- 2 Raise containers on to pot feet to prevent waterlogging.
- 3 Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year.
- 4 Prune roses to prevent wind-rock.
- 5 Plant out winter bedding.
- 6 Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem.
- 7 Insulate the greenhouse from frost bubblewrap works well.
- 8 Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks.
- 9 Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden.
 - 10 Use a seasonal bonfire where this is allowed to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting.

December

- 1 Check your winter protection structures are still securely in place.
- 2 Check that greenhouse heaters are working OK.
- 3 Prevent ponds and stand pipes from freezing.
- 5 Fleverit porius and stand pipes norm fleezing.
- 4 Prune open-grown apples and pears (but not those trained against walls).
- 5 Prune acers, birches and vines before Christmas to avoid bleeding.
- 6 Harvest leeks, parsnips, winter cabbage, sprouts and remaining root crops.
- 7 Deciduous trees and shrubs can still be planted and transplanted.
- 8 Take hardwood cuttings.
- 9 Keep mice away from stored produce.
- 10 Reduce watering of houseplants.

January

- 1 Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch.
- 2 Ventilate the greenhouse on sunny days.
- 3 Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already.
- 4 Repair and re-shape lawn edges.
- 5 Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rot or drying out.
- 6 Prune apple and pear trees.
- 7 Start forcing rhubarb.
- 8 Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season.
- 9 Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds.
- 10 Prepare a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect them from peach leaf curl.

February

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover.
- 2 Chit potato tubers.
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches.
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off.
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering.
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'.
 - 7 Prune Wisteria.
 - 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges.
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers.
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter.























SEASCALE'S RAIL MEMORIES

In 1994 author Ken Norman wrote a book entitled "The Furness Railway – A Recollection". It is now out of print, but second-hand copies are still available via Amazon. The book contains superb photographs of the entire line, and we sought permission to reprint the Seascale section from Ken, photographer Jeff Sankey and illustrator Mike Faulkner. It was granted – and here are the memories...



Above is a 1914-18 wartime picture of Seascale station (note the partially blacked-out platform lamps) with a Barrow-bound passenger train from Whitehaven arriving in the charge of 4-4-0 locomotive No 37. An 1896 introduction built by Sharp Stewart, No. 37 lived on until being scrapped as LMS No 10036 in 1931. Seascale was just a tiny hamlet when the Whitehaven & Furness Junction Railway reached there in 1849, and that Company attempted to promote the village as a holiday resort in conjunction with the privately owned Scawfell Hotel, which had been built adjacent to the railway in 1857. The Furness Railway, when it took over the line in 1866, continued with the village's development, purchasing a large tract of land in 1870 on which it set about building what it termed 'the Eastbourne of the North', plans for which included a Grand Hotel, promenade and marine walk. Work started in 1879 but foundered partly in the face of stiff opposition from local residents, but

mostly because the expected flood of visitors never materialised. Seascale did, however, become the Company's number two resort, its first being Grange-over-Sands, and the station was the interchange point from rail to road transport for passengers booked on the Furness Railway's Wastwater tour. This activity, however, did not please local residents either, even fit did bring in a certain amount of trade, and in June 1905 they complained to the Company stating 'the numbers of excursionists assembling on the sea-front, and consequent ice-cream carts, piano organs and cyclists, constitute a nuisance'.

In the days when railway tickets were punched and collected at station instead of on trains as they are today, a Furness Railway Inspector poses proudly at the ticket barrier on No. 1 platform of Barrow Central station. Note the poster advertising the opening of the new refreshment room at Seascale, dating this picture to be taken in 1913, the construction of the Seascale refreshment room having been authorised by the Company's Traffic and Works Committee at its meeting on 27 May that year.

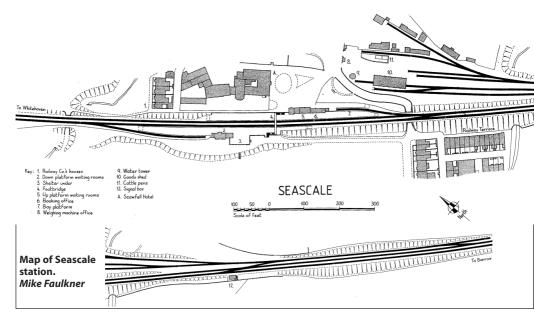




A post-Great War scene at Seascale (note that the lamp blackouts have now been removed) with, once again, an up passenger train hauled this time by 4-4-0 locomotive No. 129 of 1901, soon to become LMS No. 10146. Several changes can be seen when this photograph is compared with the view on the opposite page; the refreshment pavilion has disappeared and the down platform building is considerably reduced in size. In addition, the down platform has been lengthened and a footbridge connecting the two platforms installed. On numerous occasions the Company had discussed the provision of either a footbridge or a subway between the platforms at Seascale station, and in 1916 plans were formulated for the construction of a subway costing £2,100, work to start at the end of the war. In the event the cost must have proved too great, and a footbridge was provided instead, which has now been demolished. Only the very wide platform on the down side still shows where the 'Refreshment Pavilion Overlooking the Sea' once stood.



This view of the down platform buildings at Seascale station from the seaward side of the railway features the Company's 'Refreshment Pavilion Overlooking the Sea' advertised at the ticket barrier on Barrow station. Built in 1913, when one of the refreshment houses in the village was closed, this commodious building housed, in addition to the refreshment room itself, a kitchen, two bedrooms for the staff and ladies' toilet facilities. Managed for the Railway Company by Spiers & Pond, the venture cost £970 to build. It was constructed on the northbound platform because a deed of 1856 prevented the erection of any building on the landward side of the station without the consent of the then owner of the Scawfell Hotel, one John Tyson, or any of his heirs. Mrs Tyson, the owner in 1913, used this deed to prevent the building of the refreshment room on the up platform, but was powerless to stop it being erected on the down side. Had the Railway Company purchased the hotel when it was offered to it in 1901, this problem would not have arisen. As it was the platform had to be widened and lengthened in order to accommodate the new structure, which was additional to the existing waiting shelter. The building has a 'new' look here suggesting that the photograph was possibly taken in 1913.

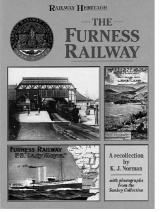




From a camera position north of Seascale station the main line is seen following the coast, in a northerly direction, towards Sellafield. On its way it passes beneath an attractive cast iron accommodation bridge carrying a footpath over the railway from the village to the sea-shore. As with the bridge at Ravenglass station the Seascale footbridge has no railway connection, but in common with all bridges that cross the railway it is allocated a bridge number, in this instance 161. The crossing still exists, but the illustrated bridge has been replaced by a different structure.



This is Drigg station. Until the building of the 3-foot gauge line along the Esk valley from Boot to Ravenglass in 1875, Drigg was the port from which iron ore, mined at the head of the valley, was shipped after being carted some 10 miles to the coast. The up platform at Drigg, featured in this picture taken in Furness Railway days, shows to advantage the Paley & Austin-designed building, with the station house on the left and the booking office and waiting rooms on the right. The advertisements on the station wall are interesting and reflect the era during which the photograph was taken. Roans of Whitehaven are makers of



saddlery, harness and leggings; the North **Western Daily** Mail cost just one halfpenny: R.F. Case and Co. were brewers at Ulverston and Barrow: and Veno's **Cough Cure** and Mazawattee Tea are also featured.

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SEASCALE BOWLING CLUB SEASON 2009

Despite the inclement weather over the bowling season the bowlers had a successful summer.

The Top Ten Ladies Team became champions of Cumbria and beat Lancashire in the next round, and went forward to the last 16 in the country. Three of our ladies – Maureen Eccles, Muriel Temple and Eileen Eastwood – got through to the finals of the County Triples and went on to represent Cumbria in the Nationals at Leamington Spa. Maureen Eccles became County Over-55's Champion and also represented the county at Leamington. The B Team won the Mixed Triples Knock-Out Cup and were runners-up in the Mixed Triples League, only losing by 1½ points.

In 2010 Henry Stewart, our Club Secretary, is going to be the County President.

It is over 20 years since the Parish Council built the bowling green and it has been a very successful venture – it now has 86 members. We would welcome some young people to come along and try out the game next season.



Back Row: Doreen Whalley, Barbara Armstrong, Dorothy Todhunter, Beth Brown, Myrtle Harvey, Jenny Walker. Middle Row:

Eileen Eastwood, Maureen Eccles, Joyce Robin. Bottom Row:

Christine Southward, Muriel Temple, Jean Poole.



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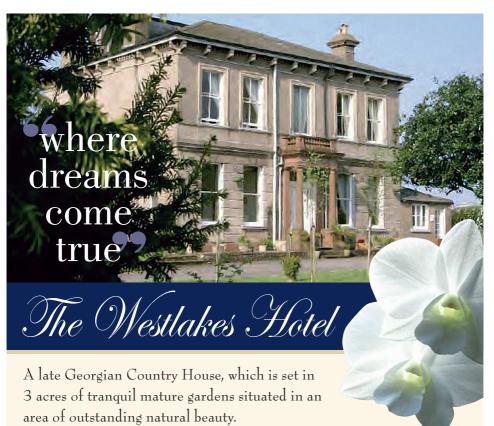






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	(Pharmacy then Station Car Park)		
Fri	Seascale	19:00	22:00
	(Pharmacy then Station Car Park)		
Sat	Nether Wasdale (Campsite)	18:30	21:30
Sat	Seascale (Pharmacy then Station Car Park)	19:00	22:00
Sun	Returns to Seascale	ı	20:30
	Public transport is available to get to Gosforth		

Call 019467 25322 to arrange other collections



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